

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2011– 2012

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

<i>Faculty / School of:</i>	School of Chemistry Department of Colour Science/School of Design
<i>Subject(s):</i>	<i>Design and Colour Technology</i>
<i>Programme(s) / Module(s):</i>	COLO 1010, COLO 1020, COLO 1070, COLO 1520, COLO 2500, COLO 2510, COLO 2520
<i>Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):</i>	BA

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
There are 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?

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

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.*

This is a cross-disciplinary course incorporating elements of both colour science and Design, therefore the modules need to be applicable to both disciplines. This is not an easy balance, I feel this course has managed the difficult job of satisfying both elements and has created modules that are commensurate with a BA award.

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 programme is unique in its specific teaching of colour science and design, however the programme is comparable to the individual elements of the course that are taught by other institutions. I am satisfied that the aims and individual learning outcomes are of a commensurate standard to other degree programmes that I have examined nationally.

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 assessment procedures and arrangements for marking modules are appropriate to the independent learning outcomes. The student performance covers a good range of marks and in combination with the visual elements of the course indicate a good standard of teaching, learning and assessment methods.

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 students demonstrated a good range of achievement of the aims and independent learning outcomes with the best students showing a very high level of achievement, the performance of the cohort was commensurate with the standard expected of a comparable course. The strength of the course lies in its student placements; the students undertook an impressive range of placements with high-level blue chip companies. The weakness is only that the course is undergoing a major restructure as it changes School and direction; this has not appeared to affect the students but has caused some anxiety amongst the teaching staff.

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

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.

As reported previously, the placement modules are particularly effective, with a very high standard of company participation. This level of collaboration with industry should be rewarded and retained as the course is restructured.

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.

Whilst the course is undergoing changes from one school to another, it is not possible therefore to comment on this section.

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

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.*

I had sufficient access to all material required and any further material was instantly made available.

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.*

I had very good access to the module handbooks, marking criteria and programme specifications.

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?

During the time I have been external examiner at Leeds, I have received all draft examination papers for approval and my opinions. The nature and level of the questions have been appropriate and where I have made minor recommendations these have always been fully acted upon.

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?

A good range of work was available showing a spread of grades within the marking system, any further enquiries on my part were answered with full access to the relevant students work. This gave me full confidence

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

The choice of dissertation topics was appropriate and covered a broad range of topics within the confines of the course. The students showed a high degree of independent study and the standard was commensurate with a BA degree.

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?

The arrangements were satisfactory, the Board of Examiners was very professional, I attended the Board and all recommendations and mitigating circumstances were dealt with in a professional and fair manner. I agreed with all the recommendations of the board.

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

It was evident from the documentation supplied and from those students that had applied for mitigating circumstances that appropriate procedures were in place.

Other comments

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

This is a relevant and timely course that should be in great demand by the colour and design community. The course has an excellent track record of industrial and commercial placement and these aspects should not be lost whilst the course is repositioned and changes schools.

School of Design

University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

28th November 2012

RE: BA Design and Colour Technology

Dear

I am writing on behalf of the School of Design to provide a formal response to your Examiner's Report. We very much appreciate the time and effort that you have committed and value your contribution over the past year. Having considered your report in detail, it is encouraging to note that your comments are highly supportive of our programme, its delivery and assessment. We are delighted that you view the course's challenging mixture of the disciplines of colour science and design as a success and also that you have emphasised the important role of our links with industry. It has been particularly rewarding for us to reach the milestone whereby our first cohort has graduated.

As you have highlighted, the chief potential weakness has been the process of restructuring in the Department of Colour Science. While this has indeed presented a number of challenges relating to delivery, we have done our utmost to minimise the impact of staffing changes on our students and will continue to monitor the situation.

We are delighted that you have not raised any other matters of immediate concern and look forward to meeting you again in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Acting Head of School