



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report and are available at <http://learning.cf.ac.uk/quality/review/external-examiners/reports/>.

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Jeremy Barham		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Surrey		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report	MA in Musicology/Ethnomusicology		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2015-16	Date of Report:	11/11/16

For completion by External Examiner in the spaces provided. Please extend spaces where necessary. **Please note this Form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff.**

1. Programme Structure

The programme and its variety of modules, as I noted last year, continues to provide students with an excellent diet of topics that enables high-level intellectual consideration of pressing issues in the study of music today.

2. Academic Standards

The student work demonstrated a clear sense of grounding in appropriate methodologies and concepts. Such grounding is all too often at risk of being neglected at this level in the pursuit of pure innovation. But in the work I examined this was for the most part far from the case. A persuasive combination of rigour and well-supported readings/critiques was frequently evident. It was especially pleasing to see a number of marks in the 70s and some exceptionally high marking in the top 80s for thoroughly deserving work.

3. The Assessment Process

The feedback on student work is presented clearly, in considerable depth (for which the students should be very grateful), and usefully has both summative, formative, and localized (i.e. on-script) dimensions. This is all to be highly commended. The tickboxes are an excellent idea, and I only noticed one example where their placement might have indicated a slightly higher awarded mark. The rest tallied entirely accurately with the mark awarded.

The marks awarded were appropriate, and - importantly - clearly justified in the attached comments (with due attention to presentational issues as well as conceptual content).

4. Year-on-Year Comments

I was struck by the strength and depth of work in the areas of popular music, ethnomusicology, and aesthetics of music - in the latter case the application of notions of the sublime to film music was genuinely enlightening and original.

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

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

It was very useful to have access to the module and programme handbook, and to have an idea of the remit of each assignment. The work was made easily accessible in electronic form, and presented very clearly for me to look at.

7. Comments on the Examination of Master's Dissertations (External Examiners for postgraduate Master's Programmes only, see also 9.23-9.29 below)

The dissertations generally showed a pleasing level of critical thought, theoretical application, and appropriate development of material and approaches encountered in Stage 1 of the programme. There was clear evidence of careful supervision and guidance on the part of staff in determining the nature and scope of the dissertation topics. Staff also gave plentiful constructive feedback on the work (including 'feedforward' which would be especially useful for those students considering doctoral study), and allotted appropriate marks that were fully justified in all cases. The marking was consistent across the cohort.

8. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

9. Annual Report Checklist

Please include appropriate comments within Sections 1-8 above for any answer of 'No'.

		Yes (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?		N	
Draft Examination Question Papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?			N/A
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			N/A

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			N/A
Marking 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?			N/A
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			N/A
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			N/A
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			N/A
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			N/A
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?			N/A
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
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
9.23	Did you receive a sufficient number of Dissertations to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	Y		
9.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?	Y		
9.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?	Y		
9.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?	Y		
9.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?	Y		
9.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?	Y		
9.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?	Y		

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:

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

SAMPLING OF TAUGHT MASTER'S DISSERTATIONS BY EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

External Examiners shall be expected to see prescribed numbers and ranges of Dissertations, but not to mark them, on the following basis:

At least 10% of Dissertations for a postgraduate taught Master's Programme, or a minimum of 10 (whichever is the higher figure) must be seen by the External Examiner(s). Where the total number is less than 10, all Dissertations must be seen by the External Examiner(s) #.

Dissertations seen by External Examiners should include examples from across the whole range of achievement (i.e. Pass with Distinction, Pass, Fail).

External Examiners will retain the right to see other Dissertations at random.

Where more than one External Examiner is appointed on a Programme, at least 10% of Dissertations, or a minimum of 10 (whichever is the higher figure), should be seen collectively by the External Examiners.