

The University of Leeds

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2013– 2014

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

Faculty / School of:

Leeds University Business School

Subject(s):

Programme(s) / Module(s):

LUBS1950	Economic Theory & Apps 1
LUBS2040	Theories of Growth, Val & Dist
LUBS2280	Macroecon. Pol. & Perf in Brit
LUBS2590	Labour Economics
LUBS2610	Intermediate Macroeconomics
LUBS3010	International Trade
LUBS3011	Issues in Economic Growth
LUBS3300	Economics Dissertation
LUBS3430	Modern Theories of Money
LUBS3505	Advanced Macroeconomics
LUBS3560	Global Econ Coordination & Gov
LUBS3570	Current Topics-Euro Integratio
LUBS3925	The Political Economy of Work

Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):

Economics

Name and home Institution / affiliation of Examiner**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 Quality Assurance
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?

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

My experience as an external examiner has been a very pleasant one. Communication was effective and clear.

I have noticed that my comments in particular modules and also in the external examining process have been taken into account.

The standards are high in the classes that I have examined and marking has been consistent and fair. I did not get the impression that marking standards have become more strict.

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.*

ILOs are 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.*

yes

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.*

Assessment methods are appropriate

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.*

yes

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.

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.

Among the classes I have look at the following stand out as non-standard classes that are informed by research (rather than following a textbook).

LUBS2040	Theories of Growth, Val & Dist
LUBS2280	Macroecon. Pol. & Perf in Brit
LUBS3560	Global Econ Coordination & Gov
LUBS3570	Current Topics-Euro Integratio
LUBS3925	The Political Economy of Work

8. Where the programme forms part of an Integrated PhD, please comment on the appropriateness of the programme as training for a PhD

n/a

For Examiners involved in mentoring arrangements

9. 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

The Examination/Assessment Process

10. 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

11. 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.

I have particularly noticed that the internal moderation form has been revised. The present version does give the external examiner a better understanding of the internal moderation.

12. 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

13. 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

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

yes

15. 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?

yes

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

yes

Other comments

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

Let me conclude by saying that I am overall very impressed with the work of students and the energy and enthusiasm of the staff at the Economics section. The classes are of consistently high quality, use up-to-date material and make a strong effort to engage with students. The assessment and marking process is clear, consistent and fair.

I also want to emphasise that the Economics courses at Leeds are quite unique in that they offer a high degree of practical and economic policy orientation and that many of them offer a richer set of theoretical perspectives than would be the case at most universities in the UK. This is important at the time when there has been an internationally coordinated protest by economics students who criticise the excessive formalism and intellectual narrowness of how economics is taught. Leeds is well positioned to claim a unique niche of offering a high-class degree at the same time as it offers a richer menu to students than comparable institutions.

I also want to commend the administrative staff who have made being an external at Leeds a pleasant and smooth experience.

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29th September 2014

Reference: External Examination Report 2013-14

Dear <>,

Thank you for your report as external examiner for the academic year 2013-14 in respect of the Accounting & Finance programmes.

I am pleased to note that your experience as an external examiner has been a very pleasant one and that you can attest us research based teaching, strong efforts to engage with our students and high standards in our classes and that our marking has been consistent and fair. I am also pleased that you praise the high degree of practical and economic policy orientation of our modules and that many of them offer a richer set of theoretical perspectives than would be the case at most universities in the UK. You also noted that we improved the transparency of our internal moderation process. Thank you for your advice in this area!

Following the success of last year's Validation Day, we again invited External Examiners to the Business School prior to Exam Board in an attempt to allow examiners dedicated time to scrutinise assessed coursework and exam scripts. I hope you found this useful and I am open to any feedback or suggestions on ways in which this may be improved.

On behalf of the Business School may I again thank you for your suggestions and for your comments on our modules, our programmes, and our examining. We greatly appreciate the assistance you have given to us over the last several years.

Yours sincerely

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Dean, Leeds University Business School