

Sent by email to s.j.parr@soton.ac.uk

08 July 2015

Dear Dr Parr,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2014 – 2015

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BDS in Dentistry (Primary).

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(s) Highlighted:

1. Your comments regarding model answers for ICAs;
2. Observations that examinations rarely scored in excess of 80% and your suggestion that the assessment criteria for this is reviewed;
3. Difficulties recording marks on the Student Information Management System (SIMS)

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

1. The School will provide model answers for ICA papers in future at the time of scrutiny;
2. We take on board the comments with respect to the essay marking criteria and rewarding students at the higher end. We recently amended the mark scheme to add rigour to the process it maybe at the higher end it is too rigorous for level 4 and over the summer we will look at the criteria again in order to address the point made by the External Examiner.
3. The University will work with the School to try to resolve the difficulties associated with the Student Information Management System (SIMS).

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 inclusion of MMIs as part of the admissions process;
3. group feedback sessions for all students for each piece of work;
4. the assessment of professional conduct and knowledge of appropriate professional behaviours from year 1.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your continued support of the programme and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

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 Student Intranet 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