

The University of Leeds

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2013– 2014

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

Faculty / School of:	Healthcare
Subject(s):	
Programme(s) / Module(s):	Advanced Practice
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc

Name and home Institution / affiliation of Examiner**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 Quality Assurance**
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?

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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 Programme Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes are appropriate for this level and area of study. Based on the evidence presented to me students have achieved the necessary standard based on these outcomes.

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 Programme Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes are consistent with those found elsewhere in the UK at this level of study and within this field of practice.

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 students are presented with a variety of assessment methods which are reflective of the nature of the field of study. Considerable time is spent on providing students with feedback in a variety of formats to enable them to continue to grow and develop their practice. Student performance is indicative of an humanistic approach to student support underpinned by a robust quality to teaching.

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.*

The distinct nature of advanced practice lends itself to innovative approaches to learn and this is demonstrated in this programme. This has the effect of encouraging students to see their practice as pivotal to the learning process and this stands them in good stead in academic work.

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

I have already alluded to the strong clinical element of this programme which is underpinned and strengthened by a strong curriculum, committed teaching staff and a programme designed to accommodate clinical demands with a view to producing effective practitioners.

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.

I have been involved with module modifications and enhancements which are designed to ensure the programme remains fit for purpose in respect of advanced practice and have been encouraged with the way the teaching team have dealt with these.

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.

The design of the curriculum takes into account current trends within the expanding field of advanced practice. This field of study continues to present challenges in relation to developments in practice and it is evident from the curriculum that has been accommodated utilising a flexible and relevant approach to these students learning.

8. Where the programme forms part of an Integrated PhD, please comment on the appropriateness of the programme as training for a PhD

Not applicable

For Examiners involved in mentoring arrangements

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

Not applicable

The Examination/Assessment Process

10. 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 entirely satisfied with the information provided.

11. 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.

I was entirely satisfied with the information provided which always arrived in a timeous fashion.

12. 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

13. 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

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

Yes

15. 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?

Yes

16. 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

Academic staff have reinforced their commitment to this important field of study by demonstrating a clear values driven teaching programme which provides excellent support for students. The outputs from the programme will certainly have a positive impact on clinical practice within Yorkshire and beyond.

Baines Wing
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

18 February 2015

Dear

Re: External Examiner's Report –2013/2014 - MSc Advanced Practice

Thank you for your external examiner's annual report for the 2013-2014 session.

On behalf of the programme team for the MSc in Advanced Practice, I would like to thank you for your continuing support of this programme. It is very pleasing to note that you continue to feel you have a good relationship with staff in the School of Healthcare.

I am also pleased to note your comment confirming that the aims and learning outcomes for the programme are commensurate with the award and are comparable with other institutions. I am delighted that you consider the teaching and feedback are of good quality, that the programme team encourages an innovative approach to learning and that students are well supported.

Given that this session has seen the introduction of the new more practice-focused programme structure, it is particularly pleasing to note that you comment on the very strong clinical element evident within the programme. As you are aware the principle aim of this programme is to produce an advanced practitioner, who is "fit for purpose", and your comment that the outputs from the programme will certainly have a positive impact on clinical practice within Yorkshire and beyond is very well received.

The team looks forward to working with you throughout the current session.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely