

## Procedure in Respect of Professional Requirements

(also known as Fitness to Study and Practise)

Given the nature of the work at RVC, which in all courses involves exposure and access to animals and drugs, expectations of professional requirements apply to all students. These expectations are clearly stated in the [RVC Charter](#). There are particular issues to be observed regarding the fitness to practise of students who may in due course gain admission to the [RCVS register](#).

### **1. Definition and Remit**

- 1.1 A student shall be deemed to be [unfit for registration](#) and practise if s/he is found, by the Professional Requirements Committee, to demonstrate any health condition, behaviour or attitude which would render that student a person not fit to be admitted to and practise as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse.
- 1.2 A student shall be deemed to be [unfit](#) for study if s/he is found by the Professional Requirements Committee to demonstrate a health condition, behaviour or attitude which could lead to harm of self, others or animals.
- 1.3 This procedure applies to all students who are not already full members of a registered profession (such as RCVS). Where a student is a member of a registered profession

2.2.2 Where a student's health is the one and only reason for questioning of fitness to practise and the student's health is of serious concern, then the Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar can determine that all studies and procedures be halted. The student will be offered the chance to seek [special re-](#)admission to the course once they have recovered sufficiently and to the satisfaction of the College's Occupational Health physician. The [terms for re-](#)admission and the nature of study for such students will be determined by the Senior Tutor and Course Leader or, for research students, Head of Graduate School and Supervisor.

## 2.3 Delegation

2.3.1 The Principal may delegate his powers under these regulations to the Deputy Principal or a Vice-Principal who is unconnected with the case.

2.3.2 The Academic Registrar may delegate to another senior administrative officer independent of the student any or all of the responsibility ascribed to the Academic Registrar in these regulations.

## 2.4. Representation

2.4.1.A student facing a hearing by the Professional Requirements Committee is entitled to be accompanied by a [supporter](#). The name of that person must be given to the Academic Registrar or his/her nominee at least two working days in advance of the hearing.

2.4.2.The Chair of the Professional Requirements Committee has discretion to adjourn any hearing where [prior notice](#) of representation has not been given.

## 2.5. Confidentiality

All proceedings of the Professional Requirements Committee will normally be held in private, unless the student appearing before the Committee wishes the hearing to be held in public.

## 2.6. Communications between the College and the student

Correspondence concerning proceedings under these regulations will be sent as secure documents via the student's [RVC email address](#). Any material sent will be deemed to have been received by the student concerned unless proof of non-delivery is subsequently proved.

## 2.7. Attendance at the hearing.

None of the proceedings outlined in these regulations will be invalidated or postponed by reason of [absence](#) (except for notified good and sufficient reason) from any hearing of any party called to attend, provided that both the student against whom a case has been made has been sent notice of the hearing.

The student may attend by video conference provided they are not a full time student and the content of the case is deemed [suitable](#) for such an arrangement by the Chair.

## 2.8. Health reports

[At any stage,](#)

member

A senior veterinary nurse where the student concerned is following a veterinary nursing programme;

hearing.

5.4.



- c). That the student's enrolment on the programme of study be suspended pending medical treatment or other appropriate remedial action that cannot be completed within the normal registration period for the course. The student will be permitted to seek special re-admission to the programme upon their return to health. Readmission will be at the discretion of the Senior Tutor and the Chair of the Professional Requirements Committee.
- d) In addition to b) and c) above the Committee may specify conditions of return to study, issue warnings and/or reprimands or restrictions such as preventing future membership of the SUS executive, residence in halls.

6.6 The Committee's decisions will be communicated to the student in writing within seven days of the hearing. A copy of the findings and decisions will be placed on the student's record, and the student advised that the findings may be taken into consideration in the event of any future hearings by the Professional Requirements Committee or any other relevant procedure. Where a student's enrolment has been terminated on the grounds that s/he is unfit for registration and practise, or the committee has issued warnings or conditions the findings will be communicated to the RCVS or other relevant professional body as appropriate no earlier than 15 days after the hearing.

6.7 All students who return to study will be required to form a Return to Study plan with the Senior Tutor.

## **7. Opportunity for Final Formal Review**

7.1 A student who has grounds to believe (i) the decision of the Committee is unreasonable, or (ii) the Committee was not conducted properly or (iii) if the student has new evidence they could not have shown to the Committee at the proper time then they can apply for Final Formal Review within 28 days.

7.2 Where the student applies for Final Formal Review, the findings of the original Committee will not be reported to a professional body until the Final Formal Review is complete and then only if the Review concludes that the substance of the original decision should stand.