



European Master of Small Animal Veterinary Medicine Surgery

Introduction

The EMSAVM combines **residential courses** with hands-on training in wet labs and practicals as well as distance learning between the courses. While at home, students keep a **case log** and write **case reports** as well as a **Master thesis**.

The Master diploma represents a University degree. It testifies that a veterinarian has acquired an advanced level of competence in specific discipline. This is neither a specialist diploma, nor a licence for a certain type of professional activity.

Content

The European Master's Program in Small Animal Veterinary Medicine / Surgery includes:

Courses: EMSAVM - Surgery students take a series of one-week ESAVS residential courses **in both soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery**. The time schedule, learning objectives and contents of the courses are described on the ESAVS website.

Clinical work: The program allows students to study from their practice. It is expected that they gradually apply the skills they acquire in the residential courses to their daily work at home.

Written work: To support the above objective students are assigned specific tasks to be completed at home. This includes a case log, a series of case reports and a master thesis.

Examinations: in order to obtain credit for the course work, students have to take and pass an examination for each course. In addition, a passing grade has to be collected for all written work, which is evaluated and graded by the examination committee. The passing grade has been established at 50% of the maximal possible points. Successful completion of course work, clinical work and written tasks leads to the acquisition of credits called "**ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points**".

The Program

According to the general organization of all teaching at the University of Luxembourg, the master program is divided in 6 Modules:

The master program in small animal surgery contains both specialities (soft tissue and orthopaedics). It can be divided in several modules:



Modules I and II: Courses (40 ECTS points)

Module I: Residential ESAVS courses in the Major subjects cumulating a minimum of 30, a maximum of 40 ECTS points:

A minimum of 6 weeks of residential courses have to be taken, cumulating courses in Soft Tissue and Orthopædic surgery. In total:

- 10 to 20 ECTS points have to be obtained in Soft Tissue Surgery (corresponding to 2 to 4 weeks of residential courses)
- 10 to 20 ECTS points have to be obtained in Orthopaedics (corresponding to 2 to 4 Weeks of residential courses)

Module II: Residential ESAVS courses or affiliated courses in Minor subjects cumulating a minimum of 0, a maximum of 10 ECTS points:

The following minor subjects can be validated as minors (list subject to changes):

- Emergency and Critical Care
- Anaesthesiology
- Radiology
- Endoscopy
- Feline Medicine – Orthopaedics
- Neurosurgery
- Oncology
- Oral Surgery
- Other course work accumulated from instruction taken outside of the University of Luxembourg (A/O courses, mini-invasive surgery courses...) after approval by the committee

Module III: Case log (10 ECTS points)

Case log of 200 well-documented cases in small animal surgery

It is expected that the cases are compiled during the second half of the program.

Detailed instructions regarding the case spread and a **template** for the case log will be provided after enrolment.

Each case inserted in the case log must be supported by **detailed documentation**, a sample of which can be requested by the evaluator of the case log to be immediately delivered in electronic form.

The case log shall be submitted in two batches (100 cases each). Each batch is evaluated and graded by the examination board. A passing grade has to be obtained.



Module IV: Case reports (20 ECTS points)

Detailed case reports shall comprise an equal number of soft tissue (5) and orthopaedic (5) cases and shall address state of the art treatments of surgical diseases. The following topics are recommended:

- Difficult intra-abdominal disease (peritonitis, gallbladder and liver diseases, adrenal or pancreas diseases)
- Oncologic disease with adjuvant therapies
- Reconstructive surgery cases
- Advanced lameness diagnosis
- Advanced intra-articular treatments
- Advanced fracture treatments

Each case report is evaluated and graded by the examination board. A passing grade has to be obtained.

Two of the cases should be recorded on video whenever possible.

Module V: Practical work and experience (20 ECTS points)

It is expected that candidates will continuously and progressively apply the skills they have acquired in the Master program in their daily practice or in their university clinic, in this way supporting and reinforcing the learning process. For this effort applicants will be awarded a total of 20 ECTS points for the years they are enrolled in the program. This part of the program is not examined.

Module VI: Master thesis (30 ECTS points)

The thesis may consist of a prospective ethically-approved study, of an analytical retrospective study or of an experimental study relating to surgery. An in depth literature review on a chosen subject, based on current literature standards, is also acceptable.

The Master thesis shall be written on a topic decided upon with the Master thesis tutor or the EMSAVM program director. A peer-reviewed publication of original research work with the candidate as a first author and produced during the enrolment in the Master program may also be accepted as a Master thesis, upon approval of the program director.

The thesis is evaluated and graded by the examination board. A passing grade has to be obtained.



Examinations

An exam must be passed for each course. The examinations are conducted at and by the University of Luxembourg (UL). These exams can be taken at any of the bi-annual examination dates offered at the UL during enrolment in the program.

The exams can be spread over several examination dates or taken together at one single date. The exams consist of multiple choice questions examination of appropriate clinical cases or pictures related to the subject(s) covered in that course. A passing grade of 50 % has to be obtained.

Duration of the program

The minimum time requirement for the Master program is 3 years for candidates who are employed full-time. For candidates who are employed part-time (minimum 20h / week) the minimum time requirement is 4 years.

Generally the program is spread out over 4 years, the maximum time may not exceed 5 years (10 semesters). An applicant can enter the program immediately after graduating from veterinary school but the Master degree can only be obtained when the applicant has been practicing small animal veterinary medicine for at least 4 years since obtaining her/his veterinary degree.

Admission, registration, fees

Please consult the ESAVS website: www.esavs-master.org