

13/09/2013

The Vice-Chancellor
c/o Mrs Sally Powell, Academic Policy Support
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EXTERNAL EXAMINERS REPORT: MSc Integrated immunology 2012_2013

The MSc Integrated Immunology course has continued to progress during the last academic year and this is a testament to the Programme Director who has taken on additional roles following the retirement of the previous Co Programme Director (Professor Helen Chapel) at the end of the last academic term. I will comment on each of the examination phases over the 3 terms.

Michaelmas Term

I attended the MT examiners meeting on the 14th of December to review the essay and computer based examinations. The standard of essay writing was very good and the students were well prepared for this form of assessment, which to many students was different to that previously experienced. The viva process allowed a fuller representation of the student's knowledge and understanding and the majority were able to undertake this component of the course with confidence. The computer based questions provided discrimination across the class and it was decided to ask each lecturer to provide one new question each year to keep the question relevant to the talk material. A distinction was recommended for 3 candidates and 1 fail.

Hilary Term

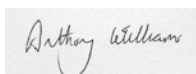
I attended the HT examiners meeting on the 22nd of March to review the Clinical Case Commentaries and undertake the viva examinations. A number of suggestions were made and agreed by the examiners concerning both the computer based and critical essay writing components of this Term. It was agreed that the course should move away from True/False answers and utilise varied question formats. The timeframe for this exam period was also thought to be excessive to the task and a proposal to reduce this from 3 to 2 hours was agreed. The critical essay writing component of the exam was also reviewed as the requirement to write to pre-determined sections for marking purposes, appeared to be nullifying the individuality of answers. A proposal was made to redefine the task to a similar level of activity (3 essays of 200 words) but with a freedom to discuss the core immunological principles within the 3 areas of Clinical Immunology. These suggestions were to be put before the exam regulators for consideration.

Trinity Term

I attended the TT examiners meeting in the 3rd of September to review the submitted dissertations. The submitted dissertations were of a consistently high standard in this year's cohort and the viva presentations were matched to the level of the written work. Recommendations were made for both commendations and a prize for overall best dissertation.

Overall my experience of this course have been very positive and the engagement with the other examiners very productive in maintaining the high academic standards set and rewarding those who excel. I look forward to examining on the course again for my final year in 2013-14.

Yours sincerely,



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Please reply to:

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