

Title

The role of the Research Development Officer in promoting international collaborations: case studies from The Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom

Abstract

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC), part of the University of London, is a research-intensive specialist institution that undertakes basic biological and biomedical research, and applied veterinary pre-clinical and clinical research. The RVC aims to provide innovation and leadership in veterinary science and medicine, and pioneering clinical activity in support of the global 'One Health' agenda.

Research and teaching conducted by the RVC leads to a range of impacts, e.g. health and welfare advances with both veterinary and medical applications; social impact through public engagement; and developments in government policies and professional clinical practices. With growing global interest in such topics as bio-inspired robotics, combatting antimicrobial resistance and ameliorating the damage caused by intensive farming practices, the RVC desires to collaborate in areas of core strength with other leading players in the life sciences. To inform its next steps, the College has undertaken a critical review of its specialisms and how these might be enhanced through partnership with other organisations in the public and private sector, both in the UK and internationally.

In this session, I will outline the RVC's current approach to identifying potential international partners. I will offer case studies related to the College's strategic partnering efforts since 2016, including work in progress that is intended to connect the College with leading institutions in Singapore. The discussion will focus on the 'nurturing' role of Research Development staff, working alongside academics to build partnerships in areas of mutual scientific strength, and with significant potential for innovation.

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