

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report via the Cardiff University Intranet [here](#) and from [ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk).

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Fionnuala T Lundy		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Queen's University Belfast		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MSc Oral Biology		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2018-2019	Date of Report:	12/12/19

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the dissertation stage Examining Board in the case of postgraduate Master's programmes).

**Please note this form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018).**

Please extend spaces where necessary.

**1. Programme Structure** (curriculum design, programme structure and level, methods of teaching and learning)

This taught MSc in Oral Biology focuses on relevant aspects of Oral Biology including; Research Methods, Oral Cell Biology of Oral Tissues, Microorganisms in Oral Disease, Tissue Repair, Regeneration & Scientific Methods, as well as a research dissertation. The structure of the module, which has a taught component and assessment in advance of the research project, provides a good basis for students from a range of scientific/clinical backgrounds to obtain a firm grounding in oral biology. The research project module includes a laboratory project and dissertation, which allows the students to be exposed to cutting-edge laboratory research and to learn the skills of scientific writing.

**2. Academic Standards** (comparability with other UK HEIs, achievement of students, any PSRB requirements)

The academic standard is as high, or higher, than other programmes that I am familiar with. The assessment of the coursework, exam scripts and dissertation were robust and of a standard expected for Masters level.

**3. The Assessment Process** (enabling achievement of aims and learning outcomes; stretch of assessment; comparability of standards between modules of the same level)

The teaching staff should be commended for the variety of assessment methods employed, including written examinations, presentations and a detailed research project in an area relevant to Oral Biology. Teaching staff could perhaps consider reviewing the overall number of assessments (to decrease their number), without altering the range of assessment types. The range of assessment methods should be employed across the Masters as a whole, rather than across individual modules.

It was good to see how marks had been awarded by the internal examiners in each assessment type.

**4. Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)** (sample of dissertations received, appropriateness of marking schemes, standard of internal marking, classification of awards)

I reviewed all the dissertations submitted for the degree of MSc in Oral Biology and found the standard of marking to be robust. The classifications of awards were appropriate.

**5. Year-on-Year Comments**

[Previous External Examiner Reports are available from the Cardiff University Website [here](#).]

The MSc in Oral Biology has attracted increased student numbers in its second year. The laboratory project and dissertation elements of the MSc in Oral Biology remain a central part of this taught masters programme. The selection of projects by students is key to their enjoyment and successful completion of this part of the programme. In other courses in which I have been involved, project selection has generally worked well when students have been provided with clear and specific research objectives for each project, as well as information about the laboratory techniques required to complete the work. Oversight of all projects by the module lead can also be helpful to ensure that laboratory work required to complete the objectives is deliverable within the timeframe available.

I found the dissertation marking to be fair and robust. It was very good to see the comments from the internal examiners and from the supervisors.

**6. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only)** (appropriateness of briefing provided by the programme team and supporting

information, visits to School, ability to meet with students, arrangements for accessing work to review)

N/A

**7. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement** (good and innovative practice in learning, teaching and assessment; opportunities for enhancement of learning opportunities)

The enthusiasm and engagement of research active, senior academics in this taught programme is commendable.

**8. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)** (significant changes in standards, programme/discipline developments, implementation of recommendations, further areas of work)

N/A

## 9. Annual Report Checklist

Please include appropriate comments within Sections 1-7 above for any answer of 'No'.

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
<b>Programme/Course information</b>				
9.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	√		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?			√
<b>Commenting on draft examination question papers</b>				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	√		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	√		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	√		
<b>Examination scripts</b>				
9.6	Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	√		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	√		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	√		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	√		
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	√		
<b>Coursework and practical assessments</b>				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	√		
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	√		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	√		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	√		
<b>Clinical examinations (if applicable)</b>				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			√
<b>Sampling of work</b>				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	√		
<b>Examining board meeting</b>				
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	√		

9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	√		
9.19	Cardiff University recognises the productive contribution of External Examiners to the assessment process and, in particular, to the work of the Examining Board. Have you had adequate opportunities to discuss the Programme and any outstanding concerns with the Examining Board or its officers?	√		
<b>Joint examining board meeting (if applicable)</b>				
9.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			√
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			√
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			√

Please return this Report, **in a Microsoft Word format**, by email to:  
[externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk)

Your fee and expenses claim form and receipts, should be sent electronically to the above email address or in hard copy to:

External Examiners, Registry, Cardiff University, McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE