

EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report via the Cardiff University Intranet [here](#) and from ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk.

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Christopher Hardacre		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Manchester		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MSc in Catalysis		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2017/18	Date of Report:	18/09/18

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the **taught stage** Examining Board in the case of **postgraduate Master's programmes**).

Please note this form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

Please extend spaces where necessary.

1. Programme Structure (curriculum design, programme structure and level, methods of teaching and learning)

The curriculum for the MSc covers the wide range of subject areas in catalysis and is comprehensive. The level of the material covered is at the appropriate level for an MSc and the teaching methods combine traditional examinations with practical work covering both individual and group work.

2. Academic Standards (comparability with other UK HEIs, achievement of students, any PSRB requirements)

The level of the assessment is on a par with other UK HEI MSc programmes and a good spread of marks were attained by the students.

3. The Assessment Process (enabling achievement of aims and learning outcomes; stretch of assessment; comparability of standards between modules of the same level)

The learning outcomes and aims of the modules were well covered by the exams. The assessments provided a good opportunity for the students to be stretched as well as to cover the fundamentals of the subject matter.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

[Previous External Examiner Reports are available from the Cardiff University Website [here](#).]

N/A

5. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only) (appropriateness of briefing provided, visits to School, programme handbooks and supporting information)

The material was sent in good time for review and the comments on the exams were addressed. In addition, the examination mark spreadsheet was sent prior to the visit to allow sufficient time to study the trends and highlight any cases to be examined in detail. The visits to the School was well organised and we had the opportunity to meet with students undertaking the programme.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement (good and innovative practice in learning, teaching and assessment; opportunities for enhancement of learning opportunities)

Meeting the students and previewing of the examination spreadsheets was good practice. The group work within the programme work well and allows teamwork to be encouraged.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only) (significant changes in standards, programme/discipline developments, implementation of recommendations, further areas of work)

The programme is of a high standard and well taught. Recommendations from previous years have been implemented or considered as appropriate. It continues to be of an equivalent standard to other MSc's in the UK that I am familiar with. Overall, my experience as an external examiner has been very positive and the School should be commended for their MSc programme and the way it is organised. It would be good to review the balance between the various aspects of catalysis to ensure that students have a wide enough exposure and choice of projects.

8. Annual Report Checklist

Please include appropriate comments within Sections 1-7 above for any answer of 'No'.

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
Programme/Course Information				
8.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	X		
8.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?	X		

Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	X		
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	X		
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	X		
Marking Examination Scripts				
8.6	Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	X		
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	X		
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	X		
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	X		
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	X		
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
8.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	X		
8.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	X		
8.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	X		
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	X		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			X
Sampling of Work				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	X		
Examining Board Meeting				
8.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	X		
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	X		
8.19	Cardiff University recognises the productive contribution of External Examiners to the assessment process and, in particular, to the work of the Examining Board. Have you had adequate opportunities to discuss the Programme and any outstanding concerns with the Examining Board or its officers?	X		
Joint Examining Board Meeting (if applicable)				
8.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			X
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its			

	rules?			
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				
8.23	Did you receive a sufficient number of Dissertations to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	X		
8.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?	X		
8.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?	X		
8.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?	X		
8.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?	X		
8.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?	X		
8.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?	X		
8.30	<p>Comments on the Examination of Master's Dissertations. <i>Please provide any comments you may wish to make on the issues raised above.</i></p> <p>Only 3 dissertations were presented at the summer examination board. A further 4 were available in the September examination board and all the projects were marked fairly and appropriately.</p>			

Please return this Report, **in a Microsoft Word format**, by email to:
externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk

Your fee and expenses claim form and receipts, should be sent electronically to the above email address or in hard copy to:

External Examiners, Registry, Cardiff University, McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE