

**LJMU Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2019**

MS.Bioarchaeology

**August 2019**

**Introduction**

Information about PTES background, mode of delivery, response rates, confidentiality, use of results and the questionnaire itself are available in the institutional level report. Detailed Faculty level results are presented in a separate Faculty report.

In programme level reports only scores for each question (without commentary) are presented and accompanied by student comments where applicable.

If a more detailed breakdown of responses (e.g. number or percentage of neutral or negative responses) or programme demographic profile are required (only for 10+ responses), please contact Elena Zaitseva E.Zaitseva@ljmu.ac.uk

**Care should be taken with interpretation of results due to the relatively small number of responses. Staff are encouraged to use their professional /academic judgement when interpreting the results and developing action points from the student evaluation.**

**Results**

5 students responded to the survey. The response rate for the programme is 56%

**Overall satisfaction**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Overall satisfaction (% of Strongly Agree and Agree) | LJMU | SCS | Programme |
|  | 85% | 83% | 100% |

**Teaching**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Staff are good at explaining things | Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching | The course is intellectually stimulating | The course has enhanced my academic ability | The learning materials provided on my course are useful | There is sufficient contact time between staff and students | I am happy with the support for my learning |
| LJMU | 90% | 92% | 86% | 88% | 85% | 72% | 79% |
| SCS | 88% | 87% | 88% | 91% | 87% | 61% | 76% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 80% | 100% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

*The majority of staff are effective communicators about their expectations for assignments and clear in their instruction. However, this is not the case for every educator in this program and has made it difficult at times to fully grasp the extent of our assignments due to lack of in person instruction and timely materials being uploaded to Canvas.*

*Staff can be very slow to reply to emails, we are expected to check our emails every day but are often made to wait over a week for some replie*

**Engagement**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | I am encouraged to ask questions or make contributions in taught sessions | The course has created sufficient opportunities to discuss my work with other students | My course has challenged me to produce my best work | The workload on my course has been manageable | I have appropriate opportunities to give feedback on my experience |
| LJMU | 90% | 82% | 84% | 69% | 80% |
| SCS | 87% | 79% | 87% | 65% | 78% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

**Assessment and feedback**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | The criteria used in marking have been made clear in advance | Assessment arrangements and marking have been fair | Feedback on my work has been prompt | Feedback on my work (written or oral) has been useful |
| LJMU | 81% | 80% | 77% | 76% |
| SCS | 82% | 72% | 62% | 72% |
| Programme | 60% | 80% | 80% | 80% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

*The neither agree nor disagree responses above relate mostly to the fact that some modules have had prompt feedback, and some have not. Additionally, some modules have been very clear about criteria for assignments before marking and some have not. I believe this comes down to the educator making both resources available online (such as a separate document outlining the assignment due dates, responsibilities, etc) as well as dedicating class time to explaining the assignment.*

*Having the research methods module in semester 1 would have been more beneficial. Also, assessments could have been more spread out in semester 1.*

**Organisation and management**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | The timetable fits well with my other commitments | Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively | The course is well organised and is running smoothly | I was given appropriate guidance and support when I started my course | I am encouraged to be involved in decisions about how my course is run |
| LJMU | 83% | 80% | 73% | 81% | 67% |
| SCS | 85% | 85% | 73% | 75% | 72% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 80% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible**:

**Learning resources**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | The library resources and services are good enough for my needs | I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to | I have been able to access subject specific resources necessary for my studies | I am aware of how to access the support services at my institution |
| LJMU | 87% | 91% | 87% | 80% |
| SCS | 92% | 92% | 90% | 76% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

**Skills development**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | As a result of the course I am more confident about independent learning | My confidence to be innovative or creative has developed during my course | My research skills have developed during my course | My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my course | I have been encouraged to think about what skills I need to develop for my career | As a result of the course I feel better prepared for my future career |
| LJMU | 84% | 77% | 83% | 78% | 80% | 80% |
| SCS | 85% | 73% | 85% | 83% | 80% | 82% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% | 60% | 80% | 80% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

*with regards to the final question about being prepared for my career. i do not wish my disagree to reflect poorly on the course. i enjoyed this course a lot, and we studied so many different things that i feel more overwhelmed with the options in front of me. We only had the chance to touch briefly on some subjects, rather than gaining a really deep understanding, so even though i now know about more options, i don't feel i would understand them well enough to establish a career*

**Information**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Information provided by your institution: easy to find | Information provided by your institution: useful | Information provided by your institution: accurate |
| LJMU | 89% | 90% | 85% |
| SCS | 90% | 90% | 85% |
| Programme | 100% | 100% | 100% |

**If you have any further comments on these issues then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:**

*changing my direction, from a different undergraduate cours*

**Language support**

When you started your course, did you consider yourself to be fluent in English?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| LJMU | 94% | 6% |
| SCS | 93% | 7% |
| Programme | 100% | 0% |

**Motivation to study**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | LJMU % Agree | SCS% Agree | Programme |
| To improve my employment prospects | 57% | 68% | 80% |
| To progress in my current career path (i.e. a professional qualification) | 64% | 68% | 40% |
| For personal interest | 47% | 56% | 60% |
| To enable me to progress to a higher level qualification (e.g. PhD) | 36% | 45% | 40% |
| To change my current career | 24% | 14% | 40% |
| As a requirement to enter a particular profession | 30% | 30% | 20% |
| To meet the requirements of my current job | 10% | 5% | 0% |
| Other | 1% | 2% | 20% |

**Comments ‘other’:**

**Choose this course because:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | LJMU % agree | SCS % agree | Programme |
| The location of the institution | 48% | 34% | 20% |
| The content of the course | 44% | 46% | 80% |
| I have studied at this institution before | 32% | 36% | 0% |
| The overall reputation of the institution | 32% | 39% | 40% |
| Funding was available to study this particular programme | 22% | 14% | 0% |
| Delivery of the programme is flexible enough to fit around my life | 25% | 11% | 0% |
| Reputation in chosen subject area/department | 28% | 48% | 40% |
| The way the course is structured or assessed | 21% | 17% | 40% |
| The reputation of the course tutors | 20% | 35% | 20% |
| My employer advised or encouraged me to do it | 8% | 5% | 0% |
| The cost of the course compared to other institutions | 21% | 23% | 60% |
| It was recommended to me | 19% | 18% | 40% |
| Other | 4% | 2% | 0% |
| It is the only institution offering this programme | 11% | 18% | 0% |
| Graduates from this institution have good career and employment prospects | 13% | 20% | 0% |

**Comments ‘other’:**

## **Have you considered, for any reason, leaving your postgraduate course?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No | Prefer not to say |
| Programme | 40% | 40% | 20% |

If 'Yes', what was the main (or most recent) reason that led you to consider leaving?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Programme % Agree |
| Difficulty balancing study and other commitments | 50% |
| Financial difficulties | 0% |
| Family, health or personal problems | 50% |
| There is not enough support for personal issues | 0% |
| There is not enough support for my learning | 0% |
| There is too much work | 0% |
| I have found this level of study difficult | 0% |
| I feel unsupported by my fellow students | 0% |
| The course is not what I expected | 0% |
| I might have chosen the wrong course | 0% |
| I might have chosen the wrong institution | 0% |
| Studying might not have been the right choice for me | 0% |
| Prefer not to say | 0% |
| Other | 0% |

**Please comment on one thing that has been most enjoyable or interesting on your course:**

*I enjoy the variety of modules provided for this course - there is a wide range of information available to learn and I think it has been effectively disseminated through the modules chosen.*

*I've really enjoyed the hand on approach, such as skeletal practice in the lab and ancient DNA work.*

*The hands on experience learning from real skeletal materials*

**Please comment on one thing that would most improve your experience of your course:**

*I would create a standardized way of providing information about assignments that all module leaders need to follow. Whether this includes a separate document outlining the assignment specifically, templates they would like us to use, previous examples, whatever, but it needs to be provided with every module and not up to the instructor's digression.*

*I think the layout of the assessments could be improved.*