Form of Report on Examinations 2013/14

MSc Integrated Immunology

Part I

A. STATISTICS

(1) Numbers and percentages in each class/category

Category	Number			Percentage		
	2013/14	**2012/13**	**2011/12**	**2013/14**	**2012/13**	**2011/12**
Distinction	1	(1)	(1)	5.6%	(7%)	(6.6%)
Pass	17	(13)	(13)	94.4%	(93%)	(86.6%)
Fail	0	(0)	(1)	0	(0)	(6.6%)

(2) If vivas are used:

Please include numerical detail of any vivas which were held, with an indication of the effect of any vivas on classes or results.

Three viva voce examinations were held over the year: one each at the end of Michaelmas Term 2013 and Hilary Term 2014, with an 'end-of-year' examination on 1st September 2014. These were not formally marked. As in previous years, the principle adopted by the Examiners was that excellent performance in the vivas could be taken into consideration, but only to consider passing an otherwise below borderline candidate for any element of summative assessment in the respective term, or for consideration of eligibility for distinction to a candidate whose summative assessment results otherwise indicated a pass grade. In such cases, the original mark would nevertheless stand.

(3) Marking of scripts

Please give details of scripts which are not double-marked.

All scripts for the Critical Essay, Case Commentaries and Dissertations were double marked. In the event of any significant difference between the two sets of marks after reconciliation, a third assessor is normally asked to adjudicate (the External or Internal Examiner, Assessor or Chair of Examiners). This was not required in this academic year. The computer based examinations were marked automatically by the computer against a series of answers checked prior to the examination by the Examination Board.

B. NEW EXAMINING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Case Commentaries were reviewed and candidates were instructed to choose three cases out of four sections (one each from section 1 and 2 and a third from either section 3 or section 4) instead of four cases (one from each section) as in previous years.

C. Please list any changes in examining methods, procedures and conventions which the examiners would wish the faculty/department and the divisional board to consider.

N/A

D. Please describe how candidates are made aware of the examination conventions to be followed by the examiners (Please attach to the report a copy of the conventions and any other relevant documentation).

Candidates are made aware of the examination conventions via the Course Handbook and induction presentations, and through presentations by the Course Director, (two in the first term for the critical essay as some students have not written essays previously, and two in the second term for clinical commentaries for the same reason) as well as by the MSc Administrator in the first week of the course and at intervals during the year. There are informal discussions over the year. The examination conventions are also accessible via Weblearn.

Part II

A. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINATION

The overall standard of the class of 2013/14 was very high and all candidates passed all parts of the examination.

B. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND BREAKDOWN OF THE RESULTS BY GENDER

The Chair of Examiners is not aware of any issues relating to questions of equality, diversity or special educational needs. There appear to be no obvious gender differences in exam performance but the groups are small (between 14 and 18 students over the last 3 years).

		Number			Percentage		
Gender	**Category**	**2013/14**	**2012/13**	**2011/12**	**2013/14**	**2012/13**	**2011/12**
Female	Distinction	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
	Pass	6	(4)	(10)	33.3%	(28.6%)	(66.7%)
	Fail	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	(0)
	Total	6	4	10	33.3%	28.6%	66.7%
Male	Distinction	1	(1)	(1)	5.6%	(7.1%)	(6.7%)
	Pass	11	(9)	(3)	61.1%	(64.3%)	(20%)
	Fail	0	(0)	(1)	0	(0)	(6.7%)
	Total	12			66.7%	71.4%	33.3%
Total		18	14	15	100%	100%	100%

C. DETAILED NUMBERS ON CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH PART OF THE EXAMINATION

18 candidates were entered for the overall MSc Examination. The overall standard of the candidates was good and their performance over the year was of a solid standard.

Fundamental aspects of Immunology, Critical Essay:

- Each candidate chose one title from 51 options; care was taken to ensure that each candidate chose a different title. All essays were double-marked and the grades reconciled. All 18 candidates passed the examination at the first attempt.

- Previous marks:

Essay	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2010/11	63	50	80
2011/12	64	51	74
2012/13	66	56	72

- This year's marks:

2013/14	68	59	76

- Average marks per marking criteria (Out of 100)

  Accessing the Literature – 66
  Appraising the literature – 68
  Integrating the literature – 69
  Critiquing the literature – 68
  Presentation of the literature – 68

Fundamental aspects of Immunology, Computer-based Examination:

- Computerised examination. 18 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt.
- Marks: Averages and Ranges

MT Exam	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2010/11	75.5	55	90
2011/12	72	56	86
2012/13	74	59	87

- This year's marks:

2013/14	73	52	89

Applied aspects of Immunology, Clinical Case Commentaries:

- Each candidate chose one case from each of the first two sections and a third from either section 3 or section 4. In total 39 cases were offered. All commentaries were double-marked and the grades reconciled without the need for a third assessor. All 18 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt.
- Previous marks:

CCC	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2010/11	61.5	52	71
2011/12	64	55	71
2012/13	61	52	69

- This year's marks:

2013/14	64	55	74

- Average mark per Commentary by section (Out of 100)

  Section 1 (Infectious diseases) – 62.5
  Section 2 (Immune Deficiencies) – 64
  Section 3 (Autoimmunity & Allergy) or Section 4 (Cancer and Transplantation) – 65

Applied aspects of Immunology, Computer-based Examination:

- Computerised examination. All 18 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt.

- Previous marks:

HT Exam	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2010/11	73	62	86
2011/12	70	60	80
2012/13	75	62	85

- This year's marks:

2013/14	72	59	85

Research Project Dissertation:

- All scripts were double-marked and the grades reconciled. All 18 candidates passed the examination on the first attempt.
- Previous marks:

Dissertation	Average mark	Low mark	High mark
2010/11	65	50	73
2011/12	65	60	70
2012/13	68	52	79

- This year's marks:

2013/14	65	56	74

- Average marks by marking criteria (Out of 100)

  Introduction – 67
  Methods – 65
  Results – 65
  Interpretation – 65
  Discussion – 65

D. COMMENTS ON PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

N/A

E. NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Dr Lucy Dorrell (Chair), Professor Jonathan M Austyn (MT 2013 and HT 2014), Professor Paul Fairchild (TT 2014), Dr Anthony P. Williams (External)