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Sent by email to chausst@westminster.ac.uk

12 January 2018

Dear Professor Chausalet,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2016–2017

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc in Operational Research, Applied Statistics and Financial Risk and the MSc in Operational Research and Applied Statistics

Your Report has been considered by the School 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

1. The criteria for awarding exceptionally high mark to projects.
2. Your recommendation that more justification is given especially for very weak and very outstanding work.
3. A clear justification for the final mark that has been changed through the moderation process.

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

1. This was discussed in the most recent exam board. A criteria-based marking framework for dissertations was circulated last year. This will be updated to include the band 90+, indicating that this should be of publishable quality.

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2. This has been passed on to staff, and the mark sheet updated to remind markers of the need for good feedback.
3. Markers are required to comment on their final agreed mark, and will be reminded of this.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. The hackathon is an exciting feature of the communication module.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we thank you for your continued support of the programme.

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 the University website and will be available to all students and staff.

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,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar