

External Examiners' Report

2020/2021

Proforma

General details	
Subject	Criminal Law (GDL and MAL)
Name of external examiner	Lisa Mountford
Date of report	22/08/21

1 Academic Issues	
1.1 Were the standards of the questions set appropriate for Graduate Diploma level?	YES
Please comment. I have been impressed by the strong performance of candidates in this module. The examination questions were challenging and pitched at an appropriate level for the GDL in accordance with the benchmark standards required by QAA and the Joint Statement.	
1.2 Were the assessments well-designed? i.e did they assess appropriately the learning outcomes set for the course.	YES
Please comment. The range of questions and the factual complexities of the problem scenarios comprehensively assessed the learning outcomes of the criminal law module at both GDL and Masters Level.	

1.3 Was the standard of performance attained by candidates in general appropriate for Graduate Diploma level?	YES
<p>Please Comment</p> <p>See comment in relation to 1.1 above. Across the range of centres, the overall pass rate and the standard attained by candidates was impressive. I was provided with a very helpful Moderators Report drawn from feedback provided by markers across the various centres. The performance on this module was broadly consistent with the performance on other modules.</p>	
1.4 Was the marking satisfactory and consistent?	YES
<p>Please Comment</p> <p>I was able to review several marked scripts from each centre and had sight of the marks grid showing the totality of student performance and moderation. All marking was carried out online. The level of consistency amongst markers across the various centres was impressive. The marking process is highly organised and prescribed in accordance with grade descriptors, subject marking guidance and marking moderation instructions. It is subject to several layers of moderation which enables a consistent approach.</p>	

2 Administrative Issues: please make any comments you wish to make on:	
2.1 The process of setting assessments.	This is my first year as external examiner. The setting of the assessment is subject to several transparent scrutiny procedures before it comes to me for approval.
2.2 The administration of assessment of coursework and the final examinations.	The administration of assessments was superbly coordinated and efficient.
2.3 The moderation process.	The moderation process was robust. The process for moderation across all centres is clearly documented and I was able to review a wide sample of moderated scripts.
2.4 The conduct of the July Examination Board.	The July Board was conducted via Teams with efficiency and fairness.
2.5 Procedures relating to candidates with special needs/concessions	A small handful of concession applications were considered at length at the July Examination Board. The vast majority of concession applications are (I understand) considered in a separate meeting attended by an EE. There was extensive discussion of each candidate's particular circumstances with sensitivity and thoroughness. The input of the relevant Welfare Officer was immensely insightful, and I am satisfied that the decisions taken by the Board were correct, fair, and defensible. The adaptations to the assessment process due to Covid-19 and the No Detriment Policy in operation throughout this assessment period were explained and published to all candidates.
2.6 Any other procedural issues.	

3 Quality Assurance Issues	
3.1 Were assessment policies and your duties as external examiner adequately explained to you?	YES All documentation was provided to me upon appointment
3.2 Did you have adequate access to any material needed to make the required judgements?	YES Had I wished to review further scripts I only had to ask
3.3 Were your comments during the assessment process and at the July Examination Board considered appropriately	YES
3.4 Has appropriate action been taken in respect of comments made in your last examiner's report?	N/A
<p>Please make any comments you wish to make on the above points.</p> <p>Nothing to add at this juncture.</p>	
<p>4. Areas of good practice</p> <p>Please provide a description or bullet point list of any particular areas of good practice in relation to standards and assessment processes that would be worthy of dissemination to a wider audience.</p> <p>Nothing to add. I commend the efficiency with which the assessment process has been conducted in these very difficult times.</p>	
<p>5 Other issues</p> <p>Please make any comments you wish to make on other issues.</p> <p>Nothing to add</p>	

Signed: *Lisa Mason*
Dated: 23/08/21