

## 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:	NURSING
Subject(s):	<i>MENTAL HEALTH</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	HECS 1092, 1098, 2157, 2183, 2184, 2192, 2193, 3189, 3244, 3245, 3246, 5149M. Several of these were reviewed or more than one occasion.
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	BSc (Hons) with Registered Nurse (Mental Health)

**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](mailto: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*

There are no urgent issues. This is a very well managed programme both academically and administratively.

**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.*

The structure of this programme is excellent and learning outcomes are all appropriate. Content remains current and elements have been reviewed.

**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 is comparable to other HEIs and meets benchmarks and the Framework. Additionally the programme meets the Nursing & Midwifery Councils requirements.

**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.*

All assessments are well thought out and implemented, where staff identify actual potential issues, these are identified in the marking/internal moderation process. The marking team then records this and identifies how they will improve it for next time before forwarding this to me.

The quality of teaching is clearly of a very good standard as the learning can be seen through the assessments, where students, for the most part, achieve a clear pass. As with previous years, students doing less well either have not read the assignment remit correctly or have poor academic and analytic ability.

**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

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

All assignments include clinical elements. Additionally students have to complete placement documentation which is signed by qualified nursing staff once they have completed elements satisfactorily. In September 2013 I reviewed samples of these prior to the Board. There had been an improvement in their completion (previously some had entries in pencil). I will review more of these when I attend the Board in September this year.

**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 use of Turnitin is now used for most modules. Academic staff appear to be more skilled in its use (as am I) and the level of annotated feedback and overall feedback has improved. It is always targeted to the individual student and is always constructive whether the student has failed or achieved a high mark.

As with previous years I want to also complement the administration of the programme. All the admin staff have been excellent and very responsive/helpful when I have a query.

**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.*

As this is a professional programme, research and evidence based practice is integral.

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

N/A

## 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**

I have been mentor to <>. I had contact via email and have also spoken with <> on the phone on more than one occasion. <> also sent me a draft (anonymised) of <> feedback the first time <> undertook External making. From my perspective I felt we had a good working relationship and I was always available had he needed my help. Towards the latter part of the academic year our contact has been less.

**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.*

Yes

**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.*

Yes, without the need to ask

**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?**

I was and the nature and level appeared to be appropriate. On one occasion recently it was identified by the markers/internal moderators that a couple of questions could be 'tightened up' for next time. This was then passed on to me together with their suggested change, which I thought was appropriate.

**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, as I stated earlier Turnitin appears to have improved, what was already very good annotation/feedback.

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

N/A

**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?**

AS with previous years the administration has been excellent. When I needed help or had a query their response was not only quick but extremely helpful. I had for some reason had my access to the VLE removed, but once I had told them of this, it was quickly returned. The only minor problem was the VLE was closed for about 3 or 4 days in July for it to be updated which made it impossible for me to complete marking and return it for a Board meeting before I went on leave. I realise down time is needed but can the VLE technicians remember the Faculty of Health remains open when most other students have finished. Once again, please pass on my thanks to them all.

**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**

N/A

Baines Wing  
University of Leeds  
Leeds LS2 9JT



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

20 February 2015

Dear

**Re: External Examiner's Report 2013/2014**

I should like on behalf of the programme team to thank you for your involvement with the BSc (Hons) Nursing(Mental Health) programmes. Your support in managing the changes to the assessment strategies for these two programmes has been greatly appreciated. Individual module leaders have welcomed your comments and prompt responses to requests for external consultation.

It is evident and very pleasing to note from your report that you and the team established an excellent working relationship.

I note that you have now finished your tenure as external examiner and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the help, support and encouragement you have given the programme and module teams over the last four years and to wish you the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely