

External Examiners' Report

2020-2021

General details	
Subject	Employment; Intellectual Property; Solicitors Accounts
Name of external examiner	Penny Carey
Date of report	January 2022 (for 2020/21)

1 Report Checklist	
Have you received:	
1.1 LPC Handbook(s)?	YES
1.2 LPC Assessment Regulations?	YES
1.3 Module Descriptions?	YES in past years
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.

Despite the ongoing transition of assessment methods due to the pandemic, including adoption of remote proctoring, and accounts adaptations, I found the overall standards of the questions set for the three modules of employment law, solicitors accounts and IP to be appropriate for level 7. They involved realistic scenarios and achieved good coverage of the syllabus. The questions were appropriate in meeting SRA expectations of students on the LPC.

2.2 Were the assessments well-designed? i.e did they assess appropriately the learning outcomes set for the course.

YES

Please comment.

Given the continuing exceptional circumstances driven by the pandemic for the move of all teaching and assessments online, I thought the University of Law assessments continued to be very well designed to manage the situation. As an external examiner I was kept apprised of assessment design throughout the year.

2.3 Was the standard of performance attained by candidates in general appropriate for Masters level?

YES

Please Comment

Performance levels were in line with previous years, and indeed performance may have been slightly improved across some modules. I did not see any evidence of students having been disadvantaged by the change in assessment regime. There continues to be some differential standard of performance across different centres, and noticeably for the i-LPC, but the standard of marking was fair and appropriate. Colleagues at U Law have previously confirmed that differential performance is reviewed at institutional level, to ensure no divergence other than in terms of cohort

2.4 Was the marking satisfactory and consistent?

YES

Please Comment

For all centres, despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, I received the moderators report and detailed mark sheet. I have considered assessments for each of the centres and was happy to confirm the standard of marking as appropriate and fair to the level. There was clear evidence of moderation having been undertaken. I can see that the swift adaptation of the assessment regime has continued to allow a broad range of the syllabus to be assessed and students have generally performed very well.

3 Administrative Issues: please make any comments you wish to make on:	
3.1 The process of setting assessments.	Thorough and well documented
3.2 The administration of assessment of coursework and the final examinations.	Very professional
3.3 The moderation process.	Very good as always, clear and evident.
3.4 The conduct of the Examination Board meetings	Very good.
3.5 Procedures relating to candidates with special needs/concessions	Very good, transparent and fair.
3.6 Any other procedural issues.	Remote proctoring did not seem to work as well as would be expected at times, with inability of some students to complete ledger work, or finish questions (timed out or no space for responses). I assume this will be reviewed at institutional level and in conversation with the provider of proctoring. Some issues with script return but understand due to staffing issues at times. I always get regularly updated by Assessment centres.

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 although I would like to receive the module handbooks at the start of each academic year if that is considered appropriate. I have had more contact with module and centre leads which is appreciated.
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 I received a detailed email response for which thank you
<p>Please make any comments you wish to make on the above points.</p> <p>Materials at the start of each academic year would be appreciated or confirmation that syllabus remains unchanged from previous year.</p>	
<p>5. 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>Same comment as last year – very thorough evidencing of internal scrutiny processes for the draft assessments, and good organisation of exam boards. I would also like to thank Stuart Bladen who has been exceptionally good at communicating with me, especially in terms of issues encountered with remote proctoring, and always ran proposed solutions by me first.</p>	
<p>6 Other issues</p> <p>Please make any comments you wish to make on other issues.</p> <p>Excellent continued management during another difficult year because of issues</p>	

relating to covid. Please pass on my thanks to all staff and centre leads, as well as National Lead. Everyone has worked exceptionally hard during a very difficult time.

Signed: P J Carey
Dated: 22nd January 2022