



**Higher National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2016
Photography**

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

The feedback from external verifiers is that all centres have a clear and accurate understanding of the unit requirements.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

There were no problems with assessment in any of the centres: all assessors were fully aware of the unit specifications and assessment support packs; exemplification materials were used effectively throughout the centres.

Evidence requirements

All evidence provided was appropriate to the units verified, which shows that staff are fully aware of the evidence requirements.

Administration of assessments

System administration varies across the centres with some centres using exam board meetings to discuss and disseminate information generated at internal verification meetings. All centres' assessment systems were effective and the feedback from the candidates showed they understood what was expected of them.

General feedback

Candidates fed back that they thought that the assessments were appropriate and relevant and that they also had relevance to the industry of visual communication. They felt that the assessments were easy to understand and support was given by lecturers when needed. Feedback was given via written feedback sheets during one-to-one meetings, allowing the candidate to discuss and sign it off.

Areas of good practice

The use of mentors to support the candidate experience over and above the lecturer support produced a very high standard of work.

The inclusion of industry-standard assignments challenged the candidates and gave them an awareness of professional requirements.

Higher National graded units

Titles/levels of HN graded units verified:

DX0D 35 Graded Unit 2

DW91 34 Graded Unit 1

General comments

The following statement is taken from one external verifier's report and is a good reflection of the overall understanding of the national standards in centres.

'Centres have a clear and accurate understanding of the national standards. The standard of work that candidates have produced in relation to both graded units is of a very high standard relative to and respective of level.'

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Staff offering the graded units are fully aware of the instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. The following is from a report which clearly shows this:

'Several staff who delivered the units were available for interview and gave an overview of how both graded units were sequenced in the course framework (ie a breakdown of delivery over an 18 week period).

They also comprehensively covered how candidate work is assessed, the instruments of assessment that were employed, the standardisation of units across different groups, and the internal verification procedures following candidate assessment.

Discussion included how feedback is provided to candidates at each stage of their development and how mentoring sessions and tutorial arrangements ensure that candidates receive the best possible learning experience from the programme.'

Evidence requirements

All evidence presented was appropriate to the units.

Administration of assessments

Clear records of standardisation meetings, internal verification meetings and team meetings show that all assessments are at the correct level and in an appropriate timescale.

General feedback

The following comment from one of the reports summarises the general feedback.

'Candidates were very positive about the course and their graded unit experience. They were aware of the structure of the graded unit and how it would be assessed. They understood the important process of self-directed study and thoroughly enjoyed the autonomy this project offered them. The students clearly saw how the other units influenced their development as the graded unit approached. Candidates were proud of their work and it was displayed in a professional manner in the campus end-of-year show.'

Areas of good practice

The use of student feedback forms highlights any improvements or changes to the units or course structure, which can then be discussed at the course team meetings.