

External Examiner Annual Report: 2018/2019

Examiner's Name	Mr Jamshed Sial
Report for Programme(s) / Subject Area	BA (Hons) Accounting and Financial Management. (Bloomsbury Institute London previously named LSBM).
Lead Faculty Please tick appropriate box	
Faculty of Arts, Science & Technology (FAST)	
Faculty of Business & Law (FBL)	x
Faculty of Education & Humanities (FEH)	
Faculty of Health & Society (FHS)	

Modules covered – please insert module codes, e.g. ART4321

LSBM209	Financial reporting			
LSBM307	Accounting & Finance Research Project			
LSBM309	Financial Management			
LSBM312	Performance Management and Control			

Delete **YES** or **NO** as appropriate below

Collaborative partnership provision

This report covers programmes or modules delivered by support providers/delivery organisations/ partners other than the University of Northampton.

YES

Professional recognition

This report covers programmes subject to accreditation by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body **YES**

Other awards

The report covers awards delivered under licence from Pearson Education Ltd (e.g. HNC/HND) **NO**

Section A - Threshold Academic Standards

Please indicate [X] your level agreement with each of the statements in each section and comment in more detail in the space below.

A1. Maintaining Academic Standards	Strongly agree	Broadly agree	Broadly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
1.1. The outcomes of the programme(s) and/or component modules are well-aligned with the relevant FHEQ descriptors and applicable subject benchmark statements.	x				
1.2. The curriculum is coherent and remains current.	x				
1.3. The programme reflects any additional PSRB requirements. (<i>also see question A5 below</i>)	x				
1.4. Assessments in modules of the same level are of a comparable standard.	x				
1.5. Assessment criteria and marking schemes are set at the appropriate level.	x				

Comment on Academic Standards:

I strongly agree with academic standards (1.1 to 1.5) across all the four modules.

The programmes were designed very well and in particular the dissertation module was well developed. We communicated very well and the administrator kindly reminds me the process and meeting dates. The materials like coursework, exam papers feedback sheets etc were prepared very well. External examiners can access the virtual learning materials and have a good overview of the programmes

Students at Bloomsbury Institute made good achievements which are comparable with students of other universities in the UK.

A2. Measuring achievement, rigour and fairness	Strongly agree	Broadly agree	Broadly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
1.6. The types of assessment are appropriate for the subject, the students (taking proper account of the diversity of the student body), the respective level of study and the expected outcomes.	x				
1.7. The marking scheme/grading criteria have been properly and consistently applied such that internal marking is of an appropriate standard, fair and reliable.	x				
1.8. The assessment processes are carried out in accordance with the University's regulations and procedures.	x				
1.9. Procedures governing mitigating/extenuating circumstances, academic integrity/misconduct and borderline performances have been considered fairly and equitably applying institutional regulations.	x				
1.10. The quality and quantity of written feedback to students on their assessed work is consistent and appropriate.	x				

Comments on the assessment strategy, processes and procedures:

I strongly agree with the assessment strategy, processes and procedures used at Bloomsbury Institute. I also strongly agree with the marking scheme/grading criteria and also with the consistency of marking across all the scripts. I am also happy with the quality and quantity of written feedback given to students on their assessed piece of work.

Overall, In my view, the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are rigorous and fairly conducted.

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A3. Comparability of standards and student performance	Strongly agree	Broadly agree	Broadly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
1.11. Based on my experience of other institutions, standards are comparable with other UK HEIs.	x				
1.12. Based on my experience of other institutions, student achievement is comparable with other UK HEIs.	x				
1.13. Standards and student achievement are comparable across the modules within my remit.	x				
1.14. Standards and student achievement are comparable across all cohorts and delivery sites. <i>(For multiple site delivery and/or delivery by different collaborative partners only - also see question A4 below)</i>	x				

<p>Comments on the comparability of standards and student performance:</p> <p>The standards are comparable within the programme and also when compared to other universities.</p> <p>Students at Bloomsbury Institute made good achievements which are comparable with students of other universities in the UK.</p>

A4. Off-campus provision

We attach particular importance to the standards and quality of our modules and programmes delivered off campus.

4a. HE Provision – working in partnership with others

If you are examining provision involving total or partial delivery at a partner organisation(s), please comment on any trend, from year to year (where possible), or between centres, and on the comparability of the quality of learning opportunities, standards, marking practices and internal moderation across sites where appropriate. **Please specify which delivery site(s) you are referring to**, and distinguish between centres where relevant.

4b. Provision delivered by University of Northampton staff at other venues

If you have examined any provision delivered by the University at other locations, **please comment on the comparability of standards, achievement and the student experience between different cohorts.**

NA		
<i>For modules delivered at more than one location</i>	YES	NO
I confirm that I received an adequate sample of work from students at all delivery sites		

A5. Professional, statutory & regulatory bodies

We attach specific importance to the standards and quality of our provision regulated by professional, statutory or regulatory bodies. If you are examining this type of provision please comment on standards in relation to assessment of practice, supervision of practice and support for practice assessment.

Please specify which PSRB(s) you are referring to.

I am of the view that the programme leadership and team are very much aware of the requirements of the different professional bodies including ACCA, CIMA and ICAEW. All assessments provisions are in compliance with the required standards.
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A6. HNC/HND Awards (delivered under the Pearson HE Licence Agreement)

If your remit includes work leading to HNC/HND awards *in addition to* University of Northampton degree programmes, please comment here on the comparability of standards, achievement and the student experience between different cohorts.

n/a

SECTION B - Quality and Enhancement

Please comment and/or provide recommendations *(the text boxes will expand as you type)*

B1. Identification of good practice relating to learning, teaching & assessment that you have observed

Focused and committed leadership. Experienced teaching team. Lecturers use different range of teaching strategies to develop learner's essential skills and knowledge. Range of assessment methods are used to assess understanding of the learning outcomes and students are provided with a constructive feedback focused on further skills development.

Students' performance showed that they were well supervised and directed and provided with good facilities and resources. Students can understand relevant knowledge, made critical discussion on the concepts and theories and applied appropriate techniques and tools in practice.

B2. Opportunities to enhance the quality of learning opportunities provided to students

B3. Please comment on any meetings you have had with students on the programme(s) / modules in your remit during the year (including 'virtual' meetings, if relevant)

I had a couple of meetings with the students' last year and they were happy and appreciated the help they received from the teaching and admin teams.

Students' performance and comments on the module sites also showed that they were well

supervised and directed and provided with good facilities and resources

B4. Please note any issues requiring attention **by the Faculty and/or University**

N/a

B5. Your previous report (where applicable). Please state whether issues raised in your previous report(s) have been / are being addressed to your satisfaction.

In my last report I suggested some improvements in the Accounting and Finance Research project module. In my view all those suggestions are incorporated in the designing and management of the module and is now well organised and assessed.

B6. The University does not wish to limit the issues on which an external examiner may comment. If you wish to raise any points other than those listed above, please do so in the section below. In particular, if during the academic year you have been asked to consider minor amendments to the curriculum, you may wish to comment on these in this section.

N/A

B7. Please indicate here if you would like to be forwarded a copy of the Annual Review Final Rolling Action Plan for the provision for which you are appointed as external examiner when it is produced.

Yes

No

B8. (For external examiners in the final year of their period of office)

The University is grateful for the contribution of external examiners to the ongoing work of the institution. Please provide here a brief overview covering your term of office.

N/A

Checklist

Programme materials - Did you receive:	Yes	No	n/a
A. Programme handbooks	x		
B. Programme regulations (these may be in the programme handbook)	x		
C. Module descriptions (these may be in the programme handbook)	x		
D. Assessment briefs / marking criteria	x		
Draft exam papers	Yes	No	n/a
A. (i) Did you receive all draft papers?	x		
A. (ii) If not, was this at your request?			x
B. (i) Was the nature and level of the questions appropriate?	x		
B. (ii) If not, were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			x
C. Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	x		
Marking examination scripts	Yes	No	n/a
A. (i) Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts?	x		
A. (ii) If you did not receive all the scripts, was the method of selection satisfactory?			x
B. Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	x		
C. Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	x		
Dissertations / project reports	Yes	No	n/a
A. Was the choice of dissertations appropriate?	x		
B. Was the method and standard of assessment appropriate?	x		
Coursework / continuously assessed work	Yes	No	n/a
A. Was sufficient coursework made available to you for assessment?	x		
B. Were the method and general standard of marking and consistency satisfactory?	x		
Orals / performances / recitals / appropriate professional placements	Yes	No	n/a
A. Were suitable arrangements made for you to conduct orals and/or moderate performances/recitals/appropriate professional placements?	x		
Final examiners' meeting	Yes	No	n/a
A. Were you able to attend the meeting?	x		
B. Was the meeting conducted to your satisfaction?	x		
C. Were you satisfied with the recommendations of the Board of Examiners?	x		

Please add any further comments on administration and communication:

Date completed:24/06/2019