

# Teaching Excellence Framework

## Briefing for staff

### Introduction

NTU has been awarded a gold rating in the Government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). This briefing provides some background information from HEFCE on what TEF is and why it was introduced, plus some answers to frequently answered questions.

### Information on TEF from HEFCE

The TEF provides a new picture of excellence in teaching and learning in UK higher education.

The results and the underlying evidence will help students thinking about which university or college to apply to for autumn 2018, and encourage teaching and learning excellence across the UK.

The TEF was introduced by the Government to build evidence about the performance of the UK's world-class higher education sector, complementing the existing Research Excellence Framework with an analysis of teaching and learning outcomes.

Universities, colleges and alternative providers of higher education voluntarily took part in the TEF. Each provider was rated Gold, Silver or Bronze, or received a Provisional award where there was not enough data for a full assessment.

The TEF awards were decided by an independent panel of experts including academics, students and employer representatives. Drawing on national data, and evidence submitted by each university or college, the TEF measures excellence in three areas: teaching quality, the learning environment and the educational and professional outcomes achieved by students.

The TEF results and the evidence used in the assessment can be found at [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk). The TEF awards will also be published on Unistats and the UCAS website, alongside other information to help inform prospective students' choices.

### How are universities assessed?

There is no Ofsted-style inspection system. Instead, a selection of metrics, combined with a written submission from universities, have been evaluated by an expert panel and individually benchmarked against the types of student who attend their institution. That helps to avoid penalising universities who accept students from more disadvantaged backgrounds. The metrics used include results from the latest National Student Survey (NSS), dropout rates from data supplied by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the annual survey of destinations of leavers from higher education (DLHE), which is information on whether graduates have moved on to jobs or further study six months after graduation, and whether they are in graduate-level employment.

## What does Gold mean and why did NTU get Gold?

HEFCE's explanation of what the ratings mean is as follows:

- **Gold** - delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK
- **Silver** - delivering high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education
- **Bronze** - delivering teaching, learning and outcomes for its students that meet rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.
- Providers that meet rigorous national quality requirements but which do not yet have sufficient data to be fully assessed may opt-in for a **provisional** award

The judging panel praised NTU's strategic commitment to supporting learning and teaching to create the best possible outcomes for students as well as our significant investment in the student experience. Our focus on staff development and student engagement were also highlighted, in addition to our provision of high quality work placements for all students and exemplary engagement with employers.

## What does it mean for fees?

Universities might eventually be given the opportunity to increase their tuition fees in line with inflation if they receive a TEF award – but this approach has been put to one side for the moment. Fees at NTU for full time undergraduate courses starting in 2017-18 remain at £9250 per year.

## Why is TEF important?

As TEF is a new way of judging universities – with a focus on teaching quality, student satisfaction and employability, rather than research – it has the potential to redefine what makes a 'top' university. NTU has always placed significant focus on teaching quality, as shown by our strategic focus on creating opportunities for all. Many of our academics are recruited from industry, bringing with them a wealth of experience and 98% have an externally recognised teaching qualifications.

## Is TEF different to existing league tables?

Yes. Firstly, unlike other university league tables, TEF is being run by government. Research performance and students' entry grades have are not considered as part of TEF, unlike in other higher education rankings systems created by newspapers. Instead data on teaching quality, the learning environment and graduate outcomes has been benchmarked to better measure universities' performance in helping all students to succeed.

For more on NTU's TEF rating visit [www.ntu.ac.uk/tef](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/tef)

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