

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 DESIGN
Subject(s):	COLOUR CHEMISTRY
Programme(s) / Module(s):	
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	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 that require 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.*

The learning outcomes in relation to the structure and content of the modules is 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.*

This is a unique course in its content, aims and structure therefore there are no national subject benchmarks against which to test it. However the course is clearly of a comparable standard to other BA/BSc courses I have examined and observed.

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 methods are appropriate to the dual nature of the course structure and offer a range of marking types that relate to the differing structures of the individual modules.

The quality of the teaching appears to be of a good standard as indicated by the student performance as a body.

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 range of marks awarded demonstrated a range of student abilities on the course as would be expected from a degree level course. This year there were more high level students compared to last year and this may reflect the increasing maturity of the course. As a body the students were of an expected level, as stated above there is no other course that covers the same content at undergraduate level, so it is not possible to make direct comparisons.

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.

The course has undergone many changes in the last 2 years as it has moved from the Department of chemistry to the Department of Design, therefore it is hard to make clear recommendations during the changes. The course team have done well to maintain the standards of the course during this period of change.

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 course team have always striven to create a practical course that combined colour chemistry with design and colour science. Current thinking in these areas is seeking a greater dialogue between these three separate disciplines.

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.*

The material supplied was sufficient

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

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?

I was provided with all draft examination papers and as in previous years any comment I have are taken on board and acted upon. The questions were all appropriate to the level of the course and gave students the scope to report on the breadth of their learning

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?

All work supplied was clearly marked with a good range of work that indicated the differing standards across the student body on the course.

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

The choice of subject for the dissertations clearly related to the course programme and the method and standard of assessment enabled the students to present their work in the best light within their range of capabilities.

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?

Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances, the exam board was arranged so that I could attend the meeting via Skype. The meeting was conducted fairly and satisfactorily and all matters were clearly discussed and dealt with appropriately.

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

Yes, it is clear from the external examination meetings that the department and the team are very careful to make sure that all mitigating circumstances are taken into account and that fair and balanced decisions are reached with consensus from all parties.

Other comments

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

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RE: BA Design and Colour Technology

25th November, 2013

Dear <>,

On behalf of the School of Design, I am writing to provide a formal response to your recent Examiner's Report.

Having considered your report in detail, it is encouraging to note that your comments continue to be highly supportive of the programme, its delivery and assessment. We are particularly pleased that you are satisfied with the way that we have managed change arising from transferring the programme from the School of Chemistry to Design and also that you recognise the importance of such inter-disciplinary programmes. We had a particularly strong cohort last year, and this was clearly reflected in their final degree classifications.

Although, as you mentioned, holding the exam board via teleconference was not ideal, we are glad that this did not adversely affect your involvement in the examination process. We will, of course, do our utmost to ensure that a face-to-face meeting is facilitated next time. To this end, new procedures have been instigated by our School Education Support Manager.

Thank you once again for agreeing to extend your term as external examiner for an additional year. We are delighted that you have not raised any other matters of concern and look forward to meeting you again in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of School