

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a cat's eye, showing the iris and pupil in sharp detail. The eye is yellowish-green with dark, swirling patterns. The pupil is vertical and dark. The surrounding fur is dark and textured.

# Postgraduate Certificate in Small Animal Ophthalmology

Working with



Post  
Graduate  
Certificate



**At the BSAVA we are deeply committed to enabling veterinary professionals to achieve their ambitions in their chosen fields.**

Our Small Animal Ophthalmology Postgraduate Certificate is designed with you in mind; empowering you to enhance your career in a supportive environment. We know that flexibility is important, so we offer a hybrid learning model that can be tailored to suit you. Our teaching standards are exceptional; and so is our community of learners, allowing you to confidently enhance your skills and knowledge.

I am proud to offer our Postgraduate Certificate Programmes to the profession and look forward to supporting you on your learning journey.

**Laura Haddock**  
Academic Manager

# Supportive learning at the BSAVA

## Why choose the BSAVA for your Postgraduate Certificate?



### > **Designed by vets for vets**

Our courses are built to meet the needs of veterinary professionals, particularly those in first opinion practice.

### > **Learn from the best**

Benefit from outstanding speakers and enjoy a top-tier educational experience from a world-renowned association established over 60 years ago.

### > **Join a thriving community**

We are proud to have helped over 700 vets advance their education and enhance their careers.

### > **Consistent support**

You will be supported by a team of tutors and mentors throughout your studies. Our courses are arranged into taught units, giving you the structure and guidance you need to succeed.

### > **Work-life balance**

Our hybrid and flexible learning model is designed to seamlessly fit around your work-life balance. You can take up to 5 years to complete your studies, giving you peace of mind should life take some unexpected turns.

# What our students say



“

**I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to anyone with an interest or passion for Ophthalmology.**

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“

**I thoroughly enjoyed the process, I felt well prepared particularly for the written exam...**

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“

**I absolutely enjoyed this course and I will recommend to everyone who is interested in veterinary ophthalmology. It is very well organised, the materials are very useful and the speakers are excellent.**

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# Introducing the Small Animal Ophthalmology Certificate

**Advance your career and  
focus your expertise  
with our postgraduate  
certificate in Small Animal  
Ophthalmology.**

This carefully designed course enhances your knowledge and builds your practical skills, empowering you to approach ophthalmic cases with confidence and precision. Master logical decision-making and learn to excel in managing eye conditions in small animals.

With a flexible structure that blends independent learning, expert guidance, and comprehensive resources, this programme is tailored to support your success every step of the way.



# A Postgraduate Certificate with the BSAVA

- » 60 academic credits at level 7
- » Approved qualification for the RCVS advanced practitioners list
- » Validated by Nottingham Trent University
- » Membership of the RCVS knowledge with access to the RCVS knowledge library

## Key facts

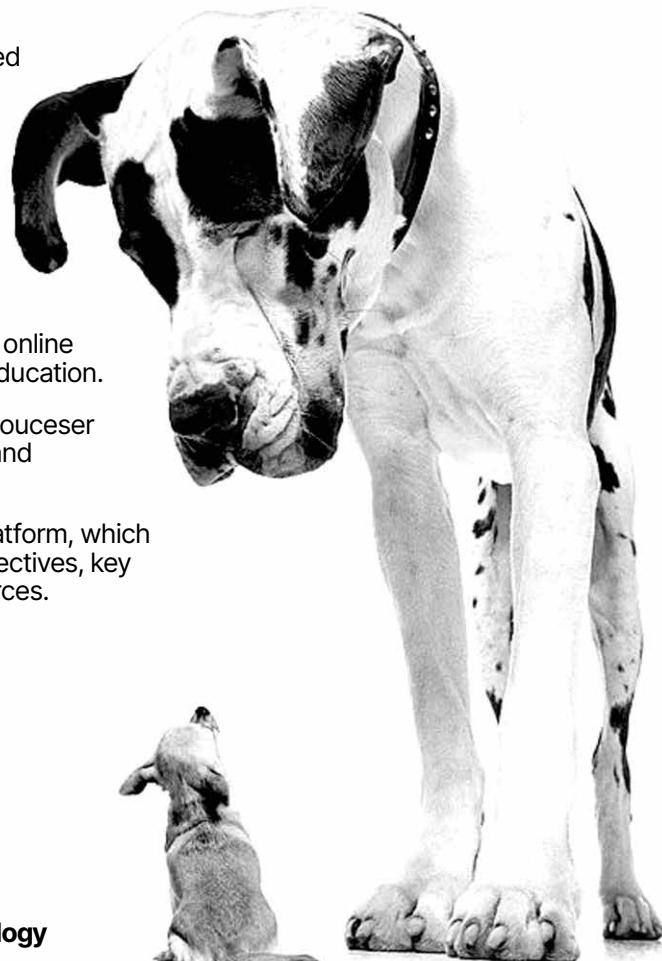
- » **Start date:** May
- » **Duration:** Three years with extended study available if needed
- » **Price:** £4,315 + VAT per year, with total prices starting from £12,945 + VAT

## The course structure

Our Small Animal Ophthalmology Postgraduate Certificate is designed for part-time study and delivered through a combination of in-person teaching days and guided, self-paced online activities; giving you the benefits of both in-person and online education.

Practical days are a key part of the programme held between Gloucester and Cambridge, supported by access to up to date equipment and purpose built facilities.

Students will also benefit from the BSAVA education learning platform, which provides a clear overview of the program, including learning objectives, key dates, notes, webinars, discussion forums, and additional resources.



# Structure and learning

**The course consists of two modules, equating to a total of 200 study hours per year (including self study). We also include a Professional Key Skills course (at no extra cost), which will provide you with the academic requirements needed to gain Advanced Practitioner status from the RCVS.**

## Module I

- **Twenty units:** each comprised of:
  - **An in-person day course** including lectures, and interactive case-based discussions and activities,
  - **A period of online study**, featuring webinars and interactive activities, with ongoing support from the subject specialist and a dedicated member of the BSAVA team.
- **One written examination:** testing the knowledge you have acquired in Module I, prior to progressing to Module II.

## Module II

A Casebook is submitted at the end of the third year, this allows you to showcase your ability to work through cases logically, justify your clinical decisions and evaluate outcomes in the context of published literature. Here's what is involved...

- **Eight case reports** make up the casebook. Designed to be completed by vets working in first opinion practice and don't require specialist equipment.
- **Two reflective commentaries** focusing on the veterinary skills you have developed.

You will benefit from a dedicated casebook tutor to ensure you have the support you need.

# Course content

**Below is a breakdown of the units you will cover within the programme.**

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Structure and function of the eye

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Ocular diagnostics

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Examination of the eye

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Principles of ophthalmic surgery

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Conditions of the episclera, sclera and limbus

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Conditions of the lacrimal secretory and excretory systems

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Conditions of the globe and orbit

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Conditions of the eyelids and third eyelid

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The conjunctiva and cornea

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Practical surgery

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Lens and vitreous

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Neuro-ophthalmology

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Uveal tract and glaucoma

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Ocular fundus

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Ocular neoplasia and ocular manifestations of systemic disease

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Ophthalmology in exotic animals

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Ocular therapeutics

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Ocular injury

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Problem-based approach



# Practice observation

## Your chance to shadow an experienced ophthalmologist in action.

Observe their approach to cases, refine your skills with their guidance, explore their diagnostic techniques, and engage in insightful discussions. It's a fantastic way to bring your course learning to life and deepen your understanding.

- » Course requirement to shadow an experienced ophthalmologist in practice.
- » Minimum of one full day or two half days
- » We provide a list of practices willing to participate, or you can select your own (that meets our requirements).



## Facilities

Course days are divided between Woodrow House in Gloucestershire, the heart of the BSAVA and conferencing facilities in Cambridge, providing perfect venues for learning and networking.



# How to get started?

## To enrol in the BSAVA Postgraduate Certificate:

- Applicants must hold a veterinary qualification
- UK based applicants must be on the RCVS Home Practising Register
- Applicants based outside the UK must hold a veterinary qualification that would entitle them to register as members of the RCVS.
- Applicants must have spent a minimum of one year in Veterinary Practice.
- Veterinary surgeons who qualified in 2007 or later and who are based in the UK must have completed the RCVS Professional Development Phase (PDP) or Graduate Development Programme (VetGDP) before they can enrol.

As the course is taught and assessed in English, applicants must have a good command of spoken and written English. We do not enforce testing but suggest a minimum British Council IELTS grade requirement of 6.5 or equivalent. Equivalent experience may include the successful completion of a degree or other accredited postgraduate qualification in the English language or a significant period of residence/work placement in an English-speaking country.

## Fees overview:

- **Annual enrolment fee for 2026:** £4,315 + VAT
- **Total fees:** From £12,945 + VAT
- Fees are to be paid annually prior to course commencement
- For the first three years of study, the annual enrolment fee applies. If studies are extended, then only a significantly reduced enrolment is payable in years 4 and 5.

## What's included:

- » **Course attendance:** Full access to all content, including teaching days, practical sessions and online units.
- » **Extensive online resources:** Enjoy comprehensive access to our online materials, from webinars to forums, BSAVA publications and even our formulary.
- » **BSAVA Membership:** Benefit from full BSAVA membership for the duration of your studies.
- » **RCVS Knowledge Membership:** Access the comprehensive RCVS Knowledge Library and all its valuable resources.
- » **Examination fees:** All assessment and examination costs are included.
- » **Academic and pastoral support:** Continuous guidance from our tutoring and mentoring teams throughout your studies.
- » **University registration:** Your registration with Nottingham Trent University is part of the package.
- » **Discounts:** Get reduced rates for BSAVA Events and special prices on BSAVA manuals.

## How to apply

**Enrolling in the BSAVA Postgraduate Certificate programme is simple, and we're here to guide you, every step of the way.**

At the BSAVA we've designed a smooth process to help you join our Postgraduate Certificate programme. You can register any time of year via our website; ([www.bsava.com/education/postgraduate-certificates](http://www.bsava.com/education/postgraduate-certificates)).

Since places are allocated on a first come first served basis, early application is encouraged.



# Let's talk...

If you have any questions or need further support, we're here to help.

Contact us via phone at 01452 726700 or email us at [certificate@bsava.com](mailto:certificate@bsava.com).

You can also check our FAQs for more information at [bsava.com/education/education-faqs](http://bsava.com/education/education-faqs).

Validated by



Nottingham Trent  
University

**BSAVA**

Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way  
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Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AB

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