

## Abstract for AMEE 2011

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Abstract Title: Graduate Attributes: Views from the Coal-Face  
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Abstract: **Background**  
Aim: To establish the attributes which recent veterinary graduates consider ease the transition from the undergraduate student environment to working as a member of the profession. These views were compared to those of final year students.

**Summary of work**  
Three veterinary schools in the UK were involved in the study. Respondents rated 42 individual attributes on a 5 point Likert scale. Focus groups and interviews were conducted to explore the quantitative results further.

**Summary of results**  
There was a high level of agreement between the cohorts with communication skills, problem solving and decision making skills, recognition of own limitations and the ability to cope with pressure all unanimously rated as important or very important. Business acumen, knowledge of veterinary practice management and research skills were the 3 attributes ranked at the bottom of the list. Nine attributes were ranked significantly differently ( $p < 0.05$ ) by the two cohorts.

**Conclusions**  
Recent graduates and final year students rate highly the attributes which help foster the client/vet relationship. Graduates identify that a focus on academic attributes is less important once in practice when compared to final year.

**Take-home message**  
This study confirms the importance to recent graduates and final year students of non-academic attributes in the transition to working in the veterinary profession.

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