

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

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION*Subject area and awards being examined:*

School of: Programme(s) / Module(s): MSc Nursing/ Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing HECS 5152 M HECS 5124 M HECS 3247 M HECS 5125 M DONE 5006 M HECS 5002 M	Subject(s): awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.)
--	---

Name and home institution/affiliation of examiner:

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.

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

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?

For Examiners completing their term of appointment

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.

This programme attracts very sound students, who, on the whole, produce some excellent work. The lecturers are committed to the programme and have produced a rigorous and stimulating curriculum. The qualities of the personnel who have left over the past four years have been missed, but the changes have allowed the new incumbents to bring different expertise. The standards and quality of the course, therefore, remain high. From a practical perspective, the organisation and support of the administrative staff has been exceptional.

Standards

1. **Please indicate the extent to which the programme aims and intended learning outcomes (ILOs) were commensurate with the level of the award?**
 - *The appropriateness of the intended learning outcomes for the programme(s)/modules and of the structure and content of the programme(s);*
 - *The extent to which standards are appropriate for the award or award element under consideration.*
 - The Learning outcomes are appropriate for this programme where the majority of the modules are being presented at Masters Level. The standards set are appropriate and achieved by the majority of students.
2. **Did the aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?**
 - *The comparability of the programme(s) with similar programme(s) at other institutions and against national benchmarks and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.*
 - This continues to be a fairly unusual way to undertake pre-registration nursing and as such it is not within my experience to be able to make a direct comparison with a similar course, however the ILOs and outcomes are commensurate with the framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Masters level.
3. **Please comment on the assessment methods and the appropriateness of these to the ILOs?**
 - *The design and structure of the assessment methods, and the arrangements for the marking of modules and the classification of awards;*
 - *The quality of teaching, learning and assessment methods that may be indicated by student performance.*

The design and structure of the assessment methods are appropriate for this type of course. Some aspects of assessment have been modified to accommodate NMC requirements.

4. **Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the aims and ILOs?**
 - *The academic standards demonstrated by the students and, where possible, their performance in relation to students on comparable courses;*
 - *The strengths and weaknesses of the students as a cohort.*
 - As in previous years, in most cases the students' achievements were sound and could be compared well to other Masters courses.
 - The overall standard of this programme remains high. The stronger students demonstrate a mature capacity for analysis and insight, whilst the weaker students exhibit work which is more descriptive and does not always show a level of knowledge and understanding commensurate with Masters Studies.
5. **For Examiners responsible for programmes that include clinical practice components, please comment on the learning and assessment of practice components of the curriculum**

The assessment of practice is well organised. As it is managed and assessed by mentors in the practice environment I have not seen this process at first hand, however, I have been given access to the written reports of the students in practice.

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

It would be particularly helpful if you could also identify areas of good practice which are worthy of wider dissemination.

The only modification that I am aware of was to the numeracy assessment, which is now in a suitable format and remains within the NMC requirements.

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

This may include examples of curriculum design informed by current research in the subject; practice informed by research; students undertaking research.

The teaching of research in this programme is excellent, and the support provided in this area is exemplary, as demonstrated by the excellent feedback to students. The majority of students demonstrate a very sound understanding in this area of study.

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?**
- *Whether external examiners have sufficient access to the material needed to make the required judgements and whether they are encouraged to request additional information.*
 - Yes, the guidance is useful.
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?**
- *The coherence of the policies and procedures relating to external examiners and whether they match the explicit roles they are asked to perform.*

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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.

I was not asked to be a mentor this year

Other Comments

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

School of Healthcare

Baines Wing
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

14 May 2012

Dear

Re: External Examiner's Report 2010-2011 - Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing with Registration and MSc Nursing

Thank you very much for your very positive annual report. As you have highlighted, the programme has undergone a number of changes including significant staff resources and the validation of and recruitment to the new MSc Nursing with Registration (Adult, Child, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) which replaces the Post Graduate Diploma. The Programme Manager and team have worked hard to maintain and improve upon their high standards and it is encouraging that you have recognised this.

As your term of office as External Examiner to this programme is now completed I and the programme team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the help, support and advice you have given over the years. It has been much appreciated and has meant that positive improvements to the programme have been made. The team has found it a pleasure to work with you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely