

22/10/2014

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - BDS (Final)

Dear Professor Crean,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the School of Dentistry 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

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

“[4, sixth para] detailed observations and suggestions regarding “seen and unseen cases”, including:

- ***an indication that “it would be helpful if the seen cases could represent an equitable student experience”;***

The School acknowledges that this is work in progress and that changes have been made to the criteria. The case reports are changing and emphasis is on quality, quantifying and reflection.

- ***that it “would also be helpful to see a structured question sheet to ensure comparable assessments”;*** and

The School accepts that as part of the process common questions would be useful as a starting point. However, it is felt that questions cannot be totally structured as it is dependant upon the student in the viva. It is agreed that there could be further guidance and this will be reviewed.

- ***the comment that “the available 10% for discretionary award seems confusing without agreed criteria” and related recommendation.***

The 10% discretionary award is removed for the next academic year.”

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process**
- b. **[1] your commendation of opportunities for “students to work in a “real world” dental service provision environment”;**
- c. **[3, 4 and 6] your support for the “extremely helpful” online examiner training package.**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

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 Registry web pages and will be available publically.

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.

Dr S L Williamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar