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Sent by email to [p.e.cooke@strath.ac.uk](mailto:p.e.cooke@strath.ac.uk)

**11 February 2020**

Dear Professor Cooke,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for Italian Undergraduate Programmes.

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. Italian at Cardiff is characterised by an impressively broad and challenging undergraduate curriculum which is designed to equip students with relevant expertise and a range of transferable skills.
3. Students are given the opportunity to acquire expertise in Italian culture broadly conceived – with an emphasis on 20th and 21st century literature and film (taught within an impressive comparative context).
4. Teaching methods are innovative and it is clear that students respond positively to their courses.
5. At final year you noted some extremely impressive performances in Italian language, with students showing excellence in writing, translation and oral performance.
6. Your note the School offers a number of courses which cut across the various languages taught. This clearly contributes to the genuine feeling that Cardiff ML does operate as a school – not always the case.



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

1. **Year-on-Year Comments:** *You would welcome the opportunity to meet with the entire teaching team, if only for an hour, on the morning of the second day of the visit.*

The Italian department will make sure that the School organises a meeting between the External Examiner and the Italian department prior to the virtual board so that the External can meet the members of the department and discuss points pertinent to the subject, its assessment and examinations.

2. **Year-on-Year Comments:** *Reservations about grammar exercises appearing in the final year written examination*

The Department has taken the decision to change the format of the final year language paper following the suggestions of the External. There will not be grammar sentences, but we will maintain a short section on the use of Italian idioms, as these are covered in the final year language programme.

The language paper will therefore have the following format:

- a. Translation into Italian
- b. 5 short sentences on the use of idioms  
Short essay (250-300 words) in Italian on the book read in class
- c. Translation into English.

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.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright  
Academic Registra