



Quick Guide on Quality Assurance

Education Review and Enhancement Cycle

Main principles

The University has a system of Annual, Periodic, and One-off Reviews of its undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes and modules, postgraduate research programmes, and collaborative programmes. The Education Review and Enhancement Cycle is part of this system, and it provides Schools with regular opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching, with a view to continuously enhance its academic provision to students.

Objectives of the Education Review and Enhancement Cycle

- Enable academic staff to reflect on the effectiveness of their respective programmes and modules (eg: course content is up to date; course content provides educational challenge, and requires students to develop relevant skills; delivery modes and assessment processes are appropriate).
- Provide an opportunity for innovation and enhancement in relation to teaching, learning, assessment, and student support.
- Enable academic staff to ensure education equity, as part of maintaining quality and academic standards (eg: reflect on the pedagogical appropriateness of their approach for the cohort size, and for students not studying in their first language).
- Set out the School's strategic educational direction, which is clearly linked to, and informed by, issues arising from previous years' activity.

Key inputs and information for the Education Review and Enhancement Cycle

Schools review and utilise key inputs when completing the Education Review and Enhancement Cycle. For some of these inputs Schools are provided with a summary of issues by relevant the Professional Services area, which help the Schools to prioritise their actions. Schools should review other key inputs themselves. Key inputs include:

- Student feedback, eg: annual Staff Student Forum reports; Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS); the National Student Survey (NSS); and, Postgraduate Taught Experience Surveys (PTES).
- External Examiners' (EEs') feedback.
- Module Review and Module Evaluation Questionnaires.
- Statistical data, eg: degree classification and awarding gaps, including for different diversity groups; new entrants and widening participation; non-continuation, and non-completion; students' attendance and engagement.

Education Review and Enhancement Cycle summary and responses

Heads of Education, with assistance from the Heads of Quality, must complete a response to Input summaries, with a reflective, holistic commentary that can include local knowledge and information. The School Actions Plans can develop from these responses in an evolving and flexible way. Input summary and responses are monitored by the College Quality Assurance and Approval Committees. School Action Plans are received at Education Excellence meetings, and monitored by the University Quality, Enhancement, and Standards Committee

The School Action Plan should include SMART actions that have short-, medium-, or long-term implementation and evaluation deadlines, with clear milestones set out.

On each Input form, Good Practice can be recorded as part of the summary process, as well as any points that the School wishes to highlight in their commentary.

Student involvement in Education Review and Enhancement Cycle

In order to address issues raised in the Education Review and Enhancement Cycle summaries or context commentaries, Schools are encouraged to involve its undergraduate and postgraduate students in developing actions. Schools are advised to hold an Education Review and Enhancement Cycle meeting, and undertake their own analysis of the inputs; it is recommended to invite Student Representatives to such meetings, in order to ensure the input of student voice. Additionally, the School Action Plans and reports on progress towards actions should be periodically shared with students, via Staff Student Forums.

Further information

For more information regarding the Education Review and Enhancement Cycle, visit:

<https://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/academic-support/registry/policy-and-quality-assurance/education-review-and-enhancement-cycle/index.aspx>

