



# **Higher National Qualifications Internal Assessment Report 2014 Engineering Systems**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National Qualifications in this subject.

# Higher National Units

## General comments

This academic session saw the first year of operation for the newly-regionalised centres. It was apparent at each of the six verification visits how hard staff were working to minimise any difficulties for students which this had brought about.

In addition to the visiting verification, one overseas centre was postally verified.

Due to the low number of centres selected for Graded Unit 1 central verification, this task was undertaken postally.

All visits resulted in each centre being rated with 'significant strengths'.

As with previous years there has been a significant number of prior verification tasks undertaken.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The award is now mature but, pleasingly, centre staff continue to develop suitable assessments, supported by appropriate learning experiences.

## Evidence Requirements

Overall, centre staff generally demonstrated familiarity with the Evidence Requirements of the Units they delivered.

## Administration of assessments

All external verification visit reports recorded that centres administered assessments correctly.

## General feedback

A number of centres utilise an assessment pro forma, which includes a section for feedback, for documenting assessment tasks and candidate responses. This is a useful way to assist both staff and candidates.

## Areas of good practice

The following aspects were noted:

- ◆ Assessments integrated across Units
- ◆ Cross-campus verification

### **Specific areas for improvement**

As mentioned above, the evidence from each visit resulted in all centres being identified as having significant strengths. It is, of course, not possible to achieve a higher classification than that but there are still courses of action that centre staff can take to further enhance students' learning experiences.

Centres are encouraged to identify opportunities to apply the elements of good practice noted above.

# Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

HNC Engineering Practice GU1: DW92 34

HNC Engineering Systems GU1: DW11 34

HND Engineering Systems GU2: F1E8 35

## General comments

Graded Unit papers were generally of a good standard, with fewer resubmissions required this session. Where exam questions are recycled with minor changes, centres should ensure that these changes are taken into account in the marking scheme. There were several occasions where numerical values were different in the question and the solution.

Resource implications frequently lead to many projects being predominantly investigative, however a number of centres have demonstrated that it is possible to provide practical projects at the appropriate level.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centre staff demonstrated they are providing appropriate assessments instruments which meet the Unit Outcomes.

## Evidence Requirements

There were some instances where, despite internal verification having taken place, some marking inconsistencies existed across candidate scripts. In addition, marks were incorrectly deducted from subsequent sections after a candidate error in the first part of a numerical question.

## Administration of assessments

Assessments were of an appropriate standard and administered correctly.

## General feedback

For Graded Unit 2 candidates, regular progress reviews and feedback provide good guidance.

## Areas of good practice

The following aspects were noted:

- ◆ Projects based on actual, current industrial situations
- ◆ Comprehensive student project log books
- ◆ Students reflecting on their learning

**Specific areas for improvement**

Where possible and appropriate, centres should incorporate the good practice elements noted above.

Internal verification of Graded Unit 1 papers and solutions needs to be carried out carefully.