

The University of Leeds

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2014– 2015

Part A: General Information

Subject area and awards being examined

Faculty / School of:	Engineering/Civil Engineering
Subject(s):	
Programme(s) / Module(s):	Engineering Project Management and International Construction Management and Engineering
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc

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?

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 as I have agreed to serve a 4th year as external examiner to these programmes.

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 structure, content and delivery of the programme are entirely commensurate with the level of the award. The standards of teaching and assessment are appropriate to achieve the intended learning outcomes, although the 100% coursework modules would benefit from an element of individual assessment. The students benefit from a very high quality learning environment and outstanding academic staff.

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, the aims and ILOs are clear and have evolved in relation to previous years. They are commensurate with other programmes with which I am familiar.

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 fine, although the marks for CIVE 5190M are high relative to the remainder of the programme. Looking at the assessment for this module it would seem that some at the upper end of the marks range are higher than might be expected. This was discussed at the board and the module leader is no longer employed by the University and so this is unlikely to be in issue in the future.

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.*

These are comparable, notwithstanding the comments made in relation to CIVE 5190M above.

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 programme has been restructured with the removal of block modules which will certainly be appreciated by full-time students. The enhancements made to the Dissertation module have responded directly to comments that I made last year and have improved both the quality of the projects and the student experience.

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.*

There is evidence of research-informed teaching throughout this programme with every module including some elements of research-based thinking and material.

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, this was very clear.

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

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, exemplary as usual.

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

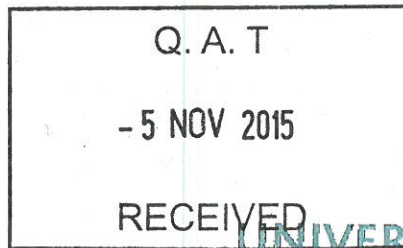
Some minor issues were raised by the student during the consultation session around the opportunities to visit construction projects during the programme. In addition, there was a concern that some of the material delivered by external lecturers duplicated material already covered in the lectures.

Faculty of Engineering

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5 November 2015



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Dear

MSc(Eng): Engineering Project Management and International Construction Management and Engineering

Thank you for your Examiner's Report and for your continuous support during the previous academic year. It is pleasing to note that the majority of elements of our programmes meet with your approval, however, we note that you have raised a couple of areas of concern to which we have given further consideration as outlined below.

Assessment of Advanced Project Management CIVE5190: This will be addressed during the current academic year with a new module leader taking over and we will ensure there will be an individual element in the assessment. This is something we are now implementing across all our modules.

Visits to construction sites: We will be reviewing this in more detail, taking into account a number of issues where we need to be compliant including risk assessment and health & safety considerations.

Once again, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your much valued work and support as one of our external examiners and we look forward to seeing you again in October.

Yours sincerely