

# Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 04-Sep-2024

## MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology, 2023/24

Lead examiner: Dr Agnes Waret-Szkuta

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Jasmeet Kaler

### The Programme

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

#### 1.1 Course content

This joint RVC- LHSTM course provides an innovative course which provides students with excellent grounding in veterinary epidemiology. The depth and breadth of its content gives graduates necessary skills to pursue variety of careers involving this discipline

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

All modules have clear and relevant learning objectives that meet the purpose of the courses to give sound understanding to students in variety of areas in veterinary epidemiology.

#### 1.3 Teaching methods

A mix of lectures, practicals, tutorials and self-directed learning. Students also have the opportunity to share learning with LSHTM epidemiology students and to benefit from teaching on surveillance and risk analysis from APHA

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

Course is well resourced and students have appropriate access

#### 1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Course is well recognised nationally and internationally and well established

## 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**

Overall, students' performance is ok and matches that of students on comparable courses with which I am familiar in Europe. There is variation in cohorts performance over the years and there are some good and some poor students. This year cohort was larger than the year before with 2 part-time students.

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

Overall mark of the students was relatively similar to each other this year, with one distinction. However, within each band the performance of individual students remains appropriate. All students attaining a MSc are competent to appreciate underlying principles and apply methods to data, providing a good foundation.

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

Work presented evidences a high degree of engagement by students with the learning materials. Students appear to encounter difficulties with the LSHTM modelling module this year.

## Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment has appropriate mix of methods, including formal written exams, MCQ and assessed presentations, oral viva.

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessment methods are rigorous and fair

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

The level of assessment is entirely consistent with FHEQ

### 3.4 Standard of marking

Marking is of an extremely high standard. When discrepancy arises between markers, these are resolved appropriately. Detailed and clear feedback is provided to students reflecting the marks given.

### 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)

Procedures for assessment are sound and fair. In particular, briefing, exam boards provide excellent help and support to the external examiners.

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

Assessment is rigorous

### 3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Support to student is very good, feedback excellent for written reports. Slight margin of improvement exists on the amount of written feedback given for the oral exam for it to be more homogenous across candidates.

## 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:**

**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)