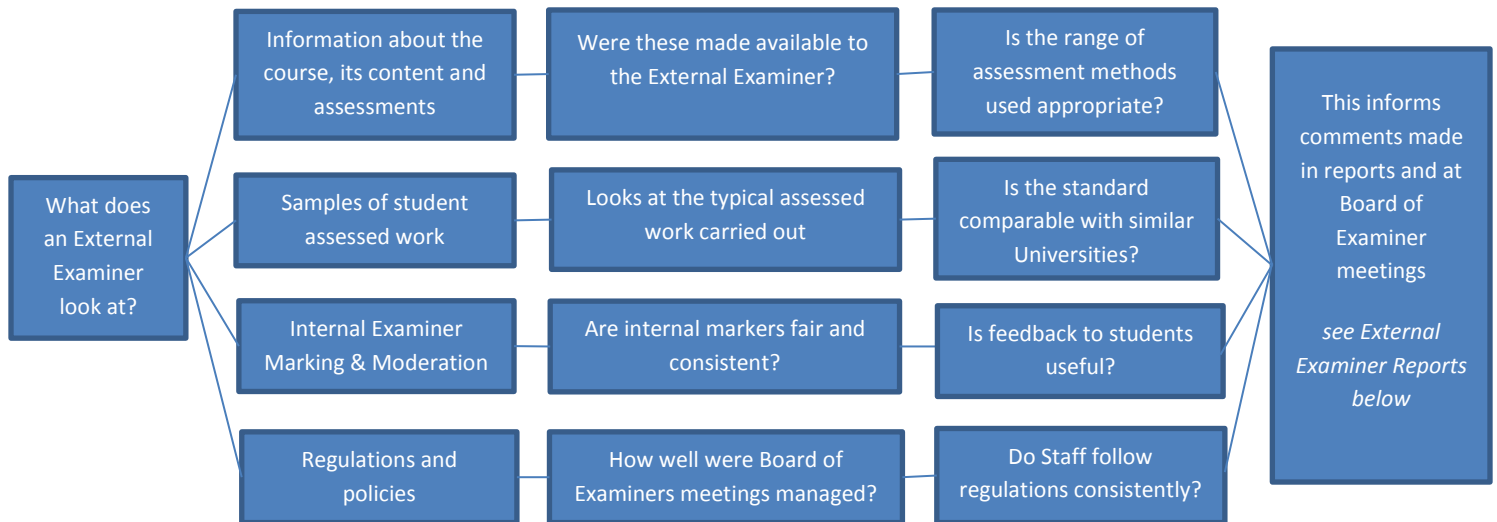


What is External Examining?

- St George's appoints external examiners from other universities, colleges and health care providers to help us ensure a high standard of assessment practice.
- Externals are experienced, independent, expert practitioners, and advise on every aspect of assessment.
- All programmes have external examiners – they are paid appointments usually lasting four years.
- Many St George's staff are also external examiners at other universities and colleges.
- Externals are often referred to as *critical friends*.

What does an External Examiner look at?



External Examiners are NOT...

- normally involved in marking any work submitted by students or able to change an individual's marks. There are exceptions – external examiners do, for example, mark Biomedical Science projects
- to be contacted directly by students
- entitled to the final say on the marks awarded to the student, on whether a student can progress or on the degree awarded
- able to require us to change our regulations and assessment strategies

But, External Examiners ARE...

- listened to and comments and recommendations they make are taken seriously
- appropriately qualified to have a credible opinion on academic aspects of the course
- able highlight areas that are working well and areas they feel need to be improved
- able to contact the Principal regarding any serious concerns they might have

So how do External Examiners express their views?

External examiners submit annual report forms and comment on their findings at the Board of Examiner meetings. Board meetings are minuted.

How does sampling work?

External examiners do not look at all student work, they sample. Most externals will look at student work that straddles the pass/fail boundary and look at work that has achieved low and high marks. The sample size is usually somewhere between 10 and 25% depending on number of students attempting the assessment. For smaller cohorts, external examiners will look at a greater percentage of the students work. The sample size is usually greater for final year work.

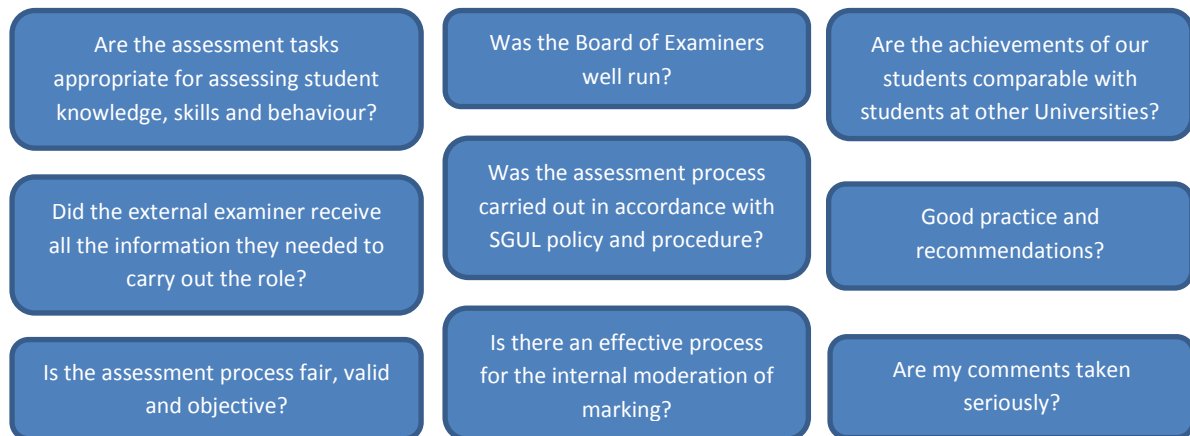
How does this apply to OSCEs?

External examiners review OSCE scenarios and the design of OSCE mark sheets. If they are able to attend the OSCE, they observe the conduct of the OSCE and comment on the conduct of the examiners, the simulated patients and on the suitability of the environment. They also review the completed mark sheets and comment on the general standard of marking.

What happens if an external examiner doesn't agree with the marks allocated by SGUL staff?

External examiners won't change individual marks on the basis of a sample. If external examiners decide that marking is too generous or too harsh, they can ask for work to be remarked by our staff or for marks to be scaled up or down. This doesn't happen often.

External Examiner Reports

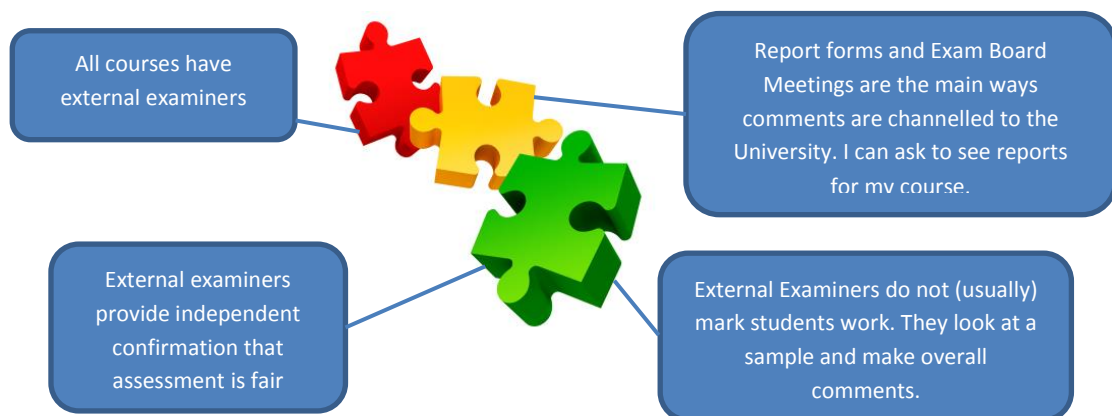


Why should I be concerned about External Examiners' opinion?

Staff of the degree programmes are given copies of reports. These are shared with student representatives and also considered by staff in Faculty and central University services. These are taken seriously in order to improve teaching to students. So how does this impact you directly?

- Comparability – External examiners help to confirm that SGUL's academic standards are comparable with those of other universities.
- Assurance – students can expect their assessments to be marked fairly and consistently by suitable qualified staff. External examiners help to provide that assurance.
- Continuous improvement – external examiners identify good practice and suggest improvements. Assessment arrangements are strengthened as a result of External examiners' contributions. Many St George's staff are external examiners at other Universities and Colleges and are learning of good practice in this way.

Building up the picture – What are the key things I should remember from this document?



You can request the External Examiners' report for your course by emailing dbaldwin@sgul.ac.uk