

TESTA

Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment

TESTA supports Departments and Schools to improve assessment and feedback, by providing a detailed picture of students' experiences of their programme. Based on the idea that assessment largely determines what students pay attention to, TESTA helps teaching staff to understand the impact of their assessment and feedback practices and systems on students' attitudes and behaviour.

Staff from Education Enhancement collect and analyse a range of data in order to provide evidence about what is and isn't working. As well as reviews of programme paperwork, questionnaire data is collected from students and staff, and focus groups are run with students. A short report is provided to the Department/School, and discussed at a meeting with the whole programme team. Follow-up support is provided by the Organisational and Staff Development Unit, to help colleagues move from discussion to action.

TESTA is an integral part of the five-yearly Internal Review process, as an additional source of evidence and prompt for reflection. In the academic year prior to their Review, Departments/Schools will nominate a programme to participate in TESTA. They will then be expected to reflect on the key lessons learned from TESTA, and the actions they have taken in response, in their self-assessment document and in the Review itself.

Key facts about TESTA:

- TESTA is intended to help Departments/Schools to reflect on what isn't working, as well as what is working, so the report is **confidential** to the Department/School
- TESTA is based on the recognition that the key challenges around assessment and feedback cannot be properly addressed by individual teaching staff, or within individual classes, but require a team approach. The focus of TESTA is therefore **programme-level**: how assessment and feedback within individual classes fit together into a coherent programme for students, and how staff work together to coordinate their assessment and feedback activities
- TESTA was developed in 2009, and has since been implemented by universities all over the UK. It has been used at Strathclyde since 2016, and feedback indicates that Departments/Schools have found it **very useful** for highlighting issues and bringing colleagues together to discuss assessment and feedback
- TESTA is based on **research** and **evidence**. While the emphasis is firmly on helping Departments/Schools to make practical changes, TESTA uses a rigorous methodology and is based on a large body of research into the impact of assessment and feedback on student learning