

EXTERNAL EXAMINING OF TAUGHT PROGRAMMES HANDBOOK

8. Other Forms of External Assurance of Academic and/or Professional Standards

8.1 External Examiners for Post Graduate Research Programmes

External Examiners also form part of the Board of Examiners that examines Postgraduate Research (PGR) degrees. This role is also applicable to the Thesis/Viva element of Professional Doctorate programmes, although taught modules are examined separately in accordance with this Handbook. Further information regarding the criteria for appointment, and roles and responsibilities of PGR External Examiners, together with the Viva examination requirements for PGR programmes can be found in the Postgraduate Research Handbook, [Chapter 12, Handbook for Examination of Postgraduate Research Programmes](#). Further information regarding Professional Doctorates can be found in the PGR Handbook, [Chapter 10, Code of Good Practice – Professional Doctorate Postgraduate Research Programmes](#).

8.2 External Assessors for Taught Programme Approvals

An External Assessor is consulted in the process of making significant amendments to taught programmes/modules, or for new taught programmes. Further information, including the criteria for appointment and roles and responsibilities can be found in the Approval and Revision of Taught Modules and Programmes Handbook, [Chapter 4, Academic Approval](#). This role is also applicable to the taught modules for PGR Professional Doctorate Programmes. Further information regarding Professional Doctorates can be found in the PGR Handbook, [Chapter 10, Code of Good Practice – Professional Doctorate Postgraduate Research Programmes](#).

8.3 External Advisers for Curriculum Review, Programme Review and Quality Review

An External Adviser provides independent, expert advice to support institutional curriculum review, local-level reviews of programmes, quality review and enhancement activity and other specialist support as appropriate. They provide impartial sector-informed perspectives on academic standards, professional standards, teaching, learning and assessment, and the quality of the student experience. External Advisers do not hold decision-making authority. They provide written or oral feedback as part of

the review process, which is considered alongside other outputs of the process (e.g., data, written reports), by the relevant person/body (e.g., the Panel, a Chair). External Advisers are often utilised within [Programme Enhancement Reviews](#). Further information, including the criteria for appointment of External Advisers, can be found in the [Quality Review and Enhancement Framework SharePoint](#) site.

8.4 University Principal External Examiner for Institutional Academic Standards and Degree Outcomes

The University Principal External Examiner has external oversight of measures to maintain the credibility and sector comparability of the University's taught awards and provides additional assurance of compliance with the Office for Students (OfS) ongoing conditions of registration B4 and B5. They oversee the annual internal review of the University's assessment, progression and awarding policies and practices and degree outcomes for taught students and approve the externally published annual [Degree Outcomes Statement](#). Further information on this cycle of activity, and the role of the Principal External Examiner within it, can be found in Chapter 12 of the Assessment, Progression and Awarding: Taught Programmes Handbook.

8.5 Independent Assessors for Integrated End Point Assessments of Degree Apprenticeships

An Independent Assessor is a role within some integrated degree apprenticeship programmes, where there is a separate End Point Assessment (EPA) element and where the University acts as an End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO). In these instances, an Independent Assessor is required to conduct the EPA and assess apprentices as set out in the EPA Plan. The University Department delivering the programme and the EPA is responsible for recruiting Independent Assessors and must do so in accordance with the [Annex 1 - Conflict of Interest Policy for Independent Assessors](#) of the [Special Provisions for Degree Apprenticeship](#).