

Making the Most of Feedback: Advice and Guidance for Students

During your studies you will receive feedback on your assessment performance in your academic courses. This feedback is designed to be constructive and developmental, to help you to understand the grade you have been awarded, and how to improve your academic performance in future assessments. This guide provides advice on how best to use your assessment feedback and the development comments that you receive from your lecturers and tutors, and the various ways, in which this feedback is provided.



What is the purpose of assessment feedback?

Throughout your studies you will receive feedback on formative and summative assessments. The purpose of this feedback is to:

Correct any misunderstanding

“Next time ensure you use the correct Harvard referencing style.”

Develop your knowledge

“You are encouraged to read chapter 9 of the core textbook.”

Enhance your academic skills

“Remember to use your critical analysis skills....”

Encourage reflection on your work

“To develop your thinking further, you are encouraged to consider further case studies.”

Inspire and motivate you to progress in your studies

“You demonstrate excellent understanding of this topic.”

Remember, formative assessments and feedback are developmental and help you to learn, but don't count towards the final course grade. In comparison, summative assessments and feedback carry a CGS (Common Grading Scale) grade and count towards the overall mark.

What are the different ways of giving and receiving feedback?

Feedback is offered in different ways, including:

Discussions in a tutorial or lab class

Online discussion forum posts

Video assessment feedback

Audio assessment feedback

Written assessment feedback

Peer feedback

Follow-up meetings outside class

Rubric-style feedback

Feedback can also be provided individually, or more generally to the class, in taught sessions and online via MyAberdeen.

What are the key principles of effective feedback?

The University is committed to providing high-quality student feedback and has adopted the following **feedback principles** to assure that it is:

- Provided in a timely manner
- Offered in a constructive and developmental way
- Focused on future improvement (feed forward)
- Understandable and relevant to the assessment criteria
- Acknowledging due student effort

Who provides feedback?

Feedback can be provided by the Course Co-ordinator, as well as by:

Tutors in seminars and tutorials

Demonstrators or technical staff in practicals

Peer feedback from other students

Course lecturers or tutors

How to use feedback?

To make best use of your feedback you should:

Retain and use it to build your assessment literacy.

Reflect and make sure you understand it.

Use it as a checklist for future assessments.

Apply it in other courses throughout your studies.

Discuss it with your tutor if further guidance is required.

And finally,



Don't forget there are University online feedback resources and further support available. Feedback is a two-way process, so if you don't understand it, are confused by the various feedback formats, or wish to discuss your assessment feedback, sources of support include:

- Asking the Course Co-ordinator or your assessment marker.
- Contacting the Student Learning Service, if you require support with assessment feedback or consult Achieve/Achieve+ in MyAberdeen.
- Speaking to your Personal Tutor.