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university and a member
of the Russell Group*

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

2 Senior Training Scholarships in Veterinary Pathology: combined Residency and MSc

Area: Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology

Location: Leahurst Campus, Wirral

Scholarship: £22,000

Working Hours: Full time

Tenure: 3 years

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*Outstanding development
opportunities through
our Academy*



*Campus located in
the heart of the vibrant
city of Liverpool with
excellent facilities*





About the Role



Role overview and University context:

Prime objectives:

- Intensive post-graduate training in the field of veterinary pathology to enable the successful candidate to acquire professional titles to pursue a future career in the field
- Completion of post-graduate Diploma in Veterinary Professional Studies and Masters in Veterinary Professional Studies
- Completion of a post-graduate training in veterinary pathology to be eligible to sit the qualifying examination of the ECVP (Dipl.ECVP)

The Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology (VAPP) is a department within the School of Veterinary Science and Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, bringing together the disciplines of veterinary pathology, anatomy, physiology and veterinary microbiology. The veterinary pathology group within the department is comprised of 7 academic staff in veterinary pathology (2 Professors, 3 Senior Lecturers, 2 Lecturers). Residents and PhDs in veterinary pathology complement the veterinary pathology group; The primary supervisor of the residency programme is Dr Richard Blundell, although senior scholars will work with and receive day to day supervision from all academic members of the group.

The Veterinary Pathology Diagnostic Service (part of Veterinary Laboratory Services) is based within the department. It is under the responsibility of the 7 pathology lecturers with the support of technical and administrative staff. It offers post-mortem examinations and services in histopathology (biopsies) and immunohistochemistry, together with experimental pathology research support to various research groups within the campus. The service performs ~300 post-mortem examinations per year across a range of domestic and exotic species – the majority of the caseload being dog, cat and horse. One of the members of academic staff (Prof Julian Chantrey) specialises in zoo animal pathology. An important component of the caseload is veterinary forensic pathology, a field in which the University of Liverpool has a particularly strong reputation, and 3 Academics are certified in Forensic Veterinary Pathology (ECVP-CFVP). Experience of other areas of veterinary pathology may be gained through specific short external placements which are encouraged to complement the training offered.

Responsibilities:

The bulk of the training will consist of being exposed to the cases of the diagnostic rota alongside one of the senior pathologists, learning how to recognise lesions in different animals, and further apply descriptive techniques. The rota consists of blocks of 3 weeks of training including post-mortem duty, biopsy duty and a consolidation week which gives the candidates time to, study and describe post-mortem cases, study relevant literature, create a case portfolio, and allow the pursuit of research activities, particularly during the MSc year. There are also opportunities to gain experience in exotic animal pathology with similar approach. This rota may be altered according to operational needs as required. Residents will be trained in all the roles of the pathologist: post-mortem examination, recording of gross findings in a preliminary report, selection and preparation of tissues for further examination, rigorous and detailed histopathological examination and the



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writing of final pathological reports, in order to prepare them for the ECVP exam. Senior pathologists will supervise all elements and this interaction will comprise the majority of the training. There are also weekly scheduled round cases discussion at the multihead microscope, and journal clubs related to the literature object of the ECVP examination. The training post is designed to enable candidates to be successful both in the post graduate diploma in Veterinary Professional Studies/Masters in Veterinary Professional Studies and ECVP examination and to prepare them to be competent pathologists in their future careers. The training offered is also suitable for candidates of the ACVP and FRCPath exams.

Senior training scholars are occasionally exposed to undergraduate teaching. This comprises small group teaching and a necropsy class to third year students together with additional staff; residents will also help the Senior pathologist supervise final year students whilst on pathology rotation, depending on experience. Scholars may also assist lecturers in the preparation and delivery of descriptive practical classes, in order to increase experience in such skills.

Postgraduate qualifications

Training scholars are expected to register as trainees of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists. The University of Liverpool is a registered training centre and 4 of the senior pathologists are diplomates of the college by exam. The other senior pathologists are Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists or Fellows of the Royal College of Pathologists. After 36 months of continuous attendance candidates are entitled to take the qualifying examination for the European College (Dipl.ECVP). Our residency programme is designed with training for this qualification as one of its main objectives and we have an excellent track record of successful candidates. Specific exam focused training within the residency includes participation in the Joint Pathology Center Wednesday Slide Conferences where the skills of histopathological description are perfected. We also run journal clubs where contemporary scientific papers are analysed for experience in data analysis and comprehension of current scientific techniques, and where residents can keep up to date with the relevant literature as it is published. We have a wealth of digital gross pathology images for training for that part of the exam. Mock exams are available for use towards the end of the residency for specific exam preparation. Residents are encouraged to attend the ECVP Summer School in 2 years of the residency and to attend the ESVP congress on one occasion. Attendance at other courses will be supported as long as budget allows.

Training scholars will also register as a postgraduate student with the University of Liverpool on a programme in Veterinary Professional Studies, administered by the Veterinary Postgraduate Unit. This will comprise a series of modules to be undertaken throughout the 3 years of the scholarship, leading to the award of the postgraduate Diploma and culminating with a research project leading to the award of an MSc. Modules include pathology-specific subjects such as zoo animal pathology and forensic pathology, and also clinically-based modules. The final MSc project will be supervised by one of the academic members of staff from the pathology group, the specific details of which will be confirmed once the scholarship is in progress.

A provisional programme as follows:

Year 1: January September

1. AFAVP module
2. BSAP and/or BEP modules



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Year 1: September – Year 2 September

1. Zoo Pathology module
2. Forensic Pathology module
3. Introduction to Epidemiology
4. Clinical practice

Year 2 September – Year 3 September:

1. Clinical practice
2. MSc Research Project

More information available at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/vets/cpd/vet-professional/>

Research interests within the group focus of infectious disease, oncology, neuropathology, digital pathology and forensic veterinary pathology. We also collaborate widely with clinical colleagues on a broad variety of clinical and biomedical research projects.

For informal enquiries contact Dr. Richard Blundell, Programme director: rblund@liverpool.ac.uk

Duties:

- Training in diagnostic pathology under supervision of senior pathologists
- Being exposed to activities of the Department, including teaching and research
- Complete requirements for Diploma and MSc in Veterinary Professional Studies
- Prepare for candidature of ECVP examination
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the role as required

Additional requirements:

Manual Handling

Bio Hazards

Pathogens

Exposure to Animals

Formaldehyde/Asthmagens



About You



Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Experience	
Postgraduate experience as a veterinarian in a field relevant to veterinary pathology (minimum 1 year, due to the requirements of ECVP)	Experience in research
	Experience in pathology
Education, Qualifications and Training	
EU and RCVS-recognised veterinary degree. MRCVS, or eligible for membership	PhD or other postgraduate research degree
Skills, General and Special Knowledge	
High level of general veterinary knowledge	Specific awareness of aspects of veterinary pathology
Ability to communicate clearly and confidently at all levels	
Good interpersonal, organisational and communication skills (spoken and written English)	
Personal Attributes and Circumstances	
Enthusiasm for the application of veterinary pathology to diagnostics and research, and for working in multidisciplinary teams	
Ability to work in a team	
Ambition to embark on a career in veterinary pathology and to take the ECVP certifying examination and post graduate Diplomas	
A coachable person keen to receive feedback	



About You



Applications/Contact

Please email: Lezanne.Fisher@liverpool.ac.uk