



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

The completion of this Report is supported by *Annual Report Form – Guidance to External Examiners*. The Guidance and this Form are available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/ifs/exex/rep/index.html>. Fee information and claim forms are available at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/ifs/exex/fees/index.html>.

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Michael Higgins		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	BA in Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies / Journalism and Culture / Journalism and Communications / Media and Communications <i>UG Programmes in JOMEC</i>		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2015-16	Date of Report:	7 July 2016

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 teaching and management team have complete mastery of the programme structure. Rigour and student choice are both central, and the development of the new range of undergraduate programmes is timely and innovative.

2. Academic Standards

Overall, the quality of work continues to be very high and in keeping with the standards of an internationally-leading institution.

3. The Assessment Process

Moderation is carried out scrupulously, and this affirms confidence in the quality and consistency of the original marking. The level of detail and engagement in moderation comments show an impressive level of staff commitment to the quality of process.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

Last year I noted that assessments at the higher end could be better rewarded, where the quality exceeds all reasonable expectations. I am pleased to acknowledge that there is continuing progress in using the full range of marks.

Individual comments to class convenors have also been taken on board, for which I am grateful.

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

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

As well as emphasising again the quality of teaching and assessment overall, there are a number of aspects of good practice I'd like to draw attention to:

It is worth commending the productive and appropriately-measured use of social media through a number of classes. MC3595 also uses a combination of Twitter and Storify to ensure that any relevant threads or discussions are available to all students, irrespective of their willingness to sign up to social media sites.

My access to a number of classes included details of module evaluations from students – most notably MC3619 and MC3589 – and while I am reluctant to require this of all classes and prefer that it be left to individual convenors, it does provide a useful and reassuring insight into the quality of the student experience.

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?	x		
8.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?			x
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	x		
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	x		
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	x		
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?	x		
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	x		
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	x		
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	x		
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	x		
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
8.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	x		
8.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	x		
8.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	x		
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	x		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			x
Sampling of Work				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	x		
Examining Board Meeting				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
8.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	x		
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	x		
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?	x		
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?		x	
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			x
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			x

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