

Extraordinary Regulations Principles in Response to Coronavirus/COVID-19

1) Background

The Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the adaptation of our teaching and assessment for the 2019/20 academic year and is likely to affect the initial delivery of our programmes in 2020/21.

We are seeking to continue education for all of our student groups during this challenging time and will adopt the principles below to ensure the continued admittance and progression of our students and award of our degrees, whilst assuring to the best of our ability the student experience and the academic and professional standards of our awards.

The Principal (or their nominee) shall be empowered to make reasonable adjustments to the admittance to the RVC and the delivery and award of our degrees based upon the principles below.

2) Principles

2.1 Admittance

Should the ability of our applicants to gain the standard entry qualifications normally required for admittance to the RVC be compromised due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we will put in place measures to make alternative assessments as to their suitability for entry.

Where necessary we will consult with professional bodies to ensure that accreditation standards relating to admission are maintained in principle.

2.2 Programme delivery

Should the ability of our students to attend teaching and assessment events be compromised due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we will deliver these events remotely wherever practicable. Students are expected to engage with this remote learning wherever practicable.

Students are required to undertake all formative and summative assessments unless prevented from doing so due to illness or other personal circumstance. If students are unable to undertake formative and/or summative assessments they must inform the Advice

Centre of this via email, providing reasons as to why they are unable to engage with their assessments. Further guidance as to impact of this on future studies will then be provided on an individual basis or as notified via student updates. Failure to undertake formative or summative assessments without prior notification to the Advice Centre may result in the requirement to withdraw from the programme.

2.3 Student progression

Students in non-graduating classes may not be able to achieve the standard requirements for progression to the next level/year of the programme due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. We reserve the right to progress students without formal assessment; this assessment will not necessarily need to be recovered unless required for professional registration purposes.

2.4 Degree award

2.4.1 – Awards that do not lead to professional body registration

Should the ability of our students to complete all final year assessments normally required for degree award be compromised due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic restrictions we will provide additional final assessment opportunities in the following academic year and corresponding award board meetings to agree final results so reducing the delay in award (students typically have a further opportunity to complete assessments in late summer only). However, should continuing restrictions compromise students' ability to complete assessments over the following academic year, we reserve the right to make awards based upon partial assessment completion within the final year. Awards may therefore be made on a pass/fail basis without classification.

2.4.2 – Awards leading to professional body registration

Should the ability of our students to complete all final year assessments normally required for degree award and professional body registration be compromised due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic restrictions we reserve the right to make awards based on a portfolio assessment review of achievement to date. This will include a review of required learning outcomes and professional competences/competencies against completed assessments to ensure that they have been met to the required standard. This holistic approach to standards and competences/competencies may result in the removal of some current assessments that will not need to be recovered. We will also provide additional final assessment opportunities in the following academic year and corresponding award board meetings to agree final results to reduce the delay in award (students typically have a further opportunity to complete assessments in late summer only).

However, it may be necessary for students to complete a required number of weeks/hours of clinical training to ensure continued compliance with accreditors. Where students have demonstrated requisite competences and skills via completed assessments but have not completed required weeks/hours of clinical training we may exceptionally permit attendance at our graduation ceremony (if a physical graduation event is held). However, formal award (and therefore ability to practise as a veterinary surgeon or nurse) will be withheld until all award requirements have been met, including required weeks/hours of clinical training.

3) Duration of extraordinary regulations principles

It is not possible to predict the period of time that the above principles will need to be employed. They will be kept under review as the pandemic progresses and may be adjusted (with agreement from Academic Board) at the appropriate time.

However, these principles relate to restrictions placed upon RVC and our students relating to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic only and must not be employed for any other purpose at any other time.

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