

Internship Scheme



Rosssdales is the largest exclusively equine practice in Europe with 60 veterinary surgeons and more than 120 support staff, across four locations.

Our equine hospital and diagnostic centre is located in Exning, two miles outside of the racing town of Newmarket. In addition to the hospital, we have a practice in the centre of Newmarket, which is the location of our equine clinical pathology laboratory and also the base for our specialist racing, stud and ambulatory teams, which provide services for clients in the surrounding area. We also have two ambulatory branch practices, one located in Hertfordshire and one in Lambourn.

Our practice is made up of a diverse, supportive and passionate team of professionals, which allows us to provide the highest standards of care to our patients. We are proud to have the use of the latest cutting edge facilities and equipment to service our work.

Although the original primary focus of the practice was the racing industry, as Rosssdales has evolved over the years, our client base has developed to include a large proportion of sport and pleasure horse owners. Our referral practice has also expanded to the extent that almost 70% of our referred medical and surgical, and laboratory samples, now come from veterinary practices throughout the UK and other EU countries.

Structure of the Internship

Our rotating 24-month Internship Scheme was developed to allow intensive training in four vital areas of equine practice.

There are two positions available each February, and two each August.

The progressive programme is split into four six-month rotations:

- 1. Anaesthesia and Inpatient Care:** During the first 6 months, the new interns rotate between anaesthesia and inpatient care. Each intern will receive specialist training from boarded anaesthetist Claudia Gittel. During this stage you will be supervised by our diploma holders in surgery and in medicine, and will work closely with the senior hospital intern.
- 2. Diagnostic Imaging:** This stage is based at the diagnostic centre, and is supervised by Vanessa Peter MRCVS, who is head of diagnostic imaging. The primary role will involve radiography and scintigraphy, with the opportunity to follow cases through further diagnostic imaging when time allows.
- 3. Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine:** Also at the diagnostic centre, this stage is supervised by our Sports Medicine specialists, Sarah Boys Smith MRCVS and Mariana Castro Martins MRCVS. The interns will assist with orthopaedic investigations. This stage allows exposure to all aspects of lameness and poor performance examinations.
- 4. Senior Intern:** During the final six months, the senior interns will oversee patient care within the hospital and diagnostic centre, and act as an advisor to the more junior interns. Senior interns will help cover 'gaps' due to holidays and absence of the intern team. They will usually take responsibility for initial assessment of emergency admissions and will liaise closely with our clients and referring vets.

Interns gain invaluable experience and knowledge throughout the programme by working closely with our team of specialists. The rounded training that this offers equips interns with a valuable skill set suitable for most aspects of modern equine practice. It also provides a solid foundation upon which to further their career, be that in ambulatory practice, or in pursuit of specialist training and qualification.

Occasionally there may be the opportunity to join one of our ambulatory practice teams at the end of the internship. Such vacancies typically include stud medicine, racing work or first opinion ambulatory practice.

Our internships are advertised on our website once a year (normally in January/February). Following an interview process, four interns are appointed. Two join us in August and two join us in the following February.

Job Description

Two new interns join our hospital team each February and August. Prior experience in equine practice is an advantage. During the first month, the new interns are trained by both the senior intern and senior colleagues in the techniques that they will be expected to become competent in. Every six months the interns will progress through to the next stage of the programme, as detailed above.

'Out of hours' duties for emergency admissions, anaesthesia and inpatient care are shared equally by all interns, on a 1 in 4 rota. When 'on call' the intern carries a 'duty phone', which must be answered at all times. Interns do not take external calls for referrals or advice – these are dealt with by the clinical director on call.

Our interns are expected to work hard during their time at our practice and have a large 'out-of-hours' commitment, particularly in terms of receiving and working up emergency cases (mostly colic cases and trauma injuries) prior to medical or surgical management. The 'on call' interns must remain on the hospital site at all times. If one intern has been up throughout the night, the other interns cover his/her next morning anaesthesia duties to allow an adequate rest period. The interns will also cover each other's work during holiday periods.

Interns are allocated 33 days of holiday (inclusive of bank holidays), which should be taken at times convenient to other team members. In addition to this, three days funded 'CPD' is allowed each year. Shared furnished accommodation within the hospital site is also provided. All bills relating to accommodation will be paid. All of our accommodation has a strict "NO PETS" rule, imposed by our landlord, which is not negotiable.

After an initial three-month probation period, the intern is expected to remain for the entire period of the 24-month employment term, the agreement applying to both employee and employers.

For more details

If you are interested in an internship position with us and require further information, please telephone Richard Payne, who is the Clinical Director responsible for administering the scheme, on 01638 577754 between 9am and 5.30pm.

You are also welcome to speak to the current interns Henry Coate, Bethany Edwards, Isabelle Talbot-Price, Charlotte Westlake, Grace Twitchett, Georgia Savill and Maxim Bembinov.