



External Verification Annual Summary Academic Year 2015-16

This is the third annual summary of External Verification (EV) activity for Glasgow Clyde College. The summary is based on activity throughout 2015-16 by all of the awarding bodies for which Glasgow Clyde College delivers qualifications.

The College works with a variety of awarding bodies and the undernoted table summarises the scope and results of activities as well as providing comparisons with last year's statistics.

Awarding Body	No. of Reports		No. of Action Plans / Holds / Not accepted decisions	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority)	77	70	6	5
City and Guilds	6	4	1	0
VTCT (Vocational Training Charitable Trust)	3	2	0	0
EAL	2	2	0	0
SJIB (Scottish Joint Industry Board – Electrical)*	2	2	0	0
ECITB	2	2	0	0
BPEC	0	1	0	0
COSCA	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	95	84	7	5

* incorporated within SQA Electrical SVQ reports

Findings

The scale of verification activity by all awarding bodies has continued to decrease during this academic year, from 95 EV visits in 2014-15 to 84 in 2015-16. This year saw an 11% reduction both in the number of visits by SQA and also the number of verification groups covered with a decrease from 67 in 2014-15 to 60 in 2015-16. It should also be highlighted that there has been a 30% reduction in the number of reports resulting in action plans / holds / not accepted decisions.

Five reports from SQA received the outcome rating of 'some strengths and some weaknesses' due to issues identified within the criteria of Internal Assessment / Internal Verification. This initially resulted in five entries in action plans being imposed. Appropriate steps were quickly taken by staff to address the issues raised and entries in action plans were closed out and the outcome ratings revised by SQA to significant strengths within a short time scale. Unfortunately one entry in an action plan was not fully closed out on time due to a minor omission, therefore the sanction imposed was escalated to Suspension of specific qualification certification by qualification. On notification of this sanction upgrade action was taken by the Head of Curriculum within one day to submit revised materials to SQA which were accepted and the sanction was lifted.

Visits carried out by all other awarding bodies which includes City & Guilds, VTCT, ECITB, EAL, COSCA and BPEC were successful with no sanctions being applied.

Quality Co-ordinators continue to review all External Verification reports and prepare analysis forms highlighting actions points / development points / recommendations and good practice. Both documents are forwarded to faculty staff for review, and action where required. Action plans are regularly monitored by quality staff to ensure that all actions are closed out.

A document entitled 'Recommendations and Good Practice identified by External Verifiers' continues to be updated and published on the Staff Intranet. This enables information from visits to be widely disseminated and particularly assists the sharing of good practice. A named faculty contact is also contained within the document in order that staff know who to contact to find out more detail about specific visits or practice.

During 2015-16, there were 122 recommendations / development points and 161 examples of good practice made by verifiers. Recommendations this year were once again mainly made in relation to internal assessment / verification and included reconfiguring assessment marks, ensuring that assessment feedback is captured and consistent completion of IV paperwork. Good practice highlighted included excellent methods of recording candidates' achievements, very high standard of feedback provided, excellent use of project area replicating a real life working environment, VLE is an excellent resource for candidates and the Renewable Centre being an excellent facility.

Although SQA development visits were requested on only two occasions this year, the number of prior verification requests submitted to SQA continued to increase with 28 applications being submitted from four of the five faculties. It is considered good practice to utilise the prior verification service to ensure that assessments devised by the college are fit for purpose.

External verification for 2015-16 continues to maintain a high standard with the college being considered fully compliant in external verification by all awarding bodies.