

Academic & Student Support Services
Academic Registrar
Simon Wright LLB
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Cofrestrydd Academaidd
Simon Wright LLB



Sent by email to drscallen@aol.com

04 August 2015

Dear Professor Allen,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2014 – 2015

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc in Ageing, Health & Disease.

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.

Issue(s) Highlighted:

1. The use of MCQs for small numbers of candidates using low numbers of questions.

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

1. We are aware of the difficulties with MCQ examination metrics and the standard setting for a small number of students. The pilot project has demonstrated some of the limitations of this method of assessment for our course.

We met with the Graduate Office on 14 July 2015 (two days after our Exam Board) to discuss the educational value of the MCQs as a method of assessment for our course and it was agreed that the Graduate Office will undertake further reviews including discussions with other Postgraduate Courses before a decision is made regarding introducing the MCQs formally as a summative method of assessment.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. Your positive comments regarding the administration of the course with effective leadership, an efficient manager and enthusiastic board.
3. Your observations that effective arrangements are in place for supervision and advice, and the board has sound procedures for taking into account mitigating circumstances.

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I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your continued support of the programme and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

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 Student Intranet 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,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar