

StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

Institution name: Royal College of Surgeons

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 quality@rcsi.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	37.1
Reflective and Integrative Learning	34.9
Quantitative Reasoning	21.1
Learning Strategies	36.0
Collaborative Learning	28.6
Student-Faculty Interaction	15.4
Effective Teaching Practices	35.1
Quality of Interactions	44.0
Supportive Environment	29.9
Learning, Creative and Social Skills	35.3

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	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.8
	Some	23.2	26.5	20.8	20.0
	Quite a bit	48.3	47.0	50.6	48.9
	Very much	24.4	22.9	24.7	26.3
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	10.0	10.0	14.3	8.1
	Some	30.9	38.1	29.9	21.9
	Quite a bit	34.8	29.5	32.4	42.9
	Very much	24.3	22.4	23.3	27.2
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	6.7	10.3	7.8	1.6
	Some	27.0	25.4	31.2	27.2
	Quite a bit	44.3	45.3	41.6	44.4
	Very much	21.9	19.0	19.5	26.8
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.6	6.9	3.9	4.8
	Some	25.1	23.5	26.0	26.8
	Quite a bit	38.6	36.8	50.6	35.2
	Very much	30.7	32.9	19.5	33.2

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	6.2	8.1	4.4	4.5
	Sometimes	31.0	31.2	34.1	29.2
	Often	40.2	40.3	35.1	42.4
	Very often	22.7	20.4	26.4	23.9
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	9.1	12.7	2.2	7.8
	Sometimes	36.7	35.6	50.5	31.4
	Often	35.1	36.7	26.4	37.3
	Very often	19.1	15.0	20.9	23.5
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial, ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments*	Never	24.3	25.3	26.4	22.1
	Sometimes	40.8	33.9	52.7	44.1
	Often	24.7	26.9	16.5	25.7
	Very often	10.2	13.8	4.4	8.1
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	6.3	8.2	5.5	4.3
	Sometimes	36.0	43.8	34.0	26.9
	Often	41.7	35.0	41.8	50.3
	Very often	16.0	13.1	18.7	18.5
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	3.6	3.3	3.3	4.2
	Sometimes	33.9	31.9	31.8	37.4
	Often	41.8	45.1	36.3	40.2
	Very often	20.7	19.7	28.6	18.3
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	Never	2.5	3.7	1.1	1.5
	Sometimes	25.5	23.6	37.4	22.4
	Often	45.2	43.3	42.8	48.9
	Very often	26.8	29.5	18.7	27.3
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.1	2.2	0.0	2.9
	Sometimes	20.6	23.3	24.1	15.4
	Often	40.1	37.3	44.0	41.9
	Very often	37.2	37.1	31.8	39.9

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	23.9	23.5	29.4	21.8
	Sometimes	43.3	39.4	48.3	45.9
	Often	22.8	23.7	12.9	26.6
	Very often	9.9	13.5	9.4	5.7
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	33.6	39.8	40.0	22.6
	Sometimes	42.3	38.7	40.0	48.2
	Often	17.3	15.3	12.9	22.0
	Very often	6.7	6.2	7.1	7.2
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	30.6	27.1	43.5	28.5
	Sometimes	46.0	53.2	38.8	40.3
	Often	16.3	13.4	7.1	24.7
	Very often	7.1	6.3	10.6	6.4

Learning Strategies	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	14.5	24.4	8.2	5.0
	Sometimes	30.1	27.6	44.6	26.2
	Often	36.0	32.3	30.7	43.3
	Very often	19.4	15.6	16.5	25.6
Reviewed your notes after class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	5.5	5.8	9.4	3.2
	Sometimes	21.7	15.2	37.6	22.1
	Often	38.6	36.7	24.8	47.9
	Very often	34.2	42.2	28.3	26.9
Summarised what you learned in class, tutorials, labs or studios, or from course materials*	Never	6.4	6.6	11.7	3.5
	Sometimes	29.7	24.5	28.2	37.2
	Often	42.4	45.1	40.0	40.1
	Very often	21.5	23.8	20.0	19.2

Collaborative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	19.3	14.7	4.4	32.6
	Sometimes	38.9	34.2	39.5	44.7
	Often	27.9	33.2	30.8	19.4
	Very often	14.0	17.8	25.3	3.3
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	11.7	5.6	2.2	24.4
	Sometimes	46.6	47.7	39.5	48.4
	Often	27.2	28.0	33.0	23.3
	Very often	14.5	18.7	25.3	3.8
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	18.4	12.6	2.2	33.8
	Sometimes	38.9	42.4	24.1	41.4
	Often	25.8	31.3	26.4	18.5
	Very often	17.0	13.8	47.2	6.3
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	15.3	4.1	12.1	31.7
	Sometimes	38.2	38.9	42.8	35.0
	Often	28.0	35.6	26.4	18.9
	Very often	18.4	21.4	18.7	14.4

Student-Faculty Interaction	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	48.9	52.9	27.1	55.0
	Sometimes	33.2	33.6	38.8	29.9
	Often	9.8	6.8	18.8	8.7
	Very often	8.2	6.7	15.3	6.3
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	62.0	63.3	44.8	68.8
	Sometimes	23.5	27.6	24.7	17.7
	Often	10.6	7.1	18.8	11.1
	Very often	3.9	2.1	11.7	2.4
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of scheduled class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	41.1	47.9	25.9	40.0
	Sometimes	37.7	37.2	45.9	34.3
	Often	14.0	8.8	14.2	20.7
	Very often	7.1	6.2	14.1	4.9
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	39.6	46.5	11.8	44.6
	Sometimes	42.0	37.3	61.1	38.4
	Often	11.6	10.5	13.0	12.4
	Very often	6.8	5.7	14.1	4.6

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	5.9	6.4	10.5	2.9
	Some	23.2	23.6	34.2	17.3
	Quite a bit	35.2	34.7	32.9	37.0
	Very much	35.7	35.2	22.3	42.8
Taught in an organised way	Very little	5.4	7.4	8.0	1.7
	Some	23.1	25.9	33.4	14.5
	Quite a bit	35.2	36.3	33.4	34.6
	Very much	36.3	30.4	25.3	49.2
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	3.6	2.2	2.7	5.8
	Some	22.7	15.6	46.7	20.6
	Quite a bit	44.4	52.9	34.7	37.9
	Very much	29.3	29.3	16.0	35.7
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	35.3	45.0	36.9	21.5
	Some	27.1	25.0	35.5	25.8
	Quite a bit	22.0	18.2	15.8	30.0
	Very much	15.6	11.8	11.8	22.6
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assessments*	Very little	18.9	19.9	23.7	15.3
	Some	30.6	34.9	38.2	21.3
	Quite a bit	26.3	24.1	27.6	28.6
	Very much	24.2	21.1	10.5	34.9

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	2.2	1.8	0.0	3.7
	2	2.7	0.0	1.4	7.2
	3	4.1	4.1	0.0	6.3
	4	12.4	17.0	12.6	5.9
	5	18.9	15.8	23.9	20.8
	6	24.9	27.5	26.8	20.4
	7=Excellent	34.7	33.8	35.2	35.7
Academic advisors	1=Poor	3.8	2.8	6.2	3.8
	2	3.0	3.6	3.1	2.3
	3	9.8	6.2	12.5	13.1
	4	11.9	15.7	12.6	6.7
	5	20.0	21.6	29.7	13.4
	6	25.0	28.0	23.4	21.8
	7=Excellent	26.4	22.0	12.5	38.8
Academic staff	1=Poor	1.5	0.9	2.8	1.8
	2	1.6	0.5	4.2	1.9
	3	6.2	5.4	8.3	6.2
	4	11.0	12.7	11.2	8.5
	5	21.7	24.2	22.2	17.9
	6	32.0	37.4	30.5	25.2
	7=Excellent	26.0	19.0	20.8	38.4

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	3.7	2.0	2.8	7.5
	2	4.6	4.5	7.0	3.0
	3	9.5	9.3	5.7	12.3
	4	9.3	6.7	14.1	10.8
	5	22.6	30.6	15.5	13.3
	6	22.1	22.7	31.0	15.0
	7=Excellent	28.2	24.3	24.0	38.0
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	2.8	1.4	4.5	3.9
	2	2.5	2.4	6.1	0.9
	3	9.6	9.3	6.1	11.8
	4	12.3	14.9	13.7	7.9
	5	15.5	13.7	25.7	12.9
	6	27.7	31.4	25.7	23.4
	7=Excellent	29.6	26.9	18.2	39.1

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	8.6	9.0	6.8	8.9
	Some	26.4	23.9	31.0	27.6
	Quite a bit	35.6	41.7	29.8	30.1
	Very much	29.4	25.5	32.4	33.3
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	18.2	18.1	21.6	16.7
	Some	29.5	21.5	28.4	41.4
	Quite a bit	30.3	38.1	24.4	22.5
	Very much	21.9	22.3	25.6	19.5
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial, ethnic, religious, age-groups etc.)*	Very little	20.3	18.3	13.5	26.7
	Some	23.7	20.0	21.7	30.0
	Quite a bit	28.9	31.8	28.4	25.0
	Very much	27.1	29.9	36.4	18.3
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	20.0	11.6	14.8	34.3
	Some	27.0	18.8	29.7	37.2
	Quite a bit	30.5	43.2	25.7	15.1
	Very much	22.5	26.4	29.7	13.4
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	16.2	10.7	2.7	30.9
	Some	30.1	28.9	21.6	36.1
	Quite a bit	30.8	37.1	40.6	16.8
	Very much	22.9	23.3	35.1	16.2
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	33.3	26.7	43.2	37.1
	Some	29.2	30.2	21.7	31.6
	Quite a bit	19.6	21.8	16.3	18.4
	Very much	17.9	21.3	18.9	12.9
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	36.6	36.7	35.1	37.1
	Some	32.2	32.9	37.9	28.4
	Quite a bit	19.1	21.7	10.8	19.6
	Very much	12.1	8.6	16.2	14.8
Attending activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.) organised by your institution*	Very little	24.8	17.4	21.6	36.8
	Some	27.6	21.8	25.7	36.8
	Quite a bit	24.5	34.3	21.7	12.3
	Very much	23.0	26.5	31.0	14.2

Learning, Creative and Social Skills	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	11.0	15.7	15.3	2.7
	Some	28.6	35.1	25.0	21.5
	Quite a bit	33.3	30.7	31.9	37.5
	Very much	27.1	18.5	27.7	38.3
Speaking effectively*	Very little	11.3	12.9	2.8	13.5
	Some	22.4	24.0	25.0	18.9
	Quite a bit	42.1	42.1	45.9	40.2
	Very much	24.2	21.0	26.3	27.5
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	5.0	2.9	8.4	6.2
	Some	15.9	15.8	23.6	12.1
	Quite a bit	42.4	51.0	30.5	36.8
	Very much	36.7	30.4	37.5	44.8
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	16.6	18.3	18.1	13.6
	Some	39.7	44.7	36.1	34.8
	Quite a bit	26.6	22.9	29.2	30.2
	Very much	17.1	14.0	16.6	21.4
Working effectively with others	Very little	2.8	1.9	0.0	5.4
	Some	19.2	19.2	19.4	19.2
	Quite a bit	38.9	38.9	41.7	37.6
	Very much	39.1	40.0	38.8	37.9
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	8.2	9.0	8.3	7.2
	Some	31.2	36.5	25.1	27.1
	Quite a bit	35.1	30.0	33.3	43.1
	Very much	25.5	24.6	33.3	22.7
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	19.9	17.3	30.5	18.1
	Some	29.6	35.3	25.0	24.1
	Quite a bit	34.2	35.3	29.2	35.1
	Very much	16.4	12.1	15.3	22.8
Being innovative and creative	Very little	13.4	12.7	23.7	9.3
	Some	29.1	34.7	27.8	22.3
	Quite a bit	36.6	37.4	26.3	40.8
	Very much	20.8	15.3	22.2	27.7

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	9.5	16.4	4.4	2.9
	Sometimes	43.5	51.9	32.9	37.5
	Often	26.8	18.7	31.9	35.0
	Very often	20.3	13.0	30.8	24.6
Attended class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online without doing the preparation expected of you (completing readings or assignments, etc.)*	Never	19.2	13.7	11.0	30.3
	Sometimes	50.8	55.0	46.1	47.4
	Often	15.4	14.5	31.9	8.5
	Very often	14.7	16.7	11.0	13.7
Made a presentation in class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online*	Never	21.3	20.8	5.5	29.5
	Sometimes	52.8	58.8	49.5	46.6
	Often	16.5	13.3	25.3	16.5
	Very often	9.4	7.1	19.8	7.3

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	8.8	17.3	2.4	1.1
	Sometimes	27.5	32.9	21.2	23.6
	Often	33.8	28.2	36.5	39.7
	Very often	29.9	21.6	40.0	35.6
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Never	26.0	25.4	11.8	33.7
	Sometimes	27.6	24.4	34.1	28.4
	Often	21.5	21.2	22.4	21.6
	Very often	24.9	29.0	31.7	16.3
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	14.6	26.7	3.5	4.5
	Sometimes	32.8	36.3	27.1	31.1
	Often	26.3	20.3	29.4	32.6
	Very often	26.3	16.7	40.0	31.7
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	14.3	14.5	10.6	15.9
	Sometimes	38.1	37.7	44.7	35.3
	Often	32.1	30.7	33.0	33.4
	Very often	15.6	17.2	11.8	15.3
Engage in voluntary activity (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Have not decided	21.5	16.3	6.8	35.7
	Do not plan to do	17.1	11.4	24.3	21.1
	Plan to do	36.2	49.8	21.7	25.0
	Done or in progress	25.2	22.4	47.3	18.2
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	8.8	13.3	4.2	4.9
	Some	16.0	14.5	13.9	19.3
	Quite a bit	32.7	32.5	30.6	34.1
	Very much	42.5	39.8	51.4	41.7
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	2.3	1.4	5.6	1.8
	Fair	13.5	14.9	12.5	12.0
	Good	43.3	41.3	51.4	41.9
	Excellent	40.9	42.4	30.6	44.2
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	2.1	2.8	2.8	0.9
	Probably no	8.7	8.4	15.3	5.6
	Probably yes	33.2	31.5	31.9	36.3
	Definitely yes	56.0	57.3	50.0	57.1

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	75.0	81.6	72.2	67.3
	Yes, for financial reasons	7.5	4.7	11.1	9.6
	Yes, for personal or family reasons	9.8	5.1	12.5	14.8
	Yes, for health reasons	4.9	3.9	8.3	4.7
	Yes, for employment reasons	2.8	0.9	0.0	6.6
	Yes, to transfer to another institution	5.7	7.9	6.9	2.0
	Other reason	6.9	6.0	8.3	7.4

*This question was revised for 2022

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