



Email: enquiries@lon.ac.uk

Tel: 020 7862 8398

Fax: 020 7862 8358

May 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EXTERNAL SYSTEM

The University of London was established by Royal Charter in 1836 and is incorporated by Royal Charter granted in 1863, through which it has full degree awarding powers at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Since 1858, the University has made its degrees and other awards available to External students, either by independent study or distance learning arrangements, through the External System. Awards of the University of London are recognised throughout the world.

The University is currently governed through the University of London Act 1994 and the Statutes made under it, including Statute 66(2) which states that "Candidates granted degrees and other awards shall have attained the same academic standard irrespective of mode or place of study or examination."

The University issues a diploma (certificate) to candidates who have successfully completed the programme of study and passed the assessments required for a degree or other award. The diploma indicates which part of the University the individual was registered with, either by identifying the College or Institute of registration or by confirming that the candidate was registered as an External student.

The University has a number of procedures in place to ensure that the standards of awards made to External students are maintained at the same level as the standards of awards made to students studying at Colleges of the University:

- a) Every programme of study is developed and approved by a College or group of Colleges to the same standards and requirements as would be applied in the College(s).
- b) Colleges approve programme regulations and syllabuses and nominate Boards of Examiners.
- c) Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff employed or chosen by the Colleges, who are required to apply the College's academic standards.
- d) Independent External Examiners are appointed to every programme, whether offered by a College or through the External System. Their role is to ensure students have been assessed properly and that the UK's overall national academic standards have been met.
- e) External students must meet minimum entry requirements prescribed by the University.¹

In 2005, the External System was audited by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the UK's independent body for safeguarding the quality and standards of Higher Education. The QAA confirmed that confidence can be placed in the University's management of the quality of programmes and of the standards of awards made through the External System.

The University of London is fully committed to the maintenance and development of the External System and to the enhancement of educational opportunities world-wide. Should you require any further information about the External System, please access our website at www.londonexternal.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McConnell'.

John McConnell
Director, External and Internal Student Administration

¹ Except for undergraduate Diplomas in Economics and Law, which require students to attend local teaching institutions that set entry requirements according to University guidelines.