

Teaching Cultures Survey: project overview

1. Context

Universities across the world are striving to enhance the quality of the student experience; central to this mission is the establishment of an academic culture that celebrates, rewards and supports university teaching achievement. As part of a global partnership, the Teaching Cultures Survey will enable universities to explore and track the culture and status of teaching at their institutions and compare outcomes with peer universities worldwide. Further information is available on the project website (www.teachingcultures.com).

For each participating university, the survey results will shed light on the strengths and weaknesses of their teaching culture as compared to global peer institutions, providing a springboard for priority-setting and strategic investment. In addition, many of the participating universities have implemented (or are in the process of implementing) systemic changes to curricula and/or in how teaching achievement is supported and rewarded. For these universities, the survey data will also allow changes in the culture and status of teaching to be tracked over time, during and/or following the process of change.

The study is funded by a consortium of the participating universities, with additional support from the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK. It is being undertaken as a collaboration between the participating universities and an external research team, led by [Dr Ruth Graham](#) and supported by [ResearchAbility](#). The Teaching Cultures Survey builds upon the momentum of the *Career Framework for University Teaching*,¹ a tool designed to improve the recognition and reward of university teaching that was co-developed and implemented by a network of institutions from across the world.

Although selected anonymized survey findings will be made available on the project website, the main focus of the work is to inform and support efforts to nurture inclusive cultures that celebrate, reward and support academic teaching achievement at universities participating in the survey.

2. Focus of the survey

Evidence for the Teaching Cultures Survey is gathered via a short online survey open to all members of the university academic community who hold an institutional contract of employment: PhD students (if engaged in a teaching capacity) and post-docs, faculty (tenured and non-tenured), individuals employed in education-focused roles, and academic leaders (such as disciplinary Deans, department heads and university leaders).

The questionnaire is designed to take six minutes to complete. In addition to basic demographic information (e.g. gender, post, academic discipline), it captures feedback on the attitudes, aspirations and experiences of the teaching culture of the academic community. Pilot interviews with a range of academics from the initial group of participating universities were used to ensure the questionnaire's comprehensibility, coverage, length and structure, as well as its applicability across different institutional contexts. This design and testing process was undertaken in late 2018.

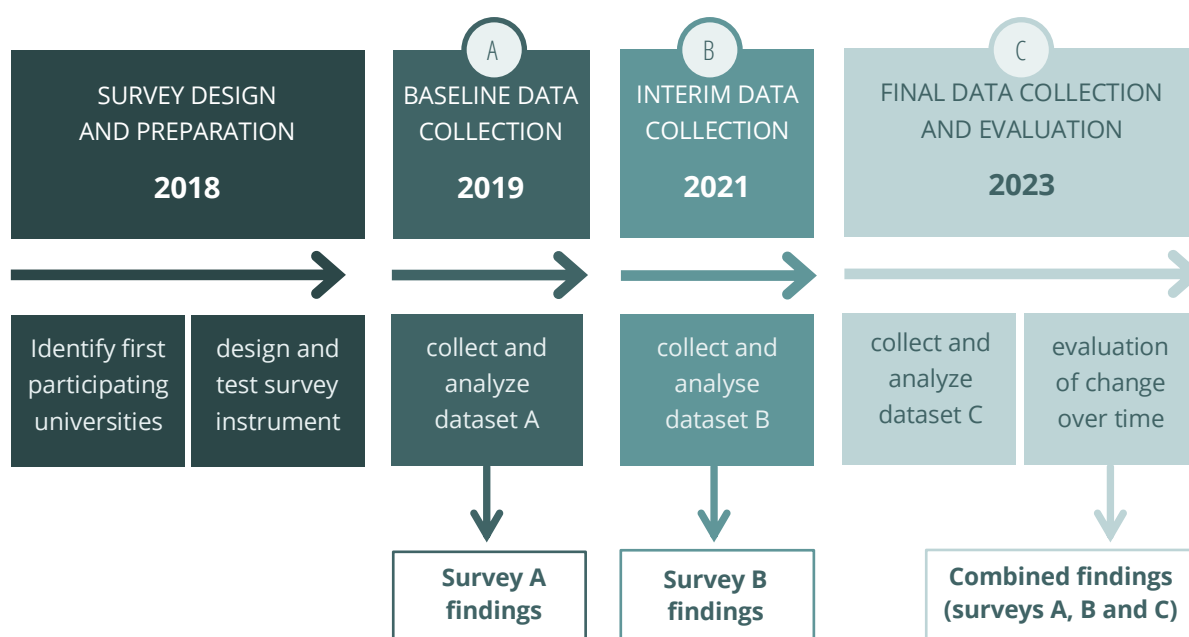
¹ *Career Framework for University Teaching* (<http://www.teachingframework.com>)

3. Project timeline and deliverables

The study comprises three cross-sectional surveys conducted in 2019, 2021 and 2023, each using the same questionnaire. Universities will need to take part in the 2019 survey in order to participate in subsequent surveys. On completion of each survey, two sets of outputs will be available:

1. participating universities will be given access to confidential survey results from their institution, together with amalgamated results from all participating institutions. Where the number of survey participants in a particular group (e.g. a discipline group) is small, categories will be combined to protect anonymity;
2. a summary of selected and anonymized findings from amalgamated results from all participating institutions will be made available on the project website.

Key highlights will also be summarized in a short report at the end of the project. Care will be taken to ensure that no institution-specific information can be inferred from the amalgamated data.



4. Data collection/storage and ethics approval

The survey is not collecting personal data such as names. The external research team will conduct and export the survey using SurveyMonkey (a GDPR-compliant platform). The data will be stored securely until after completion of stage C of the study in 2023, then securely deleted; participating universities will not have access to the data. The data will be used only for this study and will not be shared with any third party. Participating universities assume responsibility for any ethics approval required by their institution.

5. Participating universities

To date, 14 universities from nine countries have committed to participate in the 2019 Teaching Cultures Survey. The full list is on the project website and includes: Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (Chile), DTU (Denmark), Skoltech (Russia), SOAS University of London (UK), TU Delft (Netherlands), University of Auckland (New Zealand), University of Edinburgh (UK) and University of New South Wales (Australia). A second group of universities is expected to join the Survey later in 2019.