



**Higher National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2014
Mechanical Engineering**

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

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

DV11 34 Mechanical Engineering Graded Unit 1 (postal verification)

DV12 35 Mechanical Engineering Graded Unit 2

General comments

All centres that were verified this year had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards and were experienced at delivering these Graded Units.

Four centres had their work centrally verified.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors demonstrated good understanding and awareness of the requirements of the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. In addition, each centre demonstrated wide knowledge and experience of using and interpreting the course documentation and materials, embedding their experience within the Graded Units taught.

Centres provided details of course meetings in which staff shared ideas and good practice from within each department on the delivery of each Graded Unit.

No centres visited in session 2013–14 were subject to a Hold on certification, confirming that all assessment decisions were reliable and valid.

Evidence Requirements

All centres visited during 2013–14 clearly demonstrated an understanding of the Evidence Requirements of the Graded Units.

In all cases, the candidate materials were deemed to be of an appropriate standard for verification.

Administration of assessments

The centres that were visited demonstrated good control and management of assessments, and materials were deemed to be of an appropriate level.

Internal verification procedures were deemed to be robust, ensuring national standards.

As has been noted in the past as good practice, all centres engaged in cross-marking or second marking of candidates' evidence to ensure all work met the college internal verification procedures and national standards.

General feedback

Centres employed a variety of feedback mechanisms to ensure all candidates gained feedback on their performance during their course.

Due to the timing and type of external verification, no candidates were interviewed.

All centres employed excellent access to their assessments with no barriers identified from any visit.

Areas of good practice

All centres visited demonstrated a high standard of record keeping. The breadth and depth of Graded Unit 2 work being undertaken was of a high standard with a number of projects subject to patents. This demonstrated that these centres and their candidates understand, and are able to undertake, industry-level projects — which in some cases exceed the Outcomes for the Unit.

All centres provided detailed feedback to candidates during their work. A number of centres employed internally devised guidance to candidates on the requirements of the Graded Unit.

Centres provided staff with the appropriate level of qualifications and industrial experience to support candidates who undertook industrial projects.

In all cases the assessments were signed by internal verifiers, resulting in a standardised approach across the sector.

Specific areas for improvement

As demonstrated by this year's high standard of industry-based Graded Unit 2 projects, all centres need to continually develop their links with industry and other colleges to utilise equipment and staffing to develop the curriculum in line with industry needs.