



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report via the Cardiff University Intranet [here](#) and from ExternalExaminers@cardiff.ac.uk.

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Pete Twigg		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Bradford		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	BEng/MEng in Medical Engineering		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2016/17	Date of Report:	11/7/17

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the **taught stage** Examining Board in the case of **postgraduate Master's programmes**).

Please note this form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

Please extend spaces where necessary.

1. Programme Structure (curriculum design, programme structure and level, methods of teaching and learning)

The curriculum design is good, with an interdisciplinary approach to the subject area and the majority of application-specific modules in the third and fourth years. MEng students were particularly impressed with their fourth year syllabus and the amount of practical work they were doing.

There is currently a transition to 20 credit modules, which is a common move across the sector. Students raised concerns about this change removing semester 1 assessments, which they saw as an essential "wake-up call". The proposed 10% tests at the end of the autumn term may meet this requirement.

I will be interested to see the results of implementing the routine recording of teaching sessions and attendance monitoring.

2. Academic Standards (comparability with other UK HEIs, achievement of students, any PSRB requirements)

Academic standards are high and decisions are made in the interests of students, even when those may be administratively difficult e.g. changes to programmes when repeating. The course is accredited by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and

their requirements were considered at the Board of Examiners. The proportion of good honours degrees awarded was in line with the achievements of the students.

3. The Assessment Process (enabling achievement of aims and learning outcomes; stretch of assessment; comparability of standards between modules of the same level)

The processes at the Board of Examiners were scrupulously fair and conducted to a high standard. One area that was not transparent to me was the policy of considering adjusting marks where the average for a module lies outside the range 45-65%. It is not clear to me what the mechanism is for this adjustment. This may be because I am used to a system with a separate assessment committee to moderate and agree marks prior to the Board of Examiners.

When reviewing the exam scripts, most packs of scripts did not contain question papers, which limited the value of the exercise.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

[Previous External Examiner Reports are available from the Cardiff University Website [here](#).]

I was pleased to see how positive the out-going external examiner was about the course and the department. In his last report there was a recommendation of secession planning for the programme director handover. I am glad to see this has been done and look forward to working with the new programme lead in future.

5. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only) (appropriateness of briefing provided, visits to School, programme handbooks and supporting information)

I was well briefed by the outgoing programme lead, [REDACTED] and would like to thank him for his generous support of my new external examiner role. I also received great support from the administrative and academic staff of the department. My visit for the first semester Board was an excellent introduction to the department and my meeting with students was very valuable.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement (good and innovative practice in learning, teaching and assessment; opportunities for enhancement of learning opportunities)

Students were particularly impressed with the Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering group project in the MEng fourth year. This gave them an opportunity to tackle a real world issue in a substantive way and to adopt the sort of working practices they may need in graduate employment.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only) (significant changes in standards, programme/discipline developments, implementation of recommendations, further areas of work)

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?	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?			N/A
Sampling of Work				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining Board Meeting				
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?			
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				
8.23	Did you receive a sufficient number of Dissertations to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?			N/A
8.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?			
8.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?			
8.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?			
8.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?			
8.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?			
8.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?			
8.30	Comments on the Examination of Master's Dissertations. <i>Please provide any comments you may wish to make on the issues raised above.</i>			

Please return this Report, **in a Microsoft Word format**, by email to:
externalexaminers@cardiff.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