

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2019/20

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MVetMed

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>n/a as there were no actions in previous years</i>)
b.	2019/20 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 26-Jun-2020

Master of Veterinary Medicine, 2019/20

Lead examiner: Professor Carmel Mooney

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Veronica Roberts

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course content appeared appropriate

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

Learning objectives were appropriate and met

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.3 Teaching methods

Teaching methods appeared appropriate

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

n/a

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The Programme is in its last year and next year all students will be enrolled on a new programme. The changes will likely improve the Programme.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

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

The students' performance is similar to those at a similar stage in University College Dublin and University of Bristol where the external examiners emanate from. We do expect these students to perform to a high standard.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

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

Candidates knowledge and skills appeared high, as expected for such a cohort of students

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

No further comments

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Assessment methods varied as expected for the two different programmes and with different WPBA types for different specialities. This is not unexpected. For the WPBA students may only upload assessments they have passed and may repeat the assessment until they do so ensuring professional competencies are met.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

correct

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

Assessment procedures appear rigorous.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

A consistent marking rubric was used by examiners

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.4 Standard of marking

Feedback has improved and this year all projects were given feedback. In most cases this was good to excellent. There is still scope for improvement in some assessors' contributions. It would be useful if more assessors referred to the feedback rubric. We understand that from next year, projects must be submitted at the time that a manuscript is submitted for publication rather than after it has been commented on by reviewers and improved. We support this

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

There will be further reminders to assessors about high quality feedback being required and to use the feedback rubric.

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)

The whole examination procedure was organised extremely efficiently and all necessary paperwork was made available to the external examiners. The move to on-line this year could have been challenging but the administrative staff in particular should be congratulated on making this format a success.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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

We welcome the move to WPBA for this programme.

It was not initially clear that where there was a mark discrepancy between assessors, a third examiner was employed. We were satisfied that this was clarified and welcome this change.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

correct

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

As noted above feedback should take account of the marking rubric and all students are entitled to detailed feedback.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

There will be further reminders to assessors about high quality feedback being required and to use the feedback rubric.

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

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:

All of the final year students' research work and grades for all didactic modules was made available. Not all WPBA submissions for every student was scrutinized but all were made available. The amount of paperwork is staggering as each individual student has a large number of WBPAs. It is hoped that an online system may become available in time.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

Agree and we will support/ask for development of an online system.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

We suggested that all students should be viewed anonymously but understand the difficulties of doing this particularly with WPBA

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Fantastic administrative support.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

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:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

agree

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

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:

Contributions to the project were considered by the student and were quantitative. We suggest they should be qualitative with self-certification that the majority of the work carried out be student with suitable acknowledgment of others who have contributed

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

Agree

Action Required:

Course director and exams office to change quantitative project contributions page for the research project to a self certification page as outlined above.

Action Deadline:

01-Nov-2020

Action assigned to:

Vicky Lipscomb

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)

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Vicky Lipscomb

Course Director Response:

n/a

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

