Welcome - Session starting at 10.30 am

The session will be recorded and made available to examiners unable to attend. Please let us know if you have any concerns.
Welcome

Dr Daniel Baker
Deputy Chair: Standing Committee on Assessment

Dr Stephen Gow
Secretary of SCA

Mrs Claire Pinder
Academic Support Coordinator
Your Role

You all play a critical role in assisting the University to discharge its responsibilities for Quality and Standards – Thank you!

- Independent advice to us on academic standards & quality of assessment
- Critical friend to the department & University
- Advocate in the students’ learning experience
Our procedures and rules

Chapters on:

• Standards and marking (p.53)
• Feedback (p.61)
• Rules for assessment, progression and award (p.83)
• 20: External Examiners (p.72)

https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/teaching/learning-design/assessment/guide/
Your Role

Help us meet our crucial obligations as a degree-awarding body.

UK QUALITY CODE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

EXPECTATIONS

CORE

PRACTICES

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

COMMON

EXTERNAL EXPERTISE

UK SCQA
UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment
Your Role: Maintaining academic standards

Feedback on whether:

• The programme and its components continue to be coherent, their outcomes aligned with the relevant qualification descriptor in the applicable qualifications framework, and any relevant subject benchmark statements.

• The programme reflects any additional PSRB requirements.

• Assessments in modules of the same level are of a comparable standard and the curriculum remains current.

• Assessment criteria, marking schemes and arrangements for classification are set at the appropriate level.
Your Role: Measuring achievement, rigour and fairness

Feedback on whether:

• The types of assessment are **appropriate** for the subject, the students, the respective level of study and the expected outcomes.

• The marking scheme/grading criteria have been properly and **consistently** applied, and internal marking is of an **appropriate** standard, fair and reliable.

• The assessment processes are carried out in accordance with the **degree-awarding body's regulations and procedures**.

• Procedures governing exceptional circumstances, academic integrity/misconduct and borderline performances have been **considered fairly and equitably applying institutional regulations**.
Your Role

Information available to you (from Department – see Guide to Assessment 20.3)

• Syllabus, handbooks, reports
• Meeting with students (?)
• Receiving assessment tasks in advance (e.g. exams)
• Assessment/marking schemes
• Student work and feedback on work
• Exam boards data and processes
We will ask you to:

• Comment on draft exams and other forms of assessment
• Review (sampled) examination scripts
• Review other student work
• Attend Exam Boards (see later)
• Advise on programme enhancements and new programme proposals as requested
  • e.g New programmes in a semesterised structure will be introduced in 2023/24
• Make improvement/ enhancement suggestions
• Submit annual report
• Work with the department to help maintain standards and foster excellence.
Exam Boards:

• Scrutiny Panel (week 9 summer term)
  Receives marks, checks penalties, considers assessment issues, recommendation for scaling etc)

• Departmental Exam Board (Module Board)
  Finalises marks for modules, input from External Examiners
  External Examiners: please provide an oral report

• Ratification Panel
  Confirms and ratifies outcomes for progression and award.
Exam Boards:

We will ask you to:

• Approve processes
• Confirm standards, fairness and rigour
• Consider outcomes
• Approve final marks
• Comment and advise on all aspects (and we will listen!)

We will NOT ask you to:

• Mark work
• Consider an individual student’s circumstances.
SCENARIOS
BREAK
Our procedures and rules

Chapters on:

• Standards and marking (p.53)
• Feedback (p.61)
• Rules for assessment, progression and award (p.83)

https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/teaching/learning-design/assessment/guide/
University of York Progression & Award Rules - Undergraduate Programmes

Based on credit weighted average (rounded to nearest integer)

• First-class Honours average $\geq 70$
• Upper second-class Honours $60 \leq \text{average} < 70$
• Lower second-class Honours $50 \leq \text{average} < 60$
• Third-class Honours $40 \leq \text{average} < 50$

3-year Bachelors weighted 0:2:3
4-year Integrated Masters weighted: 0:2:3:3
University of York Progression and Award Rules - Undergraduate Programmes

Based on credit weighted average (rounded to nearest integer)

**Borderline cases**

- Possible first-class Honours average $\geq 68$
- Possible Upper second-class Honours $58 \leq \text{average} < 68$
- Possible Lower second-class Honours $48 \leq \text{average} < 58$
- Possible Third-class Honours $38 \leq \text{average} < 48$

3-year Bachelors when weighted 0:1:1 OR 0:1:2

4-year Integrated Masters when weighted : 0:1:1:1 OR 0:1:2:2
University of York Progression and Award Rules - Postgraduate Taught (Masters)

Based on credit weighted average (rounded to nearest integer)

- **Distinction:** average \( \geq 70 \) and Independent Study Module \( \geq 70 \) and no fails
- **Merit:** average \( \geq 60 \) and ISM \( \geq 60 \) and \( \leq 20 \) credit failed
University of York Progression & Award Rules - Compensation & Re-assessment Principles

Compensation allowed, but only if:
• Stage average is at pass level, AND
• A “compensatable fail” mark is achieved in all modules, AND
• Maximum number of credits compensation not exceeded

Reassessment allowed, but only if:
• Maximum credits of reassessment not exceeded, AND
• Maximum credits of “outright fail” not exceeded

Reassessment “caps” are applied at stage-level not module level
University of York Progression & Award Rules

Bachelor's Programmes: Stage 3

1. Stage 3: Register for 120 Credits
   - Start Here
   - Pass 120 credits?
     - No
       - Apply compensation criteria: Student can still get credit if
         1. failed no more than 40 credits
         2. no marks lower than 10
         3. rounded credit weighted mean for stage is at least 40
       - Achieved 120 credits?
         - Yes
           - Apply compensation criteria against marks incl. result marks:
             Student can still get credit if
             1. failed no more than 40 credits
             2. no marks lower than 10
             3. rounded credit weighted mean for stage is at least 40
           - Achieved 60 credits?
             - Yes
               - Student awarded an Ordinary Degree
             - No
               - Student exits with DipHE based on second year performance
         - No
           - Eligible for reassessment criteria:
             Student can be reassessed if:
             1. failed no more than 40 credits
             - Student chooses and completes reassessment.
               Details on choosing reassessment can be found here:  
               [http://www.york.ac.uk/media/2023/06/27/student/Reassessment.pdf](http://www.york.ac.uk/media/2023/06/27/student/Reassessment.pdf)
           - Yes
             - Student awarded an Ordinary Degree
           - No
             - Student awarded Honours Degree

   - Yes
     - Achieved 120 credits?
       - Yes
         - Student awarded Honours Degree
       - No
         - Student awarded an Ordinary Degree
University of York Progression & Award Rules

Integrated Master’s Programmes: Stage 4

1. Apply compensation criteria:
   - Student can still get credit if
     1. failed no more than 40 credits
     2. no marks lower than 10
     3. rounded credit weighted mean for stage is at least 50

2. Achieved 120 credits?
   - No
     - Eligible for resits?
       - No
         - Student exits with Bachelor’s based on third year performance
       - Yes
         - Apply reassessment criteria:
           - Student can be reassessed if:
             1. failed no more than 40 credits

3. Yes
   - Achieved 120 credits?
     - No
       - Student awarded Integrated Master’s
     - Yes
       - Student chooses and completes resits.

Details on choosing resits can be found here:
http://www.york.ac.uk/media/handbook/study/assessment/programmes.pdf

Stage average at least 50?

- No
  - Student awarded Integrated Master’s
- Yes
  - Student exits with Bachelor’s based on third year performance
A useful guide

Advance HE’s handbook for external examining (Feb 2019) is a useful reference point.
The Report

- Purpose
- Design of the template
- Key features of a ‘good’ report
- Sample from 2020/21
- University’s quality assurance framework
The Report

• Key feature of our annual monitoring and enhancement processes

• Evidences comparability of our awards, appropriateness of standards, assessment process

• Sector expectation

• Designed in accordance with the guiding principles in Quality Code Advice and Guidance: External Expertise.
Design Template

- Reflection on Standards
  - course structure & content (in context of the level of the qualification & benchmark statement)
  - marking scheme/grading criteria & extent to which it has been rigorously & consistently applied
  - threshold standards are met
  - comparability of standards (in context of other UK degree awarding bodies).
Design Template

- Reflection on Assessment

  - Appropriateness of methods (for the subject, level, and learning outcomes)
  - Conduct of the Board of Examiners (fair & equitable application of rules for assessment, progression, award etc)
  - Effectiveness of administrative arrangements (e.g. time to review assessment sample).
Design Template

• Reflection on quality of teaching and learning
  (in so far as you are able) as revealed in assessments & by student performance.

• Optional sections
  □ Induction (first year of appointment)
  □ End of term overview
  □ Previous issues (considered & responded to?)
  □ Additional comments
  □ Feedback on the form.
Overall opinion on whether:

a) the standards set for this/these award(s) are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject

YES/NO

b) the academic standards and the achievements of students are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK degree-awarding bodies with which you are familiar

YES/NO

c) the processes for assessment, examination and the determination of awards are sound and fairly conducted in line with the University’s regulations and procedures:

YES/NO
Reports should....

• Be sufficiently detailed - Fully address each point on the template

• Be constructively written – aid enhancement – identify possible actions

• Observe confidentiality

• Recognise and highlight good practice

• Be submitted on time – if there is a delay, please keep us posted.
Sample Reports

• Sample report(s) from 2020/21

• Read & feedback:
  □ Level of detail?
  □ Constructive?
  □ Highlights innovative practice?

In 2020 we moved to the online format [guidance sheet circulated].
Scrubinity of the Report

- **Department** – Boards of Studies – Annual Programme Review Process – Periodic Review process

- **Academic Quality Team** – create a log of issues raised on which the Department must indicate actions taken in response

- **University** – Standing Committee on Assessment and University Teaching Committee

- Shared with Student Representatives.
Response to the Report

• Department
  □ response must address issues raised and indicate action(s) to be taken (or not) in response
  □ monitored via routine quality assurance processes
  □ indicate in subsequent report if unsatisfactory response.

• University
  □ acknowledgement & thank you
  □ further correspondence if serious concerns are raised.
**EXAMINER DETAILS**

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Forename(s)</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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**Email**

Have you provided your bank details to the University previously? Yes / No

If No, or if your bank has changed recently, please complete bank details on the reverse of this form.

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<tr>
<th>Department/Centre</th>
<th>Level Examined</th>
<th>Undergraduate / Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Date Exam Board</th>
<th>Level Examined</th>
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<tr>
<th>Is this your first claim?</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
<th>Have you returned your Individual Details Form (if any)?</th>
<th>YES / NO</th>
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**DETAILS OF CLAIM**

(If there are any special expenses, please describe them here)

| Travel type (Please state mode of travel/incurred)
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| Other expenses (Please give details)
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Any other expenses</td>
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TOTAL EXPENSES

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<th>DETAILS OF FEE (to be completed by University of York)</th>
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**CLAIMANT SIGNATURE: **** DATE: TOTAL**

For our use

<table>
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<th>AUTHORIZATION:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department: ASO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print Name: Jane Edloe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate – fee liable for tax (Yes / No)
Undergraduate – fee not liable for tax (Yes / No)
Undergraduate – can be removed from database (Yes / No)

User account: 2345/2003

Description to appear on finance reports:

fee code: D4

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<th>Other currency code</th>
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TOTAL

**NOTES TO THE EXTERNAL EXAMINER EXPENSE CLAIM FORM**

1. **PAYMENT**

   Payments will be made by BACS directly to your Bank/Building Society account. Please complete details overleaf.

2. **AUTHORISATION**

   All claims must be signed by the claimant and authorised by an authorised member of the Academic Support Office.

3. **RECEIPTS**

   All claims must be supported by valid receipts as far as is practical (excluding mileage).

4. **TRAVEL**

   2nd class rail or bus fares will be paid. Travel by car will be at the External Examiner mileage rate.

5. **FEE PAYMENTS**

   - Undergraduate Examiners – The Inland Revenue procedures require the University to deduct tax at the basic rate from fees paid to undergraduate external examiners. National Insurance is not deducted as this is not a requirement.
   - Postgraduate Examiners – It is not a requirement to deduct tax or National Insurance from fees for external examiners examining at postgraduate level.
   - Travel and subsistence expenses will not be taxed.
   - Claims must be made in full. Payments cannot be made without this information.
   - Payments will be made directly into your bank/building society account. A payment advice will be issued to the claimant.

   The payment advice should be retained for submission to your Tax Office as you may be liable for tax at a higher rate or you may be entitled to a refund of the tax deducted.
Fees and Expenses

Fees:

• Fees are finalised each year on account of student numbers
• Fees are paid after receipt of the annual report

Expenses:

• Travelling & other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed
• Expenses are paid on submission of a claim form (this should be within 3 months of incurring the expense) and sent to examiners@york.ac.uk
• Claim form and guidelines are on the UoY External Examiners web page.
Any Questions?
Evaluation
We would greatly appreciate your feedback on this event to help us improve our delivery at future events. Would you please take a few minutes after this meeting to complete our evaluation form, the link to which is on the Agenda?
Contact Details
Email address: examiners@york.ac.uk
Website: External Examiners - link is on the Agenda