

## EXTERNAL EXAMINER NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2026

Welcome to the third and final edition of our 2025/26 EE Newsletter.

Included in this quarter's update:

- **Closing the Academic Year: Thank You for Your Support**
- **Annual Report 2025/26**
- **Update to Academic Regulations**
- **Volunteers Needed**
- **Looking forward to 2026/27**

### Closing the Academic Year: Thank You for Your Support

As another academic year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their continued dedication and support.

This year, we will be saying goodbye to 33 External Examiners who have supported our programmes. On behalf of the Programme Teams and Professional Services colleagues, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for all your hard work, valuable contributions, and insightful feedback over the years. Your input has played an important role in enhancing our programmes and will continue to have a lasting impact. We wish you all the best for the future.

### Annual Report 2025/26

Please note that submission deadlines remain **31 July for UG** and **31 October for PG**. UG templates have been sent, PG templates will be sent early September; if you require any templates prior to this – please get in touch to [externalexaminers@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:externalexaminers@cumbria.ac.uk) or visit our webpage [External examiners](#)

### Update to Academic Regulations

#### Academic Regulations

In June 2026 Academic Board the following additional changes to academic regulations:

- **Award Classification Changes (coming into effect for awards issued from October 2028 onwards)**

In response to a report published by The Office for Students, the University has reviewed its award classification regulations and, from October 2028 onwards, awards will be calculated using the mean of the marks for all contributing modules. There will be no discounting of the weakest 20 credits after this time.

Additionally, from October 2028, boundaries for award classifications will change as follows:

| <i>Percentage</i>                                        | <i>Foundation Degree / Target DipHE / Grad Diploma</i> | <i>Honours Degree</i> | <i>Masters Degree</i> | <i>HND/HNC</i>     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>69.50%+</i><br><i>Will change to 70%+</i>             | <i>Distinction</i>                                     | <i>First</i>          | <i>Distinction</i>    | <i>Distinction</i> |
| <i>59.50-69.49%</i><br><i>Will change to 60 - 69.99%</i> | <i>Merit</i>                                           | <i>Upper Second</i>   | <i>Merit</i>          | <i>Merit</i>       |
| <i>49.50-59.49%</i><br><i>Will change to 50 - 59.99%</i> | <i>Pass</i>                                            | <i>Lower Second</i>   | <i>Pass</i>           | <i>Pass</i>        |
| <i>39.50-49.49%</i><br><i>Will change to 40 - 49.99%</i> | <i>Pass</i>                                            | <i>Third</i>          | <i>Fail</i>           | <i>Pass</i>        |

- **Attendance Monitoring**

Section D.5 has been updated to refer to the new Attendance and Academic Engagement Policy.

- **Registration**

A new statement has been added to Regulation D1.1 which sets out the requirement for continuing students to re-register annually:

*"Failure to complete re-registration within 21 days of commencement of delivery in the academic year may result in the imposition of restricted access to IT and other University systems, and could ultimately result in termination from programme."*

The full regulations along with the summary of changes (short and long versions which have been updated) are available [here](#). Student, External Examiner and Collaborative Partner communications of these additional changes will be going out over coming weeks.

*Jess Robinson, Deputy Academic Registrar*

### **Volunteers Needed**

We have not had a huge response to the latest call out for volunteers – if you are able to help please do get in touch and we will pass on your email address to our IT team:

The University has been in discussions with a third-party provider that offers an enterprise browser, which may help address some of the challenges colleagues experience when accessing University systems and services from non-UoC devices.

We are seeking volunteers to participate in a pilot of this browser. We will take guidance on suitable timings, particularly in relation to marking and other workload pressures.

If you are interested in taking part, please let us know by emailing [externalexaminers@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:externalexaminers@cumbria.ac.uk). The pilot is likely to begin in a couple of weeks and will be managed by our IT team.

Your feedback as external users will be essential in helping us determine whether this is a viable solution for wider use.

### Looking forward to 2026/27

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we are delighted to welcome a new cohort of External Examiners, alongside those who will be continuing in their roles. In the first edition of the 2026/27 newsletter, we will introduce the EE team and colleagues from across the University, including Collaborative Provision, Assessments, and members of the Management Team, helping you to learn more about the teams who support the External Examiner process.

If you have any questions or suggestions for next years newsletter – please do get in touch



We wish you a wonderful rest of the summer and hope you can take some time to relax and recharge before the new academic year begins. Thank you again to all of our External Examiner colleagues for your continued support, commitment, and hard work throughout the year.

*Thank you, Shona & Steph*