Higher National and/or Graded Unit

National Units

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2017
Music Technology (380)

Introduction

The units verified this session were:

DJ1W 35   Acoustics 1
F5DX 11   Music: MIDI Sequencing
F5DV 12   Music: MIDI Sequencing
FN92 11   Sound Design in Visual Media Applications: An Introduction
F58H 12   Sound Engineering and Production
F5DW 11   Sound Engineering and Production
F506 34   Sound Production: Graded Unit 1
DR2R 35   Sound Production: Graded Unit 2
DJ36 34   Sound Production Practice 1
DR1K 35   Sound Production Practice 2
H1TF 11   Sound Production: Recording and Editing
H1M2 35   Sound Production Theory 2
H7F9 46   Sound: Understanding the Signal Path

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.

All centres verified could provide evidence of regular reviews of the assessment environment, assessment procedures, equipment, learning resources and assessment materials.

Category 3: Candidate support

Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

All centres were found to match candidates' development needs and prior achievements against the requirements of the award. All centres verified had robust and supportive procedures in place to interview candidates, determine prior experience, and identify extra support needs.

In one centre, learners had access to lab facilities when they were not timetabled. Learners were also able to use the facilities in the evenings and at weekends to work on projects and tasks set.

Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

In all centres, verified candidates were found to have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

On most verification visits, the centre's assessment and verification procedures were implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

Where assessment is integrated across a range of units, it is recommended that this is taken into account during pre-delivery review.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

Assessment instruments and methods, and their selection and use, were found to be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair on most external verification visits. Most centres were using SQA generated support materials or centre-devised assessments that were engaging, and involved tasks deriving from naturally occurring evidence.

For Sound Production: Graded Unit 1 (F506 34), it is essential that learners are given instruction to create a portfolio that may be used to gain employment. Learners must also research sound production job roles, and the findings should be used to inform the contents of the portfolio. The assessment task should also make clear that Graded Unit 1 is an individual portfolio project. Centres should also refer to the assessment support pack (ASP) to inform grading and marking learners.

Centres are advised to ensure that the assessment for Sound: Understanding the Signal Path (H7F9 46) is clear in specifying that two systems are required.

There was a recommendation and a reminder that centres can make use of SQA's prior verification service for internally devised assessments.

Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.

All centres were taking appropriate steps to ensure that assessment evidence was the learner's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions. One centre had captured an extra DVD demonstrating the learner performance of Sound Production Practice 1 (DJ3634) – this informed the verification process and confirmed the authenticity of the evidence and is good practice.

In particular for Sound Production: Graded Unit 1, in circumstances where candidates are working in groups, each candidate's individual input must be clear to the assessor. This can be difficult to establish depending on the task(s) being completed.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

On most verification visits, evidence of candidates' work was found to be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements. There was good practice in one centre that had produced detailed marking guidelines, with accompanying checklists for the units.

To assist in ensuring evidence requirement are being met, centres could create a summary of evidence required, to inform assessment marking and internal verification.

Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.

Almost all centres had retained candidate evidence in line with SQA requirements for the purposes of internal and external verification.

Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres were able to provide sufficient evidence that feedback from qualification verifiers was disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice, to highlight what is being done well, and to focus on areas for improvement.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2016–17:

♦ Detailed marking guidelines and accompanying checklists assisting with standardisation of units.
♦ Video capture of learner performance for Sound Production Practice 1 (DJ3634), confirming authenticity and providing a forum for evaluation of performance.
♦ Access to lab facilities and production software outside of class hours, for learners to work on coursework.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development were reported during session 2016–17:

♦ Improvement of internal verification to ensure instruments of assessment are valid and candidate evidence is assessed appropriately.
♦ Wider implementation of marking guidelines for standardisation of assessment judgements.
♦ Ensuring language in candidate responses is appropriate for the SCQF level.