

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2022/23

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

BVetMed Year 2

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2022/23 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous External Examiners' reports (if applicable).

As Year Leader 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.	22/23 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Year Leader

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 04-Jul-2023

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Year 2, 2022/23

Lead examiner: Dr Charlotte Miller

Collaborating examiner(s): Mr Ian McCrone, Dr Hanne Jahns, (pending app) Dr Rachel Burrow

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

Appropriate based on online materials and assessment contents.

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

No concerns to report, the examinations were an appropriate test of the learning materials.

1.3 Teaching methods

A variety of teaching methods are used, appropriate to the topics covered, and these encourage critical appraisal as well as information assimilation.

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

Resources available online are excellent and provide appropriate support to learners. Instructions to students around exams are detailed and very clear.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

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

Within my specialist area, to my knowledge, these students are performing similarly to other students at level 5

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

Some of the highest performing students have achieved exceptional marks and the majority of the cohort have done well, though overall distinctions, merits and marks are a little lower than previously. Many of these students have faced considerable educational challenges in the past few years and this appears to be reflected here. The ISF orals are a very valuable way to appraise student knowledge and understanding but still prove challenging in terms of performance. Strategies under discussion with regard to in-person communication skills may help to support improvement of this element in the future.

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

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The methods of assessment used are sound, covering knowledge and appropriate applications, and the CATR is a good opportunity for students to explore a specialized interest while developing and demonstrating scientific writing and critical analysis skills.

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

It was evident to the external examiners how much hard work and experience had gone into each stage of the assessments. The statistical analyses and wider moderation paperwork are robust, with appropriate actions having been taken based on these analyses.

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

The assessments and student performance are consistent with expectations at level 5

3.4 Standard of marking

Good, marking and moderation are well documented and their outputs handled judiciously.

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

None to note

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

For the CATR individual students appear to be receiving good, constructive feedback and support from tutors, however the mechanisms and quantities of feedback are variable. A more consistent approach between markers and across the years of the programme may help to thread feedback and feed-forward on these skills when they are being practised less often.

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

Yes

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:

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)

