

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

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

School of: Medicine	Subject(s): Medical Physics
Programme(s) / Module(s): MSc in Medical Physics	awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.) 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***

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?

N/A

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.

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 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.*

I am satisfied that the content and learning outcomes are appropriate for a Master's level qualification

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.*

The content and learning outcomes are comparable to those of other Medical Physics MSc programmes with which I am familiar, and meet the national requirements of IPEM for an accredited MSc.

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 balance of written examinations and other assessment methods is appropriate. The staff display a very professional approach to assessment, and the level of student performance indicates that the teaching has been delivered well.

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.*

I am satisfied that the assessment process has fairly measured the students' achievements. The quality of students on the programme was quite mixed: there were clearly some excellent students but also some rather weak students. This mix is not unlike what I have found on similar programmes in other institutions.

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

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

I am not aware of any significant changes to the programme since the previous year – but equally I am not aware of any shortcomings in the programme that would prompt changes.

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.

I continue to be impressed by the range and quality of research Projects undertaken by the students as part of their MSc, which expose them to issues at the forefront of current 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?**

- *Whether external examiners have sufficient access to the material needed to make the required judgements and whether they are encouraged to request additional information.*

I was fully involved in the examination process and given access to all relevant material

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?**

I was briefed on the procedures and am satisfied that they are appropriate and are applied sensitively

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.

Other Comments

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

It is most unfortunate that changes in the NHS Training Scheme for hospital physicists mean that after the current academic year (in common with a number of similar programmes at other universities) the demand for this programme and the willingness of NHS staff to contribute teaching to it will largely disappear. I hope that other outlets will be found for <<<>>> and his colleagues to continue to exercise their considerable expertise and enthusiasm for teaching medical physics.

School of Medicine
Learning and Teaching Office

University of Leeds
Worsley Building
Clarendon Way
Leeds LS2 9NL

T +44 (0) 113 343 7234
F +44 (0) 113 343 2597



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

12th January 2012

Dear

Medical Physics: External Examiner Report 2010/2011

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

There are no specific issues in the report for the Programme team to address but it is always reassuring to have a supportive judgement from an independent expert. We are of course working to try to identify new avenues for our teaching in the light of the demise of the course.

I note that you remain impressed by the range of projects and the staff approach to assessment. These comments are very helpful and help to reassure the programme management committee that the course is being conducted appropriately.

Yours sincerely



Dr Graham Law
Director of Postgraduate Studies

cc: Dr Tony Evans, Programme Manager
Dr G Barker-Read, AQST

