

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

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject area and awards being examined:

School of: Programme(s) / Module(s): Product Design	Subject(s): awards: (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc.) BDes, MDes
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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.

N/A

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

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 have been impressed throughout my period as examiner by the quality of the students and the overall student experience. This type of course always experiences challenges to balance design and engineering and I feel the Dept has approached these challenges in an admirable way. The week at the Milan Fair is a particular strength of the programme.

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.*

The intended learning outcomes are entirely appropriate for the programme. From inspecting students' work and from discussions with students it is clear that they are highly motivated, conscientious and have achieved a high academic standard. They compare well against students on similar courses in top rated HE Institutions.

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.*

The standard of the programme stands in good comparison to similar programmes in top rated HE Institutions.

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 general the quality of teaching, learning and assessment methods are excellent. The particular issue for assessing a product design related degree are very well addressed.

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.*

The standard of student stands in good comparison to similar programmes in top rated HE Institutions.

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.

The developments in "Design Policy and Integration" and "Design Communications" plus the exposure of students to the Milan Design Fair is very welcome.

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.

Practice is very well informed by the development activities of the staff

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.*

A new development this year was the excellent online access to material. I had a good opportunity to meet students from the Dept.

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.*

YES

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?**

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.

N/A

Other Comments

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

N/A



07 September 2011

Dear

Re: School Response to External Examiners Report

Thank you for acting as one of our External Examiners last year and for your prompt and very positive report.

I was particularly delighted to see your comments on the developments in "Design Policy and Integration" and "Design Communications" and your support for our continuing involvement in the Milan Design Show.

As this is your last year as External Examiner for our Product Design programme, I would like to offer special thanks for all your hard work and engagement with the School over the past four years.

Yours sincerely