

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:

LAW

Subject(s):

European Law and International Law related modules

Programme(s) / Module(s):

LLM

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

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 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?

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.*

They were 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.*

Both the aims and objectives are appropriate and meet the QAA NQF level descriptors. I was given the opportunity to be involved at all stages and the communications with colleagues have been excellent!

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 criteria are appropriate. They are comparable to those pertaining to Law Schools in the UK and elicit good student performance. The assessment methods enable students to achieve the intended learning outcomes. The course teams articulate interesting essay topics and exam questions. The feedback provided on both courseworks and scripts was very good.

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.*

Both the content of the programmes and the methods of assessment are appropriate. Students are encouraged to reflect critically on the material and to assess the implications of legislative developments and case law. Recent legal developments are integrated into the syllabus and the exam questions are topical. Student performance has been very good.

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.

The modules have been equally good.

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 LLM modules I examined have been research led and both their content and examination questions reflect this.

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

N/A

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.*

Excellent communications and ample opportunities to review the necessary material.

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 did.

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 did. The questions and coursework titles were excellent; both rigorous and topical. The course convenors should be congratulated. The dissertations I read were outstanding!

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, they were.

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

Very interesting topics and the students produced excellent work!

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?

They are outstanding. I was not able to attend the Exam Board.

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

I cannot comment on this.

Other comments

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

<>

10 January 2014

Dear <>,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your external examiner's report for the 2012-13 academic year and to thank for your additional assistance you offered at short notice when we needed to revisit a student's classification following late disclosure of mitigating circumstances.

We were delighted to read such positive comments relating to our teaching of international law and our assessment processes. I will ensure your report is shared with the relevant members of staff.

Yours sincerely,

<>