



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	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 Subjects Covered by this Report:	M.Arch		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014-5	Date of Report:	<i>Received 22 June 2015</i>

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 programme is arranged in a way that is unusual for UK architectural education, with the first year of the masters spent largely in practice and with some course work undertaken in parallel. Talking to students and staff it seemed that there is an opportunity to revisit the ambitions of the two years of study and arrive at a more integrated approach. It appears that the professional requirements (the ARB/RIBA Criteria) are being delivered in both years of study, when delivery in one would suffice. There is scope here to rethink and rebalance in a way that further enhances the programme.

2. Academic Standards

The academic standards are high.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment process is very thorough and rigorous. However, an opportunity is being missed by not having the 'unit leaders' more involved in the marking of each other's units – that is an ideal way for staff to learn from each and of sharing an overview of the course as a whole.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

A 'unit system' has been introduced into the final masters year giving students a choice of tutor and topic. The Units are small in size and there is perhaps an opportunity for amalgamation? The groups would still not be large, but there might be a greater diversity of personalities and approaches.

Last year there was talk of how the project work in the final year should span from 'strategy to detail' – this sounds to me like a very sound approach. I think it would be useful to look closely at what 'detail' might mean. I think it means more than just construction details, but in the students ability to test general and strategic ideas through detailed resolution. With this in mind, I thought that the projects that students set for themselves were often a little too large for them to get to any detailed exploration and testing of the proposition. For example, some of the social ideas, which were commendable, tended to remain very general. It would have been good to see them confronted through the design of a particular social space where the general social/political ambition could be manifest in a tangible place.

Next year it would be good to get a quick over-view of the undergraduate programme to place the masters course in its progression.

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

N/A.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

This is a good school and being recognised as such. I don't think there is any particular 'practice' that is the cause of this, but a combination of bright students, a diverse team of accomplished teachers, a good location and atmosphere.

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?	Y		
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?			NA
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?			NA
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			NA
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?			NA
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?			NA
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?			NA
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?			NA
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?			NA
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?			NA
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?			NA
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?			NA
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			NA
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			NA

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