

Pre-clinical Extramural Studies Placements (PEMS)

Information for placement providers



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“PEMS has been one of the highlights for me in vet school thus far. I did my research before choosing my properties and as a result, my animal handling skills have improved immensely and I really do feel confident moving into the clinical phase of the program.”

Domestic student

Acknowledgement

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

Veterinary Science 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 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 three years of The University of Queensland Veterinary Science degree program such as communication, self-reflection and professionalism.

Aims of the pre-clinical extramural studies (PEMS)

The aims of PEMS are for students to gain:

- **practical experience** in animal enterprise management and husbandry procedures across a range of commercial animal production, breeding and recreational enterprises
- **competence and confidence in handling** a range of animal species
- some **insight into the business management** of animal-based enterprises
- **experience communicating** with owners, managers and staff of animal enterprises
- a **professional approach** to working with and communicating with different placement providers

Students complete a total of 50 days of practical experience in animal enterprises, consisting of:

- 15 days in intensive livestock production
- 15 days in extensive livestock production
- 20 days in an animal enterprise of their choice

"I am grateful for the opportunity to gain an authentic insight into an industry that I will potentially be consulting to as a veterinarian in the future."

This placement exposed me to the operations and economics of a beef enterprise and provided me with a setting to practice and extend my interpersonal communication and animal handling skills."

Domestic student

Our students



125-135 students are admitted to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) program each year.



Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) is a 5-year program. Students on PEMS are in year 2 or 3.



Highly committed students from diverse cultures.
~30 % international students from many different countries, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, China, New Zealand and Canada.
~70% Australian students.



Prior animal experience:

- Our students have variable animal experience before vet school.
- They have passed a course in basic animal handling (beef/dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, dogs, cats, exotics, small mammals, avian and poultry).
- They have completed courses that include basic knowledge of animal nutrition, care, welfare, behavior, husbandry, and anatomy, as well as study in professionalism and communication.



Student health and safety:

- Students have completed on-farm safety training modules:
 - Work safely (AHCOHS101A)
 - Operate quad bikes (AHCMOM212A)
 - Operate side by side utility vehicles (AHCMOM211A).
- Our students have all been vaccinated against Q-fever.



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 enable sufficient on-farm duties
- has safe animal handling facilities relevant to the species
- is able to provide adequate accommodation for our students
- provides a safe working environment for our students.

What will 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. describe typical daily, seasonal and annual management of various animal enterprises and associated specific husbandry practices
2. demonstrate safe and effective animal handling and restraint in different placement environments
3. demonstrate a professional approach to working with and communicating with different placement providers

4. demonstrate an understanding of the role of self-reflection in development of skills and experience in the husbandry and management of animals
5. demonstrate a basic understanding of the business operation of different placement providers
6. 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 optional skills are only to be included in the experience if by chance the student is exposed to these specialised activities while on placement.

“Placements are a great way to gain new skills and refine those you already have. Specifically, the skills required to communicate with primary producers and animal husbandry and handling.”

International student



Dairy experience

Core skills/experience	Optional skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustering cows • Milk harvesting • Cleaning and sanitization of dairy facilities/ equipment • Feeding cows – mixing, hand feeding, shifting electric fences • Feeding calves • Drafting • Vaccinating • Drenching • Dehorning calves • Administer medications • Pasture assessment • Irrigation application • Farm maintenance • Ear tagging • Herd recording • Health and welfare checks • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial insemination • Ultrasonography • Pregnancy diagnosis • Embryo transfer • Intravenous treatments • Tattooing calves • Freeze branding • Sampling for genetic assessment • Assistance with calving • Care of the neonate • Marketing opportunities • Stud/ commercial stock sales



Beef experience

Core skills/experience	Optional skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustering cattle • Cattle handling – yarding/ drafting • Cattle crush competence • Administer medications • Feeding cattle – hand feeding, mixing/ electric fencing/ licks/ supplement • Vaccinating • Drenching • Dehorning • Treatment of external parasites • Pasture assessment • Irrigation application • Health and welfare checks • Ear tagging • Branding • Castrating • Farm maintenance • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial insemination • Pregnancy diagnosis (manual and ultrasonography) • Embryo transfer • Administering capsules/ boluses • Assistance with calving • Care of the new born calf • Sampling for genetic testing • Stud/ commercial stock sales • Animal performance analysis



Equine experience

Core skills/experience	Optional skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding horses • Mixing feeds • Cleaning stables and yards • Horse handling – catching and restraining • Grooming • Saddling/ tacking up • Bandaging • Hosing down/ washing • Worming • Vaccinating • Administer medications • Pasture assessment • Foot care • Rugging • Treatment of external parasites • Health and welfare checks • Identification • Farm maintenance • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and artificial breeding technologies • Pregnancy diagnosis • Foal watch • Dental care • Shoeing • Stud/ commercial stock sales • Marketing opportunities



Sheep experience

Core skills/experience	Optional skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustering sheep • Sheep handling – yarding/ drafting • Administer medications • Feeding sheep – hand feeding, mixing/ electric fencing/ licks/ supplements • Vaccinating • Lamb marking • Drenching • Dipping/ jetting/ back-lining • Pasture assessment • Health and welfare checks • Ear tagging • Mouthing sheep • Collecting faecal samples • Fly strike checks • Foot examination/ trimming • Farm maintenance • Administration duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial breeding • Assisting with shearing/ crutching/ wool shed activities • Pregnancy diagnosis • Milk harvesting • Assistance with lambing • Worm egg counts • F scoring • Marketing opportunities • Stud/ commercial sales



Pig experience

Core skills/experience	Optional skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biosecurity entering/ exiting piggery• Feeding – checking feeders/ drinkers working• Health and welfare checks• Parasite control• Hygiene/ cleaning• Pig handling• Moving pigs• Administer medications• Vaccinating• Ear tagging• Tattooing piglets• Body condition scoring• Teeth clipping – piglets• Tail docking – piglets• Iron injection – piglets• Weaning• Sorting pigs – sex and size• Weighing pigs• Back-fat measuring• 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 sales



Other species experience

Core skills/experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal management (environmental/ health)• Animal handling• Animal husbandry• Feeding of animals• Feed assessment• Treating animals• Health and welfare checks• Breeding (natural/ artificial)• Animal performance analysis• Product marketing• Farm/ facility maintenance• Administration duties

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"/>

“Farm placements enable me to apply what I have learned from books and lectures to a real life situation. Practice makes perfect!”

International student



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.

Prior to commencing PEMS, students will have completed a Farm Safety Training Course, in which students will have participated in hands-on practical and theoretical components devised to ensure they are able to competently and safely operate a quad bike.

“My time on placement has absolutely been the highlight of vet school so far! From gaining confidence in my animal handling to making connections with industries. It also sparked interest in industries I had never considered. I may even make it to large animal practice.”

International student

“I really enjoyed how I was allowed to do all of the daily jobs at a piggery. The placement was structured in a way that exposed me to a normal production unit. I now feel like I am prepared to consult on abnormal clinical situations.”

Domestic student



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. Each 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.

In addition, all students will have received biosecurity lectures, which include guidance on the following topics:

- potential penetrative transmission zoonoses
- Personal Protective Equipment demonstrations
- hygiene and decontamination procedures
- vaccination requirements to prevent zoonoses
- information on governing bodies that manage biosecurity
- duty of care as future veterinarians.

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.

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.

Conflict of Interest

Based on UQ policy, students cannot attend a placement where they have a personal relationship with a provider who would be involved in or could influence the assessment of the student, or who could cause special treatment of the student due to the relationship. A student who is an employee of, or has a significant business partnership with, a placement provider should not seek to secure an PEMS placement with that placement provider.



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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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- UQ VETS
- UQ VETS Dayboro
- UQ VETS Clinical Studies Centre, PETS for LIFE Adoption Program, Gatton