

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - BA in Translation**

Dear Professor Rothwell,

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

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School.

**[3.1] your strong recommendation "that assessors be encouraged to use the full mark range at the top end" related comments and suggestion "that module-specific achievement descriptors for bands of marks at the top end";**  
**[3.2] your related comment recommending consideration of "all module marks ending in 9 in advance of the departmental exams board".**

The following response has been provided by the School's Programme Director on behalf of the School.

*"Translation Studies is very happy with the positive comments of Professor Andrew Rothwell and it is very encouraging to see that we are doing a good job.*

*As for the two issues that he has pointed out:*

*[3.1.] After an informal meeting with the colleagues of the BA in Translation we acknowledged that we need to use a wider scope of marks. This will be one of the topics we will be addressing as well in one of the meetings we are holding this first semester, so hopefully he will be able to see a wider range of marks in the exams and assessments in June 2015.*

*[3.3.] Although I totally agree with Professor Rothwell on this point, as I also try and avoid -9 marks, this might be difficult in modules where there is more than one piece of assessment and it is difficult to avoid the -9 mark at the end. Some of these pieces of assessment might have already been given back to the students and we could not change them. Usually there are two opposite factions, as it were: some of us think that it is better to avoid a -9, whilst others think that a -9 faithfully reflects the final mark for someone who is at the top end of a band, but not "good enough" to be in the following band. I will also address this issue in one of the meetings with my colleagues."*

### 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. **[3] your commendation of forms of assessment as "varied, imaginative and professionally relevant" and of the "degree of detailed engagement and dialogue with students";**
- c. **[6] your further commendation of identified elements of the programme.**

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 Williamson

for Dr C B Turner  
Academic Registrar