

a. 2015/16 Individual

Individual Report

Exam board meeting: 24-Feb-2016

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

In the A module, where similar feedback remarks are made to several candidates regarding essay structure, approach or content (for example 40 and 45), consideration should be given to providing candidates with improved guidance before they write the essay, to assist them in meeting the marking criteria. This would be particularly helpful for the A module summary essay. The programme underwent Periodic Review in 2015.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

This advice has been noted and will be progressed. The assessor of essay 40 has written guidance notes for the essay and these are now available to the candidates. We shall ask the assessor of the summary essay to provide further guidance as well.

Action Required:

Follow up with assessor of essay 45

Action Deadline:

31-Mar-2016

Action assigned to:

Jill Maddison

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

Comparative data on success in the RCVS synoptic examination would be helpful, should they become available.

Response from college requested: NO

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

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)

Yes. Candidates are considered fairly and administration is conducted efficiently with adequate data to inform discussion at exam board. The examination board is well attended.

Response from college requested: NO

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

Candidates may find the changes in pass mark in the last two years confusing but the issues have been considered and marks seem to be applied fairly. The revised grading scheme descriptors have aided fair assessment and appropriate feedback.

Response from college requested: NO

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Delays in receiving feedback are commented on by participants on the A and B modules. With a two year module enrolment, and 4 submission dates per year, having to wait 8 weeks for feedback causes frustration for some candidates. The policy of one assessor per essay question makes shorter turn around time difficult for more popular essays. Consideration could be given to increasing the number of assessors for popular essays and using IT to help assessors plan and manage their time to reduce assessment turn round.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison

Course Director Response:

We agree that the 8 week turnaround time for assessment is too long and is well in breach of the college's feedback policy.

Action Required:

We will put in place plans to ensure that no Module A assessor receives more than 6 essays to mark, that reminders about when essays are due to arrive and when feedback is due back are automatically placed in essays diaries (assuming they accept the invitation!). Once the structure is in place we will introduce a 4 week turnaround for Module A work (as there now is for Module B)

Action Deadline:

31-Jul-2016

Action assigned to:

Jill Maddison and Joanne Jarvis



4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly**Yes****Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

Appeals were dealt with fairly. It is not clear whether the option of having a different assessor for a resubmitted essay is routinely available and this requires clarification.

Response from college requested: YES**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Jill Maddison****Course Director Response:**

Yes -I agree that this needs to be clarified and a policy developed.

Action Required:

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

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: