

# Procedure for the Awarding of BTEC U-TAG Grades

November 2021

## From the Pearson Document

### 'Teacher Guidance for UNIT level TAGs (U-TAG)':

The key underpinning principles for a unit teacher assessed grade (U-TAG) are:

- The grade should be based on evidence
- That learners receiving a unit teacher assessed grade are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged to learners who received a qualification teacher assessed grade
- That the judgments are objective (please refer to Ofqual's guidance for centres on making Objective Judgments here).

The U-TAG is a holistic best-fit grade based on relevant and available learner evidence. The teacher should review the learning aims and assessment criteria of the unit to confirm what appropriate evidence is available to support the learner's U-TAG. This should take into account the learner's performance in relevant or similar activities, such as:

- completed or partially completed assessments for the unit
- completed assessments for a similar unit i.e. knowledge and understanding or skills/practical-based activities
- mock or practice external assessments
- non-assessed work such as classwork, homework, group learning activities
- relevant extra-curricular activities. Using the command verbs and/or performance descriptors, which differentiate the criteria to be awarded e.g. Pass, Merit and Distinction, the teacher should review the evidence to arrive at the holistic overall grade for that unit using best-fit principles.

### Q-TAGs for 2021 Certification:

The process followed for Q-TAG judgements in Summer 2021 was based on the aggregation of Internally Assessed Units already completed and teacher judgements for Externally Assessed Units. In light of the guidance that 'learners receiving a unit teacher assessed grade are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged to learners who received a qualification teacher assessed grade' it is fair that **the process for judgements for U-TAGs follows the same procedure as those used for the Externally Assessed Units for Q-TAGs.**

## **U-TAGs for 2022 Certification:**

In the Summer Term, all BTEC students, both those certificating and those 'in flight', sat two internal assessments in each of the Externally Assessed Units that would have been sat as external examinations had exams not been cancelled. The purpose of these assessments was to inform fair judgements and, as such, **assessments were sat under exam conditions using past paper materials from the exam board.** Those students entitled to exam access arrangements in external exams were given the same arrangements for these assessments. **Given that all of the material had been taught for these units, it was considered that this was 'first best' evidence for making judgements as to how students would have performed had exams not been cancelled.**

Students were informed at the time that the results of these assessments would be used for this purpose.

## **Teacher Judgements:**

**Given the 'first best' nature of the above evidence, students will be awarded the best result from the two papers sat.**

## **The Right to Appeal:**

Pearson have said that they will publish an appeals process in due course once U-TAGs have been confirmed. In the meantime, students have the right to appeal the judgements we will submit to Pearson on the basis of a procedural or administrative error. To facilitate this:

- **Students will be informed of the grade we intend to enter for the unit and of this policy on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.**
- **Appeals should be made in writing to the Academic Deputy Head, Mr Ruben, clearly stating the basis on which the appeal is being made.**
- **The deadline for making an appeal is 12.00 noon on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This deadline then gives the School enough time to investigate the appeal before the deadline for the submission of U-TAGs to the board on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

## **External Quality Checks:**

Once we have submitted U-TAGs, they will be subject to external quality checks before grades are confirmed. As such, it may be that U-TAGs are adjusted by Pearson following our submission. If a student is dissatisfied with the confirmed grade awarded by Pearson, they will be able to appeal using Pearson's own appeals process.