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Sent by email to chris.watson@wwmarchitects.co.uk 25 February 2019

Dear Mr Watson,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2017/18

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for the MArch (Design).

Your report has been considered by the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

Issues highlighted in your report:

1. **Programme Structure:** opportunities to improve the course structure and particularly the time available for the thesis project.
2. **The Assessment Process:** Moderation was not attended by the external assessors. This could be reviewed, as external assessors have previously made significant contributions to the moderation process.

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Response provided by the School:

1. The time available to focus on the design thesis project has always been restricted compared to other schools of architecture, due to our unique MArch programme structure with a placement in MArch 1 and a 1 year in the school to focus on research through the dissertation and design thesis. The school has just begun a comprehensive review of the undergraduate curriculum (both BSc and MArch) with a focus to align research, scholarship and teaching where we will take on board this feedback.
2. Design Thesis Moderation was attended by 2 of our MArch External Examiners at the end of 2017-18 (Rachel Sara and John McLaughlin). Chris was unavailable to attend on this day.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. New studios have made a positive contribution to the diversity of the course.

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and 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's [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar