

P1 S1 C7 Externality Policy

Version 1 – Publication Date 18/02/2020 – Next Review Date 18/02/2022

1. PURPOSE AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The acceptable threshold of quality in externality practice covers the following principles:

- Ability to provide oversight – to ensure that policies, procedures and processes are fit for purpose, complied with and the frame-work for provider self-evaluation and self-regulation are transparent.
- Ensure Governance structures and operational responsibilities are *consensus-oriented*.
- Ensure Governance structures and operational responsibilities are responsive, efficient, equitable and inclusive.
- Report accuracy, scope changes and determine key milestones, performance indicators and support the provider with risk management through the provision of independent advice.

2. DEFINITIONS

Independent FE&T (Further Education and Training) Advisor is the person who lends externality to the Governance of Forus Training. This person gives independent authoritative specialist contributions to the sitting and conduct of the Quality Assurance and Academic Governance Council QAAGC P1 S4.

External Authenticator is the person who provides externality to the assessment processes of Forus Training and independent authoritative confirmation of fair and consistent assessment of learners.

3. SCOPE

Appointment and role profile of the person supporting the governance of Forus Training known as the Independent FE&T (Further Education and Training) Advisor.

FORUS Training applies the Terms of Reference relevant to the specific area of work/committee to which Externality is required to ensure accurate criteria is used when selecting the independent person. The independent person must demonstrate an effective capacity to challenge issues, report to the Director and work within the QA policies, procedures and processes as approved and implemented.

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4. POLICY STATEMENT

Forus Training is committed to demonstrating visibility & transparency within its further education and training structures. Forus Training offers inclusion of learner and stakeholder voices in decision-making and works to the externality principle as outlined in the procedures and practices section:

5. PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

1. Externality is offered by persons who are completely independent of the provider.
2. Only external persons who are qualified to make relevant comparisons and offer over-sight are accepted. E.g.;
 - External Authentication Procedures (see relevant policy)
 - Independent FE&T (Further Education and Training) Advisor on Provider Panels as Chairperson on the QAAGC
 - Independent FE&T (Further Education and Training) Advisor on Programme Reviews, Programme Validation/Re-Validation, Self-Evaluation Reviews and/or sub-groups as and when necessary
 - Externality for Governance purposes is cyclical at 5 yearly with reviews if necessary.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

LEGISLATION / STANDARDS

1. Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Act 2012
2. Further Education & Training Act 2013
3. QQI Insights: Quality in Irish Further Education & Training – September 2019

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the role of Quality Assurance and Academic Governance Council to recruit and appoint independent external persons who are independent of Forus Training.

8. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Roles and responsibilities are outlined in induction training and in the terms of reference of the committees involved.

9. ACTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED IF THE POLICY IS NOT IMPLEMENTED

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The pin policy / non-conformance procedure is followed when this policy is not adhered to. Lack of adherence to this policy may have implications for Forus Training's status as an organisation whose policies and procedures are approved by QQI in order for Forus Training to offer validated programmes.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

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