



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE LTD

As Trustee for ACVA Foundation ABN 89 505 692 923

2016 Course Information

Course and Technical

This course gives you the best of both worlds, balancing online convenience and practical hands on workshops to ensure that your practical skills can be confidently applied to your patient once you return to your practice.

The online lectures are delivered by an experienced team of local lecturers and tutors as well as international guest lecturers in an evidence based and traditional approach to small animal and equine acupuncture. Each student has a tutor that assists them and monitors their progress throughout the course.

There is an online forum for questions on the course material or clinical cases as you complete the course requirements. The questions are answered by the lecturers and tutors and often the questions are used to stimulate healthy discussions that consolidate your learning.

How many hours of study are required for the course?

During term times on a weekly basis - 2 hours for the online lectures, plus 5-6 hours to complete weekly quizzes, assignments and extra reading to consolidate the new knowledge.

What are the course requirements for successful completion?

- Attend all lectures
- Required to complete all quizzes and assignments
- Case log book of 10 clinical cases
- Pass both a written and practical examination
- Two detailed case reports to be completed after the examination

How many days and what hours are the practical days at Marcus Oldham College (MOC)? ie. When do students need to arrive and leave?

March/April - Workshop/Residential 1 is 4 days,

June - Workshop/Residential 2 is 4 days,

September - Workshop/Residential 3 is 4 days

Students should arrive the afternoon/evening before the course starts and are free to leave after the last session late on the last day, or stay on at MOC or locally.

Please note that for IVAS certification the students are required to have attended all lectures and all three residential workshops.

What level of acupuncture involvement is expected? E.g. for case studies?

You are required to make a diagnosis and treat at least 10 cases in your clinic, i.e. if you are a small animal practitioner you need only treat small animals, equine or large animal practitioners need only treat horses or large animals.

Is acupuncture expected to be the sole treatment in those cases or in conjunction with conventional medicine?

These cases are to be treated with acupuncture only. The exception is if the animal has been taking medication for some time and this remains constant then acupuncture can be added. The reason for this is that you need to be able to assess the benefits of your acupuncture treatment.

Do we need to complete the case logs during the course or we could have it completed after we finish the course in November?

Cases must be completed as the course progresses, Term 2 – 2 case logs, Term 3 – 4 case logs, Term 4 – 4 case logs.

Do we need to have both large and small animal cases?

You can treat the animals that come to your clinic. This can be either small animals or large animals or a mixture depending on the cases that you normally treat.

What is the structure of the examination?

The written paper is a multiple choice paper with 150 questions and you have 4 hours to complete the examination. Most students take between 3-4 hours. The written examination is held in the morning then we have a lunch break and the practical examinations are in the afternoon. For these you will be required to find 10 points on a dog and 10 points on a horse and give 2 functions of each of the points.

Where is the examination held?

We hold the exams in different locations, depending on where the students are from.

Do we need access to animals to use for cases and how many?

You are required to make a diagnosis and treat at least 10 cases in your clinic. If you are a small animal practitioner you need only treat small animals, equine or large animal practitioners need only treat horses or large animals.

How long does the course go for?

The course starts in January 2016 and finishes with the final examination in December 2016 in the first year with 6 months of the second year to complete case reports.

How much time does it take to study each week?

There is 2 hours of on-line lectures, with 5-6 hours of revision questions and tutorial work during the week.

Is it still possible to go away on holiday during the year and miss a few lectures?

Yes, it is possible as the lectures are recorded and accessible, therefore you can catch up when you come back, however you will need to work with your tutor to ensure you cover the material required in the assignments.

How soon can I start doing acupuncture after starting the course?

You will be able to use acupuncture to treat your patients after the first residential workshop.

Do I have to do horse/dogs even though I don't see them in practice? Do I have to know them for the examination?

The course requirements are that you study both dogs and horses. There are questions on dogs and horses in the examinations, but you should be able to work these out from first principles.

For the case logs and case reports, these reflect the animals you treat in your clinic and there are no special requirements to treat a particular species e.g. equine practitioners can submit just horse cases, small animal practitioners can submit any species they treat e.g. cats, dogs, rabbit, ferret.

Is acupuncture painful for animals?

Acupuncture is much less painful than normal injections as the acupuncture needles are very fine, have rounded points and separate the tissue rather than cutting it. In the hands of a skilled practitioner it is no more painful than a pin prick.

How do I get them to sit still for acupuncture?

Most veterinary acupuncturists have the client gently restrain their animal while the needles are inserted and continue to hold their animal to stop it moving until the needles are removed. Once inserted, the needles need to remain in place for approximately 10 - 20 minutes.

Are there any contraindications for acupuncture?

There are only a few contraindications for using acupuncture, the primary one is not having either a western or TCM diagnosis. In pregnancy there are points that are contraindicated depending on the stage of pregnancy. Corticosteroids are known to increase the time it takes for a patient to respond to acupuncture.

How do I introduce acupuncture into the practice when my employer is sceptical about its use?

If you can treat one of the staff's animals for a condition that you know will respond well to acupuncture such as arthritis or hip dysplasia, this is usually sufficient for your employer to take notice. Alternatively you can video a lameness case and show him/her the changes.

How can I best introduce acupuncture for my patients when it takes so much time and my boss may not allow me to do it during work time?

While still studying acupuncture, many students will treat the animals during their lunch break, after they finish in the clinic or on their day off. It is important for your employer to realise that you will attract new clients as well as providing an extended service to current clients.

How much do I charge for acupuncture when I first start doing it?

You need to set your fees as soon as you start treating with acupuncture. As a guide you need to charge at least twice your normal consultation fee for the first visit which usually takes about 45-60 minutes and then at least one and a half times the normal consultation for a follow up treatment which usually takes 30-45 minutes. However this is just a guide and you need to be able to justify the fees you set.

I am a licensed Veterinary Physiotherapist, can I enrol?

No, the course is only open to qualified veterinarians with a minimum of two years clinical experience, as there is an expected level of anatomy and veterinary medical knowledge required to undertake the course.

How much of the course is Equine related?

Approximately 1/3 of the course is TCM theory, for the remainder, horses make up approximately 50% of the clinical aspects and of the practical sessions in second and third workshops.

I am not currently working, can I cope with course and case load?

Yes, if you have access to clinical cases. You will need at least 10 cases to do the case log and the detailed case reports can be two of those cases.

What cases do I need to do for the course?

You will need 3 cases in the first term to make a Traditional Chinese Medical Diagnosis and then in the second and third term you will be required to provide case logs for 10 cases and 2 case reports. This would be the minimum number of cases you need to treat and record.

I am really only interested in the horse part as I have specialised in equine reproduction. Is there any course or option to only do horses?

It is a requirement of the IVAS Course for certification that all the lectures and practical sessions are attended and these include both dog and horses. Unfortunately there is no option to do only horses or only small animals. Learning about dogs and horses broadens the student's scope for treating other species.

What cases can acupuncture treat?

Because Acupuncture stimulates the body to heal itself it is possible to treat all the systems of the body. It is particularly effective for musculoskeletal conditions, neurological disorders, back pain, IVDD, gastrointestinal disorders and reproduction.

How long does an acupuncture consultation take?

For the initial consultation allow 45 – 60 minutes, for follow up consultations allow 30 minutes.

Why do you need the course qualification to practise acupuncture in the clinic?

Acupuncture is based on a completely different system of medicine to the normal veterinary medicine. It is important to understand the Traditional Chinese Medicine system to be able to apply it effectively in practice.

Can you combine acupuncture with western medications?

Acupuncture can be combined with western medicines. Corticosteroids are the only drugs that are known to reduce the effect of acupuncture and therefore the patient may need extra treatments and take longer to recover.

Can acupuncture be applied to any animal species?

You can treat any animal that has a nervous system with acupuncture.

Administration

How do I get to Marcus Oldham College (MOC)?

See also www.marcusoldhamcollege.gov.vic.edu

FLYING

- There are two airports Melbourne (Tullamarine) and Melbourne (Avalon)
- The closest airport to MOC is Melbourne (Avalon). From Avalon there is an airport bus that will take you directly to MOC.
- If you are flying into Melbourne (Tullamarine), the Gull Airport Bus will take you to Geelong City (cost \$35.00 one way) and then you will need to take a taxi to MOC (cost approximately \$30.00).

DRIVING

- If you are driving from Melbourne take the Geelong By-pass Road. Turn off the freeway at the A10 exit signposted to Grovedale and Waurn Ponds. This freeway exit ends at the traffic lights. Turn right here and turn right again at the next set of traffic lights back under the freeway into Pigdons Road, there is a sign here to MOC and Deakin University. Drive up Pigdons Road for 1.4 kms and take the service road turn to the left at the school crossing. At the end of the service road turn left through the gate, drive through Christian College over a grid and follow the road left which brings you past the office, continue to the top of the hill to the residential car park and dining area and the main entrance to MOC.

How long does this trip take?

Driving from Avalon Airport to MOC – 45 minutes

Driving from Tullamarine Airport to Geelong by Gull Airport Bus - 75 minutes.

Geelong City to MOC by taxi - 20 mins.

Driving from Melbourne to MOC via freeway – 60 minutes

Driving from Tullamarine to MOC via the Geelong By-pass or ring road – 90 minutes

Accommodation

We recommend that you stay at MOC. This will be arranged by the Course Administrator about a month prior to the workshops. It has very comfortable student type accommodation with all meals included. It is reasonably priced at around \$125.00 per day for full board (3 meals and morning and afternoon teas). The lecture theatres and practical sessions are within a few minutes' walk. This is a great time to meet the other students, make new friends and share ideas.

Are lectures held at a regular time each week?

Depending on the majority's preference, the lectures will be held on a Monday or Tuesday night from 7 - 9 pm (AEST). You will be given instructions on how to log onto the course conference centre. You will need a computer with a good broadband internet connection and a comfortable set of headphones, a microphone and a quiet place while 'attending' the lectures.

What pre-requisites are needed to enrol in course?

2 years or more as practicing veterinarian.

What information do I need to provide on enrolment?

Enrolment form, Vet Registration, Vet Degree, Passport photo, evidence of practice for at least 2 years.

Is the place holding fee of AUD\$1,100 included in the full fee figure?

Yes.

Is the place holding fee of AUD\$1,100 refundable?

No.

Can I pay the fees by credit card?

Yes, contact the Course Administrator or you can pay by direct bank deposit or by cheque.

PLEASE KEEP WATCHING OUR WEB PAGE www.vetacupcollege.com.au

EMAIL contact@vetacupcollege.com.au