

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:	Catherine Twamley		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MSc in Pain Management		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2019-2020	Date of Report:	19/10/19

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)

The MSc in Pain Management is an interprofessional e-learning course suitable for primary, secondary or tertiary care professionals and also educationalists who wish to specialise in this field. It is an extremely student focussed programme which allows students to direct their own learning needs whilst benefitting from the excellent support provided by the Team. The modules allow the students to understand the biopsychosocial aspects of pain and to evaluate different approaches to assessment and management. Professional issues are also included. The assessments allow students to concentrate on areas of pain relevant to their own practice and interests however.

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

I am unable to compare with other institutions but have marked, supervised and undertaken work at Master's level previously. The academic level appeared consistent and appropriate throughout the programme.

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

The internal marking was rigorous, appropriate and consistent reflecting the MSc marking criteria and learning outcomes. It also clearly reflected the variation in the standards of work. Clear and detailed feedback is given from every marker to each of the students. Where lower grades or a fail had been awarded feedback was particularly comprehensive with structured guidance detailing what needed to be addressed in order to successfully resubmit or improve upon their work.

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 reviewed a sample of x5 dissertations, a sufficient number to assess the internal marking and classifications. Three of the dissertations were Grade As, one had been awarded a C grade and the other was a poor Fail. Each of the dissertation topics was interesting and very pertinent to current practice. The grades were an accurate reflection of the variation in the standards between the dissertations. The marking and feedback was transparent and fair, clearly detailing where and why marks had been awarded or not given and easy to see how the final marks had been derived.

The A grade dissertations were extremely well written and suitable for publication. Even these had received constructive criticism however on how they could be improved. The standard of these in conjunction with the marking guide made it clear to appreciate exactly why the other two had received the grades they did. Detailed feedback was supplied regarding what would be required to improve upon the work and achieve a better grade however.

There was no indication that there was any scope for improvement in the way the dissertations are marked.

5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

It is evident that the internal marks are fair, consistent and scrupulous. No areas were noted where improvement could be made.

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)

The Team were extremely supportive and helpful with an open door policy. Any queries were responded to quickly and satisfactorily.

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

The Team is made up of experienced professionals and academics that are up to date with evidence based pain management guidelines and practice. They have excellent links with professionals who continue to work at the forefront of clinical practice and participate in respected and relevant Societies and Groups.

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?	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/A
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			N/A
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			N/A
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?			N/A
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			N/A
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			N/A
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			N/A
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			N/A
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?			N/A
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?			
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/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

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