

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

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject area and awards being examined:

School of: Leeds Institute of Health Sciences

Subject(s):

awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.)

Programme(s) / Module(s):

Masters in International Health

MSc

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

N/A

Only applicable in first year of appointment

N/A

For Examiners completing their term of appointment

N/A

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 intended learning outcomes for the programme and its the structure and content are appropriate. Its standards are suitable for the award of MSc.

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

The aims and ILOs of this programme are comparable with similar Masters level programmes in International Health in Europe.

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

On my third year as external examiner I confirm my previous impression. I found evidence of consolidation and improvement of quality in the overall running of the programme. The design and structure of the assessment methods remain appropriate and innovative, and the value of the student work I reviewed is on average superior compared to previous years.

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

As compared to other students in similar courses, students' achievements and performance are high. Moreover, their broad variety of educational, professional and geographical background represents a great added value. Comments made by the students interviewed revealed a substantial improvement as related to last year, especially on the quality of project supervision and preparation. This however continues to be one of the aspects with further room for improvement.

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

N/A

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

As in the previous years I could appreciate the fact that the course management did act upon students' suggestions as shown by the obvious improvements mentioned above.

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

I confirm the impression I had the previous year: curriculum design, and both the core and optional modules reflect the scope and the advances of emerging contemporary themes (such as those linked to culture/ethnicity, conflicts, and migration). The importance of translational research receives due consideration and the opportunity offered to students for a period of fieldwork, with adequate preparation and in collaboration with the Health Research Methods Module, and supervision is very significant.

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 and the material provided to me were sufficient to make the required judgements and I was encouraged to request additional information.

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?**

All necessary documentation relating to the programme was provided as well as positive feedback on any request for additional information.

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

All the selected samples that I had chosen were made available to me and this enabled me to evaluate the quality of the assessment as well as the standard of student work.

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

Both administrative and logistics arrangements for the whole process were excellent, including the arrangement of the Board of Examiner.

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

Mitigating circumstances were given due consideration through appropriate procedures in the case of two candidates.

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.

N/A

Other Comments

Also this year's involvement in the appraisal of the MSc in International Health was for me very satisfying and highly stimulating. One reason for being pleased with this experience is the understanding of my being instrumental to the regular improvement that the programme is showing year after year. The students I met honestly expressed their feelings and impression on the past academic year. The programme's most critical issue in their opinion is MSc students' integration with other course (MPH, Intercalated BSc, etc.); this aspect probably still needs consideration and further action for the next year.

Their most enthusiastic suggestion was to continue to work on a more beneficial investment on their views and diverse experience.

Once more, like the previous years, workload, especially reading in the first term, is felt quite heavy especially for those with language problems. Making readings available before the module may help.

It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge for another year that this programme is getting better every year both in terms of student satisfaction and of my personal impression. I am convinced that this programme fills a training need which is increasingly being felt at the global level.

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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

12th January 2012

Dear

International Health: External Examiner Report 2010/2011

I am writing to thank you for your 2010/2011 External Examiner Report for the International Health programme.

The programme management team have asked me to thank you for your very positive comments about the high standards of teaching and learning on the programme and overall management of the course. Your comments on the improvements made over the last year, especially on the quality of project supervision and preparation, are particularly welcome.

I have enclosed a detailed response to your report from the Programme Manager, Dr Zafar Ullah. This explains how the other points in your report are being addressed.

We are grateful for your support and guidance over the last year.

Yours sincerely



Dr Graham Law
Director of Postgraduate Studies

Enc. Response from Programme Manager

cc: Dr Zafar Ullah, Programme Manager
Dr G Barker-Read, AQST

