

Academic & Student Support Services
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Simon Wright LLB



Sent by email to screan@uclan.ac.uk

24 September 2015

Dear Professor Crean,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BDS (Final).

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 indication that you received no acknowledgement of your suggestions on draft written examination papers;
2. Your detailed comments on standard setting and on the value of psychometric analysis to see how the questions were performing;
3. Your detailed observations on the marking scheme for the research projects and on the additional category in case report oral assessments;
4. Your detailed comments on the value of the case report oral assessment;
5. Your detailed observations and suggestions on the unseen cases.

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

1. The School thanks you for these detailed constructive comments. The Assessment Lead for the papers did review the External Examiner comments in relation to the questions but the Director of Assessment and School will ensure with the forthcoming academic year that any changes and appropriate acknowledgement of feedback is articulated back to the External Examiners.
2. The School is moving towards a full standard setting system for academic year 2016/2017 and is supporting the development of psychometric services towards this goal. We are currently using the Modified Angoff Methods of standard setting to facilitate setting the level of the questions included on the papers but we recognise the need for further development in our psychometric

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evaluation. This enhancement is seen as a key priority for the School for the academic year 2015/2016;

3. The additional category within the marking criteria has already been reviewed and updated. As regards the marking of the case reports on the GradeMark software, the rubric used will be reviewed in light of your comments. Any changes will be articulated with our External Examiners in preparation for the forthcoming academic year.
4. The Finals examination format is currently under review with the Assessment and Feedback Committee with a view to changing the format for the Finals examinations 2016/2017 in line with the Schedules of Assessment. The Director of Assessment will take note of your comments on the case report viva and its value in relation to the learning outcomes.
5. The School is currently reviewing the Finals Unseen Cases. For the forthcoming academic year there will be fewer cases used with greater standardisation with a view currently under discussion to have three unseen cases per students for the academic year 2016/2017 - pending consideration by the Assessment and Feedback Committee and the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee. Following this process potential changes will be discussed with the School's External Examiners before implementation.

The School is grateful for your feedback and is committed to the professionalization of its Assessment processes particularly in the development of psychometric analysis.

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 commendation of the support you received from the School and of the research projects in particular.

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