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## MSc Intensive Livestock Health & Production – EXTERNAL EXAMINERS REPORTS

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Responses to 2016/17 External Examiners' Comments

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To be considered at the Teaching Quality Committee Meeting on: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

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Two individual reports received from Carole Brizuela and Stephen Lister, MSc IHLP External Examiners

**Exam board meeting:** *MSc ILHP*  
**Lead examiner:** Carole M Brizuela MRCVS  
**Collaborating examiner(s):**

### The Programme

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

#### 1.1 Course content

The course content meets the programme objectives

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

The Learning Objectives are relevant to the programme outcomes and are met by the assessment strategy

#### 1.3 Teaching methods

The mode of delivery by distance learning allows the course to be accessed by people in industry which provides an excellent opportunity for them to expand their professional roles and apply the material taught directly to their employment.

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

Not applicable

#### 1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

None

### 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

Students have generally performed well or satisfactorily and are demonstrating level 7 work in most cases.

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

Some students demonstrate excellent academic ability, however there are a number of students who do not seem to have grasped the requirements of postgraduate study and performance.

SW: -This is continued concern and when identified during the module, additional guidance and support is given. This may not be taken on board by all candidates, resulting in a non-pass grade for the module.

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

Although some students do not seem to perform as well as may be expected I am happy that support is provided by the university to help them achieve a successful outcome.

### Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The module assessments as set are allowing students to meet module outcomes. The only concern I have – bit this has been addressed is the amount of time in written exams to allow students to demonstrate level 7 knowledge and performance.

SW: This is a valid concern, however, the module assessment is in line with the RVC's guidelines on assessment load and associated times, the external examiner(s) acknowledges that this has been addressed.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

I am happy with the rigour of the assessments

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

I am satisfied this is being met.

3.4 Standard of marking

Often I find the marking appears to be generous for a level 7 award. However it appears to be in line with the common grading scheme.

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

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

None

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

None

### General Statements Yes/No/n/a

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

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination **Yes**

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:

4.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination **No**

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

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 support to carry out my role **Yes**

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**

### 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:

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

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)

Exam board meeting: **ILHP**  
Lead examiner: **Carole M Brizuela MRCVS**  
Collaborating examiner(s): **Stephen Lister MRCVS**

### The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

**The course content meets the programme objectives**

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

**The Learning Objectives are relevant to the programme outcomes and are met**

1.3 Teaching methods

**The methods appear to be appropriate – distance learning gives access, as long as students are given sufficient access and guidance. This appeals to a variety of experiences and abilities in students which could theoretically make standard fixing difficult, but balance appears to have been achieved**

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

**Not applicable**

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

### 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

**No issues identified but not my area of expertise**

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

**A variety of ability has been demonstrated during the year, probably related to the accessibility and appeal of the course. Several students were struggling and it is not clear whether more guidance criteria on acceptance of differing ability applicants would assist**

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)

**Agree Caroles comments as follows** - The module assessments as set are allowing students to meet module outcomes. The only concern I have – bit this has been addressed is the amount of time in written exams to allow students to demonstrate level 7 knowledge and performance.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

**Procedures appear rigorous although more comments by assessors on marking of some work would be helpful**

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

**Outside my specific area of expertise**

3.4 Standard of marking

**Consistent but sometimes over-generous?**

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**

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

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

#### General Statements Yes/No/n/a

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

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made **Yes**

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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:

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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 **No specific experience**

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role **Yes – excellent support**

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**

### 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:

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

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