Annual Programme Evaluation

Scope
For all taught and research students studying for an award at the University, including those on validated or collaborative programmes

Date approved/re-approved
July 2011

Date for review
To be reviewed on a periodic basis, with allowance for minor annual updates of roles and responsibilities by Education and Student Committee, as required

To be read in conjunction with Section 8 of the Quality Manual including:
Periodic Review Policy
Annual Programme Evaluation Policy

The University is committed to providing high quality programmes that support student achievement and high levels of student satisfaction. This is enabled by effective curriculum design and delivery, appropriate learning and teaching spaces, the establishment of a broader constructive environment and community for staff and students and effective integration between various management levels across the University.

The Annual Programme Evaluation is designed to act as the single action plan for programme planning and development. It provides a mechanism for staff to review a programme’s success at the end of each academic year and to capture actions designed to enhance that programme. It is also used to monitor those actions during an academic year.

Through the APE, Programme teams (or, for research degrees, Senior Tutors for Research) can:

- Reflect upon strong features and any good practice.
- Confirm responses made and actions taken, or planned, to issues raised by students.
- Analyse programme-related management information and External Examiner reports.
- Capture actions that support programme planning and development.
- Identify clear responsibilities for development work and any support needed to assist implementation. This includes management support within Schools and/or from Professional Services.

APEs are completed for all programmes leading to an award of the University. Tailored approaches exist for collaborative provision and research degrees. For collaborative provision, respective responsibilities are agreed between City and each partner institution and detailed in each Memorandum of Agreement.

Student Voice

Students’ views play a core part in the development of action plans designed to enhance their learning experience and the quality of their programme. When compiling APEs, Programme teams will review the various sources of student feedback considered throughout the year. This includes:

- Discussions at Staff-Student Liaison Committees and Student Experience Committees\(^1\).
- Module evaluation outcomes.
- Results from the institution-wide internal survey, Your Voice.
- Results from the National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) or Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES).

Student representatives will be involved in reviewing feedback from students during the year, through SSLCs in particular. In addition, Programme teams may share sections of a draft APE with students. Actions within APEs will be updated and/or new actions added in response to feedback from students.

Development process

\(^{1}\) For postgraduate research degrees, other committees/fora may be used
The Programme Director (or, for research degrees, Senior Tutor for Research) will normally lead the development of the APE. Supporting and oversight roles will be undertaken by Associate Deans (Education), Heads of Department (or equivalent) and Deans.

APEs will be completed according to these key principles:

1. APEs should normally be completed as soon as possible after the end of an academic year and approved at the first Board of Studies after this. This will normally be October (undergraduate and postgraduate research programmes) and December/January (postgraduate taught programmes).

2. Part A (Student Satisfaction) will be updated on a regular basis, reflecting progress in completing actions and/or the amendment or addition of actions based on student feedback. Part B (Programme Monitoring) will be completed annually.

3. Progress in achieving the actions within an APE will be monitored through a standing item at Programme Committee meetings. Boards of Studies will receive a mid-year update on progress via Programme Committees (this will normally be in February/March for undergraduate and postgraduate research programmes and May/June for postgraduate taught programmes).

4. Students will be provided with updates on those actions designed to enhance student satisfaction and/or actions taken in response to student feedback. This would normally occur at Staff-Student Liaison Committees.

Management Information

The appendix to the APE includes programme-related management information that relates to various aspects of a student’s learning experience. This data should be reflected upon throughout the document and used to identify actions.

Institutional oversight

APEs for internal provision are approved by Boards of Studies on behalf of Senate. Institutional consideration of key themes arising from these APEs is facilitated through reports to Education and Student Committee. These will normally be received in November (undergraduate programmes) and February (postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes).

APEs for validated provision are approved by Course Boards on behalf of Senate. Institutional consideration of key themes arising from these APEs is facilitated through a report to Validation and Institutional Partnerships Committee.

Guidance

Further advice on the compilation and use of APEs is provided in the guidance.