

**ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE: SESSION 2014-15**

Faculty of Engineering

School of Mechanical Engineering

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY																				
Aspect	National Student Survey						Undergraduate Programme Experience Survey						Postgraduate Programme Experience Survey							
	2013-14		2012-13		2011-12		2013-14		2012-13		2011-12		2013-14		2012-13		2011-12			
	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni	School	Uni
Overall satisfaction	96	88	97	87	89	87	85	85	86	85	87	85	77	85	100	87	88	84		
Teaching	94	90	96	89	92	90	83	85	82	85	83	84	79	86	94	87	84	85		
Assessment & feedback	87	71	87	71	82	69	63	62	65	59	63	61	62	71	88	75	70	69		
Academic support	89	82	91	81	89	80	73	73	71	72	73	72	82	82	91	85	87	80		
Organisation & management	93	85	96	84	91	83	81	75	81	73	82	74	71	81	93	85	84	80		
Learning resources	94	91	87	90	88	88	79	83	75	81	72	78	84	85	87	86	89	83		
Personal development	94	82	92	81	94	81	73	72	74	69	76	68	71	77	76	77	78	71		
Sector position	-	50/146	-	57/147	-	51/150														

Scores in each category are expressed as a percentage of the number of respondents who mostly or definitely agreed with a range of statements (score 4 or 5)

<b>Headline achievement in 2013-14</b>	<i>A vibrant and active student staff forum delivers real change to the running of all programmes within the School of Mechanical Engineering.</i>
<b>Main actions for 2014-15</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Aim to provide students with 24 hr access to programme specific software</i></li> <li><i>Set up a Teaching Enhancement Project Theme team to enhance projects in levels 3, 4 and 5</i></li> <li><i>Offer industrially led projects as part of the MSc in Oilfield Corrosion Engineering</i></li> </ol>
<b>Summary of student involvement in the production of this Action Plan</b>	Our excellent results in the National Student Survey (and subsequent impact on the Times/Sunday Times league table) was communicated to our students via the Student Staff Forum (SSF). The results from the NSS and our programme surveys were summarised and presented at the first Student Staff Forum meeting. Areas for potential improvement were circulated to all Student Representatives for discussion at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Forum. A very lively discussion took part at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> SSF where a list of priorities was put forward by the students which are included into this action plan.

**AGREED ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE: SESSION 2014-15**

**Faculty of Engineering**

**School of Mechanical Engineering**

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Progress with 2013-2014 actions and indication of impact</b>	<b>Agreed Issues/Actions for 2014-2015</b>	<b>Responsibility/Expected completion date</b>
<b>Overall satisfaction</b>	Continue to promote staff student interaction (both formal and informal) to ensure affective communication.  Continue to use the staff student forum as a key component in our school's mechanism for further improvements.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite MSc students to the Mechanical Engineering Society to include them in School social activities and</li> <li>2. Organise social events for MSc students to foster a sense of belonging to their programme and to the School</li> </ol>	Action 1: Mechanical Engineering Society, 2014-2015  Action 2: Programme leaders and/or DSE for PGT
<b>Teaching</b>	Engage fully with the new Teaching Enhancement Scheme (TES) – particularly encouraging student participation and examine cross faculty TES initiatives in Blended Learning for example.	Some engineering students struggled with the level of mathematics taught as they didn't have the necessary mathematics background. Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next year BTEC students will be required to have done A-Level mathematics.</li> <li>2. Investigate the possibility of accepting BTEC students with AS level mathematics.</li> <li>3. Promote to existing students the skills @ library service for mathematics.</li> </ol>	Actions 1 and 2: Admissions tutor to investigate/implement: 2014-2015  Action 3: DSE to promote to all students: Semester 1: 2014-2015
		Investigate the possibility of showing physical displays in place of just computer generated images during lectures for level M modules.	Module leaders: 2014-2015
		MSc in Oilfield Corrosion: Introduction of industrially led projects which are co-supervised and are less reliant on experimental work.	Oilfield Corrosion MSc programme manager, 2014-2015.
<b>Assessment and feedback</b>	Maintain vigilance of our feedback and marks return deadlines in response to comments referring to a small number of failures to deliver on time. All modules use the VLE for return of marks so compliance can be demonstrated.	Concerns were raised about the consistency of marking of levels 3, 4 and 5 projects. A <b>Project Teaching Enhancement Theme Team</b> including academics and student representatives has been set up to look at all project related issues and come up with an action plan	Project Teaching Enhancement Theme Team: 2014-2015.

		Monitor the return of marks for all coursework to comply with the 3 week non-negotiable for all academics	DSE: 2014-2015
		Communication of marking criteria used and of the different types/levels of feedback provided for coursework	Module leaders: 2014-2015
<b>Academic support</b>	Continue to work with the Faculty Employability Team to improve our support for students wishing to undertake a year in industry and provide support regarding careers advice.	Ensure that academics respond to student emails within 2 working days or alternatively academics to provide students with possible drop-in sessions times for students to discuss. If academics do neither of these, students to contact DSE to address issue	All academics and DSE. Semester 1 2014.
		Added focus on programming languages such as C++ or Java, which is excess of what is currently taught: Matlab and LabView.	Students were informed via email of the Video Game and Technology Society which runs such classes. DSE November 2014.
<b>Organisation and management</b>	Work with students and staff in electrical engineering to improve communication within our joint Mechatronics Programme	The UG and MSc Medical Engineering programme of study was re-structured to address employability and student issues.	Medical Engineering programme manager: 2014-2015
		There was a lack of information at the start of the year for UG and PGT students, which included last minute changes to modules available for the programmes. Agreed actions :  1. Put all Induction information and all updates into the Mechanical Engineering web site 2. Inform all MSc students of any last minute changes to module availability.	DSE: September 2015.
<b>Learning resources</b>	Revisit how to get best usage from our teaching assets such as labs, the model making equipment, computers etc.  Continue to refresh CDIO/hands on activities if required.	A recurring issue is 24/7 access to the programme specific software which is not available in ISS Computer Clusters. Students request to afterhours' access to the building is not possible, but their request is perfectly reasonable. Two possible solutions to the problem are:  1. Set up of a 24hr Engineering cluster for all students in the Faculty. However the physical space needs to be identified and then made available and filled with PCs;	DSE in conjunction with Pro-Dean for Student Education and Faculty IT to investigate the possibility of either option. Not sure that a definitive completion date can be given on this, but it would be desirable if something could be implemented by 2015-2016

		2. Provide necessary resources for students to log on to Desktop Anywhere, thus allowing students access to relevant software from their programme of study. However sufficient licences must be made available for a significant number of students to be able to log simultaneously.	
<b>Personal development</b>	Work with the Employability Team to ensure we are promoting their work to students as effectively as possible.	Introduction of UG and PGT field trips to companies relevant to student's programme of study	Programme managers and Employability Team : 2014-2015.
	Support a greater range of student activities such as societies with an engineering focus (for example the rocketeering, robotics and 3d printing groups).	Enhance the personal development of MSc students by providing formal classes to develop their presentation skills (poster, verbal, written)	Project Teaching Enhancement Theme Team: 2014-2015