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Cardiff University

McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Wales UK

Tel please see below
Fax +44(0)29 2087 4130

www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd

Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Cymru Y Deyrnas Unedig

Ffôn gweler isod
Ffacs +44(0)29 2087 4130

www.caerdydd.ac.uk

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Prof. Pieter de Wilde		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Plymouth		
Programme and / or Modules Covered by this Report	Msc Environmental Design of Buildings		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2019/20	Date of Report:	24/02/2021

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 return this Report, in a **Microsoft Word format**, by email to: externalexaminers@cardiff.ac.uk.

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 being reviewed in this report is the MSc Environmental Design of Buildings (EDB) at the Cardiff University- Welsh School of Architecture. The programme is offered as full time, part time and as distance learning mode. It consists of 8 taught modules plus 1 dissertation module. Out of the 8 taught modules, 3 are specific to EDB; the other 5 are shared with the MSc Sustainable Mega Buildings (MEGA) and Advanced Building Performance Evaluation (BDEEP). The programme structure is well-established. The external examiner has not been made aware of any further changes.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown delivery of the programme has been online. Similarly, it was not possible to make a visit to Cardiff to undertake the regular review of the course with face-to-face meetings; however material was made available online.

I can confirm that the actions taken in relation the Covid-19 situation have been appropriate have protected the academic standards of the programme and have allowed students to achieve their programme level learning outcomes

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

The academic standards for EDB (as well as MEGA and BDEEP) are high and fully comparable with other MSc countries across the UK. All modules at least have a sample of the work moderated by a second member of staff; other modules are double marked.

Through Learning Central I was able to check progress of your students, and the material produced. Overall it is my impression that the work is on the same level as what I have seen in the past years. The marks and feedback I have seen are also on a par with past experience. It seems to me that your staff and students have been coping well with the Covid-19 lockdown, and have managed to still complete the projects you were involved with. I reviewed a selection of the material provided, ensuring to see a spread of marks that covers all failed attempts, some work in the middle of the range, and some work at the high end. I am satisfied that all marking was fair and that the reason why these marks were achieved was in line with the feedback provided to students.

I feel that the Safety Net Policy has been applied appropriately and that the student award classification reflects their academic attainment.

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

Overall marks provided were clearly based on a transparent assessment process, with good feedback to the students and signposting of where additional marks could have been earned.

In spite of the online learning situation, I felt that students still were tested for module learning outcomes. Students continued to be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes as a result of the variations. Assessments continued to be conducted with care and due diligence to ensure that students were not academically disadvantaged as a result of the variations.

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

As my term as External Examiner ended in summer, I did not review any dissertations this year.

5. Year-on-Year Comments

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

Overall the MSc Environmental Design of Buildings is a well-established, smooth running programme.

- 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)

Not applicable

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

Overall the programme runs well; I would suggest to keep things going as they have been. Overall it seems to me that the distance learning mode already available for your programmes has helped you to cope extremely well with the challenging situation and that the change-over to online delivery was smooth.

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

This is my final report. Overall I feel that the MSc Environmental Design of Buildings is a well-delivered, active programme that is delivered by a highly-engaged team. I recommend the staff for running a well-thought, efficient course.

9. Issues for Response

As this is a special case due to Covid-19, I do not feel that there are any special issues that need to be addressed in an institutional response at this point.