

REPORT COVERSHEET FOR EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Name and Title: Professor Andrew Webster
Email: Andrew.webster@york.ac.uk
Home institution: University of York
Award or subject area examined: MPhil Health, Medicine and Society
Associated University of Cambridge Faculty/Department: History and Philosophy of Science

Please tick the statement which most closely reflects your views of the examinations.

TICK

<p>The standards set for the award(s) or subject area(s) above were appropriate. The processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards were sound and fairly conducted.</p> <p>Any recommendations made are for the purposes of enhancement to the course and its assessment.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The standards set for the award(s) or subject area(s) above were appropriate. The processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards were sound and fairly conducted.</p> <p>HOWEVER, there are some risks to the future assurance of the course and its assessment, as outlined in my recommendations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>There are immediate concerns or risks relating to the standards set for the awards or subject areas above and/or the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards.</p> <p>These require immediate action on behalf of the University to prevent reoccurrence in the next set of examinations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick as appropriate:	Yes	No	N/A
Are you satisfied that you received sufficient programme materials (programme handbooks, regulations, and marking criteria)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you satisfied that you were consulted adequately on draft examination papers, and that the level of questions was appropriate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were you given sufficient opportunity to scrutinise the general standard and consistency of marking of examination scripts and coursework?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have issues raised in previous report(s) been addressed to your satisfaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please return this form, with your full report, to: vcexternalexaminers@admin.cam.ac.uk by July 31st for undergraduate examinations, 1st October for Masters Degrees, and 12th October for resits.

Or: The Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TN.

Please also forward copies to your Chair of Examiners.

NOTES FOR EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Submitting reports to the University

1. All External Examiners are required to submit a written report at the conclusion of their involvement with the examination, and may comment on any aspect of the examination, including the fairness of the assessment and the standards of the candidates for the part of the examination that they are involved with.
2. Reports should be addressed to **the Vice-Chancellor of the University**; payment of the fee and expenses is conditional on receipt of the report.
3. Full guidance on the roles and responsibilities of External Examiners is provided on appointment. It can also be found at: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/education/examiners/external.html. All External Examiners will receive feedback on their full report in line with University policy.

Report structure and content

4. The written report is made available for discussion by the appropriate Faculty or Department concerned with the examination and by the General Board's Education Committee. Reports are usually considered by the senior committees of the relevant Faculties and Departments. These committees include student representatives and reports should therefore be written in a form that avoids discussion of individual candidates by name or candidate number.
5. There is no University standard reporting template, but reports are expected to cover four main areas:
 - the extent to which standards are appropriate for the examination and the qualification;
 - the extent to which standards are comparable with similar programmes in other UK institutions with which you are familiar;
 - the extent to which processes for assessment, and the determination of awards were sound and fairly conducted;
 - any good practice which you feel could be usefully identified for further dissemination.
6. Reports may also include commentary on the following topics, at the discretion of the individual External Examiner:

the examination

- the design, structure and marking of the examination;
- the procedures for assessment, including the basis and rationale for any comparisons of standards made;
- the strengths and weaknesses of the students as a cohort;
- whether your role is appropriate for the examination to which you were appointed, including whether or not you had sufficient access to any material needed to make the required judgements;

the course

- the curriculum, its aims, content and development;
- resources as they impact upon student performance;
- the quality of teaching and learning, which may be indicated by student performance.

General points

7. Submitted reports will only be used in accordance with General Board policy (for the monitoring of academic standards within the institution) and in line with current legislation.
8. Consistent with Indicator 4 of the QAA's UK Quality Code (Chapter B7), all External Examiners' reports will be made available, in full, to all students, with the sole exception of any confidential report, made directly and separately to the Vice-Chancellor.
9. The University shall own the copyright in the reports made to them by External Examiners; in accepting the appointment, External Examiners assign all present and future rights relating to the reports and any other materials created in relation to their appointment. External Examiners will also waive any rights including moral rights in connection with those materials.
10. The University will take reasonable endeavours to ensure the accurate reproduction of material and information provided by External Examiners; all other warranties and undertakings are excluded, including liability for direct or indirect loss to an External Examiner.
11. External Examiners are advised that, under the Data Protection Act 1998, the University will process personal information on its External Examiners.
12. External Examiners are also advised that, under the Freedom of Information Act, the University may be obliged to disclose details of their report on request.

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The Vice Chancellor's Office

University of Cambridge

The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TN.

July 6 2018

External Examiner's Report: MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society

This was the first year that this MPhil programme has run and so my first year as External (I have agreed at the recent Board meeting to continue for 2018/19). There was very fair assessment across the whole course, and it was good to see real mixture of assessors drawn on as appropriate from across the contributing disciplines, and very few cases where the same two assessors saw more than one piece of work. This is a good way to build widely-shared assessment culture across the new programme

There was a good range of themes/topics covered in the term time essays that I saw, and the students showed the ability to build their ideas through essays and develop the analytical skills needed for the dissertations. The quality of the writing was generally very good and there was excellent feedback to the students.

The cross-disciplinary aspect of the degree came through in many of the essays and the dissertations, demonstrating that the degree has established a sense of a shared curriculum and assessment norms across the staff, which is commendable in a multidisciplinary programme. Staff had also dealt with strike well by using the higher second essay mark in just three cases where there had been some potential difference in performance.

It is worth remarking that the degree attracts healthy student applications (this year saw 88 for 10 places) and 27 offers are already made for next year. As the degree builds more momentum and more student numbers, it is important for the University to discuss with the Department the staffing complement supporting the course. It seems to me that there will be a need to strengthen the anthropology staffing as well as more administrative support, as these student numbers go up.

This is a novel and successful degree that brings together different disciplines very effectively.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Webster'.

Professor Andrew Webster

External Examiner