



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Sarah Riley		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Aberystwyth		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	Psychology		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014-15	Date of Report:	7/7/15

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

This is an excellent programme, it offers students an interdisciplinary perspective and a strong theoretical framework for thinking about psychology and the social sciences.

2. Academic Standards

Good students produce excellent work evidencing critical thinking at a high level and in-depth engagement with the subject. Even weaker students seem to grasp the key principles of critical thinking and make a clear attempt at argument. All the assignments that I reviewed were interesting; with real world relevance and which encouraged intellectual rigour. Some of the assignments were noteworthy in their excellence.

Overall the academic standards and marks awarded for the work were comparable with the institutions with which I am familiar. Students demonstrated achievement of the subject QAA benchmarks for psychology. Critical thinking, intellectual rigour and ability to develop an argument were hall marks of the work I saw.

3. The Assessment Process

Overall the in-depth two-assignment structure (exam and assignment) of the modules works well. All the assignments that I reviewed were interesting; with real world relevance and which encouraged intellectual rigour. It looks like students were able to engage with the subject that was of most interest to them, so the choices of assignments worked well.

The marking was clear, systematic, fair and transparent, with information on both how to develop the assignment and where the students had gained marks. The full range of marks were used. There was a significant improvement in following moderating and second marking regulations from previous years. I recommended that the dissertation marking included in its audit trail an explanation for how decisions were made when there was a disagreement between first and second marker across a band category or over 10%. Overall, though the agreement between first and second markers was good.

I reviewed four modules, seeing a selection of work in each marking category in line with procedures. I was able to see the range of marks given for each module, and during the exam board to see how individual students had progressed across their degree.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

The move to electronic marking has been successful, staff used the system systematically and to good effect. Adherence to procedures regarding second marking and moderating were clear and seemed improved.

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

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

The critical thinking and ability to develop an argument, linking theory with practice was evident. This is a characteristic aspect of the psychology in social sciences programmes and staff are to be commended. The exam boards were ran efficiently and effectively.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

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		x		
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?			
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				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
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?			x
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			x

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