



The cost of components of a summative fourth year OSCE

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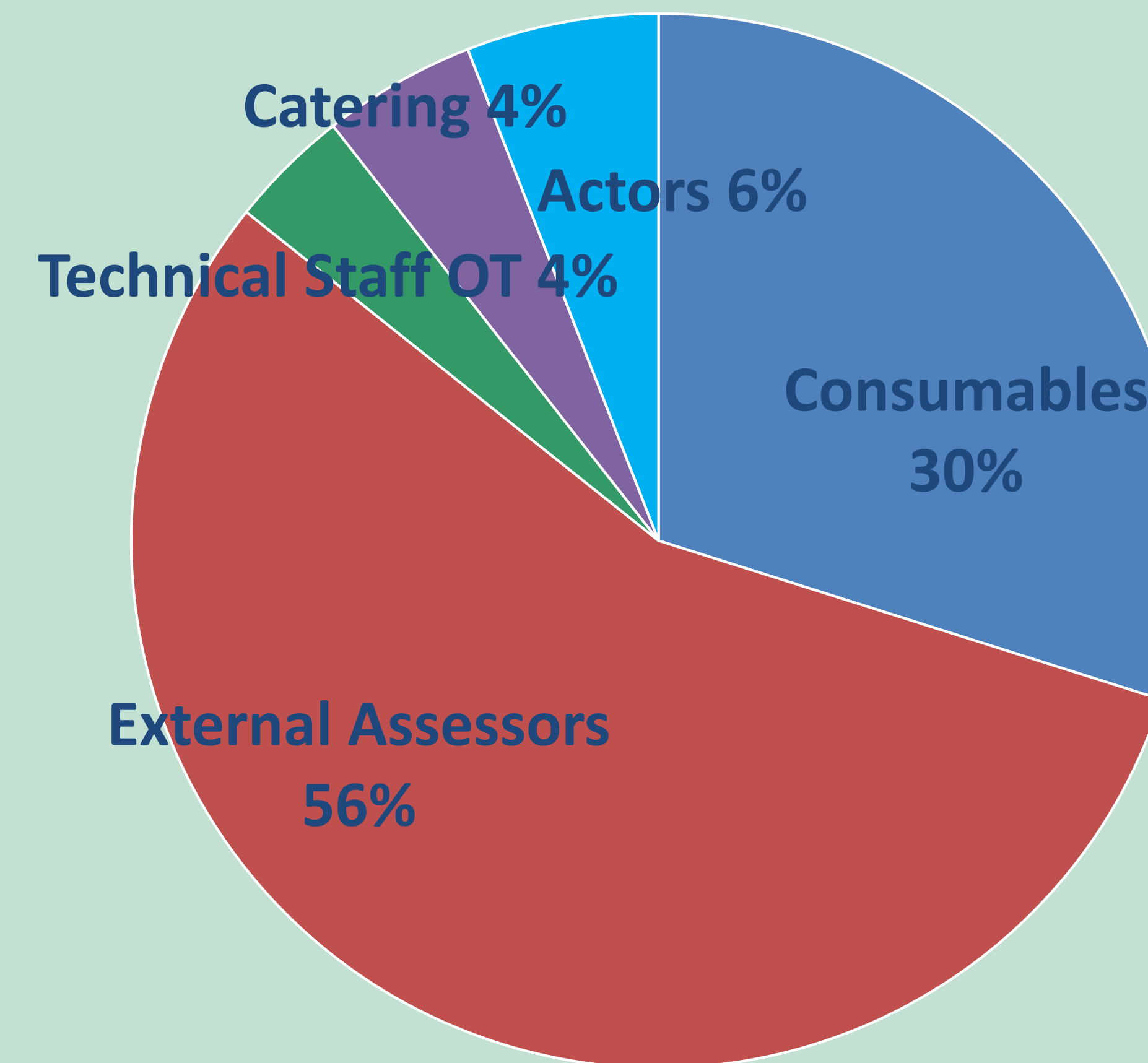
Introduction

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) are widely used in veterinary and medical education to assess clinical skills. Cost-effectiveness is one of the components of the assessment utility index defining its usefulness. OSCEs are undoubtedly expensive to run and institutions should be encouraged to understand the costs associated with this type of assessment.

Methods

A retrospective case-study approach was used to identify the costs associated with the administration of the 2018 summative fourth year BVMS OSCE at the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine. This is a 15 station OSCE held over 3 days for 115 students. Two identical streams were run simultaneously for all 15 stations, with stations 1-6 on day 1, 7-10 on day 2 and 11-15 on day 3.

Proportion of OSCE Cost



Results

- This OSCE cost £9,358 to run over 3 days, factoring in consumables, external staff, actors, technical staff overtime and catering costs.
- The cost per student was £81.37.
- Cost per station in consumables ranged from £0 (equine radiography) to £1300 (gowning and gloving).
- External assessors were the largest expense at £5231.



Conclusions

- The bulk of the OSCE costs are not modifiable without placing reliability and validity at risk.
- With a lack of other appropriate forms of assessment to assess clinical skills, OSCEs are likely to remain a fundamental part of the veterinary education process.
- The calculation of the costs associated should be performed so that resource allocation and can be appropriately planned.