

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT**

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2016-17

**Part A: General Information**

**Subject area and awards being examined**

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

**Part B: Comments for the Institution on the Examination Process and Standards**

**Points of innovation and/or good practice**

*The use of Viva and Osce's ensure that students can apply knowledge and understanding to clinical practice whilst clearing demonstrating decision making skills and critical thinking*

**Enhancements made from the previous year**

*None*

**Matters for Urgent Attention**

*None*

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

1.	Were you provided with an External Examiners Handbook?	Y / N
2.	Were you provided with copies of previous relevant External Examiners' reports and the response of the School to these?	Y / N
3.	Were you provided with a External Examiner Mentor?	Y / N

**For Examiners completing their term of appointment**

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

*The teaching team have been extremely responsive to suggestions and comments provided. There is a strong commitment to ensuring that the programme meets the requirements for current and future challenges in midwifery practice. Students are well supported and are provided with clear-targeted feedback and feed forward comments on their submitted work. When meeting students undertaking the programme they are clear that they receive good support from the School and from personal teachers and know where to seek advice and guidance in relation to their professional development.*

## 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>The programme design clearly meets the requirements of both the academic award and of the NMC Standards. The standard of work submitted by students, and of achievement, is comparable with other institutions I am familiar with.</i></p>		
13.	Is the influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching clear?	Y
<p><i>Students demonstrate, from early in the programme, that they are engaging in evidence based practice and that they are developing skills in literature searching, retrieval and review. The dissertation module enables students to demonstrate how they have developed these skills fully by the end of their programme.</i></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>		
15.	Does the programme include clinical practice components?	Y
<p><i>There is a clear assessment process for practice that meets the requirements of the NMC. Students receive support in practice from Sign of Mentors and have access to Academic lectures when in placement.</i></p>		
16.	Is the programme accredited by a Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB)?	Y
<p><i>Please comment on the value of, and the programme's ability to meet, PSRB requirements here:</i></p> <p><i>The programme clearly meets the requirements of the NMC Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes (2008) All learning outcomes are appropriate for the level of the programme and the professional requirements of the course and students demonstrate achievement of these in there assessed work.</i></p>		

## Assessment and Feedback

17.	Does the programme design clearly align intended learning outcomes with assessment?	Y / N
<p><i>Please comment on the assessment methods and the appropriateness of these to the ILOs, in particular:</i> The programme design, the aims and ILOs meet the requirements for the professional award and are commensurate with national benchmark statements. They are similar to other professional programmes with which I am familiar. All assessment tasks are clearly designed to demonstrate student's achievement of the learning outcomes. Assignments are set at an appropriate level and test a range of both academic and clinical skills.</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

*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:*

The assessment designs enabled students to clearly demonstrate their ability to meet the learning outcomes for the modules reviewed. The majority of work reviewed during this academic year was of a good standard with the most students clearly meeting the module requirements. Weaker students either failed to address the academic task, often due to insufficient reading and research around the topic, or did not adequately address academic convention or had a poor grasp of academic writing skills. Student performance equates with other institutions that I am familiar with.

*Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make in relation to assessment and feedback:*

### The Progression and Awards Process

20.	Were you provided with guidance relating to the External Examiners 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?	Y
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?	Y
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>		

### Other comments

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

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Midwifery team and staff of the School of Healthcare for their help during my tenure as external examiner. Everyone has engaged with me in a professional way, answering queries and responding to comments and suggestions. I have enjoyed working with them all and it has been a pleasure to see the progress of the students throughout their programme of study.

I wish everyone well in the future.

**Name of School and Head of School (or nominee)**

Title and Name of Responder:

Position\*:

Faculty / School of:

Address for communication:

Email:

Telephone:

Director of Student Education

School of Healthcare

Baines Wing  
The University of Leeds  
LEEDS LS2 9JT

\*If the individual responding to the report is not the Head of School please state their position within the School.

**Completing the School response**

The completed School response (including the full original report) should be attached to an e-mail and sent to the Pro-Dean for Student Education in the relevant Faculty. Following approval by the Pro-Dean for Student Education, the School must send the response (including the full original report) directly to the External Examiner. A copy must also be emailed to the Quality Assurance Team at [qat@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:qat@leeds.ac.uk). External Examiners should receive a formal response no later than six weeks after receipt of the original report.

**Response to Points of innovation and/or good practice**

On behalf of the midwifery team I should like to thank you for your positive comments about the BSc (Hons) Midwifery programme. It is helpful to note that you consider the approaches to assessment and feedback (Viva and OSCE) as good practice within the programme. There are plans to develop the Viva to place greater emphasis on decision making applied to practice.

**Response to Enhancements made from the previous year**

Although no innovations were specifically noted the team have been proactive in developing student support structures over this academic year. A peer assisted learning scheme (PALS) has been introduced and positively evaluated by students. The team have also introduced a continuity project within years 1 and 3 of the programme where students are encouraged to meet with a small group of women in order to explore care (Year 1) and manage a caseload of women (Year 3) throughout their childbearing experience.

**Response to Matters for Urgent Attention**

If any areas have been identified for urgent attention before the programme is offered again please provide a specific response to them here:

There were no matters for urgent attention raised.

**Response to questions 1-7 (and related comments)**

Schools may provide a general response; however, where Examiners raise specific points these must be addressed individually:

The midwifery team appreciates the positive working relationship that existed between us. Your comments about the support from administrative staff will be conveyed to our administrative support.

**Standards****Response to questions 8 to 16 (and related comments)**

Schools may provide a general response; however, where Examiners raise specific points these must be addressed individually:

It is helpful to note that the aims and objectives of the programme are explicit in the structure and content required to achieve the academic and professional components of the award.

## Assessment and Feedback

### **Response to questions 17 to 19 (and related comments)**

*Schools may provide a general response; however, where Examiners raise specific points these must be addressed individually:*

The team is pleased that you continue to judge the programme to be comparable with other midwifery programmes with which you are familiar and appreciates your remarks on the high standard of learning and teaching.

## The Progression and Awards Process

### **Response to questions 20-35 (and related comments)**

*Schools may provide a general response; however, where Examiners raise specific points these must be addressed individually:*

No comments made.

## Other comments

### **Response to items included in the 'Other Comments' section of the report**

The external scrutiny provided was very important to us as we valued your insight and perspective on our programme delivery. Your comments regarding the quality of teaching and learning within specific modules have been conveyed to the team and we are grateful that you recognise our ongoing commitment in considering and responding to external scrutiny.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to the programme. It has been a pleasure to work with you and we wish you all the very best for the future.