



Teaching toolkits

Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment (TESTA)

Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment (TESTA) is an approach to investigating assessment patterns across a programme in order to identify how assessment can better support learning.

The approach involves:

- data collection through a programme audit
- student focus group
- questionnaire.

Data is analysed by the programme team who collectively implement change.

Educational benefits for your students

Assessment is often thought about at a modular level but students' experience of assessment is affected by all the modules they are taking at a particular time and how their current assessment relates to assessment on previous modules.

The impact of modularisation has often resulted in an increase in assessment (Harland et al 2014) and lack of cohesion at the programme level.

TESTA aims to present a picture of how students experience assessment across the programme so that the team can discuss patterns of over assessment, bunching of assessment, varieties of assessment, amount and quality of feedback, timeliness of feedback etc.

How to do a TESTA audit

1. Gather your programme team to conduct the audit. The team should consist of the programme lead, module leads for core modules and a couple of typical option modules, and the programme administrator.
2. Carry out a programme audit. You do this by:
 - counting the number of summative and formative assessments for each module and each year of the programme;
 - noting the different varieties of assessment (e.g. Multiple Choice Question exam, oral presentation, laboratory report, explanatory essay).
3. Carry out a student focus group, using the TESTA focus group plan. You can also add your own questions around issues that have arisen in student evaluations or the National Student Survey (NSS) data for your programme.
4. Consider using the TESTA student experience questionnaire.
5. Compare your programme audit data to the TESTA Russell Group data which you can access on the UCL TESTA Moodle.
6. Share all the data with the programme team and organise a meeting to discuss findings and agree changes (TESTA reports and change plans are available in UCL TESTA Moodle).
7. Carry out a follow up evaluation to assess the impact of any changes.

bit.ly/TESTAToolkit: to access this full online guide, including links and further resources.

Where to find help and support

arena@ucl.ac.uk: contact the UCL Arena Centre

We have a range of assessment and feedback toolkits on the Teaching and Learning Portal, including:

- 6 key steps to develop good feedback
- Assessing group work
- Assessing students multimedia assignments
- Assessment and feedback resources
- Enhancing and giving quicker feedback
- Guided marking
- Helping students understand assessment
- Oral assessment
- Peer assessment
- Preparing students for exams using feedback
- TESTA (Transforming experience of students through assessment)
- Using proformas for feedback

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