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Sent by email to anita.atwal@brunel.ac.uk

30 November 2016

Dear Dr Atwal,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2015–2016

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc/PgDip in Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) / MSc in Occupation & Health (dissertation stage) / MSc in Occupational Therapy.

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 need to separate Wales policy from the UK in the curriculum and to be clear on the "drivers of the Welsh government and what students needs to know about English Policy".
2. The need to ensure that students can manage both qualitative and quantitative data and to ensure that dissertations adopt approaches other than qualitative interviews.
3. Your observation that students who adopted a quantitative approach and or mixed methods dissertation tend to have lower grades.

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

1. This is being dealt with in the PgDip pre-registration by students being clearly given triggers from England, Scotland and Wales which requires them to then differentiate the legislation and policies of the different countries.
2. The research modules include both types of research and students are encouraged to consider using either or both in their own work.
3. The School will ensure that this will be looked at closely during moderation of marks.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. valuable feedback provided to students;
3. Master's students presenting at National Conference;
4. high standard of supervision and student research into new and exciting areas of practice;
5. support received from the administrative team and enthusiasm of the academic staff to discuss new innovations and ideas;
6. wide range of assessment methods employed.

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

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service 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 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

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