Using the list of RAG rated assessment and feedback terms

This part of the toolkit comprises a list generated directly from the first phase of our research project which was intended to answer the question as to whether it was possible to quantify how "mysterious" a word or phrase is to create what we term a "mysterious quotient"?

The words contained in this list are those most commonly used in assessment and feedback in the partners' assessment document as identified through the use of the Sketch Engine software that might be regarded as potentially "mysterious". This therefore provides the frequency access of the mysterious quotient, and the mysterious element has been determined by the results of our staff and student surveys around the confidence levels of students in terms of understanding those words.

We encourage institutions and colleagues to add to this list based on your own experience of other frequently used, but mysterious, assessment and feedback terms. Please send your edited lists to membership@qaa.ac.uk with permission to share with project team to analyse in one or two years' time. This could be used to identify other frequently problematic words, and to revise the list so that it becomes a living document which reflects the difficulties experienced by students nationally and internationally.

The toolkit is an output from a Collaborative Enhancement Project supported and funded by QAA Membership - find out more.