### ASSESSMENT, PROGRESSION AND AWARDING: TAUGHT PROGRAMMES HANDBOOK

# 13. Review and Publication of Degree Outcomes

#### 13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 This Chapter sets out the University of Exeter's commitment to an annual cycle of internally reviewing and externally publishing data and analysis on the degree outcomes for its taught programmes. This commitment provides assurance that the University:
  - a. Meets the conditions of registration with the Office for Students (OfS) in relation to delivering successful outcomes for all students (B3), ensuring that qualifications are credible and hold their value over time (B4) and associated programmes of study meet sector-recognised academic standards (B5);
  - b. Meets the expectations of the Quality Council for UK Higher Education in relation to ensuring transparency, reliability and fairness of degree outcomes for all students, including through the use of external assurance;
  - c. Protects the academic integrity of University of Exeter Awards, in the interests of its current and future students and past graduates;
  - d. Works to ensure that barriers to successful outcomes are removed and awarding gaps are closed and where possible eliminated; and
  - e. Presents prospective and current undergraduate students, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties with data and information on degree outcomes.

### 13.2 Annual Internal Review of Degree Outcomes

- 13.2.1 The University, in consultation with the Principal External Examiner, should conduct an annual internal review of data on the classifications awarded to final year students on undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes during Term One of the academic year. Data should include that from a minimum of five years up to and including the previous academic year.
- 13.2.2 The analysis of the University's degree classification profile should include:
  - i. Five-year trends in degree classifications at institutional level and by Faculty.
  - Five-year comparative trends by Higher Education sector (where available).
  - iii. Five-year comparative trends by demographic groups (disaggregated where possible).

- iv. Identification of key themes and observations from the perspective of both the academic integrity and credibility of awards and the University's commitment to successful outcomes for all.
- 13.2.3 The outcomes of the review, including appropriate presentation and analysis of data, should be reported to the Education Board and Senate by the end of Term One to provide academic assurance of the ongoing integrity and credibility of awards and towards ensuring successful outcomes for all students. progress The outcomes of the review shall also be shared with the Principal External Examiner and shall inform the content and presentation of the annual Degree Outcomes Statement (see section 13.3 below).
- 13.2.4 During Term Two, the outcomes of the internal review and the underpinning data should be disseminated to the University Assessment, Progression and Awarding Committee (UAPAC) to facilitate more in-depth consideration of degree outcomes and the identification of any interventions that need to be made.
- 13.2.5 The in-depth review undertaken by the UAPAC should include:
  - a. An analysis of the impact on degree outcomes of any changes to:
    - i. Teaching and learning practices.
    - ii. Teaching and learning resources.
    - iii. Assessment and marking practices.
    - iv. Degree algorithms and awarding decisions.
  - b. Identification of good practice and actions to respond to unexplained grade inflation (as defined by the OfS and determined by the OfS's methodology).
  - c. An assessment of the impact of any policy change or further need for policy change (with a focus on the Assessment, Progression and Awarding Handbook of the TQA Manual).
- 13.2.4 During Term Two, the outcomes of the internal review and underpinning date should also be disseminated the University's Success for All Governance Strategy Group and Working Groups to facilitate in-depth consideration of good practice and actions to address awarding gaps and any further interventions that need to be made.

## 13.3 Annual External Publication of a Degree Outcomes Statement

- 13.3.1 The University, under the external scrutiny of Principal External Examiner, should publish an annual Degree Outcomes Statement, for undergraduate programmes only, in line with the expectations and guidance set out by the UK Quality Council by the end of each academic year.
- 13.3.2 The statement will be based on undergraduate programme data only, from five consecutive academic years up to and including that preceding the academic year just concluded. The statement will include the following:
  - a. Purpose of the report
  - b. Institutional degree classification profile
  - Assessment and marking practices c.
  - Academic governance d.
  - Classification algorithms e.
  - f. Teaching practices and learning resources
  - g. Good practice and actions
    - The format of the statement shall follow that of the template provided in APA Handbook Annex I: Template for Preparation of the Annual External Degree Outcomes Statement.
- 13.3.3 Prior to publication, the Degree Outcomes Statement shall be subject to review and approval by the Education Board, Senate and Council.
- 13.3.4 The Degree Outcomes Statement shall not be published until it has been approved, as an accurate representation of the outcomes of the internal review of undergraduate degree outcomes, by the Principal External Examiner.