

Dr. Ed G.M. van Klink  
School of Veterinary Science  
University of Bristol  
Langford House  
Lower Langford  
BS40 5DU

20 April 2016

Dear Dr. Van Klink

**External Examiner's report for MSc and PG Diplomas in Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health (International Programmes) 2015**

On behalf of the Royal Veterinary College Board of Examiners for Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, I would like to thank you for your External Examiner's report for the University of London International Programmes MSc and PG Diplomas in Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health for the 2015 academic year.

The External and Intercollegiate Examiner reports form an integral part of the assessment and quality assurance processes. All comments and points raised in the report have been considered and our formal response is outlined below:

Examiner Comment	RVC Response
<p><b>Assessment Design &amp; Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a broad range of ways in which feedback on TMA's is given. Feedback is very important for students. It is particularly useful if it gives them information about where they could improve. The feedback given at the moment, can range from just a simple sentence to a detailed elaboration of the student's performance. It may be useful to consider standardising feedback. One marker consistently uses three subheadings in their TMA feedback:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Strengths</li> <li>-- Areas for improvement</li> <li>-- Points that could have been considered</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This would also explain the mark, both for the student and for the marker.</p>	<p><b>Responses to comments:</b></p> <p>The Programme takes on board the need to provide a consistent amount and quality of feedback to students. To this end, a standardised feedback form with sub-headings, will be prepared and henceforth used for all written work.</p>

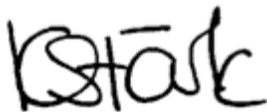
We were pleased to note the following examples of good practice:

**Marking and Sampling:**

- (1) The introduction of a standardised system of assessing the oral component of the research project.

Thank you again for your comments and for the support you provided to the programme during your term as an external examiner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KStärk'.

Professor Katharina Stärk

Cc: Dr. Christine Thurania-McKeever  
Ms. Carol Worsfold (Project Administrator, Royal Veterinary College, University of London)  
Mr. Matthew Cox (Programme Manager, International Programmes)  
Ms. Annemarie Dulson (Quality Manager, International Programmes)

Professor Neil Donald Sargison

University of Edinburgh  
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies  
Easter Bush Veterinary Centre  
Roslin  
Midlothian EH25 9RG

20 April 2016

Dear Professor Sargison

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Examiner Comment	RVC Response
<p><b>Standards:</b> It is unfortunate that the course work was only marked by a single examiner, making it difficult to ensure consistency across the full range of subjects.....</p> <p>The negative comment about double marking refers to the fact that the course assessments are not double marked. However, I was given</p>	<p><b>Responses to comments:</b> The matter of double marking of course-work was discussed at the annual meeting of the board of examiners. Whilst it would be an ideal, it is felt that the resource required to do this was not a justifiable one, given the weighting that is allocated to course work (20% of the final assessment mark awarded). Students can submit up to three pieces of coursework per module and therefore there is a large volume of coursework to assess. There is provision for students to request that their course work is re-marked if they felt</p>

access to a selection of the work, based upon my request, and was very happy with the standard of marking. The feedback provided by the markers was also very helpful.

it was not appropriately marked; in this instance it would be re-marked "blind" by a different examiner. It is felt that this provision adequately safe-guards against any issues of standards in marking.

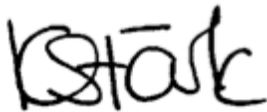
We were pleased to note the following examples of good practice:

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Thank you again for your comments and for continuing to support the programme.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Katharina Stärk

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