Teaching evaluation and student feedback at King’s College London

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King’s College London (KCL) is the largest healthcare learning centre in Europe. It is 21st in QS Top Universities World Ranking and 16th in Medicine.

Teaching evaluation by the students is a key component of assessment which reflects on standard of teaching and standard of content of an educational activity. In the latest student survey at the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine (overall response rate: 73%) overall student satisfaction was at 79%, ranging between 62-100% in different departments.

Regarding ‘Assessment and feedback’ it has been asked from the students whether marking criteria has been clear in advance; assessment arrangements and marking has been fair; feedback was prompt; detailed comments received on work and whether it helped clarify things. The students also graded how the teaching met the needs for the examination and the clinical relevance; the coherence of a particular lecture, seminar or practical regarding the progression within the taught subject is evaluated; the administrative organization.

Regarding ‘Teaching on my course’ students were asked whether staff were: good at explaining things; have made the subject interesting; enthusiastic about what they were teaching; course was intellectually stimulating. The annual appraisal of teachers by their peers is another important form of evaluation. This also includes other aspects of academic practice, such as research student supervision, publication metrics, personal development, organization and management, international reputation. Students have tutors, whose responsibility is to monitor and help their progress and address poor performance related issues with regular meetings every 3 month or more often if needed and problematic cases are referred to senior tutors. KCL runs various courses for teachers on best practice ranging from annual lecture series and on-line education to postgraduate diploma, MSc and PhD.