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Sent by email to gauti.sigthorsson@roehampton.ac.uk

02 November 2020

Dear Dr Sigthorsson,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2019/20

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for BA Journalism and Communications, BA Media and Communications and BA Media, Journalism and Culture.

Your report does not appear to raise any significant issues that require a more immediate response however, the School has been asked to address the following comments raised in your report:

- Future recommendations: Across the board there is good variety of assessments, but in modules where all the coursework is in written format (e.g. essay-questions), I suggest that the team consider whether this is inclusive enough. For example, in MC3631 Feminisms and Television History, both assessments follow a question-essay format. This seems unnecessarily narrow for such a rich, diverse topic of study.

Degree Outcomes

Whilst you have not raised this as a concern in your report from a subject specific point of view, the Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee has asked the School to review their degree outcomes profile as there has been a significant rise in first class honours degrees during 2019/20 compared with other years.

The School will be required to look at this in detail to try and understand any underlying factors that may have contributed to this both positive and negative. I am sure you will agree that it is important we ensure that academic standards are appropriately set and maintained with reference to external expectations in line with our responsibility to publish a Degree Outcomes Statement as specified by the UK



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Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA) Statement of Intent to protect the value of UK degrees.

I am confident that the Programme Team will endeavour to address the issues identified in your report and your comments will help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process.

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

1. Your positive comments regarding the programme structure, academic standards, and assessment process.
2. the curriculum showed an impressive range of topics, theoretical approaches, and methods for engaging with media, communications and journalism.
3. Across the modules, marking and feedback is fair, with the style and quality of feedback consistent across different courses. Comments on student work across the board refer back to criteria and demonstrate a constructive “feed-forward” approach. As external, it was easy to see the rationale for individual marks in the comments.
4. There are good examples of imaginative, engaging assessment design to be found here. In particular, assessments that challenge students to apply the concepts and knowledge seem particularly successful.
5. Under the circumstances, I note how resilient the assessment briefs were, and how accommodating they were of contemporary topics that students brought into their work (e.g., Black Lives Matter).

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’s [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

We are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar