

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



**Sent by email to paul_wiltshire@tiscali.co.uk;
paul.wiltshire@localworld.co.uk**

09 August 2015

Dear Mr Wiltshire,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MA/PG Diploma in Journalism (Newspaper pathway).

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 comments highlighting that there should be more encouragement to bring stories to life, with shorter intros;
2. Your observations that there should be less reference in marking to 'subs' rewriting content;
3. Your request to keep stressing the importance of time management, prioritisation, advance planning and managing workload to students.

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

1. These comments have been noted by the School and will be considered for the next academic year.
2. The School acknowledge your comments regarding 'subbing' and will emphasise that the work could not be published in its current form, and would need correction - either by news desk or by being sent back to the reporter to rewrite.
3. The School will continue to keep stressing the importance to time management to students and will continue to emphasise the point in the forthcoming academic year.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;

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2. The 'tough love' philosophy that pervades the programme as well as a dedication to exploration, innovation and debate. The standards are those which the real world would want to see imposed.
3. NCTJ accreditation is important however the course also equips people with skills not tested by that body: teamwork, working a patch, prioritisation and different styles of writing.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your continued support of the programme and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

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 Student Intranet 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