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Sent by email to martinstabe@gmail.com

03 November 2020

Dear Mr Stabe,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for MSc Computational and Data Journalism.

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: I would encourage the programme leaders to continue their efforts to incorporate more training in formal statistical methods and digital product development into the programme, insofar as this is possible given the limited time available in a single academic year. These remain consistent areas of weakness among entry-level journalists coming from most traditional journalism training programmes that this course is in a unique position to help address because it already attracts students predisposed to applying numeracy and interactive digital formats to journalism.

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 MSc in Computational & Data Journalism does something that is quite difficult in a single academic year: teaching the wide (and growing) range of journalism and technical skills expected of people working in the data



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journalism roles that now exist in many news organisations. The programme remains one of only a handful of journalism courses in the UK that is teaching this material at a high level.

3. I was pleased to see improved assessment criteria in some areas that I had considered problematic in the past, particularly with regard to writing, visualisation and collaborative working.

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.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service, and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar