



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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|---|---|-----------------|--------------|
| | For completion by External Examiner: | | |
| Name of External Examiner: | Professor Bill Roche | | |
| Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner: | School of Business, University College Dublin | | |
| Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report: | MSc International Management | | |
| Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report: | 2013-2014 | Date of Report: | 23 June 2014 |

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 a very cleverly conceived programme that draws on a number of academic areas in the School of Business and that includes both functional modules, covering a range of areas of management, and modules that deal with the conduct of management in major regions of the global economy. I am confident that graduates of the programme will possess the kind of knowledge and skills that will make them attractive as recruits for international firms. As it was the first year of the programme it is to be expected that there would be some settling down but nothing that compromised the quality of the programme or the validity of the assessment process.

2. Academic Standards

Academic standards were exemplary and reflected the research-led education provided by members of the programme team. Marking was rigorous and consistent. The best students were outstanding and the overall standard was high.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment process was very satisfactory, with a good mix of examinations and coursework assignments – both individual and group. Marking was rigorous and consistent. While considerable and appropriate variation in marking was evident in individual components of assessment

sampled, composite module and overall programme marks seemed somewhat compressed. This was discussed at the Examination Board meeting. I am satisfied that the overall validity of the marking was not materially affected and the issue will be covered in the report of the Examination Board to guide practice for next year.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

N/A.

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

Information was provided on programme structure and assessment.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

There were some excellent examples of detailed feedback for students on module coursework. The provision of modules on regional business systems was a particular highlight of the programme. There were some innovative group and individual coursework assignments. Details of these were given at the Examination Board meeting.

I believe that there is scope for more variety in assessment formats, in particular through greater use of problem-focused and case-based examination questions and coursework assignments.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

There was clear evidence in discussion with members of the programme team of plans for developing the programme, based on experience in its first year.

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? | | | NA |
| Draft Examination Question Papers | | | | |
| 8.3 | Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award? | 4 papers approved | | |
| 8.4 | Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate? | Y | | |
| 8.5 | Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments? | Y | | |
| 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? | | | NA |
| 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? | | | NA |
| 8.21 | If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees? | | | NA |
| 8.22 | Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules? | | | NA |

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