

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2012– 2013

Part A: General Information**Subject area and awards being examined**

Faculty / School of:	School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering
Subject(s):	
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MSc in Computational Fluid Dynamics
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc

Completed report

The completed report should be attached to an e-mail and sent as soon as possible, and no later than six 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

None

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

N/A

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 programme aims and ILOs for the MSc programme and the content of all modules are appropriate to the level of the MSc award. The standards in teaching this MSc are on the highest national level.

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.*

At present MSc courses in CFD are run by about ten Universities across UK. The content and teaching methods used for MSc in CFD at Leeds University fully meet the rigorous quality requirements and is one of the best in UK.

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.*

The design and structure of assessment methods which are in place ensure thorough and objective evaluation of student work. In general detailed written feedback is provided to students by academic staff and marking procedures are easy to understand and transparent.

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.*

Only two students took this MSc course in 2012-2013 academic year and one of them was interviewed by me. In accordance with this student they enjoyed the course and were fully satisfied by its content and methods of teaching. Both students performed well in exams and assignments and produced dissertations of high quality. As a result, they were awarded MSc degree with distinction.

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. Please comment on 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.

- multi-disciplinary approach to with efficient collaboration across various Schools;
- R & D projects are industry focused.

7. Please comment on 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.

The curriculum of taught modules and R & project topics are enhanced and defined by research interests of the academic staff

For Examiners involved in mentoring arrangements

8. If you have acted as a mentor to a new External Examiner or have received mentor support please comment here on the arrangements

The Examination/Assessment Process

9. 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, I was provided with detailed information on the role of External Examiners and with clear assessment guidelines which I found to be very useful

10. 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, marking criteria?

- *The coherence of the policies and procedures relating to External Examiners and whether they match the explicit roles they are asked to perform.*

Yes, as indicated above, I received from the University all appropriate documentation relating to the MSc programme

11. Were you provided with all draft examination papers/assessments? Was the nature and level of the questions appropriate? If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?

Yes, I received all draft examination papers. Questions in Exam papers were appropriate to the MSc level with a right balance between effort required and time available to students for answers

12. Was sufficient assessed / examined work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work? Were the scripts clearly marked/annotated?

Yes, I assessed all exam answer books, marked assessment works and project dissertations prior to the meeting of Board of examiners. Also I was given an opportunity to meet and interview a student

13. Was the choice of subjects for dissertations appropriate? Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate?

Project topics were quite challenging with subjects fully appropriate to the MSc course. A two-stage assessment of dissertations is used in this course (the student presentation and dissertation itself being marked by several academics) which provides objective marking procedure.

14. Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Board of Examiners? Were you able to attend the meeting? Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Board?

All administrative arrangements were excellent and very efficient.

15. Were appropriate procedures in place to give due consideration to mitigating circumstances and medical evidence?

No special cases were in MSc CFD but I witnessed during the meeting of Board of Examiners that all procedures to consider mitigating circumstances and medical evidence were in place for other courses.

Other comments

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

None

Faculty of Engineering

School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT UK



29 January 2014

Dear

External Examiner's Report 2012/13 – MSc Computational Fluid Dynamics

Thank you for your completed External Examiner's Report for our MSc degree programme in Computational Fluid Dynamics. I have copied this to our Director of Student Education () and Head of Process Engineering () and their comments are incorporated with mine below.

Firstly, thank you for the complimentary remarks about the quality and standards of the programme. Your comments on the "challenging" nature of the projects are also welcome and I note that you were satisfied with the administrative arrangements for the draft examination papers and the Board of Examiners.

Even though there were only two students registered on the programme in 2013/14, we always strive to provide an excellent student experience, and it would seem from your response that both were fully satisfied. I am pleased to tell you that the 2013/14 cohort is somewhat larger.

This marks the end of your duties as External Examiner for 2012/13 and, once again, many thanks for your efforts. We look forward to seeing you again in your final year this October for the 2013/14 Examinations Board.

Yours sincerely

Head of School.