

School of Chemistry

Role of External Examiners

Our extern examiners for the undergraduate degree programmes have a wide range of functions. In approximately chronological order within the academic year, these include:

1. review of the style, content and presentation of our examination questions at Senior Sophister and Junior Sophister levels
2. an overall review of the content and level of the examinations as a whole
3. suggesting appropriate amendments to questions and to papers arising from (1) and (2)
4. reviewing the marking of all components of the degree examination to ensure that standards are appropriate (and generally match those of expected at this level of student attainment) and to ensure that students are treated equally and fairly. This will include the interview of students at borderlines
5. to comment and make recommendations for the conduct of future examinations, including how the school examiners might better develop the role of, and relationship with, the externs
6. based on this experience, meetings with the different disciplines within the school and meetings with the students, to consider the overall content of the courses, matters of presentation of the courses and to advise us on aspirations for future development of our courses (including the structure of our examinations)

The School finds all these contributions to be valuable - and, for example, on the matter of course development, we had a lengthy discussion of the impact of current developments on our aspiration to regain accreditation of our Moderatorships by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The starting point for the relationship is clearly review and oversight of our Moderatorship examinations but we are appreciative of the influence that our extern examiners have had, over the years, in all aspects of our undergraduate teaching.