



Programme Assessment Strategy Policy

Revision: 1.0
Issued: 27th July 2021

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1. REVISION HISTORY AND APPROVAL

Revision	Nature of change	Approval	Date
1.0	First Issue	JL	27/07/21

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1. Ongoing programme assessment is considered vital for the effective delivery and quality assurance of programmes at PCI College. With this in mind:
- 2.2. Each programme must have a specific Programme Assessment Strategy which is located in each programme handbook.
- 2.3. Conformance to relevant validating body standards is measured by applying approved Programme Assessment Strategy actions throughout the academic cycle (see appendix 1 of the Assessment of Learners Procedure for details of validating body standards).
- 2.4. Programme Assessment Strategies are initiated during programme development, implemented upon programme launch and are to be reviewed annually at the end of each academic year.
- 2.5. During programme development, the relevant Programme Assessment Strategy must ensure that assessments are both varied in nature and meet the required standard, e.g. level of study.
- 2.6. Programme Assessment Strategies are developed mindful of UDL principles (Solas, 2020) to facilitate multiple means of learner engagement and assessments e.g. presentations, essays, and practical demonstrations of skills application.
- 2.7. Multiple means of expression are to be provided to learners to boost autonomy e.g. to facilitate selection of specific articles/books of personal interest them or to submit personal reflective assignments. This is designed to emphasise ownership of their assessment and fully represent their personal learning experience.
- 2.8. Each module for each programme will have well defined learning outcomes to ensure that the learner is aware of and fulfils all expected learning outcomes for their enrolled programme.
- 2.9. Internal moderation and Programme Office checks will ensure consistency and validity of assessments and the quality of feedback to learners.
- 2.10. Learners must achieve a minimum pass grade (16 MU Standard / 40% QQI Standard) for each programme module to receive an award. We provide for learners to pass a module on first sitting or via resubmission.
- 2.11. Where a programme encompasses multiple years of study, initial modules are foundational with later modules building upon this foundation at a more advanced level to allow scope for learners time to integrate learning objectives.
- 2.12. In the case of MSc programmes, Dissertation submissions are placed at the latter end of the programme to allow learners to integrate the learning outcomes from all preceding modules.
- 2.13. If the learner can demonstrate previous completion of equivalent modules during their previous studies, they may be exempt from study of similar modules on their current programme. This provided that they are deemed to meet Recognition of Prior Learning requirements as outlined in the RPL Policy. Exemptions are exemptions from criteria listed in the Programme Assessment Strategy located in each programme handbook.
- 2.14. Where an assessment has multiple submission components a pass standard must be achieved for each element of module assessment.
- 2.15. Failure to pass an element of module assessment will require a learner to rehabilitate and resubmit that component
- 2.16. Failure to pass a resubmission requires the entire module (and all assessments) to be repeated in the next academic cycle.
- 2.17. All assessment requirements are transparent to learners via the provision of grading rubrics for each module at the beginning of each academic year.
- 2.18. Assessment deadlines are provided to learners at the beginning of the academic year and are available on the Student Portal.

- 2.19. Assessment dates are dispersed throughout the academic year to allow the learner to integrate internal moderator feedback to improve subsequent submissions.

3. LINKED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Linked Policies	Assessment of Learners Policy Ethical Guidelines for Assessors Policy External Consultant Policy External Examiner Policy Programme Assessment Strategy Policy New Programme Design, Development and Validation Policy Revalidation Policy Transfer and Progression Policy Recognition of Prior Learning Policy
Linked Procedures	Assessment of Learners Procedure Administrative Quality Assurance Procedure Annual Comparative Study Procedure Ethical Guidelines for Assessors Procedure External Consultant Procedure External Examiner Procedure External Examiner Nomination Criteria New Programme Design, Development and Validation Procedure Revalidation Procedure Annual Programme Review Procedure Annual Module Review Procedure Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure