

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 20 May 2016

**Proposed Changes to the Role of External Examiner in
Discretionary Decisions on Assessed Material from Periods of
Study Abroad**

Lesley Fielding, Clerk to the Committee

The Deans of Learning & Teaching were asked to provide comments on the proposed changes to the Role of External Examiner in Discretionary decisions on assessed material from periods of study abroad. The following is a summary of the Deans' responses:

1. Consistency of treatment – In view of the range of forms of assessment a student might encounter abroad (including oral assessments), it might not be possible for students to always be able to bring home assessed work.
2. Interpretation of grades – grades are awarded within the context of the aims and objectives of a course/programme and in some countries, in light of an overall grade distribution. It would be extremely difficult to set work from another institution in context. This already has implications for accreditation visits within the UK and therefore would be more problematic for international study. As re-marking is no longer practiced, this would affect how an external examiner might fairly evaluate a student's work from abroad.
3. Incomplete evidence – students are typically better able to bring home essays than they are exams and so what is presented as assessed work might not be fully representative.