

# Briefing Paper: Degree Scheme Reviews

This guidance document is for DSRs conducted under the process set down in QA13.

Guidance is also being prepared for reviews conducted under the alternative methodology

which Directors of Studies have been invited to explore with the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) and the Head of Student Learning Experience and Quality. The alternative provides for review of programme structures and assessment in line with the principles expressed in the "New Opportunities in the Academic Framework paper (ULTQC 15/16 – 79).



## What is a Degree Scheme Review (DSR)?

A DSR is an internal review of a programme of study and gives the department a chance to take a step back and look at the programme as it currently works as well as considering future developments.

## Why have I been invited along?

Student opinion is important to the University and it encourages students to individually and collectively get involved in their learning experience whilst at university. Your input into DSRs is highly valued as a way of informing your department about your programme and helping to shape the future of the programme for future students.

## What do I have to do?

In the same way as you represent your fellow students at Staff Student Liaison Committees and Academic Council, you will be asked to give feedback on a range of topics on behalf of your fellow students. You will also be asked to read and comment on the Department's evaluation document and evidence, attend the Review Panel and may be asked to comment on the minutes.

## What's the process of a DSR?

1. The Department will write a Programme Evaluation Document (PED) and collate evidence, bringing together a whole range of perspectives on the programme from: staff, students, External Examiners, recent employers of students graduating from the programme, professional and regulatory bodies and graduates.
2. A DSR Panel is formed which will have at least one student representative.
3. The Panel meet and review the PED and the evidence. It's on the basis of these discussions that the Department will be able to identify what it does well and what are areas for further development or improvement.
4. An action plan will be drawn up by the Department and the Faculty/School Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee will receive a copy. (This committee is attended by student Faculty Representatives as well as Students' Union Officers).

## What should I say?

It is important to remember that it is the Programme which is being evaluated (not you); do not be afraid to tell the Department and the Panel what students on the Programme think!

When thinking about your feedback you may want to consider the following:

- Are the learning outcomes of the degree being met? Are the expectations of students being met?
- What are the views on the teaching and learning methods used? Do these encourage your development of knowledge and skills? Are the timetables and workloads appropriate/what was expected?
- Do you have appropriate access to necessary resources e.g. labs, computers, library?
- How relevant is the Programme to future study/employment? Do you have any opportunities for practical or vocational experience?
- Is the information in handbooks and on the web clear and up to date?
- Is the assessment policy clear? Do you understand the criteria for assessments and the methods used.
- What feedback do you receive on your work? Is it prompt and effective?
- Where do you go for help if you have a problem? Is the help effective?
- Is the Department effective at asking for student views and do you know what action is taken in response?
- What are the best and worst aspects of your learning experience?

## Where can I get further information?

Degree Scheme Reviews are explained in QA Code of Practice statement 13: [QA13](#).

You can also contact the Students' Union by emailing [sueducation@bath.ac.uk](mailto:sueducation@bath.ac.uk), the Assistant Registrar in your Faculty/School or the Learning Teaching and Enhancement Office.