

School of Creative Arts – Role of External Examiner

Music

We expect the external examiner to do the following:

- moderate divergent marks from internal examiners, especially in (capstone) projects
- review ranges of marks between our three specialisms and intervene if s/he believes there are discrepancies between, for example, Composition & Musicology
- review marks that are challenged by students
- co-mark essays and other coursework if asked
- provide feedback on standards, resources, course content, and other quality issues
- help settle 'considered' marks (59s, etc.)
- add a stamp of authority to the decisions of the course of examiners (he is given the last word in discussions, though usually s/he will only confirm a consensus)

Film

Normally, s/he reviews and comments on student academic and practice-based assignments (that is, the assignments we set as well as the coursework submitted), moderates marks for consistency across the board, reviews any marks queried by students, resolves any internal disagreements in relation to marks, pays particular attention to the marking of dissertations and provides feedback on the quality and assessment of dissertations overall, benchmarks standards in relation to comparable programmes and/or institutions, and advises in relation to course content/curriculum development/resources required etc.

Drama

External Examiners are seen to serve as safety valve and guardrail for programme development and teaching practice. They are asked to moderate marking and to deliver constructive advice on our teaching and marking practices as well as supportive input on the quality of resources. They are sent a cross-section of SS Dissertations for benchmarking, borderline, and in cases of disagreement between internal markers. They are sent a sampling of marked work, invited to observe practical assessments (in person or on video) and inspect practical design work onsite.