

## Internal Periodic Review Themes 2022-23

Twelve Internal Periodic Reviews were held during 2022/23:

- Business School (PGT/PGR)
- Divinity (PGT/PGR)
- Ecological and Environmental Sciences (UG)
- Economics (UG/PGT/PGR)
- Edinburgh College of Art (UG/PGT/PGR) **[ECA]**
- GeoSciences (PGT)
- History, Classics and Archaeology (PGT/PGR) **[HCA]**
- Literatures, Languages and Cultures (UG) **[LLC]**
- Mathematics (UG/PGT) **[Maths]**
- Moray House School of Education and Sport (UG) **[MHSES]**
- Philosophy, Psychology and Languages Sciences (UG) **[PPLS]**
- Physics and Astronomy (PGR)

Individual review reports are available at: [IPR Reports 2022/23](#)

### Areas of good practice

- **Student support** was the most common theme with 19 commendations across nine reviews. These included six commendations, in six Schools, relating to the sub-theme of the new student support model: positive engagement, implementation, preparation and ambition for the new arrangements and the level of resource commitment were identified by review teams in relation to the new model.

Examples of commendations identifying good practice relating to the Student support theme include:

“School staff are keenly aware of mental health and wellbeing impacts for both students and staff. There are various support mechanisms in place and staff are encouraged to embed wellbeing in the curriculum, aligning with the University Accessible Learning Policy to design a responsive curriculum. The review team commends this as an area of good practice.”  
[MHSES UG]

“The review team commended the wealth of good practice demonstrated in PGR supervision, spanning academic and pastoral spheres.” [Divinity PGT/PGR]

“The review team commend the consideration that has been given to phase 2 of the implementation process, and commend the work by current cohort leads to share good practice and lessons learned with incoming cohort leads.” [Maths UG/PGT]

“The review team commend the professional services staff for their proactive and encouraging approach to developing support and services to students.” [Economics, UG/PGT/PGR]

- **Learning and teaching** as a theme was commended 17 times across nine Schools. Programme development was the most common sub-theme with five commendations. Although no specific good practice examples were identified by review teams, some example commendations include:

“Since the previous review, the School has undertaken a review of and rationalised its postgraduate taught programme portfolio. The review team commends this activity which has also helped to address pressures on academic workload.” [HCA PGT/PGR]

“The review team commend the School for undertaking a marketing review to understand and ensure the PGT programmes remains reflective of market demands.” [GeoSciences PGT]

“The review team found that the School provides a number of forward-thinking courses and commends the innovative courses and programmes, working across disciplinary boundaries that are offered.” [LLC UG]

- There were 15 commendations relating to the **Student experience** theme. Transitions was most commonly identified as a sub-theme with four commendations.

Examples of good practice commendations relating to the Student experience theme include:

“The review team commended the Academic Fair that is being organised for the students progressing from Years 1, 2 & 3. It is clear that the School has responded to the feedback from students and worked with them in planning their education and future career prospects.” [Ecological and Environmental Sciences UG]

“The review team commends the School’s strong relationships with its local authority partners. There was clear good practice in using learning from crisis oriented operation during Covid to further benefit relationships post-pandemic.” [MHSES UG]

- The **Staff** theme received 13 commendations in seven Schools. The most commonly identified sub-theme was Academic with four commendations. The over-arching common thread to commendations related to the dedication and commitment of academic and professional services staff to the student experience and delivering high quality programmes. Although no specific good practice commendations were identified by review teams, examples of commendations in relation to the Staff theme include:

“The review team commends the commitment of ECA’s academic and professional services staff. All staff showed commitment to providing a positive student experience.” [ECA UG/PGT/PGR]

“The review team commended the teaching staff for their contributions to teaching on courses elsewhere in the university and in attracting students from other programmes into the School (for example students from the law school undertaking courses in the Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations programme).” [Divinity PGT/PGR]

### Areas for further development

Theme	Proposed responsibility for action
<p><b>Staff support and development (16 recommendations across 11 reviews)</b>            Recommendations covered guidance, training and support for postgraduate tutors and demonstrators; accreditation and skills training for staff</p>	<p>Align with ELIR response            Tutors and Demonstrators working group            Schools/Colleges</p>
<p><b>Assessment and Feedback (14 recommendations across nine reviews)</b>            Recommendations covered range of assessment types and assessment load; marking criteria and feedback/forward methods</p>	<p>Align with ELIR response            CPT/Assessment and Feedback group            Schools/Colleges</p>

19 September 2023