

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

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Helen Osborn		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Reading		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	MPharm (Medicinal Chemistry)		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2018-19	Date of Report:	26.6.19

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the dissertation 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 General Data Protection Regulation (2018).

Please extend spaces where necessary.

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

The programme is very well designed and covers a broad range of subject areas of relevance to the Pharmacy profession. Subject areas are taught in context ensuring that students have opportunities to appreciate the relevance of material they are learning, and can consolidate and apply subject specific skills. A wide range of teaching methods is used including lectures, workshops, practical classes, OSCEs and group work. These provide excellent opportunities for students to develop a broad range of subject specific and generic skills and these are developed further through appropriate placement and inter-professional education opportunities. All students have an opportunity to conduct a research project in their fourth year, and a range of interesting lab and non-lab projects are available. Students are extremely well supported through the provision of state-of-the-art lecture capture facilities.

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

From the material that I have scrutinised for PH2112, PH3101, PH4116 and PH4117, I believe that the standards are comparable with those at other Schools of Pharmacy and are wholly appropriate. The programme is also fully accredited by the GPhC.

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

A wide range of assessment methods is used, and assessments are well balanced and purposeful. For example the use of OSCEs is well developed and utilised, and examinations include a range of descriptive and problem solving exercises. In the fourth year the students develop a range of oral and written communication skills that are appropriate for the 4th year of their programme. For example they participate in a poster showcase event and also prepare a dissertation based on their final year research project. It is evident from coursework and examination marks that the assessments are appropriate for distinguishing students of differing abilities, and that there are similar standards between modules of the same level. The detailed and appropriate marking schemes for assessing the poster and written report associated with the final year research project are particularly robust.

4. Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable) (sample of dissertations received, appropriateness of marking schemes, standard of internal marking, classification of awards)

Fourth year dissertations for the whole cohort were available to scrutinise, along with marking schemes. Examples of feedback were also provided, both for the final submitted dissertation and for the draft that is prepared ahead of final submission. The projects were at an appropriate level for the fourth year of an MPharm programme, and had been marked appropriately.

5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

Responses to my previous report were timely and appropriate.

6. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only) (appropriateness of briefing provided by the programme team and supporting information, visits to School, ability to meet with students, arrangements for accessing work to review)

N/A this year, but a useful recap/briefing session was provided at the beginning of the session.

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

State-of-the-art lecture capture facilities that are used widely within the School.

Feedback on exam performance to students, through the provision of sessions at which students can access their marked exam scripts. This provides an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their strengths and identify areas that require further development ahead of the next academic year. The use of standardised abbreviations that are used by staff during the marking of exams is also to be commended.

Provision of a number of opportunities for students to develop their research skills through the Summer vacation.

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

N/A

9. 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				
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?	Y		
Commenting on draft examination question papers				
9.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	Y		
9.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	Y		
9.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	Y		
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?	Y		
9.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Y		
9.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Y		
9.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	Y		
9.10	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				
9.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	Y		
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?			N/A
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?			N/A
9.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
9.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			N/A

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