

# SO YOU WANT TO BE A VET?



## Preparing for Interviews

At the RVC we invite you to interview to get to know more about you as a person, we want to know what interests you (both academically and outside interests), whether you have thought about the course and career you are applying for, and how you have used your work experience to prepare for the journey ahead.

Interviews can be very daunting, especially your first one. We want you to be fully prepared so that you are confident, relaxed and ready to answer any questions put to you. If you are at ease (or at least give that impression), then the interview should get off to a really good start.

Use the sections below to practice interviews with your teacher/Connexions/CXL advisor/graduate tutor or even a relative or friend.

Print out this table and give a copy to the person conducting your mock interview. We have given some tips as to what types of questions to ask and what we would be looking for in each section. There is space in the right hand column for your mock-interviewer to provide you with detailed feedback.

There will always be at least two people (not usually more than three) conducting your interview to make sure that a good range of clinical and non-clinical questions are asked and to make sure that you are fairly treated.

**The interview normally lasts a maximum of 20 minutes.**

Section	Instructions for interviewer	Feedback for candidate
<b>General interest in science</b>	Ask them to describe an aspect of their school/college science work that has particularly interested them and why. We are looking for evidence of curiosity (have they thought beyond the basic facts needed to pass exams) and engagement (do they know why the experiment they performed was important/relevant)?	
<b>Ethical opinions and public health</b>	What ethical challenges are vets faced with? What role does a vet play in public health? Can they talk about a current public health issue in detail? We are looking for balanced opinions and good reasoning rather than extreme opinions or bog-standard answers. If challenged, are they able to think on their feet?	
<b>Work experience</b>	What really excited them during work experience? Can they talk about a particular case in more detail? Have they asked questions? What have they learnt about the realities of the career?	
<b>Communication skills and outside interests</b>	Are they able to talk about difficult topics without nerves getting in the way? Can they think on their feet and go into greater detail when needed? What else have they done outside of academic work and do they appreciate the skills they have developed?	