

Icon Accreditation

Quality Assurance Policy

Policy number	07.12 Other documents
Summary	This Policy details the Institute of Conservation's (Icon) responsibilities in relation to ensuring high quality, consistent and reliable Icon Accreditation assessments.
Who this policy applies to	The Policy applies to Assessors, Specialist Advisors, Accreditation Moderation Committee members and Icon Staff involved in the delivery of Icon Accreditation.
Author/policy contact	Patrick White, Policy and Programmes Director
Approved by / approval level	Professional Standards & Development Committee
Date effective	09.05.2023
Last reviewed or updated	19.11.2024
Frequency of review	Every three years

1.	Introduction
	The Institute of Conservation (Icon) recognises the vital importance of ensuring that all assessments it undertakes as part of the delivery of Icon Accreditation are valid, fair, objective and meet the high standards of the conservation profession.
2.	Definitions
	AMC: Accreditation Moderation Committee Moderation: The process of reviewing individual assessment decisions to ensure they meet the requirements of the principles of assessments. Standardisation: The process of ensuring all assessments are interpreted accurately and applied equally across all assessments.
3.	Roles and responsibilities
	Ultimate responsibility for the implementation and review of this policy rests with the Policy and Programmes Director. The Policy and Programmes Director will ensure this is communicated to all staff and contractors involved in the delivery of Icon Accreditation to ensure they are aware of their roles and responsibilities, including Assessors, Specialist Advisors, Accreditation Moderation Committee members, and Icon staff.
4.	Principles of Assessment
	Icon's principles of assessment underpin all aspects of our approach towards assessment.

	Valid: Assessment decisions must be clearly based on the Professional Standards and Judgement & Ethics and be being assessed at the correct level. Fair: All assessment activities must be fit for purpose and offer an equal chance of a fair assessment for all candidates Consistent: Assessment decisions must be interpreted in the same way and applied equally across all candidates regardless of Assessor or Specialist Advisor. Open: The assessment process should be as open as possible, involving the candidate in discussion throughout. Justifiable: The assessment findings should withstand external scrutiny and be backed by sufficient evidence to support reliable decision making.
5.	Policy
	It is essential that the Icon Professional Standards are applied fairly, equally and in an unbiased way across all assessment practice to remain valid and respected. Icon will ensure consistency of assessment decisions through: • recruitment, training and management of Assessors and Specialist Advisors; • development of assessment materials; • recruitment of suitable Assessors and Specialist Advisors who will be briefed and trained; • moderation of assessment decisions; • regular standardisation and review meetings, and • record keeping. Recruitment, training, and management of Assessors <u>Recruitment</u> All Assessors must be able to demonstrate full competence in the occupational area in which they are assessing. Assessors must have a recognised qualification in assessing vocational competence (e.g. A1, Assessing Competence in the Work Environment, Award in Undertaking End-Point Assessment, etc). <u>Training and monitoring</u> All Assessors will undertake a full induction to ensure they are fully aware of the requirements of the Icon Accreditation assessment process. Additional training will feature as part of the annual standardisation meetings.

Continuing Professional Development

All Assessors have a responsibility to maintain their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD) both in terms of their assessment practice and the specialist area in which they are assessing.

Management and review

All Assessors will take part in annual review with the Accreditation Manager to ensure that they are performing appropriately in their role. Full procedures related to performance review forms part of each Assessors' contract of services.

Moderation

All assessment decisions will be moderated by Icon's Accreditation Moderation Committee prior to the finalisation of any assessment decision being made to ensure consistency of decision making.

Each Assessor will receive full feedback on each assessment they undertake to ensure that Assessors are able to continually develop. This is crucial to ensure that assessment decisions meet the assessment principles.

Standardisation

Icon will continually monitor the final assessment grades awarded by each Assessor to ensure that fair and consistent assessment decisions are being made.

Formal standardisation meetings on an annual basis to ensure that good practice can be shared, and any concerns or updates can be raised with Assessors. Individual Assessors who have been found wanting through moderation activities and Assessor feedback will be required to undertake further training and support delivered by the Accreditation Manager prior to undertaking any further assessments. Continued issues with assessment practice will be managed through the performance review process.

Record keeping

Icon will ensure there is a clear audit trail for all aspects of assessment. Documentation will be stored securely in line with Icon's Data Protection Policy. Information retained will include:

- Registration details
- Records of team meetings
- Records of moderation and standardisation meetings
- Assessor feedback and action points
- Candidate feedback surveys
- Final grading decisions
- Complaints records and appeals record.

6.	Managing implementation and review
	This Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is reflective of current regulations and guidance and is responsive to local, national, and international events.