

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

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Melanie Watson		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MSc Genetic & Genomic Counselling		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2018-2019	Date of Report:	11 th October 2019

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 programme is well structured and covers both academic and vocational aspects of genetic and genomic counselling. This is the second year since the change in format of the course with both distance and face to face teaching blocks. This has required innovation in the way the course is delivered with a shift to more emphasis on the virtual learning environment.

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

This course is taught to an extremely high standard. The achievement evidenced in the student's work on this MSc course is a reflection of the quality of teaching. It compares well with competitor courses in the UK and worldwide.

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

I reviewed a sample of high, low, and mid- range marks for Met 821, Met 822, Met 823, and Met 825. The methods of teaching and assessment were

appropriate and enabled the achievement of aims and learning outcomes. I concur with the marks awarded and feel that all received a mark that reflected their quality. There was consistency in standards between and across modules. I was impressed with the standard of attainment and the overall very good quality of work produced. The quality of constructive feedback provided across the board was very high; it reflected upon by the students this should facilitate students future development.

I attended the Examining board on the **19th July 2019**, and was given the opportunity to comment on the resit paper for Met 825. There were 5 modules requiring resits across 4 students –MET821, MET 822, MET 823, MET 824 and MET825. Some students had completed their resits and passed at the second attempt and these were ratified as per schedule. I also prepared to attend the re sit Exam Board on the **13th September 2019**. At this point there were 2 students who had both had a number of failures and extenuating circumstances associated with their assessments, and therefore their outcomes had not yet been ratified.

- 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.]

No dissertations to mark this academic year as only the second year of a 3 year course

5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

This was the second year that the MSc course has included distance learning. I was impressed with the obvious commitment to providing high quality On-Line Teaching through the virtual learning environment.

- 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)

Unfortunately I experienced difficulties with IT and remote access to the range of materials and assessments. This was resolved by attending in person prior to the exam board meeting and gaining IT access once on site. I received appropriate and timely information in preparation for the role of External Examiner.

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

This is the second year of the distance learning MSc course. I was impressed with the approach to distance learning. A lot of time has been invested in providing On- line Teaching by the Faculty. It was interesting and useful to hear feedback from all modules leads and the student representative at the exam

board. It was evident that the change in format of the course has not impacted upon the high quality of this course. I have requested to attend the Gregynog Ethics module in the Spring term to enable me to spend some time with the students and to have the opportunity to discuss with the students their views of the course in its new format.

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

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)
Programme/Course information				
9.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	Y		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?		N	
Commenting on draft examination question papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?		N	
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	Y		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	Y		
Examination scripts				
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?	Y		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Y		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Y		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	Y		
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	Y		
Coursework and practical assessments				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	Y		
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	Y		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	Y		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	Y		
Clinical examinations (if applicable)				

9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			NA
Sampling of work				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining board meeting				
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y		
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	Y		
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?	Y		
Joint examining board meeting (if applicable)				
9.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?		N	
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			NA
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			NA

Please return this Report, **in a Microsoft Word format**, by email to:
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

