

## Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment (DPTLA)

Department of Economic and Social History: 10 March 2008

### Report Summary

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The following is a brief summary of the full report of the review carried out in the Department of Economic and Social History. Reviews of Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment (DPTLA) are internal subject reviews focused on the quality of provision as experienced by students. The review looks at the range of programmes, course content, the teaching methods employed, assessment, facilities and much more.

The full report of the review is available publicly at:

[http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_104278\\_en.pdf](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_104278_en.pdf)

Further information about the DPTLA process can be found at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/qae/dptla/>

*Italicised words* are explained in a glossary below.

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### Conclusions

The Review Panel was very impressed by the performance of the Department across the range of its teaching provision, its imaginative and committed support for the quality and further enhancement of the student learning experience, and its support for, and clear articulation to students of, University policy on assessment. The Department is an active academic community but also a generously inclusive social one. It has developed a workload model which is widely regarded as fair but staff are not bound by it and have frequently demonstrated a readiness to do more than their prescribed share. There is an effective committee structure which has sought to include students at all levels of discussion of teaching and learning provision.

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### Key Strengths

- Enthusiasm of staff for teaching at all levels, not only with a view to sharing knowledge and understanding in the subject, but with a focus on widening and deepening students' skills to equip them better for success beyond their current programmes of study.
- Fast, analytical feedback on students' written work coupled with a readiness to provide further support as requested in a friendly environment.
- Wide range of topics available for study at Honours.

- Activity of staff in a wide range of research fields, enriching the learning experience of students accordingly.
- Commitment of staff to the integrity of the discipline of economic and social history, and their coherence as a mutually supportive and thriving academic community.
- Broad support for quality assurance and enhancement agendas translating into well grounded policies and procedures.

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## Areas to be improved or enhanced<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Curriculum Design, Development and Content

- a) Students who undertake an Honours dissertation and who do not, therefore, take the course Researching Economic and Social History 2 should be afforded other opportunities to develop skills in working co-operatively and maintaining records of personal and group progress. [paragraph 4.4.3]

### 2. Student Recruitment

- a) The Department should continue to develop its strategy for increasing the numbers of suitable students recruited to its *PGT* programmes. [paragraph 4.5.3]
- b) The Department should continue to develop its strategy for increasing undergraduate recruitment. [paragraph 4.5.5]
- c) Consideration should be given to ways in which the department might help increasing *overseas* recruitment and help *home* students overcome the obstacles that account for very limited take-up of opportunities for *study abroad*. [paragraph 3.2]

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## Glossary of terms/acronyms used

### Home student

Generally, a home student is one who normally lives in the UK or European Union. However, for the purposes of determining which level of tuition fee is payable, a more detailed definition is available from the International Office.

### Overseas student

Generally, an overseas student is one who normally lives outwith the European Union. However, for the purposes of determining which level of tuition fee is payable, a more detailed definition is available from the International Office.

### Postgraduate Taught or PGT

Postgraduate Taught refers to taught programmes at postgraduate level, usually Masters.

### Study abroad

Study abroad is a term that is often used to refer to several programmes that offer opportunities for students to study in a European University, or one further afield, for a term, semester or year as part of their undergraduate degree programme. (The University's "Study Abroad Programme" is specifically for designed for visiting students who elect to come to the University of Glasgow.)

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers refer to the paragraphs in the full report that contain the relevant discussion.