



# External Examiner Report

<b>Name of External Examiner:</b>	<b>Carool Kersten</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reader in the Study of Islam &amp; The Muslim World</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	<b>King's College London</b>
<b>Programme Being Reviewed:</b>	<b>AKU-ISMC Master of Arts in Muslim Cultures 2018 – 2019</b>

## IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

- Once completed, please send your form to the AKU-ISMC Registrar's Office within seven days of the **final** Exam Board meeting.
- If there is insufficient space for your comments in any section, please continue on a separate sheet, labelling it appropriately.
- External Examiner Reports will be copied and sent to the relevant Programme Heads, Committees and Boards concerned. Brief excerpts may be included in reports published by the Institute.

		Please mark X where appropriate	YES	NO	N/A
<b>Section I : General</b>					
<b>1</b>	Did you receive copies of relevant documents (e.g. syllabus, marking schemes, etc.)?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2</b>	Did you see a sufficient number of scripts and other assessed work, including those of distinction, borderline and failed candidates, to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	Were you invited to attend meetings of the Board of Examiners?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4</b>	Was the meeting conducted to your satisfaction? If not, please comment below in section 32.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5</b>	Was the general standard of marking and assessment satisfactory?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6</b>	Were there satisfactory marking schemes for the overall degree, individual papers and individual questions (where applicable)?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7</b>	Were all scripts/essays double-marked internally?	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section II: Quality of Teaching and Learning**

Questions 8 to 11 have been designed to meet the higher education qualification framework requirements for collecting and publishing views of External Examiner(s). Your answers to these questions will be made publicly accessible although your name will not be published.

		Please mark X where appropriate	YES	NO
<b>8</b>	Were the standards set for the awards appropriate for a Master's level qualification in this subject? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>9</b>	Were the standards of student performance comparable to similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which you are familiar? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>10</b>	Were the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>11</b>	Please give a brief description of any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to standards and assessment processes that would be worth drawing to the attention of external audiences.			
	The quality of the feedback offered by markers to their student cohort is very high in terms of the amount of detail provided, highlighting strengths and areas of improvements across well-defined result areas.			

<b>Section III: Assessment</b>				
<b>Please mark X where appropriate</b>			<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>12</b>	Were the forms of assessment used appropriate for assessing the learning outcomes specified? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>13</b>	Do forms of assessment include both formative and summative assessment? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>14</b>	Was the information provided to students and External Examiners about assessment explicit and accessible? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>15</b>	Was the amount of assessed work manageable for students and staff? If no, please give reasons below.	<b>x</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

16	Was feedback to students on assessment appropriate and timely? If no, please give reasons below.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments on degree programme examined</b>			
17	Please comment on matters such as: the balance, content and coherence of the degree/diploma programme and the appropriateness of any compulsory courses; fulfilment of stated course objectives; suitability of methods and adequacy of teaching as reflected by the standards achieved by candidates; particular strengths and weaknesses of the Programme Please also identify any significant issues which you feel need to be addressed.		
	The Programme run by AKU is of a very high standard, and the institution deserves to be congratulated with the diversity and range of subjects taught on the postgraduate level, offering students options across a wide variety of academic disciplines and topics. Also AKU appears to be able to recruit a student cohort that is of an impressive academic standard, as reflected in the level of achievement they attain in the course of their studies.		
<b>Comments on the examination and assessment process</b>			
18	Please comment on matters such as: appropriateness and range of the examination methods, i.e. unseen written papers, essays/dissertations, orals, etc. the marking scheme and the scheme for award of honours or a mark of merit or distinction (as appropriate); quality of candidates (including their knowledge of English); quality of assessment; particular strengths and weaknesses. Please also identify any significant issues which you feel need to be addressed.		
	I can only refer to my observations of previous years, as they still apply. For details of this year's dissertations monitoring, I refer to attached report.		

<b>Section IV: Institutional Aspects</b>	
<b>19</b>	<i>Please list any serious institutional issues and/or concerns that you would wish to bring to the attention of senior management of the University. It is envisaged that this section will only be completed in exceptional circumstances.</i>
	<b>None</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Section V: Response to Previous Report</b> <i>Please confirm if you received an appropriate response to issues or actions raised in your previous report(s).</i>
	I have received detailed replies to earlier raised questions. Observations are also recorded in detail in the minutes of meeting of the previous exam board, held on 16 October 2018.
<b>21</b>	<b>Section VI: Any Other Comments</b>  N.A.

Signed  Date **1 £ November 2019**

Completed forms should be returned to the AKU-ISMC Registrar’s Office within 7 days of the Exam Board Meeting and can be sent via email to **ismc.registraroffice@aku.edu** or by post to:

Registrar’s Office  
**The Aga Khan University**  
**Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations**  
**Aga Khan Centre**  
**10 Handyside Street**  
**London, N1C 4DN**

We would also invite you to provide feedback and make recommendations to us on the design and ease of use of this form.

