ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2021/22

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2021/22 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous External Examiners' reports (if applicable).

As Course Director please ensure you reflect on External Examiners' comments in the Course Review section. Please ensure that any actions to be taken in response to these comments have been recorded in your Annual Quality Improvement Report.

For support or advice please contact Ana Filipovic, Academic Quality Officer 'Standards', afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk, 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

a.	Updates to actions from previous years' reports (n/a)
b.	2020/21 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Individual Report

Exam board meeting: 02-Mar-2022

RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice, 2021/22 (Modules A & B)

Mrs Anna Judson

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

Course content is set by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice A and B modules

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

These are set out in the module descriptors for the RCVS Cert AVP and in the RVC published module outlines. The objectives are clear and relevant to veterinary practice.

1.3 Teaching methods

The modules are assessment only.

Candidates have access to an expanding range of resources including an online induction day, webinars, podcasts, specific course articles, links to further reading, a regular newsletter, course forums, one to one verbal reviews and support.

Candidates are assigned a tutor who supports, reviews and assesses written course submissions. It is a requirement that the first essay submitted has to have a written and and verbal review to ensure that from an early stage candidates expectations are managed regarding the quality and level of work required and methods available for them to continually improve.

The verbal review and consistency of essay assessor is designed to provide a greater human element to the course teaching and support candidates through what can be discomfiting feedback.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Thank you for this clear overview. Just to note that this outline refers to Module A-FAVP, not B modules. For the latter formative reviews are provided as well as a personal meeting with the module leader but candidates do not have tutors.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

See 1.3

Module outlines are clear, resources are many and in a wide array of formats. Efforts are ongoing to ensure students engage with the material available to support their learning to reflect the recognised link between resource use and candidate performance.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Results indicate that candidates relate to the new course format well and comprehend what is required of them more quickly and effectively than with the old course format. Students are showing faster engagement and completion of the course with more candidates staying on to complete subsequent modules than previously. This reflects the ongoing work by the Cert AVP team to ensure the course programme remains relevant, appeals to and generates engagement from students and ensures delivery of the course objectives.

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 have no data for student performance on comparable courses in other institutions

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

Results show that the quality of student knowledge and skills has increased with the introduction of the new course format. There were fewer lower performing students and fewer resubmissions. This reflects the ongoing work of the Cert AVP team to ensure that students are well prepared and fully understand what is expected of them and why.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Note that this refers to the A-FAVP module.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

I would like to congratulate the RVC Cert AVP team for being resolute in their desire to make the course the best it can be. The regular reviews and modifications have resulted in a course that has generated excellent results this year. Student feedback reflects a high level of satisfaction with the course and its relevance to veterinary professionals.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Thank you very much. We will ensure that our tutors are informed of this very positive feedback.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

01-Jun-2022

Action assigned to:

Joanne Jarvis

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment methods are appropriate and assessment is fair at all times. The new course format allows candidates to apply their own experience effectively.

Detailed high quality feedback is given with every essay submitted to enable students to progress with their learning and maintain motivation and learning.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Thank you. The reference to the new course format is relevant to A-FAVP but all submitted work for A and B modules receives detailed feedback.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessment procedures are rigorous and followed.

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

Assessment is consistent with the framework for postgraduate level 7.

3.4 Standard of marking

Good and consistent with the common grading descriptors.

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. Candidates are considered fairly and administration is conducted efficiently with adequate data to inform discussion at exam board level. The Cert AVP team respond sensitively to individual candidate needs regarding

appeals and re submissions.

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

Monitoring Cert AVP outcomes including feedback from candidates, assessors, external examiners and the Cert AVP team is well established at the RVC. The changes to the course format in August 2019 are now showing through in improved student engagement and grades. Student feedback indicates a high level of satisfaction and this is reflected in increased student retention on the RVC Cert AVP modules.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Thank you. Noting that the change in course format refers to A-FAVP

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

During my time as an external examiner I have seen assessment procedures modified, extended and improved with consistent quality of feedback and tight marking turnaround times leading to improved student satisfaction. Appeals are conducted rigorously and with sensitivity to a candidate's situation.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

Thank you for this very positive feedback

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

General Statements

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

The Cert AVP team are approachable, listen to my comments and respond appropriately with an update of actions taken or if no action, the reasons why.

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:

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:

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was 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:

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:

4.9 I have received enough training and support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was 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:

The Cert AVP team could not be more helpful and I wish to thank them all for their support over the last five years.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

And in return, we would like to thank you for your prompt, detailed and insightful feedback on written work as needed.

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:

4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was 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:

None

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)

Course Director Response:

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to: