

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

MS.Forensic Anthropology

**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.

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 when interpreting results with a 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**

8 students responded to the survey. The response rate for the programme is 57%

**Overall satisfaction**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Overall satisfaction (% of Strongly Agree and Agree)  | LJMU | SCS | Programme |
|  | 85% | 83% | 63% |

**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 | 88% | 88% | 100% | 88% | 88% | 75% | 75% |

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

*I have had some issues with specific staff not explaining things correctly. I've received some support but felt there was a lack in some aspects*

*Teaching quality varies between lecturers, as would be expected, however some lectures on my course were very poorly explained and led to confusion regarding an assessment based on those specific lectures. While there is no doubt that the lecturers are experts in their fields, it would be helpful to assess each lecturer's teaching style/ability every couple of years or so, if this measure is not already in place*

**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 | 88% | 63% | 88% | 38% | 63% |

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

*At times deadlines have fallen on the same day or one day after the other, and I've felt that I wasn't able to fully produce my best work at these times (this has not generally been reflected in my marks but personally I do believe my work could have been excellent had there been less overlap in deadlines)*

*Our course had 3 50% module assessments due within 4 days in the days preceding Christmas, and two critical evaluation presentations on consecutive days each week of second semester. While very useful, the amount of hours required to adequately prepare these second semester assessments left little time for independent learning and studying or consolidation of taught lectures, especially for students who have to work to pay their rent*

**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 | 75% | 63% | 25% | 50% |

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

*Some deadlines are set too close together to be able to produce work to the best of our ability.*

*We are still awaiting feedback on an assessment which was done in January (we were given our marks but no form of personalised feedback).*

*Despite repeated requests we are yet to receive feedback for one of our first semester assessments and other assessment grades (excluding presentation assessments) have been released without any feedbac*

**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 | 50% | 75% | 75% | 50% | 63% |

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

*1) At the beginning of the course I felt that more support could have been offered to new students 2) Some complaints have been met with pushback from staff which has discouraged some discussion in my opinion*

*An assessment regarding analysis and interpretation of remains was set as 50% within three weeks of the course beginning despite the fact that many individuals had no previous hands on experience with human remains, and were at an obvious disadvantage. It was suggested by students that it may be useful to push this assessment back in future years to a later date*

**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 | 88% | 88% | 75% | 71% |

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

*Facilities are excellent, the counselling support service has been wonderful*

**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 | 63% | 50% | 63% | 88% | 75% | 63% |

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

*As a result of giving weekly presentations in class, my public speaking has improved vastly, as well as my ability to condense and process the information I read in order to create these presentations*

**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% | 86% |

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

**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 | 88% | 12% |

If 'No', to what extent do you agree or disagree that you have received appropriate support for your English language needs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree |
| Programme | 0% | 0% |

**Motivation to study**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | LJMU % Agree | SCS% Agree | Programme |
| To improve my employment prospects | 57% | 68% | 63% |
| To progress in my current career path (i.e. a professional qualification) | 64% | 68% | 75% |
| For personal interest | 47% | 56% | 63% |
| To enable me to progress to a higher level qualification (e.g. PhD) | 36% | 45% | 75% |
| To change my current career | 24% | 14% | 0% |
| As a requirement to enter a particular profession | 30% | 30% | 25% |
| To meet the requirements of my current job | 10% | 5% | 0% |
| Other | 1% | 2% | 0% |

**Comments ‘other’:**

**Choose this course because:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | LJMU % agree | SCS % agree | Programme |
| The location of the institution | 48% | 34% | 75% |
| The content of the course  | 44% | 46% | 50% |
| I have studied at this institution before | 32% | 36% | 50% |
| The overall reputation of the institution | 32% | 39% | 38% |
| Funding was available to study this particular programme | 22% | 14% | 25% |
| Delivery of the programme is flexible enough to fit around my life | 25% | 11% | 25% |
| Reputation in chosen subject area/department | 28% | 48% | 63% |
| The way the course is structured or assessed | 21% | 17% | 25% |
| The reputation of the course tutors | 20% | 35% | 50% |
| My employer advised or encouraged me to do it | 8% | 5% | 0% |
| The cost of the course compared to other institutions | 21% | 23% | 38% |
| It was recommended to me | 19% | 18% | 0% |
| 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% | 13% |

**Comments ‘other’:**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No | Prefer not to say |
| Programme | 38% | 50% | 13% |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Programme % Agree |
| Difficulty balancing study and other commitments | 0% |
| Financial difficulties | 33% |
| Family, health or personal problems | 0% |
| 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 | 33% |
| I might have chosen the wrong institution | 0% |
| Studying might not have been the right choice for me | 0% |
| Prefer not to say | 33% |
| Other | 0% |

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

*The weekly assessed seminars*

*Some lecturers do express good passion for their topic which is motivational*

*I have enjoyed how much the course includes laboratory/ practical time, either with human remains or learning new skills- such as the series of practicals delivered in archaeological field skills that incorporates factors outside of human identification. I have also benefited from being able to volunteer in the labs with curation work of the skeletal collection.*

*Getting to work hands-on with human skeletal remains has been good and i have enjoyed working in smaller class sizes*

*experienced lecturers and opportunities to collaborate*

*Having hands-on access to human skeletal remains has been extremely useful*

*The practical assignments - e.g. bone quizzes and seminars*

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

*The organisation of the timetables*

*Better distribution of deadlines and better communication regarding what is expected in assignments*

*More directed support at the start of the course would have better prepared me when organising my dissertation topic.*

*better organisation of assessments in relation to teaching*

*A more manageable workload in consideration of the fact that some students have to work most weeknights/weekends*

*More guidance and support for the Research Grant Proposal assignment*