

Information for Schools on student involvement

Students make a vital contribution to Internal Periodic Reviews and reviews focus on students' experience. Below are some suggestions for involving students in your preparations for the review, the review visit, and the follow-up.

Initial review preparations

- Let students know that a review will be taking place, and that their input is welcome. Circulate the '[Information for Students](#)' to student representatives and more widely as appropriate.
- Notices about the forthcoming review could be posted throughout the School/subject area.

An example of good practice: The Deanery of Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences recruited a student to be a member of the team that was coordinating preparations for their IPR in 2023/24. Colleagues there would be happy to provide more information – email internalreviewssupport@ed.ac.uk for contact details.

Review Information meeting

- Invite a student representative to attend and provide a brief overview (2-3 mins) of being a student within the School.

Remit items and remit meeting preparations

- When considering subject-specific remit items, invite suggestions from students.
- Items to go forward to the remit meeting should be discussed at a meeting of the Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC).
- Invite a student representative to speak to the proposed student remit items.

Reflective report preparation

- Consult with students on the draft Reflective Report to seek feedback on whether it is a fair reflection of the School. This could be through a SSLC meeting, or other existing channels or School mechanisms.
- Schools can consider using existing digital platforms to involve students in preparations for the review and to enable comments on the draft reflective report.

Review visit

- The review visit schedule will include opportunities for students to meet with the review team. A student could also be involved with the tour of School facilities if this will feature in your review visit.

- Schools should invite students as appropriate and aim for a diverse range of students as far as possible, so that the review team encounters a broad range of views. Staff from the School do not attend the student meetings, and no comments will be attributed to any individual students. (For on-campus students these meetings are normally held over a sandwich lunch.)
- Online Learning (OL) /Year Abroad students can contribute by various means, for example:
 - Virtual meetings* with students can be arranged to enable the review team to meet with a representative sample of OL/Year Abroad students. These can be before, during or after the review visit. Consideration should be given at the earliest opportunity when drafting the review schedule to ensure that these meetings can be arranged well in advance.
 - Circulating an anonymous questionnaire to students to gather feedback on their experience as an online learning student. A template questionnaire is available from Internal Review Support.

*Digital meetings will normally be on MS Teams but other options can be considered to include OL/Year Abroad students in consultation between the School and review team. The timing of these meetings will need to take account of availability of students who may have work commitments and time zone considerations. Please speak with your review team administrator to arrange this.

- Just before the review visit, remind students to attend the meetings with the review team. This should help to ensure a good attendance.
- Invite your students to attend the open digital meeting (usually the day after the review visit) to hear the key outcomes from the review. Posters or digital displays can be used to advertise the open meeting to staff and students.
- The open meeting for all staff and students could be recorded (in agreement between the School and review team) so that those who are unable to attend can view the summary of commendations and recommendations. This is particularly useful for reviews with OL Programmes or staff who work at different locations across the campus.

After the review

- Use the final report to inform students about the outcome of the review through SSLCs or other appropriate mechanisms. Final reports are published on the University's website so are available to current and prospective students.
- Include the School 14 week and Year on response in SSLC meetings and invite comments on proposed actions.
- Publish the final report on the School intranet/website.
- Continue to invite students to feed in to progress on meeting the recommendations, through SSLC or other appropriate mechanisms.