

Periodic Review Commendations 2016 -17 Taught Programmes

BSc Medical Bioscience, delivered in partnership with EASB Singapore, 7 September 2016	There is a clear commitment from both parties, Aston and EASB, to the delivery of the programme in Singapore, a commitment that has been recognised in University awards to a number of the individuals involved in the programme's development and delivery.
	The programme has achieved good student recruitment and good student progression.
	The programme meets student expectations and students feel well supported by both teaching and support staff.
	The Programme Team has recognised the level of risk involved in the delivery of the programme, and both Aston and EASB have increased their staffing resource to mitigate that risk, notably in the appointment of the Life & Health Sciences International Partnership Coordinator, and the E-learning Technician at Aston, and in the additional teaching staff employed at EASB.
	There is a commendable use of formative assessment and feedback.
Undergraduate Languages and Translation Studies – 12 October 2016	Maintaining recruitment in a challenging environment for Modern Languages, The subject areas has as an example, what external representatives to the Panel considered to be exemplary marketing brochures. Students also commended the Open Days and the evident enthusiasm that staff had for their subject (although the Panel was advised that the more limited involvement of the School in recent events appeared to have coincided with a lower conversion rate which needs monitoring).
	The subject area's Involvement in cross-city language initiatives.

	The programmes display a sound curriculum where considerable effort has taken place to standardise, rationalise and innovate, with positive steps taken to enhance student participation in curriculum design.
	The subject area's full engagement with the student representation framework, and the careful attention paid to the student voice and to encouraging students as partners in the delivery of the programmes.
	French achieving 100% Overall Satisfaction in the 2016 NSS, placing it first in the sector.
	The extra-curricular activities such as the Language Society which have a good student take up.
	The accessibility and approachability of the teaching staff in supporting students, which students considered to be 'above and beyond' expectations. Students reported that feedback on assessment was considered constructive and timely and that there was a good personal tutoring system.
	The careers and placements support.
	The Languages for All programme which was valued by the students.
	The management of quality assurance and enhancement, for example, through peer mentoring and the School Away Day
Postgraduate Taught programmes Engineering Systems and Management: MSc Engineering Management, MSc Supply Chain Management, MSc Industrial Enterprise Management, 23 November 2016	The approachability and commitment to student support demonstrated by staff, as reported by the students who met with the panel.
	The comprehensive and up to date curricula, as confirmed by the External panel members, which additionally, meet or exceed the Key Knowledge Areas as determined by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

	The motivated and enthusiastic students from all three programmes, who met with the Panel.
	The engagement with industry in the form of guest speakers and visits
Postgraduate Politics and International Relations, 23 November 2016	The design of innovative and research informed programmes, which in the view of the Panel's external representatives, make an important and positive contribution to the understanding of international relations and, in the view of the Panel and students, could be better branded and warrant further promotion and marketing.
	The variety of assessment methods, which include more innovative assessments such as the video project, a variety that is valued by the students.
	The extra-curricular activities such as the visits by MPs and the Brussels networking event, the latter, as well as being very informative, enables some students to gain internships
	The strong relationship with European partner institutions.
	The subject area's full engagement with the student representation framework, and the careful attention paid to the student voice and to encouraging students as partners in the delivery of the programmes.

	The accessibility and approachability of the teaching staff and their engagement with the subject, which increases student enjoyment of their programmes.
	The work of the programme delivery team in motivating students and raising student aspirations.
	The Languages for All programme which was valued by the students.
BSc International Business and Modern Languages 7 December 2016	Strong recruitment figures. In spite of a challenging environment with fewer school students studying languages, the programme is maintaining its market position.
	Good programme outcomes including an excellent graduate employment rate.
	Good links with local schools and communities.
	Good links with industry and other Higher Education Institutions, leading to good quality placements.
	Timely responses to a changing market, including the introduction of ab initio Chinese.
	Effective communications and liaison between the two Schools in the design, delivery and administration of the programme.
Postgraduate Taught Programmes Electronic Engineering, 25 January 2017	The commitment of the team to securing industrial projects.
	The regular engagement of guest speakers.
	Dr Peng's commitment to students and good practice in teaching: the students spoke very highly of him.
CELCA English Language Programmes 1 February 2017	An adaptable and committed programme team, working within a constantly changing external environment to deliver a high quality student-focussed learning experience.

	The utilisation of bi-weekly staff-student consultative sessions with student representatives to quickly identify and resolve student issues.
	Strong tutor links with IYA and UKYA international partners, engendered via annual tutor visits and regular contact.
	The use of clear and detailed assessment and marking criteria to ensure consistency across the programmes.
	The early achievement of BALEAP accreditation for pre-sessional programmes, adding prestige to the programme and demonstrating adherence to best practice within the sector.
MSc Clinical Science (Neurosensory Sciences), 05 April 2017	<p>Teaching Practice: The panel recognised some excellent teaching practice. The students interviewed cited particularly Rosemary Monk's case study approach as providing excellent context and material for the development of analytical skills, and Scott Richards for his approachability, practical support and direction.</p>
	<p>Graduate Destination The panel noted some of the post qualification achievements of some of the students, including further academic study, research publication and employability.</p>
	<p>Provision of documentation The panel was extremely impressed with how well constructed and cross-referenced the Self Evaluation Documentation was and wish to commend the programme team on their efforts.</p>