

# 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:	Leeds University Business School
Subject(s):	<i>Advanced Management Decision Making, Challenges in Information Management, Effective Decision Making, Global Operations and Information Management, Information Tools for Organizations, Management Decision Making, MBA Projects, Operations Management, Professional Innovation Management, Project, Systems Thinking and Consulting</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MBA, EMBA, Exe MSc and GGS MSc
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc and MBA

#### 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](mailto: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 areas of concern that I would like to highlight that would need urgent attention before the programme is offered again in the coming academic year.*

#### **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?*

*Yes, I was provided with all the relevant documents as part of my briefing.*

#### **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*

Not applicable

## 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.*

I reviewed a number of modules on the MSc, MBA and EMBA programmes. The ILO were explicitly stated in the module handbook and were in line with the level of awards being offered.

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 ILO were in line with standards within the sector. I have reviewed ILOs in other institutions and can state that these are comparable to these institutions.

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 were appropriate, i.e. exams and assignments to the courses I have reviewed.

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.*

It is clear that the students come from a variety of background on these courses. Having said that, it is clear that the tutors were taking extra effort to give the student an opportunity to demonstrate their achievement by varying the types of assessment and delivery methods.

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

No applicable

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.*

There have been no major changes to any of the modules since the last academic year. I think overall all the modules are "fit for purpose". I have asked the MBA Director to review the MBA curriculum (like last year) and ensure that it is in-line with the demands from Industry.

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.*

In almost all cases, the students were asked to reflect and critically review literature. This ensured that students engaged with appropriate reading material. They were also asked to use examples and cases from their work settings (in case of MBA), which also was an excellent idea.

## 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**

NA

## 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.*

Yes, I have given a detailed document listing my responsibilities as an external examiner.

**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, I received all the necessary documents related to the modules and programmes.

**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 was given every opportunity to comment on the nature and level of the questions.

**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. As the programmes are generally small, I had the opportunity to review more work than on larger programmes.

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

Yes, I had an opportunity to review one thesis early in the year. The quality of the work was excellent.

**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?**

Yes, the administrative arrangements were excellent.

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

Yes, this was done in a fair and objective manner.

## Other comments

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

This is my third year of being an external examiner at LUBS and I am impressed with the quality of work and the professionalism demonstrated by the staff.

<<>>

08 April 2016

Dear <<>>,

Thank you for your Annual External Examiner's Report for the 2014-15 session on our full-time MBA programme.

We are very pleased that you continue to believe our modules are generally in good shape, the standards of assessment are appropriate, the student performance is satisfactory and the quality of our research-led teaching meets the intended learning outcomes. **We note again your comment that the MBA curriculum needs to track demands from industry. We are striving to develop and maintain close relationships with a variety of external organisations to ensure this happens. This year we have secured Konica Minolta and the European Space Agency as partners to host student work in the Strategy and International Business modules respectively. Students will also continue to work with a range of smaller local companies in the Leading in Practice module.**

At Leeds University Business School, we endeavour to maintain and continuously improve the quality of our programmes and administrative procedures. Your helpful oversight and feedback is essential to us in that task and we appreciate your input very much.

Yours sincerely,

<<>>

**Dean  
Leeds University Business School**

*Tel: +44(0) 113 <<>>  
Fax: +44(0) 113 <<>>  
Email: <<>>*