

Individual Report

Exam board meeting: 22-Oct-2024

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Year 4, 2024/25

Dr Emma Fishbourne

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course was comprehensive with the variety and depth expected at UG level.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for that assessment and that is very assuring to hear.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

LO's were clearly stated for the overall course, easy to find online and fully met. LOs defined at start of lectures and small group exercises.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for that assessment and we are pleased to hear this.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.3 Teaching methods

The course was delivered over a short period of time and consisted of lectures (internal and external) and small group teaching with authentic real-world clinical scenarios for candidates to work through.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for that comment.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Online resources with topics broken down well and clearly labelled. Additional material available and well signposted.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for those observations

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The course was well set up and covered a variety of topics expected at UG level and it was easy to navigate through the content.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for that assessment and we are please to hear this

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Generally the majority of students performed very well with the MCQ exam taking place as soon as the course had been completed. The topics covered were similar to those covered on our UG course. Our students are assessed differently however I think the performance of the two cohorts is comparable.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you for that observation and we are pleased that the external examiner feels that topics and performance is comparable between our programmes.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

There was a good spread of marks and a clear cohort at the bottom of the range which was perhaps unexpected given the timing of the exam, but could have been due to poor preparation. Continuous assessment throughout the course provided students with real-world clinical scenarios and the clinical scenarios provided useful revision. I am unsure if there was a link between how students performed in the CALs and clinical scenarios and the final MCQ exam.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external for those observations. We are also interested in whether a relationship between engagement with learning opportunities relate to exam performance. We are currently tracking completion of a portfolio system (called Records of Achievement) and attempting to relate to exam performance. This was done in Year 3 and showed that 80% completion rate in these Records of Achievement did correlate to good performance on exams. We will explore if this can be tracked in Year 4 but also during the final year during rotations

Action Required:

To analyse rate of logging Record of Achievement (RAs) during Year 3 of Portfolio and see if relationship on Year 4 exam performance is related.

Action Deadline:

30-Sep-2025

Action assigned to:

Year Leader and Director of Clinical Assessments

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

A range of topics was covered by the final MCQs relevant to the LOs and material taught. Throughout the course students completed a number of CALs and small group clinical scenarios.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external examiner for this observation.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

A mixture of assessment methods was used throughout the course enabling students to gain feedback to help them understand their strengths and weaknesses before sitting the MCQs.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external examiner for this assessment

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

In my opinion the assessment met the framework, it was well aligned to LOs, contained a mixture of assessment methods including authentic scenarios relevant to practice.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external examiner for confirming that our intent in designing our assessment strategy meets the framework of assessment

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking was consistent and fair.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We are very appreciative of this assessment of our procedures in marking

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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. I had access to all the material the students receive in advance of the exam board and the meeting itself was well conducted.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Thank you

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

It may have been useful to have had a brief on the changes as I initially focused on the MCQs but should have paid equal attention to the CALs. It may have been useful to see how the students who were at the bottom or top performed on the small group scenarios if this information is available?

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the External Examiner for this query. Unfortunately, the CALs are not assessed so we would not be able to relate performance on the small group scenarios with the performance on the MCQ exam.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

See above.

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

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Very different course now being assessed.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

Indeed as we roll out our new curriculum, our assessment strategy also changed

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external examiners for the excellent insights and comments

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

It may be useful to provide more information on student performance in the CALs and clinical scenarios if possible.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the External Examiner for this comment - however, the CALs and Clinical Scenarios are not assessed so we would not be able to demonstrate a relationship in engagement at those smaller group learning opportunities with performance on the exam.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the External Examiners for this assessment of your exam

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We are very appreciative of the opinion of the external examiners and reassured by this observation

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We are very appreciative of this assessment. Thank you

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

It may be useful to ensure MCQ answers are of a similar length going forward.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan

Course Director Response:

We thank the external examiner and we will continue to improve our question bank of MCQs

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to: