

PG Dip Legal Practice 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 leader.

| Standards set | | |
|---|----------|----|
| | Yes | No |
| “In my view, the threshold academic standards set for the modules/awards are appropriate.” | x | |
| <i>If your answer is ‘no’, please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.</i> | | |
| Reviews of the module materials and module descriptors, moderation of assessments and meetings with the Course Directors, Module Leaders and student representatives confirm that the standards set for the awards remain appropriate. In addition, I remain satisfied that the standards are comparable with other LPC and LLB providers with which I am familiar. | | |

| Student achievement | | | |
|---|----------|----|----------|
| | Yes | No | N/A * |
| “In my view, students’ achievement is comparable with similar course(s) or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar.” | x | | |
| Please provide any further comment on the comparability of collaborative provision. | | | x |
| <i>* Not applicable – if you are a practitioner and are not in a position to assess this please indicate here.</i> | | | |
| <i>If your answer is ‘no’, please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.</i> | | | |
| I remain satisfied that the standards of student performance are comparable with other LPC and LLB providers with which I am familiar. In addition, all assessments produced an appropriate “spread” of grades. | | | |

| Conduct of processes | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | Yes | No |
| “In my view, the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are rigorous and fairly conducted.” | | |
| <i>If your answer is ‘no’, please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.</i> | | |
| I remain satisfied that all processes meet the relevant LPC outcomes, are sound and fairly conducted. | | |

| Areas of good practice |
|--|
| Any particular strengths or distinctive or innovative features in relation to learning, teaching and assessment. |
| The experience and enthusiasm of the LPC course tutors and the LPC course management team. |

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 * |
| | x | | |
| <i>If your answer is 'no', please provide a brief statement (bullet points) of the respect(s) in which they fall short.</i> I remain satisfied that this course continues to meet the relevant LPC Outcomes published by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. In addition, I remain satisfied that the standards are comparable with other LPC and LLB providers with which I am familiar. | | | |
| (a) The operation and conduct of the Board of Examiners (and or Examination Committee meeting you may also have attended). | | | |
| The Boards which I attended were conducted in a consistent, fair and efficient manner and academic standards were upheld. | | | |
| (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.) | | | |
| n/a | | | |
| (c) The overall performance of the students, in relation to that of comparable levels of work in other institutions. | | | |
| See above comments. | | | |
| (d) The strengths and weaknesses of the students in general with respect to knowledge, conceptual grasp or application of skills. | | | |
| See comments in summary report (above). | | | |

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

Overall, I remain satisfied that all assessments meet the relevant LPC Outcomes. I consider that the marking and moderation standards comply with the LPC and LLB assessment guidelines and assessment strategies.

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

Moderation of assessments and meetings with the Course Directors, Module Leaders and student representatives confirm that the quality of the teaching and learning remain appropriate.

(g) Comments on the use of X-stream (Virtual Learning Environment) within the course (if applicable).

n/a

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

I remain satisfied that all modules meet the relevant LPC Outcomes. In particular, the fact patterns used in the LPC module assessments were transactional in nature and worked well.

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

The experience and enthusiasm of the course management team, course tutors and course administrators.

I consider that this experience will prove invaluable to the University when the School of Law considers options for delivering the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) from 2021 onwards.

(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.

n/a

(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).

n/a

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/marketing 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? | | | X |
| b. | (i) Was the nature and level of the questions appropriate? | X | | |
| | (ii) If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments? | | | X |
| 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? | | | X |
| b. | (i) Was the nature and level of the coursework appropriate? | | | X |
| | (ii) If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments? | | | X |
| 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? | x | | |
| <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? | x | | |

| Examination Committee/Board of Examiners | | | | |
|--|--|-----|----|-----|
| | | 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 Examination Committee/Board of Examiners? | x | | |