



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Arija Parker		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Central Lancashire		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) - Children's Nursing		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2012/13	Date of Report:	22/08/13

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

The structure and content of the Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) Programme Cardiff Nursing Futures Curriculum reflects professional body requirements (Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as well as the academic requirements from a HEI perspective. The Year 1 (level 4) outcomes are broadly similar to other nursing programmes in the UK whilst also having a unique Cardiff perspective (see comments on assessment below).

My only minor concern with the modules and assessment has been around the issue of the field specific focus where, as the child field examiner, it would be useful to be able to track the progress of child field students more closely. This will become increasingly important as the students' progress to year 2 in light of the issue of due regard from a professional NMC perspective. What is positive spin on this is that it has been really useful to review work across the whole cohort (child, adult and mental health), which I have not had the opportunity to do in previous external examining post. This allows me to see how child field students are learning and performing in relation to their peers in other fields. The place of shared learning across all fields is not under question though the uniqueness of caring for children and families should also be visible in the programme as a whole. I have no problems with a generic Year 1 though I should expect to see more of a focus on the child and family in years 2 & 3 of the programme no doubt. I have discussed the issue with the child field team and have been reassured that there is some child focused teaching and activity in Year 1 of the programme to meet the 50% field focus on NR1014: Safe practice in essential and field specific care. Students are also demonstrating

field focus in their assignment work, particularly in the health promotion related one (NR1012).

2. Academic Standards

The programme maintains threshold academic standards in relation to benchmark statements and the standards are comparable with other UK HEI's. As mentioned in module reports the standards set reflect the recruitment of high calibre students who are not only performing well academically, but are also developing competence in practice (as evidenced via reflections collected in practice settings).

3. The Assessment Process

The assessments for the Year 1 programme are varied and interesting both for students as well as the marking team on individual modules. This is the first time this curriculum has run and, alongside the rigorous marking and moderating process, there has been clear discussion within the module team (with consultation with external examiner) in relation to how to fine tune and modify (and minor change) the assessment workload, where it is clear that assessment and marking workload is too heavy or not well aligned i.e. the 2 part assessment on NR111 (poster and report).

This is the first time I have reviewed work electronically using GradeMark though have found it easy to use and students, for the most part, are receiving detailed and useful feedback that should help them develop their work into the next year of the programme. Any queries and concerns I and other external examiners have raised are clearly discussed and addressed in the examination boards.

Marking criteria are set at the appropriate level and student performance (marks awarded and feedback) are comparable with other nursing programmes.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

This is my first year of appointment

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

The induction event attended was very useful and offered me a good overview of the course as well as introduction to the course team. The support from the admin and course team has been excellent.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

The variety of assessments i.e. written assignments, group presentations, production of leaflets/ posters and reflections on practice ensure that students are prepared for all the challenges that a degree course in nursing will present, as well as the development of key/ transferrable skills that are essential to develop at this early stage of the course i.e. group/ team working, IT skills, communication skills as well as literacy skills.

The work of students on the health promotion module enabled me to get a real feel of the patients/ clients students are engaging with in the Cardiff area. Never have I had the opportunity to get to know the demographics and epidemiology of a

geographical area so well before as an external examiner – this must really help the students who are not from the Cardiff area also and can only improve the service user experience also when working with student nurses.

The use of Grademark and online marking in general as well as the quality of feedback to students is considered noteworthy. I hope to meet some students on clinical visits in the coming academic year and hope that my perspective will be confirmed by the student groups.

The service user focus in the practice documents is also noteworthy. It is so useful for students to get feedback and constructive advice direct from patient/ client.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

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?	Y		
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?			N/A
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			N/A
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			N/A
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?			N/A
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			N/A
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			N/A
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			N/A
8.10	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				
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?			N/A
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/A
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			N/A

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