

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2019/20

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc in Intensive Livestock Health and Production

(the report covers the assessments that took place in 2018/19 & 2019/20)

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2019/20 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 (<i>none</i>)
b.	2019/20 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 23-Jul-2020

MSc in Intensive Livestock Health and Production (Distance Learning), 2019/20 (The report covers assessments that took place in 2018/19 and 2019/20)

Lead examiner: Ms Carole Brizuela

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Stephen Lister

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course content meets the programme objectives

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

The Learning Objectives are relevant to the programme outcomes and are met by the assessment strategy

1.3 Teaching methods

The mode of delivery by distance learning allows the course to be accessed by people in industry which provides an excellent opportunity for them to expand their professional roles and apply the material taught directly to their employment.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you for recognising this strength of the course, indeed all students have been in employment throughout their studies.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Students have to make use of their own working / professional resources when completing the MSc project; however this is completely understandable given the nature of the programme delivered at a distance and the industry link.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

As the programme has now come to an end we would like to congratulate the course team in developing a relevant postgraduate award for those who wished to extend their academic skills and knowledge in their working role. With the changes that are now becoming apparent in 2020, where remote learning will be an extremely important format for professional development, it is a shame that the programme is ending.

Dr S.L

Wholeheartedly agree

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you, and agree with the observations. Sadly the market demand was not sufficient to continue with the course. Thank you for your continued support.

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

In comparison to other Level 7 courses (not this degree area) the performance was similar.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Noted, 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

As the latter cohorts were so small it is very difficult to comment on this aspect. Knowledge of the particular industries in which the students were working was generally good. Some students struggled with the more academic aspects of the course assessment (evaluation, critique, synthesis).

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

The balance between employment and course progression has been taxing at times for the students, overall most persisted and benefited from the learning on offer.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Although some students do not seem to perform as well as may be expected I am happy that support is provided by the university to help them achieve a successful outcome.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The module assessments as set are allow students to meet module outcomes.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you, that is useful to know.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Having two assessors review, comment and mark the assessments and then moderate between the two provides a good level of assurance of fair and rigorous marking.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

And only possible with the scrutiny provided, thank you for your inputs.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

I am satisfied this is being met.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Noted, thank you.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.4 Standard of marking

Often I find the marking appears to be generous for a level 7 award. However it appears to be in line with the common grading scheme.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you

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)

Yes

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

Not applicable

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

None

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

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

There were no exam papers to review between 2018 - 2020. All assessment were course-work based.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden**Course Director Response:**

Course work assessments are known in advance and we have been open to suggestions, but have not actively solicited these.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

This was done via correspondance.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden**Course Director Response:**

Thank you for your flexibility in this, which made the process more efficient with the given low volume of students.

Action Required:**Action Deadline:****Action assigned to:****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****Yes****Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role**Yes****Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

Support for reviewing assessments has been excellent. Our thanks to the exam office team for making this an easy task.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden**Course Director Response:**

In return our thanks for being able to review the course work and echoing the gratitude for the exams office.

Action Required:**Action Deadline:****Action assigned to:****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:

None

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)

None

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Steven Van Winden

Course Director Response:

Thank you for seeing the degree through to its final stage and your continued support.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

