

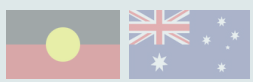


VETERINARY STUDENTS SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



WELCOME

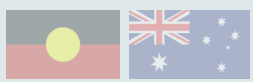
Class of 2029



The Veterinary Students Society of Victoria acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we study, train and will some day represent and practise on.

As veterinary students, we recognise their enduring connection to Country and acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for animals, people, and the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.





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[@vssvunimelb](https://www.instagram.com/vssvunimelb)



vssvprville@gmail.com



[DVM2029 FB_group](https://www.facebook.com/DVM2029)



WHO ARE WE?

The Veterinary Students Society of Victoria (VSSV) connects veterinary students with each other, faculty, and industry through social events, educational activities, and student advocacy.

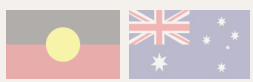
We represent student interests, work closely with the Faculty and industry partners, and support high-quality veterinary education and professional development.

Each year, the VSSV runs major events such as the Vet Ball, Barn Dance, Networking Dinner, and Halfway Dinner, alongside smaller social, sporting, and wellbeing activities. Members also receive access to essential merchandise, including placement apparel, professional polos, and dissection kits.

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) allow students to explore areas such as small animals, large animals, wildlife, exotics, and animal welfare, with each group running its own events and activities throughout the year.

OUR AIMS

- To establish a society that unifies Veterinary Medicine students.
- To serve as a communication link between students and staff of the Veterinary Science Faculty.
- To provide Veterinary students with opportunities to network and establish contacts within the Veterinary Industry.
- To promote the field of veterinary science through the dissemination of relevant information and knowledge.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To the Class of 2029,

Hello, and congratulations on being accepted into one of the best courses, leading you into one of the best careers in the world! My name is Marko, and I am the Victorian Veterinary Students' Society (VSSV) President for 2026.

It's hard to believe that only a couple of years ago, I was in your shoes. I thought the next few years would be simple; keep my head in the books, study hard, and pat every animal that would let me. While I have done exactly that, I've also discovered that there was an entire community of students, experts, and animals waiting for me. And now, they're waiting for you too.

Just like you, I love animals. My first love was my childhood dog, Milo (pictured below). Looking after him made me realise just how special animals are and inspired me to want to look after them all. The VSSV exists to represent the DVM cohort, which now includes you. To explain what that means, let me tell you a short story.

Once upon a crowded hive lived a honeybee. Each day, she flew out to collect pollen for her community, yet felt a deeper calling. One morning, this courageous honeybee took off into the world. After searching far and wide, she found a beautiful hive where bees from all around the world come to learn and grow. Nervous to enter, the bee was relieved to find the President of VSS-Bee & team at the entrance, ready to help her feel at home. That is exactly what we aim to **BEE** for you.

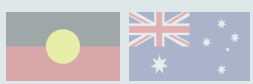
We are a dedicated group of students who run social events, advocate for student wellbeing, and do our best to make vet school just that little bit easier. We cannot wait to meet you!

Please feel free to reach out to me or any of the VSSV leaders if you ever have questions or concerns. To finish up, I'll leave you with this haiku:

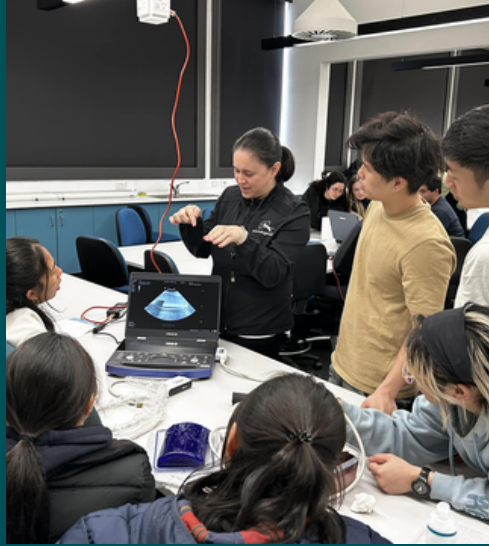
Not an easy road,
But one worth walking each day
Welcome to the path.

Marko Younan





OUR 2025 MEMBERS





VSSV COMMITTEE



Marko Younan

President

Hi, I'm Marko. My main goal for VSSV next year is to hopefully bring our community closer together.

A little bit about me: I really enjoy playing netball, having a chat, going to events, and cuddling my two cats. I look forward to connecting more, whether that's on the netball court, around class, or while my two cats are running around.

marko.younan@student.unimelb.edu.au

Clara Christina

Vice President

Hi guys! My name is Clara and I'm your new VSSV Vice President! I'm Chinese/Indonesian, originally from Sydney. I'm a huge foodie and I love to play video games (and yes, I play more than just The Sims). In 2026, I'm hoping to continue advocating for student wellbeing in DVM.

clara.christina@student.unimelb.edu.au



Monisha Nguyen

Secretary

VSSV Secretary and vet student by day, dedicated PC gamer by night. I never shy away from a challenge and strive to make our experience in vet school and beyond as fun and fulfilling as possible.

If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

monisha.nguyen@student.unimelb.edu.au



VSSV COMMITTEE



Jennie Peterson

Treasurer

Hi everyone! I'm an international student from the States and will be the VSSV Treasurer this year. When I'm not doing animal related things, I enjoy watching movies, finding the best spots in Melbourne for matcha, and snowboarding. I was an instructor so I can teach you a few tricks. I look forward to meeting you!!

jennie.peterson@student.unimelb.edu.au



Rebecca Wein

General Board Member (Domestic)

I'm Rebecca! Can't wait for VSSV 2026! I love spending time with my dog Nova, reading rom com books and petting neighbourhood dogs. And of course, representing the student cohort!

rwein@student.unimelb.edu.au

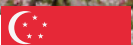


Joel Wong

General Board Member (International)

I'm from Singapore 🇸🇬 my interests lie in mixed practice transitioning to wildlife, and I love playing ultimate frisbee during my spare time 🥰, ragebait (or get ragebaited) in Dota 2 and hit some quick scopes in Call of Duty 😁

joewong@student.unimelb.edu.au





VSSV COMMITTEE



Celina Pereira

Head of Events & Social Subcommittees

Heyy babes!! Me and Lexi are soo excited to be on the events committee this year. We can't wait to plan fabulous events and yap with everyone! I enjoy cooking, happy hour (it's 5 o'clock somewhere!) and spending time with friends.

cppereira@student.unimelb.edu.au

Lexi Johnson

Head of Events & Social Subcommittees

Hey everyone! I'm Lexi, your Co-Head of Events. I'm a Canadian who has been enjoying Aussie hikes, vegan food, and road trips (when I'm not studying, of course!).

Keen to help with future events? Email me at

aljohnson@student.unimelb.edu.au



Luke Taverner

Head of Marketing & Merchandise

Howdy folks, I'm looking forward to streamlining my efforts and experience into this role. I have a big passion for hiking, quality coffee and bouldering, as well as doing my best to keep everything on brand! Come say hey anytime.

tavernerl@student.unimelb.edu.au



Callum Rolfe

Head of Corporate Partnership & Sponsorship

My name's Callum, and I am the new Head of Sponsorship for the VSSV! My goal for 2026 is to just get through it as unbothered as Terry Crews singing Vanessa Carlton.

rolfec@student.unimelb.edu.au





VSSV COMMITTEE



Nick Wade

Education Officer

G'day everyone my name is Nick! As your VSSV Education representative my job is to help make your classes here as awesome as possible. Outside of being a vet student I love to play and coach tennis as well as lots of travel.

If you have any questions about your upcoming curriculum feel free to reach out to my email

njwade@student.unimelb.edu.au



Maija Darzins

Sustainability Representative

I am a Melbourne girlie through and through- I've grown up and lived here my whole life, as such, hobbies include grabbing a coffee (in a keep cup...) and sitting in the sunshine. My goals as sustainability rep for this year include facilitating environmental actions and supporting the VSSV to making more sustainable decisions.

mdarzins@student.unimelb.edu.au



Janice Seah

Second Year Representative

Hey everyone! I'm Janice – the DVM2 rep for 2026. I'm here to help advocate for our vet students and support the committee with making this year the best it can be! I'm from Melbourne and always down to yap or check out different restaurants, trails and events. If there's ever anything of concern, please don't hesitate to reach out. See you around campus!

janice.seah@student.unimelb.edu.au



Scott England

Parkville Sport & Wellbeing Officer

Hey everyone, as the sports and wellbeing officer I'm really excited to help provide opportunities for everyone to connect in fun and engaging ways!

If you have any idea for future fun events and want to work with me to make them happen, please reach out to my email!

scott.england@student.unimelb.edu.au





VSSV COMMITTEE



Beatrice Van Rest

Social Media Officer

Hi, I'm Beatrice! Looking forward to keeping you informed, making you laugh and reminding you that we're all in this together as part of the social media team in 2026.

bvanrest@student.unimelb.edu.au

Mia Lucas

Social Media Officer

Hey everyone, my name is Mia and I am doing the social media alongside Beatrice! Outside of uni I love hanging out with my friends, eating my way around Melbourne and going to the gym!

mia.lucas@student.unimelb.edu.au



Florian Liu

Merchandise Officer

Hi everyone! My name is Florian, and I am from Hong Kong. As the 2026 merchandise officer, I look forward to making merchandise that represents the pride and spirit of us fellow DVM students. Outside of being a vet student, I enjoy singing, exploring new places & restaurants, and spinning.

florianl@student.unimelb.edu.au



Stefania De La Garza

Merchandise Officer

Hi everyone! My name is Stef, I'm from Houston, Texas, and I'm part of the VSSV Merch Team! I'm super excited to help create the stuff you wear so you can look cooler and show off your VSSV spirit. Can't wait for what's coming!

stefania.delagarza@student.unimelb.edu.au





SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

Find your people and your passion, join a VSSV Special Interest Group and explore everything from wildlife and exotics to welfare and advocacy.

VSSV membership gives you access to free or subsidised events where you can meet industry professionals, connect with older students, and learn from those who've been in your shoes — helping set you up for success in vet school and beyond. Now's your chance to explore VSSV affiliated SIGs.



Wildlife Appreciation Group (WAG)
@wag.unimelb



Marine Appreciation Group (MAG)
@mag_unimelb



Student Welfare Group (SWAG)



Large Animal Appreciation Group (LAAG/Largies)



Small Animal Appreciation Group (SAAG/Smallies)



Animal Welfare Student Society (AWSS)
@awss.unimelb

Other student groups:



Friends of Vets Beyond Borders Student Chapter (FVBBS)
@friendsofvbb_unimelb



Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (SVECCS)
@sveccsunimelb

Click on the icon or look up the SIG to join their Facebook page and follow them on Instagram!



SIG PRESIDENTS

Meet your Special Interest Group Presidents. Want to get involved as a DVM1 officer? You'll help run species-specific events, build leadership skills, and be part of the team. Reach out to the Presidents below to get started.



Navaraj Rajendran
Marine Appreciation Group (MAG)
navaraj.rajendran@student.unimelb.edu.au



Olivia Los
Student Welfare Group (SWAG)
olivia.los@student.unimelb.edu.au



Yun Ji Kim
Small Animal Appreciation Group (SAAG/Smallies)
yunji.kim@student.unimelb.edu.au



Bridie Stephenson
Large Animal Appreciation Group (LAAG/Largies)
bridie.stephenson@student.unimelb.edu.au



Evangeline Hurrell
Wildlife Appreciation Group (WAG)
evangeline.hurrell@student.unimelb.edu.au



Cassidy Breyman
Animal Welfare Student Society (AWSS)
cbreyman@student.unimelb.edu.au





VSSV MEMBERSHIPS



Ready to join the Veterinary Students Society of Victoria (VSSV)? When you join, you become part of a passionate student community that supports you, celebrates your journey, and makes vet school more than just studying – through advocacy, great events, and exclusive member perks all year round.

Year	Membership Fee	Membership Benefits
DVM 1	\$95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free 'Class of 2029' Polo Shirts • O-Week 'Goodie Bag' with exclusive VSSV & Sponsor merch • Discounted UniMelb approved dissection kit for practical classes • Free entry to all O-Week Events, including the Barn Dance • Up to 40% discount on VSSV events, including Vet Ball • Discounted VSSV merch • Free membership to all VSSV-affiliated SIGs • Free/discounted access to SIGs events • Voting rights on Committee positions and participation in AGM, SGMs and cohort surveys

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR VSSV MEMBERSHIP?

- To become a member of the VSSV, please complete this **VSSV Membership form**.
- Membership costs \$95 AUD. Payment details are listed within the form.
- Once payment has been made, ensure you enter the correct payment reference in the form so we can confirm your membership.

*This amount does not include GST. The Veterinary Students' Society of Victoria Inc. is not registered for GST. For further queries on payment via money order or direct deposit please contact your VSSV Treasurer **Jennie Peterson** (jennie.peterson@student.unimelb.edu.au).*

Got questions? Reach us at vssvville@gmail.com!



OKAY I SIGNED UP, NOW WHAT?

Class of 2029 polo shirt

A polo shirt is included in your membership fee. More information will be released during Semester 1 about sizing options and how to order from Luke (Head of Marketing & Merchandise) and your Merchandise Officers, Florian & Stefania.

Facebook Group

To get important updates about social events, payment deadlines and course information along with interacting within your cohort, click on this [link](#) or scan the QR code to join.

Ensure you read the guidelines and be respectful to one another to create a safe online environment for everyone. (Note: you can join regardless if you're a member or not) The password for the group is **Twenty29#DogTor**.

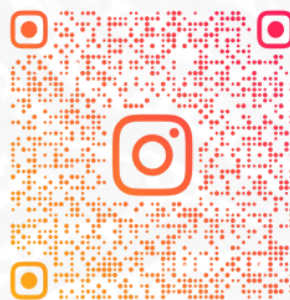
DO NOT SHARE THIS PASSWORD OUTSIDE THE COHORT.

Instagram Page

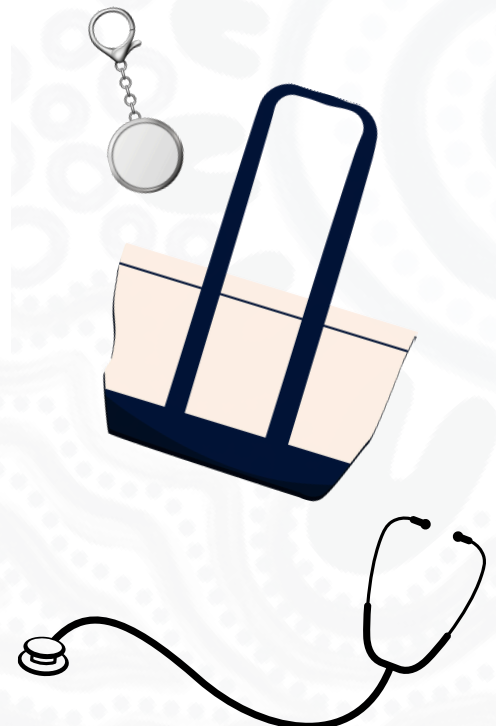
We also post updates about upcoming events and inner happenings in the DVM community. Follow this [link](#) or scan the QR code for more!

Goodie bags will be given out during semester 1

Got questions? Reach us at vssvville@gmail.com



VSSVUNIMELB

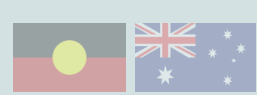


Contact us:

Luke: l.tavener@student.unimelb.edu.au

Florian: florianl@student.unimelb.edu.au

Stefania: stefania.delagarza@student.unimelb.edu.au



JOIN THE COMMITTEE

Ready to make a difference? Join the 2026 VSSV Committee and help shape the future of our society. As a first-year vet student, you'll build leadership skills, form lasting connections, and help create an amazing experience for your fellow students.

We are looking for:

1 x First-year representatives: Liaise between first-year students, the VSSV committee, the veterinary faculty and administration, and organise events for your peers.

1 x Parkville Kiosk Manager: You get to decide and supply much needed sustenance (AKA snacks) for veterinary students to help with those long days and study sessions.

VSSV members will be eligible for self-nomination and voting. Nominations and voting will take place during Weeks 4 and 5. Results will be announced shortly after. Further details about nominations will be disseminated after classes start.

If you are interested in any of these roles or have any further enquiries, reach out to any of our representatives or email vssv@parkville@gmail.com

Join us in creating a vibrant and supportive veterinary community.





DVM CLASS OF 2029 ORIENTATION



Understand your course, meet your mates and chill before your thrill ride begins!



PRE-O WEEK ACTIVITY

Are you an International Student who will be exploring Melbourne for the first time, or might be missing O-Week?

Before O-Week officially begins, our General Board Member (International), **Joel Wong**, will be hosting a live Q&A session on Zoom to give you a glimpse of life in Melbourne and how to land on you're feet when starting Vet School in Australia.



Date	Time	Venue	Event
30th Jan (Fri)	12-1pm AEDT (GMT+11)	Online (Zoom)	Departure talk for International students

For international students, please refer to your email for the event details and zoom link.





0-WEEK SCHEDULE



Sign up for most of the events by [clicking on the event titles](#)

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Overview
23rd Feb (Mon)	WEBS Tour, Amazing Race & Welcome BBQ	10am- 3pm	WEBS (Building 125), Parkville campus	Meet your coursemates, tour the WEBS building, race around campus, and finish with a barbecue in the Gardens with live music. (Dietary options available)
24th Feb (Tue)	Beach Brunch & Games	11am-3pm	South Melbourne Beach	Enjoy a fun beach day with new friends, brunch (and cheeky drinks), and beach games. The exact location will be posted in the Facebook group on the day.
25th Feb (Wed)	Summerfest Clubs Expo	11am- 3pm	Market Hall, Building 189 (inside and outside)	Across 3 days, UMSU will be showcasing over 200 Clubs and Societies. This is your chance to get to know all the clubs and sign up to all the ones that match your vibe.
26th Feb (Thur)	Faculty of Science hosting the 'Graduate and DVM Orientation'	10am- 2pm	TBC	Faculty-led orientation gives you key insights into the DVM program, with talks from subject coordinators, EMS coordinators, VSSV, and student support teams.
	Barn Dance	7pm-11pm	Moon Dog Wild West, Footscray	Kick back with drinks, music, and DVM friends at the Barn Dance! Free for DVM1 VSSV members (includes food, drinks, a bucking bull, and prizes for Best Dressed).
27th Feb (Fri)	Final Q&A Zoom	11:30am -12:30pm	Online via Zoom	Final catch up for the week, and a chance to ask any last questions in prep for week 1. Pass: 523587



BARN DANCE XXVII



FREE ENTRY
FOR DVM1S*

MUSIC | FOOD | DRINK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 ★ 7:00 PM

Prize for Best Dressed Moondog Wild West 54 Hopkins St, Footscray

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Barn Dance XXVI

Happening on Thursday Night of O-Week we have an awesome party to kick start the semester. With a mechanical bull, a qualified dance instructor, a photo booth, an open bar tab, and all the food provided, this event is not one to miss out on.

You can purchase a ticket to this event through [Humanitix](#) for only \$30, although for all newly registered DVM 1 VSSV members, this event will be free via Humanitix.

Once signed up for the VSSV, we will email you an access code to purchase your free ticket. Make sure to follow us on socials for more information closer to the date. [@vssvunimelb](#)



PEER MENTORSHIP

The Peer Mentor Program is designed to smooth your transition into the DVM program!

Our primary goal is to connect you with two experienced DVM2 students who share similar backgrounds and interests, ready to be your guiding lights throughout your four-year journey.

These mentors are more than just companions; they form a robust support system, helping you acclimate to the rhythm of the DVM program. Count on them for invaluable advice, steering you toward success and bringing out your best self in this exciting academic adventure.

Your Peer Mentor Program Coordinators are:

Kelvin Cao



kelvin.cao.1@student.unimelb.edu.au

Janice Seah



janice.seah@student.unimelb.edu.au

To ensure the perfect match, please take a moment to complete the **sign-up sheet** with utmost accuracy and honesty. Make sure you sign up by **11:59 pm on 2nd March, 2026**.

Reach out to our Peer Mentor Program coordinators for any queries or clarifications. We're thrilled to help kickstart this experience with you!



Student Guide





CAMPUS INDUCTION



First year classes are split between the Parkville Campus and the Werribee Campus. Here is a map of all the buildings: [MAP](#)

Parkville Campus

This is the **main campus for the first two years** of your DVM course. You will spend most of your time on this campus site engaging in dissections and case studies. Most of your classes will be held in **Western Edge Biosciences (WEBS), Building 125.**



Transport and Directions

Public transport: ensure you have a valid **myki** with sufficient balance.

The **route 19 tram** runs along Elizabeth Street and stops along the west side of Parkville Campus. **Stop 12 Morrah St** is just outside WEBS on Royal Parade.

If you are coming from Flinders Station: take **route 1, 3/3a, 5, 6, 8, 16, 64, 67, 72 trams** along Swanston Street to **stop 1, Melbourne University/Swanston St**. This stop is on the east side of the Parkville campus. You have to walk to the west side.

Driving: Parking near WEBS at the Royal Parade Car Park (fills up early and costs \$12.50 for 4 hours and \$25 for all day). If you want to save money park slightly away from campus and walk.

Biking: Secure Bike Hub present under bldg 142 (**register** student card for free for tap in access).



Amenities

Buildings 142 (Old Agricultural building) and 125 (WEBS) are equipped with everything you may need to study or unwind.

Level 1 has shared common spaces, equipped kitchen, study cubicles (with lamps and charging ports), kiosks and meeting rooms.

The basement (**Level B**) of WEBS has a pool table, lockers and showers (toiletries not provided). Each vet student receives a locker, perfect to store lab coats, dissections kits, shoes etc. (these lockers can be locked but leave valuables at your own risk)



Food

The kitchen is equipped with numerous appliances (a fridge, microwaves, hot water dispenser, panini presses, plates, bowls and utensils) which encourages students to bring lunches from home.

If you would like to buy food, the **Student Pavilion** and the **Student Precinct** hosts a variety of food vendors and there is also a range of cafes on/around the campus (e.g. **Dr Dax, Axil**) that have a good variety of food. (refer to Map)

If you're craving energy boosting snacks or need a quick fix, head over to the **VSSV Kiosk** that is conveniently located in the common area next to the kitchen. It is run by the VSSV and is stocked with a collection of lollies, biscuits, chips, instant noodles, sanitary products and drinks.



CAMPUS INDUCTION

Werribee Campus

The **third and fourth years** of this course are located at the Clinical Centre in Werribee. In your first two years of DVM, you will spend **one day of the week** at this campus.

The Werribee campus gives you the opportunity to engage in pathology specimen sessions in the wet labs, and animal handling and clinical examination practicals in the yards and clinical spaces. Please refer to guidance from the Clinical Skills team regarding access to these spaces.



Transport and Directions

Car: Many students choose to carpool to the Werribee campus. Coming from the city, take the second Hoppers Crossing exit on the freeway and the vet school is on the Princes Highway (just past the Werribee hospital, on the left). There are designated areas for free student parking on campus. Do not park in hospital staff parking spots.

Public transport: Ensure you carry your myki. Take the Werribee line train from the city to Hoppers Crossing Station (you do not have to go all the way to Werribee Station). There is also a shuttle bus (route 401) that runs between the Parkville campus and North Melbourne station. The journey from city to Hoppers crossing station takes around 35-45 minutes, depending on the service, and is followed by a 15-minute walk.



Amenities

The Werribee campus has a gym and a common room equipped with a pool table, dart board, table tennis, foosball table and comfortable seating just to relax and hang with friends.

There are lockers to temporarily store items like bags, coveralls, boots etc. (bring your own lock). Showers present (no toiletries).

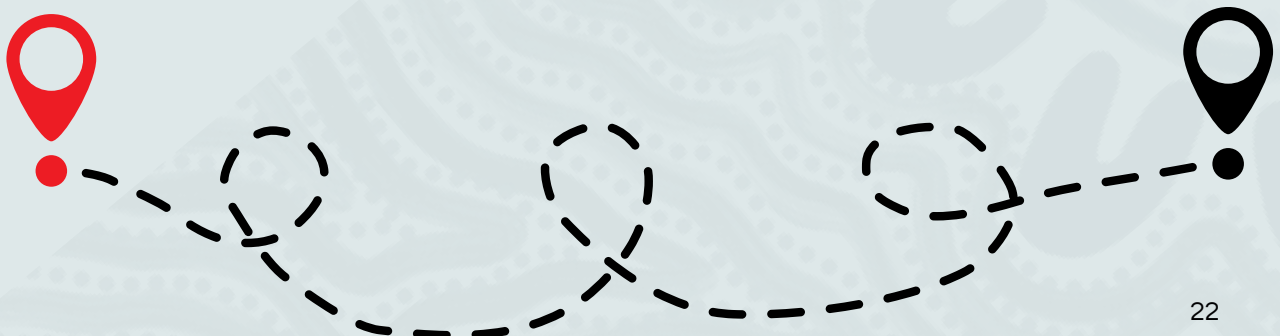
The Library contains common spaces, meeting rooms and isolated cubicles so you can get some studying done before or between practicals.



Food

There is a fully equipped kitchen with the same amenities found in the Parkville campus. Immediately adjacent to the kitchen, there is a café called **Mr Ed Café** where many of us buy breakfast and/or lunch.

A vending machine that sells snacks and cold drinks can also be found in the kitchen area.





YOUR CLASSES



Your class guide and timetable drops 1-2 weeks before the semester, and we know that can send you tachycardic! But fear not, we've got the essentials covered so you won't be caught off-guard. Read on to familiarise yourself with how your classes will run and gather the supplies you need before/when school starts.

Lectures:

Pre-recorded video lectures are uploaded weekly onto **Canvas**. Some lectures may also be conducted in person with prior notice from faculty. You can expect around 10-15 hours of lectures weekly delivered by various lecturers. In your first year, Mondays are typically reserved for completing lectures, as there are usually no in-person classes scheduled on this day.





Case Studies:

Case studies are held two to three-times a week, where you will collaborate on clinical case scenarios with your assigned group. These sessions will be held in person in the Collaborative Learning Space in WEBS, so make yourself comfortable, as you'll be spending significant time here with your team. One laptop will be needed in your group to display the case on the shared screen. Therefore, it's crucial to have access to a laptop and reliable internet (connect to **UniWireless** or **eduroam** when on campus. Click [link](#) for more info on how to connect).

Animal Handling Practicals:

These practicals are crucial for mastering techniques related to working with both large and small animals. You will start with techniques using models before progressing to live animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, and horses. You will spend a week in Dookie Campus applying these techniques on large animals (more information TBA by the university). The remainder of these practicals will be held in Werribee Campus. Successfully passing your animal handling assessment at the end of Semester 1 is essential for starting your pre-clinical placement during your mid-year break.



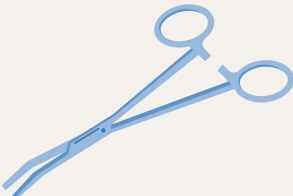
Purchases to consider:

Item	Description
Coveralls (short/long sleeve) 	Coveralls are a must for large animal handling practicals. They will also be useful during Dookie campus week and extramural placements. <u>Purchases for UniMelb-branded coveralls will be available multiple times throughout Sem 1. Keep an eye out for announcements on the LMS and via email.</u>
Work boots 	Work boots with reinforced toes that are easily cleaned (no laces) are essential (e.g. steel toe capped gumboots and/or reinforced toe leather boots). In our experience, we recommended to wear gumboots during cattle handling classes due to the muddy surface. Leather boots are fine for other largies work. Buy these in your own time!
Scrub set 	For dog/cat handling classes and clinical rotations in later years. <u>Purchases for UniMelb-branded scrubs is as per coveralls.</u>
Name badge 	Compulsory for animal handling classes. Instructions on purchasing a name tag will be sent to you separately via UniMelb.

Wet/Dry Lab Practicals:

Lab-based practicals vary throughout the academic year and across the different subjects, encompassing activities such as anatomical dissection wet labs, pathology specimen wet labs, microscopy, and specimen preparation classes. These sessions provide invaluable hands-on experience in dissection techniques and specimen handling, as well as opportunities to practice differential diagnosis across a spectrum of diseases.

Purchases to consider:

Item	Description
<p>Lab coat</p> 	<p>Dissection and Gross Anatomy practicals: a lab coat will be provided to you by the Uni which is to be returned by the end of every class. Other practical classes: you have to bring your own lab coat. You can purchase one with the Uni logo during O-week from from the <u>Chemistry Distribution Centre: Basement of Building 153, Monash Road</u> OR a <u>plain</u> lab coat from previous studies will suffice as well. The VSSV does not supply lab coats.</p>
<p>Waterproof and closed-toe shoes</p>	<p>Essential for gross anatomy practicals.</p> 
<p>Dissection kit</p> 	<p>The VSSV has customised a veterinary anatomy dissection kit for vet students. We thank Prof. Christina Murray for curating the kit with us!</p> <p>The kit contains: Treeves Tissue Forceps, Scalpel Handle NO 4, Artery Forceps, Adson Tissue Forceps, Mayo Scissors, Mounted Angled seeker/probe, Mayo Hegar Needle Driver/Holder in a zipped pouch.</p> <p>This customized kit is only available from the VSSV Committee.</p> <p>Dissection kits can be preordered from <u>VSSV Website Shop</u> and will be handed out at WEBS early in Semester 1.</p>

Note: You do not need a stethoscope in your first semester yet. Further instructions will be made in Semester 2.

University-branded coveralls, scrub sets and lab coat can be purchased during **O-week** or in **Chemistry West Wing (Building 153)**. If you wish to purchase **externally**, they **must not have other university branding**. You may also want to check out **Melbourne Uni Vet Science Student Buy Sell and Trade Facebook group** for second hand items at discounted prices!



COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND PLACEMENTS

A glimpse of what assessments you will be expecting for this year. (Note: The curriculum changes every year, for exact assessment formats and details refer to announcements in Canvas throughout the semester)

Exams

- **Mid-semester Tests** are held **in person, on campus**.
- **Quizzes** are held **online, at home**, and may or may not be held in person, on campus.
- **End-of-Semester Exams** will take place **in person, on campus**, and will require the use of **Lockdown Browser**

Only the University of Melbourne-approved Casio FX82 calculator (any suffix) is permitted. This can be purchased online or at Officeworks

Animal handling assessment

Mastering the safe handling of both companion and large animals is a vital aspect of the DVM 1 course. To be able to start your extramural placements, **successful completion of safe animal handling training and passing the associated assessments are prerequisites**. If you do not pass, do not worry, there are multiple reassessments to ensure you are well-versed and approved in correct animal handling techniques.

Pre-clinical extramural placements

A major course requirement is to successfully complete **60 days (12 weeks)*** of pre-clinical placements over five different categories. The categories and their requirements are as follows:

Category	Description	No. of days required
Production animal	Extensively (e.g. cattle, sheep) or intensively (e.g. poultry) managed production species	minimum 5 weeks (25 days)
Companion animal	Dogs, cats, exotics,...	minimum 1 week (5 days)
Equine	Horse, donkey,...	minimum 1 week (5 days)
Pre-clinical work in vet clinic	Clinical observatory work	<u>exactly</u> 2 weeks (10 days)
Other	Can be anything (e.g. any categories above, wildlife...) <u>except clinic</u>	3 weeks (15 days)

Placements are managed through the **SONIA** portal, which you will be given access in the coming weeks. You can claim up to 3 weeks (15 days) of credit for historical placements. You are expected to complete at least one week of placement by the end of semester 2 in DVM1 (including credit), and all placements by mid-semester break of second semester in DVM2. Further information about SONIA and credit will be provided by academic staff during semester.

*A week of placement entails 37.5 hours of work. This could include 4 x 10 hour days (with breaks), 5 x 8 hour days or 10 x 4 hour days.



WELLBEING RESOURCES



Physical and mental wellbeing are crucial for veterinary students constantly facing academic pressures and emotional challenges. Acknowledging the importance of **self-care**, we should actively **prioritize our physical and mental health**. Seeking support from peers, faculty, or mental health professionals fosters resilience and ensures a balanced academic and personal life.

Remember, asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Here are some resources that may be helpful (Click on bold and underlined text to be directed to the official website):



1. **CAPS** : The University of Melbourne Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free, confidential, short-term psychological counselling to currently enrolled students and staff, as well as a range of workshops, mental health training, and helpful resources.
2. **Unimelb clinical psych** dept offers cheaper session for longer-term counselling (~6 months). \$25 per session (Medicare), and \$40 (Non-medicare). Sessions are carried out by final year clinical psychology students.
3. **Headspace** offers free counselling for young adults (12-25 years of age)
4. **CASA House** : Free sexual assault support
5. **University's After Hours Mental Health Crisis Support Service** (Phone: 1300 219 459, Text: 0480 079 188, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).
6. **VIC website** has helplines for a broad range of mental health needs.
7. Visit your **GP** to get a referral to a psychologist/psychiatrist

Feel free to reach out to your Wellbeing Representative
Scott England (scott.england@student.unimelb.edu.au)



USEFUL RESOURCES



Library and textbooks

All of the books that you'll ever need during the DVM course can be found in the **Baillieu & ERC Libraries** on the Parkville campus, the **Werribee Library**, or the **online** Unimelb library. Some other sources for textbooks or images include:

<u>Anna's Archive</u>	<u>Booktopia</u>	<u>studentVIP textbooks</u>
<u>Vet EBooks</u>	<u>Booko</u>	<u>Vet-Anatomy</u>

You can even score a bargain of some second-hand textbooks at the **Melbourne Uni Vet Science Student Buy Sell and Trade Facebook group**.

Note-taking

You will be spending a lot of time note-taking throughout your DVM journey. Here are some examples of note-taking apps/software that you may find useful.

Onenote: free with Uni Microsoft account, good for typing and handwriting

Notion/Obsidian: good for typing notes and task management, can design your own interface

Goodnotes/Notability: good for hand-written notes (iOS/macOS devices only)

Remnote/Quizlet: good for creating flashcards

Remember, everyone has their own method of note-taking and it takes some time to find the most effective way for yourself. Embrace the journey of this trial-and-error and you will surely find the best way for yourself :)

Youtube channels

Internet is always a way to clear some concepts or to delve deeper on certain topics you are interested in. Here are a few biology-related Youtube channels that you may find useful during your revision:

Armando Hasudungan [@armandohasudungan](#)

Byte Size Med [@bytesizemed](#)

Cognito [@Cognitoedu](#)

Ninja Nerd [@NinjaNerdOfficial](#)

Osmosis from Elsevier [@osmosis](#)

Speed Pharmacology [@SpeedPharmacology](#)

Taim Talks Med [@TaimTalksMed](#)

Vet Skye [@VetSkye](#)

VNatomy [@VNatomy](#)





STUDENT BENEFITS

Subscriptions/Services

Being a University of Melbourne Student grants you a premium subscription to several high-quality services, databases, and products. Be sure to have a good look at everything being a student entitles you to before commencing any paid subscriptions, you might be surprised what kind of benefits we get as a full-time university student.

Below are some important ones to know. Take a look through the [UniMelb Library](#) to explore others that might suit you.

Microsoft 365 Suite: As of December 2024, UniMelb has made the transition from Google to Outlook for all its digital services. Due to this, every UniMelb student will have a subscription to Microsoft Suite. Upon receiving your SSO login details and email address, you will be able to access all Microsoft Products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Exchange, Teams, OneNote, OneDrive)

Osmosis: Provides access to clear, concise medical videos on the basic sciences, organ systems, high-yield path review, and clinical reasoning. It also offers flashcards, multiple-choice questions, and other study tools. Although predominately human-medicine-based, many DVM students have found lots of value in utilising this resource for additional perspectives and ways of concepts being explained.

Transport Concession

As a university student, you may also be entitled to a **concession discount for our public transport services** through PTV. It is a bit more complex as this course is considered a master's course upon starting the DVM and thus doesn't automatically grant you a concession alone.

If you are **Graduate Student**, to be able to use a concession Myki card you must be receiving an Australian government benefit such as Youth Allowance, AusStudy, or Abstudy and thus hold a Health Care Card or any kind of other concession card (eg. Pensioner, Veteran, Carer, Disability Support)

If you are an **Accelerated Undergrad Student** you may apply for a concession Myki by going to the [UniMelb Transport Page](#) and following the steps based on whether you are a Domestic or International Student.





ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES



Useful textbooks for DVM:

This is a non-exhaustive list of textbooks compiled by students in DVM2, who found these texts helpful throughout the DVM1 course. Please note that **revising entire textbooks is not required due to the fantastic resources provided by Subject Coordinators** (and often not helpful to spend too much time on this). Many of these books can be found online or in the library. Often only specific chapters will be relevant to the subject, always refer to the LMS of the specific subject for more information.

A Textbook on Systemic Pathology of Domestic Animals
Alberts' Molecular Biology of the Cell, 7th Ed
Canine and Feline Endocrinology, 4th Ed
Cunningham's Textbook of Veterinary Physiology, 6th Ed
Diagnostic Radiology in Small Animal Practice, 2nd Ed
Diagnostics and Therapy in Veterinary Dermatology
Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Pathology, 5th Ed
Dyce, Sack and Wensing's Textbook of Veterinary Anatomy, 5th Ed
Fundamentals of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, 2nd Ed
Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology, 14th Ed
Hoffbrand's Essential Haematology
Miller's Anatomy of the Dog, 4th Ed
Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria
Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease, 7th Ed
Practical Veterinary Urinalysis
Saunders Comprehensive Veterinary Dictionary, 5th Ed
Schalm's Veterinary Hematology, 6th Ed
Textbook of Veterinary Diagnostic Radiology, 7th Ed
Veterinary Anatomy of Domestic Mammals, 3rd Ed
Veterinary Hematology
A Diagnostic Guide and Color Atlas

NOTE: Digital and physical loans for these books may be available through the awesome **UniMelb Library**.

