

Changing the culture of assessment and feedback through TESTA

TESTA is a research approach designed to bring about changes to assessment and feedback at programme-level. This session identifies key features of assessment environments, drawing on data from 75 degree programmes in 14 UK universities. Findings indicate that a culture of measurement and control predominates over deep engagement and risk-taking. High summative assessment loads burden students, while rare formative tasks compete with students' addictive assembly of grades. Frequently, the relational dimension of feedback is lost. Undertaking TESTA has given impetus to many teams to redesign programmes in the light of evidence and assessment principles, to the benefit of student learning.