

StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

Institution name: National College of Ireland

Results of StudentSurvey.ie 2023

A: Context

Development and implementation of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement is driven by the intention to inform, support and encourage quality enhancement. The survey takes place each February – March and is open to first year undergraduates, final year undergraduates, and postgraduate taught students. Twenty one institutions participated in 2023.

StudentSurvey.ie reflects many aspects of students’ experiences in higher education. It is designed to focus on student engagement, namely the amount of time and effort that students put into meaningful and purposeful educational activities and the extent to which institutions provide such opportunities and encourage students to engage with them. The data collected reflect students’ self-reported perceptions of their experiences and this data set is one of many sources of evidence available to institutions to inform their enhancement activities.

The StudentSurvey.ie Steering Group regards the comprehensive nature of data gathered as a key strength. Interpretation of detailed results requires appreciation of the local context. This means that staff and students within individual institutions are best placed to own and to interrogate institution-level data. Accordingly, any queries about these data should be directed to the individual institution in question. Institutions are committed to interpreting and utilising StudentSurvey.ie data to enhance the experiences of their students and do not support the use of student engagement results for any overly simplistic purpose that could be perceived as ranking institutions.

To aid navigation of the data, responses for many of the individual questions may be combined to create related indicator scores. These indicators scores act as “signposts” and are calculated on a scale from 0 to 60. Calculation of these scores is explained in the introductory section of the national report. No single indicator reflects the complex dimensions of student behaviour and institutional performance. Comparison of individual scores across institutions is inappropriate given that the differences with respect to mission, resources, profile and response rates. Comparison of indicator scores for various disciplines in the national report illustrates the notable variation that exists between fields of study at national level. The proportion of students studying particular disciplines also influences the overall results for each institution.

The following tables provide percentage responses by year/ cohort, weighted at institutional level, and the calculated score (out of 60) for each indicator.

Any queries relating to data for individual institutions should be referred to the institution in question. If there are any queries about these results, please contact Patricia.Maguire@ncirl.ie

B: Indicator scores (out of 60)

Many questions contribute to engagement indicators, as shown in section C. Indicator scores are calculated on a scale from 0 to 60 using responses to the contributing question items.

Indicator	Indicator score (all respondents)
Higher Order Learning	36.4
Reflective and Integrative Learning	33.2
Quantitative Reasoning	25.2
Learning Strategies	34.6
Collaborative Learning	29.5
Student-Faculty Interaction	15.9
Effective Teaching Practices	33.9
Quality of Interactions	41.9
Supportive Environment	31.0
Learning, Creative and Social Skills	34.6

C: Responses to individual questions

Higher Order Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations	Very little	5.2	5.8	4.0	5.2
	Some	27.9	33.6	31.5	23.9
	Quite a bit	39.9	39.3	35.4	41.4
	Very much	27.1	21.3	29.1	29.5
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	7.6	9.2	9.9	6.1
	Some	32.0	32.9	40.1	29.2
	Quite a bit	40.6	42.9	28.0	42.9
	Very much	19.8	15.0	21.9	21.8
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	6.0	5.1	6.9	6.2
	Some	29.3	34.6	32.7	25.6
	Quite a bit	44.2	41.8	37.5	47.3
	Very much	20.5	18.5	22.8	20.9
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.0	7.2	5.5	3.7
	Some	27.9	30.0	34.2	25.0
	Quite a bit	43.2	37.8	38.6	47.3
	Very much	24.0	24.9	21.8	24.1

Reflective and Integrative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Combined ideas from different subjects / modules when completing assignments	Never	4.0	6.6	3.5	2.8
	Sometimes	34.3	36.2	41.2	31.8
	Often	41.8	41.6	36.9	43.1
	Very often	19.9	15.5	18.4	22.3
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	14.5	18.8	14.1	12.5
	Sometimes	34.4	35.2	36.4	33.5
	Often	35.0	31.9	35.8	36.3
	Very often	16.1	14.1	13.7	17.7
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial, ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments*	Never	35.9	34.3	26.1	39.1
	Sometimes	32.1	38.8	39.8	27.0
	Often	20.2	15.7	25.4	21.1
	Very often	11.8	11.2	8.7	12.8
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.0
	Sometimes	33.5	32.3	39.2	32.7
	Often	44.6	43.8	41.2	45.7
	Very often	15.5	17.0	12.8	15.5
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	5.7	7.8	3.1	5.4
	Sometimes	34.5	35.4	31.7	34.8
	Often	38.3	35.5	44.0	38.2
	Very often	21.5	21.4	21.2	21.7
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	Never	3.9	4.7	3.1	3.7
	Sometimes	31.5	30.7	36.5	30.7
	Often	43.4	46.0	39.5	43.0
	Very often	21.2	18.5	20.9	22.5
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.8	3.9	1.6	2.6
	Sometimes	26.9	27.0	32.4	25.5
	Often	41.9	40.8	39.8	43.0
	Very often	28.4	28.3	26.2	29.0

Quantitative Reasoning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Reached conclusions based on your analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)	Never	16.3	30.9	15.7	9.1
	Sometimes	38.2	40.8	45.3	35.0
	Often	30.0	19.9	29.3	35.2
	Very often	15.6	8.4	9.6	20.7
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	24.8	43.1	18.6	17.4
	Sometimes	37.3	33.5	42.5	37.8
	Often	26.8	19.3	27.1	30.4
	Very often	11.1	4.1	11.9	14.4
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	27.9	43.7	21.9	21.6
	Sometimes	44.5	38.5	49.5	46.2
	Often	19.9	12.7	21.9	23.0
	Very often	7.7	5.1	6.7	9.3

Learning Strategies	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	5.8	6.9	5.6	5.2
	Sometimes	35.5	34.9	43.4	33.8
	Often	39.5	43.4	37.5	38.1
	Very often	19.2	14.9	13.6	22.9
Reviewed your notes after class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	4.9	6.8	4.6	4.0
	Sometimes	28.4	27.7	32.7	27.7
	Often	44.8	43.3	40.4	46.8
	Very often	21.9	22.2	22.4	21.6
Summarised what you learned in class, tutorials, labs or studios, or from course materials*	Never	7.8	8.9	7.7	7.3
	Sometimes	37.7	44.0	44.0	32.8
	Often	37.7	32.7	37.5	40.3
	Very often	16.8	14.5	10.8	19.6

Collaborative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	18.8	23.5	11.9	18.2
	Sometimes	45.4	42.7	48.3	46.0
	Often	25.3	25.5	26.3	25.0
	Very often	10.5	8.2	13.5	10.8
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	12.8	15.7	10.9	11.9
	Sometimes	42.6	47.7	34.7	42.2
	Often	28.7	20.8	38.0	30.1
	Very often	15.9	15.7	16.3	15.8
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	18.3	18.4	18.8	18.1
	Sometimes	34.4	36.5	40.8	31.9
	Often	29.3	28.5	24.1	31.1
	Very often	17.9	16.6	16.3	19.0
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	10.9	10.6	10.9	11.1
	Sometimes	32.1	33.3	33.9	31.2
	Often	32.9	37.4	28.5	31.9
	Very often	24.0	18.7	26.6	25.9

Student-Faculty Interaction	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	46.9	63.7	31.7	42.6
	Sometimes	30.6	23.2	44.7	30.6
	Often	15.7	8.0	17.7	18.9
	Very often	6.8	5.1	6.0	7.9
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	61.5	73.3	55.2	57.3
	Sometimes	22.9	19.5	31.4	22.3
	Often	9.2	4.7	9.2	11.5
	Very often	6.5	2.6	4.2	9.0
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of scheduled class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	39.4	53.6	32.8	33.9
	Sometimes	35.7	33.1	38.7	36.3
	Often	17.6	9.2	18.7	21.6
	Very often	7.3	4.1	9.8	8.2
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	43.0	56.2	32.5	39.3
	Sometimes	36.4	31.8	46.0	36.1
	Often	15.2	9.0	17.3	17.8
	Very often	5.3	2.9	4.2	6.8

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	6.5	3.1	4.9	8.7
	Some	27.0	26.7	30.9	26.1
	Quite a bit	35.2	39.5	35.9	32.8
	Very much	31.3	30.7	28.3	32.4
Taught in an organised way	Very little	8.9	7.6	7.1	10.1
	Some	26.1	26.6	37.4	22.7
	Quite a bit	34.1	34.7	35.6	33.4
	Very much	30.9	31.2	19.8	33.8
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	7.9	8.9	3.4	8.7
	Some	24.0	23.0	27.2	23.6
	Quite a bit	34.5	36.0	43.3	31.2
	Very much	33.7	32.1	26.1	36.6
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	25.6	33.6	20.6	22.9
	Some	33.0	31.0	45.6	30.4
	Quite a bit	24.2	21.4	19.5	26.9
	Very much	17.3	13.9	14.3	19.8
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assessments*	Very little	23.0	28.5	19.5	21.1
	Some	30.2	28.3	44.9	27.1
	Quite a bit	28.3	24.4	25.9	31.0
	Very much	18.6	18.9	9.7	20.9

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	3.0	1.9	3.9	3.3
	2	1.2	1.0	2.0	1.1
	3	5.9	5.8	8.3	5.3
	4	10.9	10.6	19.3	8.7
	5	17.1	21.0	14.4	15.8
	6	25.2	28.5	26.1	23.2
	7=Excellent	36.8	31.2	26.1	42.6
Academic advisors	1=Poor	8.9	9.2	4.9	9.9
	2	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.5
	3	8.5	7.7	12.1	7.8
	4	11.9	14.8	11.0	10.8
	5	18.4	19.6	22.2	16.7
	6	23.4	24.7	26.3	21.8
	7=Excellent	24.5	19.3	19.5	28.4
Academic staff	1=Poor	4.3	4.4	0.0	5.3
	2	4.5	5.0	3.6	4.4
	3	8.2	5.9	15.3	7.4
	4	10.4	6.0	9.5	12.9
	5	19.2	27.8	21.4	14.3
	6	26.2	26.5	31.3	24.7
	7=Excellent	27.2	24.3	19.0	30.9

Quality of Interactions (continued)	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Support services staff (career services, student activities, accommodation, etc.)	1=Poor	7.2	11.1	3.4	6.6
	2	4.1	4.8	3.0	4.2
	3	8.6	6.5	16.0	7.3
	4	12.5	12.1	14.4	12.1
	5	15.9	18.2	14.9	15.1
	6	23.2	22.3	19.5	24.6
	7=Excellent	28.6	25.0	28.8	30.1
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	7.2	7.0	7.5	7.2
	2	4.8	3.6	4.2	5.6
	3	7.6	9.3	9.6	6.2
	4	14.0	14.3	22.4	11.5
	5	20.0	21.4	17.5	20.0
	6	20.0	19.8	16.3	21.2
	7=Excellent	26.3	24.6	22.5	28.2

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	8.5	10.4	2.3	9.3
	Some	24.7	24.6	36.2	21.4
	Quite a bit	38.8	38.7	36.3	39.6
	Very much	28.0	26.3	25.2	29.7
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	10.6	17.3	6.1	8.5
	Some	24.0	19.9	34.7	23.1
	Quite a bit	37.6	38.5	30.2	39.2
	Very much	27.7	24.2	29.0	29.1
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial, ethnic, religious, age-groups etc.)*	Very little	19.2	25.2	11.8	18.3
	Some	28.7	26.6	45.0	25.2
	Quite a bit	30.6	31.7	26.0	31.4
	Very much	21.4	16.5	17.1	25.1
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	18.9	21.1	16.7	18.4
	Some	29.6	34.7	33.8	25.9
	Quite a bit	31.6	27.7	33.3	33.0
	Very much	19.9	16.4	16.2	22.7
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	14.1	15.3	13.4	13.6
	Some	27.8	31.7	34.5	24.0
	Quite a bit	34.0	30.0	32.2	36.5
	Very much	24.1	23.0	19.8	25.9
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	31.4	36.5	42.0	25.9
	Some	31.0	35.8	30.9	28.7
	Quite a bit	23.5	16.6	21.3	27.5
	Very much	14.1	11.2	5.8	17.8
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	25.4	35.5	25.2	20.4
	Some	33.4	37.9	38.8	29.7
	Quite a bit	27.0	16.7	26.5	32.3
	Very much	14.2	9.9	9.5	17.6
Attending activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.) organised by your institution*	Very little	21.9	28.4	21.1	18.9
	Some	28.8	37.0	27.2	25.0
	Quite a bit	29.5	21.1	34.5	32.3
	Very much	19.8	13.5	17.2	23.8

Learning, Creative and Social Skills	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	9.9	15.0	4.3	8.9
	Some	23.0	24.1	23.5	22.3
	Quite a bit	38.6	38.8	43.1	37.3
	Very much	28.5	22.0	29.2	31.5
Speaking effectively*	Very little	16.2	18.8	12.2	16.1
	Some	27.1	35.8	34.1	20.7
	Quite a bit	34.0	29.1	34.7	36.2
	Very much	22.7	16.3	18.9	27.0
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	6.0	5.9	3.5	6.8
	Some	21.7	24.7	27.5	18.6
	Quite a bit	39.6	43.5	37.4	38.3
	Very much	32.6	25.9	31.5	36.3
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	14.6	21.6	13.4	11.4
	Some	26.4	32.1	26.9	23.4
	Quite a bit	33.7	30.3	36.3	34.6
	Very much	25.4	16.0	23.4	30.6
Working effectively with others	Very little	8.5	7.6	2.0	10.9
	Some	26.1	27.2	25.8	25.7
	Quite a bit	37.6	42.5	43.4	33.5
	Very much	27.7	22.7	28.9	29.9
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	14.3	19.6	13.4	11.8
	Some	27.3	31.3	32.4	23.9
	Quite a bit	36.8	38.9	34.4	36.4
	Very much	21.6	10.3	19.9	27.9
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	23.6	27.3	25.2	21.3
	Some	28.3	29.7	33.6	26.1
	Quite a bit	28.4	31.5	21.4	28.9
	Very much	19.7	11.5	19.8	23.7
Being innovative and creative	Very little	11.1	12.0	9.0	11.2
	Some	28.3	32.8	31.2	25.2
	Quite a bit	37.6	42.2	40.0	34.6
	Very much	23.1	13.0	19.8	29.1

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked questions or contributed to discussions in class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online*	Never	5.0	7.3	9.2	2.9
	Sometimes	36.2	39.5	37.3	34.3
	Often	33.8	30.8	29.4	36.4
	Very often	25.0	22.4	24.2	26.4
Attended class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online without doing the preparation expected of you (completing readings or assignments, etc.)*	Never	24.1	30.6	16.3	22.9
	Sometimes	41.3	40.8	39.1	42.1
	Often	20.2	17.1	27.7	19.7
	Very often	14.4	11.5	16.8	15.2
Made a presentation in class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online*	Never	23.9	40.7	8.7	19.6
	Sometimes	40.7	39.9	45.7	39.9
	Often	23.0	14.7	28.6	25.6
	Very often	12.4	4.7	17.0	14.9

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	10.9	17.0	10.9	7.8
	Sometimes	34.6	36.7	46.4	30.4
	Often	34.6	25.6	31.3	40.0
	Very often	19.9	20.7	11.5	21.8
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Never	28.5	34.0	20.0	28.0
	Sometimes	27.5	26.0	29.1	27.8
	Often	21.1	16.8	22.2	22.9
	Very often	22.9	23.2	28.7	21.2
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	18.4	25.6	15.1	15.7
	Sometimes	31.8	28.7	40.0	31.1
	Often	31.5	27.7	28.1	34.3
	Very often	18.3	18.0	16.7	18.8
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	16.6	21.8	20.3	13.1
	Sometimes	38.9	41.7	49.1	34.7
	Often	30.7	27.1	23.2	34.6
	Very often	13.8	9.4	7.4	17.6
Engage in voluntary activity (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Have not decided	28.2	30.8	38.4	24.0
	Do not plan to do	19.7	28.6	17.7	15.7
	Plan to do	34.3	26.7	25.9	40.6
	Done or in progress	17.7	13.9	18.0	19.7
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	9.2	9.3	5.1	10.3
	Some	23.7	23.9	29.1	22.2
	Quite a bit	38.4	39.3	39.0	37.8
	Very much	28.6	27.5	26.9	29.7
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	5.1	3.4	8.2	5.1
	Fair	18.4	16.8	20.3	18.7
	Good	46.1	47.8	45.4	45.5
	Excellent	30.4	32.1	26.2	30.7
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	5.8	4.2	2.8	7.4
	Probably no	14.3	8.9	26.0	13.6
	Probably yes	45.1	45.9	41.4	45.7
	Definitely yes	34.8	41.0	29.8	33.2

Withdrawal	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Have you ever seriously considered withdrawing from your degree programme?*	No, I have not seriously considered withdrawing	71.7	73.9	53.5	75.8
	Yes, for financial reasons	7.1	9.3	14.4	3.9
	Yes, for personal or family reasons	8.9	6.9	16.1	7.8
	Yes, for health reasons	6.1	2.9	15.6	5.1
	Yes, for employment reasons	6.2	4.5	5.6	7.2
	Yes, to transfer to another institution	6.5	8.5	8.0	5.1
	Other reason	6.4	6.8	6.4	6.3

*This question was revised for 2022

**Shows proportion of students that selected any response to the withdrawal question