

The University of Leeds
EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2016-17

Part A: General Information

Subject area and awards being examined

Faculty / School of:	Leeds University Business School
Subject(s):	<i>International Business</i>
Programme(s) / Module(s):	MSc International Business MSc International Business (with Study Abroad)
Awards (e.g. BA/BSc/MSc etc):	MSc

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.
Two very good programmes, well-structured, with a clear emphasis on international business and a very good student population.

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 was my first year as an 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
N/A

For Examiners in the first year of appointment

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

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

A very well-designed structure and robust learning process during the first year of my external examiner assignment.

Standards

8.	Is the overall programme structure coherent and appropriate for the level of study?	<u>Y</u> / N
9.	Does the programme structure allow the programme aims and intended learning outcomes to be met?	<u>Y</u> / N

10.	Are the programme aims and intended learning outcomes commensurate with the level of award?	<u>Y</u> / N
11.	Did the Aims and ILOs meet the expectations of the national subject benchmark (where relevant)?	<u>Y</u> / N
12.	Is the programme(s) comparable with similar programmes at other institutions?	<u>Y</u> / N
<p><i>Please use this box to explain your overall impression of the programme structure, design, aims and intended learning outcomes.</i></p> <p>Very well-structured and designed programme with very high standards; always clear ILOs in all the modules I have examined.</p>		
13.	Is the influence of research on the curriculum and learning and teaching clear?	<u>Y</u> / N
<p><i>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)</i></p> <p>Yes. Teaching is close to the research interests of lecturers, and this seems to transfer to the learning practices. Also, a good amount of research is required by students in their units of assessment.</p>		
14.	Does the programme form part of an Integrated PhD?	Y / <u>N</u>
<p><i>Please comment on the appropriateness of the programme as training for a PhD:</i></p> <p>I believe a good number of students from these programmes apply / end up doing a PhD in international business, something that is expected from the rigorous and excellent emphasis of this programme on international business.</p>		
15.	Does the programme include clinical practice components?	Y / <u>N</u>
<p><i>Please comment on the learning and assessment of practice components of the curriculum here:</i> <i>Learning and assessment is appropriate for managers wishing to embark on international business careers.</i></p>		
16.	Is the programme accredited by a Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB)?	<u>Y</u> / N
<p><i>Please comment on the value of, and the programme's ability to meet, PSRB requirements here:</i> This programme is perfectly qualified to meet the requirements of the Institute of Export (IOE) by which it is accredited.</p>		

Assessment and Feedback

17.	Does the programme design clearly align intended learning outcomes with assessment?	<u>Y</u> / 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>I was very pleased with all these aspects. The design and structure of the assessment methods are rigorous, and the arrangements for the marking of modules and classification of awards are transparent to the student and of high-quality. Student performance appears generally to be quite strong and affected by top-rate teaching and research-led assessment methods.</p>		
18.	Is the design and structure of the assessment methods appropriate to the level of award?	<u>Y</u> / N
19.	Were students given adequate opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the programme aims and intended learning outcomes?	<u>Y</u> / 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>High academic standards and a rigorous assessment / feedback process. Evaluation of assessment and marking are of high standards, adequate feedback is given to students to improve themselves and fair moderation is applied in all the modules I examined.</p>		

Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make in relation to assessment and feedback:

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?	<u>Y</u> / N
21.	Was the progression and award guidance provided sufficient for you to act effectively as an External Examiner?	<u>Y</u> / N
22.	Did you receive appropriate programme documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	<u>Y</u> / N
23.	Did you receive appropriate module documentation for your area(s) of responsibility?	<u>Y</u> / N
24.	Did you receive full details of marking criteria applicable to your area(s) of responsibility?	<u>Y</u> / N
25.	Were you provided with all draft examination papers/assessments?	<u>Y</u> / N
26.	Was the nature and level of the assessment questions appropriate?	<u>Y</u> / N
27.	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments on assessment questions?	<u>Y</u> / N
28.	Was sufficient assessed work made available to enable you to have confidence in your evaluation of the standard of student work?	<u>Y</u> / N
29.	Were the examination scripts clearly marked/annotated?	<u>Y</u> / N
30.	Was the choice of subjects for final year projects and/or dissertations appropriate?	<u>Y</u> / N
31.	Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate for the final year projects and/or dissertations?	<u>Y</u> / N
32.	Were the administrative arrangements satisfactory for the whole process, including the operation of the Progression and Awards Board?	<u>Y</u> / N
33.	Were you able to attend the Progression and Awards Board meeting?	Y / <u>N</u>
34.	Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Progression and Awards Board?	<u>Y</u> / N
35.	Were you satisfied with the way decisions from the School Special Circumstances meeting were communicated to the Progression and Awards Board?	<u>Y</u> / N

Please use this box to provide any additional comments you would like to make on the questions above:

The progression and awards process was professionally prepared and managed. I received promptly appropriate material to examine. Marking criteria were unambiguous and suitably communicated, and in line with my own appraisal. Due to a research trip abroad, I could not attend the P&A meeting, but I was informed subsequently by colleagues who were present and am very pleased with the decision-making process and recommendations.

Other comments

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