Questions for student focus groups

Topics to be covered are drawn from the following list. Where it is necessary and/or helpful to hold a focus group to ascertain the views of a cross-section of students from across the subject, the following questions can be used:

a. **The curriculum and intended learning outcomes**
   1. Do you know what you are expected to know and be able to do at the end of the programme?
   2. Do your expectations of the programme correspond to the learning outcomes and subject content?
   3. Are an appropriate range of knowledge and skills developed on your programme?
   4. Is the programme relevant to your further study and/or employment?

b. **Assessment and achievement**
   5. Have the assessment arrangements and marking you have experienced been fair?
   6. Do you have the opportunity to use feedback from assessments to improve your learning?
   7. Do you get prompt and effective feedback on your work (including detailed comments on your work)?
   8. Does the feedback you get on your work help clarify things that you did not understand?
   9. Are the assessment criteria communicated clearly to you in advance?
  10. Do you understand the criteria being used to assess your work?
  11. Do members of academic staff discuss your overall achievement with you?
  12. In your experience, have you achieved what you expected to so far?

c. **Teaching and Learning**
  13. Do you find the programme intellectually stimulating?
  14. Have you found the range of teaching and learning methods used on your programme to be appropriate?
  15. Do you consider the teaching on your programme overall to be of a good quality, for example:
      - Are staff good at explaining things
      - Do they make the subject interesting
      - Are they enthusiastic about their subject
  16. Is there effective support and guidance for your independent/self-directed study?

d. **Organisation and management**
  17. Does the timetable work efficiently as far as your activities are concerned?
  18. Are any changes in the programme or teaching communicated effectively to you?
  19. Is the programme well organised and running smoothly?
e. **Learning resources and their deployment**

20. Is the library services good in terms of
   - Opening hours
   - Access
   - User support
   - Books and
   - Journals

21. Is the IT support good in terms of
   - Opening hours
   - Access
   - User support
   - Availability of work stations and
   - Appropriate software

22. Can you access specialised equipment, facilities and/or rooms when you need to?

23. Are there suitable programme-specific materials available to you?

24. In general is the accommodation and equipment adequate?

25. Is the use of the VLE (Blackboard) appropriate for your programme?

26. Are module handbooks a good source of support?

f. **Progression through the programme**

27. Can you contact staff when you need to?

28. In general do you think that you receive effective support and guidance on your programme?

29. Do the arrangements for academic support extend to
   - Work experience?
   - Placements?
   - Study abroad and
   - Other off-site experiences?

30. Do you think that you have gained skills on your programme that will help you gain employment?

31. In general do you think that your employment prospects have been improved during the programme?

32. In general do you think that your programme has improved your knowledge and levels of confidence?

33. **In summary:**

33. What are the best features about your programme?

34. What are the areas for improvement?