



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:	David Mason		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Staffordshire University		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	PG Cert/PG Dip/Grad Cert in Experienced/Senior Social Work Practitioner Programme [CPEL Framework]		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2016-2017	Date of Report:	1/9/17

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 programme is guided by detailed documentation from the Care Council of Wales (CCW). The programme is developing year on year, it continues to meet the CPD needs of Social Workers in Wales, and conforms to the requirements of the CCW. It also continues to meet the academic requirements for a programme of study at Masters level (7).

The collaborative work of the four HEIs in Wales, maintains its focus on the CPD needs of Social Workers in Wales, it provides them with opportunities to study by distance learning, or at a local institution.

The Learning material, Tutor support, and feedback within the programme are still available to all in the Welsh language.

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

Academic standards have improved this year, with higher grades and written standards evident across the programme area. This is supported by improvement

of teaching material, guidance, and changes to assessment tasks as a result of moderation and review by the team.

Previous reports have praised consistency of approach in feedback, and this has been maintained this year.

Where standards are not met, students receive a fair grade, and detailed feedback to enable them to improve.

I continue to be impressed by the collegiate approach taken within the programme, given the conflicting priorities and geographical distances separating the academic team.

The programme staff continue to provide all of the support that I need, for which I am grateful.

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

This academic year, I have read 54 pieces of work, and accompanying feedback and moderation reports. The assignment tasks have been reviewed, and changed where necessary, which has led to further improvement in the quality and appropriateness of the assessment requirements.

The assignment tasks reflect the need to allow the student to provide a focus on social work practice, whilst maintaining academic rigour, which, in my opinion, they do.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

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

There have been no concerns raised in previous years, areas where good practice was identified were; quality of feedback, consistency across the 4 HEIs, and moderation.

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)

N/A

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

The first dissertations have been produced this year, and the one that I read was of an excellent standard, the work will add considerably to the body of work in the student's specialist area of practice, and I hope, will help to motivate others to produce excellent work too.

The moderation process is worth of praise here too. I find it to be excellent and goes beyond the minimum required. For a programme such as this, involving 4 HEIs, this goes a long way to ensuring that consistency and high standards are met.

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

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?			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?	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				
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	
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?	Y		
8.27	If so, was the Examining Board conducted properly and in accordance with established procedures?	Y		
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	<p>Comments on the Examination of Master's Dissertations. <i>Please provide any comments you may wish to make on the issues raised above.</i></p> <p>I found feedback to be fair, detailed, and constructive. It comes across as genuine and personable, clearly markers have engaged with the work, and are acknowledging the hard work of the student. I find it positive that markers are sharing their initial marks, as well as agreed final mark.</p>			

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