

HNC Building Studies 2017/18

External Examiner's report summary

Please indicate in the relevant boxes 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.

Standards set		
"In my view, the threshold academic standards set for the modules/awards are appropriate."	Yes	No
	Yes	
If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.		

Student achievement			
"In my view, students' achievement is comparable with similar course(s) or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar."	Yes	No	N/A *
	Yes		
Please provide any further comment on the comparability of collaborative provision.			
* Not applicable – if you are a practitioner and are not in a position to assess this please indicate here.			
If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.			

Conduct of processes		
"In my view, the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are rigorous and fairly conducted."	Yes	No
	Yes	
If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.		

Areas of good practice
Any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to learning, teaching and assessment.

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

(a) The operation and conduct of the Progression and Award Board (and/or Module Board meeting you may also have attended).
I forwarded a report for the Module board as I was unable to attend, my report being compiled having reviewed all information provided on the previous day. I attended the Progression and Award board, which was lead efficiently by Paul Hirst.

(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.)
There was variable feedback once again for the students which I identified the previous year.

(c) The overall performance of the students, in relation to that of comparable levels of work in other institutions.
The overall performance is comparable to the other HE university where I am an external examiner.

(d) The strengths and weaknesses of the students in general with respect to knowledge, conceptual grasp or application of skills.
I had limited feedback from tutors with regards to strengths and weaknesses of students, although there was a large divergence of marks across some modules, eg Management Practice. Further investigation recommended.

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

The standards appear to be both effective and fair, and innovative on occasions with good use of peer assessment in some modules.

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

I identified in my report that in one module there had been too much emphasis on Heritage type work, maybe to the detriment of other methods of construction, and also difficult to assess where marks were unavailable such as within Site Practice module. Overall well constructed modules.

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

Personally it was difficult for me to access, which was replicated as there were a number of occasions where all documents from the tutors had not been uploaded. However, there appeared to have been a very effective use of Kahoot within certain modules.

(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.)

I reviewed 9 from 11 modules in quite some depth and identified a broad range of marks obtained, feedback provided from module leaders (in some cases none) and a large disparity in attendance at lectures, which was reflected in the marks achieved.

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

As I suggested last year, there could be more opportunity for students to be given more access to “live” industry exemplars to supplement their academic learning. However, generally effective interaction between students and staff.

(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.

I reviewed my module reviews extensively with the Chair of the boards, and would welcome the opportunity to explore these concerns further. They ranged from ineffective use of bespoke planning software, limited feedback, lack of understanding of specific subjects and sufficient time allowed for group working.

(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).

See j above

External Examiners' Report Checklist

Please comment for all boxes

Course Materials				
Did you receive?		Yes	No	N/A
a.	Course Handbook(s)?	*		
b.	Academic Regulations including any Professional Statutory Body requirements where appropriate (these may be included the Course Handbook)?	*		
c.	Module specifications (these may be in the Course Handbook)?	*		
d.	Assessment briefs/marketing criteria?	*		

Draft examination papers				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	(i) Did you receive all the draft papers?	*		
	(ii) If not, was this at your request?			
b.	(i) Was the nature and level of the questions appropriate?	*		
	(ii) If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			
c.	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	*		

Draft coursework				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	(i) Did you receive all the draft coursework?		*	
	(ii) If not, was this at your request?		*	
b.	(i) Was the nature and level of the coursework appropriate?		*	
	(ii) If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			
c.	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	*		

Marking Examination Scripts				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	(i) Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts from both home and (if appropriate) collaborative partner students?	*		
	(ii) If you did not receive all the scripts, was the method of selection satisfactory?			
<p>Recommended sample sizes at Leeds Beckett University are as follows:</p> <p>a) Samples should be determined by a square root of cohort size, no smaller than 6, no larger than 15. However it should be borne in mind that not all work is assessed in a way that makes a square root sample possible and allowance should be made. For example in subjects such as the performing arts where there may be a requirement for an external to come and view a performance instead, or to visit the exhibition of art work.</p> <p>b) Samples to include all classification categories, and it is helpful to concentrate around the boundaries to include some fails.</p> <p>c) Samples to consist of internally moderated work, clearly evidencing the moderation process.</p>				
b.	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	*		
c.	Were the scripts marked in such a way to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	*		

Dissertations/project reports				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	Was the choice of subjects for dissertations appropriate?	*		
b.	Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate?	*		

Coursework/continuously assessed work				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	Was sufficient coursework made available to you for assessment from both home and (if appropriate) collaborative partner students?	*		
b.	Was the method and general standard of marking and consistency satisfactory?	*		

Orals/performances/recitals/appropriate professional placements				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	Were suitable arrangements made for you to conduct orals and/or moderate performances/recitals/appropriate professional placements?			*

Module Board/Progression and Award Boards				
		Yes	No	N/A
a.	Were you able to attend the meetings?	*		
b.	Were the meetings conducted to your satisfaction?	*		
c.	Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Module Board/Progression and Award Boards?	*		