

EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report and are available at:

<https://intranet.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/teaching-and-supporting-students/exams-and-assessment/exam-boards-and-external-examiners/for-current-external-examiners/external-examiners-reports>

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr MARIE-MARTHE GERVAIS - le GARFF		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Former Head of Languages at Plymouth University, currently Language Consultant for the Chartered Institute of Linguists.		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report	LEARN Diploma in Higher Education		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2018/2019	Date of Report:	November 2019

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

- The programme remains modular and offers an interesting mix of language and culture modules at Level 5. The programme is characterised by its flexibility: students have a maximum of 10 years to complete the Diploma, which is particularly appropriate for adult learners interested in a part-time course.
- Another aspect of this flexibility is that students now have the possibility of doing 60 credits in one language and 60 credits in another language of their choice.
- More flexibility was introduced last year: students now only need to complete one core language module, i.e. only G or H and no longer both G and H.
- Students need 120 credits at Level 5 completed in pre-defined 60 credit study blocks to be awarded the Diploma of Higher Education. Currently the following areas offer 60 credit blocks: computing and languages.
- Furthermore 60 credits in specific modules, at level 4, constitute a Pathway to a degree in Modern Languages or Translation programme in the School of Modern Languages at Cardiff University. This Pathway is equivalent to 50% of the first year of a degree and the four

languages students can choose from are: French, German, Italian and Spanish.

2. Academic Standards

- Quality assurance mechanisms are in place involving both internal and external moderation. There is one Modern Language External Examiner who oversees all the languages and who attends the July Subject Board of Examiners where marks are confirmed.
- There is clear evidence of work pitched at level 5, judging from the small samples made available to me for inspection prior to the Award Board on 8th November 2019, reflecting the fact that all culture modules are taught by native speakers in the students' target language.

3. The Assessment Process

- An excellent benchmarking of language levels against the Common European Framework of Reference is in place.
- The Award Board in November 2019 was conducted fairly and examination board processes were adhered to.

3. Year-on-Year Comments

- Only 5 diplomas were awarded this year: 4 in Italian and 1 in French. It was pleasing to see that all the students awarded a DHE obtained high marks; 5 Distinctions were awarded across the board and two students in Italian were awarded the annual prize for the *Best performance Diploma in Higher Education- Languages*, having obtained marks in the 90's.
- The Diploma of Higher Education remains a most valuable asset for the University and the local community. The January 2018 Periodic Review increased the flexibility offered to students by allowing them to opt for a Culture Module instead of a G or H (Language Modules), given the fact that Modules G and H cannot be offered simultaneously every year.

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

NA, never invited.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

- Some of the courses prepare for other qualifications such as the DELF B2-DALF C1 (French), CILS (Italian), DELE (Spanish) and Goethe Zertifikat (German).
- Students who may wish to continue studying languages after completing their Diploma have the opportunity to enrol on online courses to prepare for the examinations set by the Chartered Institute of Linguists for the postgraduate Diploma in Translation.
- There is a very wide range of culture modules- ALL taught in the target language by native speakers of the language – as are all language modules too.
- From 2017 three classifications were attached to the Award: Distinction, Merit and Pass. The introduction of a Merit grade reflects more accurately the achievement of each student than merely Pass and Distinction grades.
- The strengths of these Culture Modules at advanced level (Level 5) is due to the fact that they are taught in the target language by native speakers of the language and also to the small class sizes: a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 students per group.
- It is impressive to see that all levels between stages A and H are currently offered in the four main European languages (French, German, Italian and Spanish. A total of 12 languages are on offer, including Japanese which is very successful.

• **Comments on the Examination of Master’s Dissertations (External Examiners for postgraduate Master’s Programmes only, see also 9.23-9.29 below)**

NA

8. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

NA

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?	Y		
9.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?			NA
Draft Examination Question Papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?			NA
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			NA
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			NA

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
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?			NA
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			NA
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			NA
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			NA
9.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			NA
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?			NA
9.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	Y		
9.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	Y		
9.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	Y		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
9.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			NA
Sampling of Work				
9.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining Board Meeting				
9.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y		
9.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	Y		
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?	Y		
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?			NA
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			NA
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			NA
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
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?			NA
9.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?			NA
9.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?			NA
9.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?			NA
9.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?			NA
9.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?			NA
9.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?			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:

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.