

USING POST-EVALUATION FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF COURSES AND PROGRAMS

What is post-evaluation?

- Post-evaluation refers to the transformation of data obtained from evaluation activities into actions or initiatives that enhances the quality of teaching, courses and programs and communicating back the actions or initiatives to students both current and prospective, and organizational stakeholders. The communication aspect is also commonly known as “closing the loop”.
- It seeks to interpret the experiences of students and academic staff for continuous improvement of programs, courses, and teaching.

What is the relationship between post evaluation and quality assurance?

At the institutional level post evaluation meets the following:

- the USQ’s mission to have a continuous process for improvement, and
- requirements to improve the USQ Student Learning Journey.

At the national level the Australian government assures quality through the Australian Universities Quality agency (AUQA). AUQA concerns itself with standards (see flyer on USQ and AUQA on LTSU website), which are:

“...a systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives’ (Standards Australia & Standards New Zealand Joint Technical Committee QR/7 1994) ...and thought of as *‘managing for continuous quality improvement’*”.

How does LTSU support staff in post evaluation?

- by developing an online toolkit to assist course and program teams in the process of collecting, interpreting, using and closing the loop on students’ evaluation data for continuous improvement of courses and programs
- by drawing on evidence-based research and good practices from around the world, offering practical ideas, tools, templates and tips. These generic resources can be easily adapted and used to suit individual needs
- the online post evaluation toolkit is available from the USQ Learning and Teaching website [see address below].

Post-Evaluation Online Toolkit

The material in the online post-evaluation toolkit is organised under the following headings:

- What is post evaluation in USQ?
- Why do it?
- How to do it? This includes:
 - General considerations in interpreting data
 - Interpreting quantitative data
 - Interpreting qualitative data.
- Other evaluation tools
 - The different evaluation tools which you can use to obtain feedback on your course and teaching.
 - The evaluation tools presented here are those without the use of questionnaires.
- Closing the loop: communicating responses
 - Strategies on how to communicate the post evaluation activities e.g. to students
- Targeted resources
 - Practical tips on how to enhance the course and teaching
 - E.g. Improving Students' Perceptions of Appropriate Workload, Feedback on assessments.

Other post-evaluation support available from LTSU

Learning and Teaching website: <http://www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/>

Bibliography

AUQA. (2007). AUQA Audit Manual, Version 4.1. Melbourne: Australian Universities Quality Agency.

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