



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Professor Stephen Rippon		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Exeter		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	Archaeology MA		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2013/14	Date of Report:	25/06/14

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

Fine.

2. Academic Standards

Overall, I am happy that the academic standards applied in Archaeology at Cardiff are appropriate, although I note an issue with a core module below (the issue actually lay outside Archaeology).

3. The Assessment Process

I am happy with the rigor of the assessment processes, and thank the Department for ensuring that the administrative processes ran smoothly. Some bundles of assignments came with the module guide and the second marker/moderators coversheet which was extremely helpful. It would have been useful to have the module guide in all cases. I found the marking process extremely thorough.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

HST900 MA Core Skills

This was apparently a new module. The module documentation was very clear, the methods of assessment appear appropriate, and the analysis of the spread of marks (histogram and table) are an extremely useful exercise for a new module of this nature (taught/moderated by a large number of staff). There were two assessments:

1. PRESENTATIONS

- a. The documentation associated with the marking is mostly very thorough although in some cases there is only one marker's form: it is important that two markers are involved and that this is documented.
- b. Although the marking grid is used in all cases by both markers, it appears that the two markers have not given separate marks that have then been reconciled, but simply an agreed mark. I don't have a major problem with this, but the marking process would be more transparent if separate marks were given and then agreed.
- c. The marker's comments/grid scoring, and the copies of the powerpoint presentations all appear to be consistent with the marks, which therefore appear fair.

2. RESEARCH PROPOSALS

- a. The paperwork is in good order and the markers have given separate marks which are then reconciled.
- b. I was asked to comment specifically on three scripts from the MA Islam. I agreed that these appear to have been marked harshly (eg on one script the marker states that the Introduction is 'hard to understand', but it was perfectly clear to me!).
- c. This clearly demonstrates the importance of moderation, and that it has worked very well in case: the moderator has done an excellent job.

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

n/a

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

HST900 Module Guide was very clear.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

n/a

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?			
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			
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?			
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			
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?		N	
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?			
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?			
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?			
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			

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