

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - BSc in Optometry (Yrs 2 & 3)

Dear Dr McKeefry,

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

- "1 The word limit for final year projects is 15,000. This seems a large volume of work for a 20 credit module. Many project write-ups could be improved in their focus by cutting the word limit to 7,000-8,000 words.**
- o Response: this will form an agenda item for the first meeting of the Teaching and Learning Committee in the 2013-14 academic year*
- 2 Module 3205 ; the high mean and relatively low s.d suggest that this paper is not discriminating well.**
- 3 Module 3106; the style of short answer questions were a little too basic for a level 3 module. I would have expected a higher level of understanding to be assessed at this stage**
- o Response: module leaders of these two modules have been informed of the comments from both external examiners. Senior members of staff will work with the module leaders to help them devise the paper for the next academic year. The School holds moderating meetings in January, at which members of staff review all papers. This comment will be flagged at the relevant meeting and attempts made to ensure equity of level across papers."*

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 assurances regarding the Programme Structure, Academic Standards and Assessment Process;**
- b. [6] your highlighting of the style adopted ("using 'real' case records") in one identified examination paper as "an excellent way of assessing clinical analytical skills to a high level".**

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.

Mrs Jill Bedford
Director of Registry and Academic Services