



Academic & Student Support Services
Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr
Registry
Y Gofrestrfa
Academic Registrar Cofrestrydd Academaidd
Simon Wright LLB(Hons)

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE
Wales UK
Tel please see below
Fax +44(0)29 2087 4130
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE
Cymru Y Deyrnas Unedig
Ffôn gweler isod
Ffacs +44(0)29 2087 4130
www.caerdydd.ac.uk

Sent by email to k.l.brain@bham.ac.uk

03 April 2020

Dear Dr Brain,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2018/19

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for MPharm (Pharmacology) particularly modules PH2113, PH3113 and PH4116.

Your report has been considered by colleagues in the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. Double-marking of dissertations independent of the supervisor with a clear protocol for dealing with disagreement (and an adequate audit trail identifying the route to the final mark) was in place.

Issues highlighted in your report and response provided by the School:

1. ***The Assessment Process:*** *A heavy repetition of the questions from year to year.*

The comments related to the repetition of questions are welcomed and it is useful to hear the feedback from students, presumably from the external-student meeting and a matter that had not reached our attention. We have invested time producing high quality questions, and carefully protect our question banks, so it is interesting to hear that students have discerned a pattern. It is also useful to hear of good practice in this respect from other



Registered Charity, no. 1136855
Elusen Gofrestredig, rhif 1136855

intuitions, and this matter will be raised and discussed with the wider programme team.

2. **Appointment Overview:** *The opportunity to consider one marking rubric to cover all project types. The key ongoing issues, however, relates to the aggregation of clinical assessments into large chunks which can be failed en bloc.*

Regarding the assessment rubric comment, we are currently engaged in a review of the MPharm curriculum which will endeavour to develop and improve the integrated nature of both teaching and assessment. Novel assessments will require development of innovative rubrics, and the suggestion of a single or smaller number of rubrics to cover a broad range of assessment types is very much in the philosophy of our planned changes. This supportive comment will very much assist these planned changes.

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and 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's [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar