



Quality Assurance Criteria 2015–18

Enhanced guidance for centres on meeting quality assurance criterion 4.8

Internal assessment appeals must be handled in line with a documented procedure which meets SQA requirements.

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Introduction to your procedures

Your procedures must state that candidates have the right to appeal against the results of internal assessments. They should also state the grounds for appeal which will be accepted (eg if candidates feel they were not treated fairly in assessments).

State how you will disseminate this information to candidates (eg through induction, handbooks, student advice centre, administration office).

Stages of internal assessment appeals

Stage 1: Informal

For your organisation, indicate to whom candidates can appeal against an assessment decision, on an informal basis. This is most likely to be their assessor.

Include reasonable timescales for:

- ◆ submission of the appeal by the candidate (from the date of receiving the assessment result)
- ◆ dealing with the appeal and responding to the candidate

Explain what will happen with their appeal — eg will it be logged, recorded?

Stage 2: Informal

For your organisation, explain how candidates should appeal against an assessment decision, if they are dissatisfied with the response from their assessor, or feel that they cannot approach the assessor.

It is recommended that the appeal is referred to the internal verifier at this stage.

Include reasonable timescales for:

- ◆ submission of the appeal by the candidate (from the date of receiving the response from the assessor to the informal appeal or from receiving the assessment result)
- ◆ dealing with the appeal and responding to the candidate

Explain what will happen with their appeal — eg will it be logged, recorded?

Stage 3: Formal

Formal appeals should be in writing.

The formal stage of appeal should be to an independent third party, who has not been previously involved in the assessment decision.

Identify the person to address the appeal to, including e-mail and/or postal address.

Do you have an appeal form, or do you just accept letters/e-mails? If you have a form, where can this be obtained?

Is there anyone who can help with writing an appeal, if necessary?

Include a reasonable timescale for submission of the appeal by the candidate (from the date of receiving the response to the formal appeal or from receiving the assessment result).

You should state that you will acknowledge every appeal, and give a realistic timescale for this.

You should state that you will investigate every appeal and provide a formal written response, and give a realistic timescale for this. Who will deal with the appeal eg senior manager for the relevant department, an independent manager, quality manager, dedicated appeals committee?

State clearly that candidates have no further right of appeal against internal assessment decisions. The final decision rests with your centre. SQA will not accept internal assessment appeals.

Retention of records

State that, in the case of an appeal to SQA against an internal assessment result in a regulated qualification, your centre will retain records until the appeal has been resolved (including all materials and candidate evidence). Thereafter, assessment and internal verification records for appeals cases should be retained for six years thereafter, unless there is a legitimate reason to retain records for a further period.