



## EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Professor George Brock		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	City University London		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	MA International Journalism		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2012-13	Date of Report:	20.1.14

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

In general, the structure of the International Journalism MA is excellent. I have been involved in a discussion with Journalism staff of the potential confusion for students between “academic” and “practice” dissertations. I am aware that steps are being made to reduce this confusion, but I think there is more still to be done to ensure that neither students nor markers muddle the two ways in which a dissertation can be approached.

### 2. Academic Standards

In general standards are high and well-maintained on this programme. I think that the teaching staff might give some renewed thought to the consistency with which they mark written English and whether the criteria for marking written English are clearly signalled enough. There are some minor variations of treatment between markers in this area. For example, some first markers will annotate each stylistic slip; others will not do so. Given the very occasional high marks for work with some poor language, I would question whether the value of written language competence is made clear enough in all cases.

### 3. The Assessment Process

Assessment seems very thorough and well-conducted.

#### **4. Year-on-Year Comments**

No observations other than at 1 above.

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

N/A

#### **6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement**

I would single out the module “In the Editor’s Chair” for congratulation. The business proposals in this module were of a strikingly high standard. I was only struck by the fact that the highest mark in this module – for an exceptional piece of work – was only 75%.

#### **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)
<b>Programme/Course Information</b>				
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	
<b>Draft Examination Question Papers</b>				
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?			n/a
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?			n/a
<b>Marking Examination Scripts</b>				
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	
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
<b>Coursework and Practical Assessments</b>				
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?			
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	y		
<b>Clinical Examinations (if applicable)</b>				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			n/a
<b>Sampling of Work</b>				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	y		
<b>Examining Board Meeting</b>				

		<b>Yes (Y)</b>	<b>No (N)</b>	<b>N/A (N/A)</b>
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		
<b>Joint Examining Board Meeting (if applicable)</b>				
8.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			n/a
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

Please return this Report, preferably in a Microsoft Word format, by email to:

[ExternalExaminers@cf.ac.uk](mailto: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