



ACOVENE accreditation panel members

ACOVENE undertakes visitations to ACOVENE accredited veterinary nursing educational institutions approximately every five years. These visits are to assure accredited programmes are compliant with the ACOVENE Policies and Procedures (the Standards). After a visit has taken place, and following all quality monitoring activity, ACOVENE Board consider the reports and actions plans and decides on the accreditation status for the provision.

Accreditation is conducted by a panel of experts, usually two representatives, a veterinary nurse and a veterinary surgeon. There may also be non-participating trainee panel members in attendance.

Applications for representatives are welcomed from European qualified veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeons, who have English language skills in spoken and written English to a minimum of B2 level and who have either one/ some or all of the following:

- Experience of five years or more in the education sector concerned (further or higher education).
- Good knowledge and/or experience of current delivery of the Standards in a veterinary nursing qualification educational institute in the relevant sector.
- Experience of supporting student veterinary nurses in practice (further or higher education). This may include direct Clinical Coaching, management of trainees within a practice or support of training practices.
- Good knowledge and experience of the ACOVENE Competences, and be able to consider how proposed qualifications would support students' development in the practice setting.

The role of all panel members is to work as a member of a team of experts to review and make recommendations to ACOVENE board on the standard of the educational institute provision regarding the Standards. Panel members will need good problem-solving skills as well as the ability to interpret large amounts of complex information. Good communication skills are essential, as are a willingness to listen to other points of view and to form a consensus.

Visitations last for two days (not including travel time to and from the educational institute), and panel members need to be able to devote time both before and afterwards for attending virtual meetings (usually one before and one after the visitation, time commitment about 1 hour), reviewing applications and preparing reports. ACOVENE will pay a flat day fee for loss of earnings allowance for the visitation days as well as reasonable expenses as stipulated in the ACOVENE expenses policy. Loss of earnings is not paid for travel days or for attending of virtual meetings.

ACOVENE aims to utilise a variety of experts and aims to try and fit in with individual commitments where possible. While ACOVENE request a 6-month period for new institutions to notify ACOVENE of pending accreditation events, occasionally visits will be organised at shorter notice. ACOVENE will notify all trained panel members at the earliest possible opportunity, and panel members will have the opportunity to express their interest in attending visits.



How to apply

Representatives who are interested in becoming a panel member should contact ACOVENE (ACOVENE@rcvs.org.uk) in the first instance. The relevant paperwork can then be provided for completion and review by the ACOVENE board.

Visitor training

Panel member training will be set on a demand basis. Training includes an all-day virtual session as well as follow-up support and guidance on a one-to-one basis where required.