



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

The completion of this Report is supported by *Annual Report Form – Guidance to External Examiners*. The Guidance and this Form are available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/ifs/exex/rep/index.html>. Fee information and claim forms are available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/ifs/exex/fees/index.html>.

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Sally McClean		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Ulster		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	MSc in Operational Research and Applied Statistics/Operational Research, Applied Statistics and Risk		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2012-2013	Date of Report:	8 July 2013

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 programme is structured into a number of core (30 credits) and optional (10 credit) modules. A project is then completed over the summer. The core modules cover basic material, including underpinning theoretical and conceptual aspects as well as key skills such as communication and statistical software. The options allow the students to explore a number of different areas. This structure and content are well suited to the aims, and learning outcomes of the programme, including a nice combination of practice, theory applications and research-led material. I particularly like the communications module (MAT003) which contained a god combination of team work, exploration, presentation skills and application/research-led topics.

2. Academic Standards

The standard of papers was very comparable with similar programmes elsewhere. The students performed extremely well with some excellent work included in both the coursework and the examinations.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment methods were very fair and typical of a programme of this kind. I was provided with exam papers and solutions well in advance in both semesters, all of which were prepared to a very high standard. Also I was provided with very clear and comprehensive documentation for the exam board. The marking classification, overall conduct and fairness were excellent and the staff behaved in an exemplary

manner at all times. Overall, I continue to be very impressed with the thoroughness and professionalism of the course team.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

The standard of the examining and the students' work continues to be excellent. Overall this is an exemplary course.

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

NA

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

I thought the group work, whereby the students worked together on a real problem at the start of the programme and the subsequent display of the results in the form of a poster was particularly noteworthy.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

NA

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?	Y		
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?		N	
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