

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



Sent by email to m.j.raithby@swansea.ac.uk

29 July 2015

Dear Ms Raithby,

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 Social Work.

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. The approval in advance of draft examination papers contributing to the final award.

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

1. The significant majority of the MASW module examinations/assessments remain the same year on year. The tasks are practice-orientated in nature, requiring direct illustration from students' individual practice learning experience and, in some cases, verification by each student's field-based practice assessor thus limiting, if not prohibiting, the possibility of unfair practice between students. These examinations/assessments are shared with incoming MASW External Examiners.

The implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires revisions to MASW teaching, learning and assessment content accordingly, however. During the 2015-16 session each MASW module examination/assessment task will be re-written to reflect these revisions and will be shared with the MASW External Examiners as part of this 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. A good mix of essays, presentational tasks and tests that address a range of skills and knowledge;
3. Excellent results, with many Distinctions as well as Merits;

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4. Communication and constructive dialogue with the Programme academic and administrative team remain excellent.

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