



## Standard 7

### Student admission, progression and welfare



## 7.1. Factual information

### 7.1.1. Description of how the educational programme proposed by the Establishment is advertised to prospective students.

Prospectus students are bachelor students of the Region of Murcia or from other surrounding provinces. It is a Regional impact mainly in the south east of Spain, although we also receive students from different regions outside the main area of influence. There is a fact that students have the right to select any public University within Spain, there is a selection of more than one Veterinary Faculties within the so called "Single University District" waiting to be admitted based on their academic records. Also, we receive requests from EU countries, Latin America and other geographical areas that are informed via e-mail for their particular conditions.

To advertise the information to new students **FVETUM** follows different strategies.

#### 1.- On-line and web information.

The information is kept updated on the University and Faculty webs, and there is a section devoted to "New Students" (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/perfil/futuros-estudiantes>), where they can find the on-line information. It is also reinforced by the Academic Secretary (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/centro/secretaria2>) that also has a section for new students and reply to all questions arise.

#### 2.- Secondary Schools Sessions.

Annually, the **UM** organizes the Secondary Schools Student Visits (<http://www.um.es/web/umusecundaria/-/encuesta-visitas-guiadas-2017?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fweb%2Fumusecundaria%2Fcontenido>) to all Faculties of the **UM**, and **FVETUM** is scheduled to be visited in March every Friday. During these visits, baccalaureate students interested to enrol the Veterinary Degree take a tour where they receive an introductory session to explain the admission process at **UM**, the Degrees taught at **FVETUM** and the curriculums of each Degree. Students ask specific questions that are solved by a Dean's Office representative (Secretary or Vice-Dean normally). The second part of the tour, students visit some of the main infrastructures of the Faculty (Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Veterinary Anatomical Museum and Food Pilot Plant). **UM** also organizes informative talks about professional opportunities of Veterinary Degree each year for the prospective students (<http://www.um.es/web/umusecundaria/-/sesiones-informativas-sobre-salidas-profesionales-?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fweb%2Fumusecundaria%2F>).

, that is linked and reinforced at the **FVETUM** website (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/estudios/grados/veterinaria>).

### 7.1.2. Description of the admission procedures for standard students:

All New Students are selected based on their records obtained during the 2 last years of High School and the selective test to Access to the University.

- a) **Selection criteria.** After finishing the Baccalaureate, students must pass the University Access Exam (EBAU), which is the same test for all Public Universities in Murcia. There is no additional specific exam to enter the **FVETUM**. Access to the Veterinary Degree at the **UM** is regulated by a *numerus clausus* system: a certain admission rate is established attending to the number of students to be admitted (90) and the number of students demanding access. The EBAU includes two phases: a general phase (which is compulsory for all Baccalaureate students; maximum 10 points) and a specific phase with subjects related to the area of interest (which is voluntary and allows improving the mark up to a maximum of 14 points). Considering the high admission mark needed to access the Veterinary Degree, all students must pass both phases. The final mark is calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Admission mark} = 0.6 * \text{NMB} + 0.4 * \text{CFG} + a * \text{M1} + b * \text{M2}$$

Where

NMB = Average mark corresponding to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of the Spanish Baccalaureate;

CFG = EBAU General phase mark;

M1, M2 = The two best marks of the subjects of the EBAU specific phase;

a, b = weighting coefficients of the subjects of the specific phase.

In the case of international students with recognised secondary studies the item (0.6\*NMB + 0.4\*CFG) is replaced by the average grade of Baccalaureate.

In the academic year 2016/2017, the admission mark was 11.25, and the number of students applying for admission was 1497. In addition to the standard procedures, there is a percentage of places reserved for students with special situations: 1% for university graduates, 5% for disable students (equal to or higher than 33% disability), 3% for high-level and high-performance athletes, 3% for students over 25 years old, 1% for students over 40 years old, and 1% for over 45 years old students. This figure is mandatory by **UM** rules.

- b) **Policy for disable and ill students.** Five percent of the admissions are reserved for disable and ill students. They must present an official certificate of disability, proving a rating of 33% or higher. Applications are managed following the same criteria as for the rest of students. During the first academic year, they are not obliged to enrol all Year 1 subjects. Direct and personal attention is given by the University Office for the Integration of People with Disabilities (ADyV, <http://www.um.es/adyv/diversidad/discapacidad/apoyo-discapacidad.php>) and SAOP (Personal Advice and Guidance Services, <https://www.um.es/universidad/publicaciones-umu/guias-umu/guia1112/guia/servicios/saop.html>).
- c) **Composition and training of the selection committee.** There is no specific selection committee for student admission, since it is based on the mark obtained in the University Access Exam.
- d) **Appeal process.** Unsuccessful applicants and those that disagree with their mark can present their appeal addressed to the examining board for revision (<http://www.um.es/documents/877924/5005551/InfoWeb-estructura.pdf/9a62ba41-f795-4e42-936e-b567c54301fb>) or to the Rector of UMU (<http://www.um.es/web/vic-estudios/contenido/acceso/pau>).
- e) **Advertisement of the criteria and transparency of the procedures.** The standard admission procedure depends on the University and is fully advertised and transparent. All the information is published online (<http://www.um.es/web/vic-estudios/contenido/acceso>). Results of the admission procedure are also communicated online at the same time for all the public universities of Murcia, and personally to all the applicants (<http://www.um.es/web/vic-estudios/contenido/acceso/pau>).

### 7.1.3. Description of the admission procedures for full fee students.

Not applicable.

### 7.1.4. Description of how the Establishment adapts the number of admitted students to the available educational resources and the biosecurity and welfare requirements.

The number of students admitted per year is strictly limited. The total number of admissions is mainly based on the teaching capacity required to achieve a satisfactory standard, based on the available facilities and staff. The demand for Veterinary graduates in the labour market is also considered. In addition, the number of new-admission students should comply with that established in the official document of the **UM** Veterinary Degree approved by ANECA (ENQA member), i.e. **90 admissions**. Each year, the **FVETUMU**, by means of its Faculty Council, proposes to the UMU Governing Council this specific number of places to be offered, which in turn sends it to the University Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. This body is empowered to decide, but it usually accepts the Faculty's proposal.

### Biosecurity and Protection

New students receive a first contact with these notions in the introductory course called Welcome and Training Week for the Veterinary Grade (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/orientacion-y-empleo/acogida>), which is carried out the first week of each academic course. Students are directed to familiarise themselves with the School's Safety and Biosecurity procedures (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/seguridad>) and all students receive relevant H&S talks prior to animal handling sessions and clinical rotations. Working with laboratory animals is covered by the University Code of Practice on Allergy to Laboratory Animals and the Code of Practice on Animal Hazards. The School has a Code of Practice covering safe working practices with domestic animals in clinical and teaching settings including working on farms.

### 7.1.5. Description of:

- a) **the progression criteria and procedures for all students**  
Students have to pass at least one of the course subjects at the end of the first year of enrolment at the University (6-12 ECTS). On the other hand, there are two ordinary exam sittings the first time that the student signs up for each subject, and three opportunities the following times. The students can use up to 6 exam sittings to pass each subject. The student must have passed a minimum of 70% of ECTS to be enrolled in EPT, Rotations and Graduation Thesis. They cannot present their Graduation Thesis until they have passed all the subjects of the Degree (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/estudios/grados/veterinaria/plan/reconocimientos>).
- b) **the remediation and support for students who do not perform adequately**  
For students who need learning assistance, tutorial sessions are perhaps the best way to offer them direct personalised guidance. The teacher offers orientation and advice on all teaching aspects which may improve the teaching-learning process. All academic staff has a specific tutoring schedule that must be observed (minimum six hours per week), there is also a tutorial programme, in which lecturers supervise on an individual basis the students' output and progress from the first academic year and a specific programme at the **FVETUMU** for this

assistance (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/orientacion-y-empleo/pat>). There are other systems in the **UM** to favour the permanency of the students:

- An application for the cancellation of a sitting can be presented to the Dean, accompanied by the appropriate supporting documents or certificates (<http://www.um.es/web/vic-estudios/contenido/normativa/permanencia>).
- If a student fails 4 ordinary sittings, he has the right to be evaluated by an Examining Board for the fifth and sixth examinations.
- Students who have failed all six regular examinations of a subject can apply to the Rectorate for an extraordinary exam (7th sitting).

**c) the rate and main causes of attrition**

The official attrition rate is low and without great variations in our Faculty, i.e. 7.14%, 6.38% and 6.67% in the last three years (average 6.7%). Some students who drop out of Veterinary Degree do so because it did not meet their expectations. The academic results also have influence on attrition since the lower the academic performance and success, the higher the probability of dropping out. Finally, the rise in the tuition fees and the cutbacks in scholarships in Spain increased university attrition rates 4-5 years ago.

**7.1.6. Description of the services available for students.** (i.e. registration, teaching administration, mentoring and tutoring, careers advice, listening and counselling, assistance in case of illness, impairment and disability, clubs and organisations, ...)

**a) Provided by the FVETUM**

The different services available for students in the **FVETUM** are coordinated by the **Office of the Vice-Dean with the competences for Students and International Affairs at the Veterinary Degree**. This office works closely with the Student Secretary Office, which is responsible for admission, registration, and any other administrative matters, both for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Students can convey their needs directly to the Office of the Vice-Dean for Students. Since 2012, an Office for Student Orientation is operating in the **FVETUM**, directly attended by the student representatives of our Establishment (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/perfil/estudiantes/representacion/delegacion>). Its mission is to support students through advice, lobbying and a range of extracurricular activities, as well as being at the heart of student social life.

The **University Ombudsman** is another important source of orientation for the university community. Collaborative dispute resolution is encouraged whenever possible, and mediation services are available on request through the University Ombudsman (<http://www.um.es/web/defensor>).

As explained above (Chapter 7, 7.1.5), specific tutoring sessions are offered by all teachers. All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (Academic Advisor) for the duration of their studies who is also responsible for supervision of their Professional Development Planning (PDP).

**b) Provided by the UM**

Specialist teams and experienced advisers are available to support students on a range of issues. The services available for students are:

- **UM** Mobility Office, for guidance and advice for incoming and outgoing students of different national and international exchange programmes.
- **UM** tutoring for pedagogical student support (<http://www.um.es/adv/diversidad/asesoramiento/pedagogico.php>).
- Financial support can be obtained through grants given by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports or by **UM** self-funds, all the options are published at the following web page: <http://www.um.es/web/estudiantes/contenido/becas>
- **UM** Office for Practice and Employment, which aim is to promote the employability of students and graduates of the **UM** (<https://bolsa.um.es/bolsa/bolsa.publico.inicio.do>).
- A specific page is published at the **FVETUM** web (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/contenido/orientacion-y-empleo/empleo>).
- A specific Service for Veterinary Students is the Orientation Office attended by the Professional Office in Murcia (<http://www.veterinariosmurcia.es>) in coordination with the **FVETUM**.
- **UM** Office for the Integration of People with Disabilities (ADyV).
- **UM** Office for Gender Equality.
- **UM** Programme for high performance athletes in order to help these students to reconcile sport activity and academic studies (<http://www.um.es/web/deportes/competiciones/danum>).
- **UMU** in Bike (<http://www.um.es/web/umuenbici/>) association for promoting the use of bike at the university.
- Sport Activities Service (<http://www.um.es/web/deportes/>)
- Student Information Service (<http://www.um.es/web/siu/>)
- List of available services at: <http://www.um.es/web/universidad/contenido/unidades-organizativas/servicios-universitarios>

All these **UM** Offices have a coordinator in each Faculty, in **FVETUM** being the Vice-Dean with competences in Students. Additionally, Veterinary students can use different medical services offered by the **UM**, at reduced fees (or free of charge). A health, accident and liability insurance policy is included in the registration fees.

Finally, parallel activities of our students through clubs and associations are prominent. At present, 5 active associations are established in the **FVETUM**. The student associations are located in 3 rooms in Building B and can use all the facilities of the **FVETUM** for their activities (<http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria/perfil/estudiantes/informacion-adicional>). The Student Office is composed of the elected student representatives at the Faculty Council. These students have a relevant role in the different strategies of QA, as explained in Chapter 11.

### 7.1.7. Prospected number of new students admitted by the Establishment for the next 3 academic years

According to the document approved by ANECA on the Degree in Veterinary, the estimated number of admission places for new students for the next 3 academic years will be similar and never higher than the current one (90).

### 7.1.8. Description of how and by who the admission procedures, the admission criteria, the number of admitted students and the services to students are decided, communicated to staff, students and stakeholders, implemented, assessed and revised.

Admission procedures and criteria are common for all the **UM** studies and are established by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and the Autonomous Government of Murcia. The number of admitted applicants is based on the official document approved by ANECA on the Degree in Veterinary; it is evaluated and approved by the Faculty Board.

**Table 7.1.1.** Number of new veterinary students admitted by the Establishment

Type of students	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	Mean
Granted	31	40	46	39
Standard	56	48	51	52
Total	87	88	97	91

**Table 7.1.2.** Number of veterinary undergraduate students registered at the Establishment

Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	Mean
1st	107	107	113	109,00
2nd	123	108	105	112,00
3rd	113	117	128	119,33
4th	116	114	109	113,00
5th	47	114	141	100,66
Total	506	560	596	554

**Table 7.1.5.** Number of postgraduate students registered at the Establishment

Type of students	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	Mean
<b>VTH</b>				
• Interns	10	11	10	10,33
• Residents	-	3	2	1,66
<b>Total</b>	10	14	12	12,00
<b>Master programmes</b>				
• MSc in Biology and Technology of Reproduction in Mammals	21	21	26	23
• MSc in Wildlife Management	27	28	25	18
• MSc in Small Animal Medicine	20	19	12	17
• MSc in Human Nutrition, Food Technology and Safety	28	24	29	23
<b>Total Master programmes</b>	96	92	92	81
<b>PhD programmes*</b>				
• PhD Programme in Veterinary Sciences	57	43	18	39
• PhD Programme in Biology and Technology of Reproductive Health	30	23	11	21
• PhD Programme in Food Technology, Human Nutrition and Food Science	34	23	10	22
• Other PhD Programmes	3	11	18	11

**Table 7.1.3.** Number of veterinary students graduating annually.

Type of students	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	Mean
Granted	14	36	??	??
Standard	17	27	??	??
Total	31	63	??	??

**Table 7.1.4.** Average duration of veterinary studies

Duration	% of the students who graduated on 2015/2016
5 + 0	30
5 + 1	27
5 + 2	6 (adapted)
5 + 3 or more	0

Total PhD programmes	124	100	57	94
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\*PhD students remain at least 3 years in the program as an average.

## 7.2. Comments

- The number of admitted students is analysed every year and is based on the maintenance of hands-on training and teaching quality at the FVETUMU.
- Our current syllabus is new, and conclusions regarding the progress of students probably need more time for a proper data evaluation. Nevertheless, preliminary results show a rational average time to complete the Degree (5,0 and 5,5 years), similar to the data of the Spanish Conference of Veterinary Faculties (national average of 6.8 years).
- Studies in our Establishment are demanding, but the learning environment is friendly, our students are highly motivated and they also have a good and sound academic background, which influences the low attrition rate.
- The School takes seriously the support of students and staff in their health and wellbeing.

## 7.3. Suggestions for improvement

- The admission of students from an Establishment other than FVM is legally possible. Our Faculty has largely reduced the number of such admissions, but a change in the current regulations would be needed.
- A rational approach of veterinary education in relation to the requirements of veterinary profession and society in general is also needed.
- A control system of the student admission in all the Spanish Veterinary Faculties based on a critical analysis would be desirable.
- A mentoring strategy would be desirable. For 2018/19 it is our intention to include a formal Mentoring programme directed to new students.