

**INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 -
Master of Architecture (dissertations)**

Dear Dr Campbell,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Welsh School of Architecture in accordance with our approved procedures. I am, therefore, now in a position to respond on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to the main points you had raised.

Issue Highlighted

Your Report raised one issue which has been referred for consideration by the School.

[6, second para] Your observation that “in certain cases the adherence to the writing methodology – within the contextual theoretical formulation followed by case studies – is overly didactic in its discussion of the topic” and related suggestion.

The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

“These are valuable points that speak to the methodological challenges and issues associated with ‘framing’ research and research questions in conceptual and empirical terms. They are issues which we are addressing by endeavouring to beef up the input in the dissertation module.”

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[5] your commendation of the School's induction for, and preparation of, new External Examiners.**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

In order to meet the expectations of the QAA Quality Code, both the External Examiner Annual Report and this Institutional Response will be published on Registry web pages and will be available publically.

The University's provision of the formal Institutional Response is not intended to constrain direct communication between schools and their External Examiners. Schools are encouraged to discuss with their External Examiners any matters of detail raised in their Reports and, more widely, any issues impacting on the quality and standards of awards, including possible changes to programmes.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Dr S L Wiliamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar