

Academic & Student Support Services
Academic Registrar
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Simon Wright LLB



Sent by email to j.deuchars@leeds.ac.uk

10 December 2015

Dear Professor Deuchars,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BSc in Biomedical Sciences and the BSc in Biomedical Sciences (Intercalated) (Neuroscience, Physiology).

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 detailed observation of a potential disparity across modules in the final year to the marks awarded;
2. Your report of some students sitting four examinations in four days;

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

1. It was not possible to revise these structures before the 2015/16 academic year, but this will be addressed to ensure that the effort and challenge required for these coursework elements is in line with their weighting for the module.
2. This was an unforeseen clash and beyond the School's control, as exam scheduling is controlled centrally by the University. Given the optionality of degree schemes in the Final Year it is not always possible to avoid clashes such as this. However, the School will bear this in mind again when the draft examination timetable is circulated in April 2016, and request a revision if such clashes are identified.

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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 appreciation of the responsiveness of the School to your comments.

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