

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2015– 2016

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

Faculty / School of:	Leeds University Business School
Subject(s):	<i>Accounting and Finance</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MSc in Accounting and Finance
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

No there are no areas where it is required 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.*

I had an extensive look on the intended learning outcome and I can say that it is appropriate for the high level of the students that Leeds University has got. The modules provided are of high level and up to date with the recent developments in research.

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.*

I have worked in many leading institutions in the past. Thus I have experience on other programs to other Institutions. I can say thus that the aims and ILs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark.

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.*

Overall the assessments (both exams and assignments) have been designed to address the vast majority of the learning outcomes of the different courses.

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.*

I am happy to confirm that students have been able to attain the learning outcomes of each of the programmes that I have been external examiner for. There are always some students which are more weak but this is mainly due to their personal effort.

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.

The Accounting and Finance Group within the University of Leeds is one of the top in the countries in terms of the research. Colleagues take advantage of their expertise and inform the students on the latest development that take place in the research.

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

This is a crucial question as always the MSc Course scan be the basis for some excellent PhD students. My view of the program is that it can improve the skills of the students in order to be able to pursue a Doctoral Degree in the future. It trains them well and motivates towards the research.

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

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.

The material that has been provided to me has been adequate to make the required judgement. Though I would appreciate if I could have access to the electronic databases that the University provides in order to make better job in the dissertations side. The students use databases that I do not have access so at that part I am not able to do appropriately my job.

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 received all the appropriate documentation relating to the programme. Marking criteria has been clear and I was able to judge the mark in individual parts of the exams and assignments.

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, I was provided with all drafts examination papers. The level of the questions was the appropriate one for every exam I reviewed.

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, sufficiently work has been made available and enabled me to have confidence in the evaluation of the students work.

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

The title of the dissertations has been sophisticated which indicated to me the excellent involvement of the colleague at LUBS. They inspired the students with excellent topic and it has been really of great interest to me to read their work.

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 the administrative arrangement were satisfactory for the whole process. At this stage I would like to praise the excellent work made by the secretarial team at LUBS. They had enormous amount of work and despite that everything has been done so well.

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

Yes, appropriate procedures were in place and gave consideration to mitigating circumstance and medical evidence.

Other comments

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

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31 March 2017

Dear <<>>,

Thank you very much for your Examiner's Report for the MSc Accounting & Finance. We are very pleased with all your comments on our programme. In particular, we appreciate your views that the programme and the modules are well established and that the quality of the feedback and the researched curriculum are of high standards.

We are also pleased that you felt that *"the modules provided are of high level and up to date with the recent developments in research"* and that you believe that *"the Accounting and Finance Group within the University of Leeds is one of the top in the countries in terms of the research"*.

We noted your following comment: *"I would appreciate if I could have access to the electronic databases that the University provides in order to make better job in the dissertations side. The students use databases that I do not have access so at that part I am not able to do appropriately my job"*.

Response: Thank you for this comment. It is understood that this relates to licencing and copyright limitations of the relevant databases. Your comment will however be raised to the Division and the Programme Team, which will inquire if there are ways to grant you access to the relevant materials.

On behalf of the Division may I again thank you for your suggestions and comments. We greatly appreciate the assistance you have given to us, and I look forward to welcoming you once more at next year's examination board.

Yours sincerely,

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