

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying – Hong Kong College of Technology 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	
	X	
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 *
	X		
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
	X	
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			
<p>"In my view, the professional body requirements for this course have been met.</p> <p><i>*Not applicable if the course is not a professional body course please indicate here.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>N/A *</p>
	<p>X</p> <p>Although I am not sure if the programme has RICS accreditation.</p>		
<p><i>If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.</i></p>			

(a) The operation and conduct of the Progression and Award Board (and/or Module Board meeting you may also have attended).
<p>On consideration of the moderation forms there still appears to be communication issues between the LBU and the HKCT module leaders in terms of expectations of assessments. I was once again provided with very few marking criteria's. Furthermore, I found little feedback on coursework or exam scripts – students' need to know how an improvement can be achieved. I have provided detailed comments on the moderation forms in relation to this.</p>

(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.)
<p>I have seen a slight improvement in the assessment briefs in relation to the marking criteria but there is still much work to be done in the area of feedback both on assignments and examination scripts.</p>

(c) The overall performance of the students, in relation to that of comparable levels of work in other institutions.
<p>On analysis the student performance is comparable to that of the home university.</p>

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

The students' appear to perform well in practical subject such as measurement and less well in law based subjects.

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

On consideration of the moderation forms there still appears to be communication issues between the LBU and the HKCT module leaders in terms of expectations of assessments. Very few assessments had a marking criteria to support my moderation. Furthermore, once again I found no feedback on some coursework or exam scripts – students' need to know how an improvement can be achieved. I have provided detailed comments on the moderation forms in relation to this.

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

The curriculum and teaching on the programme reflect that currently required by industry. The programme however needs to move forward in terms of its use of technology particularly as it pertains to measurement , this should be supported.

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

I do not have access to the VLE that the students use, at least I do not think I have. Hence I cannot comment.

(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 had the opportunity to consider the following modules:

- Construction Contracts
- Interdisciplinary Project
- Experiential learning A
- Contemporary Economic Modelling

In all modules the module content reflected the learning outcomes and provided the students with the

opportunity in the assessment to demonstrate that they have successfully achieved the intended outcomes.

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

I was not made aware of this hence I am unable to comment.

(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 am happy with the academic regulatory framework and I have no comments to make

(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).

The examination boards for this franchised programme are well managed and organised. My comments are as last year.

It is at module leader level that I have some concerns. There needs to be a mechanism by which the module leader's comments from LBU are considered and responded to by HKCT, in order that the assessment briefs follow closely that of the home programme. I would advise the team at HKCT to consider their approach to marking, by adopting a more detailed marking scheme and by providing thorough detailed feedback to students.

External Examiners' Report Checklist

Please comment for all boxes

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

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

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

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?	x		
	(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?	x		
c.	Were the scripts marked in such a way to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	x		

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

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?	x		
b.	Was the method and general standard of marking and consistency satisfactory?	x		

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?			n/a

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