

School of Built Environment And Engineering

Postgraduate

- MPLAN Planning(TP)

Please indicate, below, whether you agree with the statements about the threshold standards of Leeds Beckett University's awards, student achievement and the conduct of the University's assessment processes, using as a reference the framework for higher education qualifications and applicable Subject Benchmark Statements / Qualification Characteristic Statements. Please also list any shortcomings and areas for commendation. You should expand on any issues you mention here in the main report. If any boxes are ticked "No" the Dean of School or nominee will be alerted and will oversee the response from the Course Director.

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Standards Set

	Yes	No
"In my view, the threshold academic standards set for the modules/awards meet with the requirements of the relevant National Qualifications Statement's."	X	

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short:

Student achievement

	Yes	No	N/A*
"In my view, students' who have been awarded qualifications have had the opportunity to achieve standards beyond the threshold level that are reasonably comparable with those achieved in course(s) or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar." *Not applicable – if you are a practitioner and are not in a position to assess this statement, please note here:	X		

Please provide any further comment on the comparability of collaborative provision

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short:

Conduct of process

Yes No

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"In my view, the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are reliable, rigorous and fairly conducted."

X

If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.

Actions from last year's report

(This will not be relevant if you are examining for the first time)

Yes

Areas of good practice/commendation

Any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to learning, teaching and assessment:

The nature of assessment varies across the modules, testing a wide range of skills and knowledge. Feedback continues to be extensive, with clear evidence of moderation, and additional comments for the students. Students are therefore able to clearly identify how to improve as they move through the course.

Main report

In this section you are asked to describe more fully how the University has or has not maintained threshold academic standards and the quality of the student experience in relation to the course(s) for which you are the external examiner, using as a reference the framework for higher education qualifications and applicable Subject Benchmark Statements / Qualification Characteristic Statements.

Please complete all sections of the form fully and where not applicable please state N/A. Where applicable please also complete the sections for any collaborative provision sampled.

If you are an external examiner for any of the University's Pearson Licensed Centre Programmes (HND/HNC level) provision, please also complete the section on page 9 sections l, m and n entitled "for External Examiners Associated with Pearson Licensed Centre Programmes."

Professional Body Requirements

	Yes	No	N/A*
"In my view, the professional body requirements for this course have been met. *Not applicable if the course is not a professional body course please indicate here.	X		
If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.			

(a) The operation and conduct of the Progression and Award Board (and/or Module Board meeting you may also have attended).

The operation and conduct of the board was of a high standard. It was well run and chaired, and all issues

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were appropriately covered. Students were treated consistently and fairly. The administrative arrangements, as always, were exemplary.

(b) The action, if any was required, taken in response to your report of last year. (This will not be relevant if you are examining for the first time.)

(c) The overall performance of the students, in relation to that of comparable levels of work in other institutions.

The students on the MPLAN course have achieved well, with their work of a very high standard. The marking was appropriate and was comparable to that of work in other institutions. It was good to see the full range of marks being used by the staff.

(d) The strengths and weaknesses of the students in general with respect to knowledge, conceptual grasp or application of skills.

As previously noted, the students have the opportunity to develop very good design skills and there is a clear focus on design within the course. However the practice focus is also to be commended and students have clear opportunities to engage with practice through placements, live projects and field study visits.

(e) The standards of the structure, organisation, design and marking of all examination papers and/or other forms of assessment.

The standards and design of assessment are appropriate, with some innovative and interesting assessments.

(f) The curriculum, teaching or resourcing of the programme of study as indicated by the performance of the students in the assessment

As previously indicated, the curriculum, teaching and resourcing of the programme of study is good. Students are well supported by a very active Course Director and many of the students have very high marks for their work.

(g) Comments on the use of My Beckett (Virtual Learning Environment) within the course (if applicable).

MyBeckett has been used well, providing the students with the teaching material, additional readings etc. This has been particularly relevant this year.

(h) Module content, consistency of modules and module assessment across the course and the achievement of learning outcomes. (You may be asked by your School to provide detailed comments on the modules that you examine.)

The modules within the programme are appropriate for an RTPI accredited course, the standards within a Level are consistent and learning outcomes are met both at a course and module level.

(i) Areas of student/staff engagement in teaching and learning, scholarship, research or professional practice.

There is evidence of staff engagement in scholarship, research and professional practice which then feeds into teaching and assessment.

(j) The University welcomes external examiners' comments on its academic regulatory framework. Such comments may not have a direct bearing on standards set and achieved or the conduct of processes and so it may not be appropriate to include them elsewhere in this report or its summary. Please record any concerns or comments you may have here.

None

(k) Collaborative Provision: please include here any comments you wish to make on elements of collaborative provision for which you have responsibility (in addition to those you may have indicated previously in this report).

Not applicable