



Academic & Student Support Services
Academic Registrar Simon Wright LLB
Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr
Cofrestrwydd Academaidd Simon Wright LLB

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE

Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE

Sent by email to p.pedarzani@ucl.ac.uk

23 October 2017

Dear Professor Pedarzani,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2016–2017

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BSc in Biomedical Sciences and the BSc in Biomedical Sciences (Intercalated) (Neuroscience, Physiology).

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. Detailed comments on the preparation of students for Developmental Neurobiology, taken in the final year.

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

1. The School agrees with your observations that some supporting material is necessary in Year 2 to help students deal with this module. For the future, this module runs in its current form for one more year. The module team will ensure that students have sufficient support to cope with it in the forthcoming Year 3, and beyond this the design of Years 2 and 3 will ensure that elements of Developmental Neuroscience are suitably integrated between them.

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.caerdydd.ac.uk

Additional comments / observations

The School are currently being supported by their College Education Officer to discuss the challenges the School is experiencing with the suite of reports available to meet the requirements of their Examining Boards. The reports provide a broadly consistent approach across all Schools and limit the potential for error caused by separate School-produced reports. Any additional data requirements requested as part of the available reports will be discussed through this process.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. improved application of marking criteria, making good use of the full mark range;
3. high quality final year projects;
4. the support you have received from the School including excellent advance planning of dates, comprehensive briefing and provision of programme handbooks and relevant supporting information;
5. a fair and robust marking process;
6. very good practice in marking final year projects, with a well-balanced set of components and thorough comments and reports by supervisors and second markers;
7. the opportunity for you to meet students.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we 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 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,



Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Tel Ffôn I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Tel Ffôn I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.caerdydd.ac.uk

Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Tel *Ffôn* I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Tel *Ffôn* I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.caerdydd.ac.uk