



Enhancement-led Institutional Review of University of Strathclyde

Outcome Report

March 2019

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About the Enhancement-led Institutional Review method

The QAA website explains the method for [Enhancement-led Institutional Review \(ELIR\)](#) and has links to the ELIR handbook and other informative documents.¹ You can also find out more about the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#).²

Further details about ELIR can be found in an accompanying [brief guide](#),³ including an overview of the review method, information about review teams, and explanations of follow-up action.

About this review

This is the Outcome Report of the ELIR conducted by QAA at the University of Strathclyde. The review took place as follows: Planning Visit on 31 January 2019 and Review Visit on 11-15 March 2019. The review was conducted by a team of six reviewers:

Mrs Pamela Calabrese (Coordinating Reviewer)
Professor Stephen Doughty (International Reviewer)
Professor David Lamburn (Academic Reviewer)
Professor Ian Pirie (Academic Reviewer)
Mr Edward Pollock (Student Reviewer)
Professor John Sawkins (Academic Reviewer).

This report sets out the threshold judgement formed by the ELIR team on:

the current and likely future effectiveness of the institution's arrangements for managing academic standards and enhancing the quality of the student learning experience.

The threshold judgement for this report can be found on page 3, followed by commendations and recommendations.

A more detailed [Technical Report](#) is also available for this review.⁴ The Technical Report sets out the team's findings under each heading in the ELIR 4 method.

¹ About ELIR:

www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/en/reviewing-higher-education-in-scotland/enhancement-led-institutional-review

² About QAA: www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland

³ Brief Guide to ELIR: www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/reports/brief-guide-to-elir-method.pdf

⁴ Technical Report: www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/quality-assurance-reports/University-of-Strathclyde

About the University of Strathclyde

Threshold judgement about the University of Strathclyde

The University of Strathclyde has **effective** arrangements for managing academic standards and the student learning experience.

This is a positive judgement, which means that the University meets sector expectations in securing the academic standards of its awards and enhancing the quality of the student learning experience it provides currently and into the future. This judgement confirms there can be public confidence in the University's awards and in the quality of the learning experience it provides for its students.

Commendations

- 1 The University is commended for the following areas of good practice.
- 2 **Institutional approach to articulating and implementing vision** - the University has a clearly articulated vision which is implemented in a coordinated manner enabling it to enhance the curriculum and the wider student experience.
- 3 **Benefit to learning and teaching of institutional links with industry** - the University has well-established links with industry which impact positively on curriculum development, pedagogy and the student learning experience. Related to this, the implementation of the Graduate Apprenticeship and Degree Apprenticeship schemes has informed the enhancement of the University's other provision.
- 4 **Working in partnership with students** - the University's approach to student partnership has continued to evolve since the previous ELIR. Student partnership is evident in a range of ways including in the work of the student-led Student Experience Committee, engagement with substantial campus infrastructure projects and in the opportunities provided by the University's use of student interns.
- 5 **Availability and use of data to inform decision-making** - the University makes extensive suites of data available to academic and professional services staff which are widely and actively used to inform evaluation and decision-making.
- 6 **Approach to digital education** - the collaborative approach adopted by the Strathclyde Online Learning Committee towards the development and delivery of online courses, has transformed the way in which expertise and resources are shared across the University. As a result, the University's use of digital technologies and online resources has acted as a catalyst for enhancement across its portfolio of provision.
- 7 **Alignment of staff development with institutional strategy** - the University's staff development opportunities are aligned to the institution's strategic ambitions and to supporting staff in delivering institutional strategy, particularly in the areas of digital education.
- 8 **International outlook and opportunities** - students are provided with an international element to their experience, drawn from a diverse range of opportunities including study or work abroad. In addition, there are positive examples of the University's links with international partners being used to inform the curriculum.

