

**FOR COMPLETION  
AFTER THE  
EXAMINATION**

**THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE**

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Name of Examiner(s): Henry Tremaine, Wendela Wapenaar, Rory Breathnach & Elizabeth Leece.

**Programme: BVetMed**

**Year of appointment: 2011**

**Year of Examination: 2013**

**Examination: BVetMed Finals**

**Dates of attendance at the RVC:**

**OSCE 24/4/2013, 25/4/2013 (WW)**

**Oral defences 4/6/2013**

**Oral defences 6/6/2013 (WW)**

**Written papers and marks review 2/7/2013, 3/7/2013**

**Written papers and marks review 3/7/2013, 4/7/2013 (WW)**

Please comment on the areas detailed below. If you have no comments in a particular area, please state "Satisfactory", "Good" or "Excellent".

**1. The Programme**

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

- 1.1 course content
  - 1.2 learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met.
- 1.3 teaching methods.
- 1.4 resources (in so far as they affected the assessment).
- 1.5 the overall quality of the Programme, as revealed by the student performance, with specific reference to particular strengths and weaknesses.
- 1.6 the recommendations from this Examination for the curriculum, syllabuses, and teaching methods.
- 1.7 the effects of any changes made to the Programme in the last 12 months

*Course content is appropriate and relevant to RCVS day 1 skills*

*Course objectives appear to be met judging from the results.  
Teaching methods are up to date and continue to evolve. Resources are excellent  
The programme is very broad, enables widespread opportunities, varied teaching and assessment method and is well administered*

## **2. Candidates**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

- 2.1 impressions of candidates' specific areas of strength and weakness, as revealed by the assessment process
- 2.2 the quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range
- 2.3 the candidates' overall performance in relation to students at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

Type here

*Candidates are broad in ability, enthusiasm and interest as would be expected from a very large cohort. The programme is well structured, well organised and offers lots of choice. The top candidates are excellent, the majority are solid and there are some that struggle. The direct entry and recruitment from wider fields may allow entry of a higher number of students challenged by an intensive course. This comment is speculative. On average the candidates perform comparably to other UK veterinary schools. The elective research projects are particularly strong*

## **3. Assessment Process**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

- 3.1 the appropriateness of the assessment methods to the subject matter and their relevance to the learning objectives
- 3.2 the extent to which the assessment processes are rigorous
- 3.2 whether the assessments reflected the syllabus adequately
- 3.3 the overall standard of marks
- 3.4 any changes from previous years in which you have examined

*Assessment methods are robust, sympathetic and relevant. The broad syllabus is adequately represented in the exam as a whole*

#### 4. **Assessment Procedures**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

- 4.1 the administration of the examinations, e.g. time available for marking and moderation
- 4.2 arrangements for marking
- 4.3 procedures followed by the Board of Examiners
- 4.4 the participation of External Examiners in the process
- 4.5 adequacy of External Examiners' briefing
- 4.6 comparison with previous years in which you have examined

*Type here*

*Administration is excellent. The number of students to be examined and the volume of scripts and oral defences to be done mean that the examination process is a large one. External examiners were welcomed by internal staff and well appraised throughout. A team of examiners appears to be the best way to achieve this and the presence of at least one external throughout the process appears to ensure that the process is monitored thoroughly. The timetabling clashes with other busy events in academic schedules at other institutions meaning that attendance of all examiners simultaneously was challenging this year. This need not be a weakness. The semester system means that no academics have a quiet period nowadays and there may not be a simple solution to this if it is perceived as a problem. Briefing and examiners support was excellent*

**5. Please delete responses as appropriate**

5.1	Comments I have made in previous years have been acted upon	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.2	An acceptable response has been made	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.3	I approved the papers for the Examination	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.4	I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.5	I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.6	Candidates were considered impartially and fairly	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.7	The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.8	The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A
5.9	The processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are sound and fairly conducted	<b>YES</b>	NO	N/A

*If you have replied No to any of these questions, please comment more fully:*

*Type here*

*If you have identified any areas of good practice, please comment more fully:*

*Type here*

Signed Henry Tremaine

Date 16/7/2013

***The College would like to thank the external examiners for their comments and notes that it does not have any specific responses to make in return.***