



**Academic & Student Support Services**  
**Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr**  
**Registry**  
**Y Gofrestrfa**  
Academic Registrar Cofrestrydd Academaidd  
Simon Wright LLB(Hons)

**Cardiff University**  
McKenzie House  
30-36 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0DE  
Wales UK  
Tel please see below  
Fax +44(0)29 2087 4130  
www.cardiff.ac.uk

**Prifysgol Caerdydd**  
Tŷ McKenzie  
30-36 Heol Casnewydd  
Caerdydd CF24 0DE  
Cymru Y Deyrnas Unedig  
Ffôn gweler isod  
Ffacs +44(0)29 2087 4130  
www.caerdydd.ac.uk

**Sent by email to [Diana.Cullell@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Diana.Cullell@liverpool.ac.uk)**

**07 February 2020**

Dear Dr Cullell Teixidor,

**Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2018/19**

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for Undergraduate Hispanic Studies (Catalan Language).

Your report has been considered by colleagues in 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](#).

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

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. Candidates produced work of a very high standard and were able to express complex ideas in Catalan through a range of idioms and structures. They showed excellent levels of accuracy in key skills areas.
3. The tutor provided a summary of the main errors incurred by the students after each assignment, which I think is excellent for the learning process and I am sure students appreciated. This is a great idea.
4. The Catalan language tutor has organised multiple cultural activities throughout the year to promote Catalan and ensure that the learning process is enhanced. These are, without a doubt, enriching activities that make a great different to student experience and they greatly enhance learning opportunities.



Registered Charity, no. 1136855  
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## Issues highlighted in your report and response provided by the School:

### 1. **The Assessment Process:**

*ML0269: Introduction to Catalan Language and Culture (Year 2):*

- *Maybe the exam could include a question (in English) on culture since that is part of the module and is not really tested anywhere else in the assessment except for the oral component?*
- *Oral comprehension is not tested in the module, which I think it should be (it is, after all, one of the essential skills in language learning). Maybe it could be one of the in-class tests, or it could be part of a broader 'Lab Exam' that contains both oral comprehension and speaking.*

*ML0362: Catalan Language and Society:*

- *At this level the grammar exercises are not really that necessary, and they could have a lesser weighting. As in the Year 2 module, the exam could include a question (in English) on culture/society since that is an essential part of the module.*
- *The Final year module does not have any in-class tests, and I wonder if this could be reworked. As in year 2, oral comprehension is not tested in the module, so there might be an opportunity here to change this (either as an in-class tests, or as part of a broader 'Lab Exam' that contains both oral comprehension and speaking).*

We will review the assessments in line with the suggestions when the window for changing module descriptors opens.

### 2. **Year on Year comments:** *External Examiner comment on final module marks ending in \*9 was unfairly disregarded by an academic member of staff at the Examining Board.*

We regret that you feel your comments around marks ending in 9 were not given sufficient reflection. Please rest assured that the matter has been considered at length in various exam boards in previous years, as well as in Boards of Studies, and we believe that our current policy of avoiding individual marks ending in 9 is fair. Where module marks end in 9, this is a result of the module calculations which are made after all individual marks have been submitted. We believe that altering marks after this point would advantage some students and disadvantage others. We welcome your concern for our students.

### 3. **Year on Year comments:** *External Examiners have to book their own accommodation.*

The school will book accommodation if requested by the External Examiner.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wright', written in a cursive style.

Mr Simon Wright  
Academic Registrar