



Academic & Student Support Services
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Sent by email to c.clewley@imperial.ac.uk

19 August 2016

Dear Dr Clewley,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2015–2016

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc Physics (core modules).

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. Further enhancement in the provision of industry projects;
2. Consideration of the implications of increased cohort sizes and the impact on teaching and student support.

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

1. This is a fair assessment. Due to the aggressive time pressure under which the MSc Physics was designed, approved and rolled-out, it was only realistic to be able to offer two external projects this year. I am working with the School Industrial Liaison to rectify the matter. Our upcoming Institute for Compound Semiconductors will in addition provide us with an on-site industrial partnership to leverage.

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2. The School are investigating possible teaching support options, and future MSc programmes will have their own dedicated coordinators.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process
2. The comprehensive marking schemes for modules;
3. The students value the sense of community highly, which is aided by the very interactive style of teaching as well as the facilities offered to the students, such as having their own dedicated space to work in;
- 4.

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,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar