

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO EXTERNAL EXAMINERS' COMMENTS, 2012/2013**

Examiner Comment	RVC Response	Actions
<b>Murry Welsh &amp; Andrea Dineen</b>		<b>RVC list of actions for 2013-14</b>

*There were some concerns raised by externs where learning objectives for specific modules contained details of practical learning outcomes and yet no practical assessment elements were present for these modules. This arose in particular in relation to the ECC and Surgical Nursing modules where it was noted that the written examination was linked to one scientific article and a written assignment. The external examiners' concern was that such limited examination of such broad topics may be insufficient and would certainly not assess practical skills in these key nursing areas. However, VN Course Director (Hilary Orpet) explained that the modules in question were actually Grad*

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**List of any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to standards and assessment processes that would be worth drawing to the attention of external audiences:**

*The RVC staff seem very in tune with and sensitive to the progression of the VN students. Examination papers were sent to externs in a timely manner allowing sufficient time for externs to review and feedback regarding papers and the same is also true of the marked exam scripts and assignments*

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FOR COMPLETION  
AFTER THE  
EXAMINATION

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

*EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT*

**Name of Examiner/s:** Murry Welsh & Andrea Dineen

**Programme:** Veterinary Nursing (BSc/ Fd)

**Year/s of appointment :** Andrea Dineen: 2012-13  
Murry Welsh: 2009-10

**Year of Examination:** 2012-13

**Examination/s:** Cohort 6 BSc & Cohort 7 BSc/Fd

**Dates of attendance at the RVC:** 17,18 & 19 June 2013 (& scripts previewed before arrival)

**The Programme**

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO EXTERNAL EXAMINERS' COMMENTS, 2012/2013

*Course involves very thorough coverage and assessment of the various aspects of veterinary nursing.*

*By and large learning objectives are well met by course content and the forms of assessment. There were some concerns raised by externs where learning objectives for specific modules contained details of practical learning outcomes and yet no practical assessment elements were present for these modules. This arose in particular in relation to the ECC and Surgical Nursing modules where it was noted that the written examination was linked to one scientific article and a written assignment. The external examiners' concern was that such limited examination of such broad topics may be insufficient and would certainly not assess practical skills in these key nursing areas. However, VN Course Director (Hilary Orpet) explained that the modules in question were actually Grad DipVN modules offered to final year BSc VN students as elective options (students have a choice of Pathology, ECC or Surgical Nursing) and hence the core knowledge and practical skills relating to these areas would have been previously formally assessed for these students in the earlier years of their programme. However, the externs would suggest that the learning objectives be re-considered in light of this and perhaps the learning objectives concerned with practical skills might be re-worded for clarity, along the lines of "Students undertaking this module are required to/ deemed to have former knowledge and practical skills in..."*

*Having accessed the RVC Learn site online over the two days on campus, it is apparent from reviewing the timetables that a diverse range of teaching methods are utilised across the BSc/Fd VN programmes.*

*Externs noted the volume of marking to be completed by course teachers especially when sample/ double marking is factored in. Also the range of*

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*feedback reports provided following assignments is wonderful for students and is to be commended but naturally is quite labour-intensive for staff.*

*It is the opinion of the extern that the students exhibited particular strengths in the area of academic writing and staff are to be complimented on achieving such a high standard in undergraduate students. Andrea is unable to comment on the practical or presentation skills of the students (as did not attend these examinations) , however the comments from lead extern (Murry Welsh) and seen on NPL from clinical supervisors would suggest no concerning deficiencies in students performing practical tasks.*

*No recommendations other than the Learning Objectives matching to Assessments consideration mentioned in 1.2 above.*

*There has been no significant changes to Programme.*

### **Candidates**

*See 1.5 above*

*Externs reviewed a range of candidates in the aforementioned ranges.*

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*For example, in Cohort 6, the following students' work was reviewed:*

*Final year project: L2412, L2456, L2507, L2389.*

*ECC elective: L2412, L2468, L2507, L2388.*

*Prep for Advanced VN Practice: L2468, L2495, L2456, L2458, L2507.*

*Research methods: L2468, L2412, L2389.*

*Externs are largely satisfied that there are clear distinctions between marks awarded to students in the various ranges and that marking was fair and transparent. There is just one concern in relation to a Resit student (L2392) for her assignment mark of 45% for her Literature Review in the Professional Practice module. This concern received extensive consideration in that the marking of this assignment was done by both the internal and both the external examiners (ie 4 people) and the marks were justified and awarded blind by internal examiners for this candidate. The issue was discussed at length at*





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*The Exam Board provided ample time for externs to review the marking of written papers and assignments. Internally the timelines are tighter but staff seem to be managing with the current deadlines.*

*Full cooperation was provided for externs regarding any queries / issue in relation to marking.*

*Procedures of Exam Board are in keeping with those seen in other institutions (Dublin) and were fair and time allowed for discussion and comment from all attendees in relation to any issues.*

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