

University  
of Ljubljana  
Veterinary  
faculty



# Studying Veterinary Medicine in Ljubljana

**University of Ljubljana**  
**VETERINARY FACULTY**

*Presentation brochure*

**STUDYING VETERINARY MEDICINE IN LJUBLJANA**

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University  
of Ljubljana *Veterinary*  
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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND SPORT**

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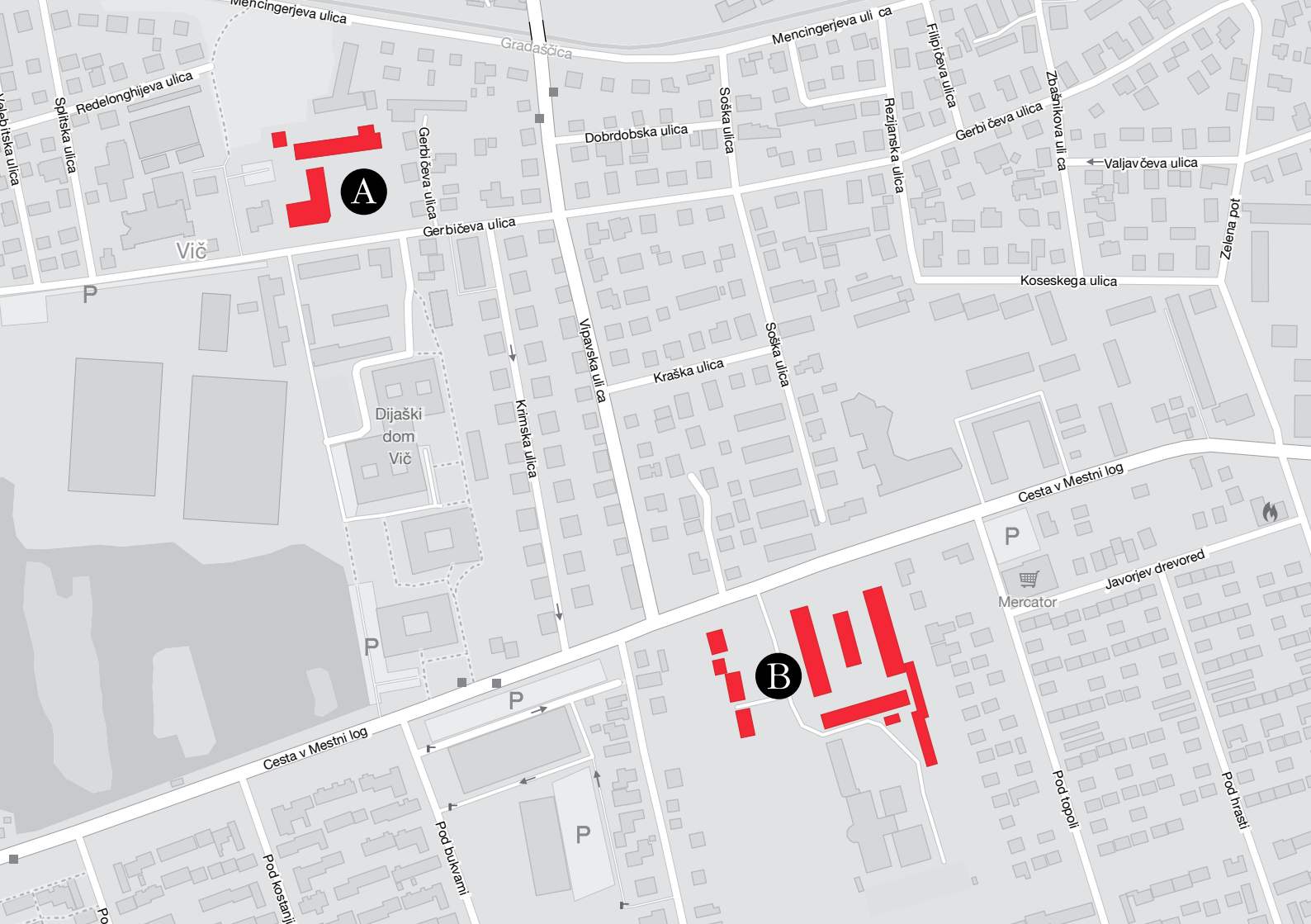
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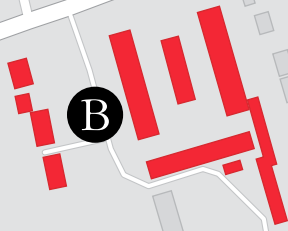
- Dean's Office
- Main Office
- Personnel Department
- Department for Undergraduate Studies
- Office for Research and International Affairs
- Centre for Postgraduate Studies and Continuing Education
- Economic Office
- National Veterinary Institute (NVI)
- Institute of Microbiology and Parasitology
- Institute of Food Safety, Feed and Environment
- Institute of Pathology, Wild Animals, Fish and Bees
- Institute of Preclinical Sciences
- Anatomy Lecture Hall
- Histology Lecture Hall
- Small Laboratory
- Physiology Laboratory
- Physiology Lecture Hall
- Postgraduate Lecture Hall
- Zoohygiene Lecture Hall
- Microbiology Laboratory
- Chemistry Laboratory
- Diagnostics Lecture Hall

## B

- Clinic for Reproduction and Large Animals
- Institute of Poultry, Birds, Small Mammals and Reptiles
- Small Animal Clinic
- Library
- Computer Centre
- Financial and Accounting Department
- Computer Classroom
- Big Clinical Lecture Hall



A



B

# Basic Data

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*Park on Ljubljana castle*





*Ursuline church of the Holy Trinity in Ljubljana*

The European Association of Establishments  
for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) granted  
the Veterinary Faculty, University of Ljubljana  
the status:

**ACCREDITED.**







*River embankment*

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Ljubljana is to ensure the education and training of doctors of veterinary medicine based on research and professional activities. We strive to meet the standards of the veterinary profession in Europe in the fields of animal health and welfare, as well as public health care, including care for food safety and the prevention and spread of contagious diseases. For the purpose of teaching excellence, the Veterinary Faculty possesses all the necessary facilities incorporated in its institutes, clinics, and testing laboratories.

# Our Vision

The Veterinary Faculty of the University of Ljubljana aims to be an internationally recognised leader as a veterinary educational institution in Central and South-Eastern Europe, with a highly qualified staff, modern equipment and facilities. Through co-operation with top veterinary and related educational, research and professional institutions, we endeavour to raise the level of quality in all areas of our activities in order to achieve this aim of leadership.





*Old town centre facade*

# History

The beginnings of systematic veterinary education in Slovenia date back to the year 1795 when the Veterinary Chair was established within the framework of the Medico-Surgical Institute of the Ljubljana Lyceum. The first veterinary school was founded in Ljubljana in 1849, as the Veterinary and Horse-Shoeing School. The most prominent co-founders were Prof. Janez Bleiweiss and Prof. Simon Strupi.

An important predecessor of today's Veterinary Faculty was the Veterinary Science Institute of Slovenia, founded in 1946, which had evolved from the National Institute of Bacteriology in Ljubljana, founded in 1926.

The Veterinary Faculty, as a university education institution within the framework of the University of Ljubljana, was established by a decree of the Executive Council of the Republic of Slovenia on 12th July 1953 as the Veterinary Department at the Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry. In 1954, the following registrars of the Veterinary Department were appointed: Prof. Fran Zavrník, Prof. Marjan Pavšič, Albin Sedej, and Prof. Stane Valentinčič. In the academic year 1956/57, lectures and practical courses began for the first 35 enrolled students. The Veterinary Faculty became an independent member institution of the University of Ljubljana in 1990.

In 2001, the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) was established on the basis of the Law on Veterinary Service and the official decision of the Senate of the Veterinary Faculty as a special unit of the Veterinary Faculty. The NVI fulfils all the activities

requested by the Law on Veterinary Service in regard to properties, equipment and employees and arranges students' practical training. Units/departments of NVI are located in Nova Gorica, Kranj, Novo Mesto, Maribor, Ptuj and Murska Sobota.

In 1998, the Veterinary Faculty has its first visitation by an expert commission from the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). The Commission confirmed that the study programme, and the terms of study, comply with those of the faculties of the European Union and the faculty was granted the status approved. In 2021 the Veterinary Faculty was granted the status accredited.

# Organisation of Veterinary Faculty

## *Institutes and Clinics*

- Institute of Microbiology and Parasitology
- Institute of Food Safety, Feed and Environment
- Institute of Pathology, Wild Animals, Fish and Bees
- Institute of Preclinical Sciences
- Clinic for Reproduction and Large Animals
- Institute of Poultry, Birds, Small Mammals and Reptiles
- Small Animal Clinic

## *Units of Special Meaning*

- National Veterinary Institute

## *Other Units of Joint Interest*

- Secretariat
- Quality Assurance Department
- Sample Reception
- Library

# Students' Organisation

- Students' Council
- Students' Organisation of the Veterinary Faculty
- International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)
- RUCTUS Student Journal
- Representative in the Students' Parliament
- Student Senators of the Veterinary Faculty



*Ljubljana castle*







*Triple Bridge in Ljubljana's City Centre*

# To Whom we Recommend Studying Veterinary Medicine

The decision to study veterinary medicine should be made by those who are meticulous, have a sense of responsibility, and a sense and ability for undertaking research and being strict in matters of ethical principles.

A candidate's state of health must allow him/her to carry out practical field work, he/she should have a liking for gaining field experience, be sufficiently communicative, independent and psychologically compliant in dealing with people. He/she must have a humane attitude to animals, a sense of responsibility and an aptitude for punctuality, order and discipline, as well as the ability to independently take prompt action in case of emergency or the occurrence of unexpected situations.

The programme primarily addresses those who would like to work with companion animals, control production of animal diseases - typically in veterinary services (e.g. swine, cattle, poultry, fish, fur animals), work in the food processing industry, pharmaceutical industry or veterinary institutions involved in research and disease control.

# Application and Enrolment

The entire application and enrolment process is described on the University of Ljubljana's website:

<https://www.uni-lj.si/study/bachelor/>

# The Skills That Students Should Acquire During Their Studies

During their studies, students should acquire the following skills:

- ✓ knowledge of the functional anatomy of the bodies of domestic animals, their genetic and physiological features, and reasons for the occurrence of pathological changes;
- ✓ knowledge about the breeding and reproduction of animals, animal nutrition, breeds and selection, the digestive and endocrine physiology of animals, the characteristics of herbage and harmful plants, forage and feed rationing, animal and environmental hygiene and breeding techniques;
- ✓ knowledge about the sources and causes of animal diseases, the circumstances of their occurrence, especially those leading to the occurrence of contagious and parasitic diseases, in order to gain mastery in the diagnostics and treatment of animals;
- ✓ knowledge of veterinary economics and evaluation of expected and actual results;
- ✓ knowledge of legislation, veterinary ethic principles and administrative procedures in veterinary medicine.

# Duration of Studies and Professional Title

The programme is taught in the Slovene language. There are no special veterinary courses organised in foreign language (English) for incoming students. The study of veterinary medicine at the Veterinary Faculty in Ljubljana takes 6 years (12 semesters) and comprises a total of 360 ECTS (credit points). Systematic teaching (lectures, practical work, seminars) takes place through 30-hour per week classes, 30 weeks per year.

In their final year, students primarily enter elective subjects and perform clinical practice (intramural rotation) and clinical training (extramural rotation). The date of passing the exam in the subject of Forensic and State Veterinary Medicine is the date of graduation.

After passing all the required exams, the graduate attendee of the faculty is granted the professional title:

**DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM).**





*Plečnik's Arcade*





*Old Centre of Ljubljana*

# Curriculum Structure

## ***Natural Science Group of Subjects***

Cell-biology, Fodder, Toxic and medicinal plants, and Genetics;

## ***Basic Veterinary Subjects***

Anatomy of domestic animals, Histology and embryology, Veterinary physiology, and Biochemistry;

## ***Preclinical Group of Subjects***

Parasitology, Microbiology and immunology, Epizootiology, Physiology of animal nutrition, Pathological anatomy including pathological histology, Pathological physiology, and Pharmacology with toxicology;

## ***Clinical Group of Subjects***

Basics of veterinary clinical diagnostics, Surgery and ophthalmology, Radiology and physical therapy, Reproduction of domestic animals with obstetrics, Diseases and health care of ruminants, Diseases and health care of pigs, Diseases and health care of equines, Diseases and health care of poultry, Diseases and health care of carnivores, Diseases and health care of rabbits and small animals, Diseases and hygiene of breeding fish and honey bees, and Diseases, health care and breeding of game, and clinical practice (intramural rotation) and clinical training (extramural rotation);

## ***Animal Husbandry***

Animal husbandry, Economics in veterinary medicine;

## ***Veterinary Prevention***

Animal and environmental hygiene, Hygiene and pathology of animal nutrition, Animal welfare, ethics and legislation;

## ***Food Hygiene and Sanitary Control of Food***

Introduction to food hygiene, Veterinary sanitary control of animals for slaughter and meat, Hygiene and control of milk, milk products and food of vegetable origin, and Hygiene and control of meat, fish and products;

## ***Social Science Subjects***

Terminology in veterinary science, foreign language, and Sports education;

## ***Final Exam***

Forensic and state veterinary medicine

# Study Rules

The study of veterinary medicine allows students to study regularly for exams which are facilitated by scheduled examining of acquired knowledge. The schedule of examinations and timetables of student-teacher interviews are provided to students at the beginning of each semester.

Students will arrange all administrative matters with the student office. Other matters can be dealt with within the Student Council, the Students' Assembly, the Students' Organisation, as well as through representatives in the faculty working bodies, especially the Committee for Students' Affairs and through the Dean of the faculty.

## *Practical skills training*

The sixth year of veterinary education provides students with a well-rounded clinical foundation. Clinical rotations are scheduled throughout the year (365 days). Students are obliged to attend all components of clinical training, consisting of ambulatory services, in-house clinical services, and out-of-hours clinical services, on a variety of animal species. Clinical practice includes hands-on, skills-oriented work, as well as daily theoretical assignments. Team work and animal ethics are strongly underlined. Students are challenged in solving clinical problems when working with patients, and encouraged to support clinical evidence with literature-based research. Practical skills training also includes some work related to public veterinary services.

## *1) Intramural clinical skills training*

This is a continuous one-year (365 days) course divided into different rotations based on animal species and specific clinical services. Students are responsible for the overall animal care, including animal care/management not exclusively related to clinical work. Students' rotations are supervised by the Veterinary faculty's teaching and technical staff, depending on the nature of work. Student document their clinical activities in Intramural clinical record keeping documents. Completed records are evaluated after all Intramural clinical skills training rotations are completed.

## *2) Extramural practical skills training*

Extramural training consists of a minimum of 60 contact days divided between veterinary clinical and public veterinary services. Although parts of the Extramural practical skills training can be organized at the Veterinary faculty, students are encouraged to organize their extramural training outside the Veterinary faculty. An agreement with the Slovenian Veterinary Chamber enables students to join most veterinary practices nationally. Domestic students should also explore possibilities to enter international externship programs.

A minimum of 50 contact days of the Extramural practical skills training must be devoted to clinical work. Students must log no less than 12 contact days of clinical work on production animals; at least four (4) day must be devoted to production



*Centre for Sustainable Recultivation - Vremščica*



animal out-of-hours emergency clinical services. The remaining days of extramural clinical training (a minimum of 38 contact days) can be done on animal species of student's personal preference. At least two (2) additional contact days of out-of-hours emergency clinical services must be documented on student's preferred animal species.

A minimum of ten (10) contact days must be spent working under the mentorship of public service veterinarians. The public veterinary service portion of externship can also include honey bee colony management.

Students' rotations are supervised by licensed and/or official veterinarians. Student document their activities in Extramural practical skills training record keeping documents. Completed records are evaluated after the completion of all Extramural practical skills training requirements.

### ***Repeating a study year***

Students who do not meet the requirements for enrolment for the next year, are allowed to retake a study year, provided that there are valid reasons for doing so. The procedure for repeating a year is explained in detail in the Study Rules of the Veterinary Faculty.



*Clinical Practise 1*

# Examinations

A student acquires the right to sit for an examination in a particular subject, if the subject is entered in the student's registration book and signed by the lecturer (attendance requirements).

Regular attendance at lectures and practical workshops is a prerequisite for obtaining the required attendance certification.

Students are not permitted to sit a Final Examination, if required Mid-term Examinations were not passed.

As a rule, examiners are teachers who have lectured on particular subjects.

All the examinations required for enrolment for the following year are to be passed by September 30th.

Prior to enrolment for the next year, those students who are repeating a study year, must have passed all the examinations from the previous year (all the lectured subjects).

Student registration books are to be certified by 31 August.

# Fields of Employment for a Graduate Veterinarian

Most veterinarians (47%) are employed in veterinary clinics and hospitals where they treat animals.

Veterinarians are also employed within municipal administrative bodies, within the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection and with the frontier veterinary service as veterinary inspectors (14%).

A significant number of veterinarians (16%) are in charge of supervision of food of animal origin (in slaughterhouses, meat-packing plants, dairies, fish-processing plants etc.).

Furthermore, they are employed (13%) in the pharmaceutical industry and in fodder production, within insurance companies, health service institutions, sanitary and market inspectorates as well as the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

Approximately one-tenth of veterinarians are employed by the Veterinary Faculty and other faculties in Slovenia, as well as by secondary schools where they work as teachers and researchers.





*Diseases and Health Care of Bees*

# International Student and Teacher Exchanges

There are many possibilities for student and staff exchanges at the Veterinary Faculty.

Since 1994 the faculty has been a member of the CEEPUS network VetNEST (Veterinary Network for Student and Staff Transfer), which acts as a framework for an intensive exchange of students and teachers among its members – the veterinary faculties and universities in Ljubljana, Brno, Budapest, Vienna, Košice, Zagreb, Wrocław, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana. In addition to taking care of the quality of the implementation of the pedagogical process of veterinary medicine studies, the main activities of the network are focused on the implementation of study exchanges and practical training for students and teacher exchanges and the organization of joint thematic workshops and field trips.

The Veterinary Faculty is also actively involved in the Erasmus+ programme and has signed numerous inter-institutional agreements with veterinary faculties across Europe, enabling student study and placement exchanges, as well as staff exchanges for teaching and training. Internationalisation is one of the key strategic activities at the University of Ljubljana and the Veterinary Faculty seizes all opportunities that arise at university level (nationally and internationally) which promote student and staff

exchanges. Our vision is that each student should have at least one international mobility experience during his/her studies.

The language of instruction at the Veterinary Faculty, University of Ljubljana, is Slovene. Exchange students are provided with English literature and can hold individual consultations with the teachers and complete their obligations (assignments, exams etc.) in English.



*Practice of Reproduction*

# Postgraduate Studies

The Veterinary Faculty offers a high quality postgraduate study programme within the framework of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Biomedicine and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Environmental Protection. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Biomedicine is provided by member faculties of the University of Ljubljana, the Jožef Stefan Institute, the Chemical Institute and the National Institute of Biology. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Environmental Protection is provided by different member faculties of the University of Ljubljana. More information can be found at:

<https://www.uni-lj.si/study/doctoral/>

# Research Work

Research work is performed within the framework of research programmes and projects. At the Veterinary Faculty two research programmes are being formed:

- ✓ Animal health, environment and food safety,
- ✓ Endocrine, immune and enzyme responses in healthy and sick animals.

In addition, this research work is also performed within the framework of basic and applicative research projects, which cover the sectors of biotechnical and medical sciences. Some international research projects are also underway.

Students can also take part in the research work. Most of them participate in the preparation of research work from subject matters in individual fields set out each year on 8 February by the Committee for the Students' Prešeren Awards of the University of Ljubljana through a public invitation. In this way, Veterinary Faculty students are encouraged to carry out scientific and research work.





*Microbiology*

# Professional and Operative Activities at the Veterinary Faculty

In the area of professional and operative activities, work is performed for the needs of the Veterinary Institute of Slovenia: bacteriological, parasitological, virological and serological tests, autopsies of domestic animals, examination of fish, bees and wild animals, testing of food samples of animal origin and testing of feed mixtures or feed additives. Analyses are also performed regarding the quality of certain medicines, and efficiency tests of biomedical preparations and the efficiency of composting with the use of a bioactive substrate. Gynaecological and andrological examinations of breeding stock, of both sexes, are also performed.

Clinics of the Veterinary Faculty offer primary and advanced veterinary care of all companion and production animals for clients.

In addition to mandatory curricular rotations, students can voluntarily take part in all operative activities at the Veterinary Faculty during study breaks.



