

Department of Core Studies

Quality Assurance Review in the Department of Core Studies 2006/2007
Initial Response to Peer Review Group Report

The Department of Core Studies acknowledges receipt of the Peer Review Group Report (PRG) and would like to thank Cynthia Deane, Dr Denise Gray, Russell Mills and Dr Niamh O'Sullivan for the thorough and professional way in which the review was carried out. The department would also like to thank the QA Officer, Nicky Saunders for her efficient organisation of the review. The students and staff of Core Studies also contributed to the Peer Review process with dedication and enthusiasm.

It is gratifying that the Peer Review Group recognises the energy and commitment of the staff to fulfilling the Mission Statement of Core Studies. In particular the PRG report refers to the course's "excellent quality of leadership and teamwork".

Core Studies is pleased to receive commendation from the PRG report regarding key issues contained in the Self-Assessment Report (SAR):

- The course rationale informing the curriculum and providing a firm basis not only for progression to further levels of study but also for life-long learning.
- The strong, integrated multi-disciplinary teamwork of the Core Studies staff.
- Core's aspirations to encourage cooperation and collaboration with Faculties to develop strategies for cross-disciplinary programmes which could be available to all students up to degree level.
- The intentions of Core Studies to engage in discussions with the Faculty of Visual Culture to provide a more integrated programme for Core Studies.
- Further discussions with Industrial Design with the view of developing a more mutually agreed modular programme.

Core Studies acknowledges the various observations and recommendations which will, in our view, enhance and progress the ethos of Core Studies:

- Integrated and consistent assessment procedure.
- To address and resolve the sense of "isolation" of Core Studies from further years of undergraduate studies.
- Clearer communication of the course programme to the students and to potential applicants.

Core Studies also intends to address and prioritise the recommendations of the PRG in terms of facilities and resources.

Core Studies is now embarking on a Quality Improvement Plan which will entail the prioritisation of suggestions and recommendations from the PRG report. This will enable us to identify aspects which can and should be done immediately and those which will take longer and extra resources.

Joe Wilson
Head of Core Studies

20th March 2007