

External Examiner Report Template (ONLINE)

The following details will continue to be captured via the online reporting process:

- Name(s) of External Examiner(s) contributing to a collaborative or individual report Dr Susan Kempson
- Programme Title and Award BVet Med
- Collaborative partner and location (if applicable)
- Year of Examination 2013
- Examination (only applicable to BVetMed) Graduate year
- Date(s) of attendance at the RVC 21st June 2013

The online system will capture agreed sign-off by each collaborating external examiner or individual where necessary.

Instructions for completion:

1. For sections 1 - 4 please type your comments in the spaces provided. You are asked to indicate if you expect to receive a response from the College.
2. For section 5, please delete as appropriate (Yes, No or N/A). You are asked to provide additional comments, particularly if you answered 'No'.
3. Names of all students and staff should be omitted from external examiners' reports, to maintain appropriate confidentiality.
4. Unless comments are returned within three weeks of completion of the Exam Board meeting, it may not be possible to act upon these comments in the forthcoming academic year.
5. Please return expense claims with receipts attached by post to the Academic Quality Manager, The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA.

Thank you!

Please comment on the areas detailed below, highlighting the appropriateness and strengths and/or weaknesses.

1. Programme Graduate year	External Examiner comments: For Publication	A response from the College is required, if yes, please check the box ☒	College Response: (Where the response requires action(s), each action must be outlined, a completion date given and a responsible individual named)
1.1. Course content	Appropriate	☐	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
1.2. Learning objectives	Sound	☐	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
1.3. Teaching methods	Good	☐	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
1.4. Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)	Excellent	☐	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme:		☐	Response: Action (if any) date & name:

Please comment on the areas detailed below, highlighting strengths and/or weaknesses.

2. Student performance	External Examiner comments: For Publication	A response from the College is required, if yes, please check the box [✓]	College Response: (Where the response requires action(s), each action must be outlined, a completion date given and a responsible individual named)
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 was very similar to those at my own school	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
2.2. Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range	As with our own graduate students the top students were as good as the best students on the five year programme. The weakest students were similar to our own graduate students in so much as they are not as good as the worst of the five year programme.	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the students' performance:	I thought that generally the students performed well in the oral examinations. On the whole they were an impressive group, answering with confidence. They were happy to communicate well. The weak students had little to communicate and consequently did not do as well.	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:

Please comment on the areas detailed below, highlighting appropriateness and strengths and/or weaknesses.

3. Assessment Process	External Examiner comments: For Publication	A response from the College is required, if yes, please check the box [✓]	College Response: (Where the response requires action(s), each action must be outlined, a completion date given and a responsible individual named)
3.1. Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)	The variety of assessments was impressive and gave the students every chance to perform well.	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
3.2. Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous	The assessment process was appropriately rigorous.	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
3.3. Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	The level of assessment was consistent and appropriate.	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
3.4. Standard of marking	Good	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
3.5. Opinion on changes to the assessment process from previous years in which you have examined	I felt that it was a shame that the external examiners are no longer asked to conduct the oral examinations. It is only by talking to the students and asking them questions that you get a real feel for their knowledge.	[]	Response: This is in line with the Quality Assurance Agency policy on the role of External Examiners and consistent with RVC policy.
Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the assessment process:		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:

Please comment on the areas detailed below, highlighting strengths and/or weaknesses.

4. Procedures	External Examiner comments: For Publication	A response from the College is required, if yes, please check the box [✓]	College Response: (Where the response requires action(s), each action must be outlined, a completion date given and a responsible individual named)
4.1. In your view, are the processes 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)	Yes the process was fairly conducted	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
4.2. Opinion on changes to the procedures from previous years in which you have examined	See 3.5 above	[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures:	It is very difficult for the external examiners to travel to observe just two and a half hours of oral examinations and then return for a brief examination board a week or so later for such a small group of students. I feel it would be better to have the orals one day and then the examination board the following day as you used to do. It would be ovrth travelling a long distance for.	[]	Response: We do appreciate the difficulties this causes for examiners who have to travel some distance. However there has been a deliberate move to separate oral examinations from the exam board in order to allow the exams office sufficient time to process and verify the marks.

5. General Statements	[YES] [NO] [N/A] check as appropriate	Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:	A response from the College is required, if yes, please check the box [✓]	College Response: (All responses leading to an action must note an identified timeframe and responsible individual. Please outline the action and a date by which the action will be taken)
5.1. Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.2. An acceptable response has been made	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.3. I approved the papers for the Examination	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.4. I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties	[N/A]		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.5. I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination	No		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.6. Candidates were considered impartially and fairly	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.7. The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.8. The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.9. I have received enough support to carry out my role	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.10. I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.11. Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:
5.12. The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound	Yes		[]	Response: Action (if any) date & name:

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:

Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

As with our own graduate entry course I am concerned that the anatomy component is too reduced. Anatomy was only a very minor component of the written examinations. On the other hand you may select your students more rigorously than we do so that they come with a good back ground in basic preclinical sciences. This year I was impressed with their knowledge and ability to apply it in the oral examinations compared to other cohorts.

College Response, Friday 23rd August 2013

The reduction in anatomy has been felt necessary in order to bring the graduate course in line with changes that have been made to the integrated BVetMed curriculum.

Chantal Chenu, Chair of the Graduate exam board

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)

Thank you for completing this annual report!

All External Examiner reports will be responded to via the following process [<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/Examiners/documents/ExternalExaminerReports.pdf>] and in time for the annual RVC Inset Day on Assessment.