

Proposal to implement anonymous marking in 2017/18

Initial discussions about the need for anonymous marking were raised at meetings of Academic Council in 2003. A report from the Quality office in 2006/7 also referred to reports of external examiners who wished to see anonymous marking implemented. Indeed this has been a recurring issues raised by external examiners. The majority of Irish Universities have implemented a range of anonymous marking solutions from use of student IDs to completely anonymous systems (UCC).

A pilot was implemented in 2011/12 (CA/STD/M12/M5/4.3). The most recent report of Academic Council agreed that the Anonymous Marking project was on hold pending the development of an online grade entry system that was expected to become operative in 2014/15 (AC/STD/14/M2).

The forthcoming quality review of the University will review our action on the matter of anonymous marking. It is also important that academic staff are safeguarded from any possible complaints from students arising from our current practices where names are used as the identifiers on examination scripts.

It is proposed that anonymous marking will be fully implemented in the University for the forthcoming academic year.

The definition of anonymous marking is as follows:

- No name appears on the formal examination paper. The examiner marks the paper without visibility of the student name and uses the student ID as the identifier
- Continuous assessment, course work, laboratory practicals or any form of assessment other than the formal written exam would be marked as normal, i.e., anonymous marking would not apply.
- The examination papers will have a flap where students write their names. These flaps will be opened only where there are issues with identifying the student.

Dr Pat Morgan

Vice-President for the Student Experience

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