Higher National and National Units

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2022

Drama and Theatre Arts

Verification group number: 16

Introduction

This report relates to the findings of external verification activity within the verification group Drama and Theatre Arts (16). Two colleges and seven schools were externally verified. Specific units verified are listed below. No graded unit was externally verified.

Level 7/8
DG3M 34   Acting for Camera
DG48 35   Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance
H4TP 34   Professional Development for Actors
H90E 35   Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2
DP8V 35   Performance 2: Applying Skills for Musical Theatre

Level 6
F5L5 12   Technical Theatre in Context
F697 12   Theatrical Design
F693 12   Theatre Stage Lighting Operations
F5LB 12   Theatre Skills in Performance
F5L4 12   Professional Theatre in Context

Overall, centres generally met the criteria successfully. However, in some centres, there was evidence of some issues in relation to the robustness and implementation of internal verification and, in addition, the use of non-valid instruments of assessment. Centres are strongly advised to make use of SQA's Prior Verification service.

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 FE college centres had evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments, equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials. Master folders were in place for all units. Documented minutes contained evidence of ongoing reviews (and actions therein) along with student surveys. All schools had quality documentation as part of the education requirements. However, this was not always easily accessible during visits. Many schools did not have evidence available of documented minutes of standardisation meetings.

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 matched candidates' development needs and prior achievements through interview and audition processes. They identified development needs at an early stage and identified ongoing development needs throughout practical and written exercises.

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

All centres offered candidates regular one-to-one meetings with their assessor to review their progress and revise their assessment plans accordingly. Spontaneous feedback was also given on an ongoing basis due to the large amount of practical activity involved in the awards.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

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

Documented evidence was available in some centres to show that their internal verification process was effectively implemented for pre-delivery and ongoing verification. However, most centres need to implement their internal verification procedures more rigorously, while many centres had no evidence of an active internal verification process. The lack of evidence of an active internal verification process is cause for concern as this inevitably has a negative impact on achieving standardisation requirements.

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

Most centres demonstrated the effective selection and use of assessment instruments and methods, ensuring validity, reliability, equitability and fairness. However, many centres did not have evidence of a pre-delivery internal verification process to ensure the suitability of the assessment instruments and methods. Some centres had issues with non-valid assessment instruments, which had not been sent to SQA for prior verification.

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

All centres had processes and procedures in place ensuring it was the candidate's own work generated under SQA required conditions. Most centres employed a disclaimer signed by the candidate relating to plagiarism.

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

Most centres made accurate and consistent judgements of candidates' work against SQA requirements. More than a few centres continued to demonstrate a tendency to provide little or no assessor commentary on how assessment judgements had been made. Candidates' evidence had to be remarked where non-valid assessment instruments were initially used.

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

All centres retained evidence in line with SQA requirements. All centres provided the requested candidate evidence and this was password protected where appropriate.

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

Almost all centres demonstrated effective dissemination of feedback from qualification verifiers. On many occasions, this was not in the form of documented evidence, such as minutes of meetings. Most centres operate with a small team, and staff within each centre work in close contact and proximity to each other, communicating verbally or through email. There were some occasions where documented evidence of minutes of standardisation/team/course committee meetings recorded the results of qualification verification.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2021–22:

♦ There was clear and efficient evidence of a thorough internal verification process in some centres.
♦ Centres used professional working spaces.
♦ Candidates performed in more than one space.
♦ All assessors and internal verifiers attended all productions.

Specific areas for development

The following area for development was reported during session 2021–22:

♦ The internal verification process should be active and robust; documented evidence relating to the three stages of internal verification (pre-delivery, ongoing and post-delivery) should be available.