

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - French modules on undergraduate programmes

Dear Dr Waters,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Cardiff School of European Languages, Translation and Politics 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

Your Report raised a number of issues which have been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided by the School.

"In the context of 'commendable' assessments across a range of language skills, the External Examiner's has suggested that 'Students in the final year might however be exposed to a wider range of text types'. It is the intention of the French Department to introduce a new translation course in 2013-14 together with a module entitled French for Professional Purposes. While the aim of these modules will not be to increase exposure specifically to literary texts, a concerted effort will be made to expose students to a wider range of translations (particularly technical, practical and scientific texts) which will be of considerable benefit to them from a vocational perspective.

The external has also indicated that 'it might be helpful if average marks on modules were made available'. The French Department will be moving away from Learning Central to a new intranet system and will look to use this new system to deliver on this recommendation. Finally the external has commented that it would be useful to 'have a sample of assessed work across the full range of marks on language modules'. This arrangement will be explored in liaison with Dr Sarah Water's successors."

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and rigorous process;**
- b. **[4] your comments on the French department's responsiveness to earlier recommendations (by moving to a paperless system in the exam boards and changing the format of the oral exams');**
- c. **[6] the number and breadth of reported noteworthy practice, including evidence of student dissertations "of a publishable standard".**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

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 Registry web pages and will be available publically.

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.

Mrs Jill Bedford
Director of Registry and Academic Services