

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - Master of Architecture (Dissertations)

Dear Dr Mallinson,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Welsh School of Architecture 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

Your Report raised one issue which has been referred for consideration by the School.

[1, second para] your detailed observations “about the role of ‘history’ and the part historical interpretation can play in framing and understanding a topic” and related comments.

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

“We are happy to encourage students to draw on social and cultural theory as well as social science methods to explore architecture and architectural issues, and to adopt a critical view of historical research methods. However, this point is well made – that, in the process, there is always a danger that students are unable to become sufficiently familiar with theoretical sources from other disciplines in limited time and/or neglect to ask and address the kinds of research questions that can provide the substantive knowledge necessary to make meaningful interpretations.”

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 positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[7] your very positive concluding remarks.**

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 Wiliamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar