

Criteria for the appointment of an External Scrutineer

Input from independent external experts at the approval stage for new and significantly changed programmes is important to safeguard academic standards and ensure comparability for similar programmes across the UK higher education sector. All proposals for consideration by PMAP and PAWG must be accompanied by a report from an independent external expert following the guidelines in the template provided. The Chair of PMAP and/or PAWG, when reviewing the documentation for a PMAP/PAWG meeting, will return a proposal to the faculty/department if this requirement is not met.

External Scrutineers must be independent of UCL in order to be in a position to contribute objectively to the approval process. This means that the Scrutineer should not:

1. For new programme proposals, be a current or recent external examiner at UCL. Previous external examiners may be used as long as there has been at least a five-year gap between the end of the external examiner's period of office at UCL and being used as an External Scrutineer.
Note that for programme amendments, current external examiners may be used to scrutinise amendments to the programme they currently externally examine.
2. Be a current or recent member of staff of UCL. Staff who have been employed at UCL must have a five-year period between their last employment at UCL and being used as an External Scrutineer.
3. Have been retired from a position in an institution of higher education for more than three years. In such cases there must be evidence that the External Scrutineer has 'currency' in their specialist area of academic expertise, for example, through publication in refereed journals, conference presentations.
4. Be a recent student of UCL. Where the External Scrutineer used has been a student of UCL there must be at least Q EMC /Span AMCID7Lang (en-US)>BD q090105 59.2 82.16

To achieve greater consistency in relation to the comments, suggestions and analyses that External Scrutineers provide for programme proposals all comments should be made on the External Scrutineer Report template. A programme will not be submitted to a PMAP/PAWG for approval without External Scrutineer comments being provided on this template. PMAP/PAWG may also return the External Scrutineer's report if the comments are