

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

EXTERNAL EXAMINING IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES AND NUTRITION

We highly value the critique and advice from our external examiners in the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition (SMMSN) in ensuring the quality of our assessments. This comes from the hard work and commitment of many external examiners both past and present across our undergraduate and post graduate programmes and it is always a pleasure to welcome them to the campus. We believe that visiting the campus is extremely valuable in building relationships and for external examiners in best understanding the context where our students learn and are assessed.

Our university is committed to sustainability and the wise use of resources (see [Aberdeen 2040 vision](#)) and we recognise that the recent Covid pandemic allowed the higher education sector to continue to meet key goals with modified and sometimes new ways of working.

In light of this we have carefully considered our requirements of external examiners in relation to travel. We propose that:

- Normally all external examiners come and visit the campus at some point in the assessment delivery during their first year with us. Thereafter we would not expect travel except where activities cannot be carried out at a distance.
- Except when fulfilling the first point, that examiners meetings (exam boards) are held virtually, and we would not expect external examiners to take time to travel to and from Aberdeen for these meetings. The meeting chair will ensure that if the meeting is to be hybrid that they book a suitable room to ensure a positive online experience and that they manage the communication during the meeting to give an optimal experience for both those physically and virtually in the room.
- Where an assessment will benefit from and indeed requires regular in person external examiner review (e.g. OSCE assessments run over multiple sites) we will continue to fully support annual in person attendance.