

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WEST CAMBRIDGE SITE**

**JUNIOR CLINICAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP (INTERNSHIP) IN SMALL ANIMAL SURGERY
AND ANAESTHESIA**

TO START ON MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026 FOR 12 MONTHS

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: £21,970.00 per annum (Tax Exempt), inclusive of the
accommodation package.**

Funded by the University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust, Exempt Charity XO 979/86

Purpose of the scholarship

Applications are invited from qualified veterinarians, for this twelve month programme, offering high-quality, post-graduate training in Small Animal Surgery and anaesthesia. The emphasis will be on gaining practical clinical experience in orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery, as well as anaesthesia, under the supervision of board-certified diplomates.

Programme Duration

12 months

Aims of Junior Clinical Training Scholarship (JCTS)

The Department seeks to recruit a Junior Clinical Training Scholar in Small Animal Surgery and Anaesthesia from January 2026, or as soon as possible after that date, in order to enhance provision of the Small Animal Surgical and Anaesthesia services and undergraduate teaching.

You will help to facilitate the smooth running of the Small Animal Surgical services by supporting the team with all aspects of the admission, work-up, diagnosis and management of small animal surgery patients, helping with scheduling of appointments, preparation for and assisting with surgeries, and the post-surgical aftercare and discharge of the patients. You will contribute to the Anaesthesia service by participating in the provision of anaesthesia for the range of patients (both surgical and medical) that the department sees. For both the surgical and anaesthesia teams you will help support the final-year veterinary students during their small animal rotations.

This is an opportunity to develop your clinical and organisational skills and knowledge of small animal surgery and anaesthesia, and to gain experience as a clinical teacher of final year veterinary students in a well-equipped and encouraging academic environment. The post will offer an excellent opportunity to prepare for Specialist training, such as a Senior Clinical Training Scholarship (Residency) in Small Animal Surgery or Anaesthesia. The successful candidate will be involved in all aspects of the Small Animal Surgery and Anaesthesia Services and will be required to participate in the practical instruction of veterinary students and a weekday / weekend on call rota within the Hospital.

The Scholar will be under the direct supervision of:

Laura Owen, BVSc CertSAS AFHEA DipECVS MRCVS

Associate Professor in Small Animal Surgery, University of Cambridge

Julia Riggs MA VetMB AFHEA DipECVS MRCVS

Clinical Specialist in Small Animal Surgery, University of Cambridge

Alice Bird MA VetMB AFHEA DipECVAA MRCVS

Teaching Professor, Principal Clinical Anaesthetist & Critical Care Co-Ordinator, University of Cambridge

Timetable

The JCTS will be provided with an annual plan detailing time to be spent on the clinical rotations of orthopaedic, soft tissue and anaesthesia rotations. Time not officially allocated to these services will then be spent as 'study time' or holiday.

Resources

This JCTS programme will be based at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, University of Cambridge.

The Hospital facilities include:

- Fully equipped small animal theatres, with a state of the art small animal surgical suite and five operating theatres.
- Diagnostic imaging capabilities including x-ray, MRI, scintigraphy and ultrasound, access to CT
- Fully staffed nursing wards and intensive care facilities
- On site clinical pathology and histopathological staff and laboratories
- Access to the University e-learning resources
- Easily accessible computer and internet facilities
- A radiotherapy centre with linear accelerator

Emergency service

The JCTS will participate fully in the surgery out-of-hours rota gaining valuable and essential experience in emergency work and patient management, including intensive care cases. Participation in the out of hours weekday and weekend rota is shared with the surgery SCTSs. Full back-up cover is provided by senior surgeons, physicians, radiologists and anaesthetists.

Primary Care

The JCTS will be required to give advice on, assist with or take primary responsibility for surgical RSPCA patients being treated at the QVSH. This enables the JCTS to gain additional experience with simple fractures, common joint problems, wound management and soft tissue surgical conditions outside the confidence level of our first opinion clinicians. There is also a requirement to provide OOH surgical care to these patients when the need arises and all JCTS's and SCTS's are expected to provide first opinion cover for the RSPCA clinic on a Saturday morning on a rota'd basis (currently approximately 1 in 20).

Teaching and Continuing Professional Development

Weekly Journal Club and TAJ club meetings are held in the small animal surgery department. The JCTS will participate fully on a rota basis in preparing material for these regular meetings.

The department also holds weekly Friday morning research seminars during term-time that the JCTS would be expected to attend.

Research Programme

Clinically orientated research to advance the understanding and management of surgical conditions in small animals is an important and vital aspect of the JCTS and SCTS training. The JCTS will be encouraged to develop or continue with a clinical research project and time will be allocated to this endeavour during the training period. The University of Cambridge has open access publishing agreements with most journals meaning there are no costs to publishing.

Undergraduate Teaching Participation

The JCTS will be encouraged to participate in

- 6th year clinical teaching on the small animal orthopaedic, soft tissue and anaesthesia rotations. During the clinical rotations they will be expected to contribute to seminars, practicals and case rounds. This will provide the opportunity for the development of seminar presentation techniques,

supervision of students performing surgical procedures, clinical case management and continuous assessment of students

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Please note:

The ability to take up this Scholarship is contingent upon you being able to evidence your right to work in the UK, or through gaining the right to work via the UK immigration system. Evidence will need to be provided before an offer can be made. Regrettably, this Scholarship is not suitable for sponsorship via the Skilled Worker or Temporary Worker visa routes as the minimum requirements cannot be met. The Youth Mobility Scheme Visa could be viable if all eligibility requirements can be met. Please note that the Youth Mobility Visa route is entirely applicant-led, and all visa-related charges will be the sole responsibility of the applicant. These costs will not be reimbursed by the university, regardless of the application's outcome.

1. Scholarship application procedure

Scholarship applicants should supply the following documents:

- A completed Junior Clinical Training Scholarship application form (JCTS 1)
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A covering letter giving reasons for wishing to undertake the Scholarship in the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge

Please submit type written forms or if handwritten please write in capital letters.

Please ensure that the above documents are submitted as one document. There is a dedicated place for applicants to copy and paste a Covering Letter and a CV on the JCTS Application Form (JCTS 1).

Applications should be submitted via e-mail to vetmed@vet.cam.ac.uk with the above documents as one attachment by midnight on Thursday 31 July 2025

Informal enquiries should be directed to Laura Owen (surgery): lo247@cam.ac.uk

It is the responsibility of the applicant to request references from three referees. Please ask Referees to send these in prior to the interview date as stated below. References should be sent by email to vetmed@vet.cam.ac.uk with 'JCTS Reference' in the subject line. Failure to provide these may result in a delay to offer.

The Department will endeavour to notify scholarship applicants who have been shortlisted for interview as soon as possible after the closing date.

Interviews for the Scholarship will be held in mid-September 2025

2. Selection criteria for applicants

The following are essential:

- Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons,
- Successful completion of a recognised ECVS Small Animal Internship (i.e. 12 months, structured, multidisciplinary clinical training programme) and one year in practice.
- Good basic surgical skills
- Experience of working, and ability to work as part of a team
- Willingness to seek, and to accept, guidance and supervision
- Ability to prioritise tasks and demands
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
- Ability to deal with a wide range of people, excellent interpersonal skills
- A good understanding of the professional context of veterinary medicine
- For applicants for whom English is not their first language, a score of 7.5 in IELTS (with no element under 7), or a score of 100 in TOEFL (with no element less than 24 – internet based test)*

The following are preferred:

- Experience of working in first opinion practice within the UK
- Basic experience in clinical research and scientific publication

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Junior Clinical Training Scholarship (JCTS) is available for **12 months** and is subject to a continuous monitoring period.

The Junior Clinical Training Scholarship award is £21,970.00 (Tax Exempt) per annum (subject to change), inclusive of the accommodation package.

Teaching, Demonstration and other Paid Work

A scholar may undertake teaching and demonstrating in the University and the Colleges, subject to the approval of the Directors of the JCTS programme, provided that the total demand on their time, including time spent in preparation, does not normally exceed 6 hours a week. A Scholar may undertake any other form of paid work outside the University, subject to the approval of the Directors of the JCTS programme, provided that the total demand on their time, including time spent in preparation, does not normally exceed 6 hours a month.

Holiday

The JCTS is allocated 4 weeks' of holiday, in addition to 4 off clinics weeks. This time will be pre-scheduled by the Directors of the JCTS programme in accordance with the needs of the Hospital. On a Bank Holiday, clinical and out-of-hours duties will be undertaken on a rota basis.

Sickness absence

If a Junior Clinical Training Scholar is absent through illness, the Directors of the JCTS programme should be informed, and, if absent for more than 7 days, medical certificates are required and should be forwarded to the HR department. During absence covered by medical certificates, the Junior Clinical Training Scholarship award will be continued at the full rate for four weeks. In the case of absence through sickness for periods exceeding four weeks, the continuation of the Junior Clinical Training Scholarship will be considered in the light of the circumstances of the individual case.

Interruption of Training

Junior Clinical Training Scholars are expected to complete their training in a single continuous period. No requests for interruption of training will be approved for the purposes of employment, temporary lectureships, exchanges, voluntary service overseas, or expeditions/sports. Requests for interruption of training for reasons of maternity will be considered in the light of individual circumstances. Requests for interruption of training arising out of other personal or family reasons will receive sympathetic consideration. There will be no entitlement to the Junior Clinical Training Scholarship award during periods of interruption of training.

Reporting

The Junior Clinical Training Scholar will be required to participate in regular meetings with the clinical supervisor and will be subject to a continuous monitoring period. Details of targets and progress will be recorded on a monitoring form that will be signed by the Junior Clinical Training Scholar and the clinical supervisor. If any deficiency in the progress of the Junior Clinical Training Scholar is revealed during a monitoring meeting, a written warning and advice on correction of the deficiencies will be given. The Junior Clinical Training Scholar will be encouraged in these circumstances to seek the advice and support of a senior clinician unconnected with her/his training. Failure to remedy the deficiencies may lead to termination of the Junior Clinical Training Scholarship on the advice of the Directors of the JCTS programme in the Department.

Termination of Awards

The award of the JCTS may be terminated at any point at the absolute discretion of the University. The award of the JCTS may be terminated if the Junior Clinical Training Scholar, after a written warning, fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the JCTS programme. In the event of termination of an award, a Junior Clinical Training Scholar will, wherever possible, be given reasonable formal written notice of the date on which the training has ended.

Accommodation

An accommodation allowance of £300 per month is included in the stipend. The allowance can be used for either:

On-site University accommodation is offered to all Junior Clinical Training Scholars as part of the Scholarship agreement*. The monthly cost of onsite accommodation including utilities is £300 per month. If this option is chosen the accommodation allowance will simply be deducted from the Junior Clinical Training Scholar stipend each month. Please note that the keeping of pets is not permitted in the onsite accommodation.

OR

Private accommodation. If the Junior Clinical Training Scholar wishes to organise their own accommodation, they will be able to use the accommodation allowance of £300 per month towards this.

**onsite University accommodation is offered on a first come first serve basis.*

Income Tax and National Insurance

The award of a Scholarship is not normally regarded as income for income tax purposes or National Insurance purposes. It should be noted that earnings from sources such as teaching and demonstrating or approved external activities may be subject to Income tax and National Insurance but fall outside of the scope of this Scholarship Agreement.

Communications to Press, Radio and Television

Communications to the press, radio or television, expressing personal views, excluding scientific communications to the scientific and veterinary press, may not be communicated from the Department's address or using the Department's name except by the prior permission of the Head of Department. The consent of the Head of Department is required before expressing views in public on matters connected with the work of the Department of Veterinary Medicine.

Standard Operating Procedures

Junior Clinical Training Scholars are required to follow the Standard Operating Procedures of the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital and its diagnostic laboratories.

Professional qualifications and MRCVS

The Junior Clinical Training Scholar must hold a veterinary degree recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and upon commencement of the JCTS provide proof (in the form of a registration number) of Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

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