

From: External Relations
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To: Staff
Subject: Geoff's Update Special - TEF Silver Award



Geoff's Update Special - TEF

Over the past 18 months staff across the University have been working extremely hard in order to prepare for and respond to the Teaching Excellence Framework. The TEF was introduced by the Department for Education and overseen by the Office for Students and assesses providers' undergraduate teaching based against criteria that covers the areas of teaching quality, learning environment and student outcomes.

Institutions are then rated gold, silver or bronze and can hold that award for up to three years.

We took the decision to reapply again this year and I'm delighted to say we were awarded Silver.

This means based on the evidence available, the TEF Panel judged that the University delivers provision that is of high quality, and consistently exceeds the rigorous national quality requirements for UK Higher Education and found that most students achieve excellent outcomes.

In particular the panel found that the University displayed evidence of:

- commitment to enhance the student learning experience through development of effective learning resources and teaching practice
- the involvement of employers in the development and review of all programmes
- mental health provision and support systems that facilitate student guidance and underpin continuation
- the embedding of the Enterprise and Employability Award scheme within academic programmes
- the Enterprise and Employability strategy to support student start-ups
- the working partnership with the Students' Union.

At the same time we also took part in both of the subject level TEF pilots meaning we were the only University in the UK to take part in all three this year.

This is only a pilot while two different models are trialled but we received very encouraging results. Although we cannot use these for external purposes, we were graded as a silver provider overall as part of the pilots, and at subject level two course areas were graded as gold, 13 at silver and 9 at bronze.

These are all excellent results. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all staff involved in the process. It has taken a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication especially when you consider that we were involved in three submissions.

It demonstrates the continuous improvement of the University and shows we are moving in the right direction. It recognises our excellent teaching and learning and that we are seeking to put students at the heart of what we do as outlined in our strategic plan.

However, we still have work to do. We cannot afford to be complacent and we need to continue to improve. We shouldn't be satisfied with silver and should always strive to get to gold. Subject level TEF will be here for real in 2019 - we have made a tremendous start to being able to meet that challenge but still have to maintain our hard work and focus.

For more detailed information on our TEF3 submission or to download the TEF silver logo for use on email signatures or in other material [please visit the TEF pages](#).

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