

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2016/17

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc Veterinary Education

This appendix contains Course Director's/Year Leader's responses to 2016/17 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from External Examiners' reports from previous years (if applicable).

As Course Director/Year Leader 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 – There were no actions from previous years
b.	2016/17 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 08-Sep-2017

MSc in Veterinary Education, 2016/17

Lead examiner: Professor Peter van Beukelen

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Lynne Allery

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course content for the certificate, diploma and masters is clearly described and covers a wide range of relevant topics appropriate for veterinary education. It is recommended to consider a harmonizing of the program design in the certificate program, in order to provide clarity

Response from college requested: NO

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

The learning objectives were relevant for the various modules and set at an appropriate level

Response from college requested: NO

1.3 Teaching methods

We did not see any teaching but evidence emanating from our visit and talks with the staff would suggest these were appropriate

Response from college requested: NO

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

The resources available were fine and not a problem. Many resources are available online, providing good access to students.

Response from college requested: NO

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The programme, and the teachers and organization running it impressed us. All seems to work smoothly. Streamlining the course provision would benefit clarity, and aid transparency.

Response from college requested: NO

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 quality of the assignments on the Certificate and Diploma were comparable to other programmes and there was substantial evidence of reflection throughout the coursework.
The final MSc report would benefit from additional critical commentary and reflection on the study design, to fully evidence learning during and from the research process.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The quality of the, rather limited, number of assignments was adequate. Through the wide variety of subjects, not always specific focused on veterinary education, comparison of the assignments was difficult.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

We were happy with students' performance, as far as we could see.

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

In general the assessment methods were valid and clearly described. Suggestions for adaptations of the assessment procedures are given under 3.7.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Double marking of all the scripts is impressive. Supportive data were given to show that within and between rating pairs there was a high similarity. One pair showed higher ratings than the others, and this is understandable given the small sample, which included a highly marked script.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The assessment meets with the framework

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking and feedback was high. The suggestion in the 2016 External Examiners report, to provide more specific feedback by track changes was clearly implemented.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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 – the procedures are clear and adhered to. Review of the student lifecycle is recommended to ensure students who submit assignments are able to progress in a timely way to the next stage of the programme. This may require an exam board earlier in the year.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Recommendations made have been taken on board as stated in 3.4.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

We have several detailed suggestions on assessment of the different modules:

- Instruction for the summative CIVE essay is so broad that products without a real focus can be expected. Therefore students will demonstrate very different outcomes and that leads to lack of comparison between the products. It can be helpful to offer the students a reflective framework as a starting point. Since it is an MSc in Veterinary Education it can be expected that the subjects of tasks, activities, essays (and research projects) have a veterinary educational focus.
- The final CIVE - 30 credits - assessment consists of one essay of 2500 words (and a 15 minutes teaching observation). In comparison to other modules, this module seems lighter, with the risk of a pass/fail on a limited product.

Suggestion: review the nature and weight of the different assessment procedures in the modules.

- Reconsider the sequence and the relative weight of the three parts of the ERMQQ module. For instance by changing from 33/33/34 for Research proposal / Survey / Communication, into 50/25/25. And consider assessing the Research proposal later in the module or as a part of the MSc stage of the programme.
- Suggestion: consider transforming the Communication part of the ERMQQ module into an assignment to criticize in an evidence-based way a scientific educational publication.
- Consider the MSc report not as a potential paper, at a peer-review level, but as a report of a first learning process doing scientific educational research. At the moment the MSc report lacks information about the learning process of the student in doing educational research. Suggestion: ask to focus in the Discussion on two different aspects: 1) discussion on the results of the research and comparing them to the literature; and 2) discussion on what is learned during the research process and what should be done different in a next project.
- Reconsider in the MSc the necessity of an oral part of the examination. Using the present marking scheme introduces the risk of grading for a second time the written report. Suggestion: investigate the possibility removing the oral of to use the oral part for real reflection and learning points from the research process.

Response from college requested: NO

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

Response from college requested: 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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

There is full commitment of the academic staff with the programme and the students. The academic staff put a lot of hard work into this programme and is backed up by a good administrative set up. The assessment procedures with standardized two markers and where necessary a third mediator is impressive. Data on reliability were shown.

Response from college requested: NO

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)

No

Response from college requested: NO

Dr L.A

I have had an opportunity to contribute to the report both at the meeting and by email prior to submission to yourselves.