

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF POSTGRADUATE ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORTS¹

School Reviewed:	School of Biological Sciences
Academic Year Reviewed:	2023-24
QAC Member:	Mark Grant
Academic Services Contact:	Kyra Lamont

QAC Comments & Recommendations

- The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) would like to thank the School of Biological Sciences for submission of the relevant postgraduate Annual Programme Reviews (APRs) and the maintenance of academic standards.
- The Committee is pleased that External Examiners were satisfied with the quality and distribution of assessment loads across and within courses. QAC notes that there are no concerns regarding grade distribution and pass rates remain strong. The Committee recognises the provision of consistent, high-quality feedback as an example of good practice, and is pleased that weaker students are well supported.
- QAC is delighted that PGT courses received positive feedback from students – noting that they found the content interesting and enjoyed field work/practical activities in particular. It is pleasing that courses have been designed to equip students with up-to-date, industry-relevant skills for later employment.
- The Committee recognises the multiple ways in which the School is working to further Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – including ensuring that field-trips accommodate diverse needs/requirements of students. QAC notes that EK5510 and SS5508 include material and case studies from across the globe as part of the School's effort to decolonise the curriculum. It is also reassuring to note that January starts are being well-integrated into programmes.
- The Committee understands that the decision has been made to temporarily reduce the PGT programmes offered (only MSc Environmental Management) until a medium to long-term plan has been created in terms of student recruitment.
- The Committee looks forward to receiving the Annual Programme Review for 24-25.

Signed:



Date: 18th February
2025

¹ The comments and recommendations are based on the Annual Programme Review reports submitted by Schools, incorporating the Annual Course Reviews, Course Evaluation Forms, Student/Staff Liaison Committees and feedback from External Examiners
² It is recognised that low returns of Course Feedback Forms (CFFs) make it difficult to interpret overall student satisfaction at times.

