

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

Cardiff University

McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Wales UK

Tel please see below
Fax +44(0)29 2087 4130

www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd

Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Cymru Y Deyrnas Unedig

Ffôn gweler isod
Ffacs +44(0)29 2087 4130

www.caerdydd.ac.uk

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Phil Tomson		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Birmingham		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	Intermediate BDS examination		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2018-19	Date of Report:	26 TH June 2019

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the dissertation 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 General Data Protection Regulation (2018).

Please extend spaces where necessary.

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

The IBDS exam covers a number of different clinical disciplines and joins them with a human diseases course. The clinical teaching is delivered in traditional teaching blocks in the dental hospital and in outreach clinics. The overall assessment for IBDS uses a number of different techniques and gives all students an opportunity to perform well if they do not adapt well to some assessment styles.

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

The academic standards are high and are comparable to other high-quality schools in the UK based on my experience.

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

The IBDS is a rigorous examination for a 3rd year student who has had just over 1 years' direct clinical experience. It contains several different assessment methods

spread out over the year. My experience during this first year as EE has shown there is a strong dedicated team of academics following robust processes to deliver a strong assessment. The support team have been excellent and provided sufficient time to look at and comment on assessments, there was a good briefing for all examiners about the exam prior to starting the oral component and standard setting or grade descriptors have been used. In the oral examinations all examiners followed the expected processes and were fair and consistent in marking.

It is a complex exam with many components. I think there is opportunity to rationalise the amount of assessment and still meet the objectives of this exam and determine if a 3rd year is at the required level to continue with the course. This would make the process less burdensome for the staff, students and support team.

Some potential areas for rationalisation may include:

- Make Human Disease and SBA style assessment
- Consider if B3 is necessary component as coursework as there is a similar assessment in D1
- Consider reducing part D to one case report only.

4. **Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)** (sample of dissertations received, appropriateness of marking schemes, standard of internal marking, classification of awards)

[Where possible please complete this section following the dissertation examining board determining the final award.]

N/A

5. **Year-on-Year Comments**

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

Looking back at previous EE comments it is clear that those involved in delivering these assessments have evolved things and listened to previous comments.

6. **Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only)** (appropriateness of briefing provided by the programme team and supporting information, visits to School, ability to meet with students, arrangements for accessing work to review)

I have been well briefed about the examination and my role. It is common these days to have an opportunity to speak with the students who have taken part in the examination and I think that would be useful to have that opportunity in future.

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

There are good areas of practice such as providing a calibration video for training of the examiners carrying out the vivas and the huge amount of time and energy devoted to this assessment process by all involved.

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

N/A

9. Annual Report Checklist

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

		Ye s (Y)	No (N)	N/ A (N/ A)
Programme/Course information				
9.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	Y		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?	Y		
Commenting on draft examination question papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	Y		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	Y		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	Y		
Examination scripts				
9.6	Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	Y		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Y		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Y		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	Y		

9.10	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				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	Y		
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	Y		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	Y		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	Y		
Clinical examinations (if applicable)				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?	Y		
Sampling of work				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining board meeting				
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y		
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	Y		
9.19	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)				
9.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?		N/A	
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?		N/A	

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