

**ESSENTIAL
FRAMEWORKS
FOR ENHANCING
STUDENT
SUCCESS**

**ENHANCING
ASSESSMENT IN
HIGHER EDUCATION**

What is assessment?

Assessment and feedback practices are at the core of higher education (HE). Assessment provides judgement so it needs to be valid and reliable. It also supports student learning and feedback, so it should be designed to promote desirable learning behaviours, develop subject-specific and professional competencies, as well as other graduate attributes.

In recent years, the education sector has actively worked to improve assessment and feedback practices, aiming to meet the current needs of higher education, students, institutions and employers. This framework supports the ongoing transformation by providing essential principles for assessment and feedback crucial to student learning.

The process of enhancing assessment involves various stakeholders in a cycle of review, planning and action. This has implications for the institution's infrastructure, policies and practices. It requires dialogue between academic and professional services staff, students and employers to inform curriculum review and development. Continuous enhancement of assessment positively impacts student learning, satisfaction and confidence in academic standards.



Who is the framework for?

This framework is designed for all stakeholders; for educators, those in charge of policy, quality assurance and quality enhancement, and those responsible for leading education at all levels from pro vice-chancellors to programme leaders. It's most effective when implemented institution-wide and integrated into programmes.



Successful initiatives to widen access to HE have led to a more diverse student body, greater variation in prior learning experiences, abilities and expectations, resulting in awarding gaps.

Clear learning outcomes, assessment criteria and constructive feedback are essential to address these gaps and promote inclusive education.

Why is enhancing assessment important?

Enhancing assessment is fundamental to improve learning and teaching.

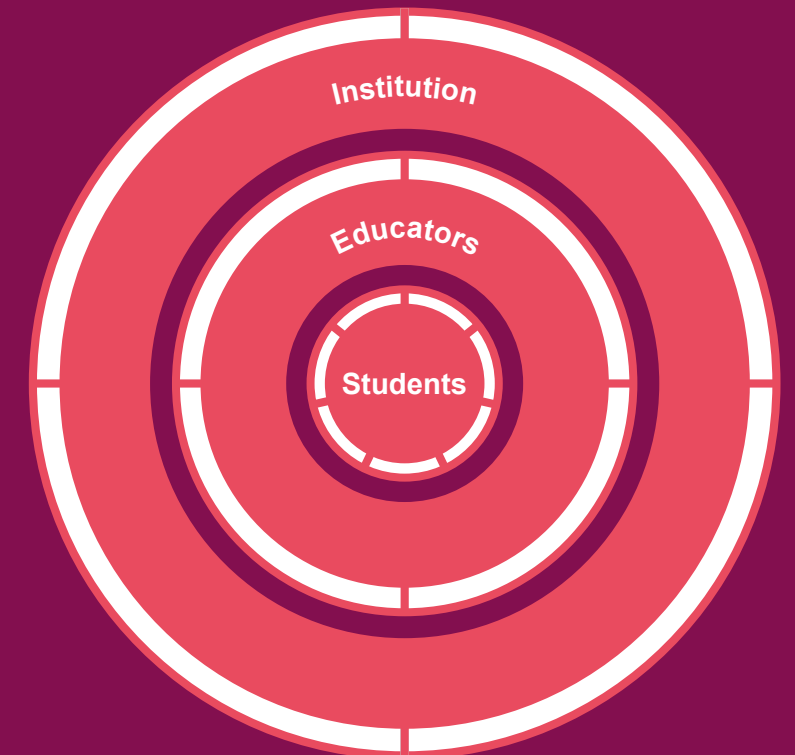
Research consistently shows that enhancing processes, policies and practices leads to better student learning and satisfaction. It also facilitates the adoption of requirements like authenticity, sustainability and inclusivity.



How is the framework structured?

Multiple factors impact student success. Each of our frameworks identifies prevailing themes and views them through three perspectives:

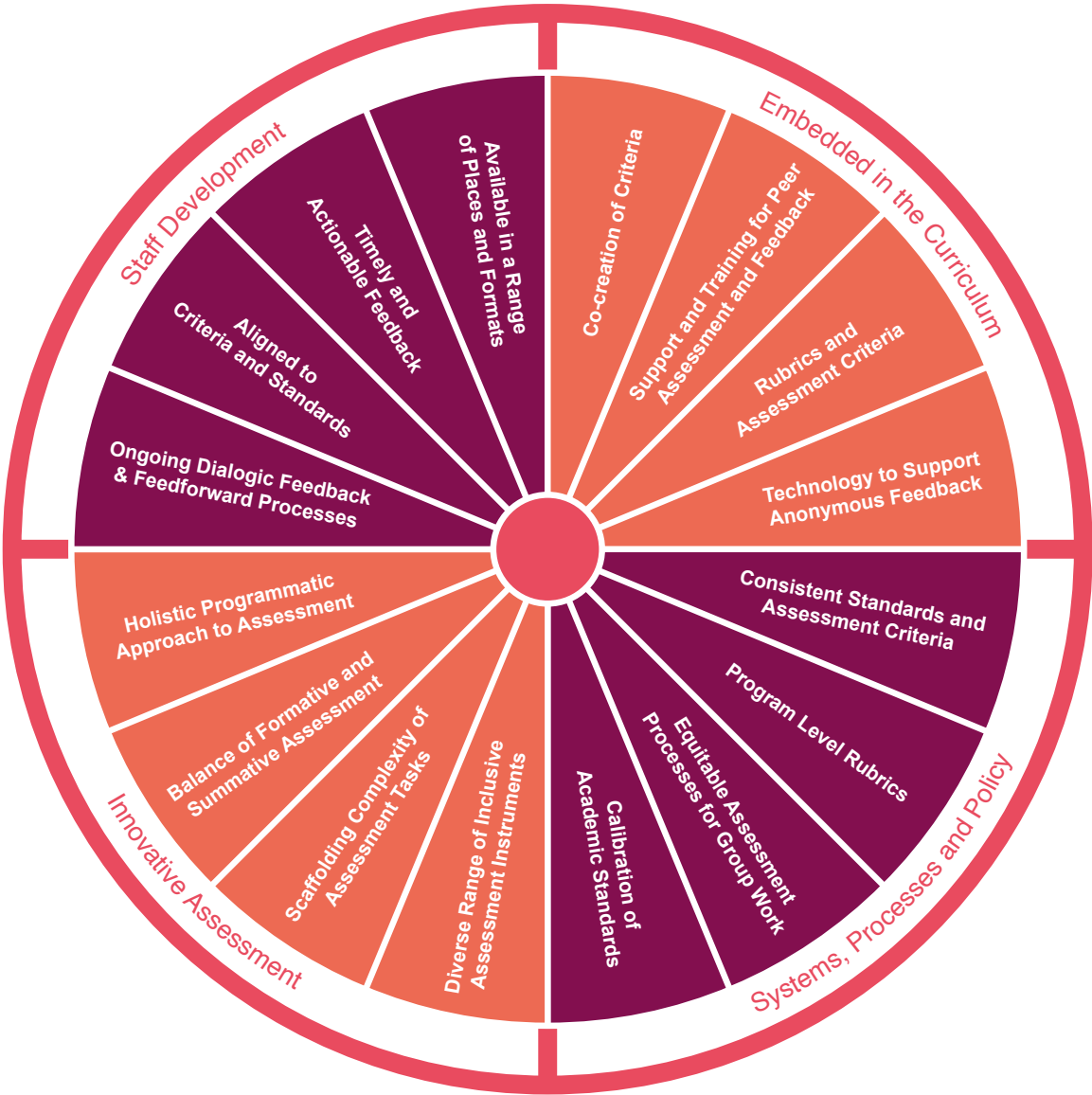
- + Institution
- + Educators
- + Students



Institution

The strategies, policies and practices of the provider should actively support and enhance assessment practices and facilitate curriculum review and development. This includes adapting regulations to accommodate new technologies, utilise technology for managing the assessment cycle and delivering timely, constructive feedback.

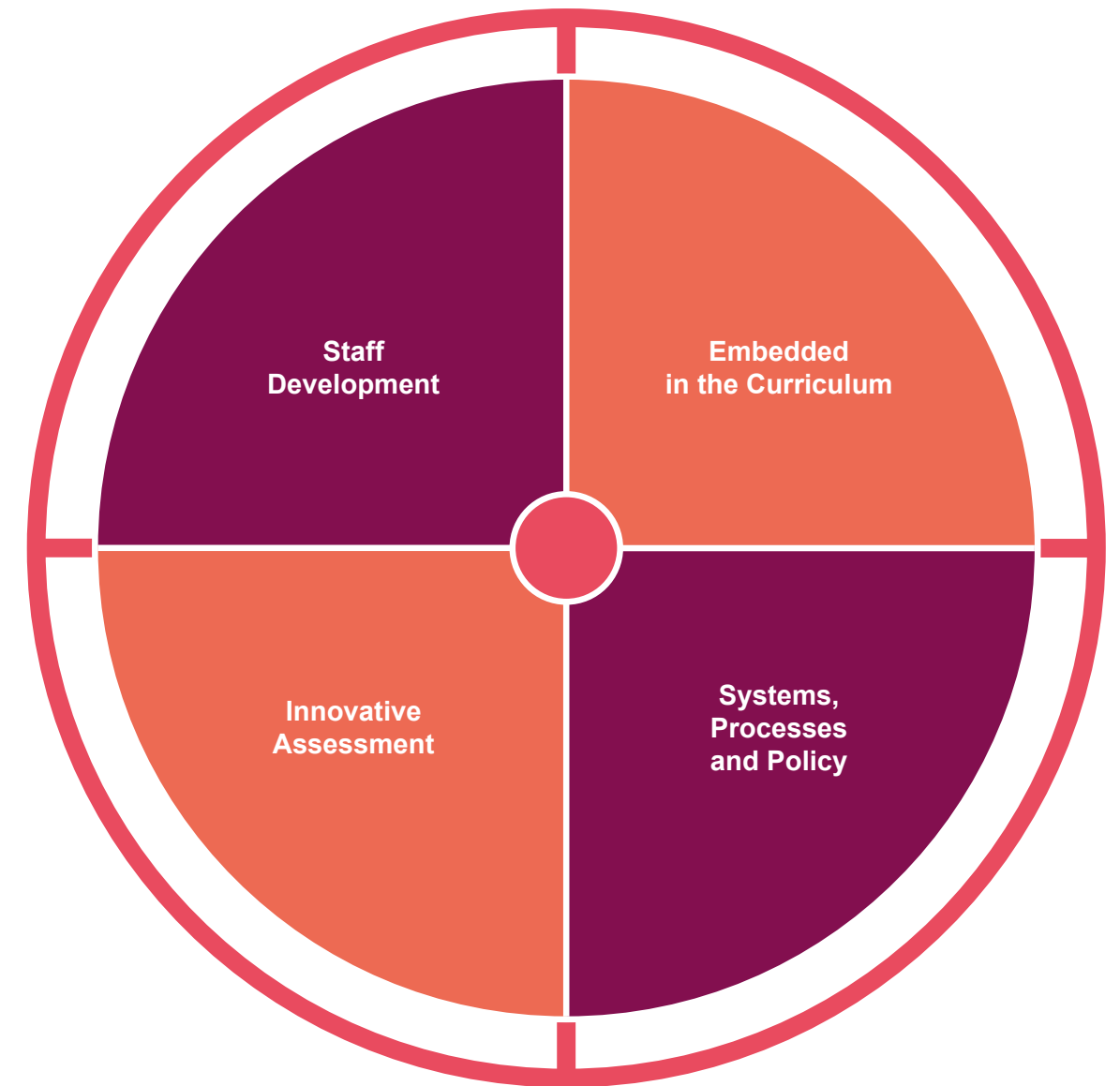
The institution plays a crucial role in promoting and disseminating innovative assessment practices, while ensuring that appropriate staff development opportunities are available for all staff.



Educators

The framework promotes a holistic approach by course teams across the four areas of focus. Educators need to work within the institutional systems, processes and policies and apply them to their context. Activities such as self- and peer-assessment, formative assessment and learning from feedback may not be familiar to all students, so it is essential to integrate and progress them throughout a programme or course.

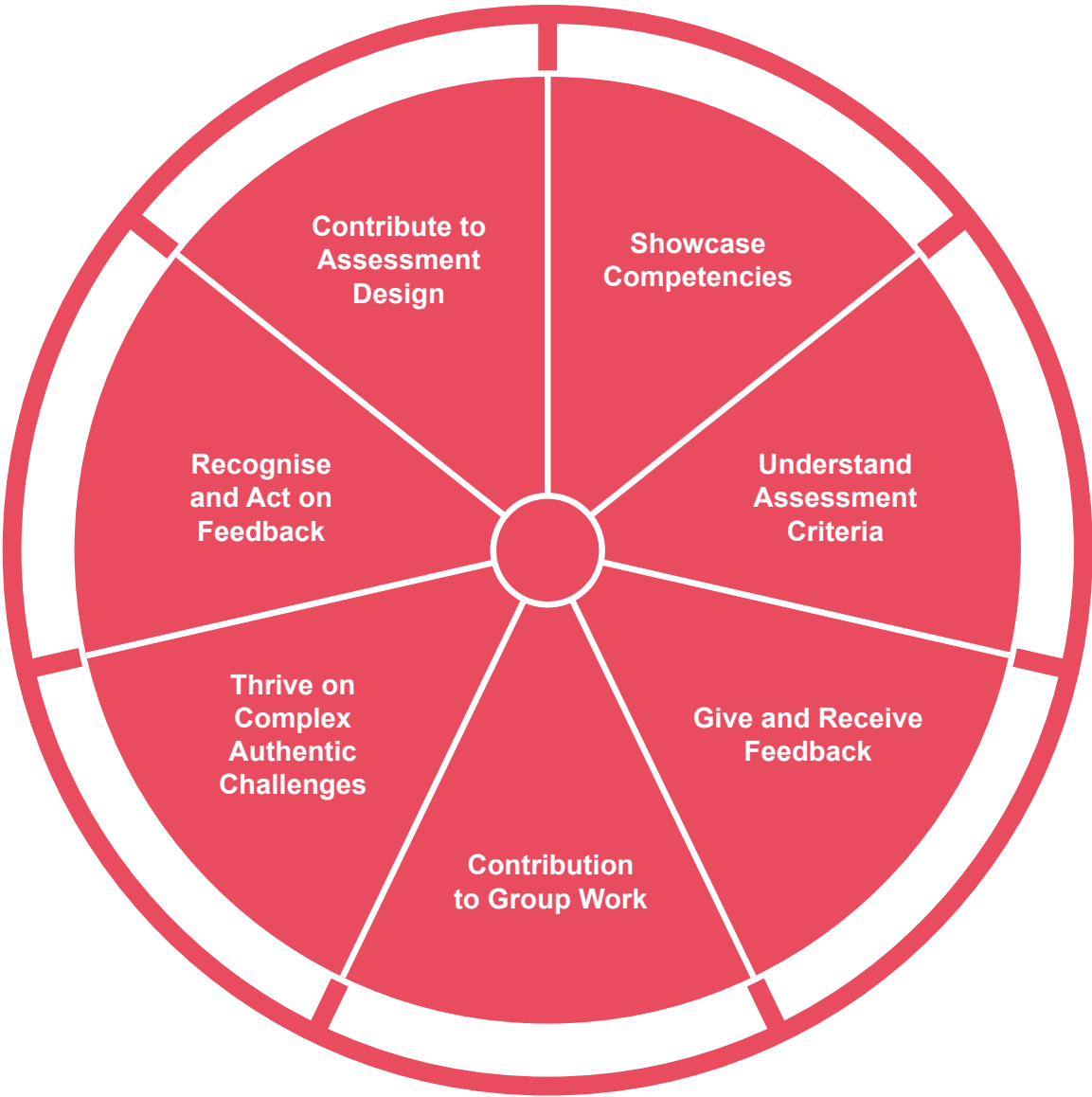
The framework encourages the adoption of diverse and innovative assessment methods. A team-based approach ensures students experience a broad range of assessment methods, enhancing the validity, authenticity and inclusivity of assessments. Educators require subject-specific developmental support to stay current in this landscape.



Students

This student-centred framework aims to enhance learning potential through improved assessment design. This includes peer- and self-assessment, and formative and summative assessments, all of which foster academic literacy and good academic practice.

These interconnected factors not only enhance students' understanding and trust in assessment, but also involve them in authentic tasks that improve both assessment and feedback practices.

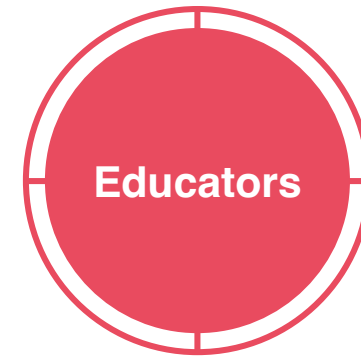


How can you use the framework?

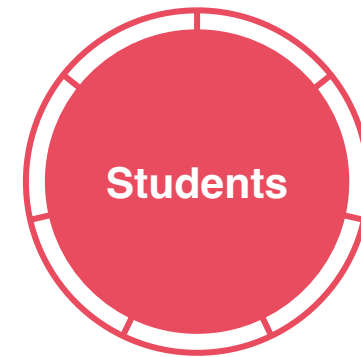
The framework is a guide to ensure a focus on the student experience, adoption of the appropriate pedagogical practice, and a consideration of assessment at a strategic level. The three areas of focus within the framework can be used independently, or collectively, to identify the intersections between institutional policies and practices.



- + Develop strategic priorities and enhance culture through shared ownership of policies and processes.
- + Encourage a shared vision and values; providing creative and innovative assessment practices.
- + Foster and develop the relationship between institutions, external and internal stakeholders.



- + Acts as a benchmark to map against and/or consider current practice.
- + Develops collaborative engagement and can be used to develop inter- and intra-disciplinary working, and/or with external stakeholders.
- + Provides a resource that can identify and recognise professional development, needs and requirements.



- + Offers a structure for identifying key elements that can positively impact on a learner's experience and attainment.
- + Identifies core components to help develop a shared and common understanding of assessment practices and literacies.
- + Allows for contextual understanding and recognises that areas will be under varying degrees of focus through different learning experiences and stages.

How does this framework align with the Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023?

Staff may wish to consider how their engagement with enhancing assessment in higher education can offer an effective approach to areas of activity, enable deeper understanding of core knowledge, and demonstrate alignment with professional values. It is particularly relevant to the following dimensions:

Professional Values	V1	V3
Activity	A1	A3
Core Knowledge	K2	K5

Advance HE invites all those teaching or supporting learning to evidence their use of this or other Student Success Frameworks in applying for Fellowship in recognition of their commitment to professional practice.



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