

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2022/23

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc Veterinary Epidemiology

This appendix contains Course Directors' responses to 2022/23 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous External Examiners' reports.

As Course Directors 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	2022/23 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 07-Sep-2023

MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology, 2022/23

Lead examiner: Dr Jasmeet Kaler

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Agnes Waret-Szkuta

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

This joint RVC- LHSTM course provides an innovative course which provides students with excellent grounding in veterinary epidemiology. The depth and breadth of its content gives graduates necessary skills to pursue variety of careers involving this discipline

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

All modules have clear and relevant learning objectives that meet the purpose of the courses to give sound understanding to students in variety of areas in veterinary epidemiology.

1.3 Teaching methods

A mix of lectures, practicals, tutorials and self-directed learning. Students also have the opportunity to share learning with LSHTM epidemiology students and to benefit from teaching on surveillance and risk analysis from APHA

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

Course is well resourced and students have appropriate access

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Course is well recognised nationally and internationally and well established

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

Overall, students' performance is ok and matches that of students on comparable courses with which I am familiar in UK and Europe. There is variation in cohorts performance over the years and there are some good and some poor students. This years cohort although performed although slightly below on average compared to other year cohorts

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

Overall mark of the students was very similar to each other this year, with no distinctions. However, within each band the performance of individual students remains appropriate. All students attaining a MSc are competent to appreciate underlying principles and apply methods to data, providing a good foundation

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

Work presented evidences a high degree of engagement by students with the learning materials.

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment has appropriate mix of methods, including formal written exams, MCQ and assessed presentations, viva.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessment methods are rigorous and fair

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

The level of assessment is entirely consistent with FHEQ

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking is of an extremely high standard. When discrepancy may arise between markers, these are resolved appropriately.

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)

Procedures for assessment are sound and fair. In particular, briefing , exam boards provide excellent help and support to the external examiners. Some issues were encountered this year with access to RVC Learn.

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

Assessment is rigorous throughout

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Feedback and support to student is excellent

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:

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was 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:

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:

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:

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)

