



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	CJ Lim		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	The Bartlett, University College London (UCL)		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	BSc Architecture RIBA Part 1		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014 - 2015	Date of Report:	25 June 2015

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 course is well organised. The unit system is a good teaching and learning framework for the school, and presents an opportunity for academic and creative diversity.

2. Academic Standards

The academic standards set by the University are appropriate. The academic achievements demonstrated by the students against the national standards at the same level are solid.

I had the opportunity to examine a broad range of students. There were a small handful of portfolios of distinction and the work was crafted with rigour and intelligence – the students were also articulate. However, the lower passes are uninspired and the students showed little creative aspiration. The school should consider lifting the bar of the bottom pass.

3. The Assessment Process

The external examining process was much improved from previous year – there were opportunities to engage in fruitful discussions with internal examiners. In all cases, we came to satisfactory consensus of the final marks. All students were interviewed.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

The (Issues of Contemporary Architecture) written work is still an issue of concern as with previous year. The subject matter of the samples I read were not uninteresting but lacked focus. The weaker work were mere descriptions without any critical thinking and contextual positioning. The marks seemed 5% - 8% too generous in all mark bands.

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

N/A

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

My recommendations are similar to previous year:

- A more holistic integration of design, history & theory and technology in the BSc RIBA Part 1 course. This will improve the level of critical thinking and should strengthened the design development and final design output.
- A stronger synthesis of context and programme would strengthen the projects, and questions the appropriateness of design briefs.
- Finesses in spatial planning. I did not see many well-designed pieces of architecture this year. In general, students did not demonstrate confidence in their spatial planning/ plans/sections.
- Greater emphasis should be placed in design development through physical models.
- Discriminate use of renders and photoshop images.

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?			N/A
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?		N	
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?			N/A
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?		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?	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?			
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			

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