Collaborative Report

MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology, 2013/14

Professor Jeroen Dewulf

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The content is appropriate for an MSc

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr Rob Christley

I agree that the content is appropriate for an MSc

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

These are clearly laid out for the students

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr Rob Christley

Agree

1.3 Teaching methods

There are a variety of teaching methods that should engage all the students

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr Rob Christley

Agree

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

We were not made aware of resources used

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr Rob Christley

Agree

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

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

The course is a good quality and similar to MScs in other institutions in Europe.

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Agree, the students performance was similar to that i have observed at my own institution and to that i expect on similar programs

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

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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

None

Assessment Process

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

A variety of assessment methods are used and this is to be commended. The amount of questions asked during the written papers might be high in relation to the amount of time available for answering. This may force students to write fast and may prevent them from thinking sufficiently thoroughly on the question. It might be good to either reduce the amount of (sub)questions or to provide students with good guidance on how to fill in the exam to avoid they spend to much on writing long answers.

Response from college requested: YES

Dr Rob Christley

Again this was discussed at the Examiners meeting - there were a variety of questions which were appropriate to the learning objectives and the curriculum. In general most questions were answered well by at least some of the students. There was an issue in some cases with students not adequately addressing the question at hand, but rather providing unneeded, though not entirely unrelated, information. This may have been due to poor exam technique on the part of the students, perhaps compounded by a lack of time, or a perceived lack of time. I agree that a session on exam technique may assist some students.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Kristien Verheyen

Course Director Response:

- Exam technique session to be scheduled during exam preparation time.
- Potential for reduction in the number of exam questions and/or shorter questions to be discussed at Course Management Committee meeting

Action Required:

Organise exam technique session in Term 3

Action Deadline:

31-May-2015

Action assigned to:

Maria Johnson

3.2 Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous

The processes appear rigorous. It is good that there are always model answers to exam questions. Exam questions where one sub questions builds on the answers of the previous sub question are to be avoided since they automatically result in low scores on the second part of the question if the first part is answered wrongly.

Response from college requested: YES

Dr Rob Christley

Agree. where sub-questions build on earlier sub-questions there should be clear ways in which marks can be allocated for logical work, even when early sub-questions are answered incorrectly.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Kristien Verheyen

Course Director Response:

We take on board the comment of sub-questions that rely on correct answers to previous parts of the question and will endeavor to avoid these and look out for such questions during the exam setting meeting.

Action Required:

None

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to: Paul Charlesworth

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

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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

The level of assessment is consistent with the FHEQ

3.4 Standard of marking

The marking appears to be fair and objective

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

The marking is of a high standard. Double marking is consistently used, the use of model answers facilitates fair marking.

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

It is very informative that on parts of the questions the breakdown of the marks are provided. This allows the external examiner to compare these to the model answer more easily. It is advisable that this is extended to all exam papers and markers.

Response from college requested: YES

Dr Rob Christley

Not applicable - this is my first year

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Kristien Verheyen

Course Director Response:

We already endeavour to provide a breakdown of marks for all exam questions and apologise if this did not happen during the last examination.

Action Required:

As before, Exams office to ask markers to provide breakdown of marks for all questions they mark.

Action Deadline:

30-Jun-2015

Action assigned to:

Exams office

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

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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

None

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

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

all changes in relation to the previous year are improvements

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Not applicable

4.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

None

General Statements

5.1 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

Dr Rob Christley

Not applicable

5.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Not applicable

5.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

5.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Agree

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

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

5.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

Yes

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

Dr Rob Christley

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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Response from college requested: NO

Dr Rob Christley

No suggestions

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)

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Response from college requested: NO