

UCU Marking and Assessment Boycott: Advice for QAA Members - June 2023 update

The June update to this advice includes additional material relating to the content of explanatory notes to accompany incomplete transcripts.

QAA is conscious that while the marking and assessment boycott is ongoing, providers are taking steps to mitigate its impact on students. While QAA does not hold a position on the industrial action currently taking place in the sector, academic standards is a crucial component of our role as the UK's independent quality body, and we are providing this advice in that context. The advice does not prescribe a singular approach but provides a range of options providers can consider as part of their mitigating actions to support the maintenance of academic standards and to assure the quality of the student experience.

May 2023

The University and College Union (UCU) ongoing industrial action includes with it the award they have earned.

Providers can use this advice to aid their decision-making on assessment and award in the context of the marking boycott. Learning from the experience during the COVID-19 pandemic may also provide some valuable lessons that can be used to support student achievement and protect the value of qualifications.

What are the main issues that providers face?

QAA recognises the challenges that institutions face in potentially needing to adjust the format of upcoming assessments or find alternative ways of marking assessed work that has already been completed.

award using temporary or interim arrangements, it would be helpful to confirm with the students affected any decisions at the earliest possible opportunity. This would be particularly important for students who have employment arranged or are applying for further study 4 (t)-11110