

# Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 24-May-2018  
Approved by TQC Chair 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

## Graduate Diploma in Equine Locomotor Research, 2017/18

Lead examiner: Dr Sarah Taylor

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Connie Wiskin

### The Programme

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

#### 1.1 Course content

The course content is excellent providing a good scientific grounding in locomotor research

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Agree. The research focus is apparent, and encourages the spirit of scientific enquiry.

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

The learning objectives are met

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Agree.  
(NB I will be able to comment in more detail going forward, when present for the Board next cycle, but based on the electronic materials provided do not have any concerns about the relationship between objectives and outcomes).

#### 1.3 Teaching methods

The feedback given for the Stage 1 critical review was thorough and related to individual student's critiques to the rubric

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Agree.  
Going forward - if possible - it would be helpful and interesting to hear more student feedback, perhaps directly?

#### College Response:

We will look into this for the next academic year. We normally try to organize meetings between external examiners and students and we did attempt to do so for this course in the past. However, it proved difficult to arrange the meetings when the External Examiners are on campus, due to the students' geographical location and time availability. Going forward, we could attempt to arrange Skype meetings instead of face to face ones. We could also provide the External Examiners with the internal student survey results.

**ACTION: Academic Quality Officer 'Standards'**

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

Fully available

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Timely, comprehensive, and easy to access. Thank you.

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

Consistency of word counts was discussed to be implemented in the future

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

N/A at this stage. I will comment more fully when I come physically on board for the next cycle.

#### **RESPONSE FROM THE COURSE DIRECTOR**

We have in the meantime made some changes to word counts in collaboration with the Exams Office. For example changes to the gait report and case report in the orthopaedics and biomechanics module.

## 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

In my opinion this group of students are performing above the level of students at Edinburgh in my opinion this may be due to the additional academic educational support they receive at the RVC

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Nothing further to add at this stage.

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

Quality of knowledge is generally very high across the board, the ability of certain candidates to write could be improved but this is not the focus of this particularly course as all candidates demonstrate a clear understanding of their subject

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Agree with LE.

**College Response:** All RVC students have access to 24/7 writing support through Smarthinking which has been launched this academic year. This will provide an opportunity for the students to receive feedback which will help students develop their writing.

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

Performance met expected levels.

## Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Some of the guidelines for student assessments could be improved as reported in the minutes from the exam board discussion for example use of a template with subheadings and consistent word counts

Response from college requested: **NO**

#### **RESPONSE FROM THE COURSE DIRECTOR**

We are continually reviewing our guidelines in response to feedback from the students (from different educational backgrounds and different continents) and for example the 'grant proposal' that the students are writing and is being assessed in the 'Study Design' module gives the students example grant proposals that they can use to guide them through the process of writing their own grant proposal.

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessment is extremely fair and consistent including sample marking

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Fair and consistent

Response from college requested: **NO**

### 3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking was high with extensive feedback and direction provided to students

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**

Dr C.W

Yes.

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

Students still appeared confused as to whether they could choose the same topic for stage 0 online and reflective essay.

**College Response:** Students are encouraged to use the same scenario for the both the online forum post and the final summative essay as these scenarios are developed throughout the module. However, students do have the option to change their scenario if they wish. This is mentioned at the residential weekend but we will ensure that this is made clear on the course page.

### 3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Additional provision of examples of good essays and how they were marked could be provided to improve procedures

**Response from college requested: NO**

**College Response:** Now that we have a larger sample size of essays, we will identify a couple of good examples and make them available.

**4.1 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**

Dr C.W

N/A; First time visibility of this programme.

**4.2 An acceptable response has been made**

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

**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**

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

Dr C.W

RVC Team administration is exemplary, and queries/requests met in a timely manner.

**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:**

A very high standard is being promoted and achieved

**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**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

I must commend the team on their efficiency and how easy it is to act as external examiner

**Response from college requested: NO**

**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:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**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:

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

Provision of examples of how good and average essays were marked and how they fit into the rubric/mark scheme

**College Response:** Our initial concerns were that in a very small sample size (small course) anonymizing of student's work is impossible to achieve. Now that we have a larger sample size (from two continents) this is more feasible and we will identify example essays and share them in anonymized form with the student's permission.

**5.2 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**

### College response:

Thank you very much for the external examiners efforts in assessing the quality of the Grad Dip ELR course and its assessments. This is really appreciated in particular for this course where we are dealing with students with very different educational backgrounds to the majority of our other courses at the RVC.