



**Higher National Qualifications (China)
Internal Assessment Report 2012
Accounting and Finance**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National Qualifications in this subject.

Higher National Units

General comments

The Units from Verification Group 266 are contributing to a range of HN Business qualifications in China and have been delivered over a number of sessions.

On the whole, the assessors appear to understand the requirements of the Units. Few issues arose from the External Verifier (EV) visits during the session.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The centres in China appear to be more comfortable with preparing their own instruments of assessment to use as alternatives, and therefore the use of prior verification is relatively widespread. Those submitting material appear to be comfortable with the requirement of matching the assessment tasks to the Unit specification. Most centres appear to use the SQA-produced assessment exemplars as their initial assessment instrument in the first instance.

Evidence Requirements

The requirements specified within each of the Units are clear. Changes to the Units which were introduced to the HND frameworks from the start of the 2012–13 session will require centres to review each of the new Units and work with the Error Tolerance approach for assessment purposes. Exemplification material is available along with support documentation for the new approach.

Administration of assessments

It was mentioned above that the centres in China are generally more comfortable with submitting assessment instruments for prior verification than their UK counterparts. However, the main area for concern is the marking schemes which are applied to the Unit assessments. Consistency is essential and marking guidelines are not always sufficiently detailed to ensure that this is the case. The required standards appear to have been upheld over the academic session.

General feedback

Assessors are now familiar with the Units and the Unit content. The content within the new Units is similar. However, the Error Tolerance approach to marking will have to be applied from next academic session and this may result in centre staff having to spend additional time reviewing scripts to ensure the new approach is applied correctly.

Areas of good practice

The consistency of assessment decisions has improved greatly over the last session.

Specific areas for improvement

Error tolerance training should be undertaken by all of those assessors who will be taking assessments which are assessed using this method.