

Collaborative Report

Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing, 2013/14

Ms Danielle Banks

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

Nothing on which to comment

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

During the review of examination papers learning outcomes are checked against questions asked , and the learning outcomes are clearly linked to teaching within the unit descriptors

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.3 Teaching methods

Nothing on which to comment

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Nothing on which to comment

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

It would be useful as external examiners to see student feedback regarding unit teaching which we presume would include evaluation of assessment

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Student Evaluations and End of Module Reviews are managed by the ASD office rather than Exams Office and are not normally presented to Externals with the assessment documentation. Module Reviews will not be routinely offered to External Examiners.

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 not known , as neither external is currently working with another institution which delivers such a programme

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

as well as those candidates who failed , 25% of all module assessment was reviewed to capture the top, middle and bottom ranges and both external examiners agree with the marks allocated for all candidates sampled

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

In previous report it was noted that the diagnostic imaging paper may not have been at level 6 , this is still a concern this year as it appears to be recall rather than application

In previous report , looking at the 2nd year units, there was concern regarding lack of standardisation across units , in relation to the examinations (SAQ) , it was clear to see how marks were given in Medical Nursing and Surgical Nursing but not in ECC, Diagnostic Imaging , Anaesthesia. There is also a lack of standardisation across units in the way in which the EPCRs are annotated or not

Response from college requested: **YES**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

The External Examiners' comments regarding the Diagnostic Imaging exam paper have been discussed with the Module and Deputy module leader (who also set the exam paper) and they are confident that the questions assess at level six and test students' advanced application of diagnostic imaging techniques.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Process

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Choice of assessment methods suit this type of programme and learning outcomes

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous

Please can the College confirm what the double marking process is and how the external examiners can see where this has taken place when looking at EPCR scripts rather than just seeing it on the final mark sheet

Response from college requested: **YES**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

The College uses a sample marking system rather than double marking system. First markers are required to annotate examination scripts and written assignment work. Sample markers are not required to annotate pieces of student work. In line with College procedures for marking work, the rate of sampling is 10% of cohorts of 50 plus students and 20% of cohorts of up to 50 students (or 5 pieces of work, whichever is greater).

External Examiners can access more information on the marking systems and procedures used via the Academic Quality, Regulations and Procedures pages on the RVC Website under: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-examiners-assessment>.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Other than comment made in point 2.3 it is apparent that the level of assessment is consistent with the FHEQ. Within the EPRC formative feedback the descriptors common to the graduate diploma are clearly seen and used by the markers

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

Within modules marking is consistent and fair

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.5 Opinion on changes to the assessment process from previous years in which you have examined

the reduction in the number of EPCRs submitted for each unit from 3 to 2 has not affected the standard of the work submitted but we presume this was done based on student feedback ?

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

The modifications to the summative written EPCR assessments for every elective module were initially proposed in response to student feedback and feedback from the module leaders who found that the existing word limit and total number of EPCRs required was a limiting factor in enabling students to critically reflect to the required standard within each EPCR. The proposal was taken to and actioned at the VN Course Management Committee (CMC) in May 2013. All Grad Dip elective modules adopted the new system from September 2013. Students were informed of the changes via email and online announcements in their course area before the start of the new academic year (September 2013) and via a 'You said, we did' posting in October 2013.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.6 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the assessment process

Examiners to mark in pen

It would be useful for the external examiners to be sent or have access to the College response to the previous report (ie summer during Oct visit) and also the minutes of the exam board prior to attending

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Due to the timing of both Exam Boards (August and October) in relation to timing of the TQC sub-committee which reviews and collates the Course Director's responses, the final report from the August Exam Board is not available for the October Exam Board.

Following discussion with the Exams Office, External Examiners will receive a draft copy of the minutes from each previous Exam Board during the Exams Board pre-meetings.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

4.1 In your view, are the processes for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted?

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

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

N/A

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

see previous comments

Response from college requested: NO

General Statements

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

In terms of clear identification of EPCR 1 & 2 , this has been done

Response from college requested: **NO**

5.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: **NO**

5.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Although exam papers are seen and commented on by the external examiner it is not apparent as to whether or not the comments have been actioned or not

Response from college requested: **YES**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Following discussion with the Exams Office, it has been agreed that the External Examiners will receive a copy of the exam-ready paper with details of the changes made in response to their comments.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

5.4 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:

The examinations office are extremely well organised and helpful leading up to and during the visits

Response from college requested: **NO**

5.5 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

5.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.7 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

5.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.10 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:

see comments above

Response from college requested: NO

5.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.12 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:

Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

No , this programme is well run and assessment rigorous

Response from college requested: **NO**

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**

