

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Studies

Dear Dr Satterthwaite,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Postgraduate Medical & Dental Education 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.

"1. [1, 5 and 8.1] the External Examiner's indication that he has not been provided with the "programme handbook and programme specification".

This external examiner joined the programme in February 2013 when the programme had been running for a number of months. The handbook which included the programme specifications was sent to him by the School on appointment and arrangements are in hand to provide this years documentation in a timely manner.

2. [3] the observation that the assessment "does not fully allow for evidencing of higher level judgement, particularly when considering the QAA level 7 descriptors relating to complex issues and critical awareness".

The School takes on board the examiner's comments about the level of assessment and has taken remedial action to improve and raise the level of assessment for this programme. The module descriptors have been updated and the guidance and information given to students, with regard to the elective project, have been extensively updated.

3. [8.12] the External Examiner's indication that he was not afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments.

As in point 1, the external examiner did not become involved with the programme until February 2013. By this time some of the assessments had been completed. Also there were only two modules and the elective project running in 2012/13 with only 13 students on the programme. This meant that the course work sample was small."

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 outline structure of the programme and academic standards.

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