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**Sent by email to [eustace.johnson@chester.ac.uk](mailto:eustace.johnson@chester.ac.uk)**

**05 January 2018**

Dear Professor Johnson,

**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 in Tissue Engineering.

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. Request for annotated assessments and/or comprehensive summary of feedback on the assessments to show how marks have been allocated.
2. Problems experienced in accessing assessment materials, including dissertations.
3. Your request for an opportunity to meet with students.

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

1. As you note, these assessments are marked online within GradeMark software. The School will ensure that this academic year (2017-18) you are invited to review these assessments online at the same time as being invited to visit our School to meet students. (Please see comment below).

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2. The School will review the process by which you were given access to the software for future guidance.
3. The School will be pleased to invite you to meet students when you attend within the assessment periods this academic year.

**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. commendable course content covering the translation of research in stem cell biology, regenerative medicines and tissue engineering to clinical application, including consideration of logistic and ethical issues, encourages critical awareness;
3. having students working in areas that meet with the research interests/expertise of the supervisory staff is good practice, as is providing a supervisory team;
4. dissertations that were varied in content and generally of a good to very good standard, with some examples of really excellent work.

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,



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