

# THE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

What is it and what do the subject-level pilots mean for the University of Leeds?

The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF), introduced by the government in England, assesses excellence in teaching and how well universities and colleges ensure good student outcomes, whether at graduate-level employment or further study.

The assessment aims to drive enhancement in teaching and help students choose where to study, by providing clear information about teaching provision and student outcomes.

Participation in the TEF is a mandatory condition of registration for all institutions who wish to appear on the Office for Students (OfS) official register of higher education providers. The TEF process is managed by the OfS and ratings are judged by an independent panel of students, academics and other experts.

The first 'provider-level' TEF results were published in June 2017 and institutions that received an award were able to charge higher tuition fees for the 2018/19 student intake. Leeds was awarded TEF Gold, which is valid until 2021.

## Subject-level pilots at the University of Leeds

The OfS, on behalf of the Department for Education, is now piloting the [TEF at 'subject-level'](#) to find the most effective way of producing TEF ratings at this level, as well as at a provider-level. The rationale being that applicants are more likely to choose a subject ahead of an institution, and that teaching quality and student outcomes can vary between different subjects at the same institution.

The pilot is using a subject classification system that will be applied across all institutions to classify subjects for assessment and give comparability across institutions and providers. The classification system is not based on a university's school or faculty structure, so this does result in some TEF subject categories spanning more than one academic school.

The University is taking part in the 2018/19 pilot and colleagues are currently contributing to subject submissions. This is the second pilot year, building on the findings of the first, which we did not participate in, although we did undertake an internal pilot. The pilot process is purely developmental for participants and the results will not be made public, or impact the TEF award we received at provider level in 2017.

Following the pilot, the first combined provider-level and subject-level TEF process will be conducted across two academic years (2019/20 and 2020/21) and the results will be awarded in spring 2021.



Institutions taking part in the TEF are awarded one of the following:

**Gold** - for delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It's of the highest quality found in the UK.

**Silver** - for delivering high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.

**Bronze** - for delivering teaching, learning and outcomes for its students that meet rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.



TEF awards are judged by an independent panel of students, academics and other experts.



The TEF assessment uses official data combined with detailed narrative statements from each university or college to arrive at the final rating.



The data includes entry qualifications, student characteristics, how many students continue their course from one year to the next, subjects studied, graduate-level employment outcomes, and students' views about their experience gathered in the annual National Student Survey.

### Related links:

[Office for Students](#)

[OfS Regulatory Framework](#)

[OfS: What is the TEF?](#)

[Strategy and Planning Intranet](#)

[University of Leeds TEF outcome](#)

### For more information contact:

[Bryony Victoria King](#) (Senior Policy Advisor)

[Pam Macpherson Barrett](#) (Head of Policy, Funding & Regulation)

[Laura Goodhand](#) (Teaching Excellence Manager)