



Academic & Student Support Services
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Sent by email to charles.laughton@nottingham.ac.uk

16 August 2017

Dear Dr Laughton,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2016–2017

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MPharm (Medicinal Chemistry).

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. Lack of student engagement with the peer assessment process.

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

1. The school had hoped that a renewed emphasis on describing the merits of peer marking to our students would have resulted in an improvement in the spread of peer marks in this particular assessment. The school recognises that there remains work to be done in this domain and will be seeking to address this with a more thorough review of peer marking throughout the entire programme.

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The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. Marking schemes that are designed to appropriately promote a wide dynamic range in the scoring of achievement;
3. The quality of the PH3202 (Research Methodology) module - the quality and quantity of material that gives guidance to the students as to the performance expected of them is impressive, as is the quality and quantity of feedback they are given on their assessments.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and all School responses will be discussed in detail through the Annual Review and Enhancement process. 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