

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:	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:	2017-2018	Date of Report:	30/11/18

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board.

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 is a well-designed MSc in Oral Biology, covering all the important aspects of Oral Biology, including taught modules on; Research Methods, Oral Cell Biology of Oral Tissues, Microorganisms in Oral Disease, Tissue Repair, Regeneration & Scientific Methods, as well as a research dissertation. It was good to see the level of engagement of senior academics in the taught programme. The taught modules provided a good basis for a range of possible research projects and the structure of the taught component is therefore very appropriate as. The research project and dissertation are excellent additions to this programme, allowing students the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge laboratory research.

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 academic standard of the assessed coursework, exam scripts and dissertation were 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 assessment process was robust and thorough. A range of assessment methods was employed including examinations, presentations and a detailed research project in an area relevant to Oral Biology.

I reviewed examination scripts from each of the modules contributing to the MSc in Oral biology. My only minor comment would be that although some examiners annotated the scripts, others had not. My personal preference would be to see internal examiner annotations on all scripts so that it is clear how marks have been awarded. This could perhaps be considered for future assessments.

The assessment of presentation skills is well aligned with the learning outcomes of the module and is a very important transferable skill for all students, particularly postgraduates.

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

The dissertation project is an important element of the MSc in Oral Biology as it allows students to experience working in a research laboratory environment. A range of practical skills were apparent in the dissertation project. Experiencing a good range of laboratory techniques will provide a firm basis for progression for future relevant work at PhD level or related industrial employment.

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.

5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

N/A, the MSc in Oral Biology is a new module and as such there were no previous EE reports to view or comment on.

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)

I am very grateful to the academic and administration staff in Cardiff for their help in becoming familiar with the new MSc in Oral Biology and for their support throughout the academic year.

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

This is my first year as EE in a new module, so it is likely that I will be able to comment in further detail about these aspects in due course. However at this stage I would like to mention the wide range of assessment methods used in the MSc in Oral Biology.

I would also like to note that the module on Research Methods contained questions specifically related to Oral Biology and this really helped to contextualise the important subject of statistics.

Finally, I would like to mention that the 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)
Programme/Course information				
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?			N/A
Commenting on draft examination question papers				
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?	√		
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?	√		
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?	√		
Coursework and practical assessments				
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?	√		
Clinical examinations (if applicable)				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			N/A
Sampling of work				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	√		
Examining board meeting				
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?	√		
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/A
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			N/A

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

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