

Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2013-2014 - MSc in Human Resource Management, and the MSc in International Management (for 2013/14)

Dear Professor Roche

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Reports.

In accordance with our standard practice, copies of the Reports are being forwarded to the School concerned, who will use their contents to help inform its Annual Review and Enhancement process. The University is pleased to note your positive comments, including:

- a. [1, 2 and 3 of both Reports] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
- b. [4, Report for MSc HRM] your confirmation that the School has responded positively to your previous comment identifying "scope for varying assessment" methodologies.
- c. [6, Report for MSc HRM] your confirmation that the "programme is rigorous, challenging and research-led...[and] outstanding in respect of the service provided to students", including the provision of feedback that "is consistently excellent in its level of detail and in the constructive commentary provided".
- d. [6, Report for MSc IM] your identification of "some excellent examples of detailed feedback for students", of the "provision of modules on regional systems" as a "particular highlight", and of "innovative group and individual coursework assignments".

I will ask the School to note, by copy of this communication, your belief [at 6, second para] on the MSc International Management that "there is scope for more variety in assessment formats, in particular through greater use of problem-focused and case-based examination questions and coursework assignments".

Your Report does not appear to raise any specific issues that require a more detailed response. Accordingly, the School has not been asked to respond formally to the Report.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Dr C B Turner

Director of Student Services and Governance