

Pre-clinical Extramural Studies Placements (PEMS)

Information for placement providers

Acknowledgement

The School of Veterinary Science (SVS) at The University of Queensland (UQ) sincerely thanks you for accepting veterinary technology students on placement.

Veterinary Technology students need to gain practical experience with the husbandry of animals and management of animal-based enterprises. Sufficient experience can only be gained by engaging in work experience placements such as the one you are providing. We deeply appreciate the contribution and effort that you make in helping the veterinary technology graduates of tomorrow achieve this goal.

The pre-clinical extramural studies (PEMS) milestone is an educational partnership between The University of Queensland and commercial animal enterprises. Specifically, PEMS provides an opportunity for students to reinforce their competency in animal handling and husbandry, gain knowledge of the significant features specific to different animal enterprises and gain an understanding of the factors affecting the business success of these enterprises.

The PEMS milestone also helps strengthen other essential skills that have been introduced during the first year of The University of Queensland Bachelor of Veterinary Technology degree such as communication, self-reflection and professionalism.

Who can provide a placement experience?

Your animal enterprise can provide a valuable experience for our students if your enterprise:

- can meet the learning objectives and provide a portion of the core skills and experiences as listed later in this information booklet
- is of adequate commercial size to host students and provide the required learning objectives
- has safe animal handling facilities relevant to the species
- provides a safe working environment for our students.

What will the students learn when they are with you?

Learning objectives

Students on your placement will be working towards the following learning objectives. On completion of their (PEMS) milestone, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe, effective and humane animal handling and restraint in different placement environments
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the relevant health and safety requirements and local risk factors
3. Describe typical daily, seasonal, and annual management of various animal enterprises and associated specific husbandry practices.
4. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the business operation of different placement providers.
5. Demonstrate a professional approach to working with and communicating with different placement providers.
6. Work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team in the delivery of services, applying precise signalment and terminology to work practices
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of self-reflection in development of skills and experience in the husbandry and management of animals.
8. Identify opportunities to remediate self-identified weaknesses.

Suggested skills/experiences

Students on PEMS placement will be encouraged to seek placements that can provide a portion of the core skills and experiences listed on the following pages.

It is important to understand that as a provider you do NOT need to be able to deliver all the skills and experiences listed in the tables.

Students will be attending other placements and will gain some skills and experiences at that time. The advanced skills are only to be included in the experience if by chance the student is exposed to these specialised activities while on placement.

Student assessment

We ask that you evaluate our students at the conclusion of their placement.

You will be sent an email at the end of the student's placement with a link to the electronic assessment system. In the assessment system, you will see a grading template (see below). It will allow you to provide a quick, accurate and objective assessment of the student's performance during the placement.

If you are unable to complete the assessment online, please contact the School PEMS office on +61 7 5460 1834, Mon–Fri 8.30am–4.30pm or email vetprac@uq.edu.au and a hard copy of the assessment template will be mailed to you.

We encourage you to grade objectively even if that results in an unsatisfactory rating for a one or more components of the placement assessment. An outcome of this nature generates a feedback meeting between the Coordinator and the student. Any additional comments you provide on the assessment sheet will be viewed by the student.

Your feedback will assist the students to reflect, and therefore identify scope for improvement in their skills and approach to placements.

Completing the online assessment as soon as possible after the student completes their placement will be greatly appreciated.

Grading template

The below grading template is available online. You will be sent an email at the end of the student's placement with a link to the assessment system to fill in this template.

	Unsatisfactory Performance	Satisfactory Performance	Very Good Performance
PROFESSIONALISM Reliable, responsible, punctual, followed instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATTITUDE and ENTHUSIASM Respectful, engaged in placement, motivation to learn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ABILITY Animal handling skills, husbandry knowledge, understanding of business principles and risk management strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNICATION Ability to engage in discussion of operation of animal enterprise and ask questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OH&S BIOSECURITY Applied appropriate OH&S and Biosecurity principles relevant to the experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Occupational Health and Safety Skills / Experiences

Core skills/experiences

- Comply with health and safety requirements and local risk factors
- Select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- Follow standard operating procedures and manufacturer guidelines when using equipment and materials
- Take appropriate action and report injury to self or other
- Apply principles of biosecurity correctly, including sterilisation of equipment and disinfection of clothing
- Ensure appropriate hygiene skills are followed before and after handling animals and equipment
- Dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste safely and correctly according to current legislation

Dog experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy • Using correct signalment to identify animal • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare check identify normal and abnormal parameters • Communicate patient parameters to professional colleagues using correct terminology • Handle and restrain dogs safely, effectively and humanely, with consideration for animal welfare • Safe movement of dogs – including exercise, capture and lifting • Provide husbandry to dogs: accommodation, nutrition and excretions • Cleaning - cages, enclosures, laundry, animal enterprise • Faecal scoring • Washing and grooming - including brushing, drying and clipping • Weighing dogs • Check, clean and maintain surgical instruments • Prepare, package and monitor the sterilisation of instruments and materials • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals, minimising fear and distress • Consider animal welfare and low stress handling techniques in a range of situations, considering case-specific factors (species/injuries/etc) • Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wounds and pain in patient • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon – oral, topical or subcutaneous injection • Under supervision take appropriate non-invasive samples – urine, faeces, milk • Implement appropriate infection control strategies according to practice protocol/policy • Assist with fluid therapy • Ear tattooing • Perform physical examination • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration • Post-operative care • Surgery preparation - clip, aseptic scrub • Trim nails • Use a microscope

Cat experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy • Using correct signalment to identify animal • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare check identify normal and abnormal parameters • Communicate patient parameters to professional colleagues using correct terminology • Handle and restrain cats safely, effectively and humanely, with consideration for animal welfare • Safe movement of cats – including exercise, capture and lifting • Provide husbandry to cats: accommodation, nutrition and excretions • Cleaning - cages, enclosures, laundry, animal enterprise • Faecal scoring • Washing and grooming - including brushing, drying and clipping • Weighing cats • Check, clean and maintain surgical instruments • Prepare, package and monitor the sterilisation of instruments and materials • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals, minimising fear and distress • Consider animal welfare and low stress handling techniques in a range of situations, considering case-specific factors (species/injuries/etc) • Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wounds and pain in patient • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon – oral, topical or subcutaneous injection • Under supervision take appropriate non-invasive samples – urine, faeces, milk • Implement appropriate infection control strategies according to practice protocol/policy • Assist with fluid therapy • Ear tattooing • Perform physical examination • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration • Post-operative care • Surgery preparation - clip, aseptic scrub • Trim nails • Use a microscope

Exotic or laboratory species experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe movement of exotic species • Handle and restrain exotics species safely, effectively and humanely, with consideration for animal welfare • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare check identify normal and abnormal parameters • Using correct signalment to identify animal • Provide husbandry to exotic species: accommodation, nutrition and excretions • Cleaning - cages, enclosures, laundry, animal enterprise • Weighing exotic species • Under supervision take appropriate non-invasive samples • Check, clean and maintain facilities/equipment • Create accurate and legible written communications according to facilities policy • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate patient parameters to professional colleagues using correct terminology • Identify behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals, minimising fear and distress • Natural and artificial breeding technologies • Breeder selection • Marketing opportunities • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon – oral, topical or subcutaneous injection • Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wounds and pain in patient • Implement appropriate infection control strategies according to practice protocol/policy • Identify behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals, minimising fear and distress • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration • Use a microscope

Equine experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare checks • Handle and restrain horses safely and effectively • Feeding horses – mixing, hand feeding • Cleaning – stables and yards • Washing and grooming – including hose down, brushing, drying • Saddling/tacking up • Bandaging • Worming • Pasture assessment • Hoof care • Rugging • Identification • Farm/facility maintenance • Administration duties • Communicate using correct terminology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and artificial breeding technologies • Pregnancy diagnosis (manual/ultrasonography) • Foal watch • Foal care • Dental care • Shoeing • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medications – oral, topical or subcutaneous injection • Observe and assess pain • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration • Use a microscope

Dairy experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustering stock • Milk harvesting • Clean and maintain dairy facilities/equipment • Health and welfare checks • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Communicate using correct terminology • Feeding cows – mixing, hand feeding, shifting electric fences • Feeding calves • Handle and restrain all classes of stock • Drenching • Dehorning calves • Ear tagging • Pasture assessment • Irrigation application • Herd recording • Vaccinating • Apply heat detection in a herd of dairy cattle • Administer medications • Farm/ facility maintenance • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial breeding technologies • Pregnancy diagnosis/ ultrasonography • Embryo transfer • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Tattooing calves • Freeze branding • Assist with calving • Under supervision administer medications – oral, topical, intravenous or subcutaneous injection • Under supervision – sample collection • Observe and assess pain in patients • Care of the neonate/ calves • Sampling for genetic testing • Genetic selection techniques • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration

Beef experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle and retrain all classes of stock • Mustering cattle • Cattle crush competence • Feeding cows – mixing, hand feeding, shifting electric fences, licks, supplements • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare checks • Communicate using correct terminology • Farm, facility maintenance • Drenching • Dehorning calves • Castrating calves • Ear tagging • Apply heat detection in an extensive beef operation • Vaccinating • Treatment of external parasites • Pasture assessment • Irrigation application • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial breeding technologies • Pregnancy diagnosis/ ultrasonography • Embryo transfer • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Tattooing calves • Freeze branding • Assist with calving • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medications – oral, topical, intravenous or subcutaneous injection • Under supervision – sample collection • Observe and assess pain in patients • Sampling for genetic testing • Genetic selection techniques • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration

Sheep experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustering flock • Sheep handling – yarding, drafting, tipping • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare checks • Communicate using correct terminology • Feeding sheep – mixing, hand feeding, shifting electric fences, licks, supplements • Feeding orphan lambs • Lamb marking • Drenching • Dipping / jetting / back-lining • Ear tagging • Mouthing sheep • Pasture sampling • Fly strike checks • Foot examination/trimming • Vaccinating • Farm and facility maintenance • Administration duties • Heat detection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial breeding technologies • Assisting with shearing/crutching/wool shed activities • Pregnancy diagnosis • Milk harvesting • Assistance with lambing • Under supervision sample collection • Worm Egg Count • FAMACHA scoring • Embryo transfer • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Under supervision administer medicines – oral, topical, intravenous or subcutaneous injection • Genetic selection techniques • Sampling for genetic testing • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration

Pig experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to biosecurity protocols of piggery • Safe movement/ drafting of pigs • Handle and restrain pigs safely, effectively and humanely with consideration for animal welfare • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Communicate using correct terminology • Feeding – mixing, hand feeding, checking feeders/ drinkers operational • Health and welfare checks • Weighing pigs • Ear tagging • Tattooing piglets • Teeth clipping, tail docking, iron injections – piglets • Weaning • Back-fat measuring • Vaccinating • Hygiene - clean and maintain facilities • Rodent / pest control • Piggery maintenance • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and artificial breeding technologies • Breeder selection • Farrowing supervision/assistance • Piglet fostering • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medications – oral, topical or subcutaneous injection • Observe and assess pain • Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wounds • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration

Other experience

Core skills/experience	Advanced skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal management (environmental/ health) • Handle and restrain animal safely, effectively and humanely • Safe movement of animal • Behaviour recognition - normal verse abnormal • Health and welfare checks • Communicate using correct terminology • Animal husbandry • Feeding animals • Feed assessment • Weighing/ measure animal performance • Check, clean and maintain facilities • Vaccinations • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and artificial breeding technologies • Breeder selection • Marketing opportunities • Stud/commercial stock sales • Identify key sites for injections/preparing sites • Under supervision administer medications • Observe and assess pain • Assess, monitor, manage the status of wounds • Perform TPR's - temperature/pulse/respiration • Use a microscope

Important information

Reporting of illness or injury during placements

Any incidence of **illness or injury** sustained while on placements must be reported to The University of Queensland

School of Veterinary Science
phone +61 7 5460 1834
(Mon–Fri 8.30am–4.30pm) or
email vetprac@uq.edu.au

In the event of a serious incident involving the student after business hours, please immediately notify The University of Queensland Security, phone: +61 7 3365 3333.

Illness/personal issues

Students will advise you of any pre-existing medical conditions, specific needs for medication, mobility, allergens or special consideration on arrival or **preferably prior** to arrival at the placement.

If a student becomes ill or personal / family issues arise whilst on placement causing the student to be unable to participate in the placement, in all instances, the student will contact you immediately as the placement provider, as well as contacting the School of Veterinary Science PEMS office.

Insurance

Students undertaking an authorised UQ placement, will be covered by the following types of insurance (as applicable):

- Public liability
- Professional liability
- Malpractice
- Personal accident
- WorkCover work experience
- Travel.

In some circumstances, students may be covered while travelling to and from your placement venue. All coverage is subject to policy terms and conditions.

Student's personal belongings and vehicle will not be covered by the University's insurance policies – except in very limited circumstances.

For student's returning to their home country for a placement, the benefits payable for medical care under UQ's travel insurance policy may be reduced if they are covered by their home country's medical benefits scheme or a local health insurance policy while they are there.

Workplace Health and Safety

We have asked students to always be safety conscious and wear protective clothing and footwear as appropriate for the activity. When in doubt, they have been instructed to ask the person in charge of the farm/facility. Whilst they have been counselled on suitable clothing and requirements for outdoor work activities, if you feel there is a precise requirement please convey this to the student well in advance of the placement.

The operation of machinery and/or use of hazardous substances such as 4WDs, farm machinery, farm equipment and farm chemicals may only be driven, handled or operated by competent licensed persons. **Students are not authorized to operate such vehicles or machinery. Students are not authorized to handle dangerous farm chemicals** (e.g. pesticides) but they can handle chemicals such as drenches, disinfectants, vaccines, and nutritional supplements. **Students are forbidden from travelling in the trays of utilities, foot plates of tractors or on implements or trailers.**

When farm machinery/ equipment is in use, students have been instructed to always utilize correct personal protection equipment (PPE) provided in the workplace, as directed by the person in charge of the farm/animal facility. Where relevant, training and safety precautions must be made available. Students must be supervised at all times; at no stage should students participate in an activity which places them or others in danger.

Practical arrangements

It is the student's responsibility to:

1. Contact you as the placement provider at least 2 weeks before arrival to introduce themselves and to confirm hours of work and any other requirements/ considerations.
2. Inform the School of Veterinary Science and you as the placement provider immediately if they cannot attend a placement. As a placement provider, you are entitled to cancel a placement at any time, however the earlier you can notify the School the more chance we have of finding an alternate placement for the student/s.
3. Maintain a high standard of professionalism and integrity whilst on placement. They must be able to communicate on all levels with the producer and their staff and demonstrate an ability to follow directions. It is intended that the student will use their placements as an opportunity to strengthen their communication skills and professional conduct.
4. Ask permission before taking photographs, videos or other recordings. If the student requires photographs or other forms of evidence for reflection or future assignment work, they must seek approval from you as the provider in the first instance for this to occur. These images must not be used in any public forum at the time of the placement or anytime in the future.
5. Not engage in use of the internet or personal mobile phones during work time, except on designated breaks, if approved by the provider.

Biosecurity

At all times students attending placements must ensure that their personal clothing, protective clothing and footwear are clean. Students must also ensure that any contaminated clothing or footwear is either removed and replaced by clean clothing or thoroughly cleaned before leaving the farm or animal facility. If attending a farming placement the student will have completed the Animal Management and Husbandry Online Placement Tool www.ems.vet.ed.ac.uk/animalmh prior to commencement of PEMS which covers their biosecurity responsibilities.

Confidentiality

Students are advised that all information gained on external placement is strictly confidential. It is not to be discussed with fellow students, friends, family or anyone outside the placement. Information is not to be posted on social media. To do so would not only be unprofessional but a serious breach of trust. The School of Veterinary Science would view a breach of confidentiality by a student as professional misconduct.



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THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks for your contribution to the PEMS milestone for the School of Veterinary Science. Our graduates can only succeed if they are exposed to worthy learning opportunities, such as the one you are providing.

Your input and feedback are valuable to us. If you have any concerns or comments please contact us.

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