

Shortage of veterinary nurses – alternatives

From the Faculty's side the following response:

1. As you know a Faculty decision was taken in the last 2 years that we will not increase the intake of Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (DVN) students beyond 50 until the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing (BVN) programme is approved.
2. As you know the BVN programme was yet again not approved by the CHE in 2016, and is again under review. This means that we will not be able to take students into the BVN first year before 2019 (earliest - if all goes well - more likely 2020 or beyond).
3. During the past few years we have lost a number of selected students from the point of selection to the point of graduation, reasons for this were:
 - Low realisation rate of selected students from the designated groups (selected students that don't turn up)
 - Failures
 - Loss of DVN students to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) programme due to a specific selection category catering for para-veterinary students in the application process of the BVSc programme; this caused the DVN programme to be used as a "stepping stone" into BVSc by some applicants.
4. The Faculty implemented the following measures to address the above 3 points, respectively:
 - Over-selection into the DVN programme: for the 2017 intake we significantly over-selected (by approximately 20%), as a result we have 56 students in DVN I in February 2017.
 - We are in the process of reviewing the selection criteria for DVN with the focus of using selection criteria that will help to improve pass rates.
 - We have done away with the category for para-veterinary students in our selection system for BVSc to avoid the DVN programme being used as a stepping stone.
5. While we are in the process of reviewing the selection criteria for DVN we will review our previous decision under point 1, and reconsider an increased intake into this programme.

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