

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2012– 2013

Part A: General Information**Subject area and awards being examined**

Faculty / School of:	School of Medicine
Subject(s):	<i>Psychiatry</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MSc
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc

Completed report

The completed report should be attached to an e-mail and sent as soon as possible, and no later than six 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?

NA

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

NA

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 Aims and ILOs are appropriate for an MSc course in psychiatry and are clearly set out and meet all the requirements at this level.

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.*

Aims and ILOs are representative of national requirements for Psychiatry MSc courses.

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.*

There is a good balance between the various methods of assessment. The overall standard of student performance is well above the average of other MSc courses in Psychiatry in the UK.

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.*

Yes. It is a strength of the course that there is also support for trainees preparing for the Royal College Clinical examinations.

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. Please comment on 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 strengths of this course are the variety of teaching methods employed and that the lecturers have a wide range of research and clinical expertise.

7. Please comment on 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.

Research is an integral component of the course and students undertake research projects.

For Examiners involved in mentoring arrangements

8. If you have acted as a mentor to a new External Examiner or have received mentor support please comment here on the arrangements

NA

The Examination/Assessment Process

9. 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 given full access to all the required information.

10. 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, marking criteria?

- *The coherence of the policies and procedures relating to External Examiners and whether they match the explicit roles they are asked to perform.*

Yes

11. Were you provided with all draft examination papers/assessments? Was the nature and level of the questions appropriate? If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?

Yes – I was provided with all the necessary papers and was able to moderate any discrepant marks.

12. Was sufficient assessed / examined work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work? Were the scripts clearly marked/annotated?

Yes and all scripts were clearly marked.

13. Was the choice of subjects for dissertations appropriate? Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate?

Yes. The method and standard of assessment were rigorous.

14. Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Board of Examiners? Were you able to attend the meeting? Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Board?

The arrangements were always excellent. I joined Board meetings by telephone having been provided with very clear documentation well beforehand.

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

Yes

Other comments

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

The course is continues to be of a high standard.

**Leeds Institute of Medical Education
School of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine and Health**

University of Leeds
Worsley Building
Clarendon Way
Leeds LS2 9NL

<>



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

<>

10 December 2013

Dear <>

External Examiner's report for Psychiatry 2012-13

As the School of Medicine's Director of Postgraduate Studies, I receive all the External Examiners' reports for the eighteen programmes offered in 2012-13. First, let me thank you for assembling the 2012-13 report for the programmes in Psychiatry. I note that this is the second report you have produced.

Good practice

I note that your report states that there are no matters requiring urgent attention. You recognise that a strength of the Leeds course is the support for the Royal College examinations. Thank you for acknowledging the wide range of research and clinical expertise of the programme team.

Concerns

You have no concerns with the Psychiatry programmes.

Standards

You state in the standards section that the learning outcomes and programme content are appropriate for postgraduate study in Psychiatry. I was pleased to note that you comment that the Leeds students perform above the average of that achieved in similar programmes.

Administration

The programme administration has been excellent and I was glad to see that you noted this in your report.

continues

Director of Postgraduate Studies

<>



Programme Leader's response

I have enclosed with this letter a response assembled by <>, Programme Leader.

Thank you so much for your report as External Examiner for the Psychiatry programmes.

Yours sincerely

<>

Enc: <> 9 December 2013