



Higher National and Vocational Qualifications Internal Assessment Report 2012

Surveying

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

Higher National Units

General comments

The evidence presented in the External Verifiers' reports confirms that there is a thorough, clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards in all centres that were subjected to external review.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All assessors are thoroughly familiar with the full array of Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplar materials. This is clearly demonstrated in all centres by the quality of the design and content of alternate instruments of assessment and associated marking guidelines that have been prepared and internally verified by the centres' staff. A few centres have successfully had their instruments of assessment prior verified by SQA.

Evidence Requirements

Throughout the entire external verification process this session, there has been no instance of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of any of the Evidence Requirements of any of the Units within this Verification Group.

Administration of assessments

Each centre has adapted their chosen instrument of assessment to suit local site conditions. As a result, the assessors are extremely familiar with the subject sites and the students benefit from this and the proximity of the sites. The evidence confirms there is no loss of rigour or validity. Awareness and observation of the national standards were transparent throughout the assessment and internal verification processes.

General feedback

In all cases, feedback to candidates was good; indeed, in some cases it was exemplary. There was ample evidence of feedback recorded in students' portfolios. In all circumstances, that feedback was relevant, valid and informative. The External Verifiers highlighted specifically the quality of feedback and the methods by which it was recorded and presented to students.

All students interviewed commended the dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff. Many spoke of the excellent advice, guidance and support that were given by the teaching staff throughout their academic ventures.

Despite the practical nature of the assessment events, no barriers to access to the assessment process were in evidence.

Areas of good practice

In the past several years, so many examples of good practice have been identified and disseminated that these are mainly deemed the acceptable standards that are expected now.

The internal verifications systems in two centres were highly commended by the External Verifiers. Both systems were IT-based and easily understood, with electronic navigation between files that was simple to follow. Comprehensive records were available and checks were easily applied by assessors/verifiers and central administrative staff.

In all centres, the feedback sheets applied to each assessment were also commended in that they were constructed such that assessors were encouraged to provide detailed feedback. In most cases these could be completed electronically, though most of those witnessed had been completed manually.

The centres in this Verification Group (161, 163, 164, 117 and 316) are represented on the Built Environment Qualifications Support Team. As a result, there is considerable sharing of experience and processes, which benefits the centres and the broader sector.

Specific areas for improvement

No endemic deficiencies were identified during the external verification process this session.