

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:	Professor Samir Gupta		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Durham University		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MSc Neonatology		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2019	Date of Report:	23 Feb 2020

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)

The program of MSc in Neonatology is well designed, transparent with prospective assessments. The progression of candidate is marked very objectively which reflects the curriculum. The teaching methods use modules and evaluation of the individual components with feedback loop. This is excellent as it allows the mentors to focus on areas of weakness and support the student individually to develop overall competencies.

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

The quality of program is of high standard but it is difficult to match with other UK HEIs as there is no MSc program to my knowledge offered by any other HEIs in the UK. The program however matches the learning objectives offered to the Neonatal HST in the UK and the assessments are very objective and the support provided by mentors in fact is higher than that offered in other Neonatal training program. There is however limited practical supervision but that is not the objective of MSc program anyway for distance learning.

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

I am pleased to review the assessments and am happy with the scoring and the presentation and decision on results. Having more than one examiner with similar marking only strengthens the assessment process and provides internal validation of results. As individual modules are marked and the schema averages the components, the system is fair meeting the set aims and objectives.

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

*[Where possible please complete this section following the dissertation examining board determining the final award.]*

I could not assess the dissertations before the board meeting but have reviewed the marking and having gone through the dissertations now. I am pleased to state that the dissertations overall are of high standards and the marking and feedback of each dissertation has been done appropriately and consistently. I hope the students will try and publish the dissertations in the indexed journals.

#### 5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

The progression of candidates' year on year is very good and I congratulate the team and the candidates for the hard work put in. The consistency of delivery, no formal complaints and transparency of course are worth commending. I did not find any areas of concern from previous years to comment upon and am overall happy with this MSC course. It was suggested in the past that the student fees could be a limiting factor in expanding the uptake of new students and I remain interested to get feedback regarding this subject. This is however university decision and not with the quality or assessment of the offered course.

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)

Not applicable

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

University of Cardiff offers similar well established courses in other subjects. I am sure experience on conduct and delivery of courses is well grounded. I hope such courses continue in the future to allow international students develop skills and attributes while not able to go through the structured training program available in the UK.

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

Not applicable

## 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?	x		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?			x
<b>Commenting on draft examination question papers</b>				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	x		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	x		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			x
<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?	x		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	x		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	x		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	x		
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	x		
<b>Coursework and practical assessments</b>				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?			x
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	x		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	x		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	x		
<b>Clinical examinations (if applicable)</b>				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			x
<b>Sampling of work</b>				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	x		
<b>Examining board meeting</b>				

9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?		<b>x</b>	
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?			<b>x</b>
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>x</b>		
<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?		<b>x</b>	
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			<b>x</b>
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			<b>x</b>

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