REPORT ON EXAMINATIONS

M.Sc. in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing 2013/14

Part I

  A. Statistics

  (1) Numbers and percentages in each class/category

Class	Number				%			
	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Distinction	8	6	10	6	25	28.6	43.5	40
Pass	22	11	12	9	69	52.4	52.2	60
Fail	2	3	0	0	6.3	14.3	0	0
Incomplete	0	1	1	0	0	4.7	4.3	0

  (2) Vivas

All candidates were examined viva voce. This year the performances varied significantly, as for the previous academic year, whereby the performances ranged from poor to excellent.

  (3) Marking of scripts

Examinations were given in Weeks 0 of Hilary and Trinity Terms 2014. Scripts were single-marked by assessors followed by a script check carried out by the Course Director. Finalisation of marks by the Examiners took place during an examiners' meeting in week 2 of each term. Special Topics and Case Studies were double-blind marked by assessors. In cases where marks varied over the pass/fail borderline, or the difference in marks was greater than ten, the assessors were asked to meet and reconcile their marks. All marks were approved by the examiners during the meetings held in week 7 of the Hilary and Trinity Terms, as well as at the final examiners' meeting before releasing them to the candidates. All dissertations were read and marked by at least two examiners; marks were approved by all examiners at the final examiners' meeting.

  B. New examining methods and procedures

New examining methods and procedures were not introduced in the academic year 2013-14.

  C. Changes in examining methods etc which the examiners would wish the faculty/department and the divisional board to consider

It is recommended that students be asked to submit LaTeX copies of their special topics and dissertations. This will allow for relevant font and length checks to be made to ensure that students are remaining within the page limits.

D. How are candidates made aware of conventions?

The conventions are posted on the course website and are included in the course handbook. The Course Director discusses these with the candidates and the candidates are reminded of the conventions by email on several occasions during the year.

Part II

A. General comments on the examination

None.

B. Equal opportunities issues and gender breakdown

There were 20 male and 12 female candidates; 13 male candidates and 9 female candidates passed; 6 male candidates and 2 female candidates were awarded distinctions; 1 male candidate and 1 female candidate failed the course.

C. Candidates' performance in each part of the examination

This course administers examinations internally in January and April, with each student sitting 4 papers. Each of the two sets of examinations are split into Paper A (Mathematical Modelling) and Paper B (Numerical Analysis). Both examinations went smoothly this year, with a good distribution of marks between failure and distinction ranges. Performance on the Case Studies, Special Topics and dissertations also ranged from fail to distinction level.

D. Names of members of the board of examiners

Prof. H. Byrne (Chair)
Dr P. Dellar
Prof. E. Süli
Prof. J. Tanner
Prof. D. Silvester (External Examiner)

03.11.14 HB/MKF