

Open University Validation Partnerships

External Examiner report template

An electronic copy of this report should be sent to:

ouvp-external-examiners@open.ac.uk

Or, a signed hard copy sent to:

The Director, OUVV, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom.

You should also submit a copy of this report to the institution.

Section A: General information

Institution:	Leeds City College
Programme:	Sport
Subject examined:	Coaching
Name of examiner:	Pete Holmes
Address:	
E-mail:	
Current year of appointment	19/20 (Y3 as EE)

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.
Work was sampled in a range of modules and assessments across levels 4-6.
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.
The standards set continue to appear appropriate.
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 students' work (including general academic skills & subject specific aspects) appeared similar to those in comparable programmes. It was pleasing to see a continuation of very few fails this year – much better than my home institution with a similar programme & student cohort. Again – the programme team are clearly getting things right here.
4. The strengths and weaknesses of the students
I saw a full range of standards of work ranging from fails to 80%s. Strengths and weaknesses appeared similar to the sector as a whole. Students appeared to have engaged well with the subject content, but struggled more with the academic/research requirements. AT L6, Contemporary Issues appeared to prove most challenging with a lower average grade – perhaps thought could be given as to how students might be supported to achieve similarly in this module to other L6 modules into 20/21?
5. The quality of teaching and learning, as indicated by student performance
The sample of work suggests the teaching and learning on the programme is very good. Some students consistently achieved in the 60-70%+ range (with an odd 80%+ also seen). Knowing the team well through my 3 years to date as EE, I have every confidence that teaching and learning is of very good quality.
6. The quality of the curriculum, course materials and learning resources

The quality of the curriculum appears to be effective – particularly with a more relevant L6 route with a specific final year. The course materials and resources I have seen have all been of an excellent standard.

7. The quality and fairness of the assessments, in particular their:

(i) design and structure

Assessment was through an extensive range of methods including: essays, reports, presentations, practical assessments and reflections, amongst others. Assessment overall appeared fair and very good.

(ii) relation to stated objectives and learning outcomes of the programme

These assessment methods together appear to allow students to meet the objectives and LOs well in a balanced manner.

(iii) marking

Marking throughout was very good and appeared to be fair to all students. Feedback points were very detailed (perhaps a little too detailed again?) and moderation was clearly taking place in a thorough manner. The feedback summary, including clear strengths and areas for development continues to be used – an effective strategy for student learning.

8. Where the programme has specific work-related learning outcomes (e.g. Foundation Degrees) please comment on the assessment and achievement of these outcomes, including employers' involvement where relevant.

The L4 Professional Development & L5 Work-Related Learning modules provide students with opportunities to gain experience in one of a wide range of related professional roles, including both a portfolio and assessment of professional practice. However, WRL showed one of the lowest average grades suggesting students possibly have not engaged with this module and/or assessment as well as they could. I am aware of plans being put together to counter the impact of the current Covid-19 situation on work-related modules.

9. The administration of the assessments, operation of examination boards, briefing of external examiners, access of external examiners to essential materials, etc.

Again this has been excellent – my role, as with previous years, has been made very straightforward. Both the LCC programme team and the OU should be commended here.

10. Have all the issues identified in your previous report been addressed by the institution?

Yes

If no, please comment

N/A

11. *(For chief external examiners or those with responsibility for the whole programme – if in doubt please check with the appointing institution)*

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 and sound across the provision.

N/A

12. Any other comments

Again, I am very happy with what I have seen this year. I look forward to 20/21 now that my tenure has been extended for a further year.

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

Signed: PJ Holmes (electronic)

Date: 27/7/20