

## The University of Leeds

## EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2015– 2016

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

Faculty / School of:	Faculty of Medicine and Health / School of Healthcare
Subject(s):	<i>Midwifery</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives (HECS 5300M)
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	PG Diploma / 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](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*

N/A as this module / programme no longer is offered at the University of Leeds.

**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*

Due to recommendations from the Kings Fund in 2015 to separate the role and function of the Nursing and Midwifery Council in respect of regulation and statutory supervision of midwives, a decision was made to remove midwifery supervision from statute. This led to the local commissioners to no longer support this module at Leeds. Consequently the January 2015 cohort of midwives was the last to undertake this module.

**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 Intended Learning Outcomes for the *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* module (HECS 5300M) were commensurate with the level of the award, such that all students have now completed this module.

**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 *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M) at Leeds compared favourably with the Aims and ILOs of similar programmes in other Higher Education Institutions, including my own.

**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 assessment methods for the *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M) module were appropriate in meeting the ILOs, albeit I have only reviewed one student's work this year due to the discontinuation of this module from the Midwifery postgraduate portfolio of modules in 2015.

**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 academic standard of the students' work assessed from the *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M) module was similar and variable across the grade bands when compared with other Higher Education Institutions offering this programme. However, over this academic year I have only reviewed the work of one student who had to resubmit the assessment.

**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 due to the discontinuation of the two programmes I was initially appointed to review as External Examiner (*Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery* and the *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M)).

**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.*

N/A due to the discontinuation of the two programmes I was initially appointed to review as External Examiner (*Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery* and the *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M)).

**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.*

N/A due to the discontinuation of the two programmes I was initially appointed to review as External Examiner (*Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery* and *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M)).

**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**

N/A

**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.*

N/A as my role was particularly limited this year due to the discontinuation of the two programmes I was initially appointed to review as External Examiner (*Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery* and *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M)).

**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, albeit my requirements were reduced this academic year. I would however, still recommend that a **marking schedule** be sent to future external examiners to ease the planning of reviewing students' work. Over my tenure I **never** did receive this and so did not know exactly when to expect assessments.

**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?**

N/A

**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?**

The use of Blackboard has eased the assessment process considerably. I have only been required to assess one student's work this academic year and feedback was appropriately provided to the student on the quality of the work submitted.

**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?**

I have not attended the Board of Examiners during this academic year: the last one being on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, so unable to add any further comments than in my previous annual reports.

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

N/A

**Other comments**

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

It was disappointing that my tenure as External Examiner was terminated earlier than originally anticipated due to the discontinuation of both the *Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery* and *Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives* (HECS 5300M) in 2015.

The Midwifery Academic Team has always been very accommodating and supportive to me in my role as External Examiner and I wish them well in their future endeavours in midwifery education.

School of Healthcare

Baines Wing  
University of Leeds  
Leeds LS2 9JT



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

Direct line: 0113

E-mail:  
headofschool@healthcare.leeds.ac.uk

28 October 2016

Dear

**Re: External Examiner's Report Academic Year: 2015– 2016  
Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives (HECS 5300M)**

Thank you for your annual report for the above programme. Although I recognise that limited external moderation workload has affected your response to the questions in the report, it is nevertheless pleasing to note that you consider that the programme aims and intended learning outcomes are of the standard expected for this level of study and that these are comparable with similar programmes provided by other universities.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your valuable external examiner duties during your tenure and for the diligence with which these have been performed. The team has found it a pleasure working with you; and I would like to thank you for the support you have given the programme and the team throughout your period of appointment.

Yours sincerely