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Sent by email to Frank-Ulrich.Fricke@th-nuernberg.de

16 August 2016

Dear Professor Dr Fricke,

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 in International Pharmacoeconomics & Health Economics.

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.

Issue Highlighted

Your encouragement for more comments to accompany marks on examination scripts.

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

The School welcomes your constructive observations and understands that your comment is aimed at providing the rationale for marks being awarded or withheld. This will be helpful to colleagues at the Hochschule Fresenius as they implement their new Postgraduate offering in this subject area, independent of Cardiff. For the MIPHE programme, the examinations during 2016-17 were the last full diets, for 2017-18 the main assessments will be student reports of their Residency placements and project dissertations.

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In the past these have seen more in the way of commentary by markers. For the coming final year the School will emphasise the usefulness of such to evidence rigour of approach and to maximise useful learning points to students.

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 confirmation that the Programmes reflects the current scientific discussion in the field and that student achievement is comparable with those in other international programmes.

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