

EXTERNAL EXAMINING OF TAUGHT PROGRAMMES HANDBOOK

1. The Purpose of External Examining of Taught Programmes

- 1.1 External Examining of taught programmes within UK Higher Education is a long-established, cross sector quality and standards system, the purpose of which is to provide external assurance that the assessment of students on taught Higher Education programmes is reliable, comparable and academically rigorous. This in turn contributes to maintaining the integrity and credibility of progression decisions and the final award each student receives.
- 1.2 The External Examiners who work within the system play a key role in:
- Maintaining the academic standards, and where appropriate professional standards, of taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes;
 - Providing independent, critical evaluation of taught modules and programmes, and of the assessment of their associated learning outcomes;
 - Ensuring transparency, fairness and equity in assessment, progression and awarding decisions throughout a taught programme of study;
 - Supporting the consistent implementation of institutional assessment, progression and awarding policies and procedures for taught programmes; and
 - Contributing to the comparability of institutional awards across the Higher Education sector and alignment with published sector standards for the different types, levels and subject matter of awards.
- 1.3 The University's policies and procedures for external examining of taught programmes are designed to contribute to providing assurance of the University's compliance with the following [Conditions of Registration](#) with the Office for Students (OfS):
- Condition B4: Assessment and Awarding; and
 - Condition B5: Sector-Recognised Standards.
- They are also informed by the sector recognised [External Examining Principles](#) (QAA, 2022) and supplementary guidance.
- 1.4 External Examiners **must**, therefore, be appointed by the University for all credit bearing, taught programmes, or programmes with taught elements, delivered by

Faculties (or delegated Schools) or by Academic Partners under Validation Agreements,

- 1.5 External Examiners for taught programmes appointed by the University are officially subject to approval by the Education Board on behalf of Senate, in accordance with [Ordinance 5](#).