



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Charlie Laughton		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Nottingham		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	MPharm		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014-15	Date of Report:	18/8/15

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

Using a fairly conventional discipline-specific module structure, and subject to, and satisfying, the requirements of the GPhC, the staff at Cardiff seem to me to have produced a rigorous, challenging, and satisfying MPharm degree programme. One small niggle – the title of Ph3101 (Optimisation of Drug Design) does not really seem to adequately capture the module content.

2. Academic Standards

On the basis of the extensive sample of student work and assessment that I examined, I conclude that academic standards at Cardiff are high, student achievement is generally good and is graded comparably to equivalent performance at my own institution.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment process is rigorous and contains appropriate checks and balances to ensure standards are applied consistently. Evidence for this comes particularly from the close comparability between performance of the Cardiff-based and Taylor's-based students in Ph2112/7112.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

I was pleased to see further increases in the consistency with which student exam work is marked up by assessors. This is an important tool for ensuring consistency and accuracy in assessment.

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

n/a

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

Two modules within my remit included particularly noteworthy elements. Firstly Ph3101's assessment strategy involving a paper containing four questions from a 'pre-seen' list of eleven possibilities released in advance to the students. This permits and encourages students to demonstrate an ability to undertake deeper and wider study of the subject in advance, makes it very clear what the aims and objectives of the assessment are, and allows all the exam time to be used for question answering, not (maybe rushed) essay planning. Secondly the Research Methodology module (Ph3202) features some particularly well-designed and appropriate group work activity. I was pleased to hear that in the future this may be extended to include elements of peer assessment.

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?	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				

		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