

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:	Carmen Ramos Villar		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Sheffield		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report	Portuguese <i>BA in Portuguese (all joint honours programmes)</i>		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2015/16	Date of Report:	15/07/2016

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

This is a new programme, in its second year. It functions really well, and enables the students to flourish and develop critical skills as the same time as they deepen their knowledge of the Portuguese-speaking world in an impressive way.

It is clear that there is a lot of investment and support given to this new programme, which is praiseworthy, especially in these times where Universities are curtailing their language provision. If it continues recruiting as I think it will, investment needs to be made on perhaps another member of staff to aid the teaching at all levels. This will also help with teaching provision when the academic member of staff goes on research leave.

2. Academic Standards

The academic rigour of the teaching and marking is exemplary, and the course content is very innovative, yet still ensuring that the traditional aspects of the discipline are covered. It is clear that the tutors have the best interests of the students at heart, and go out of their way to help them progress. A couple of students performed better than some of my final year students, which is testament to their linguistic skills as well as the quality of teaching.

3. The Assessment Process

The best way to describe this is "kind"; the language papers enable students to effectively show mastery of the language, and the level of difficulty is very

appropriate. The topics chosen for the language papers are really interesting, and enable the student to approach them creatively. The format of the oral exam is really innovative. The culture/literature modules are very generous in providing a course pack that aids the candidate to achieving the assessment goals of using critical theory to support the essay's answer.

Overall, the marking is fair and quite generous, and it is impressive to see how the assessment aligns closely with the learning objectives.

One thing to consider for the future, though, is whether all the scripts need to be second marked. As student numbers in Portuguese increase, and taking into consideration the workload of individual members of staff, it might not be practical to second mark all the scripts.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

N/A

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

N/A

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

I really liked the very descriptive marking scheme, which provided useful descriptions within the different class marks, enabling a more nuanced marking practise. I also really liked the feedback sheet for the spoken language exams, particularly the section where the student is referred to the support services if the examiner identifies a learning need. I will be adapting this feedback sheet for my language courses.

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

N/A

8. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

N/A

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?	X		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?		X	
Draft Examination Question Papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	X		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	X		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	X		
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?	X		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	X		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	X		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	X		
9.10	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				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	X		
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	X		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	X		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	X		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			X
Sampling of Work				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	X		
Examining Board Meeting				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?		X	
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?			X
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?	X		
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?		X	
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			X
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			X
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				
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?			X
9.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?			X
9.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?			X
9.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?			X
9.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?			X
9.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?			X
9.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?			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:

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.