

<Creative Academy>

<Internal Verification Policy>

Overview

An Internal Verification (IV) Policy in Higher Education ensures assessment quality, consistency, and fairness to national standards, primarily focusing on assignment brief approval and sampling marked work. It involves a Lead Internal Verifier overseeing a risk-based process, including standardization meetings and annual reviews of assessment materials, as detailed in the [Pearson qualifications centre guide to internal verification](#).

Key Components of HE Internal Verification Policies:

- **Assignment Brief Verification:** All assignments must be verified as "fit for purpose" before being issued to learners to ensure they meet unit criteria.
- **Assessment Sampling:** A sample of graded learner work from all assessors must be internally verified to ensure consistent and fair marking.
- **Standardisation:** Regular meetings are required to discuss and compare marking practices across the team to reach a consensus.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Evaluators must avoid assessing work where they have a potential conflict of interest.
- **Record Retention:** Internal verification documents, assessment records, and student work should be stored for at least 3 years after certification.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Lead Internal Verifier:** Manages quality assurance for the subject, coordinates the team, and acts as the liaison with External Examiners.
- **Internal Verifier:** Conducts checks on assignment briefs and assessment decisions to ensure validity and accuracy.

Key Processes:

- **Pre-assignment:** Verification of the Assignment Brief (checking task suitability, fairness, and grading alignment).
- **Post-assignment:** Sampling of marked work (checking accuracy of assessor decisions).
- **Standardization:** Regular team meetings to ensure consistent interpretation of standards.

Key Principles:

- **Fairness:** All learners are judged against the same standard.
- **Independence:** Verification should be done by someone other than the original marker whenever possible.
- **Timeliness:** Process must be completed efficiently to allow for timely feedback to students.

For the purpose of this document and to ensure it is clear to students 'Slough Borough Council' is referred to as 'the Creative Academy'

Internal Verification Policy

1. Policy Statement

Internal Verification (IV) is the process of monitoring assessment practice in order to ensure that assessment decisions meet national standards. It provides a continuous check on the consistency, quality and fairness of marking, grading and overall assessment of student's work.

- To ensure that all students are fairly, accurately and regularly assessed in a consistent manner.
- To meet the requirements placed upon the Creative Academy by QCA, the awarding bodies, and the learner contract.
- To ensure that valid assessment decisions are reached for all our students and that external requirements are fully met.
- To support academic staff in their assessment activities by affording them the opportunity to receive critically supportive comment on the assessment decisions reached

2. Scope

For the purpose of this policy, the term IV encompasses all forms of activity that check and validate assessment specifically related to Edexcel (Pearson), Active IQ and City and Guilds qualifications. It may be implemented through the systems of verification as required or laid down by examining or awarding bodies; or it may occur through shared observation of student activities, second marking of students' work, or team grading/assessment of students' work.

Any task, activity, essay or project that contributes to the students' final achievement in a vocational area, academic subject or key skill will fall within the scope of this policy.

3 Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to give full and active support for the policy by ensuring:

The policy is known, understood and implemented

Internally verifying assignment briefs

The Internal Verifier should check that the brief:

- has accurate unit details
- has accurate programme details
- has clear deadlines for assessment
- shows all relevant assessment criteria for the unit(s) covered in the assignment

- indicates relevant assessment criteria targeted against each task
- clearly states what evidence the learner needs to provide
- is likely to generate evidence which is appropriate and sufficient
- is set at the appropriate level
- has a time period of appropriate duration
- uses suitable vocational language
- has a clear presentation format.

and then provide feedback to the Assessor

Actions to Implement and Develop Policy

- Every programme with work that is internally assessed and which contributes to the final assessment outcome of a student must carry out internal verification.
- Appropriately qualified staff must carry out all internal verification. Where trainee internal verifier undertakes IV, this must be verified by a qualified IV and countersigned.
- Each programme must have identified members of staff who will verify or standardise the assessments for that particular programme.
- IV must be carried out continuously throughout the year. In addition to this, each programme will identify appropriate periods of time when IV takes place. These times will be included in a course calendar, which each course must have in place in either the IV file or course file.
- Any evidence that is produced must meet the requirements of the awarding bodies and Slough Borough Council.
- The evidence must be recorded on appropriate documentation, which takes into account the requirements of awarding bodies.
- Assignments must be verified before they are issued as well as when they have been marked
- Internal verification must take place before assessment decisions are finalised and notified to students and certification is requested.
- Records of IV will be kept in a secure location at The West Wing Arts Centre and accessed by staff authorised to do so.
- All IV or moderation must be in line with current awarding body.
- Sampling must be across all assessors, all types of evidence and all learners including plans, reviews and records in addition to candidate evidence.
- IV must attend standardisation meetings and maintain a current continuous professional development file.

Standardisation

When a unit or assignment is delivered and assessed by more than one person, standardisation must be carried out before any formal assessment and internal verification has taken place. The function of standardisation is to agree the standard by discussing and mutually assessing a sample of learner work to reach a consensus. This must be done with reference to the assessment criteria and assessment guidance provided by us in the qualification specification.

Reviewing this statement or policy

This policy or statement will be annually reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose, up to date and effective. Student representation will be part of the process to ensure that it is fair and clear.

Any changes will be uploaded to the website, ensuring that it is accessible to prospective and current students. For general enquiries and/or complaints regarding this statement, please contact the Creative Academy using the information below:

- By phone - 01753 875400
- By email - info@creativeacademy.org
- By post - Creative Academy, 73a Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 3NY
- By website - using the contact us page on www.creativeacademy.ac.uk
- For complaints - please see the complaints process on the website