

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT**

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2016-17

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

Faculty / School of:	School of Languages, Cultures and Societies (Centre for Translation Studies)
Subject(s):	<i>Postgraduate Translation and Interpreting (German modules)</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	ODL5114M Specialized German-English Translation A MODL5124M Specialized German-English Translation B MODL5039M Interpreting Skills – German MODL5762M Consecutive and Bilateral Interpreting: German MODL5712M Simultaneous Interpreting: German MODL5302M Extended Translations (with German)
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MA (various courses)

**Part B: Comments for the Institution on the Examination Process and Standards****Points of innovation and/or good practice**

Please highlight areas of innovation or good practice within the programmes or processes you have been involved with in this box. I would commend colleagues for the quality and detail of their written feedback, and for the successful marriage of translation theory and practice inherent in course design, teaching, and feedback (see below).

**Enhancements made from the previous year**

n/a

**Matters for Urgent Attention**

n/a

**For Examiners in the first year of appointment**

1.	Were you provided with an External Examiner Handbook?	n/a
2.	Were you provided with copies of previous External Examiners' reports and the School's responses to these?	n/a
3.	Were you provided with a External Examiner Mentor?	n/a

**For Examiners completing their term of appointment**

4.	Have you observed improvements in the programme(s) over the period of your appointment?	N
5.	Has the school responded to comments and recommendations you have made?	n/a
6.	Where recommendations have not been implemented, did the school provide clear reasons for this?	n/a
7.	Have you acted as an External Examiner Mentor?	N

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

I have had little critical feedback on these modules over the time of my appointment. The MA is a well-run enterprise, and continues to fine-tune itself as appropriate. I have noticed few fundamental changes to course design, teaching and feedback – though have deemed none to be necessary.

## Standards

8.	Is the overall programme structure coherent and appropriate for the level of study?	Y
9.	Does the programme structure allow the programme aims and intended learning outcomes to be met?	Y
10.	Are the programme aims and intended learning outcomes commensurate with the level of award?	Y
11.	Did the Aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?	Y
12.	Is the programme(s) comparable with similar programmes at other institutions?	Y
<p><i>Please use this box to explain your overall impression of the programme structure, design, aims and intended learning outcomes.</i></p> <p>The programme continues to strike an excellent balance between the theory and practise of translation, balancing academic goals and standards against vocational skills.</p> <p>Assessment is more than thorough, feedback is rich and detailed. There is a discernible 'value added' element in student attainment, which can be related to staff feedback.</p>		
13.	Is the influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching clear?	Y
<p>Staff with theoretical and commercial experience of translation, who are also engaged in active research in the area of translation studies (including translation theory, commentary and practice) continue to be involved in course design and delivery and are able to teach in areas of their expertise. Teaching is thus 'research led,' though is also configured to offer students exposure to a broad range of genres and modes of translation.</p>		
14.	Does the programme form part of an Integrated PhD?	N
<p><i>Please comment on the appropriateness of the programme as training for a PhD:</i></p> <p><i>As well as equipping students with skills for various forms of commercial translation in the world of work, the strong theoretical underpinning and the focus on applied translation theory in practice provides numerous pathways to doctoral study: critical translation commentary, theories of cultural transfer and transformation, theoretically informed practice of translation all being key areas.</i></p>		
15.	Does the programme include clinical practice components?	N
n/a		
16.	Is the programme accredited by a Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB)?	N/a
<p>Colleagues work in close collaboration with professional associations such as ITI the CloL, as well as EU and UN institutions, some of whom officially recommend and endorse the courses. However, these bodies do not accredit our courses.</p>		

## Assessment and Feedback

17.	Does the programme design clearly align intended learning outcomes with assessment?	Y
<p>Having taught on the German-English component of two comparable MAs in Translation in the UK, I can confirm that the aims, ILOs and course content admirably meet national benchmarks and standards more generally. The range of assessment types, standard of assessment and richness of feedback are high, well thought through, well delivered and contribute to the successful delivery of ILOs.</p>		
18.	Is the design and structure of the assessment methods appropriate to the level of award?	Y
19.	Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the programme aims and intended learning outcomes?	Y
<p><i>Please comment on 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:</i></p> <p>Students enter the course well qualified and with appropriate language skills. By completion of course they have progressed in most cases markedly. Performance overall, and student progress throughout the period of study, is commensurate with similar courses known to me at</p>		
<p><i>Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make in relation to assessment and feedback:</i></p> <p>See comments throughout.</p>		

### The Progression and Awards Process

20.	Were you provided with guidance relating to the External Examiner's role, powers and responsibilities in the examination process?	Y
21.	Was the progression and award guidance provided sufficient for you to act effectively as an External Examiner?	Y
22.	Did you receive appropriate programme documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	Y
23.	Did you receive appropriate module documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	Y
24.	Did you receive full details of marking criteria applicable to your area(s) of responsibility?	Y
25.	Were you provided with all draft examination papers/assessments?	N
26.	Was the nature and level of the assessment questions appropriate?	Y
27.	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments on assessment questions?	Y
28.	Was sufficient assessed work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work?	Y
29.	Were the examination scripts clearly marked/annotated?	Y
30.	Was the choice of subjects for final year projects and/or dissertations appropriate?	Y
31.	Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate for the final year projects and/or dissertations?	Y
32.	Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Progression and Awards Board?	Y
33.	Were you able to attend the Progression and Awards Board meeting?	N
34.	Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Progression and Awards Board?	Y

35.	Were you satisfied with the way decisions from the School Special Circumstances meeting were communicated to the Progression and Awards Board?	Y
<i>Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make on the questions above:</i>  n/a		

**Other comments**

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

n/a
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