

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2020/21

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

**Grad Dip Veterinary Nursing
& Cert AVN bridging module**

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2020/21 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous External Examiners' reports (if applicable).

As Course Director please ensure you reflect on External Examiners' comments in the Course Review section. Please ensure that any actions to be taken in response to these comments have been recorded in your Annual Quality Improvement Report.

For support or advice please contact Ana Filipovic, Academic Quality Officer 'Standards', afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk, 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

a.	Updates to actions from previous years' reports (n/a)
b.	2020/21 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 06-Oct-2021

Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing, 2020/21

Lead examiner: Mr John Donaghy

Collaborating examiner(s): Mrs Susan Howarth

The Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:

1.1 Course content

Remained the same from previous year for the Graduate Diploma Veterinary Nursing course

1.2 Learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met

As of previous year the learning objectives remain appropriate and fit for purpose. Overall, students were able to meet the objectives.

1.3 Teaching methods

A clear range of teaching and learning methods are used. Good use of forums to allow students to work collaboratively at a distance.

1.4 Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)

No Issues raised. Rigorous system in place for student on-line examinations checks.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The course continues to be run by a dedicated and enthusiastic course leader, with the assistance of supportive tutors and administrators.

Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

The performance of students is comparable to that of students on other post-registration courses that I and my colleague are familiar with.

2.2 Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range

A good spread of marks were seen across all modules although the cohort of students were rather small. On sampling we concur with these marks. However, the RVC marking templates has little differentiation between the level six and level seven marking criteria which can make it difficult to distinguish between.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Thank you for your feedback on the new L7 and L6 marking guide rubric. Although not in use for this GradDipVN programme, we are planning on using it for our new suite of CertAVN programmes and your feedback comments have been noted. We will be piloting the rubrics during the first year of the new programmes and will review their suitability, particularly the differentiation between the distinction grade descriptors at level 7 which you refer to. Thank you.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

2.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the students' performance

None

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

A broad range of suitable and innovative methods are used. This has been especially notable as students undertake their course throughout lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

The assessment procedures are rigorous.

3.3 Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

A consistent level of assessment is seen across the modules in line with the FHEQ.

3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking and tutor feedback is of an excellent standard and consistency across the range of modules sampled.

3.5 In your view, are the procedures for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? (e.g. Briefing, Exam administration, marking arrangements, Board of Examiners, participation by External Examiners)

Yes, there is evidence of robust procedures in place, both from the administration and academic team.

3.6 Opinion on changes to the assessment procedures from previous years in which you have examined

The team has made good use of remote assessment procedures.

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

None

4.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Excellent administration from both the course leader and administrators.

4.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

This was a virtual on-line meeting.

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.7 The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.9 I have received enough training and support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.10 I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Completion

If you have identified any areas of good practice, please comment more fully here. We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

5.1 Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

The team are committed, enthusiastic and dedicated in supporting students. This has been especially important in these uncertain times and it is clear from what we have seen and heard, that the whole team have been fully supportive of the students. This is especially gratifying as the Graduate Diploma Veterinary Nursing course is withdrawn as the new Cert AVN is introduced.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Thank you for your positive feedback comments. Whilst we are sad to see the end of the Graduate Diploma VN course, the Course Team are excited to work on the new suite of CertAVN courses and continue to be fully committed to developing these part-time, distance-learning, advanced veterinary nursing qualifications which are more accessible, affordable and attractive to a wider range of RVNs. The Course Director and Course Team would like to take this opportunity to thank the External Examiners for their support over the past few years and for the feedback given, which has undoubtedly helped us to continue to modify and enhance our assessment processes.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.2 External Examiner comments: For College information only (Responses to External Examiners are published on the College's website. Please only use this box to add any comments that you wish to remain confidential, if any)

None