

**GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION OF DVM  
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND VETERINARY SCHOOL  
MALAYSIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL  
2017**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

In the year 2012, the Malaysian Veterinary Council has formalised the prerequisite need for any institution seeking the Council's recognition for its veterinary school to undergo a formal quality accreditation and recognition procedure by the Council. Achieving this status of recognition will allow the qualification and the name of the said institution to be listed and gazetted in Schedule 2 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1974, and thus the veterinarians graduating from the institution will be allowed to practise in Malaysia formally as doctors of veterinary medicine (subjected to compliance to other Malaysian laws). For the recognition and accreditation of the Malaysian undergraduate education programme and veterinary school, it is done with the collaboration of Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) under the Council's Qualifications and Accreditation Committee.

With increased requests from international veterinary schools seeking recognition from the Council, the influx of Malaysians studying abroad in such institutions and possibility of private local institution offering professional veterinary degree in Malaysia, the recognition of veterinary schools are of high importance and as well as the need to uphold such high quality of standards set by Malaysian Veterinary Council. The acceptance of Malaysian veterinary graduates into post graduate studies and veterinary practice is an international recognition that requires a highly strengthened and standardization in accreditation and recognition procedures.

This quality assurance and quality improvement accreditation process of the educational institutions by the Council is implemented in order to enable an objective and standardized procedure to be incorporated into the regular audit and reassessment needs in line with the international standards of veterinary performance and values.

**1. SCOPE AND PROCEDURE**

- 1.1. Malaysian Veterinary Council will only register Malaysian citizens that are graduates from the accredited schools listed in Schedule 2 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1974. Any foreign veterinary surgeons graduated from the recognised institutions may apply Temporary Permit to Practice to work in Malaysia (subject to other requirements by the Council and other government agencies).
- 1.2. The recognition process is done via written self-assessment reports and physical audits.

- 1.3. The veterinary schools themselves are held responsible to seek for its own accreditation by the Council.
- 1.4. The recognition exercise will be conducted by the members of the Council's Qualifications and Accreditation Committee.
- 1.5. The first audit is conducted through adequacy audit of the written self-assessment reports, and commencing of physical audits 3 months later (after complete documentation).
- 1.6. Accredited schools will be re-evaluated (via surveillance audit) through submission of written self-assessment reports every 3 years with physical audit every 5 years (if required).

## **2. FORM**

The application form is available for download in the Malaysian Veterinary Council's official website (<http://www.mvc.gov.my>).

## **3. FEE \*\***

### 3.1 Self-Assessment Reports

- 3.1.1 Every self-assessment report submitted is to be accompanied by a fee of RM1000.00. Fees paid are not refundable.

### 3.2 Physical Audit

3.2.1 RM 1000.00 application fee. Fees paid are not refundable.

3.2.2 Honorarium of RM 1000.00 per auditor (max 5 persons).

3.2.3 Air fare for the auditors (Max 5 auditors).

3.2.4 Accommodation for the auditors throughout the duration of the audit which may take up to 5 days.

3.2.5. Arranged transportation, meals and logistics during the audit.

(\*\*Subject to Term and Conditions)

## **4. PAYMENT**

Payment may be by the following means:

Money order / bank draft / banker's cheque / telegraphic transfer made payable in Ringgit Malaysia (RM) to the "**Malaysian Veterinary Council**".

The banking details are as follows:

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Recipient</b> | : Malaysian Veterinary Council |
|------------------|--------------------------------|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Bank</b>           | : CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad  |
| <b>Account Number</b> | : 8600302922  |
| <b>Address</b>        | : Malaysian Veterinary Council<br>Department of Veterinary Services<br>Podium Block 1A, Lot 4G1,<br>Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,<br>62630 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA. |
| <b>Swift code</b>     | : CTBBMYKL  |

# **GUIDELINES TO ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION OF VETERINARY SCHOOL**

The guidelines is divided into eleven (11) areas:

1. Organisation
2. Finances
3. Facilities and Equipment
4. Animal and Clinical Resources
5. Library and Information Resources
6. Student Admission
7. Students
8. Faculty and Staff
9. Curriculum
10. Research Programmes
11. Outcomes Assessment

## **1. Organisation**

### **1.1 Mission:**

General objective of the course. Clear statement in training broad-based veterinary surgeon to enter all common branches of veterinary profession. The course is structured to ensure that the graduates can demonstrate knowledge, skills, aptitudes and attitudes.

### **1.2 Institution:**

Faculty of veterinary medicine must be a part of an institution of higher learning (University) accredited by the Malaysian veterinary Council (MVC).

### **1.3 Governance:**

The dean or chief executive officer, head of clinical department and director of veterinary teaching hospital must be a veterinarian.

### **1.4 Services:**

Clinical services, field services, and teaching hospitals must function as instructional resources.

### **1.5 Staff:**

There must be sufficient administrative staff to adequately manage the affairs of the faculty as appropriate to the enrolment and operation.

### **1.6 Changes:**

Changes in administration, organisation, association with the parent institution, and major changes in the curriculum, faculty, or stated objectives must be reported to MVC within sixty (60) days of implementation with justification of how the programme will continue to comply with accreditation.

### **1.7 Advisory:**

The programme must have an advisory committee that meets at least annually to provide counsel regarding equipment, curriculum, demographic trends and other matters pertaining to the veterinary profession. The committee members must include veterinarians with diverse professional interests, representatives from related government agencies, industry and the public.

### **1.8 Joint Programme:**

Joint programmes with agreements between two or more institutions are recognised through accredited institution by MVC and the accredited institution granting the degree or certificate.

### **1.9 Communication:**

Communication and interactions with veterinary-related associations should be maintained.

## **2.0 Finances**

### **2.1 Funds:**

Finances must be adequate to sustain the educational programmes (education, research, training, clinical services, and societal programmes) and mission of the University/college.

### **2.2 Non-Veterinary Programme:**

Faculty with non-DVM undergraduate degree programmes must clearly report finances (expenditures and revenues) specific to those programmes separately from finances (expenditures and revenues) dedicated to the DVM programme.

### **2.3 Activity:**

Clinical services, field services, and teaching hospitals must function as instructional resources. Instructional integrity of these resources must take priority over financial self-sufficiency of clinical services operations.

### **2.4 Budget:**

The budget should be allocated to include:

2.4.1 Teaching;

2.4.2 Research;

2.4.3 Professional services;

2.4.4 Retaining highly qualified academic and support staff to reach the required ratios  
Academic-to-Student ratio of 1:≤8 (Ideal 6) and Support-to-Academic of 1:≤1;

- 2.4.5 Provision for and renewal of up-to-date teaching facilities (including IT), laboratory, clinical equipment and ambulatory clinics vehicles;
- 2.4.6 Provision for teaching and clinical training in premises with adequate hygiene and safety standards;
- 2.4.7 Adequate clinical training by securing adequate case-load, including emergencies, across animal species; and
- 2.4.8 Adequate provision of stationary and ambulatory (mobile) clinical services, according to the most recent advances in veterinary medicine.

### **3.0 Facilities and Equipment**

#### **3.1 Physical Facilities:**

All aspects of the physical facilities must provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning and the achievement of the educational goals.

#### **3.2 Academic Space:**

Classrooms, teaching laboratories, teaching hospitals, which may include but are not limited to ambulatory/field services vehicles, seminar rooms, and other teaching spaces shall be clean, maintained in good repair, and adequate in number, size, and equipment for the instructional purposes intended for the number of students enrolled.

#### **3.3 Administrative and Research Space:**

Administrative and faculty offices, and research laboratories must be sufficient for the needs of the faculty, staff and programme.

#### **3.4 Teaching Hospital:**

Faculty must maintain on-campus veterinary teaching hospital(s) or have formal affiliation with one or more off-campus veterinary hospitals used for teaching. Appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic service components, including but not limited to pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, diagnostic support services, dedicated isolation facilities, intensive/critical care, ambulatory/field service vehicles, and necropsy facilities must be provided to support the teaching hospital(s) or facilities.

#### **3.5 Animal Housing:**

Facilities for the housing of animals used for teaching and research shall be sufficient in number, properly constructed, and maintained in a manner consistent with accepted animal welfare standards.

#### **3.6 Equipments:**

Adequate equipment for teaching, laboratory, research, and clinical services must be available for examination, diagnosis, and treatment of all animals used by the faculty. Safety of personnel and animals must be assured.

### **3.7 Facilities Upgrade:**

The faculty must have strategy and programme for maintaining and upgrading its buildings, facilities and equipment.

## **4.0 Animal and Clinical Resources**

### **4.1 Animal Resource:**

Normal and diseased animals of various domestic and exotic species must be available for instructional purposes, either as clinical patients or provided by the institution. While precise numbers are not specified, in-hospital patients and outpatients including field service/ambulatory and herd health/production medicine programmes are required to provide the necessary quantity and quality for clinical instruction.

### **4.2 Clinical Resource:**

Diverse and sufficient number of surgical and medical patients shall be available during an on-campus clinical activity for the students' clinical educational experience. Experience can also include exposure to clinical education at off campus sites, provided the university/college reviews these clinical experiences and educational outcomes. These clinical experiences should be with access to subject matter experts, reference resources, modern and complete clinical laboratories, advanced diagnostic instrumentation and ready diagnosis and confirmation including necropsy. Such off-campus facilities require contractual arrangement and practitioners who serve as adjunct faculty members.

### **4.3 Off Campus Exposure:**

A supervised field service and/or ambulatory programme must be maintained in which students are offered multiple opportunities to obtain clinical experience under field conditions. Under all situations students must be active participants in the workup of the patient, including physical diagnosis and diagnostic problem-oriented decision making.

### **4.4 Medical Records:**

Medical records must be comprehensive and maintained in an effective retrieval system to efficiently support the teaching, research, and service programmes of the faculty.

### **4.5 Animal Facilities:**

Animal facilities must be well-built, maintained and designed, taking into account the safety of students, staff and animals.

### **4.6 Animal Models:**

Models and other alternate methods of teaching that are consistent with the goals of the curriculum must be considered to replace, reduce or refine animal use.

## **5.0 Library and Information Resources**

### **5.1 Information Resources:**

Libraries and information retrievals are available to support veterinary medical education, research, postgraduate studies, public service, and continuing education

programmes. Timely access to information resources, whether through print, electronic media, or other means, must be available to students and faculty.

#### **5.2 Staff:**

The faculty or institution shall have access to the human and physical resources necessary for development of instructional materials.

#### **5.3 Information technology:**

Adequate computer hardware, information technology support services, software and electronic media, to support education programme. These resources must be shown to be used effectively in the curriculum for the development of learning.

**5.4 Librarian:** The library shall be administered by a qualified librarian.

### **6.0 Student Admission**

#### **6.1 Policy:**

The faculty shall have a well-defined and officially stated admission policy.

#### **6.2 Qualification:**

Applicants must have a minimum high school certificate (HSC), matriculation, related diploma (e.g. Animal Health) or its equivalent.

#### **6.3 Selection Committee:**

There should be an Admissions Committee, the majority of whom shall be fulltime faculty members. The Committee shall make recommendations regarding the students to be admitted to the professional curriculum upon consideration of applications of candidates who meet the academic and other requirements as defined in the faculty's formal admission policy.

#### **6.4 Subject Requirement:**

Subject requirement for admission shall include those courses prerequisite to the professional programme in veterinary medicine, as well as courses that contribute to a broad general education. The goal of pre-veterinary education shall be to provide a broad-based knowledge upon which professional education may be built, leading to lifelong learning with continuous professional and personal development.

#### **6.5 Selection:**

Admission must be non-discriminatory and in accordance with national statutes, rules, and regulations.

#### **6.6 Other Requirement:**

Experience and factors other than academic achievement may be considered for admission criteria.



### **6.7 Selection Committee:**

The dean or dean's representative should participate in the deliberations of the admissions committee and selection of students.

## **7.0 Students**

### **7.1 Numbers:**

The number of students must be consistent with the mission of the programme and must not exceed the available resources or the number of faculty and support staff needed to meet the educational goals of the curriculum. Appropriate lecturer-to-student ratio and support staff-to-student ratio must be maintained to ensure adequate delivery of instruction in a variety of teaching environments.

### **7.2 Higher Degree:**

Faculty should establish post-DVM programmes such as internships, residencies and advanced degrees (e.g., MS, PhD), that complement and strengthen the professional programme.

### **7.3 Support Services:**

Student support services must be available within the college or university.

### **7.4 Communication:**

Interactions between students and faculty/staff must be sufficient to communicate expectations for successful academic performance, provide feedback for improvement of skills or knowledge, and encourage professional growth and development.

### **7.5 Association:**

Students should form a student society or association or organization.

## **8.0 Faculty and Staff**

### **8.1 Staff Number:**

Staff numbers and qualifications must be sufficient to deliver the educational programme and fulfil the mission of the programme and university / college.

### **8.2 Activity:**

Participation in scholarly activities is an important criterion in the evaluation of the faculty. The faculty shall give evidence that it utilizes a well-defined and comprehensive programme for the evaluation of professional growth, development, and scholarly activities of the faculty.

### **8.3 Staff Securities:**

Academic positions must offer the security and benefits necessary to maintain stability, continuity, and competence of the faculty. Part-time faculty members, residents, and graduate students may supplement the teaching efforts of the fulltime permanent faculty members.

#### **8.4 Expertise:**

Lecturers in the programme must have knowledge and expertise in the topics they teach and promote the appropriate role of the veterinarian in veterinary medicine.

#### **8.5 Academic Performance Indicators:**

Academic staff should have evidence of a balanced programme of teaching, research and professional services.

### **9.0 Curriculum**

#### **9.1 Duration:**

The curriculum shall extend over a period equivalent to a minimum of five academic years, including a minimum of one academic year of hands-on clinical education. The curriculum and educational process should initiate and promote lifelong learning.

#### **9.2 Ownership:**

The curriculum in veterinary medicine is the purview of the faculty, and managed centrally based upon the mission and resources of the faculty. There must be sufficient flexibility in curriculum planning and management to facilitate timely revisions in response to emerging issues, and advancements in knowledge and technology.

#### **9.3 Review:**

The curriculum must be regularly reviewed and managed by a faculty curriculum committee.

#### **9.4 Curriculum Committee:**

The majority of the members of the curriculum committee must be full-time faculty members.

#### **9.5 Evaluation:**

Curriculum evaluations should include the gathering of sufficient qualitative and quantitative information to ensure the curriculum content provides current concepts and principles as well as instructional quality and effectiveness.

#### **9.6 Content:**

The curriculum shall provide:

- a. An understanding of the central biological principles and mechanisms that underlie animal health and disease from the molecular and cellular level to organism and population manifestations.
- b. scientific, discipline-based instruction in an orderly and concise manner so that students gain an understanding of normal function, homeostasis, pathophysiology, mechanisms of health and disease, and the natural history and manifestations of important animal diseases, both domestic and foreign.

- c. Instruction in both the theory and practice of medicine and surgery applicable to a broad range of species. The instruction must include principles and hands-on experiences in physical and laboratory diagnostic methods and interpretation (including diagnostic imaging, diagnostic pathology, and necropsy), disease prevention, biosecurity, therapeutic intervention (including surgery), and patient management and care (including intensive care, emergency medicine and isolation procedures) involving clinical diseases of individual animals and populations. Instruction should emphasize problem-solving that results in making and applying medical judgments.
- d. Instruction in the principles of epidemiology, zoonoses, food safety, the interrelationship of animals and the environment, and the contribution of the veterinarian to the overall public and professional healthcare teams.
- e. Opportunities for students to learn how to acquire information from clients (e.g. history) and about patients (e.g. medical records), to obtain, store and retrieve such information, and to communicate effectively with clients and colleagues.
- f. opportunities throughout the curriculum for students to gain an understanding of professional ethics, delivery of professional services to the public, personal and business finance and management skills; and gain an understanding of the breadth of veterinary medicine, career opportunities and other information about the profession.
- g. Knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, aptitude and behaviours necessary to address responsibly the health and well-being of animals in the context of ever-changing societal expectations.
- h. Fair and equitable assessment of student progress. The grading system for the university/college must be relevant and applied to all students in a fair and uniform manner.

## **10.0 Research Programmes**

The faculty shall demonstrate substantial research activities of high quality that integrate with and strengthen the professional programme.

## **11.0 Outcomes Assessment**

Outcomes assessment measures that address the faculty mission must be developed and implemented. Outcomes assessment results must be used to improve the university/college programmes.