

External Examiner - Report

Reference: EX20466
Name: Dr Janet De Wilde
Academic Year: 22/23
Home Institution: Queen Mary University of London
Examining Department: Chemistry
Course(s): Transferable Skills in Science | Transferable Skills in Science | Transferable Skills in Science for Postdoctoral Re |
Year of Study: 20/21

Programme Information

Did you receive or have access to:

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
1.1 Programme handbooks, programme specifications, including programme learning outcomes?	Yes	Learning outcomes will be revised over the summer 2022	
1.2 Module descriptions including module learning outcomes?	Yes	Learning outcomes will be revised over the summer 2022	
1.3 Assessment briefs/marking criteria?	Yes		
1.4 Is there any additional information which could have been provided?	No		

Course Content and Design

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
2.1 Are the modules and discrete programme elements well integrated resulting in a coherent degree programme?	Yes		
2.2 Do the relevant learning outcomes align with the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies	Yes		
2.3 Where applicable, does the curriculum match the requirements of any Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB)?	N/A		The course is accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Society of Biology and the Institute of Physics.
2.4 Does the structure of the degree programme enable students to demonstrate progression?	Yes		
2.5 Where appropriate, did the placement make an appropriate contribution to the degree programme?	N/A		Not applicable.
2.6 For collaborative courses only, do you think that the collaboration between the University and it(s) partner institution(s) is working well?	N/A		Not applicable.

Assessment Process

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
3.1 Did you receive all the necessary draft assessments/examination papers for comment in good time?	Yes		
3.2 Were the nature and level of questions and tasks appropriate?	Yes		
3.3 If applicable, were the comments you provided in relation to 3.1 and 3.2 acted upon?	Yes		
3.4 Did you receive an appropriate number of scripts for scrutiny?	Yes	8 PG Award and 7 PG Certificate submissions were reviewed and that each of the modules in the programme was reviewed at least once.	
3.5 Were the marking criteria fit for purpose and appropriate?	Yes	It is recommended that a minimum word limit or the expected range (e.g. 300-500 words) should be introduced in some of the tasks requiring reflection.	This is a very good suggestion and will be implemented during the next update to the module handbooks for 2022/23.
3.6 Were the standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Yes		
3.7 Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Yes		
3.8 Were moderation processes clear?	Yes	Very clearly handled well	

Academic Standards

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
4.1 Were academic standards appropriate for the award?	Yes		
4.2 Was the overall assessment load for students registered on the degree programme appropriate?	Yes		
4.3 Was the Board of Examiners conducted fairly?	Yes		
4.4 Were criteria for determining borderline cases appropriately and consistently applied?	Yes		
4.5 Were arrangements for consideration of mitigating circumstances appropriate?	Yes		
4.6 In your opinion, are the overall academic standards and achievements at least as good if not better than at other comparable UK institutions?	Yes		
4.7 For the medical degree (MBChB) programme only, were standard setting processes clear?			

If applicable, meetings with Students

Although we do not expect you to meet with students in your role as External Examiner, we are keen to have your observations in case you were able to meet with them when you visited the University of Warwick.

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
5.1 Were you provided with an opportunity to meet groups of students informally to talk to them about their degree programme?	No		
5.2 If you met students, please can you comment on any issues raised by them which the School/Department needs to be aware of?			

Enhancement of Provision

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
6.1 Please comment on any areas of good practice, distinctive and innovative features in relation to teaching, learning and assessment that would be worth sharing across the University.			
6.2 Are there any areas where you feel that the School/Department and/or University has not responded to your comments or suggestions raised in previous reports?	No	Learning outcomes will be revised 2022	The updated module proposals are being approved for 2022/23.

Issues requiring actions/response

Question	Response	Examiner Comments	Department Comments
7.1 Are there any essential actions matters, in your opinion which put academic quality and/or standards at risk and require immediate attention from the Head of School/Department?	No		
7.2 Are there any advisable actions matters where threshold standards are met but, where in your opinion, significant improvement could be made?	Yes	.A general template for supervisor meetings should be made available to all students taking part in the programme. Some recommendations for supervisors on the level of feedback should be included in the programme guidance.	The difficulty here is that our programme is available to students from all SEM Departments and CDTs and each department has different procedures for recording supervisory meetings. We will raise this issue with the Directors of Graduate Studies. Guidance for supervisors was created and distributed to the departments. Links to the guidance will be added to the module handbooks. https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/transferable-skills/pgctss/wisc/

Other comments

Question	Response	Examiner Comments
8.1 Do you have any other comments which you have not been able to mention anywhere else?	Yes	The programme offers an excellent provision of skills training to the Warwick SEM students.

Final comments as External Examiner

Question	Examiner Comments
9.1 If this is your last year as External Examiner, please provide an overview of your experience as an External Examiner:	