

External Examiner - Report

Reference: EX20466
Name: Dr Janet De Wilde
Academic Year: 23/24
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: 21/22

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		
1.2 Module descriptions including module learning outcomes?	Yes		
1.3 Assessment briefs/marketing 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 programme is accredited by three PSRBs (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		n/a
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		n/a

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	yes I was able to review them in good time	
3.2 Were the nature and level of questions and tasks appropriate?	Yes	yes the tasks for the students are appropriate	
3.3 If applicable, were the comments you provided in relation to 3.1 and 3.2 acted upon?	N/A		n/a
3.4 Did you receive an appropriate number of scripts for scrutiny?	Yes	yes I was able to select an appropriate number	
3.5 Were the marking criteria fit for purpose and appropriate?	Yes	Yes the criteria were fit for purpose	
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		

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	There was good discussion and fair application of criteria	
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?			n/a

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?			This year due to timing of the exam board the external examiner has not been able to meet with any students on the course. We usually organise an opportunity for the external examiner to meet with the students. We will make sure to make it possible for the new external examiner to meet the students during their visit to Warwick.

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.		improving students ability to reflect is good practice	
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		

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	whilst many supervisors provide excellent feedback this is not consistent across the programme - ensuring consistency of supervisor feedback would be helpful to students and the programmes	This is an ongoing issue, where due to the broad scope of the programme there is no easy fix. We have been engaging with the Departments to raise the awareness of the Programme and we have published a webpage with guidance for the supervisors. The quality of the feedback and the supervisors' engagement are increasing overall, however there is still an ongoing issue with poor engagement from some supervisors, which is beyond our control. We will continue to engage with the Departments and highlight any issues of particularly poor engagement.

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 has improved over the years that I have been external and this is pleasing to see its development

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:	It was a pleasure to be an external examiner for this programme. The Programme staff are dedicated to ensuring students develop the necessary skills and they work tirelessly to ensure that the students graduate.