



Academic & Student Support Services  
Academic Registrar Simon Wright LLB  
*Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr*  
*Cofrestrwydd Academaidd Simon Wright LLB*

Cardiff University  
McKenzie House  
30-36 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0DE

Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

*Prifysgol Caerdydd*  
*Tŷ McKenzie*  
*30-36 Heol Casnewydd*  
*Caerdydd CF24 0DE*

**Sent by email to Christopher.parris@anglia.ac.uk**

**09 November 2017**

Dear Dr Parris,

**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 Cancer Biology and Therapeutics.

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.

**Issue Highlighted**

Encouragement for better use of more comprehensive in situ feedback on exam papers and coursework assignments.

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

Whilst some of the assessments had extensive written comments provided (essays, case studies and 'critical evaluation of research paper' and dissertation assessments), others, in particular the three written exams, lacked detailed feedback but rather employed an annotation system that we generally use for the undergraduate students in this School. Given that there are far fewer PGT students than UG students and the greater involvement of other staff in delivering this course, the plan for this current cohort of students is to share the marking workload more widely amongst module staff which will hopefully facilitate provision of more detailed

Cardiff University  
McKenzie House  
30-36 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0DE  
Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

*Prifysgol Caerdydd*  
*Tŷ McKenzie*  
*30-36 Heol Casnewydd*  
*Caerdydd CF24 0DE*  
Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189  
[www.caerdydd.ac.uk](http://www.caerdydd.ac.uk)

feedback on the papers. Students will also be encouraged to view their papers after marking (this was offered this year but was only taken up by those students who had failed their first attempts).

On a related note, the marking scheme for one of the assessments (abstract writing assessment) will be changed to a much more simple and transparent scheme as raised by you at the recent Examining Board meeting.

**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. good balance of basic biology of cancer together with a strong emphasis on therapeutics of cancer and covering the most recent developments in cancer treatment;
3. learning outcomes are well matched to the assessment methods of each module;
4. your particular commendation of Module PHT804 which addresses a weakness in students' skills profile by carefully assessing practical and analytical skills.

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

Cardiff University  
McKenzie House  
30-36 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0DE  
Tel Ffôn I +44(0)29 2087 9189  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

*Prifysgol Caerdydd*  
*Tŷ McKenzie*  
*30-36 Heol Casnewydd*  
*Caerdydd CF24 0DE*  
Tel Ffôn I +44(0)29 2087 9189  
[www.caerdydd.ac.uk](http://www.caerdydd.ac.uk)