

## Carnegie School Of Education

### Postgraduate

- MDCWE Drama & Creative Writing in Ed(TP)

Please indicate, below, whether you agree with the statements about the threshold standards of Leeds Beckett University's awards, student achievement and the conduct of the University's assessment processes, using as a reference the framework for higher education qualifications and applicable Subject Benchmark Statements / Qualification Characteristic Statements. Please also list any shortcomings and areas for commendation. You should expand on any issues you mention here in the main report. If any boxes are ticked "No" the Dean of School or nominee will be alerted and will oversee the response from the Course Director.

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#### Standards Set

	Yes	No
"In my view, the threshold academic standards set for the modules/awards meet with the requirements of the relevant National Qualifications Statement's."	X	

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short:

#### Student achievement

	Yes	No	N/A*
"In my view, students' who have been awarded qualifications have had the opportunity to achieve standards beyond the threshold level that are reasonably comparable with those achieved in course(s) or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar." *Not applicable – if you are a practitioner and are not in a position to assess this statement, please note here:	X		

Please provide any further comment on the comparability of collaborative provision

The students' work is comparable to the postgraduate assignments I have assessed in my own institution, Goldsmiths, and others; it is rigorously academic, and appropriately creative, with the students with the highest marks demonstrating work of the highest quality.

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short:

## Conduct of process

	Yes	No
"In my view, the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are reliable, rigorous and fairly conducted."	X	

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.

## Actions from last year's report

(This will not be relevant if you are examining for the first time)

Yes

## Areas of good practice/commendation

Any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to learning, teaching and assessment:

The course tutors should be commended for their excellent teaching, tutoring and assessment procedures. The course is very innovative in its delivery and assessment procedures: students are encouraged to express themselves in multimodal ways, using film, pictures, objects, online platforms and the written word to express themselves creatively and academically. The tutors have clearly taught them a great deal, and the students' work reveals that they are taking their good practice into schools, cultural institutions and the wider community. The forms of assessment are innovative with presentations as well as creative pieces and academic assignments being assessed. The tutors' comments indicate a high level of engagement with the students as well as rigorous assessment procedures. The tutors are experts in their field, publishing peer reviewed academic articles in the most prestigious academic journals, and are also practitioners of creative writing and the pedagogies they promote.

## Main report

In this section you are asked to describe more fully how the University has or has not maintained threshold academic standards and the quality of the student experience in relation to the course(s) for which you are the external examiner, using as a reference the framework for higher education qualifications and applicable Subject Benchmark Statements / Qualification Characteristic Statements.

**Please complete all sections of the form fully and where not applicable please state N/A. Where applicable please also complete the sections for any collaborative provision sampled.**

If you are an external examiner for any of the University's Pearson Licensed Centre Programmes (HND/HNC level) provision, please also complete the section on page 9 sections l, m and n entitled "for External Examiners Associated with Pearson Licensed Centre Programmes."

## Professional Body Requirements

	Yes	No	N/A*
"In my view, the professional body requirements for this course have been met."	X		

# External Examiner's report summary

\*Not applicable if the course is not a professional body course please indicate here.

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.

(a) The operation and conduct of the Progression and Award Board (and/or Module Board meeting you may also have attended).

This went very smoothly and was well organised.

(b) The action, if any was required, taken in response to your report of last year. (This will not be relevant if you are examining for the first time.)

(c) The overall performance of the students, in relation to that of comparable levels of work in other institutions.

Yes, definitely. The students' work would receive comparable marks in any other relevant higher education institution.

(d) The strengths and weaknesses of the students in general with respect to knowledge, conceptual grasp or application of skills.

The students reveal that they are very creative in the way they write and shape stories. They also show they are imaginative teachers, using drama and creative writing to help themselves and their students learn and grow as people. They demonstrate a high level of knowledge with regards to the relevant theories. I am pleased to see the tutors have taken on board some of my previous comments about adding more sociological research to the course; this has meant the students' assignments are even richer and more deeply considered. Now possibly, there could be more thought about how certain issues might be 'decolonised'. with a tad more focus upon the issues connected with race, gender and social class.

(e) The standards of the structure, organisation, design and marking of all examination papers and/or other forms of assessment.

This was excellent. The modules are very well structured, and nicely designed.

(f) The curriculum, teaching or resourcing of the programme of study as indicated by the performance of the students in the assessment

# External Examiner's report summary

The students perform extremely well, with a number of them receiving justly deserved high marks. Their work is articulate, clearly expressed, rigorously referenced when appropriate, and also highly creative.

(g) Comments on the use of My Beckett (Virtual Learning Environment) within the course (if applicable).

I found My Beckett very easy to use. I appreciate that accessing videos has been made much easier during this academic year. Thank you!

(h) Module content, consistency of modules and module assessment across the course and the achievement of learning outcomes. (You may be asked by your School to provide detailed comments on the modules that you examine.)

There is real consistency across the modules with each module developing different aspects of creative writing, dramatic practice, and academic analysis. I really like the focus upon creativity and creative writing throughout all of the modules; this makes the assignments very readable and enjoyable. The academic analysis is invariably impressive with students showing a good grasp, for example, of learning theories.

(i) Areas of student/staff engagement in teaching and learning, scholarship, research or professional practice.

The staff clearly engage very well with the students; passionate, thorough scholarship exudes from all the work. I think the way the tutors utilise their own research to help students learn and grow as academics and creative people was particularly striking and impressive.

(j) The University welcomes external examiners' comments on its academic regulatory framework. Such comments may not have a direct bearing on standards set and achieved or the conduct of processes and so it may not be appropriate to include them elsewhere in this report or its summary. Please record any concerns or comments you may have here.

This all seems perfectly adequate to me.

(k) Collaborative Provision: please include here any comments you wish to make on elements of collaborative provision for which you have responsibility (in addition to those you may have indicated previously in this report).

See my previous comments.

