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Sent by email to Mr Martin Stabe

22 March 2021

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 on the dissertation stage of the MSc Computational and Data Journalism.

Your report does not appear to raise any significant issues that require a more detailed response, however the School have been asked to note the following comments:

- What are the marking criteria for the dissertation and the procedure for ensuring the comparability of dissimilar projects emphasising various aspects of the degree programme?
- How can the dissertation marking better balance students' freedom to specialise while rewarding those who attempt more difficult or ambitious work, or projects that most strongly reflect the full range of aptitudes instilled on the programme?

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. Overall, the marking was transparent, systematic and fair, with detailed feedback for students explaining the markers' rationale.
3. The dissertation module offers students ample opportunity to specialise within the ever-widening field of computational and data journalism. I was



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particularly pleased to see a dissertation project that placed a strong emphasis on the user-experience design aspects of interactive development projects.

4. There appeared to be a new requirement to submit (1) a publicly-accessible web page containing the substantive work of journalism and (2) a publicly-accessible code repository underlying that work and (3) a reflective written piece explaining the processes and decision-making underlying the work. This exemplary level of transparency made accessing and assessing the material far more straightforward than in previous years, when there was less uniformity in the materials submitted by students.

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'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,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar