Individual Report

Intercalated BSc in Comparative Pathology, 2013/14

Dr Timothy Scase

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course content is excellent. The course covers a wide range of subject matter and addresses both fundamental biological processes as well specific disease entities. This is covered using a range of practicals, seminars and lectures. The use of a number of external speakers adds tremendously to the quality of the course content and allows experts in their fields to talk directly to the students.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

Course content to remain unchanged going forward but wider use of external experts will be encouraged in the three modules.

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

The learning objectives were met for the course.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.3 Teaching methods

The mixture of seminars, practicals and lectures provide a varied set of teaching methods. As far as I can tell, these are delivered with enthusiasm and the students appear equally enthused about the course.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

The mix of lectures, seminars, practicals and journal clubs will be continued for the coming year.

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

No resource issues were raised.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

I currently am external examiner for a similar course at another institution. This course is highly comparable in both course content and in the standard of student assessment. The students performed at the expected level.

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

There was a broad range of knowledge and understanding shown by the candidates. Those candidates that provided the very best scores on the exam overall also tended to have the best project presentations and were most able to answer oral questions about their work. Those at the bottom end of the marking scale were clearly the least able students, as judged by each part of the examination process. Those within the middle range were of the expected standard for an 'average' student, showing some level of understanding that was distinctly better than those at the bottom of the range, but much less impressive than those at the top end of the range. Broadly, most students performed at a similar level during each part of the examination.

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Response from college requested: NO

Assessment Process

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment methods used during the examination process were appropriate. The students were required to present their research project work as if presenting at a conference-type setting, which required them to discuss their work in a semi-public forum and to be able to field questions on their project. The majority of the students took great care in putting their presentations together and most performed well.
The written part of the examination met the learning objectives and assessed the majority of the curriculum.

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

We will introduce ICA on the Veterinary Pathology module for 2014-15. Format to be decided.

Action Required:

To organise ICA by week 5.

Action Deadline:

31-Oct-2014

Action assigned to:

Norelene Harrington

3.2 Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous

All aspects of the examination process was performed rigorously and to the expected standard.

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Appropriate.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.4 Standard of marking

This was high throughout. The research reports were all double marked and this was of the expected standard. Where there was disagreement between markers, the highest mark was taken, which I understand is a university-wide procedure.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

To clarify the higher mark is taken only where the two marks are within the same grade. This is a college-wide procedure.

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.5 Opinion on changes to the assessment process from previous years in which you have examined

Not applicable.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.6 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the assessment process

Response from college requested: NO

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

4.1 In your view, are the processes for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted?

Yes.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Not applicable.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Response from college requested: NO

General Statements

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

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.2 An acceptable response has been made

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.4 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:

I considered a range of students work from those at the bottom, middle and upper end of the result spectrum. I was able to scrutinise the answers throughout the spectrum and was satisfied that the answers were marked appropriately.
I paid particular attention to those candidates at grade boundaries, but could not find extra marks to move them up from one grade boundary to the next higher one.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.5 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

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.7 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

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.8 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:

The standards of the students performance was very comparable with other institutions for which I am an external examiner.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.10 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

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.12 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

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

none

Action Required:

none

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

The course is excellent and compares very favourably with other institutions.
I would suggest that the students are given a higher word limit for the project reports, as the current word limit seems too short to enable the students to provide a detailed discussion of their work, and in particular is too short for them to provide an in-depth literature review.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Simon Priestnall

Course Director Response:

Agree - for 2014-15 we have increased the word count for the project report from 3,000 to 5,000 words to allow for an expanded lit review and discussion.

Action Required:

Done

Action Deadline:

29-Sep-2014

Action assigned to:

Simon Priestnall

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)

Response from college requested: NO