

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - BN (Foundation Programmes and Adult Branch) - March and September 2010 cohorts - tenure March 2010 to September 2013)

Dear Dr Scammell,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies 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.

Issues Highlighted

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School.

1. [2] your comment that "What is unusual is the number of 3rd and fourth attempts permitted should a student be referred/fail";
2. [4] your indication that the External Examiner "had hoped to meet students at some point during the year but on the date set I was unavailable. No alternative dates were offered."

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

1. *"The academic results for all students who fail their summative assessments at second attempt are considered by the School's Examination Board. A student who has failed a summative assessment at the second attempt and has submitted a verified Extenuating Circumstance that would have adversely affected one of the first two attempts, may be offered a third attempt by the Examination Board, on the strength of their Extenuating Circumstance."*
2. *"Unfortunately, Dr Scammell was unavailable to meet the students on the date set. Following that period of time, the students were on their clinical placements and therefore unable to meet with Dr Scammell. It is acknowledged that further alternative dates could have been offered."*

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.**

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.

Mrs Jill Bedford
Director of Registry and Academic Services