

External Examiners' Report

2020/2021

General details	
Subject	International Mergers & Acquisitions; International Mergers & Joint Ventures
Name of external examiner	Alan Wilkinson
Date of report	28 th October 2021

1 Report Checklist	
Have you received:	
1.1 LPC Handbook(s)?	YES
1.2 LPC Assessment Regulations?	YES
1.3 Module Descriptions?	YES
1.4 Marking Criteria?	YES
1.5 A sufficient numbers of scripts?	YES
1.5.1 If you did not receive the scripts, was the method of selection satisfactory?	N/A

2 Academic Issues	
2.1 Were the standards of the questions set appropriate for Legal Practice Course level?	YES
Please comment. During the year I had the opportunity to review the examination papers. The questions were of an appropriate standard for the Legal Practice Course. The questions were varied, realistic and practical.	

2.2 Were the assessments well-designed? i.e did they assess appropriately the learning outcomes set for the course.	YES
<p>All the assessments were well designed: The assessments did assess the stated learning outcomes for the courses and reflected the material provided to the students. The scenarios were carefully considered, and case studies were well drafted with interesting and commercially appropriate exercises.</p>	
2.3 Was the standard of performance attained by candidates in general appropriate for Masters level?	YES
<p>Please Comment</p> <p>Every passing script was of an appropriate standard for Masters level.</p>	
2.4 Was the marking satisfactory and consistent?	YES
<p>Please Comment</p> <p>The marking was satisfactory and, from the scripts considered, appeared to be consistent not only within each centre but also between the different centres. The moderation procedures appeared to be effective.</p>	

3 Administrative Issues: please make any comments you wish to make on:	
3.1 The process of setting assessments.	<p>The administrative procedures generally work well.</p> <p>3.1. On the whole the system for approval of papers works satisfactorily.</p>
3.2 The administration of assessment of coursework and the final examinations.	<p>3.2 The administration of assessment of coursework and the final examinations was effective.</p>
3.3 The moderation process.	<p>3.3 The moderation process was transparent and seemed to be effective.</p>
3.4 The conduct of the Examination Board meetings	<p>3.4 Because of the changes introduced as a result of 'lockdown' and Covid-29 I only attended 'on-line'/ telephone Examination Boards during the year. Sufficient time was allocated to ensure that any issues were considered and discussed fully. The meetings were always chaired effectively.</p>
3.5 Procedures relating to candidates with special needs/concessions	<p>3.5 As in the past there has always been a very full consideration and discussion of these issues. In my opinion the University dealt with every situation appropriately and empathetically. Appropriate steps were always taken to ensure the anonymity of any students under discussion.</p>
3.6 Any other procedural issues.	<p>3.6. None</p>

4 Quality Assurance Issues	
4.1 Were assessment policies and your duties as external examiner adequately explained to you?	YES
4.2 Did you have adequate access to any material needed to make the required judgements?	YES
4.3 Were your comments during the assessment process and at the Examination Boards considered appropriately	YES
4.4 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>With regards to 4.3 I can confirm that all my comments during the assessment process and at Examination Boards were considered and, if not acted upon, explanations and clarifications have been provided.</p>	
<p>5. Areas of good practice</p> <p>The realistic and practical assessments.</p> <p>The University should be commended for the care and consideration that appears to be given to considering issues relating to candidates with special needs/concessions.</p> <p>The past two years of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic have been particularly challenging for students and staff. I believe that the University has adopted an entirely appropriate approach for dealing with the challenges that have been faced in ensuring the delivery of teaching and the conduct of assessments. The University and the staff, both academic and support, should be commended for their actions and dedication.</p>	

6 Other issues

Please make any comments you wish to make on other issues.

Unfortunately, once again, I was unable to visit a campus and speak to the students and staff this year as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The University did keep me fully informed of the changes being adopted to ensure that students were not unduly prejudiced as a result of the changes to the delivery of courses and assessments. In unprecedented times I believe that all the staff really did their utmost to assist and support the students whilst continuing to deliver a course which requires very exacting standards.

The staff themselves must have had their own challenges but I have been impressed by the dedication to their colleagues, students and the course that they have demonstrated.

Signed: Alan Wilkinson
Dated: 28th October 2021