

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2022/23

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing

This appendix contains Course Director's responses to 2022/23 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 – not applicable.
b.	2022/23 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director Report written by Lead examiner: Dr Andrea Jeffery Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Carol Gray

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 02-Nov-2023

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing, 2022/23

Lead examiner: Dr Andrea Jeffery

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Carol Gray

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The modules reviewed as part of the Post Graduate and Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Nursing have course content applicable for the level of study

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment

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

There is clear mapping of learning objectives to assessment

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment

1.3 Teaching methods

This is a distance learning programme which delivers material through a virtual learning environment to nurses who will use material that is taught at a time that suits them. The teaching methods take this into consideration

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment

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

the cohort size has increased which is an indication of the popularity of the programme , when asked what the maximum cohort size would be it was suggested that 40 would be a maximum taking into account the current staffing for the programme and the turn around time required of the marking

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment. In delivering a distance learning programme, which also provides support for learners, there does need to be a maximum cohort size that can be managed successfully while retaining quality of teaching and student support.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

It is a well run programme which provides content and assessment which will support the nurses enrolled on the programme with their clinical practice

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment.

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 student performance is as expected when comparing them to other comparable courses (I am currently external for one other such programme and have been external for another institution) and so my knowledge relating to comparability is across three instiutions

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment.

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

The quality of candidates knowledge and skills across the range is as expected , with a good spread of marks across all grade ranges

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment. It is noticeable that the SD from the mean mark awarded is greater in the earlier assessments, then reduces as students get accustomed to the standard of work expected.

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

these students are working in clinical practice and they are undertaking this programme as well as their clinical roles. Their input and the quality of work that they produce is something the course team should be very proud of

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment. When factoring in the other responsibilities of these students, the standard of work they produce for their assessments is noteworthy.

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

the assessment methods are relevant to both the learning objectives and the curriculum , but in addition they are pertinent to clinical practice and the tools used for assessment on the programme can be applied beyond the programme to improve patient care

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment. Assessments are authentic for those in clinical roles.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

There are no issues with the rigour of the assessment process

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment.

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

The level of assessment is clearly consistent with the FHEQ

Dr C.G

I agree with this comment.

3.4 Standard of marking

the standard of marking is on the whole very good, the standardisation of the feedback format across the modules is consistent and I particularly like the " even better if...." aspect of the feedback. There were some feedback comments which were too vague to help the student next time, for example, "pico question could use some work" and "you have not drawn from enough sources" as a student receiving that feedback I would not know what I had to do to improve my pico question , or how many sources is enough. In addition there was not clarity regarding when writing was to be in the third person and when it should be in the first person nor if there was a penalty attached to that

Dr C.G

I agree with these comments. I would like to add that markers are usually specific and detailed in their feedback comments. I picked up some incorrect grading of references as 'N/A' when they clearly were applicable, so would advise markers to be careful when completing the marking grids.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Thank you for your observations and for providing us with clear examples of what you think is working well and what further enhancements you think we could make. We have noted the point about vague feedback comments and will remind markers to ensure their comments in the OCM / turnitin area are more specific and clear about what could be improved upon.

We will also provide explicit instructions for every written assignment activity in Learn regarding whether or not we would like learners to write an assignment in the first or third person and we will provide links to additional resources to help them understand the difference between both types and be in a better position to adopt an appropriate style in their academic writing.

Thank you for pointing out the use of N/A in the online OCM marking rubric. The Course Team have investigated and found this to be partly as a result of the way that the marking rubric is formatted in the OCM online marking tool and marker error. We will remind the marking team to ensure the appropriate box is ticked for referencing rather than inadvertent ticking of the N/A option.

Action Required:

- 1) Remind assessors that feedback comments should be clear, specific and written in a way that helps learners identify what could be done better.
- 2) Provide explicit instructions with additional links to resources about writing in the 1st and/or 3rd person in their academic writing for each and every written assignment activity on the course.
- 3) Remind the marking team to ensure the appropriate box is ticked in the online OCM submission area for referencing (rather than inadvertently ticking the N/A option).

Action Deadline:

07-Jan-2024

Action assigned to:

Course Director and Co Deputy Course Directors

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

Dr C.G

I agree, the procedures for assessment and conduct of exam boards are fair.

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

no opinion

Dr C.G

N/A - this is my first year as an external examiner for the programme.

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

procedures are rigorous

Dr C.G

no additional comments

General Statements

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:

This is my first year of being external examiner on this programme

Dr C.G

As above.

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

N/A

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

yes

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:

Dr C.G

yes, the access to the VLE was smooth

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:

Dr C.G

yes

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

I agree

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:

Dr C.G

I agree

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:

Dr C.G

I agree

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

Yes

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:

Dr C.G

Yes

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

Yes

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Dr C.G

Yes

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:

at this point in time I do not have any suggestions for improvements based on experience from other institutions

Dr C.G

I do not have any suggestions at the moment

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)

