

**INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - BSc in Mathematics / MMath in Mathematics / BSc in Mathematics & its Applications / BSc in Mathematics / BSc in Operational Research & Statistics (Statistics & Operational Research)**

Dear Emeritus Professor Gallivan,

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 Mathematics 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.

Issues Highlighted

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

*We would like to thank Professor Gallivan for his detailed and constructive comments. The School responses to the points highlighted are given below.*

1. **[1] the External Examiner's detailed observation that a named module "is largely a Pure mathematics course and clashes somewhat with the practical nature of other courses in Statistics and Operational Research"**

*It is appreciated that the module in question is more heavily weighted towards the pure spectrum of mathematics than the other courses offered in Statistics and Operational Research. However, students are made aware of this emphasis from the start of the module. It is also believed that by having a different emphasis, the module illustrates the connections that exist between areas of mathematics that are sometimes perceived to be disjoint, and as such broadens a student's overall appreciation of the subject.*

2. **[2] the External Examiner's concern and detailed observations and suggestions regarding the proof reading of examination papers**

*It was disappointing that there were errors apparent in more than one of the statistics papers this year. In response the School was investigating the use of a more detailed internal checkers report. However, the University have since developed such a template. At the time of writing, the School has yet to see the resource but it is hoped that it will help minimise such errors in the future. All staff have also been reminded of the importance of due diligence when checking scripts.*

*In the paper that caused particular concern, many of the points raised were highlighted by internal checks and the examiners believed that the comments did not require further action. It is hoped that an enhanced report on the checks that are undertaken will help address such matters in the future."*

Positive Comments

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

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[1, 2 and 6] indications that you were "impressed with Statistics and Operational Research teaching at Cardiff", by the "standard of student projects and by the work placement programme" in particular.**

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.

Mrs Jill Bedford  
Director of Registry and Academic Services