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Sent by email to j.m.girkin@durham.ac.uk

01 July 2016

Dear Professor Girkin,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Report 2015 – 2016

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc in Biophotonics.

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. your confirmation of enhancements in the style of examination questions in response to your earlier comments;**
- 3. your support for wider enhancements to Master's marking schemes introduced this year;**
- 4. your particular commendation of feedback provided to students and of the support you have received from the School.**

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

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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