

## **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program**

### **Department of Veterinary Pathology, WCVM**

All students wishing to apply for the PhD graduate program in Veterinary Pathology *must first have a faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Pathology who has agreed to supervise their program.*

Interested students should *contact the Department prior to making any application.* A curriculum vitae and statement of career goals may be forwarded to the Department Graduate Program Coordinators ([vetpath.gradstudies@usask.ca](mailto:vetpath.gradstudies@usask.ca)), or to the Department Graduate Chair ([elemir.simko@usask.ca](mailto:elemir.simko@usask.ca)). If a supervisor is identified, the student is then invited to submit an application. In the event that no supervisor is found, the Department of Veterinary Pathology is unable to accept any application.

With the recommendation of the unit, direct entry Ph.D. admission is available to exceptionally strong students, who show great promise in terms of academic accomplishments and potential for research.

- A four-year honors degree, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study
- A cumulative weighted average of at least a 80% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (i.e. 60 credit units)
- Language Proficiency Requirements: Proof of English proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English. See the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Academic Information and Policies in this Catalogue for more information

**In the PhD program**, the degree of expertise and independence expected is much greater than in the MSc program. Independent research with guidance is the main component. Knowledge of the subject area should be both broad and deep. At completion, the PhD graduate should be an expert in the dissertation topic.

The place of diagnostic veterinary pathology in the PhD program is variable. Students with DVM degrees should learn the skills of the diagnostic pathologist sufficiently to make use of these important tools of pathology in their research. Also, veterinarians in the PhD program may, upon graduation, seek academic positions that require clinical service and teaching as well as research. These students may choose to spend additional time learning diagnostic skills, but the time required to acquire the skills and expertise of the research scientist cannot be reduced to accomplish this additional diagnostic experience. Instead, the duration of the total program must be increased.

Graduates should be ready to enter junior academic or research positions. They should be capable of independent research and know how to make hypotheses that can be tested. They should have some experience in teaching and in presentation of data at scientific meetings. They should have broad knowledge of general pathology and in-depth knowledge of their research field. Those with DVM degrees should have moderate diagnostic skills.

*[Please visit the U of S College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) for general information about graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan. The web site's [Admission Requirements](#) section contains important information for prospective graduate students whose first language is not English.*