

January 2020

Review of the Level 3 City & Guilds Veterinary Nursing qualifications (7457-03, 7457-13, 7457-33, 7457-43)

All Awarding Organisations are required by the qualification regulators and funding agencies to regularly review the performance and viability of their current qualifications. City & Guilds also reviews the number of learners undertaking qualifications along with the changes in funding and government initiatives.

Following our most recent review, City & Guilds has made the decision to exit the market for **all** Veterinary Nursing regulated qualifications. We will also not be applying to become an End-point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) for the Veterinary Nursing EPA.

Therefore, we will allow all the following 7457 Veterinary Nursing qualifications to retire on the dates below:

Qualification Number	Qualification Title	Accreditation Number	Registration End Date	Certification End Date
7457-03	Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Small Animals)	600/6052/9	31.08.2020	31.08.2023
7457-13	Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Equine)	600/6052/9	31.08.2020	31.08.2023
7457-33	Level 3 Diploma for Small Animal Veterinary Nursing	603/5101/9	31.08.2020	31.08.2023
7457-43	Level 3 Diploma for Equine Veterinary Nursing	603/5102/0	31.08.2020	31.08.2023

This means that as of 01 September 2020, City & Guilds will not be accepting new registrations on any of our Veterinary Nursing qualifications, and from 01 September 2023 we will cease to certificate these qualifications.

Key notes:

- Late registrations will not be accepted after 31 August 2020 on any qualification.
- Please note the 3-year certification period, please ensure learners are not registered should they need over 3 years to complete the qualification.

The RCVS, regulators and our EQAs have been notified of our decision in advance of this communication.

City & Guilds will continue to support approved centres and registered learners until the qualifications reach their end certification dates. External quality assurance will continue to be provided in the normal pattern by our EQAs.

Why we have made this decision...

City & Guilds is subject to significant external policy change which has caused us to recently review our provision across all sectors in which we operate.

In the case of these qualifications, we have unfortunately taken the very difficult decision to cease delivery of all Veterinary Nursing qualifications for Small Animal (7457-03/33) and Equine (7457-13/43). This decision has not been taken lightly, and we understand the disappointment that this has caused to our centres.

There are other Awarding Organisations who provide veterinary nursing qualifications so once our last learner registration dates have passed in August 2020, centres will still have choices available to them.

To help smooth the transition period, the RCVS has already allowed us to extend the registration period for the legacy qualifications (7457-03 and 7457-13) to ensure a period of continuity for our centres.

We will be working to ensure that learners are not disadvantaged by our decision, and all centres will receive continued support to ensure those learners registered with us have every opportunity to complete their qualification. We will also be reaching out to other Awarding Organisations to explore ways to reduce the impact on all of those affected.

We pride ourselves on the level of service we give our customers, and the quality of the qualifications we provide, but we need to be able to operate in a commercially sustainable way whilst we work our way through the ever changing qualifications market in the UK.

What happens next...

Centres can still register students on both the legacy (7457-03/13) and new qualifications (7457-33/43) until 31 August 2020. Please remember these learners must be certificated within the 3 years. After this time, we will not accept any further registrations.

For centres who wish to continue offering the Veterinary Nursing qualifications after this time, there are two other Awarding Organisations accredited by the RCVS to offer Veterinary Nursing qualifications:

Central Qualifications (CQ)	VetSkill
Click here to visit the CQ website E: enquiries@cqual.org T: 01359 245316	Click here to visit the VetSkill website E: info@vetskill.com T: 01480 278580

It is likely that you will need to obtain centre and/or qualification approval to deliver with another awarding organisation. We would recommend that you contact them as soon as possible. If you need to access activity reports or approval documents from City & Guilds, these can be accessed via the Quality Portal in Walled Garden.

For details on accredited Veterinary Nursing qualifications and contact details for the RCVS please visit the RCVS website [here](#).

Apprenticeship specific information...

As City & Guilds will not become an End-point Assessment Organisation (EPAO), we will be working with the approved EPAOs to ensure recognition of OSCEs between all organisations. This is to prevent any requirement for an Apprentice to complete the OSCE twice.

Further details will be provided in due course.

Please visit the government website [here](#) for the most up to date information on approved end-point assessment organisations.

Queries and questions...

All questions regarding this statement should be sent via email to the following team:

High Priority Qualifications team

E: highpriorityqualifications@cityandguilds.com

T: 0300 303 5352 (option 2 then option 4)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why has City & Guilds made the decision to stop offering VN qualifications?

City & Guilds is subject to significant external policy change which has caused us to recently review our provision across all sectors in which we operate.

In the case of these qualifications, we have unfortunately taken the very difficult decision to cease delivery of all Veterinary Nursing qualifications for Small Animal (7457-03/33) and Equine (7457-13/43). This decision has not been taken lightly, and we understand the disappointment that this has caused to our centres.

There are other Awarding Organisations who provide veterinary nursing qualifications so once our last learner registration dates have passed in August 2020, centres will still have choices available to them.

To help smooth the transition period, the RCVS has already allowed us to extend the registration period for the legacy qualifications (7457-03 and 7457-13) to ensure a period of continuity for our centres.

We will be working to ensure that learners are not disadvantaged by our decision, and all centres will receive continued support to ensure those learners registered with us have every opportunity to complete their qualification. We will also be reaching out to other Awarding Organisations to explore ways to reduce the impact on all of those affected.

We pride ourselves on the level of service we give our customers, and the quality of the qualifications we provide, but we need to be able to operate in a commercially sustainable way whilst we work our way through the ever changing qualifications market in the UK.

Are you prepared to extend the registration date?

Unfortunately, the short period of accreditation we have been granted from the RCVS for the new 7457-33 and 43 qualifications means we are unable to extend their registration end date beyond 31 August 2020 without applying for further accreditation.

Why have you exited the market so soon after releasing a new Diploma?

City & Guilds was committed to VN diploma and spent significant time and resource to redevelop these, introducing the new Small Animal (7457-33) and Equine (7457-43) qualifications in September 2019.

We received a shorter than expected accreditation period from the RCVS for both qualifications. This combined with other external factors outside of our control has influenced our decision to exit the market.

City & Guilds needs to operate in a commercially sustainable way, we feel therefore it is appropriate at this point to exit the market.

We remain committed to the land-based sector.

I'm a learner registered on the L3 Diploma, what should I do?

If you're a learner already on a City & Guilds qualification, we have a responsibility to ensure you have every reasonable opportunity to continue your qualification. For learners registered on either the 7457-03, 13, 33 or 43 you will have until 31 August 2023 to be certificated on your qualification.

If however you do not complete your programme of study before this date, unfortunately you will not be able to be certificated with City & Guilds.

Please speak directly with your centre if you have any concerns.

Will other qualifications follow?

We continue to be committed to the land-based sector and due to this we need to make some difficult decisions to focus our offer.

In this instance, it is only the qualifications that are accredited by the RCVS that we have chosen to withdraw.

When do City & Guilds stop offering VN qualifications?

The last registration date for 7457-03, 13, 33 and 43 is 31 August 2020. After this time no further registrations can be made.

The last certification date for all qualifications will be 31 August 2023.

What impact does your decision have on the market?

We did not take this decision lightly. However, there are currently two other awarding organisations who offer equivalent qualifications that are either fully or provisionally accredited by the RCVS:

Although we are aware our decision reduced the available options for centres and learners, there is still a choice in the market.

Is the Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants qualification affected?

No. Only qualifications that are accredited by the RCVS are affected. The Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants (0448-02) is **not** affected.

We have learners on an Equine qualification, what options are there?

Currently Central Qualifications (CQ) offer an Equine Veterinary Nursing qualification. Please click [here](#) to visit the CQ website to find out more.

When did City & Guilds notify the RCVS of the decision?

We notified the RCVS on 10 January 2020 in person and via letter, with a clear rationale for our decision.

How do I make a complaint?

If you wish to make a formal complaint, please contact our Feedback & Complaints team on the details below:

E: feedbackandcomplaints@cityandguilds.com

T: 020 7294 8444

Customer Experience Team
City & Guilds
5-6 Giltspur Street
London
EC1A 9DE

What options are there for centres moving forward?

There are currently two other AOs accredited by the RCVS to offer L3 Vet Nursing qualifications. These are Central Qualifications and VetSkill.

It is up to each individual centre to decide which AO they transfer to, and it is likely any centre will be subject to a qualification approval process. Please contact your preferred AO as soon as possible.

What happens if a learner does not complete the qualification by the 31 August 2023?

Centres will only be able to certificate on the VN qualifications until the end of 31 August 2023. After this time no further certifications will be permitted.

If a learner has not completed the qualification by this time, the learner will need to complete the qualification with another awarding organisation. The new awarding organisation will need to ensure that the units completed with City & Guilds meet the learning outcomes of their own programme, and the centre will need to address any gaps. This is known as RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

Provided the centre has opted in for Unit Certificates, these will be provided for each completed unit with City & Guilds. It is vital that centres and/or learners keep hold of these unit certificates should they need to complete the qualification with another AO.

Centres should also print a copy of the candidate history from [Walled Garden](#).

Where should we send questions and queries relating to this announcement?

Any questions, feedback or queries relating to this announcement should be sent to:

High Priority Qualifications team

E: highpriorityqualifications@cityandguilds.com

T: 0300 303 5352 (option 2 then option 4)

How do I contact the RCVS?

You can contact the RCVS VN team on the details below:

E: vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk

T: 020 7202 0788

Can I move registrations from the new qualifications to the legacy qualifications?

Yes, centres are permitted to cancel registrations on either the 7457-33/43 qualifications and re-register them onto the 7457-03/13.

To do this, you will need to notify the HPQ team and provide the details of the learners so we can complete this for you. A credit will be raised for the original registration fees, and a new invoice will be raised for the registrations.

Please do not complete this on Walled Garden.

Did City & Guilds intend to become an EPAO?

City & Guilds had every intention to become an EPAO for Veterinary Nursing, however at no point made any firm commitment to become an approved EPAO.

What will happen with learners who are completing an Apprenticeship Standard and the EPA?

We will be working with other approved EPAOs and the RCVS to support learners on an apprenticeship standard and to provide a suitable solution.

To confirm we have not and will not be applying to become an approved EPAO and will not be running the EPA for Vet Nursing.

Will a City & Guilds learner on an Apprenticeship Standard need to complete the OSCE twice?

We will be working with the approved EPAOs and the RCVS to support learners on an apprenticeship standard and to provide a suitable solution.

Will you refund learners registered on the 7457-33/43 if we move to another AO?

Centres can cancel any registration within one month of the date of registration and receive a full credit.

We are unable to cancel any registrations where a result has been claimed, but under the circumstances we will still consider a full credit provided the original registration is within the 1-month period.

Registrations outside this period can be cancelled, however a credit will not be raised.

How do I contact other Awarding Organisations?

The details of other Awarding Organisations accredited by the RCVS are provided below:

Central Qualifications (CQ)

E: enquiries@cqual.org

T: 01359 245316

VetSkill

E: info@vetskill.com

T: 01480 278580

What support will be given for candidates currently on a gap in learning or on a 12 or 6 month timeout period?

Any learner who does not complete the qualification on or before 31 August 2023 will need to be certificated with another awarding organisation.

If you have any learner who is on a 6 or 12 month time-out period, we recommend that you discuss with an alternate AO how to best support this learner if they wish to return to the qualifications.

If they are likely to complete on or before 31 August 2023 they can of course continue with the City & Guilds diploma.

When will the final OSCEs be held?

The dates for the 2020 OSCEs are available on the City & Guilds website [here](#). We will add in the details of hosting centres as these are confirmed.

We intend to follow the current approach of four OSCE sessions each academic year, with the final OSCE in June 2023 and results release in August 2023.

We will review this approach and update our centres as and when necessary.