



Open University Validation Partnerships

External Examiner report template

Section A: General information

Institution:	Leeds City College
Programme:	BSc (Hons) Applied Computing
Subject examined:	BSc (Hons) Applied Computing
Name of examiner:	Faisal Tariq
Current year of appointment	3rd

Section B: External examiner's report

The reporting structure of this section is intended to help draw out issues which may require attention by the Institution or the University. It should not be seen as limiting in any way the range of issues which may be addressed or the level of detail given. The report will be considered as part of the annual evaluation process and, as such, external examiners are encouraged to be as frank and open as possible, but avoiding wherever possible references to individual staff or students. External examiners' attention is also drawn to 'The Guide for external examiners of OU validated awards', which should be forwarded by partner institutions to their external examiners.

Please comment as appropriate on:
1. The range of assessed material and information provided by the institution on which your report is based to include confirmation that sufficient evidence was received to enable your role to be fulfilled.
I was provided access to a well organised google drive which contained assessments for all the modules, submitted students reports and feedback provided to them along with their grades. I was also provided access to moderation reports. Moreover, I had the opportunity to discuss with the lecturers where I needed further clarifications.
2. Whether the standards set are appropriate for the award, or award element, by reference to any agreed subject benchmarks, qualifications framework, programme specification or other relevant information.
Yes.
3. The quality of students' work, their knowledge and skills (both general and subject-specific) in relation to their peers on comparable programmes elsewhere.
The quality of the students works are of good standard compared to their peers on comparable programmes elsewhere.
4. The strengths and weaknesses of the students
Please see the 'any other comments' section.
5. The quality of teaching and learning, as indicated by student performance
Teaching learning performance are very good in general despite pandemic didn't allow them to have face to face sessions. The staff and management team effort to mitigate the impact of pandemic is commendable.
6. The quality of the curriculum, course materials and learning resources
The quality of the resources is very good in general. The course materials and curriculum went through rigorous review process which maintained a high standard.
7. The quality and fairness of the assessments, in particular their:
(i) design and structure
Generally well designed and well structured. See 'any other comments' section for further

details.
(ii) relation to stated objectives and learning outcomes of the programme
Objectives and learning outcomes were met and the learning outcomes were assessed in a balanced way in various assessment elements. The matrix of ILOs coverage and assessment is a very useful tool to maintained a evenly distributed assessment regime.
(iii) marking to include comments on whether marking scheme / grading criteria has been consistently applied
Majority of the courses are using an excellent standardised marking scheme. It helped lecturers to apply the criteria consistently in various modules.
8. Where the programme has specific work-related learning outcomes (e.g. Apprenticeships and Foundation Degrees) please comment on the assessment and achievement of these outcomes, including employers' involvement where relevant.
In work related learning outcomes were applicable to only a few modules. Appropriate standard procedures were maintained, and employers were engaged throughout. Adequate records were maintained.
9. The administration of the assessments, operation of examination boards, briefing of external examiners, access of external examiners to essential materials, etc.
Access to the materials were provided through a secure google drive. I also had the opportunity to discuss and clarify issues with the lecturers of the various modules.
10. Have all the issues identified in your previous report been addressed by the institution?
YES
If no, please comment
11. Please confirm that the assessment and standards set for the programme as a whole, including all its pathways, modules or individual courses are consistent and appropriate, and that the processes for assessment and determination of awards are fair, reliable and transparent across the provision. <i><u>(For those with responsibility across the whole programme or for chief external examiners – if in doubt please check with the appointing institution)</u></i>
12. Any other comments
It has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone involved in the process. The students couldn't attend face to face sessions which could affect their learning. The lecturers and management worked hard to mitigate the impact of covid on the student learning and always kept me informed about the changes applied. It is very positive to see gradual improvement in all aspects including curriculum, assessment, student reports, marking and moderation of the submitted reports.

It is a good sign that more and more modules are adopting the standardised marking rubric every year. It helped them to clearly identify where the requirement is met and where they didn't. The quality of feedback is also improved in general. There was good differentiation between student who did well in the assessment and who performed not so well.

Most modules assessment feedback contains nice feed forward element. The practice of embedding feed forward element is a very good practice which is commendable.

The Project module: The reports are generally well written. Formatting, references, structures are done following appropriate methods. Detailed diary is also very useful to track progress.

Going forward I would like to recommend the following:

- 1) Continue all the good practices mentioned above
- 2) As requested in the previous year, please ensure adding tangible technical component in the expected outcome of the final year project. This should be clearly outlined in the assessments/reports
- 3) For Turnitin plagiarism check, the preferred number of matched words should be 0 so that we can have a transparent view of similarity. In exceptional cases, up to 3 words can be used but the current 10 words policy should be discontinued.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication, hard work and professionalism in maintaining the high standard in delivering the programme.

Please ensure that you sign and date below, if sending a hard copy of this report

Signed:	F.Tariq
Date:	01/08/2021