

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2015/16

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc One Health

This appendix contains Course Directors' responses to 2015/16 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from 2014/15 External Examiners' report (if applicable).

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

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 16-Sep-2016

MSc in One Health, 2015/16

Lead examiner: Dr Peter Mertens

Collaborating examiner(s): Professor Mark Eisler

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

I have had only limited contact with the taught components of the course. My involvement was primarily with the student exam papers, the reports on their research projects and the subsequent vivas, in which I participated as an examiner for 5 students. The projects were of a high quality and clearly suitable for the student to research.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The learning objectives were appropriate

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.3 Teaching methods

The teaching methods appear to be appropriate

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The resources that were available were appropriate

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

As discussed at the examiners meeting perhaps some extra effort could be taken to ensure that the students are aware of the importance (for marking) of presenting their projects with an appropriate structure (correctly divided into introduction, materials and methods, results, conclusions etc.). Although it was clear that students had received the relevant instruction, one or two otherwise good students, appeared not to have got the message. As the viva contributes significantly to the students overall mark, it might perhaps be good for the students to give each other practice vivas (if time permits). this would be good for them to see both sides of the viva and might reduce nerves during the real thing?

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE:

Thank you for comments and the proposed exercise. We will consider it.

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

I felt that the students and their reports were of a relatively high standard overall.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

All of the the students had a good level of knowledge, particularly in relationship to the subject matter of their research projects.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The assessment methods were appropriate

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

The assessment procedures were (in my opinion) rigorous but fair.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

As far as I could tell for the projects and papers that I saw were consistently and fairly marked.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

The marking was of a high standard with suitable back up and dual marking, to ensure a fair outcome for the students.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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)

The procedures for assessment and determination of awards are sound and fairly conducted.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

It would have been useful (as an external examiner) to see the student presentations.

Response from college requested: **NO**

COURSE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE:

This has been discussed with the Exams office and we will ensure that in the future the External Examiners are invited to observe the student presentations.

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Response from college requested: NO

General Statements

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: 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:

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 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:

I was sent the exam questions, standard answers, the marking scheme, exam timetables, and projects, with adequate time to read them and respond.

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:

All suggestions are included in previous [answers](#)

Response from college requested: **NO**

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**

