

DVSc in Zoological Medicine – Department of Clinical Studies, Ontario Veterinary College / Toronto Zoo

A three-year Residency/Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) graduate degree program in Zoological Medicine, commencing September, 2018, is offered jointly by the Department of Clinical Studies, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph and the Toronto Zoo, with funding provided by the Toronto Zoo. This program is an ACZM-compliant and ECZM (Zoo Health Management)-accredited program.

A yearly stipend comparable to other UoG DVSc students will be provided by the Toronto Zoo. The annual salary for the first year will be \$42,990.00.

The DVSc provides a broad training in different aspects of zoological medicine with cross-over between companion zoological medicine within a University-based referral zoological medicine service and general zoo medicine within a large zoological institution. The majority of the clinical training will take place at the Toronto Zoo. While the DVSc is mainly focused on clinical sciences, there may be opportunities to train in necropsy and general pathology techniques through a partnership with the Department of Pathobiology – Ontario Veterinary College, to learn pathology skills essential to the management of a large collection of animals in a zoological institution. An applied research project will be carried out over the DVSc period.

The DVSc will be organized as follows:

- The first 8 months will be based at the Ontario Veterinary College – University of Guelph. During the first semester (Fall 2018, 4 months), time may be spent training in gross pathology, clinical pathology, and general pathology techniques within the Department of Pathobiology. The second semester (Winter 2019, 4 months) will be predominantly spent within the Health Sciences Centre – Avian and Exotic Service, Department of Clinical Studies. During these two semesters, the graduate student will also spend 15-20% of the time at the Toronto Zoo. In addition, the graduate student is expected to attend morning avian and exotic clinical rounds, zoological medicine pathology rounds, and other pathology rounds, as appropriate.
- The following 28 months will be based at the Toronto Zoo. During that period, the graduate student will also spend 15-20% of the time in the Department of Clinical Studies in a combination of research and clinical work within the Avian and Exotic Service. While at the Zoo, the graduate student is expected to follow up on morbidity and mortality cases submitted to pathologists within the Department of Pathobiology.

The Toronto Zoo houses over 5,500 specimens, including invertebrates and fish, in extensive indoor and outdoor habitats on a 700-acre site. The Zoo's new Wildlife Health Centre, a \$19.1 million state-of-the-art facility, was completed in 2017. In total, it is approximately 50,000 square feet in size and houses medical facilities, such as treatment, surgery, and diagnostic imaging rooms, a clinical laboratory, various multi-purpose animal wards, a variety of conservation breeding programs, a Pathology Facility, an expansive Quarantine Wing, and office and laboratory space for reproductive programs and research. Of particular note is the "Windows on Wildlife Science Gallery", where visitors have a close-up, behind-the-scenes view of the exceptional medical care provided to the Zoo's animals, and where reproductive programs and research can be showcased. Three ACZM diplomates are on site, two of whom are also ECZM diplomates.

The Avian and Exotic Service sees over 1500 appointments per year. The caseload consists of about 60% small companion mammals (rabbits, ferrets, rodents, etc.), 30% birds (parrots, birds of prey, etc.), and 10% reptiles, with occasional fish and invertebrates. The Avian and Exotic Service is housed within the Health Sciences Centre, a large University-based referral centre with all major clinical disciplines and state-of-the-art equipment. The service includes two clinicians, three residents (not including this one), one intern, and one veterinary technician. One ACZM diplomate and one ACZM-eligible clinician are on site; the ACZM diplomate is also an ECZM diplomate.

The DVSc will be rostered on a regular schedule for out-of-hours duty for the Avian and Exotic Service and the Toronto Zoo for no more than 25% of the time (overall).

A research program with partial funding from the Toronto Zoo will be assigned to the graduate student as part of the DVSc program. The goals of the graduate program are to provide further training in applied research, design of experiments, and to acquire basic and general skills necessary to plan, conduct, analyze, and interpret research experiments. The students will enroll in graduate courses during the program, mainly during the first 8 months of the program. There is a comprehensive examination in the area of Zoological Medicine at the end of the second year of the program and a thesis must be defended successfully before graduation.

As per ACZM guidelines for compliant programs, the resident will be given the required time to study and publish manuscripts to prepare for credentialing and the ACZM examination. Graduate courses will also be offered to help prepare the ACZM examination. ECZM (Zoo Health Management) credentialing is also available on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants must possess a DVM or equivalent qualification, and meet the academic standards for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Guelph (GPA of $\frac{3}{4}$ or 73% minimum). Selection of the successful applicant is based on a combination of academic criteria, relevant interest and experience, referees' evaluations, and an assessment of the candidate's career goals and motivation. A minimum of one-year previous experience as a veterinary clinician is required (internship or comparable experience). Applicants need not be National Examining Board (NEB) certified to qualify for this position; hence graduate of schools not accredited by the American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association may apply. Internet-facilitated or telephone interviews may be conducted. Applicants must be eligible for a general or postgraduate/resident license to practice veterinary medicine in the Province of Ontario. The annual license fee is paid by the OVC Health Sciences Centre for the first year.

Circumstances have resulted in a relatively short time line for advertising and accepting applications for the upcoming position. **We are now accepting applications for the next opening, which commences September 2018. The Deadline for application is December 4th, 2017.** A final decision will be made and all candidates informed of the results prior to the final day to withdraw from the VIRMP program.

Tuition and ancillary fees are currently approximately Cdn\$9,907.41/annum for Canadians and Landed Immigrants; and Cdn\$22,707.33/annum for international students, including US citizens. Students who are not Canadians or Landed Immigrants will require additional personal sources of funding in order to maintain a reasonable standard of living. Graduate student fees are an income-tax deductible expense in Canada.

For health insurance for Canadian residents who live in provinces other than Ontario, successful applicants will be required to contact their Provincial Health Insurance Plan and advise them they are moving to Ontario. There will likely be a three (3) month carry-over to cover the three (3) month waiting period following submission of an application to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. International students pay approximately \$612.00/annum in the fall of the year (single person coverage – included in tuition and ancillary fees mentioned above).

The Ontario Veterinary College is a part of the University of Guelph, which has a full-time graduate and undergraduate student enrollment of approximately 28,000. The City of Guelph has a population of more than 121,000 and is situated 80 km (50 miles) west of Toronto. As a companion animal referral centre, the College is exceptionally well situated with over 6 million people living within a 90-minute drive of the University.

Requirements for Application:

1. Personal statement (cover letter)
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Letters of Reference
 - a. Number of letters: 3
 - b. Suggestions of persons supplying letters: Clinical professors and practicing veterinarians who are familiar with the performance of the candidate
4. Official transcripts of university performance

Submit application package to the OVC Graduate Program Assistant, Aariah Easley.

By email to: csgrad@uoguelph.ca

OR

By mail to:

ATTN: Ariaah Easley, OVC Graduate Program Services
Population Medicine Building (Bldg. #174), Rm 102
University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1

If you have any questions please email csgrad@uoguelph.ca or call Ariaah Easley at 519-824-4120 ext. 54005.