

Lancaster University's TEF 2 metrics – a summary

TEF 2 involves two main elements on which an institution's award is based – a set of metrics produced by HEFCE and a written narrative submission. The full set of metrics for all institutions which participated in TEF 2 will be published by HEFCE. This note provides a summary explanation of Lancaster's metrics to sit alongside the written narrative submission.

TEF 2 metrics are based on undergraduates and recent first degree graduates, with data averaged over a three year period. There are six metrics as set out in the table below – the first three are taken from the National Student Survey (NSS), the fourth is derived from HESA data on student retention, and the final two are drawn from the Destinations of Leavers in HE survey (DLHE). For each institution, data for students on the main form of study were used – for Lancaster this was full-time study.

For each metric, the actual result is compared to a benchmark (derived from the whole HE sector and adjusted to a similar profile of students as Lancaster's). The difference between these two items is then standardised to yield a z-score which indicates how strong the evidence is that an institution's result is better or worse than its benchmark. The z-score and the actual difference are then used together to determine a flag, as per the key below the table.

	Indicator (a) %	Benchmark (b) %	Difference (a)-(b) *	Z-score	Flag
Full-time headcount:	9,299				
The teaching on my course	89.1	86.9	2.2	5.3	+
Assessment and feedback	72.8	72.0	0.8	1.4	
Academic support	83.6	81.7	2.0	4.1	
Non-continuation	5.0	4.1	-0.9	-3.0	
Employment or further study	95.8	93.7	2.1	6.1	+
Highly skilled employment or further study	81.4	73.9	7.5	11.8	++

++	The actual is above benchmark at the 3 standard deviation and 3 percentage point level
+	The actual is above benchmark at the 1.96 standard deviation and 2 percentage point level
-	The actual is below benchmark at the 1.96 standard deviation and 2 percentage point level
--	The actual is below benchmark at the 3 standard deviation and 3 percentage point level
	The indicator is present but there are no flags

The table shows that Lancaster had positive flags for three of the six metrics and no negative flags. The positive flags were achieved in two of the three areas that TEF 2 considered – teaching quality and student outcomes & learning gain.

For each metric, a series of split metrics were also produced to assess whether there were differences across sub-groups such as domicile or age.

Our written narrative submission presents evidence to provide context and an understanding of our metrics.