

**The University of Leeds**  
**EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2010– 2011**

**PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Subject area and awards being examined:*

<b>School of:</b> Healthcare	<b>Subject(s):</b> awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.) Graduate Certificate in Infection Prevention & Control Certificate in Infection Control
<b>Programme(s) / Module(s):</b>  HECS 3231 (Infection control principles, practices and applied microbiology), HECS 3232 (Epidemiology & surveillance in Infection control) HECS 3039 (Principles & practices of infection control) HECS 3038 (Applied microbiology in Infection Control) HECS 3040 (Epidemiology & Surveillance in infection control) HECS 2021 Prevention & control of infection: principles and practice.	

*The completed report should be attached to an e-mail and sent as soon as possible, and no later than 6 weeks after the relevant meeting of the Board of Examiners, to [exexadmin@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:exexadmin@leeds.ac.uk).*

Alternatively you can post your report to:

**Head of Academic Quality and Standards,  
Academic Quality and Standards Team,  
Room 12:81, EC Stoner Building,  
The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT**

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**PART B: COMMENTS FOR THE INSTITUTION ON THE EXAMINATION PROCESS AND STANDARDS**

***Matters for Urgent Attention***

*If there are any areas which you think require urgent attention before the programme is offered again please note them in this box.*  
None

***Only applicable in first year of appointment***

*Were you provided with copies of previous relevant External Examiners' reports and the response of the School to these?*  
NA

***For Examiners completing their term of appointment***

HEALTH024

*Please comment on your experience of the programme(s) over the period of your appointment, remarking in particular on changes from year to year and the progressive development and enhancement of the learning and teaching provision, on standards achieved, on marking and assessment and the procedures of the School.*

NA

**1. Please indicate the extent to which the programme aims and intended learning outcomes (ILOs) were commensurate with the level of the award?**

The programme provides specialist educational input into a prominent area of practice which addresses key issues such as healthcare associated infection. The programme provides a range of modules which students are required to study to enable them to become proficient, knowledgeable, and competent to practice in infection prevention and management within their workplace.

Learner progression is supported through clearly identified learning outcomes for each module with a range of assessment strategies to support evidence of learning. Students are required to demonstrate these subject specific and transferable skills in order to meet the standards of the framework for HE and the QAA benchmarking.

Specialist subject knowledge and core competencies are linked to the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) standards for practitioners as well as those identified by the Department of Health (DOH) and the overall standard expected of the students is similar to the institution to which I belong.

**2. Did the aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?**

- The subject areas map against standards for practitioners identified by the DOH and the IPS. The academic staff maintain involvement with local clinical practice experts and national specialist organisations such as the IPS & Health Protection Agency (HPA) which also assists in ensuring currency of the educational input.

**3. Please comment on the assessment methods and the appropriateness of these to the ILOs?**

- Assessment of students provides a range of opportunities to demonstrate learning from essays, examinations, multiple choice questionnaires, short written answers etc and reflects the learning outcomes identified for a module.
- Assessment of student submissions follows university protocol with evidence of consistency and equity between markers and internal moderation. Feedback to students is relevant and appropriate with clear guidance for future development

**4. Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the aims and ILOs?**

- Student performance and achievement over a range of modules is most encouraging with the majority of students gaining a first submission pass. The feedback given to students is usually very comprehensive and clear to support further development of knowledge and skills or to assist students in their resubmissions.
- The standards achieved are comparable with those that I have seen in other higher education institutions with which I am familiar

**5. For Examiners responsible for programmes that include clinical practice components, please comment on the learning and assessment of practice components of the curriculum**

NA

**6. The nature and effectiveness of enhancements to the programme(s) and modules since the previous year**

NA

**7. The influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching**

- The programme is supported by a team of lecturers with both scientific and specialist clinical practice expertise and reflects current thinking in contemporary infection prevention and control practice. It is expected that the programme will continue to be underpinned by a strong evidence base of research.

***The Examination Process*****8. The University and its Schools provide guidance for External Examiners as to their roles, powers and responsibilities. Please indicate whether this material was sufficient for you to act effectively as an External Examiner?**

- The guidance materials received in relation to my role is comprehensive and sufficiently detailed for me to undertake the role of external examiner in an appropriate manner.

**9. Did you receive appropriate documentation relating to the programmes and/or parts of programmes for which you have responsibility, e.g. programme specifications or module handbooks?**

- HEALTH024  
Yes I received relevant programme/module handbooks for the areas that I am responsible for

10. **Was sufficient assessed/examination work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work?**

- Yes I received a range of scripts across all grading band in sufficient number to make an appropriate evaluation of the students' work
- I would however ask to receive all fail grade scripts for each module

11. **Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Board of Examiners?**

- Yes, communication with/from professional staff is excellent and to be commended.
- The boards that I have attended are always conducted in a professional, fair and transparent manner and adhere to the University's guidelines.

12. **Were appropriate procedures in place to give due consideration to mitigating circumstances and medical evidence?**

- Yes, the best interests of students were always considered.

***For Examiners involved in Mentoring Arrangements***

*If you have acted as a mentor to a new external examiner or have received mentor support please comment here on the arrangements.*

NA

***Other Comments***

*Please use this box if you wish to make any further comments not covered elsewhere on the form.*

30.08.11

School of Healthcare

Baines Wing  
University of Leeds  
Leeds LS2 9JT



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

30 April 2012

Dear

Re: **External Examiner' Report 2010/2011– Infection Control**

Thank you for your very positive, supportive and most encouraging annual report.

The team welcomes your comment that the specialist subject knowledge and core competencies that inform and contribute to the programme continue to be linked to Infection Prevention Society and Department of Health standards. This provides students with a sound preparation for practicing infection control and prevention in healthcare fields.

The team is gratified by your comments on the range of opportunities provided to enable students to demonstrate learning and the quality of feedback given to students to assist them to further develop their knowledge.

It is pleasing that you consider the standards of assessment achieved in Leeds to be comparable with those you have seen in other higher education institutions and that the programme is underpinned by a strong evidence base.

The team notes your comment regarding receipt of all the fail scripts for each module. It was the team's belief that this was occurring, but it will endeavour to ensure that this occurs in future.

As you are aware, the Graduate Certificate in Infection Prevention and Control will not run in the 2011/2012 session. However, the modules are not to be archived and so there is the possibility that the programme could run in the future.

Your support and guidance is most welcome to the team members, who very much appreciate your commitment as an external examiner.

On behalf of the School of Healthcare please accept our very best wishes and the thanks of the Module Management team.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Head of School of Healthcare



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE