

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2016-17 QAT Received 12/03/2018

Part A: General Information

Subject area and awards being examined

Faculty / School of:	School of Languages, Cultures and Societies
Subject(s):	Audiovisual Translation Studies
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MODL5207M MODL5006M MODL5025M MODL5303M
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MA

Part B: Comments for the Institution on the Examination Process and Standards

Points of innovation and/or good practice

Please highlight areas of innovation or good practice within the programmes or processes you have been involved with in this box.

The programme is designed to develop students' understanding of AVT as a subject as well as their skills as a professional subtitler/linguist. The programme covers a range of academic and practical aspects, taught by the team of academics and practitioners, which is ideal in such a specialised programme. The programme content is evidently linked with the industry but led by cutting edge research also.

It would be interesting to see how other aspects of subtitling in the current media landscape could be incorporated into the programme (i.e. display of tweet feed and other social media, authorial titling, dynamic positioning of subtitles etc)

In all, this programme is highly innovative and demonstrate good practice.

Enhancements made from the previous year

Please highlight any enhancements made to the programme(s) or processes over the past year in this box.

N/A This is my first year as the external examiner

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

I found that modules are delivered to an appropriate standard and no urgent attention is required

For Examiners in the first year of appointment

1.	Were you provided with an External Examiner Handbook?	Y N
2.	Were you provided with copies of previous External Examiners' reports and the School's responses to these?	Y N
3.	Were you provided with a External Examiner Mentor?	Y N

For Examiners completing their term of appointment

4.	Have you observed improvements in the programme(s) over the period of your appointment?	Y / N
5.	Has the school responded to comments and recommendations you have made?	Y / N
6.	Where recommendations have not been implemented, did the school provide clear reasons for this?	Y / N
7.	Have you acted as an External Examiner Mentor?	Y / N

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

8.	Is the overall programme structure coherent and appropriate for the level of study?	Y / N
9.	Does the programme structure allow the programme aims and intended learning outcomes to be met?	Y / N
10.	Are the programme aims and intended learning outcomes commensurate with the level of award?	Y / N
11.	Did the Aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?	Y / N
12.	Is the programme(s) comparable with similar programmes at other institutions?	Y / N

Please use this box to explain your overall impression of the programme structure, design, aims and intended learning outcomes.

The programme is designed to cover not only the academic aspects of audio-visual translation but also has a hands-on practical aspect. Students' progress is adequately monitored throughout the year and guided through extensive feedback. As well as developing their understanding of AVT practice, students are also trained in their translation skills in their specialised language pairs.

13.	Is the influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching clear?	Y / N
-----	---	------------------

Please explain how this is/could be achieved (examples might include: curriculum design informed by current research in the subject; practice informed by research; students undertaking research)

The programme addresses a range of current hot topics in the industry and the academia, including strategies, processes and tools, which are based on the current industry practice. Students are also made aware of the current state of AVT studies.

Across the programme, students are given opportunities to learn about AVT as a subject as well as taught by professional translators/subtitlers, and thus enhancing their existing knowledge and proficiency in language and translation skills.

14.	Does the programme form part of an Integrated PhD?	Y / N
-----	--	------------------

Please comment on the appropriateness of the programme as training for a PhD:

15.	Does the programme include clinical practice components?	Y / N
-----	--	------------------

Please comment on the learning and assessment of practice components of the curriculum here:

16.	Is the programme accredited by a Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB)?	Y / N
-----	--	------------------

Please comment on the value of, and the programme's ability to meet, PSRB requirements here:

--

Assessment and Feedback

17.	Does the programme design clearly align intended learning outcomes with assessment?	Y / N
<p><i>Please comment on the assessment methods and the appropriateness of these to the ILOs, in particular: 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.</i></p> <p>Marking criteria provided for each assignment is clearly aligned with learning outcomes and students are given extensive feedback on each criteria. In addition, assessments and marking criteria are designed with the current industry practice and standard in mind.</p> <p>Assessment methods are appropriate in relation to the learning outcomes (as well as skills outcomes where relevant)</p>		
18.	Is the design and structure of the assessment methods appropriate to the level of award?	Y / N
19.	Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the programme aims and intended learning outcomes?	Y / N
<p><i>Please comment on 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></p> <p>From what I have observed, it is clear that the academic standards of the students are excellent. Most students have shown their potential to work in the industry immediately/upon completion of the course, as appropriate for such a specialised postgraduate course.</p>		
<p><i>Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make in relation to assessment and feedback:</i></p> <p>I am particularly impressed with the level of feedback given to the students by the teaching team. I would be interested in the way the teaching team maintains the consistent standard of translation across diverse language pairs offered in the programme.</p>		

The Progression and Awards Process

20.	Were you provided with guidance relating to the External Examiner's role, powers and responsibilities in the examination process?	Y / N
21.	Was the progression and award guidance provided sufficient for you to act effectively as an External Examiner?	Y / N
22.	Did you receive appropriate programme documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	Y / N
23.	Did you receive appropriate module documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	Y / N
24.	Did you receive full details of marking criteria applicable to your area(s) of responsibility?	Y / N
25.	Were you provided with all draft examination papers/assessments?	Y / N
26.	Was the nature and level of the assessment questions appropriate?	Y / N
27.	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments on assessment questions?	Y / N
28.	Was sufficient assessed work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work?	Y / N
29.	Were the examination scripts clearly marked/annotated?	Y / N
30.	Was the choice of subjects for final year projects and/or dissertations appropriate?	Y / N

31.	Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate for the final year projects and/or dissertations?	Y / N
32.	Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Progression and Awards Board?	Y / N
33.	Were you able to attend the Progression and Awards Board meeting?	Y / N
34.	Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Progression and Awards Board?	Y / N
35.	Were you satisfied with the way decisions from the School Special Circumstances meeting were communicated to the Progression and Awards Board?	Y / N
<i>Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make on the questions above:</i>		

Other comments

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

n/a