

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.

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. Although anonymized survey findings from the amalgamated data set (from all participating universities) will be prepared and 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.

The study is funded by the participating universities and is being undertaken as a collaboration between these institutions 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.

Further information is available on the project website (www.teachingcultures.com).

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 five 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. Design and testing of the questionnaire was undertaken in late 2018, which was used to ensure its comprehensibility, coverage, length and structure, as well as its applicability across different institutional contexts.

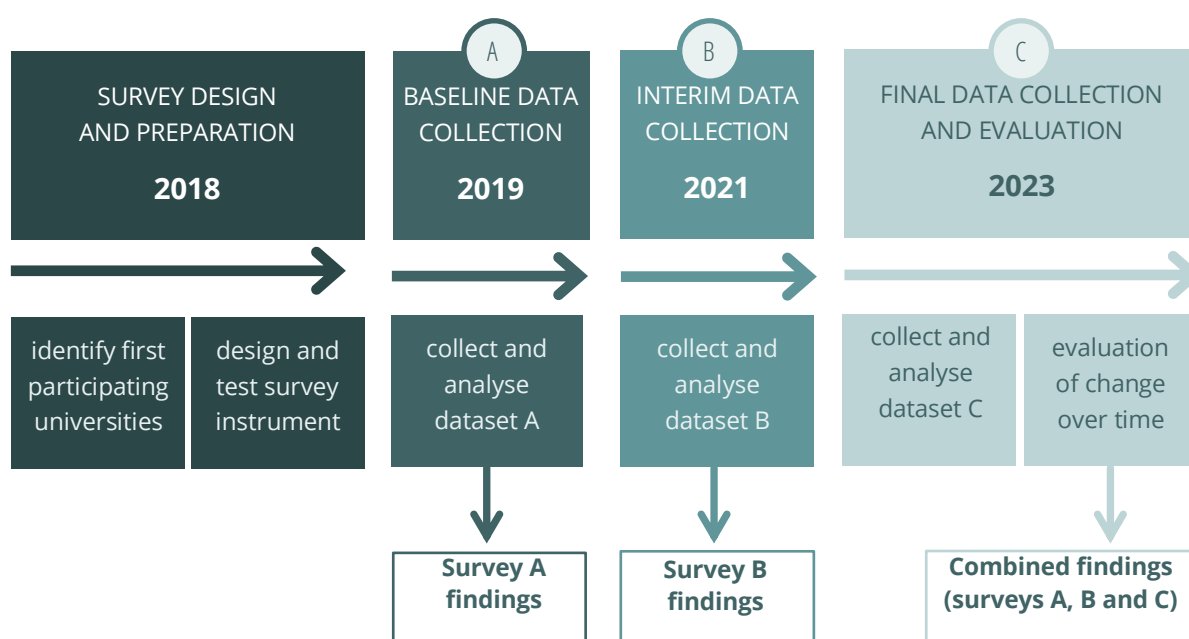
¹ The *Career Framework for University Teaching* (<http://www.teachingframework.com>) was financially supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK

3. Project timeline and deliverables

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

1. participating universities will be provided with the analysed survey findings from their institution. This will include a report highlighting key institutional findings (with comparisons to global peer institutions) and a spreadsheet of analysed findings by survey question. These reports will be strictly confidential and shared only with the university in question.
2. a summary of anonymized findings from the amalgamated data from all participating institutions will be prepared and 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 privacy and ethics approval

The survey is not collecting personal data such as names or IP addresses. 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. The survey data is not shared with participating universities, only analysed findings from it; anonymity of participants is protected. Participating universities assume responsibility for any ethics approval required by their institution.

5. Universities participating in the 2019 survey

21 universities from 10 countries participated in the 2019 Teaching Cultures Survey. Participating institutions include: Aalborg University (Denmark), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), DTU (Denmark), Leiden University (Netherlands), Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (Chile), SOAS University of London (UK), TU Delft (Netherlands), University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), University of Auckland (New Zealand), University of Edinburgh (UK), University of Iceland (Iceland), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia) and Utrecht University (Netherlands).