



**Academic & Student Support Services**  
**Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr**  
**Registry**  
**Y Gofrestrfa**  
Academic Registrar Cofrestrydd Academaidd  
Simon Wright LLB(Hons)

**Cardiff University**  
McKenzie House  
30-36 Newport Road  
Cardiff CF24 0DE  
Wales UK  
Tel please see below  
Fax +44(0)29 2087 4130  
www.cardiff.ac.uk

**Prifysgol Caerdydd**  
Tŷ McKenzie  
30-36 Heol Casnewydd  
Caerdydd CF24 0DE  
Cymru Y Deyrnas Unedig  
Ffôn gweler isod  
Ffacs +44(0)29 2087 4130  
www.caerdydd.ac.uk

**Sent by email to Dr Marcello Riggio**

**10 September 2019**

Dear Dr Riggio,

**Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2018/19**

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for the BDS Part 2A.

Your report has been considered by colleagues in the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. The positive student performance on the clinical component, the extended essay and the Oral Ecosystems in-course assessment.
3. Guidance given to students on how to write an essay continued to be very good.
4. The range, depth and appropriateness of assessment methods used was pleasing.
5. Assessment procedures are in line with those expected from 'good practice' and in keeping with institutional policies and procedures.

**Issues highlighted in your report and response provided by the School:**

1. **Academic Standards:** Increase in number of student failing the Foundation: Basic Sciences written paper and practical exam.

The School and Topic Lead will evaluate this increase in number of failed candidates for this assessment alongside its annual review of teaching.



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2. **Academic Standards:** *Inclusion of examination material not taught on the programme.*

This occurred with a change of teachers within topic area and the relevant question part was removed from post examination psychometrics to ensure that students were not disadvantaged.

3. **Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement:** *Continue the use of the extended essay to aid subject understanding, integration of facts and hypotheses and to demonstrate critical thinking and appraisal.*

The School are happy at this stage of the programme to maintain the Extended Essay as part of the Year 2 Assessment Portfolio.

We hope that you will find this response satisfactory and 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.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright  
Academic Registrar