

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 12-May-2015

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Year 3, 2014/15

Lead examiner: Professor Chris Proudman

Collaborating examiner(s): Ms Rachel Burrow, Dr Philip Scott

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The examiners have not comprehensively reviewed the curriculum but from our limited evaluation of materials on the RVC Learn site, all areas appear to be covered comprehensively.

Response from college requested: NO

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

These were extremely difficult to find, even with the help of College staff, and are inconsistent in their location. We question the utility of learning outcomes if they are so inaccessible for staff and students. For some strands we also noted a lack of high-level (e.g. for a whole module/strand) learning outcomes, rather they were articulated for individual teaching sessions.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Pete Mantis

Course Director Response:

For the Year 3 of the BVetMed course, the learning objectives/ outcomes are in a consistent location. In the home page of BVetMed Year 3 (<https://learn.rvc.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=30765>) the overall learning objectives for BVetMed years 3 and 4 are clearly stated within the welcome message of the year 3 leader.

The learning objectives for each individual strand can be found within the BVetMed 3rd Year Handbook (<https://learn.rvc.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=30765&chapterid=55876>). Within each strand the individual learning outcomes for each individual teaching session are clearly stated and they derive from the overall learning objectives for year 3.

All the strands have overall learning objectives with the exception of the Principles of Science and the Professional Studies strands. Both of these strands are very diverse and this makes it difficult to create appropriate overall learning objectives that can potentially apply to the diverse list of topics they include. Following the external examiners comment, we have agreed with the strand leaders of these two strands to create overall learning outcomes.

Action Required:

Create overall strand learning outcomes for Professional studies and Principles of Science strands

Action Deadline:

30-Jun-2016

Action assigned to:

Panagiotis Mantis, Brian Catchpole, Elizabeth Chan

1.3 Teaching methods

We were impressed by the blend of different teaching resources available to students. Good use is made of the virtual learning environment.

Response from college requested: NO

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

We are not aware of any limitations.

Response from college requested: NO

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

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 third year curriculum at RVC has a clinical emphasis that is not comparable with third year courses in most other schools so direct comparisons are difficult to make. However, the examiners were impressed at the depth of clinical understanding apparent in some aspects of the assessment.

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 performance of students in this assessment was good. Over 40% of students achieved a merit or distinction in the assessment indicating a very high level of achievement in a large proportion of the class. Answers to EMQs particularly indicated an ability to apply knowledge to clinical situations. It was notable that failing students often achieved a borderline pass on the MCQ paper but failed the EMQ paper indicating an inability to apply their knowledge. Only 1 student of 17 that failed overall passed the EMQ paper.

Only one student failed to meet the required standard in the DOPs assessment. This indicates at least a satisfactory level of animal handling skills amongst the vast majority of the cohort.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

None.

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment methods are entirely appropriate for the combination of factual knowledge and application to a clinical context.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

The examiners are satisfied with the rigour of assessment procedures. Both MCQ and EMQ papers involve the re-use of previously tested questions, so performance and discriminatory ability is known. Computer marking of both assessments removes any subjectivity. The DOPS assessment has clear marking criteria for examiners to apply.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Appropriate.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking is largely by computer so not relevant. However, DOPSn assessments include a section for the examiner to comment on the strengths/weaknesses of candidates. This appears to be used appropriately.

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.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

None.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Actions were offered re: briefing on DOPS; this has not happened.
No response re: one day attendance for exam board and possible remote involvement.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Pete Mantis

Course Director Response:

We are not clear on the nature of the comment. However, we can confirm that the external examiners are invited to attend the DOPs if available and that the students undertaking the DOPs receive information by email and can get access to detailed information online at the BvetMed year 3 home page (<https://learn.rvc.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=712>).

One day attendance was agreed at the Exam Board

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

The examiners did not receive notification of the course director's responses to our comments from last year.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Pete Mantis

Course Director Response:

We can confirm that the previous BVetMed year 3 leader has responded to the examiners comments as it appears in the collaborative report from the previous year.

We will email External Examiners the responses to their comments.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

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

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

It would be helpful for us to receive responses to last year's comments.
We would also appreciate the ability to access online course information and materials. Although College staff have been helpful in providing access during our visit, we have struggled with this. Perhaps a subject for the external examiner's INSET day?
The examinations office has been diligent in providing us with information and addressing queries.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Pete Mantis

Course Director Response:

We can confirm that all last years comments have been answered by the previous BVetMed year 3 leader. We can confirm that the external examiners have online access and they are provided with login and password to access the information online.
The facilitators who will run the Introduction for External Examiners at the Inset Day on 6th Jan 2016 will incorporate this topic.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

16-Jan-2016

Action assigned to:

Ana Filipovic

4.10 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:

Difficult to access learning outcomes.
No feedback on last year's external examiners' comments provided.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Pete Mantis

Course Director Response:

We can confirm that the external examiners have online access and they are provided with login and password to access the information online.
For the Year 3 of the BVetMed course, the learning objectives/ outcomes are in a consistent location. In the home page of BVetMed Year 3 (<https://learn.rvc.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=30765>) the overall learning objectives for BVetMed years 3 and 4 are clearly stated within the welcome message of the year leader.
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We can confirm that responses to last year's external examiners' comments have been provided as it appears in the collaborative report from the previous year.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

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 use of MCQs and EMQs is good because it tests both knowledge and integration of knowledge. We like the use of images in the examination and encourage greater inclusion of these in the examination. We question whether DOPS could be moved much earlier in the course.

Response from college requested: NO

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