

Friday 6 December 2019

Item: Laura Barr's Masters Program

Union Senate

I am currently enrolled with the University of Sussex on their MSc Sustainable Development (online) course. This is a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years and has been designed as a distance learning course. This is typically undertaken by those with full time jobs or part time jobs to be able to study at the same time, exactly like the Open University.

I have chosen to continue studying this master because of career and academic development, and I cannot afford to take a year out of employment to study full time again for something higher level.

I am currently in my second module and I feel I have been able to manage my work/life/study balance very well, achieving within the top bracket grade wise for my first module, and I was able to keep on top of studying even during Freshers period.

I need senate to approve this as there is a chance- even if small- it could impact upon my work, because of the time demands. However, I have had lengthy discussions with both my line manager and my mentor around time management and the emotional demands it will put on me and how to manage them.

There are no conflict of interest with my working for the Students Union and studying for a competitor, and I do not engage with the students union beyond giving feedback as a part time student.