

# **MPhil and MST in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology**

## **External Examiner's Report to the Vice Chancellor**

This report relates to the examination session of June 2009. The examiner's meeting was held on Tuesday 30th June 2009.

### **Academic Standard of Programmes:**

The academic standards on the degree programmes are entirely appropriate. They are consistent with the requirements of comparable programmes at other leading institutions in the UK. A distinctive feature of the programme is its scope and coverage of optional papers in Linguistics and Philology, and the impressively wide range of dissertation topics.

**Standard of Student Performance:** There were 9 MPhil candidates and 4 M.St candidates. Of these 5 students gained Distinctions, with one really outstanding result amongst the MPhil candidates. As ever, there were some mediocre papers, but nothing to suggest anything worrying in the overall standards achieved.

**Assessment Processes:** The assessment procedures were once again rigorous and based on well articulated descriptors. There was evidence of careful marking of examination scripts and dissertations, and evidence of the operation of a moderation process whereby internal examiners reached an agreed mark. Two candidates were given a viva voce examination in relation to papers which fell below the pass mark. The manner in which this process was conducted was completely satisfactory and afforded the candidates every opportunity to display their knowledge and understanding. Communication with the Department were very smooth and the Examination process efficiently carried out. The Report from the Examiners outlines a number of areas in which consideration might be given to making some changes of procedure, and I will not reiterate this issues here.

Professor Louisa Sadler (Essex)  
August 24, 2009