**Guidance on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGS) – Summer 2021**

* Every school and college has a policy that sets out how grades will be determined, and this will be reviewed by the exam board before grades are submitted
* Students were only assessed on what they have been taught.
* Students have seen the guidance on how TAGS will be awarded, been informed of the range of evidence that will be used to inform the grade and have been given the opportunity to improve this work.
* Every effort was made to use the same sources of evidence for each subject cohort.
* The grade awarded started with teacher’s assessment of their performance across a range of evidence including completed summative assessment and classwork. This assessment was then subject to internal and external quality review.

Every year there are students who are disappointed by the grade they achieve. If a student is disappointed with their grade, they may consider sitting exams in the autumn series.

If a student is concerned that their grade is wrong, Ofqual have put an appeal process in place:

1. If a student thinks their grade is wrong, they should first ask the college to check whether they made a mistake in determining or submitting the grade.
2. If a mistake has been identified, the college can submit a revised grade to the exam board to consider.
3. If no error has been identified, but a student still believes that the grade is wrong, they can ask the college to submit a formal appeal to the exam board. An appeal can be made for any of the following reasons:

* - there was an error in the way the college followed or applied its procedure for determining the teacher assessed grade
* - the college did not make a reasonable judgement when deciding which evidence to use to determine the teacher assessed grade
* - the college did not make a reasonable judgement about the grade based on the evidence gathered

If an appeal is submitted, the student will need to explain why they think the result was incorrect and should be changed.

The appeal questions whether the original decision was a reasonable one, and not whether other reasonable decisions could have been made.

A grade will only be changed if there was an error when determining or submitting the grade, or if the grade given could not have reasonably been reached based on the evidence presented. The grade may go up, go down, or remain the same.

**2021 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) Appeals Process**

**Student’s unequivocal Right to a Review and Appeal**

* All students, whose grades are subject to the TAG process will have the right to instruct the college to conduct a Centre Review and where they disagree with the outcome of that review, request that the Centre submits an appeal to the Awarding Organisation on behalf of themselves, in relation to their TAG.
* The College will have no discretion regarding such a review; and they will be obliged to submit the appeal to the Awarding Organisation

**Grounds of Appeal:**

1. **Procedural**

Procedural Errors – This is where a centre has failed to follow their own policies and procedures. The centre’s written procedure will contain a summary of appropriate evidence to be used. Therefore, the appeals process will focus upon what evidence was selected, and whether or not it was in line with a Centre’s own policies and procedures.

1. **Administrative**

Administrative errors – This is where either the centre or Awarding Organisation has made an administrative error in relation to a student’s TAG.

**c) Academic Judgements**

Academic Judgements – This is where the original TAG judgement failed to be informed by a holistic, accurate and reasonable ‘basket of evidence’. Where a student challenges the TAG judgement, and suggests the use of alternative evidence, the question remains whether the original judgement was reasonable / unreasonable; and not whether the evidence suggested by the student, was or might have been as or more appropriate.

**Corrective Results**

* + - Where a TAG is judged to be too high or too low due to an error in one of the above, it will be referred to as ‘incorrect’ and it is Awarding Organisations who make the final decision whether to correct the result, and what the revised result should be.

**Grounds of Appeal – Responsibility of the student**

The student will be responsible for outlining what their grounds of appeal are on the appeal form which can be requested by emailing [ashevelan@smbgroup.ac.uk](mailto:ashevelan@smbgroup.ac.uk)