

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2020/21

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc One Health

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, 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

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

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 10-Sep-2021

MSc in One Health, 2020/21

Lead examiner: Professor Esther Schelling

Collaborating examiner(s): Professor Sue Welburn

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The One Health MSc course is offered since several years and it continuously improved its comprehensive content addressing relevant One Health skills.

The external examiners had access to the RVC course website including the examen reports and assessments. We received the draft exam questions with standard answers prior to the exams, which gave us the opportunity to raise any issues.

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

All learning objectives were met. Very high standards have been set and maintained and theses are comparable to other peer institutions.

1.3 Teaching methods

Teaching methods and the staff teaching are all exemplary, this is a strong team adopting a variety of methods that engage with and bring out the best in the students. The extensive range of assessments used within this degree programme is to be commended as it provides students with an enhanced skill set for when they enter professional positions. Online teaching methods were successfully rolled out and attention was given to create virtual spaces for students and peers to exchange. High engagement of supervisors who have offered interesting projects despite that field work was not possible in this year's course.

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

Comprehensive, given the broad scope of One Health, particularly for economics, social science and epidemiology.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Many issues that have raised previously by the external examiners have been fed forward and acted upon.

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

Good and comparable, very high standards have been set and maintained and theses are comparable to what we experience in other peer institutions.

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

Normal distribution in a year of remote teaching.

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

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessments are wide ranging in nature as you would expect for multidisciplinary training. Assessors have provided detailed comments to justify their mark. Double marking was applied for final project works and assessment guidelines respected.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessments are wide ranging in nature and are undertaken with rigor. Very high standards for assessment have been set and maintained. The moderation applied is consistent with good practice.

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

Consistent

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking is of good quality as is the feedback.

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 are sound and applied with appropriate diligence.

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

Maintained at a high level.

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

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

N/A

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:

This is an excellent course that adds real value for students training in One Health, the course is comprehensive, interesting and delivers. Integrating social and basic sciences is important for One Health and it might be of value to attempt to introduce a mixed methods approach in all projects, matching supervisors where practical. More projects that are co-supervised by RVC and LSTHM are welcomed again in the next course.

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)

