



Introduction

1. Brief history of the Establishment and of its previous ESEVT Visitations (if any)

Description and brief history of the Establishment and University:

Establishment: Facultad de Veterinaria de Murcia (FVETUM)

The name of the establishment is **Facultad de Veterinaria (FVETUM)**, public Faculty founded in 1982 and it is within the **Universidad of Murcia (UM)**, founded in 1915. **FVETUM** is located at the Campus of Espinardo, 7 km NW from downtown. **FVETUM** has 3 main infrastructures in 2 locations (within a distance of 2 km one from the other):

ESPINARDO

- FACULTY BUILDING (Main building with 3 areas: A, B and C)
- VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL (VTH)
Campus de Espinardo, 30071 Murcia.

GUADALUPE

- VETERINARY TEACHING FARM (VTF)
Avda. Libertad s/n, Guadalupe 30071 Murcia.

With the following contact information:

- **Telephone:** +34 868 884799, **Fax:** +34 868 884147
- **Website:** <http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria>
- **E-mail:** decanato.veterinaria@um.es

The Title and names of the contact and responsible one are:

- **Head of the establishment:** Dr. Gaspar Ros Berruezo, DVM, PhD.
- **Academic Director for VTH (professional, ethical):** Dr. Cándido Gutiérrez Panizo, DVM, PhD.
- **Director of VTF:** Dr. Salvador Ruiz López, DVM, PhD.

Universidad of Murcia (UM)

UM has 5 campuses (Downtown, Espinardo, El Palmar, San Javier and Lorca), being the largest one ESPINARDO. The main address of **UM** is as follows: Avda. Teniente Flomesta, 5, 30003 Murcia, Spain, with the following contact information

- **Telephone:** +34 868 88 3000, **Fax:** +34 868 88 8888
- **Website:** <http://www.um.es/web/veterinaria>

The Rector name is José Orihuela Calatayud, and is assisted by the Vice-Rectors team on different aspects <http://www.um.es/web/universidad/equipo-rectoral>. The final competent authority overseeing the establishment are the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of the Spanish Kingdom, and the Education Cancellery of the Autonomous Community of Murcia.

Previous ESEVT Visitations

FVETUM has received 2 previous visitations. The first one was carried out in 1996 and de second one in 2006. In 1996, the **FVETUM** was visited for the first time by a team of experts designated by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). The team made some suggestions regarding major deficiencies, and a follow-up visitation was carried out in 1998, when our Establishment was successfully evaluated. In 2006, the **FVETUM** obtained again the EAEVE-approved status. Since then, many changes affecting the organisation, study programme, facilities and management have been introduced taking into account the comments of the Expert Group that visited our Faculty at that time, and the legal changes regarding veterinary education established during the last decade.

2. Main features of the Establishment.

The **FVETUM** and **VTH** are strategically located. The clinical assistance is highly recognised by the public and the veterinary professionals, which allows a steady and adequate caseload, needed for the hands-on practical and clinical training of the students. It is based in a fluent relationship with the Official College of Veterinary Surgeons of Murcia (COLVEMUR) and with Private Professional Associations and Public Entities. A representative of the **FVETUM** participates in the Governing Board of COLVEMUR.

The qualification of our staff, in terms of both quality teaching and research, is noteworthy in terms of fundraising from research projects. The presence of highly motivated students with a good academic background is one of the most significant strengths of our Establishment. The good relationship between students, academic and support staff allows a friendly environment for learning and education.

3. Main developments since the last Visitation (or, if there has not been a previous one, in the period since the veterinary degree programme began); it must cover the response to the recommendations of the last Visitation and a summary of the main changes e.g. in organisation, finances, curriculum, facilities and equipment, number of staff and students

A. Main organisational changes

Different organisational changes have happened since the last visitation. At University level, **UM** was granted in 2010 with the National label of RCIE (Regional Campus of International Excellence), calling this RCIE "Campus Mare Nostrum". This is a joint

venture of **UM** and the other public University of the Region, the Polytechnic University of Cartagena (UPCT) which main goal of this RCEI is to identify the strength of the University as an international reference, oriented to the Mediterranean area mainly, regarding research, education and innovation. In this sense, the most important thematic area identified at RCEI was “Bioeconomy based on agrofood industry and health” outstanding role based on the “One Health” concept. The **VTH** or the Food Pilot Plant are two key infrastructures and the new Research Pole PLEIADES and the Mediterranean Food Science and Health centre so called VITALIS are playing an important role.

On the other hand, as recommended by the EAEVE team in the last visitation, a Quality Assurance System (QA) was implemented during the course 2010/2011. This System included the constitution of a Committee for the Assessment and Improvement of the Veterinary Degree Curriculum.

The **FVETUM** has also established a Biosecurity Committee in order to review and publish operational policies and procedures, and to train and to inform all the members of the Establishment on biosecurity issues. As suggested in the report of the last EAEVE visitation, an Official Regulation of the **VTH** was published in 2007 in order to give the **VTH** delegated authority and autonomy to deal with issues that are primarily an internal Hospital responsibility. This figure that regulate the functioning is the Foundation, Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Murcia.

Finally, an Ethics and Animal Welfare Committee of the University has been set up to follow the basic standards for the protection and welfare of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes, including teaching.

B. Main changes in finances

The crisis of the last years has had direct consequences on the funding for the Degree in Veterinary. Expenditures have increased on the basis of the consumer price index. However, revenues have been significantly reduced. The cutbacks from the public bodies have led to the impossibility to increase our human resources and to improve the infrastructures needed to adapt the studies to the ideal requirements of the European Higher Education Area.

C. Main changes to the curriculum

Many changes to the curriculum have been derived from changes in teaching regulations. In December 2001, the Spanish Parliament approved the University Organic Law 6/2001 which was modified in April 2007 (University Organic Law 4/2007, LOMLOU) in order to adapt it to the European Higher Education Area. The specific conditions that must be included in the programmes, and the requirements for qualifications to practice as veterinarians have been detailed in the Spanish Law (Resolution 21 of December 2007 and Order ECI/333/2008). The Veterinary Degree in the Spanish Universities comprises 300 ECTS delivered over 5 years. Taking into account these specific conditions, the Royal Decree 96/2014 has recognized the Veterinary Degree as equivalent to Master’s level (Spanish Framework for Qualification for Higher Education, MECES, level 3).

Accordingly, the curriculum of **FVETUM** has been profoundly renovated, following also the EAEVE recommendations. The new syllabus received the verification of the Spanish Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA, ENQA member) in 2010 (BOE, Spanish Official Bulletin, 11 of November, 2010). This programme was started during the academic course 2010/2011.

The main changes in the new curriculum include most suggestions of the last EAEVE report:

- A significant increase of clinical training, including a hands-on clinical rotation period in the last semester.
- A decrease in animal production training in comparison to the previous syllabus.
- The inclusion of rotations in food hygiene and safety, and in animal production.
- The inclusion of a Graduation Thesis to be presented by the student at the end of the Degree.
- A systematic inclusion of self-directed learning in most Degree subjects.

Moreover, the syllabus has been carefully revised in order to allow the acquisition of the ESEVT “Day One Competences”, and the OIE recommendations on the Competences of graduating veterinarians (“Day 1 Graduates”) to assure quality for the National Veterinary Services following the “One Health” philosophy.

D. Main changes in facilities and equipment.

The most significant changes in facilities and equipment since the last visitation are:

- At the Main Building
 - Adapt all lecture rooms to CMN standards with a full renovation of tables and sits to adapt to European Space of Higher Education, allowing to set in working groups.
 - Renovate all overhead projectors by smart blackboards also as slide projector. This equipment is with a “smart computer system” to centralize the management of all electronic devices.
 - Open a new computer and self-learning room within the study room, full equipped, for 32 students.
 - Set 3 lectures rooms in the basement of the study room mainly devoted to the Masters lecture.
 - Adapt spaces for student’s welfare and resting area at the main corridor of the main building.
 - To open an outdoor terrace at the cafeteria area and renovate the facilities, services and atmosphere of the cafeteria.
 - To reorganise the student’s offices for Associations and Representatives.
 - To reorganise the main hall for exhibitions and events.

- To remodel the dissection room to adapt to the plastination capacity to produce specimens and to security requirements.
- Set up a unify model of biosecurity measures at the pre-clinics, animal production, food science and animal medicine Departments.
- At VTH
 - Remodelling of Isolation Areas for Small Animals and Large Animals.
 - Opening of a new clinic room for suspected cases of transmissible diseases, with direct access to the street, independent from the waiting room.
 - Opening of a Waiting Room for Cats in the VTH.
 - Conditioned the riding arena for horse handling and a dog off-leash area.
 - Update the biosecurity measurements by animal species at VTH.
- At VTF
 - Installation of a new experimental Unit at the Teaching Farm.
 - Installation of a necropsy room.
 - To install a quarantine Unit.
 - Update the biosecurity measurements by animal species at the Teaching Farm.
 - - Important improvements in some livestock units, such as dairy and beef cattle, equine, rabbits and poultry.
 - - Building of a new store of straw and fodder.

4. Major problems encountered by the Establishment (whether resolved or not)

In the last 6 to 7 years, Spain as most of the EU countries, has suffered a dramatic international economic crisis, and the national and regional Governments have reduced funding to public universities. The effect of these reductions has had a negative impact mainly on human resources, infrastructures and investment on practical training. Regarding human resources, the policy and law of Governments have been to have a replacement of only 10% of the total retirement professors per year (1 for each 10 retired). The situation has been very difficult but now the situation has improved and this current academic year (2016-17) the number has increased, allowing the promotion of academic staff. This policy also determined new contacted professors only to part-time. It is also important to mention the strategy need to maintain in the future the clinical services because the rules at the Public University takes into consideration the research and teaching curriculum, but not the clinical activities. This is mayor concern for the capacity to enrol new clinical staff.

Talking about infrastructures, the economic restrictions made difficult to renewal of equipment and facilities. In this sense, we have underlined to the Rector and Rector Team that Veterinary studies are much more expensive than the average, and we have maintained most of the investments at the VTH and VTF, and we look forward with a good expectation to be improved. It is also important to mention that we have applied an austere and responsible management model. The weakest part of the situation was the reduction of the budget for practical training that has been optimised and complement in many cases by the research budget of the teaching units.

5. Version and date of the ESEVT SOP which is valid for the Visitation

ESEVT 'Uppsala' SOP May 2016.

