

A new global postgraduate course in Poultry Health Sciences: e-learning supported with onsite practical training

Antonissen Gunther^{1,2}, De Gussem Maarten³, Croubels Siska², Van Immerseel Filip¹

¹Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Avian Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium

²Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium

³Vetworks, Poeke, Belgium

Advanced training courses and workshops enable employees of veterinary practices, pharmaceutical companies, animal feed and animal feed additive companies, research institutes and universities to further develop their expertise in poultry health sciences and subsequently improve their career prospects in the poultry sector. However, most short technical trainings are limited in time and focus only on the newest trends in poultry health issues. Therefore, this postgraduate course was developed by the chair of Poultry Health Sciences to offer an in-depth educational program to educate fundamental and applied knowledge, to bridge the gap between research and field expertise. This new postgraduate in Poultry Health Sciences of Ghent University is a three years program offered as an online course supported with in total 5 weeks of onsite practical training and 2 weeks of externship. By combining this online course with short periods of onsite practical trainings, students will be able to acquire both in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge. In the first year (10 ECTS credits), students will learn basic avian sciences: embryology, anatomy, physiology, immunology, breeding & genetics; poultry production, management, husbandry and biosecurity, and gut health & nutrition. In the second year (10 ECTS credits), students will acquire knowledge and skills in the field of diseases of poultry, treatment and prevention, and scientific methods & reasoning. In the last year (10 ECTS credits), students will gain important knowledge and skills in the field of poultry behaviour & welfare, and food safety. Finally, during an externship the student will be able to apply his/her acquired knowledge in practice. This postgraduate course is designed to suit those in continuing employment or with other commitments. Courses are organized as instructor-led and facilitated e-learning in the period October – April. Students will be able to study and review course materials during their own time. Practical exercises are offered at a set time in enterprises in situ though, within periods of one week once or twice per academic year (AY). The programme in Europe and Asia will start in AY 2021-2022, with onsite practical exercises in Belgium and alternately in Thailand and the Philippines, respectively. In the AY 2022-2023, the programme will start in Latin America, with onsite practical exercises in Brazil. Finally, in the AY 2023-2023 the programme will start in Middle-East / North Africa with onsite practical exercises alternately in Jordan and Tunisia.

 **FACULTEIT
DIERGENEESKUNDE**
accredited by EAEVE



**POSTGRADUATE
POULTRY
HEALTH SCIENCES**

vetworks

**poul
pharm**