



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* I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

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

Sent by email to v.cooper@keele.ac.uk

28 July 2017

Dear Dr Copper,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc/PgDip/PgCert in Medical Education (via e-learning).

Your Report has been considered by the Deanery 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.

Issue Highlighted

Variable student performance in Dissertations.

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

Students at the early stages of the dissertation element of the programme have much support and guidance through the (newly introduced) webinars, online tasks, activities and discussions to help them further develop and refine their research ideas. They then work with their allocated dissertation supervisor to develop their proposal for ethical approval. The dissertation supervisor then supports them through the research and write up process. As the students are healthcare professionals, for their clinical work they have an educational supervisor and also clinical supervisors in their workplace who may be encouraging the student to take a

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

different approach to their research. If the student veers from what has been discussed and agreed with their dissertation supervisor then this may cause them difficulties when they submit. The Programme Team will highlight to students the potential dangers of this during the webinars and discussions online. It will also be addressed within the dissertation guidelines.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. consistency of marking and quality of feedback provided to students are exemplary;
3. introduction of on-line marking of assignments, a benefit to both tutors and students;
4. innovative steps to maximise the collection and use of student feedback, including a new staff/student liaison panel, operating as a webinar;
5. the course enjoys an excellent national and international reputation;
6. the Programme Team's dedication to innovation, continued course development and support for learning, complemented by robust standard setting and assessment.

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. The Deanery and all 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
Academic Registrar