**Getting ready for ELIR**

**What is ELIR?**

Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) is an external review of higher education in the University, co-ordinated by Quality Assurance Agency Scotland (QAA Scotland). All universities in Scotland are reviewed on a four-year cycle. The main focus of the review is the effectiveness of our approach to improving the student learning experience.

**Why is ELIR important?**

* ELIR helps us improve what we do, and how we do it
* ELIR leads to a published judgement on the quality and academic standards of the university.
* ELIR has a direct impact on our reputation – regional, national and international - our attractiveness to students, our ranking in ‘league tables’, our relationship with stakeholders.
* Engagement with ELIR is a statutory requirement, and one of Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) conditions of funding.

**What does ELIR involve?**

The university submits a detailed self-evaluation (called the Reflective Analysis) and supporting evidence to QAA. This is drafted in consultation with colleagues from across the university and in partnership with our students. A panel visits the university to explore themes arising from our Reflective Analysis with groups of staff and students. The panel reaches a judgement, and reports on areas of good practice, and areas for development. The Reflective Analysis involves the four contextual themes.

**Timeline – University’s Journey to ELIR 2021**

October 2020 - Drafting Reflective Analysis outline structure (including four contextual themes)

October 2020 – February 2021 – Consultation on initial draft report

March – May 2021 – Internal publication and further consultation

June – August 2021 – Internal approval and submission to QAA

November 2021 – ELIR Review institutional visit

December 2021 – Early draft of the outcome report from ELIR

April 2022 – Final reports published

**The four contextual themes**

Data - How we use it to enhance the student experience

Student voice - How we listen to and engage with our students

Employability - How we support student employability

Implementation of the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy - How we use strategy to enhance practice