



Executive Summary

Institution-Led Subject Review:

Accounting and Finance

Business and Management

Aberdeen Business School

6-7 March 2023

Institution-Led Subject Review (ILSR) is the University's process to formally review and plan future enhancement of its taught provision leading to academic awards. Aberdeen Business School, one of eleven cognate Schools within the University, delivers the following subject area, which was the focus of the ILSR:

- Accounting and Finance
- Business and Management

The review was informed by consideration of:

- The *Reflective Analysis* document prepared by the School.
- A *Continuous Improvement Review* which had been prepared by the School for the AACSB re-accreditation.
- The Academic Quality Officer's summary report on key issues arising from quality assurance processes since the subject was last reviewed in January 2017.
- The note of a meeting of internal Panel members held on 17 February 2023.
- Additional data from the School post-internal Panel members meeting.

The event was run in conjunction with the re-accreditation of the Association to Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) comprising a Panel of AACSB approved Deans. The re-accreditation was undertaken in accordance with AACSB standard procedures, and a separate, independent report was generated following the event¹.

After due consideration of the documentation and following discussions at the event, the Panel **confirmed** that it was satisfied that the School had provided an effective, comprehensive and reflective account of its current situation and confirmed the continued relevance and validity of

¹ The AACSB confirmed report, including outcomes, will be released following the AACSB Ratification Board on 20 June 2023.

the School's taught provision to the market. Furthermore, the Panel was satisfied that the School had effective quality assurance arrangements in place.

The Panel made a number of **recommendations** and **commendations** to assist the School with its ambitions, proposed priorities, and implementation plan.

The Panel wished to highlight a number of commendations, arising from the ILSR event and process, which are detailed below.

- (i) The School's strong connections with stakeholders and partners, including local businesses and organisations.
- (ii) The strong, committed team of staff who had embraced the values of the University and the School and who were continually enhancing their professional practice and implementing of innovative pedagogical initiatives.
- (iii) The provision of a high-quality student learning experience facilitated by a range of excellent support and good practice within the School, including Personal Tutors/Course Leaders with Mental Health First Aid Training.
- (iv) The agile working environment and continuous improvement approach which ensured the School stayed ahead of the curve.

The Panel wished to make a number of recommendations, which are detailed below.

(i) **Enhancement of the School's Vision and Mission**

The Panel felt that the School were not selling themselves enough and **recommended** that, in light of the discussions during the event, the School should revisit their Vision, Mission and Values with a view to pushing the inspirational boundaries and enhancing the narrative to truly reflect the unique and distinctive nature of the School.

(ii) **Interdisciplinarity and Connections within the Institution**

The Panel **recommend** that the School further capitalised on interdisciplinarity opportunities with other Schools and better utilised the resources available from professional support departments to both enhance the provision and support the management of staff workloads.

(iii) **Cognisance of the Future**

The Panel **recommended** the School and the University as a whole, consider the future shape and size of the School with particular emphasis on the impact of the potential growth of student numbers, recruitment of staff, staff development and curriculum development.