



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	David Waters		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Buckinghamshire New University		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	MSc Critical Care		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014/15	Date of Report:	15/09/15

For completion by External Examiner in the spaces provided. Please extend spaces where necessary. **Please note this Form will be published online.**

1. Programme Structure

The programme structure and online content is highly innovative and unique within the sector. The taught content and the learning experience provide students with an academically robust and clinically focused MSc. The programme learning outcomes and the inter-professional nature of the MSc ensures that learners are equipped to provide evidence based critical care within in a multi-professional context. The breadth of taught content reflects the changing and dynamic profile of critical care delivery internationally, i.e. pre-hospital care, critical care outreach, post discharge. The distance learning nature of the module attracts students from across the globe, this brings a unique transcultural perspective to course discussion boards/online debate.

2. Academic Standards

The programme academic standards & student achievement is generally extremely high. The teaching & assessment standards are comparable to my own and other HEI's that I have externally examined at. Some of the higher performing students work should be commended, with some of the dissertations being appropriate for reworking for peer review publication or conference presentations.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment process appeared to be robust, fair and consistent, with clear evidence of internal moderation & dialogue between markers noted. Feedback to

students was in-depth, with clear sign-posting of areas for development. I noted a wide variety in assessment approaches utilised within the MSc programme; these ranged from conventional written essays, literature reviews, dissertations & online wiki's. I commend the programme team for their innovative use of assessments, which will contribute to an engaging experience for students enrolled on the programme.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

From reviewing previous external examiner reports, it appears that comments raised by my predecessor have been appropriately responded to by the programme team. The MSc team and course leader have been extremely approachable and responsive to any questions or queries I have raised.

5. Preparation / Induction Activity (for new External Examiners only)

Not applicable.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

The online delivery associated with this programme is to be commended; learning activities, assessments and lecturer-student interaction are all appropriately resourced and well executed. Students appear well supported and online communication is responsive and timely.

The programme team consistently deliver detailed & comprehensive feedback to students in response to their academic work. Feedback is constructive, with sources of academic support clearly sign-posted.

The programme assessment strategy, which embraces varied & stimulating assessment methods is worthy of recognition.

In addition, the collaborative inter-professional learning which is embedded throughout the programme is also to be commended.

Students were able to produce some extremely high quality assignments, many of which would be suitable for publication following revision.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

N/A.

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?	Y		
8.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?			N/A
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?			N/A
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			N/A
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			N/A
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?	Y		
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Y		
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Y		
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	Y		
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	Y		
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
8.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	Y		
8.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	Y		
8.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	Y		
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	Y		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			N/A
Sampling of Work				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining Board Meeting				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
8.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y		
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	Y		
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?	Y		
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?			N/A
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			N/A

Please return this Report, preferably in a Microsoft Word format, by email to:

ExternalExaminers@cf.ac.uk

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

Clive Brown, Registry Officer, Registry & Academic Services, Cardiff University,
McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE