

Focus On: Assessment and Feedback

QAA Scotland worked in collaboration with the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee (SHEEC) to support the sector in enhancing policy and practice around assessment and feedback.

Focus On projects draw on themes that arise from Enhancement-led Institutional Reviews (ELIR). This Focus On project had three strands:

Three strands of work

- Use of technology to support assessment and feedback **practice**
- Consistent implementation of assessment and feedback **policy** and practice
- Students' associations working in **partnership** to improve feedback on assessment



Use of technology to support assessment and feedback

Around 80 practitioners attended an event covering: using technology for assessment; providing targeted feedback; detecting plagiarism; and ensuring data security. The group identified 10 key messages for policy makers.

10 key messages for policy makers

- 1 Remove the 'e' from 'e-assessment' and 'e-learning'.
- 2 Create and encourage a 'can-do' culture at all levels in the institution to accommodate new ways of using technology.
- 3 Provide support and leadership from policy makers to department level.
- 4 Work with practitioners in teams as equals. Learn about what practitioners' practice and the challenges they face.
- 5 Learn about the technology by recognising its advantages and limitations.
- 6 Recognise the diversity in 'e'-learning and 'e'-assessment approaches.
- 7 Recognise all staff may need training and support to take advantage of new technologies and that this needs to be adequately prioritised and resourced.
- 8 Be aware that small and simple fixes can really help. For example, providing resource for software licences enables staff to work with new technology.
- 9 Invest in stable and robust IT infrastructures that can be consistently used to support assessment and feedback.
- 10 Use workload models that are designed to support 'online' learning.

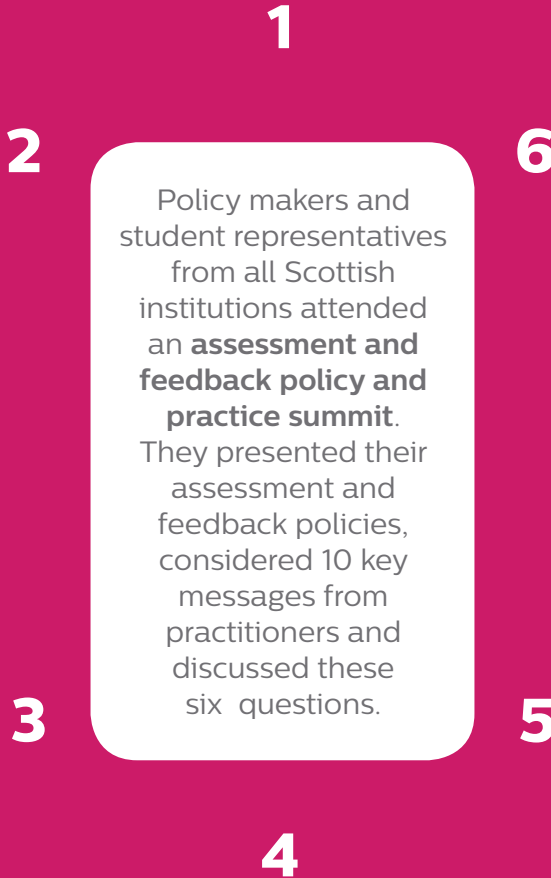
Further resources and videos can be found at:
www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/focus-on/assessment/practice

Assessment and feedback policy and practice

Where do you think you are now in your HEI in terms of providing feedback on assessment?

What 3 key successes have you had in this area recently?

What are the 3 key challenges you face?



What are your priorities for enhancing assessment and feedback policy and practice?

What can we do as a sector to improve assessment and feedback?

What would improvement look like for your institution?

Further resources and videos can be found at:
www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/focus-on/assessment/policy

Students' associations working in partnership to improve feedback on assessment

QAA Scotland collated examples of work that students' associations have undertaken. Activity relates to five categories:

Student Partnership Agreements

Agreements in place at most institutions and feedback on assessment is a key priority area

Events

Events give staff and students an opportunity to discuss how to improve feedback on assessment

Communication

Staff and students briefed about the key elements of institutional feedback policies and what constitutes feedback

Toolkits

Toolkits developed to guide students' associations and institutions on how to improve feedback practice

Promoting feedback as a learning dialogue

Clear emphasis placed on ensuring feedback is a two-way dialogue between staff and students

Examples of the work shared by students' associations can be found at:
www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/focus-on/assessment/partnership

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