

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2010– 2011

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION*Subject area and awards being examined:*

School of: BUSINESS Programme(s) / Module(s): Modules on MSc Programmes (Accounting and Finance, International Finance	Subject(s): Accounting and Finance awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.) MSc
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The completed report should be attached to an e-mail and sent as soon as possible, and no later than 6 weeks after the relevant meeting of the Board of Examiners, to exexadmin@leeds.ac.uk.

Alternatively you can post your report to:

Head of Academic Quality and Standards,
Academic Quality and Standards Team,
Room 12:81, EC Stoner Building,
The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT

PART B: COMMENTS FOR THE INSTITUTION ON THE EXAMINATION PROCESS AND STANDARDS***Matters for Urgent Attention***

If there are any areas which you think require urgent attention before the programme is offered again please note them in this box.

No matters for urgent attention

Only applicable in first year of appointment

Were you provided with copies of previous relevant External Examiners' reports and the response of the School to these?

N/a (not my first year of appointment)

For Examiners completing their term of appointment

Please comment on your experience of the programme(s) over the period of your appointment, remarking in particular on changes from year to year and the progressive development and enhancement of the learning and teaching provision, on standards achieved, on marking and assessment and the procedures of the School.

I am pleased to note that the standards of the examinations, the modes of assessment and the marking remains at a very high level. More generally, I am very positive about the Leeds' work I overview in my capacity as external examiner.

Standards

- 1. Please indicate the extent to which the programme aims and intended learning outcomes (ILOs) were commensurate with the level of the award?**
 - The appropriateness of the intended learning outcomes for the programme(s)/modules and of the structure and content of the programme(s);*
 - The extent to which standards are appropriate for the award or award element under consideration.*

IN BOTH CASES VERY APPROPRIATE

- 2. Did the aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?**
 - The comparability of the programme(s) with similar programme(s) at other institutions and against national benchmarks and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.*
 - OVERALL, MY CONCLUSION IS THAT THE WORK UNDER MY REVIEW IS AT LEAST AS GOOD AS THAT PERFORMED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS. IT IS CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL BENCHMARKS AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS.*

- 3. Please comment on the assessment methods and the appropriateness of these to the ILOs?**
 - The design and structure of the assessment methods, and the arrangements for the marking of modules and the classification of awards;*
 - The quality of teaching, learning and assessment methods that may be indicated by student performance.*
 - IN RELATION TO ISSUES IN RELATION TO THESE QUESTIONS, I AM VERY IMPRESSED BY THE WORK AT LEEDS UNDER MY AMBIT.*

- 4. Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the aims and ILOs?**
 - The academic standards demonstrated by the students and, where possible, their performance in relation to students on comparable courses;*
 - The strengths and weaknesses of the students as a cohort.*
 - THERE WERE SOME EXCELLENT SCRIPTS/PERFORMANCES. OVERALL STANDARDS WERE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS COMPARABLE PROGRAMMES. STUDENTS WERE GIVEN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AS INDICATED.*

- 5. For Examiners responsible for programmes that include clinical practice components, please comment on the learning and assessment of practice components of the curriculum**

N/A

- 6. The nature and effectiveness of enhancements to the programme(s) and modules since the previous year**

It would be particularly helpful if you could also identify areas of good practice which are worthy of wider dissemination.

NOTHING SIGNIFICANT TO COMMENT

- 7. The influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching**

This may include examples of curriculum design informed by current research in the subject; practice informed by research; students undertaking research.

I VERY MUCH FAVOUR TEACHING REFLECTING RESEARCH AND BEING UP TO DATE IN RELATION TO RESEARCH. THE WORK REVIEWED SCORES HIGHLY IN THIS RESPECT. I SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND SEEK TO PROGRESS THIS ASPECT.

The Examination Process

8. **The University and its Schools provide guidance for External Examiners as to their roles, powers and responsibilities. Please indicate whether this material was sufficient for you to act effectively as an External Examiner?**
- *Whether external examiners have sufficient access to the material needed to make the required judgements and whether they are encouraged to request additional information.*
 - **YES MY IMPRESSION AND EXPERIENCE IS A VERY POSITIVE ONE.**
9. **Did you receive appropriate documentation relating to the programmes and/or parts of programmes for which you have responsibility, e.g. programme specifications or module handbooks?**
- *The coherence of the policies and procedures relating to external examiners and whether they match the explicit roles they are asked to perform.*
 - **AGAIN, MY EXPERIENCE HERE IS A VERY POSITIVE ONE**
10. **Was sufficient assessed/examination work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work? YES**
11. **Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Board of Examiners? I UNFORTUNATELY WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND LAST TIME BUT OTHERWISE YES**
12. **Were appropriate procedures in place to give due consideration to mitigating circumstances and medical evidence? YES**

For Examiners involved in Mentoring Arrangements

If you have acted as a mentor to a new external examiner or have received mentor support please comment here on the arrangements.

Other Comments

Please use this box if you wish to make any further comments not covered elsewhere on the form.

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Dear <<>>

Thank you for your External Examiner's Report for the Academic year 2010-2011 on the MSc Accounting & Finance and the MSc Finance & Investment. We are very pleased that you believe our programmes are in good shape, the standards of assessment are appropriate, the student performance is satisfactory and the quality of our research-led teaching meets the intended learning outcomes. We are also glad that you had a positive experience as an external examiner to our programmes.

At the Leeds University Business School, we continuously strive to improve the quality of our programmes and always aspire to deliver world-class higher education, within an excellent learning environment. Your contribution, your active support and your most encouraging feedback are of the utmost importance and highly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

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Dean, Leeds University Business School