

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2013-2014 - MA in History (Modern European History)

Dear Professor Jones,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion 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.

Issues Highlighted

Your Report raised issue(s) which have been referred for consideration by the School.

- 1. [1, 4 and 7] your reiterated indication that you were sent "no information at all about the programme and the modules";**
- 2. [3] your indication that it is "potentially problematical that all the work [you] saw was marked by the same pair of examiners" and related comments.**

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

"Professor Jones mentions that he did not receive any information on the programme of the MA in History. We very much regret that this should have been the case. It seems likely that the Post Office is at fault here. The History MA Handbook containing the relevant information, was sent out by us at the same time to all five examiners. The other four examiners all appear to have received the Handbook. We can only assume therefore that something went wrong en route to Manchester. We have had problems with the Post Office before, and we will therefore send the Handbooks by registered post in future.

Professor Jones also mentions that he thought it 'problematic' that the work he saw in German History should have been marked by the same pair of examiners in successive years. We are slightly puzzled by that point, since the work in German History last year was second marked by Professor Jonathan Osmond, whereas this year it was second marked by Dr Toby Thacker (and the language work for 'German for Historians' was second marked by Professor Max Deeg).

We note, however, that Professor Jones is happy with our marking, which he describes as 'scrupulous', and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Jones for his work and his comments."

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. [3] your positive indications regarding the assessment process.**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

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 Registry web pages and will be available publically.

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.

Dr S L Williamson

for Dr C B Turner
Academic Registrar