



**Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project**

**Qualification Verification Summary Report 2023–24**

**BAC Science**

**Verification group number: 458**

## **General comments**

Science presentations in the Interdisciplinary Project continue to be the highest of all the Scottish Baccalaureate subject areas. Many centres have developed great experience of the unit over the years. A number of centres have expanded their expertise in supporting Science candidates to support candidates in the other subject areas, creating a Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project group within the centre. This is to be commended.

## **Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials**

Information on all of the above are available on the SQA website.

Most centres use the course arrangements, unit specifications and instruments of assessment as indicated on their verification documents. There is evidence of discussions of these, and the exemplar materials being used to inform and support staff and candidates as to what is required for the qualification.

Centres should ensure that they use the most up to date templates. The templates for this year were updated to require candidates to explain in their proposal, in what way their project met the chosen broad contexts. This encourages candidates to think of the relevance of their project.

## **Evidence requirements**

Most centres have a sound understanding of the evidence required which has developed over time. There were a few issues this year with timelines not being submitted with the candidate evidence. This is part of the project plan and is a C grade criterion. Candidates often have detailed time charts as a separate document which can be easily overlooked. Centres should encourage candidates to input a basic timeline within their plan. When the timeline is omitted, it leads to a hold on the result until it is submitted and verified.

## **Administration of assessments**

The third piece of candidate evidence — Presentation of Project Findings — requires candidates to ‘describe in detail’ how they presented their findings. In some submissions, the level of detail by the candidate is somewhat lacking. There is then a reliance on finding this evidence holistically. Assessor feedback should not take the place of candidate evidence.

Overall, however, there is a good understanding of the assessments and the level of accuracy of grading is high.

## **Verification**

Generally, internal verification is carried out well. Most centres have been presenting in this subject area for a number of years now and have well developed processes in place. A few centres did not submit their internal verification documents, resulting on a hold on the centre until the documents were submitted and verified. Using the checklist provided with the submission paperwork should prevent this from occurring.

## **Areas of good practice reported on during session 2023–24**

Many centres submitted the maximum of six projects for verification, indicating that they are supporting a large number of candidates for the qualification. The corresponding level of commitment required from mentors and assessors is commendable.

The wide range of topics chosen by candidates continue to be very interesting and often creative, with many linked to their local environment. This allows candidates to make good use of the people and other resources that are more easily accessible to them.

With many centres having a collegiate approach to supporting their candidates, cross-curricular verification is taking place. This is contributing to increased accuracy and developing a high level of experience within these centres. Other centres are working cooperatively with others nearby to bring about the same result.

## **Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2023–24**

Some projects bore a very strong resemblance to Advanced Higher investigations. An Interdisciplinary Project should go much further than an Advanced Higher investigation and this should be apparent from the explanation of the broad contexts relevant to the project. An Interdisciplinary Project does not require to have an experimental element and, where a candidate takes this element from an Advanced Higher Project and tries to expand it into their Scottish Baccalaureate project, it generally limits access to several grading criteria.

Centres should check that all the evidence required for external verification is submitted. Signatures and dates should also be checked.

Centres should encourage candidates to use the italicised prompts within each section of the template to guide their input. These link to the grading criteria and using them will help candidates to access all grading criteria.