



University
of Glasgow

Periodic Subject Review (PSR)

Review of Economic and Social History held on 23 and 24 January 2014

Report Summary

The following is a brief summary of the full report of the review carried out in the subject area of Economic and Social History. *Periodic Subject Review* is an internal subject review 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_357281_en.pdf

Further information about the PSR process can be found at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/gea/periodicsubjectreview/>

Italicised words are explained in a glossary below.

Conclusions

The Review Panel highly commends Economic and Social History for the overall quality of its provision and the dedication of the staff team in providing a rewarding and supportive student environment. The Review Panel was impressed by the range of its teaching provision, its committed support for, and clear articulation to students of University policy on assessment. There is an effective committee structure which has sought to include students at all levels of discussion of teaching and learning provision.

Key Strengths (Commendations)¹

Assessment, Feedback and Achievement

- The development and introduction of an examination feedback system for exam scripts for the Honours years. [paragraph 3.3]
- Its excellent provision of feedback on formative assessments to UG and PGT students. [paragraph 3.3.1]

Resources for Learning and Teaching

- The administrative support staff for the way in which they deal with staff and students. [paragraph 3.8.3]

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

- The way that the ILOs are explained and disseminated to both UG and PGT students. [paragraph 3.2]

Areas to be improved or enhanced

Assuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Students' Learning Experience

- Ensure that the *Staff:Student Liaison Committee SSLC* meetings are clearly documented with, actions directed to individuals responsible and progress or conclusions noted at the next meeting. [paragraph 5.1.1]

Assessment, Feedback and Achievement

- Provide comprehensive support to GTAs to include specific guidance on feedback on assessments and the management of workloads to GTAs. [paragraph 3.3.2.]
- Ensure that all GTAs have attended the GTA statutory training provided by the Learning and Teaching Centre before carrying out any assessment tasks. [paragraph 3.3.2.]

Student Recruitment

- Investigate opportunities to work closely with *Recruitment and International Office (RIO)*, the School of Social and Political Sciences and the College of Social Sciences to increase the recruitment of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Home and International students and to increase awareness of the Subject. [paragraph 3.5.2]

¹ Numbers refer to the paragraphs in the full report that contain the relevant discussion.

Glossary of terms/acronyms used

Graduate Teaching Assistant or GTAs

Graduate Teaching Assistants, Tutors and Laboratory Demonstrators are students, usually research students, who assist with teaching in the form of tutorials, labs and other activities that are part of undergraduate programmes in the subject/school. They are paid an hourly rate by the University.

Intended Learning Outcomes or ILOs

Intended Learning Outcomes or ILOs describe what all students should be able to do or demonstrate, in terms of particular knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes when they successfully complete the course or programme that the ILOs relate to.

Periodic Subject Review or PSR

The University has a six yearly cycle of review of the Subjects/Schools within it. The PSR is one of the main ways by which the University assures itself of the quality of the provision delivered by Subjects/Schools.

Postgraduate Taught or PGT

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

Recruitment and International Office (RIO)

The Recruitment and International Office (RIO) provides applicants, parents and teachers with a single point of contact for information and advice on the range of programmes available at the University of Glasgow. The Service also develop, implement, co-ordinate and monitors widening participation initiatives within the University and with other partners. The Recruitment and International Office (RIO) is situated in the Fraser Building.

Staff:Student Liaison Committee or SSLCs

Staff:Student Liaison Committees are Subject/School committees which provide a formal opportunity for Student Representatives to discuss matters with, and give feedback to their subject area.