

## **How Philosophy Ensures Reliable Marking and Feedback**

After your work is submitted, a staff member reviews it to determine a face-value mark and feedback. All marking is subject to a process designed to ensure fair and reliable assessment and feedback.

**Moderation:** For each assignment, a second staff member reviews a sample of the work, including at least one assessment from each grade band and all borderline failing marks. (Or, 10% of all marks, whichever is greater.) The moderator must comment on the marks and feedback. The moderator must also review the distribution of marks.

The moderator may (i) approve the marks and feedback; (ii) approve the marks but recommend changes to the feedback noted below; (iii) approve the feedback but recommend a change to the profile of marks; recommend changes to feedback and a change to the profile of marks as noted; or (iv) in very exceptional circumstances, recommend changes to the marks of some reviewed work.

**Double Marking:** When a single piece of work counts for 40 credits, it is double marked. This means that two members of staff review it. They independently assign marks and comments. They then meet to agree upon a mark and explain any initial discrepancy. If the markers cannot agree upon a mark, it is sent to a third staff member.

**External Examiners:** Every course is also reviewed by an external examiner. This is an expert in the subject area from another university. The external examiner provides independent and impartial assurance of consistent assessment standards, processes and student achievements which are comparable with other institutions; the integrity and rigour of assessment; fair, reliable and transparent assessment and degree classification.

Like the moderators, external examiners review samples of the work from a course. They also review the moderator reports and recommendations. External examiners regularly comment on marks and feedback of reviewed work. External Examiners have the right to see any assessment material pertinent to the role and may comment about any aspect of a course or programme for which they are appointed as External Examiner.