The Assessment of Students

A3.1 Principles of Assessment

A3.1.1 Fulfilment of programme objectives

The purpose of assessment is to enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the programme of study and achieved the standard required for the award they seek. The University requires all programmes of study to be subject to course regulations which relate the assessment requirements of the programme to its objectives and it is within these course assessment regulations that examiners make their judgements on student performance.
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A3.1 Principles of Assessment

A3.1.2 Confirmation of standard

Assessment must reflect the achievement of the individual student in fulfilling course objectives, and at the same time relate that achievement to a consistent national standard of awards. It must therefore be carried out by competent and impartial examiners, and by methods which enable them to assess students fairly. In order to achieve this end, the University requires external examiners to be associated with all assessments which may count towards a University award; their particular role is to ensure that justice is done to the individual student and that the standard of the University's awards is maintained.
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A3.1 Principles of Assessment

A3.1.3 Examiners’ Judgement

1. Assessment is a matter of judgement, not simply of computation. Marks, grades and percentages are not absolute values but symbols used by examiners to communicate their judgement of different aspects of a student's work, in order to provide information on which the final decision on a student's fulfilment of course objectives may be based. It is particularly important for students to understand the nature of examiners' discretion and judgement when details of individual marks are available to them.

2. Within the constraints imposed by the requirements of A3.1.1 above, examiners have wide discretion in reaching decisions on the awards to be recommended for individual candidates. They are responsible for interpreting the assessment regulations for the programme if any difficulties arise, in the light of the University's requirements and good practice in higher education, and their academic judgements cannot, in themselves, be questioned or overturned.