

Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales

Yr Athro / Professor Medwin Hughes DL DPhil DPS FRSA
Is-Ganghellor / Vice-Chancellor

Dr Ana-Maria Pascal
London College of Business
6A Monteagle Court
32-36 Wakering Road
Barking
Essex
IG11 8PL

26 January 2012

Dear Dr Pascal,

I have written to you under separate cover in relation to the decision made by the Council of the University of Wales to bring an end to all current validation programmes.

As you are aware, the Council of the University of Wales has resolved to merge with Swansea Metropolitan University and the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David. It is in the context of this merger that the transformed University is developing a new International Model which will build upon the academic expertise available within the University and its future Affiliated Learning Centres.

The University's innovative International Model will be an academic partnership between the University and each Affiliated Learning Centre. The programme design and assessment schedule ensures that each programme will meet the requirements of the UK's Quality Assurance Agency in respect of academic standards, quality and core subject content and principles. In developing the new International Model, Affiliated Learning Centres will play an integral part in shaping the curriculum for programmes they wish to deliver.

The representatives of Affiliated Learning Centres will contribute to the development and validation of the core modules for each programme. It is proposed that individual Learning Centres will be able to customise their programmes, subject to approval processes, to reflect their local needs and develop their unique selling points. The process for approving the locally-defined credits will be similar to the process currently employed for validating programmes at collaborative centres. Customisation will ensure that individual programmes reflect their local and national contexts and viewpoints, including the legal framework and employment needs. This customisation will include common generic learning outcomes which can be contextualised according to local and national needs and a range of 'Centre Option Modules'. This could cover up to one third of the programme at each level, as well as Centre-selected learning materials, for example case studies and reading lists. The University is currently finalising the International Model, and would wish to engage with partners in finalising programme structures. It is envisaged that, over time, the University will wish to develop a range of different structural partnerships based upon the above academic drivers.

Mae croeso i chi ohebu â'r Brifysgol yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg / You are welcome to correspond with the University in either Welsh or English.

Prifysgol Cymru, Rhodfa'r Brenin Edward VII, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NS ☎ (029) 2037 6999 📠 (029) 2037 6982
University of Wales, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NS ✉ i-g@cymru.ac.uk / vc@wales.ac.uk

🌐 www.cymru.ac.uk / www.wales.ac.uk

Students who successfully complete their degree or other qualification will be awarded a University of Wales: Trinity Saint David (UW:TSD) award, recognised internationally as of the same standard and equivalent to any similar qualification awarded to a student who has studied in Wales or elsewhere in the UK.

What is central to this new International Model, in comparison with the current validation arrangements, is that the University will take greater responsibility for managing academic standards and the quality of its awards whilst, at the same time, actively supporting and enhancing the Learning Centre's teaching and learning strategy through closer academic links between the two institutions.

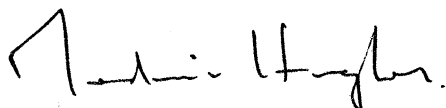
The University, in partnership with the Affiliated Learning Centres, will develop a new academic infrastructure to support the International Model. Each individual programme, or group of programmes in the same subject area, delivered by an Affiliated Learning Centre, will be grounded in a named subject area within UW:TSD. The University will provide support for delivery of the programme, oversight of its management and monitoring of quality and standards. This link will be enabled through an individual senior academic member of the centre and an identified academic member of the UW:TSD staff, who will together be responsible for communication at an operational level. The UW:TSD academic will liaise with colleagues within the University, in particular to provide quality assurance but also to support delivery and management activities. The Centre academic will also take overall responsibility for the operational management of the programme and, in particular, ensure adherence to the quality and standards demands.

All programmes will be embedded within the UW:TSD quality assurance system and thus identical procedures will apply to programmes delivered in an Affiliated Learning Centre as to those delivered in the linked subject area at UW:TSD. The University will also provide opportunities for staff development. It is proposed that the staff of each Affiliated Learning Centre will become Associate Faculty members and be offered opportunities linked with curriculum development, professional academic development and a range of other academic initiatives.

As a valued partner who has successfully offered University of Wales degrees through our validation model, I wish to invite you to discuss how your institution could be involved in this new programme as a potential Affiliated Learning Centre. The University will be inviting only a limited number of current validation partners to partake in this new development. Should you be interested, I would wish to arrange a meeting with senior representatives from the University and your staff to discuss this new programme and partnership potential.

I do hope that you will consider joining us to explore this exciting new development.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Medwin Hughes, DL
Vice-Chancellor
University of Wales