



# **Higher National Qualifications Internal Assessment Report 2013 Surveying**

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

All centres demonstrated clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards. This was evidenced by consistent, balanced and thorough approaches to delivery, assessment and recording apparent in all centres.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

It is apparent in all centres that assessors and Internal Verifiers are thoroughly familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and SQA-prepared exemplar materials. Each centre has devised a range of alternate assessment materials that are equally robust and valid as the exemplar materials, but reflect local site locations and conditions.

## Evidence Requirements

At no point in the external audit process this session has there been any instance of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of any aspect of the Evidence Requirements in any of the Unit specifications embraced by this verification group.

## Administration of assessments

Each centre has devised a range of assessment materials, based on exemplar materials, to suit local site locations and conditions. This demonstrates that assessors are extremely familiar with the nominated sites and assessment opportunities which they offer. This directly benefits the student by the proximity of the subject site. The assessment instruments and the resultant candidates' evidence confirm that there is no loss of rigour or validity. Observation of the national standards was apparent throughout the assessment and internal verification processes and documentation.

## General feedback

Feedback to candidates in all centres was found to be full, relevant and constructive. With one exception, the feedback to candidates was well documented.

Feedback from candidates was complimentary about staff expertise and commitment to the subject area. All commented on the balance of written assessment and practical exercise. There were no complaints of excessive workload.

There are no barriers to learning or assessment within this verification group.

No significant or recurring issues were identified in any of the verification visits this session.

### **Areas of good practice**

The internal verification processes in all centres were commended by the External Verifiers. Some centres have developed comprehensive and effective IT-based administration systems which support fully all aspects of delivery, assessment, internal verification and external verification. As a result, the external audit process is more effective, simplified and less paper-intensive.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

No systemic deficiencies were identified during the external verification events.