

**INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - MSc/PG Diploma/PG Certificate in Medical Education (via e-learning)**

Dear Professor Needham,

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

- 1. [4, first para] in the context of “notable...regular planned module review”, your indication that “Periodic strategic “fit” review of the entire suite of programmes might be worth consideration. Changes in the UK regulation of “trainers” as medical educators may require specific consideration”;**
- 2. [4, second para] your observation that “It is possible that the programme faculty could benefit from some focussed development activity and improved input from contemporary active clinicians”.**

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

1. *“Faculty are well placed to have knowledge and awareness of current changes and regulation of postgraduate medical and dental education nationally due to the programmes being housed within the Postgraduate Deanery. This then feeds into the programmes via module updates each academic session and one module from each stage of the programme has major redevelopment every year. This enables programmes to keep abreast of changes and specific requirements . These programmes have many international students, however, and the content needs to reflect this international perspective. In order to ensure this, students are required to explore educational issues in relation to their own healthcare setting and these are explored within the online discussion fora and applied within each of the assessments. The aims and programme outcomes have been mapped to the GMC requirements for Educational and Clinical Supervisors (based on the Academy of Medical Educators Professional Standards). The programme is accredited by both the Academy of Medical Educators and the UK Higher Education Academy. As part of Cardiff University’s ongoing programme of quality improvement and enhancement, the programmes undergo periodic review where their fitness for purpose is considered.”*

2. *“As indicated above, the faculty are based within the Postgraduate Deanery and, therefore, have daily contact with contemporary, active clinicians. The Contemporary Issues module also allows recent innovations and requirements to be reflected within the content. Attendance by all faculty at both National and International Medical Education conferences afford the opportunity for focussed development activity. The course faculty also consists of individuals with a range of clinical and educational backgrounds some of whom are currently practicing clinicians.”*

Positive Comments

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

- a. [2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the academic standards and assessment process;
- b. [3] your commendation of feedback on submitted materials;
- c. [7] your commendation of the “commitment and unwavering diligence of the programme team”.

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