

## ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2020/21

### Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

## MVetMed

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2020/21 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](mailto:afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk), 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Updates to actions from previous years' reports                       |
| b. | 20/21 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director |

| <b>Update to actions from 2019-20</b>   |  |   |                   |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| Question  | External Examiners comment   | CD's response & Action  | Update in 2020/21 |
| <p><b>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</b></p> | <p>Contributions to the project were considered by the student and were quantitative. We suggest they should be qualitative with self-certification that the majority of the work carried out be student with suitable acknowledgment of others who have contributed</p> | <p>Course director and exams office to change quantitative project contributions page for the research project to a self-certification page as outlined above.</p> <p><b>Action Deadline:</b><br/>01-Nov-2020</p> <p><b>Action assigned to:</b><br/>Course Director</p> | <p>COMPLETED</p>  |

# Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 24-Jun-2021

**Master of Veterinary Medicine, 2020/21**

**Lead examiner: Dr Veronica Roberts**

**Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Zoe Belshaw**

## The Programme

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

### 1.1 Course content

The examiners found that the course content was well thought out and entirely appropriate for this type of student. The students specialise in different areas but the course is able to adapt for this.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

The students' learning objectives in this course map those required of their specialty qualifications, so learning objectives are suitable and met.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 1.3 Teaching methods

Teaching is on clinic and through formal book club and journal club sessions as well as through WPBA feedback. Teaching methods are entirely appropriate for this type of course

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

Resources seem appropriate. A lot of effort has been gone to by the administration staff for which we are grateful.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The programme should be commended for meeting its fairly unique objectives so well

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**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

This is on a par. We expect these students to perform very well.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**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

Even the bottom of the range is still quite high achieving. The bottom of the range could generally improve their marks with more organisation to their work.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

It has remained high despite the added pressures of the pandemic.

**Response from college requested:** NO

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

WPBA, a research project element and having only pass or fail rather than grades is the most appropriate way to assess this course. The MCQ element is appropriate and there is scope to improve this - a greater number of questions may increase validity of the assessment. There is scope for improvement in quality of question writing, of which examiners are aware.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

A reminder and document on how to write good quality MCQ's was sent out to all supervisors. We will keep reviewing the total number although for now the focus is on good quality MCQ questions rather than increasing the quantity.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

WPBA assessors receive training and there is opportunity for multi-source feedback. The mark schemes were clear and awarded by more than one examiner. Whilst satisfactory currently, there is scope to improve the MCQ element.

Response from college requested: **NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Agree and thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

This appears appropriate.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.4 Standard of marking

This followed the mark schemes and was determined by more than one examiner for some elements. There is scope to increase and standardise amount of feedback given. A suggestion is to ask all markers, including of WPBA, to give 3 comments to commend and 3 to improve for each assessment.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

We will keep reviewing WPBA and have recorded a training webinar for supervisors, for now we do not wish for it to become as prescriptive as a set number of comments per WPBA.

**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)**

They are. The exam administration staff in particular should be commended.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you! The Director of Assessment passed on the commendation to the exams team.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

Following previous reports, the course has changed so that students' project contributions are qualitative not quantitative, students are graded as pass or fail rather than in grade bands and project work is assessed prior to input from peer reviewers.

These changes are welcomed and have improved the assessment.

There will be a move to digitalise the WPBAs as well which will also make the system easier for all.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Agree. It is essential for the RVC to progress the project to digitalise the WPBAs.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures**

Some MCQ papers have 4 answer options, some have 5. This is to align with the different speciality exams these students will ultimately undertake and is appropriate. This does mean that it may be easier to pass this element in some subjects than in others. However, this mirrors the situation for the speciality examinations. External and internal examiners have discussed this and have deemed this appropriate for this course.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

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

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

We are pleased with the way comments have been addressed.  
There remains scope to improve the MCQ section.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you!

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.2 An acceptable response has been made**

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination**

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: 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:**

Katy Sykes has done a great job of facilitating this.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

The late Katy Sykes was a very efficient member of the exams office team and will be missed by those that worked with her at the RVC.

**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:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: 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:**

**Response from college requested: 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:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

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

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: 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:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

**4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: NO**

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

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**Response from college requested: 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:**

The course should be commended for meeting the learning objectives of this fairly unique group of high performing students

**Response from college requested: NO**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**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)**

**Response from college requested: NO**

