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Sent by email to catherine.elliott@anglia.ac.uk

30 October 2020

Dear Dr Elliott,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for the MA in Digital Documentaries.

As this is the first year the programme has operated, 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:

- **There seems to be a lack of understanding of the demands of storytelling** in the students' films, which points to a need to watch more documentaries and for greater emphasis of this in the curriculum.
- **The technical standards of some of the films have great room for improvement.** This is, of course, due in part to the issues of filming during lockdown. It is also perhaps due to a lack of high-end filming equipment which would allow for more visual flair and experiment which is crucial in this field.
- The understanding of the requirements of different audiences and markets also needs more emphasis in the curriculum.
- In some modules there seemed to be **a lack of clarity on what was being demanded of the students.** For instance, with the reflective essays for the Documentary Practice module it was unclear as to what was required & this was reflected in the very mixed outcomes, whereas the Documentary Studies essays were very good & demonstrated an excellent breadth of knowledge and understanding.
- **It is not clear as to how the second marking / internal moderation is carried out.** It would be very useful to make this process more transparent.
- There were, however, several issues regarding having the correct feedback forms, essays & films in the External Examiner's folder on Learning Central.



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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 standards set for the modules on MA Digital Documentaries Film were appropriate for MA level study. The overall content and standards set produce a cohesive set of related modules.
3. The assessment process was very good. The feedback on all the submitted work was very constructive, with excellent suggestions for improvement. The marking was fair and consistent across the modules
4. The emphasis on thorough research before filming is excellent – as evidenced in the module Directing the Documentary. This stage of filmmaking is often neglected by students & the courses attempt to address this with a very rigorous and in-depth approach both in the teaching & the assessment is to be commended.

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 valuable input into this process.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar