

# THE AWARDS 2021

## Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year

<b>Institution name</b>	University of Nottingham, in collaboration with the universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Surrey, the British Veterinary Association, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Royal Veterinary College, the Horse Trust and the Veterinary Schools Council.
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Initiated, developed and led by the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at the University of Nottingham.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Veterinary Schools require applicants to gain knowledge of the sector and their chosen career through work experience. Nottingham Veterinary School has found that it is increasingly difficult for applicants to gain veterinary practice experience, especially for WP students where a perceived lack of social capital or later decisions to study veterinary medicine can prove to be a barrier.</p> <p>Nottingham led the development of a MOOC explaining the profession, its challenges, and the role of veterinary professionals. The idea gained enthusiastic involvement from all UK veterinary schools, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Association and the Horse Trust.</p> <p>10,877 students have enrolled on the MOOC (<a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support</a>); it has been well received by applicants and practising vets. Total 2020/21 UCAS veterinary applications are up 16% to 3,540. Nottingham has seen an overall increase of 17% in WP applications, so that WP students are now 25% of our total applications.</p>