

EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Prof David Porter		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	M.Arch(design)		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2016-7	Date of Report:	6/9/2017

Please complete all information in the spaces provided and submit within **six weeks** of the Examining Board (the **taught 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 Data Protection Act (1998).

Please extend spaces where necessary.

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

The new unit 'Verticality, Parametricism & Sustainability' has successfully established itself and the results are creditable. The unit adds greatly to the span of units on offer. It has a strong methodological base and students used this as a stepping stone for exploration opening possibilities beyond the given starting points. This is very encouraging.

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

The academic standards are high, confirming the school's reputation.

In the moderation process we confirmed the high-end marks and it was gratifying to see a good number of first class results. We also checked the low passes. The only moderation made by the panel was to ease one student who was just below the 70% mark to being a clear first.

As a general rule, the stronger students gave primacy to presenting their projects drawing upon their research to strengthen the explanation. The weaker students seemed happier to talk about their research than their projects. This is entirely consistent with architectural education everywhere, and not specific to Cardiff, but is perhaps worthy of some discussion.

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

The assessment process went very smoothly. I was pleased that each unit now has its own learning outcomes. The use of these outcomes in the assessment process helped achieve comparability between units that have every different agendas, methods and outcomes. This meant that the final moderation, in which the panel revisited each unit to check comparability, went quickly and smoothly.

The system of appointing External Assessors, who ensure comparability within each unit, and External Examiners, who visit each unit on a sample basis to ensure the comparability between units is, in my experience, unique and is working extremely well.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

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

All the points I have raised before have been considered.

5. Preparation for the role of External Examiner (for new External Examiners only) (appropriateness of briefing provided, visits to School, programme handbooks and supporting information)

Fine

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

The only changes I would suggest are firstly that the unit-based learning outcomes be consolidated from five to one. I think this would bring further clarity to the assessment process. And secondly, Tuesday demonstrated that the examination process can be conducted in one day and you may want to bear this in mind in the future.

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

Many thanks to you all – Cardiff is an excellent school and it has been a pleasure to have a small involvement over the last four years.

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?			n/a
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			n/a
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?			n/a
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			n/a
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			n/a
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			n/a
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				
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?			n/a
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?			n/a
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			n/a
Examination of Master's Dissertations (if applicable)				
8.23	Did you receive a sufficient number of Dissertations to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	Y		
8.24	Was the sample in accordance with the University's sampling guidelines (guidelines provided below)?	Y		
8.25	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the Internal Examiners?	Y		
8.26	Were you able to attend the Master's Degree (Dissertation) Stage Examining Board?		N	
8.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?			n/a
8.28	Were the schemes for marking and classification correctly applied?	Y		
8.29	Were the standards of the awards recommended appropriate?	y		
8.30	Comments on the Examination of Master's Dissertations. <i>Please provide any comments you may wish to make on the issues raised above.</i>			

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