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Quality assurance and enhancement

Colleges and Schools work within an Academic Policy and Quality Framework which sets out the University's mechanisms for assuring academic quality and standards, supported by the Policy Team within Registry. The Framework includes academic legislation, procedures and review mechanisms, all of which are overseen by sub-committees of the University Senate. Central to the Framework are the following quality assurance processes:

Programme approval and review

All proposed programmes of study go through a rigorous two-stage approval process. During the first stage, the plan for the programme is considered at College level. The second stage of the process is the preparation of a much more detailed Programme Proposal for consideration at University level which will include evidence of market research, external comments and a skills audit. Once programmes are approved, they are reviewed annually and as part of a periodic, strategic review process.

External examiner system

Feedback from external examiners forms a vital part of the University's quality assurance processes. External examiner recommendations are reported to quality assurance committees both at University and College level.

- **Information for external examiners (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/quality/examiners/index.aspx)**
- **Information regarding postgraduate research administration (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/studentservices/graduateschool/rsa/thesissubmission.aspx)**

Student representation system

The student representation system is founded on the belief that through effective representation students become partners in their education, allowing them a more active involvement in, and ownership of, their learning. Elected Student Representatives from every subject area, undergraduate and postgraduate, are given responsibility for reporting on student issues within their subject to University staff and to the Guild of Students.

- **Student representation system policy (PDF - 180KB) (http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/legislation/docs/POL_Student_Representation_Scheme.pdf)**

Educational enhancement

The University is committed to the continual enhancement of the quality of its provision and educational enhancement is central to the University's Strategic Framework. The University supports mechanisms for the collaboration and sharing of information on pedagogic development and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment across the institution. Current areas of focus include wide-ranging review of the undergraduate curriculum and consideration of alternative modes of delivery. The University also looks to develop an effective relationship between teaching and learning related quality assurance activity and quality enhancement and development.

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