

A SHORT GUIDE TO THE TEF AWARDS

In 2018, we achieved the top gold ranking in the government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Teaching expertise sits at the heart of the University of Hertfordshire; all course curricula is informed by research, business, and the professions. 79% of the University's academic staff hold Fellowships of the HEA (Higher Education Academy), compared to the sector average of 39%. The TEF Award is valid for three years, so the University will be rated Gold until at least 2021.

The UK has a world-class higher education sector, in which all universities and colleges are quality assessed through robust systems. The TEF builds on this by identifying and rewarding excellence in undergraduate teaching and student outcomes, in addition to the high standards of academic quality already required. Universities and colleges are awarded Gold, Silver, or Bronze, or a provisional rating (meaning they do not yet have enough data for a full award).

HOW WERE THE TEF AWARDS DECIDED?

The TEF awards were decided by an independent panel of experts made up of; academics who lead and teach at UK higher education providers, experts on employment and widening participation in higher education, and students.

WHAT DOES THE TEF MEASURE?

The TEF measures teaching excellence in three key areas:

TEACHING QUALITY:

The extent to which teaching stimulates, challenges, and maximises students' engagement with their studies.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

The effectiveness of resources and activities (such as libraries, laboratories and work experience) which support learning and improve retention, progression, and attainment.

STUDENT OUTCOMES AND LEARNING GAIN:

The extent to which all students achieve their educational and professional goals; in particular students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

WHY IS THE TEF IMPORTANT?

Students invest significant amounts of time and money in their higher education. They rightly expect a high-quality academic experience. The TEF measures the things that students care about: excellent teaching and a supportive, stimulating academic environment. Helping them to fulfil their potential and to secure a good job, or progress to further study or training.

WHAT ARE THE AWARD LEVELS?

Universities or colleges taking part in TEF receive one of the following awards:



Gold for delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK.



Silver for delivering high-quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.



Bronze for delivering teaching, learning and outcomes for its students that meet rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.



Universities or colleges that meet rigorous national quality requirements but which do not yet have sufficient data to be fully assessed can opt in for a **Provisional** award.

THE RESULTS SHOW EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE SECTOR

GOLD 73 PROVIDERS

27%

SILVER 134 PROVIDERS

50%

BRONZE 62 PROVIDERS

23%