



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Guidance notes are available to support the completion of this Report and is available at: Fee information and claim forms are available at:

<http://learning.cf.ac.uk/quality/review/external-examiners/reports/>

	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Professor Marcus Rattray		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	University of Bradford, School of Pharmacy		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report including any dissertation stage reports	MPharm <i>MPharm (Pharmacology)</i>		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014/15	Date of Report:	08/10/15

For completion by External Examiner in the spaces provided. Please extend spaces where necessary. **Please note this Form will be published online and should not make any reference to any individual students or members of staff.**

1. Programme Structure

The MPharm has changed its structure in line with accreditation. The structure is appropriate for the programme, the changes made have retained the strengths and distinctiveness of the programme in Cardiff, including engagement with research. I am confident that the programme will meet all the aims.

2. Academic Standards

Academic standards are high. The standards are equivalent to other institutions offering the MPharm, and a high proportion of student demonstrate excellence. I am confident that all graduates have shown the ability to demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding and knowledge across the disciplines involved in pharmacy, and to integrate this knowledge which will allow them to demonstrate the learning outcomes set by the external regulator.

3. The Assessment Process

The assessment process is rigorous and fair. I have had access to all examination papers, and examples of course work and the marking schemes are applied consistently.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

I continue to be very impressed by the quality of student research, as demonstrated at the poster session in late 2014, thank you for inviting externals to this event. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the students and talk to them about their projects and also the course in general. The event provided confidence that the students are well engaged, knowledgeable and very enthusiastic about their course. The quality of research dissertations was high, and

There have been a number of changes in the course which have altered the way in which information is gathered and presented at examination board. The team were fully on top of this and were able to explain the processes well, adapt to the changes themselves and also ensure that every student was considered fairly. It is clear to me that the students are at the heart of the decisions made by the School.

I am confident that the quality assurance around teaching in the Malaysia partner institution (Taylor University) is robust. It was pleasing to see that many of the Malaysian students who have joined the UK-based cohort have progressed well.

The quality of the course is high, and my external view is that staff have managed the changes in the course well.

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

N/A.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

The involvement of all staff in OSCEs is an excellent innovation, and I note that this has been achieved by staff development and training.

The system for annotation of scripts is excellent.

The continued importance of students as individuals to the staff is commendable.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

It has been interesting to see the changes which have occurred over the programme in the last 4 years. These have been most evident in assessment procedures, for example removing vivas for borderline candidates and changes in the way that the degree classifications are calculated. There have also been major changes in curriculum (driven by external regulator) resulting in increased integration of subjects, and some changes in the scheduling of key activities (e.g. place of final year projects). Each year I have visited the quality, which was already high, has been improved.

The quality of research carried out by students is high, and all students carry out some original research. The School has the interests of the students at heart, and continues to graduate pharmacy students who are fit to practice pharmacy and have had a rich educational experience.

The information around the external examiner visits was excellent, and I have been guided by the staff throughout. I have had the opportunity to ask about every aspect of the course and its assessment, and the staff have been open, helpful and willing to engage in discussions. Thank you for your hospitality. I wish the school continued success.

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?	X		
8.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?	X		
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	X		
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	X		
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	X		
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?	x		
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	X		
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	X		
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	X		
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	X		
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
8.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	X		
8.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	X		
8.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	X		
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?			Not able to judge
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			Not part of my remit
Sampling of Work				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	X		
Examining Board Meeting				
8.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	X		
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	X		
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?	X		
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?		X	
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?		X	
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?		X	

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:

External Examiners, Registry & Academic Services, Cardiff University, McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE