

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
 ACADEMIC YEAR: 2014– 2015

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

Faculty / School of:	School of Medicine
Subject(s):	Psychiatry
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MSc
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?

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

It has been a pleasure to be the external examiner for such a well run and excellent course. The standard has been consistently very high and there have been several further positive changes to the course in particular sharing of resources between <<>> and Leeds with major input from clinical teachers from the Trusts and sharing of teaching materials on the newly created website. Students are well represented on the management committee meetings and their feedback has been very positive and their suggestions incorporated into course development. Formative assessment of communication skills and exam training workshops have been particularly well received innovations in the course.

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 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.*

An appropriate and balanced assessment schedule with student performance 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

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 course continues to be of a very high standard with a broad range of teaching methods delivered by teachers with a wide range of research and clinical expertise. The resources provided on the website have been particularly well received.

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 this course.

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

NA

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

NA

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 I had access to all the information I required.

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

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. All marking was clear.

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

Yes the subjects were appropriate and the whole process was rigorous and carried out to a very high standard.

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

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Faculty of Medicine and Health**

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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

9 October 2015

Dear

External Examiner's report for Psychiatry 2014-15

As the School of Medicine's Director of Postgraduate Studies, I receive all the External Examiners' reports for the twenty-one programmes offered in 2014-15. First, let me thank you for assembling the 2014-15 report for the programmes in Psychiatry. I note that this is your final report. Thank you for your comment on p.2 of the report, 'It has been a pleasure to be the External Examiner for such a well-run and excellent course'.

I note that your report states that there are no matters requiring urgent attention.

Good practice

Your report highlights several further positive changes. There is sharing of resources between Sheffield and Leeds with major input from clinical teachers from the Trusts. Teaching materials are shared on the newly created website.

Programme Leader's response

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

Thank you so much for your helpful comments during your appointment as External Examiner for the Psychiatry programmes.

Yours sincerely

Enc: 18 September 2015

Director of Postgraduate Studies



**Academic Unit of Psychiatry and
Behavioural Sciences
Leeds Institute of Health Sciences
Faculty of Medicine and Health**



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18 September 2015

Dear

Re: MSc Psychiatry – External Examiner’s Report for 2014-15

We are very grateful to _____ for final external examiner’s report and positive comments about the programme. We are also very grateful to _____ for much-valued work as external examiner and her expert advice on issues relating to the programme.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Senior lecturer in Psychiatry
and MSc Psychiatry Programme Leader