

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



Sent by email to p.a.scarf@salford.ac.uk

08 March 2016

Dear Professor Scarf,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the BSc / MMath in Mathematics; BSc in Mathematics & its Applications; BSc in Mathematics, Operational Research & Statistics, and the Mathematics element of BA and BSc Joint Honours degree schemes (Statistics & Operational Research).

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 detailed observations on the use made of scaling.

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

1. The School has confirmed that it does review performance across modules, and that, in addition to considering comments from External Examiners, examination papers are often adjusted to what are deemed to be an appropriate level. This process has seen a reduction in the scaling required in examinations, however, given variation in cohorts, the School feels that it is still sometimes necessary to make appropriate adjustments.

Your detailed comments on the University award rules have been noted. Section 10.15 of the Academic Regulations highlight:

'In cases where the application of these Regulations would disadvantage an individual student unfairly, but not impact on academic standards, an Examining Board Chair (or nominee) may request the Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Experience and Academic Standards) to exempt a student from part of these Regulations'.

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The School therefore have the opportunity to present a case if they believe students are being disadvantaged.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure and academic standards;
2. your particular commendation of the standard of some of the dissertations.

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