



Academic & Student Support Services
Academic Registrar Simon Wright LLB
Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr
Cofrestrwydd Academaidd Simon Wright LLB

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE

Tel *Ffôn* | +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE

Sent by email to s.cavan@shu.ac.uk

27 January 2017

Dear Mr Cavan,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Report 2015 – 2016

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the Master of Education Practice (MEP).

In accordance with our standard practice, a copy of the Report is being forwarded to the School concerned, who will use its contents to help inform its Annual Review and Enhancement process. The University is pleased to note your positive comments, including:

- 1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- 2. support provided for students in full-time teaching roles, reflected in positive progression and retention rates and relatively low resubmission rates, comparing favourably with similar programmes at other institutions;**
- 3. the impressive scale of participation in the Programme;**
- 4. statistical inputs to the assessment process;**
- 5. your indication that the Programme has a deserved reputation which extends beyond the Welsh border.**

Your comments on the rounding of marks at borderlines have been noted and investigated with the School. Rounding is applied routinely through the University's standard SIMS processes to arrive at a Final Mark that contributes to decisions on classification. Senate Regulations require both a Final Mark of at least 60% and a

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www.caerdydd.ac.uk

mark of at least 60% in the Dissertation for the award of Merit. You appear to have drawn attention to a case where, for the purpose of classification the Final Mark would have been rounded up to 60%, but where the student failed to achieve the minimum mark of 60% in the Dissertation to qualify for the award of Merit.

Your Report does not appear to raise any other specific issues that require a more detailed response. Accordingly, the School has not been asked to respond formally to the Report.

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 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.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar