

ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2019/20

Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

MSc Veterinary Epidemiology

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
b.	2019/20 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

. Updates to actions from previous years' reports

Report Question

External Examiners' comments
& suggested actions

Course Director/Year Leader's
response & Action

Update in 20

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 21-Sep-

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

A range of assessment methods are used, including formal exams comprising short and longer answers, assessed student presentations and project work. These are both appropriate and directly related to learning objectives.

3.2

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

, The programme faced a challenge to ensure that students did not suffer any detrimental impact in marking as a consequence of COVID. To this end and in common with guidance across RVC programmes, an adjustment process was implemented to align awards at pass, merit and distinction taking into account student-ranked performance across the year. Any such system may yield apparently anomalous results; for example, where the barrier between a pass and merit occurs. These adjustments were fairly considered by the Board of Examiners . However, in the future, if such an adjustment process is to be used again, the impact of placing a small number of students into grade categories by proportion should be reflected upon. This year, there were 9 students completing their studies. Thus, division into categories of Distinction/ Merit / as the top and second 20% is difficult. It would be helpful if the Board of Examiners were given discretion to moderate between pass/merit/distinction for students who fall on the border between these grades.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Ki-f1 0 0 1 5 nBT/r1

4.1 Comments I have made in previous ye

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

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:

This year, sustaining the high quality of teaching during COVID has been challenging. The programme and all contributors to the course along with the RVC generally are to be complimented for striving to adjust learning and assessment against this unprecedented threat. No doubt the experiences of staff and students will be reflected upon and the current student cohort will benefit from lessons learned.

5.2 External Examiner comments: For College information only (Responses to External Examiners are only use this box to add any comments that you wish to remain confidential, if any)