Email address	l.barlassina@sheffield.ac.uk
Name	Luca Barlassina
Home Institution	University of Sheffield
Degree Programme/Modules Examined	Philosophy
Level of Study	UG
for which York Department or School? Please note: (i) External Examiners from CITY College should select CITY College, Greece (ii) External Examiners of York Online programmes should select either Computer Science -Online, Management - Online, or SPSW - Online.	Philosophy
Are you involved with Professional, or Apprenticeship programmes? A Professional programme is defined as a programme which is regulated by a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory body and involves training on professional practice and work-based learning placements in order to enter a registered profession (namely in initial teacher training, social work, nursing, midwifery, and medicine). An Apprenticeship programme is defined as a specific qualification defined and regulated by an	No

Apprenticeship Standard which involves employment with a skills development programme and accompanying end point assessment

Term of Appointment

How many years have you been acting as an external examiner for York?

This is my second year

Attendance

(1) How did you participate in the Boards of Examiners meetings?

Other - please explain below - in Question (2)

(2) Date of Examination Board: Please provide the date(s) of the examination boards you attended (dd/mm/yyyy) - this may include Departmental Exam Board (aka Module Board) and Programme Exam Board (aka Ratification Panel).

Module Board (IN PERSON): 26/6/24. Ratification Panel (VIRTUAL): 2/7.24

(3) Please use the space below if you have any comment about opportunities to participate in these meetings and your preference for virtual or in-person boards. Please also explain if you indicated "Other" for your participation in Boards of Examiners meetings.

I indicated "Other" because I participated in person in one meeting and virtually in another. My preference is for virtual participation

Standards

(a) The course structure and content are appropriate to the

Yes

level of the qualification and to the relevant subject benchmark statement.	
(b) Is the marking scheme/grading criteria appropriate and has it been rigorously and consistently applied?	Yes
(c) Threshold standards have been met: the standard of students' performances in terms of their knowledge, skills and understanding in reflecting the level of the qualification.	Yes
(d) Appropriate comparability of standards: the standard of particular degree classifications/ distinctions/ passes awarded are appropriate in comparison with those students on similar programmes of study in other UK degree-awarding bodies with which you are familiar.	Yes
(e) Please highlight any problems or concerns regarding programme/module structure, marking and standards where standards were not or only partially met. Please provide specific examples where possible.	N/A
(f) Please highlight any areas of good practice regarding programme/module structure, marking and standards here. Please	The samples I have read were of high quality and were fairly and carefully assessed. Grade distribution was perfectly adequate and in line with national standards. Feedback was detailed and clear. I am highly satisfied with the work done by the Department.

provide specific examples where possible.

Exam Boards, Assessment, Teaching and Learning

(g) Are the assessment methods (for the subject, level of study and learning outcomes) appropriate ?	Yes
(h) Did the Board of Examiners conduct business in an appropriate manner and follow the necessary procedures? (Specifically whether the University rules relating to assessment, progression and award and procedures governing exceptional circumstances affecting assessment and academic misconduct have been fairly and equitably applied)	Yes
(i) Were the external examining administrative arrangements to your satisfaction? (For example the time available for reviewing scripts, availability of documentation needed to carry out the external examiner role).	Yes
(j) Is quality of teaching and learning appropriate and comparable to similar programmes in the sector?	Yes
(k) Please highlight any problems or concerns regarding assessments, conduct of exam boards,	N/A

administrative arrangements or quality of teaching and learning where standards were not or only partially met. Please provide specific examples if possible.

(l) Please highlight any areas of good practice regarding assessments, conduct of exam boards, administrative arrangements or quality of teaching and learning. Please provide specific examples where possible.

The exam boards were excellently organised: It was very easy for me to find the relevant material to provide my comments. The exam boards run smoothly, and both members of staff and external examiners had ample opportunity to raise their points in a collegial and collaborative environment. It become apparent to me that members of staff in the Philosophy Department are deeply committed to delivering a high-quality education to their students.

(m) The University expects feedback to be understandable, unbiased, relevant to the task, linked explicitly to assessment criteria and descriptors, and to provide guidance on future learning. Please comment on general patterns in the feedback you have observed - for example: (i) the quality and consistency in relation to these expectations (ii) to highlight any areas of good practice or concerns. Where possible, please use specific (anonymous) examples. We also welcome suggestions for improving feedback, based on practice that you are aware of at other institutions. Where possible, please refer to specific modules as examples illustrating your point

Essays were marked in an unbiased way, and the assigned marks are fair and well-justified. Feedback is also generally excellent, clear, and instructive.

Previous Issues

(n) If you raised particular issues in your report last year, have they been considered and (where appropriate), addressed?

Yes

(o) Please comment on your response as required.

I haven't raised any issues last year

Additional Comments

(p) Vision for York: The University has identified four principles for our University Vision for York - Strategy 2030: A University for Public Good. 1) Environment and sustainability 2) Collaboration across multidisciplinary boundaries 3) Internationalism 4) Equality, diversity and inclusion Please articulate ways in which the programmes/modules you have examined are connected to these principles and/or suggest ways to improve the link of any of the principles to the modules and programmes you examine.

The Philosophy Department offers modules that cut across disciplinary boundaries (e.g., modules in the philosophy of science and in political philosophy) as well as module that foster EDI (e.g., modules on non-Western philosophy). Issues pertaining to environment and sustainability are also tackled in relevant modules.

(q) Please provide any other remarks not covered by the above, such as examples of good/ innovative practice identified, opportunities to enhance the quality of learning opportunities based on your experience, any issues

n/a

to be drawn to the attention of the Board of Examiners or the University; or other thoughts.

Statements

r) The standards set for this/these award(s) are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject.	Yes
s) The academic standards and the achievements of students are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK degree-awarding bodies with which you are familiar.	Yes
t) The processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are sound and fairly conducted in line with the University's regulations and procedures.	Yes

Feedback regarding the report form

(u) This form is reviewed annually and any feedback on this form is welcome and will be considered as part of the annual review.	n/a