

Peer Review Report Dr. Carmen Gordon

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PEER REVIEW REPORT FOR DR. CARMEN GORDON

I am pleased to provide a peer review for Dr. Carmen Gordon, a colleague I have known since 2018. In my estimation, Dr. Gordon is an exceptionally capable and dedicated academic who embodies the highest standards of scholarship in higher education.

Commitment to Excellence

Dr. Gordon consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to quality education and upholds the highest standards of excellence. She has a positive impact on staff and pays special attention to the academic support of her students at the Faculty of Dentistry. Her leadership qualities include sound decision-making, foresight, clarity, quick action, and honesty. She is an excellent organizer, focused, and diligent in any task she undertakes.

Transformative Leadership

Dr. Gordon is a transformative leader and academic developer who has been instrumental in reshaping teaching practices at the Faculty of Dentistry. She is committed to integrating emerging technologies and upholding the highest standards of excellence. Her expertise lies in strengthening the informed use of technologies in learning and teaching, particularly by facilitating active student participation.

As a Year Coordinator, Dr. Gordon provides academic leadership to those working within the BDS programme. She is committed to enabling academic staff to enhance the learning experience of students by developing the multiple academic and digital literacies that inform this. Strengthening the informed use of technologies in learning and teaching is a central feature of her expertise, underpinned by pedagogical rationales that draw on the potential of these technologies to transform learning and teaching, especially by facilitating the active participation of students.

Innovative Initiatives

As a Faculty Teaching Champion, Dr. Gordon's knowledge of contemporary education technologies is unparalleled, setting new standards in instructional design, software development, digital academic literacy, materials development, and research. She has also delivered workshops on blended learning, focusing on key areas such as academic professional development, blended learning design, student academic development, and the digital teaching and learning environment.

Dr. Gordon stays updated with the changing learning and teaching trends in higher education and demonstrates skill in the ever-evolving blended learning approaches, particularly online and clinical assessment. She has served as a supervisor for BDS IV research projects during the DRE 410 course and an MSc student in the Department of Orthodontics. She has also lectured to PDD students in the Department of Paediatric Dentistry on Basic Orthodontics for Dentists.

University teacher

In Dr. Gordon's lectures, there is no room for apathy or boredom. Her demeanour in the class inspires students to explore their creativity while developing a myriad of opportunities for collaboration, all the while exploring problem-solving techniques. The 21st-century skills are firmly embedded in her lectures. Not only is she knowledgeable in her field, but she is also a true educator. As befitting a University teacher,

Dr. Gordon adds immense value to course design and provides expanded learning opportunities to a wide audience of colleagues in the faculty, UWC and across South Africa.

Accolades and Recognition

Dr. Gordon demonstrates a strong commitment to teaching and upholds high standards of excellence. She has proven knowledge of contemporary methodologies by setting new standards in influencing cutting-edge teaching, learning, and assessment practices in the Faculty of Dentistry. Dr. Gordon is one of the teaching role models in the Faculty, influencing change and promoting excellence in teaching. It did not come as a surprise when she received the UWC Emerging Teaching and Learning Excellence Award in 2021 and the Innovation Award during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022.

Research-Informed Practices

Dr. Gordon's practices and strategic decisions are informed by research and vice versa. As an undergraduate, postgraduate, and clinical teacher, Dr. Gordon instills credibility and trust in teaching and learning. She is easily accessible, well-informed, and up-to-date with relevant teaching strategies. Her teaching is research-led, and her students are exposed to her research findings and positioned at the forefront through exposure to their field of study – Orthodontic Dentistry. The learning outcomes, as well as the methodologies used, are informed and improved by ongoing research. Her students have come to know her as a lecturer who challenges thinking, fosters debate, and motivates them to engage in rational thinking.

Exceptional Colleague

It is an absolute pleasure to work with Dr. Gordon, not only for her extensive knowledge and skills in education technologies but also for her strong sense of duty, steadfast values, and discipline. She is punctual, positive, enthusiastic, and deeply concerned about improving education standards.

I wish Dr. Gordon all the best with her application and hope she continues to share her skills and knowledge as an academic scholar, enriching the lives of her colleagues. I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. Gordon for the 2024 National University Teaching Excellence Award.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to reach me at slundie@uwc.ac.za or 0832999004.



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