

Questions and Answers with regard to VETCEE evaluation for programme providers

Importance of VETCEE

1. Why has VETCEE been established?

Post-graduate veterinary teaching in Europe is very fragmented. VETCEE tries to bring some harmonisation and to facilitate recognition of the skills and competences of veterinarians moving from one Member State in Europe to another.

2. What is the value of the VETCEE Approval for a programme?

VETCEE is helpful for national competent authorities/ veterinary statutory bodies to easily assess the level of competences of one veterinarian, especially when those competences have been acquired during a VETCEE approved programme taken in another country of Europe.

Applications

3. Does VETCEE accept applications only from University post-graduate programmes or private providers can also apply?

VETCEE welcomes applications from any University, state or private provider for the evaluation of any post-graduate programme in one of the fields of veterinary medicine for which a VETCEE Dossier of Competency exists.

4. Does VETCEE accept applications for the evaluation of individual courses?

VETCEE evaluates only modular programmes, not individual courses.

5. What if more than one providers collaborate together on the same programme?

It may happen that programmes are a joint initiative, for example, of a one or more veterinary schools, of a veterinary school and a national veterinary association, of different veterinary scientific societies, etc. Those programmes are also eligible for applying for the VETCEE evaluation and approval.

6. I run a multinational programme. Do I have to make one or multiple applications?

If a provider wishes to operate and deliver exactly the same programme in another jurisdiction other than its original country a second approval is required to ensure that quality assurance, management and delivery of the programme meet the VETCEE programme standards.

With regard to the application process a full application dossier should be submitted to VETCEE and a new evaluation process would be initiated. The fee applicable for an expanded application should be calculated according to the following conditions:

President

Andrew Byrne

Treasurer

Valerie Beatty

EAEVE

Frank Gasthuys

EBVS

Dominiek Maes

FVE

Andrew Robinson

UEVP

Marjan Tacer

- In the case that the content of the programme remains exactly the same, but it is delivered by a different teaching-team, the programme is eligible for a 20% reduction in the application fee under the condition that quality assurance of the programme is ensured by the following:
 - the clinical Director of the programme remains the same
 - the 70% of the teaching staff remain the same
 - the 30% of the staff is replaced by lecturers of equivalent level and experience with the ones in the initial programme

All three conditions must be satisfied in order to ensure eligibility of the programme for a reduced-fee application. In case of failure to comply with any of them the full-fee will be requested by the applicant.
- In the case that the content of the programme is not exactly the same with the initial application, even if the provider and the Programme Director remains the same, the programme is considered as a new application and the full application fee applies.

7. I run a programme in a field of the veterinary medicine for which there is not an established Dossier of Competences yet. Can I still apply for the VETCEE Approval?

No this is not possible. VETCEE accepts applications only from programmes in a field of veterinary medicine for which a VETCEE Dossier of Competences exists.

8. Does the programme require a minimum of face-to-face hours? Could it be a 100% online programme?

The programme must have a minimum of practical training as indicated in the Standard (articles 3 and 5) and the different Dossiers of Competences. VETCEE recommendation is that programmes should include a minimum of 10% of practical training.

9. Regarding the facilities for the practical formation, do they have to fulfil any kind of requirements?

The teaching of key skills, including practical skills, must be clearly explained in the application. There are not specific requirements mentioned in the Standard, but it should be presented what kind of facilities are used for the practical training, e.g. facilities of a university campus, facilities of a veterinary clinic, etc.

10. Do the teachers of the programme need to fulfil any kind of requirements?

Teachers should have appropriate professional skills and sufficient international experience within the teaching team. The program team must include a member who holds a European Diplomat (EBVS) qualification or a qualification that is recognised by the EBVS as equivalent. The qualification and experience of all teachers involved in the delivery and/or assessment of the programme must be appropriate to the programme. In addition the program team should include at least one member with a qualification in Education or proven relevant teaching experience such that appropriate pedagogical knowledge can be demonstrated (see also article 8 of the Standard).

Evaluation and approval process

11. Is it necessary that all requirements included in the Standard and the respective Dossier of Competences are fulfilled?

Yes, programme providers should ensure that all requirements laid down in the [Standard](#) and the respective [Dossier of Competences](#) are met.

Nevertheless, an important degree of flexibility is accepted on how to achieve compliance with the standards as regards teaching of core and designated or specific competences,

e.g. a competence may be taught as a separate subject or included in the content of a broader subject, a competence may be taught in a class or e-learning course, etc. In any case, clear evidence that all competencies are been taught and learned should be clearly presented in the application.

12. How does VETCEE scheme ensures quality of training of the VETCEE approved programmes?

Quality assurance of programmes and their qualifications is of utmost importance. Programme providers should have a policy and associated procedures for the assurance of the quality and standards of their programmes and awards, which have to clearly present in their application (see also article 8 of the Standard).

The quality assurance system must be one that is recognised within the European Higher Education community and/or veterinary professional bodies. Existing recognised systems such as accreditation of the provider by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) or a quality assurance system that is approved by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), or a body that is recognised as an authority for awarding higher education qualifications at EQF level 7 or above is a minimum requirement.

13. How much time does it take until I have the final decision for the approval or not of my programme after my application?

The evaluation process starts officially from the time that VETCEE has successfully received the payment of the application fee. The whole process will take about 4 months until the final decision is ratified by the VETCEE board.

14. What happens if the programme does not get the accreditation? Can the programme reapply?

Following the evaluation of a programme the, VETCEE decision would be

- Full Approval: award valid for a period of 5 years. Full approval may be awarded with recommendations which are non-mandatory but highly recommended.
- Conditional Approval: awarded in the case that slight amendments need to be introduced in order for the programme to fully comply with the VETCEE Standard. Conditional approval is valid for two (2) years from the date that approval along with certain recommendations ratified by the VETCEE Board. The programme provider shall within that period of two (2) years present how the recommendations have been incorporated in the programme in order to ensure the programme's full approval for the whole period of 5 years from the initial date of approval. When the validity period is exceeded and no substantial amendments have been applied, the programme automatically reverts to non-approval status.
- Non-Approval: the case that the programme does not meet the minimum requirements of the Standard, VETCEE decision will be communicated along with justification on the identified issues and recommendations for improvement. Once the programme has addressed those issues can reapply by submitting a full application.

15. What is the period of validity of the VETCEE approval?

VETCEE approval is valid for a period of 5 years. The programmes have to be reevaluated every 5 years and programme providers should make sure that they apply for re-evaluation in time. Programmes that do not apply for their re-evaluation on time fall automatically to a non-approved status.

Approved programmes

16. What is the post-nominal granted by VETCEE to the 'Approved' Programmes?

The programme that successfully pass the VETCEE evaluation is included in the register of the ['VETCEE Approved'](#) programmes and granted the 'VETCEE Approval' logo for any legitimate use.

17. What is the post-nominal granted by VETCEE to the graduates from a 'VETCEE Approved' programme?

VETCEE does not award any titles to veterinarians. It only evaluates and approve the programmes delivered to the veterinarians. The award of a title remains always a responsibility of the national competent authority/ statutory body. However the award of a title is highly recommended by VETCEE. Programme providers are encouraged to liaise with their national competent authority/ statutory body in that respect.

18. Do graduates veterinarians from a VETCEE Approved programme have to be included in a separate register?

Please see the reply to question 17.

19. What are the total charges that a VETCEE approved programme has to pay?

The programme provider has to pay the application fee at the time of submission of the application.

If the programme gets full approval, this is valid for 5 years and no additional costs apply. The programme will have to be reevaluated every 5 years and the applicable fee will have to be paid together with the new application submission for the re-evaluation of the programme.

If the programme gets the conditional approval and the programme manages to comply in time with the requested adaptations as recommended by the VETCEE Board, a full recognition for the full period of 5 years from the initial application will apply at no extra cost.

If the programme fails to get approved, a full dossier has to be submitted once the programme provider has made the necessary adaptations and a full-fee apply in that case.