

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 26-Jul-2024

BSc and FdSc in Veterinary Nursing, 2023/24

Lead examiner: Dr Jane Furness

Collaborating examiner(s): Ms Carly Thornton

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The performance and progression of the following cohorts was reviewed this year in preparation for the two Examination Boards:

Wednesday 26th June

Year 4 (Cohort 17) BSc Veterinary Nursing and Year 3 (Cohort 18) BSc/FdSc Veterinary Nursing

Wednesday 11th September

Year 2 (Cohort 19) BSc/FdSc Veterinary Nursing and Year 1 (Cohort 20) BSc/FdSc Veterinary Nursing

The course is well designed and aligns to the RCVS Standards Framework for Veterinary Nursing Education and Training. Expected professional behaviours and professional identity are explored in modules.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

There is a diverse range of teaching and assessment approaches being utilised. Links to the RCVS Code of Conduct, Day One Skills and Competences are embedded within online module pages. Expected professional behaviours and professional identity are explored in modules.

1.3 Teaching methods

Teaching is delivered as a mixture of face-to-face contact and off-campus time, where students are signposted to activities to support their learning.

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

High quality resources are provided on module pages and these pages are consistent in their design and easy to navigate. Scaffolding of research skills is apparent through modules.

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

It was pleasing to watch the poster presentations contributing to the Final Year Project module with some interesting and diverse topics presented. I do hope these students go on to disseminate their research within the veterinary industry.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

Thank you for your comments regarding resources and content

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

Student performance is as expected and in line with other institutions, evidenced by the wide spread of marks awarded within the modules reviewed. Clear marking criteria are provided, including use of rubrics. Marks are being awarded in line with marking criteria.

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

Student achievement in the OSCE examination must be commended with a 74% pass rate at the sit opportunity. Students will be able to readily apply the knowledge and skills gained in a clinical setting as they enter the profession.

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

Student feedback is clearly considered and actioned as appropriate. The team respond to the individual student comments to explain any amendments made within the 'You said...we did' section.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

Thank you for your comments regarding OSCE's and the feedback

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessments are designed to be consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Students are exposed to a variety of assessment approaches, relevant to the programme learning outcomes and future progression into clinical roles.

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

Assessments have been shared with the external examiners for scrutiny prior to being delivered. Opportunities to review student's work is also provided ahead of the examination boards as well as time to speak to the Veterinary Nursing team, which is always appreciated.

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking consistency across teams of markers has noticeably improved this year following feedback provided last year. Clear evidence of feedback and feedforward provided on student work, highlighting good practice and areas for improvement in future work.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

Thank you for this comprehensive feedback. It is good to hear that marking consistency across the team has improved following the feedback provided last year, and it's reassuring that clear feedback and feed-forward practices are now evident in student work encouraging the students to develop their academic skills.

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)

There is still some isolated cases of inconsistent quality and quantity of feedback that was noted by both external examiners, for example in the Research Methods and Diagnostics module.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

We have tried to standardise the feedback provided across the team but recognise there will be a certain degree of variation. We do have yearly assessment meetings to discuss marking and assessment, which helps to standardise the team.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

That said, whilst some markers provided an excellent level of constructive feedback, the sustainability of providing a high quantity of very detailed feedback must be considered if cohort sizes increase, as well as seeking student feedback to ascertain how easily they digest this quantity of feedback.

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

We also appreciate the recognition of the excellent feedback provided by some markers. However, we agree that the sustainability of delivering highly detailed feedback must be considered in relation to cohort size. Ensuring that feedback remains both developmental for students and manageable for staff is a priority. To address this, we implemented team marking several years ago, which has been instrumental in managing the volume of assignments. Additionally, team marking meetings held during the marking period further support consistency and standardisation. We will certainly explore the suggestion of evaluating how students engage with and utilize the feedback provided. Understanding this aspect will help us ensure that our feedback continues to effectively support student development.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

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

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:

(Carly in June, Katie in September)

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:

The authentic, personalised and constructive feedback provided to students (particularly in the Emergency Critical Care module).

The thoughtful consideration of student outcomes in the examination boards. Thank you to the team for their time in the pre-meetings.

Suggestions for improvements

The topic of academic integrity in terms of detecting use of AI in student's work was raised in the June examination board. Not as a concern but as a discussion point, as the sophistication and capabilities of such technology evolves in the future. Something for the team to consider.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

Thank you for this suggestion. We currently have guidance for staff but no detailed guidance yet for students. This is something we are conscious of and awaiting further guidance from the VP of learning and teaching.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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)

It would be nice to meet some students to explore their experiences on the programme.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Hilary Orpet

Course Director Response:

This would be definitely something to consider – but might have to be at another time of year as the students are not on campus at the June and September exam board. This may be something we could include during the EE training event usually in January. Alternatively a Teams meeting at a suitable point in the academic calendar.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to: