Testing procedures

Throughout development, our main form of testing has been to emulate end-users and run through likely scenarios they’d be in. This has been achieved by locally spoofing EASE accounts and, where suitable, student enrolment data.

For each main feature of the site, we’ve tried to view it from the angles of as many users as possible (generally speaking “students”, “staff” and “guests”), to ensure that the information that should be present is, and the information that should be hidden isn’t available.

For students, we’ve tested as real students – using our own EASE logons – and as students in unusual circumstances (other schools, sabbatical years, combined degrees). Most of our testing here has focussed around the feedback system, through which we’ve written and moderated scores of test reviews and descriptions, and through the programme builder, through which we’ve tested all degrees in the three schools in every year, as well as some from other schools.

For guests, we’ve mainly ensured that the administration and feedback systems aren’t visible and that content can’t be submitted to them if the correct URL and form data is known.

For staff, we’ve tested all levels of the administration panel, confirming that staff can only access the administration pages they should be able to, that all the functions make the necessary effects across the site, and that the information on display suitably reflects what’s on record. We’ve checked that lecturers can manage their courses without needing to be granted personal rights and that no staff can access the feedback system as a student or moderator.

We have tested Path on the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox and Internet Explorer. Using Internet Explorer’s legacy mode, we’ve also tested in IE7, 8 and 9 and using BrowserStack, we’ve tested in Firefox back to version 3.6, Safari back to version 5.1 and Opera back to version 11.1 for good measure. We’ve also tested on the mobile versions of Safari and Chrome on iOS, and the Android browser.