

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - MSc in Tissue Engineering

Dear Professor Winder,

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 Dentistry 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 Highlighted

Your Report raised one issue which has been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

“[4] the External Examiner's observation that “Some model answers remain too brief to be useful for moderation or external examining processes”.

The School thanks Professor Winder for his positive comments.

The comment from Professor Winder was discussed at the examining board and was raised in relation to the extended essay questions. We have historically used the model answer format in question for extended essays in all Modules, since the MSc Programme was introduced in 2006. (Within these model answers, key bullet-point summary details of what is generally required for each essay question are included (accompanied by the allocated marks for each point). The main reason we introduced and maintain this model answer format is that we feel it would be very difficult to include in-depth details on every aspect of each essay model answer we require, given the very broad nature of the essay titles we provide and with the need to consider the students' own self-directed learning within their answers, which will obviously differ from student-student. Hence, the inclusion of bullet-point summaries, with the additional requirement for the inclusion of relevant examples to illustrate or expand on students' opinions/answers.

Similar bullet-point extended essay model answer formats are also currently implemented for other Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes within DENTL (e.g. BDS Year 2, MSc in Implantology). We are satisfied that the current model answer approach is fit for purpose and meet University requirements.”

Positive Comments

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

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[4 and 6] commendation of the responsiveness of the School to issues raised by the External Examiner in a previous report and to suggestions on examination papers.**

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.

Dr S L Williamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar