

Clinical EMS (CEMS) FAQs

If your query is not answered in these FAQs, please email veteducation@marwell.org.uk with your question.

- **Eligibility:** Can you take me in my 1st/2nd/3rd year?
 - After long experience, we have found that this specialist clinical environment is best suited to students in the later years of their course, who have experience working in clinical environments through rotations or other CEMS. This is why we can only accommodate students after completion of all of third-year teaching, and at least one other CEMS placement. We **strongly** advise that you have completed a variety of CEMS placements, including at least one large/equine/mixed and one small animal or practice-based placement as this will mean you get the most from your placement. We cannot currently accommodate students in their intercalated year.
- **Programme:** What is included in the CEMS placement?
 - A full induction on day one, addressing all practical and health and safety aspects of the placement, introduction to the team, tour of facilities and talking through placement plans. During the first week, a meeting with the practice principal to discuss student's overall goals for the 4-week placement.
 - Accompanying on *clinical visits*; visiting enclosures, remote and tactile patient assessment, discussions with animal keepers.
 - Observing or participating in *clinical procedures*; assisting anaesthesia or surgeon.
 - Contributing to *practice management* support, nursing tasks, diagnostics, procedure preparations and logistics. Training is given in worm egg count faecal analysis (we recommend you read up on the McMaster technique in preparation).
 - Where clinical workload allows;
 - **Research project.** Each student will create a relevant and timely research project. This may be using retrospective or prospective data, and may include tasks such as data handling, observations of park animals, literature review and analysis using simple statistical techniques. These projects are presented using PowerPoint to the vet team, taxon-relevant animal keepers, and wider staff where interest is shown.
 - **Journal club.** Each student will select an appropriate peer-reviewed journal and lead a discussion with members of the keeping and veterinary teams.
- **Duration:** How long is the placement? Can I start on a different date?
 - 4 working weeks (20 days), Monday-Friday (not including weekends).
 - In specific extenuating circumstances 3-week placements may be considered, but priority will be given to students that can fulfil the designated 4-week placement. If a 3-week placement is offered, start dates cannot be altered.
 - The 4-week placement ensures we provide students with appropriate teaching support for practical tasks, maximise opportunities for experiencing a range of clinical scenarios, and time to engage in meaningful research project(s). It also helps us to include students as part of the team, meaning that by week 4 you understand the

working environment and can be involved to a greater extent, meaning you get the most from your placement.

- Unfortunately, due to the admin burden on the veterinary team, we cannot alter the start dates of placement.
- **Hours of work:** What are the placement hours of work?
 - Our work day runs 0800-1700. At 0805-0820 we conduct our team morning briefing, staff only, where we lay out the plans and priorities for the day.
 - We expect students to be at the veterinary office building, ready for work, by 0815 so they are ready to participate in clinical visits and planned procedures. On specific days, we may recommend arriving at 0800 in order to take part in early-start procedures.
 - The end of the student working day is 1530-1600 depending on clinical demand. We do not expect students to stay late for unexpected procedures or late visits, but if interested student involvement with these can be discussed with the managing vet on a case-by-case basis.
 - Lunch is taken between 1300 and 1400, but depending on research commitments, students are able to manage these timings sensibly. We encourage all students to take a full hour lunch break and explore the zoo. Breaks are encouraged mid-morning; these are usually asynchronous amongst the team, so students are encouraged to use a sensible self-management system.
- What if I need **time off**?
 - We understand that there are major life events, exams, job interviews and other commitments during EMS. Please let us know on day one about any expected absences.
 - Please let us know on veteducation@marwell.org.uk and telephone (the mobile number will be given to you when your placement is confirmed) if you are unwell in the morning and unable to attend, or if you e.g. have car trouble and are running late.
 - We recommend no more than 4 days off during the course of the four-week placement.
- **Team:** Who will I be working with?
 - The Veterinary team consists of two vets, three veterinary nurses and several volunteers who act as veterinary care assistants. The Animal science team, who may be involved in your research project) includes a Senior Animal Scientist, Nutritionist and Registrar. There is a large number of keeping staff with whom you will also work.
- **How do I get to the office?**
 - The vet office is on zoo grounds, in the centre of the zoo near to Marwell Hall (the large manor house at the centre of the zoo). On your arrival, make sure to ask for the “vet cottage”, “vet office” or “vet department” and any member of staff will be able to direct you.
- Are there any **staff benefits** for placement students?
 - Students are entitled to some discounts on food and retail. Marwell reserves the right to retract these benefits if policy changes.
- What **health and safety** considerations are relevant?

- When a student placement has been confirmed all health and safety documents including relevant risk assessment, are sent to allow the student time to review, query or change their mind.
- On the first day of the placement further discussion is had about relevant health safety aspects of the placement. Marwell Wildlife's vet team prioritises health safety for all staff, students and volunteers. We encourage all students to ask questions if something is unclear, or point something out if you notice a possible health and safety concern, just as in your own workplace.
- **Clothing:** What clothing should I wear?
 - Footwear: 1 pair of shoes for the office (trainers, flat shoes etc) and 1 pair of safety boots (steel toe capped preferred) that you can spend all day in.
 - Trousers: sensible, professional, work-appropriate trousers e.g. cargo trousers, walking trousers, soft and moveable chinos (not stiff ones). No jeans, tracksuits, jogging trousers or leggings. In the summer, summer shorts may be worn, e.g. zipped off walking trousers, cargo shorts. Short shorts and denim shorts should be avoided. Fashion leggings/legging shorts should be avoided as they do not offer much protection to your skin, but reinforced sports clothing e.g. gravel-rash resistant cycling clothing is fine.
 - Head coverings: We recommend a summer hat or cap in the warm weather and a winter hat in the cold weather, you will be outdoors a lot. We advise checking there are no trailing strings or fabric. Hijabs, turbans, Kippahs or other religious head coverings are welcome; we recommend that you check that any trailing fabric is tucked in.
 - Biosecurity: Please ensure your footwear has been **properly** scrubbed with FAM30 1:10 or other appropriate disinfectant at appropriate dilution prior to arrival. Please do not wear clothes during the workday that have been around any other animals, including pets at home. You are welcome to arrive in any clothing that is comfortable (i.e. does not have to adhere to the above recommendations) and change on arrival each day; there is space to store your clothing in the student room.
 - Overalls or parlour tops/leggings – you may like to bring your own, but please make sure that they have been appropriately disinfected – wash all cloth items in 60 degrees or more, and scrub all waterproofs with FAM30 or other appropriate disinfectant, as for farm placements. We do have some available.
- I keep **pets** at home, is this a problem?
 - If you keep outdoor birds (including poultry, raptors or pigeons) or any reptiles/amphibians, please contact us prior to the placement to discuss specific biosecurity requirements. This will not prevent you from completing a placement here at Marwell.
- **Medical requirements:** I have a medical condition that means I may be at times need to leave for appointments or that may affect my physical involvement with some tasks. Will I be supported?
 - This placement potentially involves; periods of seated desk-based work, including computer use, standing for long periods to participate in surgical procedures or outdoor

animal observations, walking and working on uneven ground during clinical procedures in enclosures, microscope work, safe manual handling of different weighted equipment, emergency response to clinical assistance from the vet team, working in an environment with dangerous drugs and firearms.

- If any of these elements may pose a problem, we encourage students to speak to the one of vet team on day one of the placement, so that we can ensure appropriate accommodations are available. Accommodations can be made without prejudice for physical health concerns, mental health concerns, neurodiversity requirements and learning differences. There are many adaptations that can be made to the way we work, and, just as for any other member of the team, these adaptations will not impair your ability to be a full member of the team. If you have a specific concern, you are welcome to email your queries to veteducation@marwell.org.uk prior to your placement.
- There are detailed risk assessments identifying prevention, facilitating and response to potential risks to human health and safety. These documents and discussions are shared with placement students. Every day on-site, there are 2 assigned trained first aiders available during working hours (0800-1700) for staff and visitor incidents.
- What **facilities** are there in the vet building?
 - There is a large room with four computer spots and desks for 6-8 people, which you will share with up to 2 other vet students and up to 5 animal science students (undergraduate and postgraduate). There are areas for shoes and coats to be left safely. There is a single cubicle toilet shared between the students and the vet staff; a disabled access single cubicle toilet and another single cubicle toilet are available in the next building. There is a shower available.
- What do I do if I have a **problem** on placement?
 - If you have a medical, family or other issue that you need support in confidence, or you experience a challenge at work (e.g. bullying, discrimination) from either staff or guests, please contact the Principal Zoo Veterinarian, whose office is in the vet building; her contact details and those for HR will be given to you when your placement is confirmed. If she is unavailable, HR can be contacted.
- Is there **accommodation** available related to this placement?
 - Unfortunately, we cannot offer students accommodation. We also cannot recommend any external accommodation providers. Many of our confirmed placement students use well known accommodation booking sites.
- **Funding:** Is there any funding available for placements?
 - Unfortunately we do not have resources to fund any placements but there are organisations that may be applied for funding and grants such as; BVZS Zebra Foundation: www.bvzs.co.uk/about-us/zebra-foundation/
- **Preparedness for confirmed placement:** I have been secured a placement. What resources can I read to prepare me for my placement?

IMPORTANT: Marwell has no association with BVA, BEVA, Lloyd and Whyte, Fowler, or any other external organisation mentioned below. These resources are simply ones that our team have found

personally useful in the past. Mentioning them here does NOT constitute a recommendation, and students are encouraged to read all documents with a critical eye. No liability is accepted by Marwell for any action taken by students based on advice provided by external organisations or individuals.

- BVA's guide to EMS for veterinary students: <https://www.bva.co.uk/resources-support/hr-and-employment/extramural-studies-ems-guide-for-students/>
 - Or BEVA's preparing for equine EMS: <https://www.beva.org.uk/Career-support/Vet-students/EMS-guidance/Preparing-for-a-placement>
- ACAS advice on workplace wellbeing and equality: <https://www.acas.org.uk/equality-and-wellbeing>
- BVA advice on insurance for EMS: <https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/blog-article/what-insurance-do-i-need-on-my-ems/>
 - Lloyd and Whyte flyer for insurance for EMS: <https://www.bva.co.uk/media/3799/lloyd-and-whyte-ems-insurance-flyer.pdf>
- Secretary of State's Standards in Modern Zoo practice. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-s-standards-of-modern-zoo-practice>
- RCVS Journal clubs: https://www.rcvsknowledge.org/approach/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/journal-clubs/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22292355014&gbraid=0AAAAABPTbAXiQLitEOT88be7_rW35s528&gclid=CjwKCAjwidXQBhAZEiwA4egw6Dz49d2KDcEhl1OIrskaR6FkrGx0HGaeZbJS6ieUIA0IzaZXx46RoCNbsQAvD_BwE
- Fowler's zoo and wild animal medicine Volume 8. 2015
- Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine Current Therapy Volume 9. 2019
- Zoo Animal and Wildlife Immobilization and Anaesthesia, Second edition. 2014
- Mellor DJ. Operational Details of the Five Domains Model and Its Key Applications to the Assessment and Management of Animal Welfare. *Animals* (Basel). 2017 Aug 9;7(8):60. doi: 10.3390/ani7080060. PMID: 28792485; PMCID: PMC5575572.
- Miller LJ, Chinnadurai SK. Beyond the Five Freedoms: Animal Welfare at Modern Zoological Facilities. *Animals* (Basel). 2023 May 31;13(11):1818. doi: 10.3390/ani13111818. PMID: 37889701; PMCID: PMC10251858