

External Examiners' Report

2020/2021

General details	
Subject	Interviewing and Advising; Private Client and Wills; Criminal Law and Practice
Name of external examiner	Elizabeth Smart
Date of report	31 July 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?	YES

2 Academic Issues	
2.1 Were the standards of the questions set appropriate for Legal Practice Course level?	YES
Please comment.	
Interviewing and Advising All the assessments were of the appropriate standard for the LPC. They required knowledge, application and analysis and had an appropriate coverage of all three.	
Private Client and Wills The assessments were had an appropriate degree of rigour and were of the appropriate standard for the LPC.	
Criminal Law and Practice – Corporate The assessments were had an appropriate degree of rigour and were of the appropriate standard for the LPC.	

2.2 Were the assessments well-designed? i.e did they assess appropriately the learning outcomes set for the course.	YES
<p>Please comment.</p> <p>Interviewing and Advising</p> <p>The assessments showed an excellent breadth and depth of coverage of all the module and programme learning outcomes.</p> <p>Private Client and Wills</p> <p>The assessments showed an excellent breadth and depth of coverage of all the module and programme learning outcomes.</p> <p>Criminal Law and Practice - Corporate</p> <p>The assessments showed an excellent breadth and depth of coverage of all the module and programme learning outcomes.</p>	

2.3 Was the standard of performance attained by candidates in general appropriate for Masters level?	YES
<p>The students achieved a high standard of performance in Criminal Law and Practice, Interviewing and Advising, Private Client and Wills appropriate for a Masters level award.</p>	
2.4 Was the marking satisfactory and consistent?	YES
<p>The marking was thorough and fair; consistent across the board in all subjects.</p>	

3 Administrative Issues: please make any comments you wish to make on:

3.1 The process of setting assessments.	This appeared thorough and satisfactory
3.2 The administration of assessment of coursework and the final examinations.	This was excellent particularly in light of the move to online due to the pandemic
3.3 The moderation process.	This was well documented and clear; due consideration was given to all students.
3.4 The conduct of the Examination Board meetings	Very efficient; all internal board members are very thorough and worked well in the virtual environment
3.5 Procedures relating to candidates with special needs/concessions	Careful consideration was provided to all students.
3.6 Any other procedural issues.	None

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?

YES

Please make any comments you wish to make on the above points.

All documentation provided was excellent and comments raised at the board were dealt with efficiently. This is my sixth year as an External at the University and my experience has been a positive one.

5. Areas of good practice

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.

This has been a second extremely challenging year for the University and I believe that it responded to COVID19 challenges extremely well managing the student experience whilst complying with SRA guidance around assessments and no detriment. The challenge was significant and I have no doubt that the course team have worked exceedingly hard and professionally. The conduct of the virtual exams board was exemplary and due consideration provided for all students. Amanda and Stuart continue to consult with all externals closely and regularly kept us informed of progress; this gave me confidence in the integrity of the process as a whole and I think they should be commended for successfully rising to the many challenges again.

In line with previous years all the materials and assessments across all three subjects are of a very high standard and extremely rigorous. They continue to be reflective of professional practice and ensure that the students have ample opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their knowledge.

Signed: ***EH Smart***

Dated: 31 July 2021