



Academic & Student Support Services
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Sent by email to Professor David Porter

17 October 2016

Dear Professor Porter,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MArch (Design).

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. Having 'Unit leaders' more involved in the marking of students from other Units.
2. Support for Units using their own Learning Outcomes that relate back to the overall requirements of the Programme.
3. Detailed observations on the use of the term 'poetics' within Grade Descriptors and their application across projects of different scale.
4. Detailed comments on the scope of the Design Project and the risk of spreading students' creativity very thinly.

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

- 1&2. The School is addressing both of these points this year.
3. The School is taking a look at this aspect of its assessment criteria with a view to fine tuning and considering clearly in the process what is meant by 'poetic'.
4. The School recognises the need to tailor the technical requisites to different Units, and this will be reflected in the briefing to students on technology this year, as in the tutorials given to students in different units and their related learning outcomes.

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 support for ongoing consideration of a more integrated approach to the two years of study and a reduction in the duplication of outcomes;
3. Your confirmation that academic standards are very high and that teaching is of a very high order.

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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