

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF ROLE

Veterinary Investigation Officer

Working Hours:	Part-Time (22.2 hrs per wk)
Contract:	Permanent
Location:	Dumfries
Salary:	£51,045 – £58,925 per annum, pro rata
Reference:	AMT/VS/O24/24
Closing date for applications:	10th December 2024

DEPARTMENT

Veterinary Services School of Veterinary Medicine

The [School of Veterinary Medicine](#) encompasses veterinary endeavour (teaching, clinical services and research) across SRUC and thus across Scotland, and includes Veterinary Services in its portfolio.

The Veterinary Investigation Officers are members of the teams at the Disease Investigation Hubs. SRUC operates a network of six Disease Surveillance Hubs strategically sited at Perth and St Boswells in the Centre and South East, Ayr and Dumfries in the South West, Inverness and Aberdeen in the North. St Boswells, Dumfries and Aberdeen Hubs have postmortem rooms on site. Farm animal diagnostic surveillance postmortem examinations can also be performed at the School of Biodiversity, One Health and Veterinary Medicine, University of Glasgow as well as Thurso PM Centre in collaboration with the Ayr and Inverness Hubs, respectively. By maintaining a presence throughout Scotland, SRUC fulfils a role in National Disease Surveillance and provides information on national trends in animal disease. This information is added to that collected by the Animal and Plant Health Agency to provide animal disease surveillance data for Great Britain.

SRUC Veterinary Services, winner of a Queens Anniversary prize in 2023, also provides formal sheep and cattle disease control and accreditation schemes. In addition, SRUCs diagnostic services, [Capital Diagnostics](#), provides quality assured farm and companion animal clinical pathology support.

Staff are required to be involved in under-graduate teaching and to contribute to research projects existing within SRUC or with external partners. The VIO team is actively involved in the provision of Continuing Professional Development activities for farmers and the veterinary profession.



The Dumfries Disease Surveillance hub has a busy caseload equally split between dairy, beef and sheep cases serving progressive farmers and veterinary practices in the area. You join a small friendly team VIOs and support staff with considerable expertise in disease investigation and surveillance.

ROLE REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

JOB DESCRIPTION

Working under the direction of the Veterinary Centre Manager in this role, you will:

- Provide an effective, reliable, and efficient farm animal diagnostic and consultancy service to veterinary surgeons in practice and farmers in the area. Key components of this work include the detailed investigation of farm animal disease outbreaks through post-mortem examination, laboratory diagnostic tests and farm disease investigations.
- Maintain a close working relationship with local veterinarians and farmers to facilitate data collection to inform the trends, distribution, and nature of livestock diseases in the area covered by the Dumfries Hub. Through this work contributing to the local and national disease surveillance functions of SRUC VSG.
- Investigate in detail unusual outbreaks of farm animal disease in collaboration with veterinary colleagues within SRUC and other specialist institutions.
- Contribute to the education of undergraduates within the School of Veterinary Medicine so ensuring that students have developed the skills and understanding related to the importance of disease surveillance and herd health management, when they move into their graduate roles.
- Undertake research and develop initiatives with colleagues in SRUC SVM, the wider SRUC family and external institutions.
- Contribute as required to SRUC VSG farmer education and awareness campaigns to promote animal welfare.
- Assist with the Animal Health & Welfare Management Programme by providing support to local vets and farmers.
- Contribute to commercial consultancy activities, notably by playing an active role in the Premium Cattle Health Scheme (PCHS) for clients nationwide and especially in SW Scotland and NW England.
- Participate in disease eradication and control programme being directed by APHA Service by providing appropriate supporting laboratory services as and when required by the Scottish Government.
- Contribute to the advisory, development and research effort of other departments within SRUC. The VIO should liaise with colleagues within the SRUC advisory service (particularly the specialist dairy, beef and sheep agricultural advisors, nutritionists and building advisors) to support a farm animal health advisory service in the local area.
- Carry out any other duties delegated by the SVM Senior Management Team and veterinary managers of the hubs.
- Work for periods at other SRUC Veterinary Services sites as necessary and as directed by the manager of SRUC

The post-holder will perform additional duties as directed from time to time by the Line Manager. The post holder must use their initiative in the conduct of their work, and apply sound judgement at all times to ensure that they conduct themselves within the framework of SRUC regulations and procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will have demonstrable experience in progressive farm animal practice and will preferably have undertaken graduate study to certificate, diploma, masters or higher degree level in a given species (cattle, pigs or sheep) or in a related subject e.g. pathology. Candidates must be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. They will be encouraged to work towards further qualifications whether species or veterinary education based. Teamwork is essential as is a current UK driving licence.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Competencies	Essential	Desirable
Education/ Qualifications	- Veterinary degree - Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons	Specialist qualification relating to veterinary work
Skills/Abilities	- The ability to deal with complex diagnostic problems under pressure and to work as a team player. - To communicate clearly and effectively in both writing and speech to colleagues, students and veterinary and farm clients	- Demonstrable involvement in the delivery of Continuing Professional Development - Interest in developing veterinary education to ensure sustainability of veterinary support to the rural environment
Experience	Farm animal practice of two years or more.	- Experience of writing articles and doing oral presentations - Experience of supervising veterinary students in the work-environment - Experience in delivering education
Knowledge	A good understanding of animal production; health management and population medicine of farm animals particularly ruminants	Some knowledge of veterinary diagnostic investigation, including post-mortem examinations, laboratory testing and interpretation
Other	UK driving licence	Good CPD record

BRIEF STATEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYER (Head Office)

SRUC, King's Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JG.

GRADE AND SALARY

The appointment will be made on the Grade 2 scale: £51,045 – £58,925 per annum, pro-rata.

For appointments made below the mid-point of the salary scale, on successfully completing a probationary period of 9 months, you will receive a salary rise up to the mid-point of the salary scale. After a further 12 months, you will move to the top of the scale.

For appointments made on or above the mid-point of the salary scale, on successful completion of your probation period of 9 months, you will receive a salary increase to the top of the salary scale.

CONTRACT TYPE

Part Time (22.2 hours per week)

Permanent – open ended

LOCATION

Dumfries Disease Surveillance Centre, St Mary's Industrial Estate, Dumfries, DG1 1DX.

ABOUT SRUC

SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) is a specialist higher education institution delivering tertiary education, research and consultancy

The School of Veterinary Medicine was created in 2023 to bring together SRUCs substantial and wide-ranging veterinary expertise. The SVM is on track to launch a veterinary programme in September 2024. This programme will build on the opportunities within the tertiary structure to broaden the access routes to veterinary education and focus on the support of Scotland's remote and rural communities and animal based industries.

We currently operate our main Higher and Further education activities from five campuses across Scotland – Aberdeen, Barony, Edinburgh, Elmwood, and Oatridge. We also deliver teaching in Glasgow. SRUC employs approximately 1,300 staff operating from five campuses, eight farms, 25 consulting offices, six research centres and eight veterinary surveillance centres located primarily across Scotland. The organisation's annual turnover is around £85 million.

SRUC's principal purpose is to advance education, science, research, and environmental protection and improvement in rural and land-based industries, both domestically and internationally. The commercial consultancy, skills training and knowledge exchange and some commercial research activities are undertaken through SAC Consulting – part of SRUC.

It is SRUC's intention to become a fully-fledged university – a new and unique establishment for the 21st century that is regional, accessible, and responsive to a diverse range of challenges in a transforming world. We will be a strong and unique anchor institution where research, skills and business converge. Such convergence will create new insights that deliver big strategic leaps and completely new propositions for business, society and government.

All of this activity is firmly rooted in our distinctive ethos of a Scotland-wide presence through regional centres of global excellence. Our objective is to deliver on shared goals with government, business and other partners to support transition to a fair and sustainable economy.

BENEFITS

As a valued member of our team, you can expect:

An exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work. We give you support, nurture your talent and reward success. You will benefit from a competitive reward package and a wide range of staff benefits, which includes a generous holiday entitlement, a defined benefits pension scheme, family-friendly initiatives, flexible working and much more.

Click to access our [staff benefits page](#) (opens new browser tab) for further information.

TOTAL REWARDS VALUE (based on full time salary):

Basic Salary	£58,925
Annual Leave Value*	£5,973
Pension Benefits	£5,893
Sickness Benefits	Sick pay eligibility will be based upon length of service, rising to a maximum 6 months full pay and 6 months half pay after 5 years service.
Additional Benefits	Discounted RAC membership, Cycle to work Scheme, Free parking, Death in Service Benefit, Sponsored Education and more
Total Reward Value	£70,791

*The approximate value of the annual leave entitlement as shown is based on the FTE salary for this grade for someone with less than 5 years service.

COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FORM

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how your skills and experience match the requirements of the post, which are detailed in these further particulars. We are happy

to consider transferable skills or experience which you may have gained outside the context of paid employment or education.

On-line Applications:

You can apply online at <http://www.sruc.ac.uk/jobs>

In order to apply on-line, you will need to register your details/create an account to be able to access the current vacancies and submit an electronic application.

We would recommend that electronic applications are sent at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline, to ensure there are no technical difficulties.

Prior to any employment, you will be required to evidence your right to work in the UK. Further information is available on our [right to work webpages](#) (opens new browser tab).

DISABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

Please inform Human Resources if any adjustments or support are required for interview, or whether any adjustments or adaptations may help you overcome operational difficulties presented by the job. Although disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability, they will still be covered by the Equality Act 2010 once their disability becomes known.

DISCLAIMER

These particulars are issued by Human Resources, SRUC, Edinburgh. They are intended to represent a description of the duties at the time of writing, although this accuracy cannot be guaranteed. SRUC reserves the right to vary these particulars or make no appointment at all.