

Dear colleague

I am pleased to let you know that Bournemouth University has received a TEF Silver award in recognition of our teaching excellence, announced today. This award is institution-wide, and applies to all courses at BU. The award will remain in place for up to three years.

In May 2016, the UK Government announced a new framework benchmarking institutions in the UK based on a range of measures of teaching excellence, as part of the higher education white paper. The TEF framework recognises excellence in teaching quality, learning environment and student outcomes, with each institution given an award in one of three categories – Bronze, Silver or Gold. The definition of Silver is that the institution is ‘delivering high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education’.

The TEF assessment is carried out by a panel based on a set of benchmarked data and a written submission. The metrics were student continuation, employment and further study data and some aspects of the National Student Survey (NSS). The TEF panel noted:

‘The provider metrics supplemented by the submission indicate that the provider achieves good outcomes for most of its students, in particular with regards to retention and progression to highly skilled employment or further study for its part-time students. Although there is performance notably below benchmark relating to NSS, the provider’s submission demonstrates adequate mitigation.’

We have been working to improve student satisfaction and the other aspects measured by the NSS across all our courses, as demonstrated by improving scores in the last two years, and this work will continue.

Our 2018 Fusion vision is to provide excellent education, combined with research and strong links to practice and industry. I am pleased that in awarding Silver, the panel chose to highlight some of our particular characteristics:

- *Very high placement levels with all students offered placements and there is a very high proportion of uptake*
- *Systematic and well-embedded staff development mechanisms, with most staff holding a teaching qualification*
- *Strong support for Peer Assisted Learning within the institution and very good uptake levels*
- *Effective student engagement that is supported by a number of initiatives such as the development of a well-received Student Research Assistant programme*
- *Good levels of investment in, and student use of, learning resources, including the development of a Student Project Bank*
- *Very high levels of professional accreditation.*

This Silver award is recognition of your excellent work at BU and reflects the strengths of our Fusion approach, in particular our focus on the integration of research and practice with education and our investment in staff, in learning opportunities, resources and support. The narrative that we prepared is [available for you to view](#). I would like to thank staff who contributed to the submission.

We are now developing our [BU2025 vision](#), and we will maintain our drive for the highest standards of quality in teaching excellence, student environment and student outcomes, across all our courses, in the context of our distinctive approach to the Fusion of education, research and practice.

Thank you for your hard work in helping us achieve this important milestone.

Best wishes, John Vinney

Vice-Chancellor

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