Department of Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Programme Approval, Review and Enhancement-Led Internal Subject Review (ELISR): Information for Students Meeting with Programme Approval, Review and ELISR Panels

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are Programme Approval, Review and ELISR events?

Programme Approval events take place when a new academic programme is proposed for delivery. A panel is convened to consider the proposal and decide if the programme will be approved to run.

Programme Review events take place when an existing academic programme is reviewed (normally every five years). A panel meets to consider things like the programme's annual monitoring outcomes, ongoing viability, any proposed changes, and students' experience of the programme.

ELISR events take place when a whole subject area or department (rather than an individual programme) is reviewed (normally every five years). A panel meets to consider a number of themes which impact the student experience within that particular area or department. ELISR events are often combined with programme approval and reviews.

What role do I have in this?

You have been invited to meet the panel because you are either a current student or recent graduate from the programme or subject being reviewed. You are therefore a key stakeholder and your involvement allows the panel to hear your and other students' and graduates' views from the programme or subject area being reviewed. You will normally meet the panel virtually with a small group of fellow students and/or graduates and collectively you be asked questions about your experiences of being a student on your programme or in your Department. The exact questions or topics that the panel raise with students will vary from event to event, but typically they might be interested in:

•   Learning and teaching, including assessment and feedback
•   Guidance and support services available to students
•   Access to learning resources, e.g. library or computer labs
•   Student progression and achievement

Your experiences are crucial to informing enhancements to the learning experiences of future students and you are encouraged to take part if invited to do so by your Programme Leader.

What benefits are there to getting involved?

✓   A chance to have your say and influence high-level decision making around programme and subject enhancements.
✓   Develop your transferrable skills in a formal setting. These include but are not limited to communication; teamwork; problem-solving; critical thinking; creativity. Prospective employers like to hear about examples of when you have demonstrated these skills.
✓   Enhance your CV.
✓   Cultivation of a sense of pride, knowing that you have made a difference.
✓   Increased confidence.

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What does an event look like?

All events are organised by a representative from the Department of Quality Assurance and Enhancement who also acts as the Coordinating Reviewer. They are normally held virtually via Microsoft Teams, but may occasionally be held on campus.

Programme Approval, Review and ELISR panels are normally comprised of a panel chair, two GCU academic staff members, two (or more) external panel members (one academic and one from industry/practice for each subject area), student services professional services staff (ELISR only) and a student representative (student panel member).

As a student stakeholder **you won't normally be asked to participate for any longer than an hour on the specified day.** Your Programme Leader will confirm the arrangements.

Do I need to do any preparation before the event?

Yes, you might want to think about your learning and teaching experience, the guidance and support you have received, accessibility of key learning resources, opportunities to be involved in the student consultation process, and how you can use your own experience to contribute to the event itself. The School/Programme contacts who have invited you to meet with the Panel as a stakeholder will be able to provide you with more information and may invite you to a briefing session.

Do you have any top tips for being a successful student stakeholder?

- ✓ Try and maintain a positive atmosphere to encourage open dialogue and discussion.

- ✓ Avoid being purposefully challenging or critical; provide balanced, constructive feedback that considers what works well as well as what could be improved.

- ✓ Offer solutions where possible – what could programme teams do differently to improve the learning experience for future cohorts of students?

- ✓ You might want to provide examples to explain your views – but try to keep them general and don't single out members of staff.

- ✓ Focus on key issues and try not to be side-tracked; panels can't consider or resolve individual issues for participants.

- ✓ Maintain confidentiality at all times.

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If you have any questions or queries about the event that you are participating in, please contact your Programme Leader who will be able to help. We hope that you find being a student stakeholder to be an interesting and worthwhile experience and would like to thank you in advance for your valuable contribution to quality assurance and enhancement at GCU.