



UNIVERSITÀ
DI PADOVA

UNISVET

SECOND LEVEL UNIVERSITY MASTER

OV

Veterinary Oncology

Programme structure

The Master is structured as a progressive clinical pathway, moving from foundational oncology principles and diagnostic reasoning to treatment planning, tumour-specific management, practical procedures and final integrated decision-making. Teaching combines live lectures, practical workshops, interactive case discussions and small-group clinical case sessions. The revised structure includes seven teaching weeks.

Programme at a glance

Week	Dates	Mode / venue	Weekly title
Week 1	23-26 November 2026	Online Virtual classroom	Foundations of Clinical Oncology: From Cancer Biology to First Clinical Decisions
Week 2	25-29 January 2027	In person Padua	Diagnostic Oncology in Practice: Examination, Sampling, Cytology, Histology and Staging
Week 3	12-15 April 2027	Online Virtual classroom	Medical Oncology and Decision-Making: From Treatment Options to Safe Protocol Planning
Week 4	28 June-2 July 2027	Online Virtual classroom	Haematologic, Round Cell and Thoracic Oncology
Week 5	22-26 November 2027	In person Milan	Surgical Oncology, Chemotherapy Practice and Local Treatment Techniques
Week 6	3-6 April 2028	Online Virtual classroom	Integrated Organ-System and Complex Tumour Oncology
Week 7	12-15 June 2028	In person Padua	Endocrine Oncology, Final Consolidation and Final Test

Week 1

Foundations of Clinical Oncology: From Cancer Biology to First Clinical Decisions

Dates	23-26 November 2026
Delivery format and location	Online - Virtual classroom
Teaching modalities	Live online lectures, interactive polls, diagnostic decision exercises and guided case discussions.

Overall objective:

Build a common clinical language for the Master, from tumour biology and staging to first clinical decisions, communication and evidence-based reasoning.

DAY 1 - Biology, Metastasis, Immune System & EBM

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00-09:45	What is Cancer: Basic Biology	- Understand cellular transformation and tumour development. - Recognise hallmarks of cancer relevant to veterinary species.
09:45-10:30	Mechanisms of Metastasis	- Identify major metastatic pathways. - Understand clinical implications of metastatic spread.
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:45	The Immune System: A Refresher for Oncologists	- Review immune system structure relevant to oncology. - Understand interactions between immune cells and tumours.
11:45-12:30	Immune System & Cancer: Allies or Enemies?	- Recognise immune escape mechanisms. - Understand how immunity influences cancer progression.
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:15	Concepts of Evidence-Based Medicine	- Understand hierarchy of evidence. - Develop skills in assessing study design and data validity.
14:15-15:00	Critical Appraisal of Veterinary Literature	- Learn to analyse papers critically. - Identify common biases and limitations in veterinary oncology studies.
15:00-15:30	Break	
15:30-16:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Evaluating Oncology Papers	- Apply critical appraisal principles to selected papers. - Discuss study limitations in small groups. - Translate evidence into clinical reasoning.

DAY 2 - Staging & Imaging Foundations

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00-09:45	WHO-TNM Staging Systems	- Understand staging frameworks. - Apply TNM concepts to common veterinary cancers.
09:45-10:30	Thoracic Radiographs in Oncology	- Recognise radiographic patterns associated with thoracic neoplasia. - Interpret staging radiographs in oncology patients.
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-11:45	Abdominal Ultrasound & US-Guided Sampling	- Understand ultrasound anatomy for oncology cases. - Identify when US-guided sampling improves diagnostic yield.
11:45-12:30	CT Scan Principles & Radiologist- Oncologist Interaction	- Learn CT basics for tumour detection and staging. - Improve communication between oncologist and radiologist.
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:15	PET-CT: Indications and Limitations	- Understand metabolic imaging principles. - Recognise when PET-CT adds diagnostic value.
14:15-15:00	Clinical case scenarios	- Integrate imaging and staging data. - Develop structured diagnostic reasoning.
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	Breakout Room Exercise: interpret real cases	- Apply staging principles to clinical cases. - Select appropriate imaging and diagnostic tests. - Discuss staging limitations and next steps.

DAY 3 - Genomics, Immunotherapy & Advanced Therapies

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00-09:45	Introduction to OMICS	- Understand what 'omics' means. - Recognise clinical relevance of omics in veterinary oncology. - Understand limitations of omics, including cost, availability and interpretation.
09:45-10:30	Decoding Tumour Complexity: Molecular Signatures and Diagnostic Applications	- Understand how molecular tumour signatures support diagnosis and guide clinical decisions.
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:45	Introduction to Veterinary Immunotherapy: Concepts and Definitions	- Understand what immunotherapy means in veterinary medicine. - Distinguish main types of immunotherapy: vaccines, antibodies and cell therapies. - Understand basic activation and tumour-killing concepts.
11:45-12:30	How the Immune System Sees Cancer: Checkpoints & Immune Escape	- Understand what immune checkpoints are, including PD-1, PD-L1 and CTLA-4. - Recognise why some tumours hide from immune detection. - Understand conceptually how checkpoint inhibitors work.
12:30-13:30	Break	
13:30-14:15	Immunotherapy in Clinical Practice: What We Can Use Today	- Review current immunotherapy options for dogs and cats. - Understand realistic clinical indications.
14:15-15:00	The Future of Immunotherapy in Veterinary Medicine	- Gain basic understanding of next-generation therapies, including CAR-T and engineered T cells.

DAY 4 - Communication, Emotional Fatigue & Hospice

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00-09:45	Delivering Difficult News: Advanced Methods	- Apply SPIKES/BREAKS frameworks. - Conduct structured and compassionate difficult conversations.
09:45-10:30	Managing Owner Emotions: Anxiety, Denial, Anger & Grief	- Recognise behavioural reactions under emotional stress. - Use de-escalation and emotional containment strategies.
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:45	Supporting Animals & Caregivers with End-of-Life Care	- Support owners ethically through end-of-life decisions. - Communicate respectfully around grief, loss and memorialisation.
11:45-12:30	Needs of Patients Entering Palliative Care	- Evaluate pain and discomfort. - Understand home adaptations and therapies.
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:15	Emotional Fatigue, Moral Stress & Burnout	- Identify signs of burnout. - Develop resilience strategies.
14:15-15:00	Communication Workshops	- Practice structured consultations with feedback. - Refine tone, clarity and emotional regulation.
15:00-15:30	Break	
15:30-16:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Simulated Oncology Consultations	- Practise difficult conversations in small groups. - Apply communication frameworks to realistic scenarios. - Reflect on emotional impact and professional boundaries.

Week 2

Diagnostic Oncology in Practice: Examination, Sampling, Cytology, Histology and Staging

Dates	25-29 January 2027
Delivery format and location	In person - Padua
Teaching modalities	Face-to-face lectures, practical sampling sessions, image-based exercises, small-group work and clinical case discussions.

Overall objectives:

Translate the first suspicion of cancer into rational sampling, cytology, haematology, pathology and diagnostic prioritisation.

DAY 1

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–10:00	Introduction to Cytology & Sampling Techniques	- Understand principles of cytological sampling. - Recognise technique-dependent artefacts.
10:00–11:00	Inflammatory vs Neoplastic Cytology	- Differentiate inflammation from neoplasia. - Identify common cytological patterns.
11:00–11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15–12:15	Approach to slide examination and reporting	- Assess the slide quality.
12:15–13:00	Working group report writing exercise	
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–16:00	Microscopy Practical Session I	- Smearing and staining your slides. - Interpret basic inflammatory vs neoplastic patterns.

DAY 2

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–10:00	Cutaneous & Subcutaneous Masses I	- Identify normal lymphoid structure. - Distinguish reactive hyperplasia from lymphoma.
10:00–11:00	Cutaneous & Subcutaneous Masses II	- Recognise cytological features of lymphoma. - Differentiate high vs low grade patterns.
11:00–11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15–12:15	Lymph Node Cytology: Normal & Reactive	- Recognise cytological features of common epithelial and mesenchymal tumours.
12:15–13:00	Lymphoma Cytology (Dog & Cat)	- Identify round cells tumours.
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–16:00	Microscopy Practical Session II	- Interpret lymphoid and round cell samples.

DAY 3

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–10:00	Bone Marrow Cytology: Clinical Applications and Systematic Evaluation	- Recognise benign vs malignant patterns. - Understand limitations of organ FNAs.
10:00–11:00	Bone Marrow Interpretation: Normal and Pathologic Findings	- Differentiate transudate, exudate and neoplastic effusions.
11:00–11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15–12:15	Submitting Samples to the Pathologist	
12:15–13:00	Integrating Cytology and Histopathology in Diagnostic Oncology	
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–16:00	Microscopy Practical Session III	- Analyse organ-specific cytology. - Integrate cytology with staging findings.

DAY 4

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–10:00	Cytology of Liver & Spleen	- Recognise benign vs malignant patterns. - Understand limitations of organ FNAs.
10:00–11:00	Effusions: Cytologic Patterns	- Differentiate transudate, exudate and neoplastic effusions.
11:00–11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15–12:15	Integrated Cytologic Diagnostics: Immunocytochemistry, Flow Cytometry and Molecular Assays	
12:15–13:00	How to use AI tools for diagnostic and interpretation	
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–16:00	Microscopy Practical Session IV	- Analyse organ-specific cytology. - Integrate cytology with staging findings.

Week 3

Medical Oncology and Decision-Making: From Treatment Options to Safe Protocol Planning

Dates	12-15 April 2027
Delivery format and location	Online - Virtual classroom
Teaching modalities	Live online lectures, protocol-based exercises, toxicity/CBC interpretation workshops and structured case discussions.

Overall objectives:

Develop a practical framework for safe protocol planning, toxicity management, monitoring and treatment decision-making.

DAY 1 - Foundations of Chemotherapy & Clinical Application

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Principles of Chemotherapy: How, When & Why	- Understand indications and mechanisms of chemotherapy. - Recognise treatment goals in oncology.
09:45–10:30	Chemosafety and European Regulations	- Apply safe handling principles. - Understand current European safety recommendations.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Chemotherapy Delivery: Administration & Dosing	- Perform dose adjustments. - Apply BSA and dose capping.
11:45–12:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Calculating Chemotherapy Doses	- Apply dose calculations to clinical scenarios. - Discuss common dosing errors.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Vinca Alkaloids & Enzymes	- Understand mechanisms of action. - Recognise common toxicities.
14:15–15:00	Anthracyclines & Anti-Tumoural Antibiotics	- Recognise cardiotoxicity. - Apply cumulative dose limits.
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30–16:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Chemotherapy Clinical Cases	- Apply chemotherapy principles to clinical cases. - Justify treatment decisions.

DAY 2 - Pharmacology of Antineoplastic Drugs

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Platinum Compounds	- Understand indications and renal toxicities. - Recognise monitoring requirements.
09:45–10:30	Antimetabolites & Alkylating Agents	- Understand mechanisms of action. - Recognise common toxicities.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Steroids & NSAIDs in Oncology	- Understand the role of steroids in oncology. - Recognise common side effects.
11:45–12:30	Metronomic Chemotherapy	- Understand principles of metronomic therapy. - Recognise indications and limitations.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Tyrosine-Kinase Inhibitors & Related Toxicities	- Understand mechanisms of TKIs. - Recognise common toxicities and monitoring needs.
14:15–15:00	Bisphosphonates	- Understand indications for bisphosphonates. - Recognise benefits and adverse effects.
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30–16:15	Monoclonal Antibodies & Novel Therapies	- Understand principles of targeted therapies. - Recognise future applications in veterinary oncology.

DAY 3 - Adverse Events, Monitoring & Supportive Care

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Chemotherapy: General Acute Adverse Events	- Recognise acute chemotherapy toxicities. - Understand emergency management principles.
09:45–10:30	Chemotherapy: General Chronic Adverse Events	- Identify chronic adverse effects of chemotherapy. - Develop monitoring strategies.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Supporting Drugs for Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy	- Understand supportive care strategies. - Improve patient comfort and safety.
11:45–12:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Managing Chemotherapy Toxicities	- Discuss management of chemotherapy toxicities. - Apply clinical reasoning to adverse event scenarios.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	When to Change, Stop or Escalate Therapy	- Recognise treatment failure. - Make rational escalation decisions.
14:15–15:30	Breakout Room Exercise: Monitoring Response to Therapy	- Evaluate response criteria. - Identify progression versus stable disease.

DAY 4 - Histology, Grading & Clinical Decision-Making

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09.00 - 09.45	Histology: basic principles	
09.45 - 10.30	Proliferation markers: what's for?	- Understand grading systems in common tumours. - Recognise prognostic implications.
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 11.45	Why do we care about grading?	- Critically evaluate treatment modifications based on tumour grade.
11.45 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.30	Evaluation of margins from an oncopathologist point of view	
15.30-16.15	A clinical case and interactive discussion	

Week 4

Haematologic, Round Cell and Thoracic Oncology

Dates	28 June-2 July 2027
Delivery format and location	Online - Virtual classroom
Teaching modalities	Live online lectures, tumour-specific case discussions and daily clinical case breakout rooms.

Overall objective:

Consolidate lymphoma/leukaemia, mast cell tumours, other round cell tumours, emergencies and thoracic/respiratory presentations.

DAY 1 - Lymphoma & Leukemia

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Canine Lymphoma and Leukemia Classifications	- Understand key concepts.
09:45–10:30	Feline Lymphoma and Leukemia Classifications	- Recognise clinical applications.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Diagnosis of lymphoma: ancillary test and new perspectives	- Integrate diagnostics and treatment planning.
11:45–12:30	Lymphoma Staging and controversies	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Treatment of lymphoma	
14:15–15:00	Case-Based Oncology Discussions	- Recognise limitations and complications.
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30–16:15	Clinical Cases Breakout Rooms: Lymphoma	- Discuss clinical cases in small groups.

DAY 2 - Mast Cell Tumours

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	MCT Prognostic Factors	- Understand key concepts.
09:45–10:30	MCT Biology & Staging	- Recognise clinical applications.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Therapeutic Options for MCT	
11:45–12:30	Feline MCT	- Integrate diagnostics and treatment planning.
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00–15:00	Case-Based Oncology Discussions	- Discuss real oncology cases.
15:00–16:00	Clinical Cases Breakout Rooms: Mast Cell Tumours	- Discuss clinical cases in small groups.

DAY 3 - Round Cell Tumours & Radiation Therapy

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Plasma Cell Tumours	- Understand key concepts.
09:45–10:30	Histiocytic Disorders	- Recognise clinical applications.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Acute and Chronic leukemias	- Apply concepts to oncology patients.
11:45–12:30	Radiation Therapy Principles	- Integrate diagnostics and treatment planning.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	How to choose the best RT protocol for a patient - considerations and practical examples	- Discuss real oncology cases.
14:15–15:30	Clinical Cases Breakout Rooms	- Recognise limitations and complications.

DAY 4 - Emergencies & Respiratory System

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Emergencies in oncology: hypercalcemia, hypoglycemia , haemoabdomen, haemothorax	- Understand key concepts.
09:45–10:30	Canine visceral haemangiosarcomas: presentation, biology and treatment	- Recognise clinical applications.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	- Break
11:00–11:45	Mediastinal masses: diagnostic and therapeutical algorithm	- Apply concepts to oncology patients.
11:45–12:30	Pulmonary primary tumours: classification and biology	- Integrate diagnostics and treatment planning.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	- Break
13:30–14:15	Intranasal tumours: presentation and treatment	- Discuss real oncology cases.
14:15–15:30	Clinical Cases Breakout Rooms: Emergencies	- Recognise limitations and complications.

Week 5

Surgical Oncology, Chemotherapy Practice and Local Treatment Techniques

Dates	22-26 November 2027
Delivery format and location	In person - Milan
Teaching modalities	Face-to-face lectures, wet-lab/practical stations, safety demonstrations, protocol exercises and daily clinical case group sessions.

Overall objective:

Strengthen the practical bridge between medical and surgical oncology, with procedure planning, safe chemotherapy workflow and local treatment decision-making.

DAY 1 - Surgical Oncology Foundations and Biopsy Practice

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Principles of Surgical Oncology	- Margins, compartmental surgery, surgical intent and avoiding tumour seeding.
09:45–10:30	Definition of surgical margins: concepts of proportional margins and impact of grading	- Planning resections around tumour type, location, grade and expected adjuvant therapy.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Biopsy Techniques: Punch, Core, Incisional and Excisional	- Choosing the right biopsy technique without compromising definitive surgery.
11:45–12:30	Specimen Orientation, Labelling and Communication with the Pathologist	- Margins, orientation, submission forms and useful clinical information.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14.15	Intraoperative margins identification: where are we and where can we go?	
14.15–15.00	A clinical case and open discussion about sentinel lymph nodes in veterinary oncology	
15:00–17.00	Wet Lab: Biopsy Techniques, Closure and Sample Handling	- Practice biopsy techniques, closure principles and sample orientation on models.

DAY 2 - Lymph Nodes, Sentinel Mapping and Basic Reconstruction

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Lymph Node Surgery: Indications and Technique	- When to remove lymph nodes and how to plan safe dissection.
09:45–10:30	Sentinel Lymph Node Mapping	- Sentinel node theory, indications and common pitfalls.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	ICG, Lymphangiography and Practical Mapping Strategies	- Injection principles, fluorescence interpretation and clinical workflow.
11:45–12:30	Basic Flaps and Reconstruction in Surgical Oncology	- Advancement, rotation and tension-relief strategies after tumour excision.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–16.30	Wet Lab: Lymph Node Removal	- Lymph node identification/removal and basic flap design/closure.

DAY 3 - Sarcomas: biology and surgery techniques

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Soft Tissue Sarcomas: Classification, Biology and Clinical Behaviour	
09:45–10:30	Pathologist’s View: Histological Subtypes and Grading	
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Surgical Planning: From Map to Margins	
11:45–12:30	Other therapeutical options: chemotherapy and RT	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–16:30	Wet Lab: flaps and reconstructive surgery	

DAY 4 - Chemotherapy Treatment Day and Protocol Application

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Chemotherapy Treatment Day: Patient, Team and Room Preparation	- Patient checks, environment, documentation and team roles.
09:45–10:30	Venous Access for Chemotherapy: Catheter Placement and Securing	- Safe IV access and extravasation risk reduction.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Closed-System Transfer Devices: Principles and Workflow	- How closed systems reduce exposure and contamination.
11:45–12:30	Extravasation Prevention and Emergency Management	- Risk factors, first actions, escalation and owner/team communication.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–15:00	Practical Stations: Catheter Set-Up, CSTD Simulation and Line Management	- Students practise administration workflow using mock materials.
15:00–16:30	Clinical Cases Group Session: Chemotherapy Protocols in Practice	- Dose modifications, monitoring plans, CBC decisions and toxicity management.

DAY 5 - Electrochemotherapy and Integrated Local Therapy Planning

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Principles of Electrochemotherapy: How It Works	- Electroporation biology, drug selection and expected tumour response.
09:45–10:30	Patient and Tumour Selection for ECT	- Indications, contraindications and tumour/site suitability.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Electrode Selection and Procedure Planning	- Choosing electrodes, treatment fields, margins and workflow.
11:45–12:30	ECT Protocol, Safety and Peri-Procedural Management	- Protocol steps, safety precautions, analgesia and post-procedure care.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–16.30	Practical Workshop: ECT Planning and Electrode Handling	- Students plan fields and practise electrode handling on models.

Week 6

Integrated Organ-System and Complex Tumour Oncology

Dates	3-6 April 2028 TBC
Delivery format and location	Online - Virtual classroom
Teaching modalities	Live online lectures, organ-system algorithms, multidisciplinary case discussions, image-based interpretation and daily 1.5-hour clinical case group sessions.

Overall objective:

Integrate organ-system and complex tumour content into one coherent online block, prioritising diagnostics, staging, local control, systemic options, referral decisions and owner communication.

DAY 1 - Mammary, Reproductive, Urinary and Prostate Oncology

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Utility and Controversies of Spaying in Veterinary Oncology	- Clinical relevance of neutering decisions and cancer-risk discussions.
09:45–10:30	Tumours of the Male and Female Reproductive System	- Presentation, diagnostic approach and treatment options.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Canine Mammary Tumours	- Biology, staging, prognostic factors and treatment planning.
11:45–12:30	Feline Mammary Tumours and Mammary Tumour Pathology	- Species differences, histology/IHC prognostic factors and treatment implications.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Tumours of the Urinary Tract and Prostate: Presentation and Treatment Options	- Clinical presentation, diagnosis, staging and medical options.
14:15–15:00	Surgery, Radiation and Interventional Options for Urogenital Tumours	- Cystectomy/prostate approaches, RT options, stents, obstruction management and case selection.
15:00–16:30	Clinical Cases Group Session: Mammary, Reproductive and Urogenital Oncology	- Groups build diagnostic, staging, treatment and communication plans.

DAY 2 - Gastrointestinal, Hepatic, Ophthalmic, Perianal and AGASACA Oncology

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Canine Gastrointestinal Tumours	- Clinical signs, diagnostics, staging and treatment options.
09:45–10:30	Liver Tumours: Surgical Techniques and Decision-Making	- Resectability, surgical approaches and perioperative concerns.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Surgical Techniques for Gastric, Small and Large Intestinal Neoplasia	- Indications, margins, complications and differences between gastric, small and large intestinal disease.
11:45–12:30	Microbiome, Microbiota, Nutrition, Cachexia and Supportive Care	- How nutrition, microbiota and supportive care influence quality of life in abdominal oncology.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Basic Ophthalmic Examination for the Oncology Patient and Ocular Tumours	- Core examination steps, red flags, staging priorities and referral decisions.
14:15–15:00	Perianal Tumours and AGASACA: Local and systemic options	- Distinguish tumour types, plan surgery and consider abdominal/AGASACA radiation options.
15:00–16:30	Clinical Cases Group Session: GI, Hepatic, Ocular, Perianal and AGASACA Cases	- Groups integrate imaging, surgery, oncology, nutrition and follow-up plans.

DAY 3 - Oral & Bone Tumours

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Canine Oral Melanoma: Biology, Staging and Prognosis	- Biology, clinical behaviour, staging priorities and prognostic factors.
09:45–10:30	Canine and Feline Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma	- Species differences, local behaviour and treatment implications.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Oral Tumour Radiation Therapy	- Imaging choices, biopsy routes, nodal assessment and RT indications.
11:45–12:30	Systemic, Immunotherapy and Novel Approaches for Oral Melanoma	- Systemic options, immunotherapy concepts and realistic expectations.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
14:15–15:00	Bone Tumour Imaging	- Clinical presentation, radiographic patterns, staging and therapy
15:00–16:30	Osteosarcoma and chondrosarcoma	

DAY 4 - Histiocytic Diseases, Neuro-Oncology and Cardio-Thoracic Oncology

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Canine and Feline Histiocytic Diseases	- Spectrum of disease, diagnostic work-up, species differences and treatment principles.
09:45–10:30	Tumours of the Nervous System and management of clinical symptoms	- Emergency/chronic seizure management, clinical presentation and diagnostic priorities.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Radiation Therapy for Brain Tumours	- Indications, goals, limitations, IMRT/SRT and expected outcomes.
11:45–12:30	Spinal Cord Tumours and Surgery of Nervous System Tumours	- Presentation, imaging, surgical indications and integration with RT.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Cardiology Refresher, Arrhythmias and Systolic Dysfunction in Oncology Patients	- Core cardiology tools and cardiac risk management before and during cancer therapy.
14:15–15:00	Cardiac Haemangiosarcoma & Chemodectoma	
15:00–16:30	Clinical Cases Group Session: Cardio-Thoracic Oncology	- Groups integrate neurological, cardiac, mediastinal and pulmonary tumour cases.

Week 7

Endocrine Oncology, Final Consolidation and Final Test

Dates	12-15 June 2028 TBC
Delivery format and location	In person - Padua
Teaching modalities	Face-to-face lectures, test-interpretation workshops, integrated endocrine case discussions, tumour board-style exercises and final assessment.

Overall objective:

Focus on endocrine tumours, endocrine testing, functional syndromes and final integrated case-based assessment.

DAY 1 - Adrenal tumours

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	How to Approach an Endocrine Oncology Case	- Functional versus non-functional tumours, red flags and diagnostic sequencing.
09:45–10:30	Adrenal Masses and Adrenal Incidentalomas	- Which adrenal masses need endocrine testing, staging and surgical referral.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Testing for Cushing Syndrome	- When to choose each test, interpretation and common pitfalls.
11:45–12:30	Adrenal Cortical Tumours: Presentation, Biology and Treatment Options	- How endocrine testing and imaging guide treatment selection.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Adrenalectomy Planning and Surgical Decision-Making	- Risk assessment for hypertension, thrombosis, electrolyte disorders and systemic illness.
14:15–15:00	Practical Interpretation Workshop: Endocrine Test Results	- Students interpret endocrine panels and decide next diagnostic steps.
15:00–16:30	Clinical Cases Group Session	- Groups build diagnostic algorithms and decide when tumour treatment is appropriate.

DAY 2 - Thyroid, parathyroid and pancreatic tumours

Time	Title	Learning Objectives / Purpose
09:00–09:45	Canine Thyroid Tumours: Biology, Staging and Treatment Options	
09:45–10:30	Feline Thyroid Disease: Hyperthyroidism, Thyroid Nodules and When to Suspect Carcinoma	
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00–11:45	Thyroidectomy, Parathyroidectomy and Post-Operative Complications	
11:45–12:30	Radiation, Radioiodine and Non-Surgical Options for Thyroid/Parathyroid Cases	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30–14:15	Insulinoma and Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours	
14:15–15:00	Surgical Management of Insulinoma	
15:00–16:30		

DAY 3 – Final Test

Time	Title
09:00–12:30	How to Approach an Endocrine Oncology Case

DAY 4 – Thesis Presentation

Time	Title
09:00–12:30	Presentation of thesis
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
14:00–16:00	Master’s degree Certificate delivery

Assessment, Admission Test and Final Dissertation

Admission assessment before enrolment

Admission to the Master will include an initial entry assessment to confirm that applicants have the minimum baseline oncology knowledge, clinical reasoning ability and English comprehension required to follow the lectures, participate in clinical case discussions and benefit from the programme.

The entry assessment may include multiple-choice questions, short clinical reasoning questions and basic English comprehension applied to veterinary oncology scenarios. Its purpose is to identify applicants who are ready to enter the programme, and to recommend further preparation when needed.

Weekly/module assessment

At the end of each teaching week, participants will complete a structured assessment. This will apply to both online and in-person weeks and will confirm that students have understood the core concepts of the week and can apply them to practical oncology scenarios.

Each weekly assessment will include multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and may also include short case-based questions. MCQs will generally include four possible answers, with one correct answer. A minimum pass threshold of 60% is proposed, in line with the previous Master assessment structure.

Assessments will cover theoretical knowledge, tumour biology, diagnosis, staging and treatment principles, interpretation of diagnostic findings, treatment selection, recognition of complications and referral points, and communication or ethical aspects where relevant.

Case-based learning and group assessment

Clinical case discussion is a central component of the programme. Each teaching week includes structured clinical case activities, and tumour-specific weeks include daily Clinical Cases Group Sessions whenever possible.

During these sessions, students will identify key clinical problems, propose diagnostic and staging steps, interpret results, define treatment intent, justify treatment choices, recognise when referral or palliative care is appropriate, and communicate their reasoning clearly. The emphasis is on clinical reasoning rather than on finding a single perfect answer.

Final dissertation / thesis

At the end of the Master, each participant will prepare a final dissertation based on an oncology case encountered during their clinical activity. The aim is not to prove the efficacy of a specific therapy, but to demonstrate that the participant has acquired a structured decision-making process when approaching an oncological patient.

The dissertation may be submitted as a written manuscript of maximum 2000 words or as a PowerPoint presentation of maximum 25 slides. English is the preferred language, although submission in the participant's own language may be considered if translation support is required.

The dissertation should include case presentation and relevant history, diagnostic investigations and staging, final diagnosis, treatment options considered, rationale for the chosen treatment plan, outcome and follow-up, a short discussion of relevant literature, 3-5 learning points or take-home messages, and relevant references.

Final evaluation

The final evaluation will be based on completion and performance in weekly/module assessments, active participation in clinical case discussions, satisfactory completion of the oncology case log if required, final dissertation quality, and the ability to demonstrate structured clinical reasoning in oncology.

The overall assessment strategy is designed to ensure that participants complete the Master with the ability to recognize common oncological presentations, select appropriate diagnostic and staging tests, make rational treatment decisions, understand when referral is needed, and communicate effectively with owners throughout the cancer journey.

Proposed speakers

N. Bacon	M. Longo
T. Banzato	E. Markkanen
J. Benoit	L. Mari
F. Bonsenbiente	G. Mc Lauchlan
J. Borrego	V. Piola
C. Brachelente	F. Porporato
J. Buchholz	S. Rabba
F. Cian	N. Read
F. Cinti	B. Ruggerone
P. Clemente	L. Schiavo
S. Cortellini	J. Stern
L. Ferro	P. Valenti
M.E. Gelain	S. Vincenti
C. Leo	V. Zappulli