

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



Sent by email to [s.cavan@shu.ac.uk](mailto:s.cavan@shu.ac.uk)

23 November 2015

Dear Mr Cavan,

**Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2014 – 2015**

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

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.

**Issue(s) Highlighted:**

1. Your suggestion that an analysis of the trajectory of marks for students is undertaken;
2. Your detailed suggestions to enhance guidance associated with Module 4.

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

1. This recommendation is not based on a perceived problem in student attainment or progression. It was discussed at the board in the light of a perceived upward trajectory of marks for students who made good progress while managing the pressures of studying for the Master's degree while early career teachers. This would suggest that the teachers are not only 'managing' but benefitting from the design of a practice-based masters. The School welcomes the suggestion that it would be valuable to identify if there is such a trend. There are 9 modules on the programme and it is thought that this would be an appropriate activity following the final assessment of students due to complete in December 2015. As there are in excess of 200 students, the School is investigating an efficient resource that makes it possible to carry out such an analysis over such a large cohort.

The School intends to carry out an analytical overview of the trajectories of Cohort 1 student marks over the Programme and identify trends. This is to follow the Examining Board on 25 February 2016 for completing students.

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2. The School finds your suggestion helpful and will work with the Module Convenor and Co-convenor for Module 4 to review assessment guidance for Module 4 to take account of your comment. This is to be completed by mentor training to support this module which is on 8-9 December 2015.

**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process
2. Your particular commendation of the feedback provided to students.

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 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