

Name	Professor Monica Greco		
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Name(s) of course(s) examined <i>e.g. Tripos Part/ MPhil/ MRes</i>	MPhil Health, Medicine and Society		
Academic year of examination	2020/21		
Level (<i>Delete as appropriate</i>)			Postgraduate
Year of Appointment	1 st		

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are the academic standards set for the award appropriate for the qualification, and comparable with similar programmes in other UK institutions?	x		
2. Are you satisfied that you received sufficient programme materials (handbooks, regulations, marking and classing criteria) in a timely manner?	x		
3. Are you satisfied that you were consulted adequately on draft examination papers, and that your comments and suggestions were taken into consideration?			x
4. Are you satisfied that the assessment was pitched at the appropriate level?	x		
5. Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	x		
6. Do the assessment processes measure student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme?	x		
7. Are you satisfied that issues raised on your previous report form have been properly considered and, where applicable, acted upon?			x
8. Did you receive a written response from the Department to your previous report form?			x

If you replied No to any of the questions above, please expand here:

Do you have any concerns about the course, including standards and quality?

No

Are you satisfied that the procedures associated with the assessment are efficient (e.g. timeframes, draft papers, questions, design and conduct of exam, meetings, vivas)?

Yes

Do you have any comments on marking and classing (e.g. range of marks, action around borderline marks, penalties, moderation, double marking, reconciliation of marks)?

I reviewed essays and dissertations identified as having low marks or high marks, those where examiners had given widely divergent marks or marks across a class boundary, and cases where examiners were unable to agree on a final mark.

Based on the scripts I have reviewed, the internal marking process has been conducted appropriately, consistently, and fairly. Marks and classifications are awarded at an appropriate standard. Where there were large discrepancies and a mark was agreed, examiners provided a summary of their discussion and rationale for the final mark.

Do you have any comments on the student experience of the course and/or their experience of the assessment process?

I have not had access to any student feedback that would enable me to comment on this.

Do you have any comments on University policies (e.g. the role of the external examiner, policies around plagiarism, script annotation)?

No

Please describe here any recommendations for improvement.

I was surprised to see from the mark book that in several cases examiners awarded borderline marks (e.g. 69, 79) and that in one case the final agreed mark for a dissertation was a 79. This practice is actively discouraged in other institutions and it may be worth reflecting what implications it may have (if any) in this context.

Please highlight any good practice you encountered.

Overall I was impressed by both the range and the quality of the work I reviewed. I was also impressed by the quality of feedback provided to candidates on each of their submissions, which typically included a full justification of any reservations and constructive suggestions for improvement.

As a formative assessment, Essay 1 allows candidates to receive significant feedback in advance of preparing work that will count towards their final mark. This is excellent practice that clearly prepares students well for their subsequent assessments.

Have you seen any evidence of grade inflation?

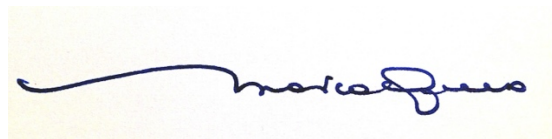
No.

If this is your final year as external examiner? If so, have you seen improvements over your tenure? Has the Department acted on your advice?

N/A

Do you have any other comments?

This is my first year as External Examiner of this programme, and it has been a pleasure to familiarise myself with the innovative, multidisciplinary format of the degree. Through the core modules students are exposed to a range of disciplinary perspectives, allowing them to gain a broad basis of background knowledge as well as a sense of the distinctiveness of each approach. My impression from the dissertations that I reviewed this year is that students typically go on to produce work that aligns with the norms of one discipline (although there are exceptions to this). I see this mostly as a strength at this stage in their formation as researchers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Jones', is written on a light yellow background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Thank you for completing the External Examiner Report form.

Please now forward to vcexternalexaminers@admin.cam.ac.uk by July 31st for undergraduate examinations, **1st October** for Masters Degrees, and **12th October** for resits.

Please also forward a copy to your Chair of Examiners.