

# THE IRISH SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (ISSE)

**Institution name: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**

## Results of ISSE 2017

### 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 seven institutions participated in 2017.

The ISSE 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 reflects 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 ISSE national 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 ISSE 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 (for example, section 3.6 of 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](mailto: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	41.1
Reflective and Integrative Learning	34.2
Quantitative Reasoning	21.7
Learning Strategies	34.6
Collaborative Learning	31.8
Student-Faculty Interaction	15.2
Effective Teaching Practices	36.3
Quality of Interactions	41.2
Supportive Environment	33.9

## 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	3.9%	6.0%	2.4%	0.0%
	Some	14.6%	14.7%	12.6%	17.5%
	Quite a bit	38.9%	41.3%	27.2%	51.4%
	Very much	42.6%	37.9%	57.8%	31.2%
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	6.5%	7.1%	9.3%	0.0%
	Some	22.3%	23.7%	24.4%	14.7%
	Quite a bit	35.8%	35.2%	30.6%	46.2%
	Very much	35.4%	34.0%	35.7%	39.1%
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	7.4%	8.7%	9.5%	0.0%
	Some	22.2%	24.0%	27.5%	8.0%
	Quite a bit	40.0%	36.2%	38.1%	54.9%
	Very much	30.3%	31.1%	24.8%	37.1%
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.4%	6.8%	6.1%	0.0%
	Some	17.7%	19.8%	17.7%	11.5%
	Quite a bit	42.5%	43.5%	36.7%	49.4%
	Very much	34.4%	30.0%	39.5%	39.1%

<b>Reflective and Integrative Learning</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Combined ideas from different subjects / modules when completing assignments	Never	2.9%	3.5%	2.7%	1.5%
	Sometimes	36.6%	39.1%	35.5%	30.5%
	Often	40.9%	39.5%	42.8%	41.8%
	Very often	19.6%	18.0%	19.0%	26.2%
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	10.7%	10.2%	13.8%	6.2%
	Sometimes	37.9%	39.3%	40.4%	28.8%
	Often	35.5%	34.8%	33.4%	41.6%
	Very often	15.9%	15.7%	12.3%	23.4%
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	19.2%	15.3%	27.5%	16.3%
	Sometimes	43.6%	45.8%	40.1%	42.9%
	Often	27.0%	24.9%	25.7%	36.1%
	Very often	10.2%	14.0%	6.7%	4.7%
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	7.9%	9.2%	9.4%	1.5%
	Sometimes	36.4%	41.8%	33.9%	24.5%
	Often	42.6%	37.1%	40.7%	63.3%
	Very often	13.1%	12.0%	16.1%	10.7%
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	5.1%	5.3%	5.1%	4.5%
	Sometimes	34.9%	35.2%	35.8%	32.4%
	Often	40.1%	40.1%	36.9%	46.1%
	Very often	19.8%	19.3%	22.3%	16.9%
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	3.6%	5.3%	1.9%	1.7%
	Sometimes	29.2%	28.1%	32.8%	25.7%
	Often	43.9%	42.0%	46.6%	45.0%
	Very often	23.3%	24.6%	18.7%	27.5%
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	1.1%	1.2%	1.6%	0.0%
	Sometimes	19.9%	24.0%	18.2%	10.0%
	Often	44.2%	38.5%	46.5%	57.5%
	Very often	34.8%	36.3%	33.7%	32.5%
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	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	19.1%	19.6%	10.4%	31.5%
	Sometimes	46.7%	46.5%	50.8%	40.6%
	Often	25.0%	26.5%	23.5%	23.1%
	Very often	9.2%	7.4%	15.4%	4.8%
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	30.7%	28.8%	28.2%	40.6%
	Sometimes	41.1%	40.5%	46.4%	34.1%
	Often	20.8%	22.9%	16.1%	22.1%
	Very often	7.5%	7.9%	9.4%	3.2%
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	30.6%	31.8%	27.3%	32.7%
	Sometimes	48.2%	52.1%	46.9%	38.7%
	Often	15.0%	14.1%	16.5%	15.4%
	Very often	6.1%	2.0%	9.4%	13.2%

<b>Learning Strategies</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	10.3%	16.4%	5.5%	0.0%
	Sometimes	37.2%	42.0%	35.4%	25.6%
	Often	36.1%	30.1%	39.6%	48.1%
	Very often	16.4%	11.5%	19.5%	26.3%
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	5.6%	7.0%	4.5%	3.4%
	Sometimes	34.4%	30.3%	36.4%	43.3%
	Often	27.1%	22.9%	31.5%	32.4%
	Very often	32.9%	39.8%	27.6%	20.9%
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	7.0%	7.2%	2.9%	13.1%
	Sometimes	35.4%	30.0%	37.6%	48.1%
	Often	35.4%	35.1%	37.6%	32.4%
	Very often	22.2%	27.7%	21.9%	6.4%
<b>Collaborative Learning</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	9.5%	10.0%	4.8%	16.7%
	Sometimes	44.4%	37.7%	47.0%	60.5%
	Often	30.8%	32.6%	33.7%	19.7%
	Very often	15.3%	19.8%	14.4%	3.0%
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	4.3%	3.7%	3.8%	7.5%
	Sometimes	47.0%	42.0%	47.7%	61.2%
	Often	32.7%	34.8%	31.5%	27.9%
	Very often	16.0%	19.5%	17.0%	3.4%
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	11.8%	11.2%	7.7%	21.0%
	Sometimes	38.0%	42.6%	29.4%	39.7%
	Often	28.9%	24.9%	33.5%	32.9%
	Very often	21.3%	21.4%	29.4%	6.4%
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	8.8%	0.0%	18.0%	18.7%
	Sometimes	35.0%	38.2%	38.1%	19.3%
	Often	37.8%	42.5%	32.3%	33.7%
	Very often	18.4%	19.3%	11.6%	28.3%
<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	42.2%	46.3%	28.7%	52.1%
	Sometimes	41.1%	42.2%	42.4%	35.8%
	Often	11.7%	8.8%	19.0%	8.6%
	Very often	4.9%	2.7%	10.0%	3.4%
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	61.4%	60.0%	54.4%	77.1%
	Sometimes	27.9%	31.8%	28.0%	16.3%
	Often	8.1%	6.7%	12.7%	4.8%
	Very often	2.6%	1.6%	4.9%	1.8%
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	43.4%	46.5%	36.2%	45.6%
	Sometimes	37.9%	40.9%	37.0%	30.2%
	Often	13.9%	9.2%	19.1%	19.5%
	Very often	4.9%	3.4%	7.7%	4.8%
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	29.2%	33.3%	13.9%	41.7%
	Sometimes	52.9%	55.7%	53.0%	44.4%
	Often	13.5%	8.8%	24.1%	10.4%
	Very often	4.4%	2.2%	9.0%	3.4%

<b>Effective Teaching Practices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	2.5%	1.0%	5.9%	1.7%
	Some	14.6%	16.7%	13.3%	10.0%
	Quite a bit	47.1%	43.1%	53.5%	48.9%
	Very much	35.8%	39.2%	27.2%	39.4%
Taught in an organised way	Very little	4.5%	3.8%	8.4%	0.0%
	Some	22.7%	25.6%	26.7%	7.2%
	Quite a bit	44.8%	44.7%	45.4%	43.7%
	Very much	28.1%	25.8%	19.5%	49.1%
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	4.4%	1.4%	6.6%	10.0%
	Some	17.6%	17.0%	24.8%	7.5%
	Quite a bit	41.7%	41.6%	45.9%	35.2%
	Very much	36.3%	39.9%	22.7%	47.4%
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	27.1%	30.5%	22.1%	24.9%
	Some	30.8%	32.0%	32.9%	23.7%
	Quite a bit	25.7%	23.1%	30.1%	26.7%
	Very much	16.4%	14.4%	15.0%	24.7%
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	15.9%	18.2%	16.4%	8.0%
	Some	33.0%	33.2%	36.4%	26.4%
	Quite a bit	32.2%	30.1%	33.3%	36.9%
	Very much	18.9%	18.4%	14.0%	28.7%
<b>Quality of Interactions</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Students	1=Poor	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2	1.5%	0.7%	2.5%	2.1%
	3	2.2%	3.4%	1.1%	0.0%
	4	11.6%	7.1%	21.3%	9.2%
	5	18.4%	18.6%	15.6%	22.6%
	6	22.8%	23.2%	23.0%	21.1%
	7=Excellent	43.1%	46.0%	36.5%	45.0%
Academic advisors	1=Poor	2.5%	2.0%	4.6%	0.0%
	2	5.9%	4.8%	7.4%	6.9%
	3	7.3%	6.6%	10.4%	4.1%
	4	19.7%	17.1%	24.1%	20.1%
	5	20.9%	20.2%	23.7%	18.2%
	6	20.4%	19.9%	21.5%	20.1%
	7=Excellent	23.4%	29.5%	8.2%	30.6%
Academic staff	1=Poor	1.3%	0.5%	3.6%	0.0%
	2	4.3%	4.0%	4.3%	5.6%
	3	6.8%	8.7%	5.0%	3.8%
	4	16.2%	12.9%	21.5%	17.2%
	5	24.9%	25.8%	25.5%	21.3%
	6	20.2%	20.1%	21.8%	17.8%
	7=Excellent	26.3%	28.0%	18.3%	34.3%

<b>Quality of Interactions (continued)</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Support services staff (career services, student activities, accommodation, etc.)	1=Poor	6.5%	3.9%	9.6%	11.2%
	2	9.0%	6.5%	11.8%	13.4%
	3	11.0%	9.7%	13.0%	12.6%
	4	15.4%	14.6%	17.8%	13.0%
	5	18.2%	16.4%	19.7%	22.9%
	6	19.7%	23.2%	17.8%	6.7%
	7=Excellent	20.2%	25.6%	10.4%	20.2%
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	6.0%	3.7%	12.4%	2.0%
	2	8.2%	6.7%	13.3%	4.4%
	3	8.1%	5.6%	9.5%	13.7%
	4	16.9%	16.5%	22.0%	9.1%
	5	21.9%	23.7%	14.8%	28.7%
	6	18.8%	15.2%	22.8%	23.7%
	7=Excellent	20.1%	28.7%	5.3%	18.4%
<b>Supportive Environment</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	4.3%	1.7%	6.7%	7.6%
	Some	27.6%	21.9%	36.8%	28.8%
	Quite a bit	34.2%	33.8%	36.2%	32.1%
	Very much	33.9%	42.5%	20.3%	31.5%
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	12.8%	8.7%	13.1%	24.0%
	Some	26.8%	24.6%	33.1%	23.0%
	Quite a bit	33.2%	31.6%	34.5%	35.5%
	Very much	27.2%	35.1%	19.3%	17.6%
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	5.7%	3.0%	3.7%	17.1%
	Some	22.5%	16.0%	25.2%	36.9%
	Quite a bit	24.8%	19.3%	34.1%	25.4%
	Very much	47.0%	61.7%	36.9%	20.6%
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	9.7%	4.4%	6.7%	30.1%
	Some	26.1%	20.7%	32.5%	31.3%
	Quite a bit	31.8%	30.4%	42.2%	18.6%
	Very much	32.4%	44.5%	18.6%	20.1%
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	15.3%	5.9%	19.2%	36.4%
	Some	25.3%	23.0%	31.1%	22.7%
	Quite a bit	33.0%	33.1%	33.4%	31.8%
	Very much	26.4%	38.0%	16.3%	9.0%
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	39.0%	31.1%	42.8%	55.7%
	Some	31.1%	30.1%	34.1%	28.6%
	Quite a bit	16.3%	18.8%	13.2%	13.9%
	Very much	13.7%	20.0%	9.8%	1.7%
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	12.6%	7.2%	9.5%	33.7%
	Some	26.7%	17.8%	37.9%	34.5%
	Quite a bit	34.9%	36.8%	36.4%	26.6%
	Very much	25.8%	38.3%	16.2%	5.1%
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	22.3%	15.6%	25.9%	36.2%
	Some	36.1%	32.8%	44.4%	32.1%
	Quite a bit	25.2%	26.9%	22.5%	24.9%
	Very much	16.3%	24.7%	7.2%	6.8%

<b>Non-indicator items</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Asked questions or contributed to discussions in class, tutorials, labs or online	Never	10.1%	14.5%	6.9%	2.1%
	Sometimes	39.2%	43.4%	37.9%	28.8%
	Often	31.8%	32.4%	32.4%	28.8%
	Very often	18.9%	9.8%	22.7%	40.3%
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	27.0%	21.6%	23.2%	51.1%
	Sometimes	43.8%	46.7%	45.2%	32.2%
	Often	18.8%	19.5%	19.3%	15.3%
	Very often	10.5%	12.2%	12.3%	1.5%
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	6.6%	3.9%	4.3%	19.3%
	Sometimes	55.9%	64.6%	44.1%	50.9%
	Often	26.0%	24.7%	30.3%	22.1%
	Very often	11.5%	6.8%	21.4%	7.7%
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	5.5%	8.1%	3.2%	1.6%
	Sometimes	27.3%	34.2%	18.0%	22.0%
	Often	38.3%	37.1%	38.5%	41.5%
	Very often	28.9%	20.7%	40.3%	34.9%
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	11.0%	16.6%	4.5%	5.0%
	Sometimes	29.3%	38.4%	23.8%	10.9%
	Often	35.6%	31.9%	35.7%	46.5%
	Very often	24.1%	13.0%	36.0%	37.6%
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	15.2%	12.1%	13.5%	27.2%
	Sometimes	37.7%	37.1%	36.7%	41.1%
	Often	21.9%	25.7%	22.2%	9.7%
	Very often	25.3%	25.1%	27.6%	22.0%
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	13.7%	22.8%	2.3%	5.0%
	Sometimes	35.6%	47.0%	23.8%	20.6%
	Often	28.2%	19.7%	40.8%	33.3%
	Very often	22.5%	10.5%	33.1%	41.0%
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	11.8%	10.5%	9.9%	19.1%
	Sometimes	43.7%	47.9%	35.6%	44.2%
	Often	33.1%	31.5%	39.6%	27.2%
	Very often	11.4%	10.1%	14.9%	9.5%
Memorising course material	Very little	9.3%	4.6%	1.0%	37.9%
	Some	13.8%	11.8%	6.4%	32.2%
	Quite a bit	27.5%	30.0%	25.8%	22.7%
	Very much	49.4%	53.6%	66.7%	7.2%
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	13.4%	14.8%	10.2%	14.7%
	Do not plan to do	16.8%	9.4%	26.6%	23.0%
	Plan to do	45.2%	68.0%	10.1%	34.9%
	Done or in progress	24.6%	7.7%	53.1%	27.4%
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	14.1%	10.7%	15.2%	22.7%
	Do not plan to do	20.2%	4.6%	35.9%	41.6%
	Plan to do	36.0%	52.8%	15.2%	19.4%
	Done or in progress	29.8%	32.0%	33.7%	16.3%

<b>Non-indicator items (continued)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	1.6%	2.0%	0.0%	3.4%
	Some	8.1%	5.2%	8.7%	15.6%
	Quite a bit	30.9%	27.9%	30.4%	40.6%
	Very much	59.3%	64.9%	60.8%	40.4%
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	15.8%	20.9%	12.4%	5.6%
	Some	36.8%	42.6%	33.2%	25.1%
	Quite a bit	29.3%	26.8%	29.0%	37.8%
	Very much	18.0%	9.7%	25.3%	31.5%
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	7.9%	8.5%	2.9%	14.5%
	Some	30.2%	34.8%	20.9%	31.7%
	Quite a bit	36.2%	34.5%	35.3%	42.9%
	Very much	25.6%	22.1%	41.0%	10.9%
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	3.8%	5.6%	1.4%	2.0%
	Some	18.5%	22.6%	15.2%	10.9%
	Quite a bit	40.0%	40.9%	37.1%	41.9%
	Very much	37.8%	30.9%	46.2%	45.2%
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	19.7%	19.5%	17.6%	24.1%
	Some	34.5%	39.4%	31.8%	23.6%
	Quite a bit	27.4%	24.6%	29.3%	33.0%
	Very much	18.4%	16.5%	21.2%	19.3%
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	7.8%	9.0%	3.5%	10.9%
	Some	19.5%	24.6%	12.4%	15.5%
	Quite a bit	32.9%	30.9%	32.1%	40.1%
	Very much	39.9%	35.5%	52.0%	33.5%
Working effectively with others	Very little	4.7%	3.6%	3.9%	9.1%
	Some	16.3%	19.2%	10.3%	17.0%
	Quite a bit	41.9%	41.8%	41.3%	42.9%
	Very much	37.2%	35.3%	44.5%	31.0%
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	12.0%	13.4%	11.3%	9.1%
	Some	26.4%	32.1%	18.0%	22.6%
	Quite a bit	31.8%	30.4%	30.1%	38.8%
	Very much	29.8%	24.1%	40.6%	29.5%
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	21.4%	19.0%	24.8%	23.1%
	Some	37.1%	40.6%	39.9%	21.8%
	Quite a bit	26.1%	25.1%	22.3%	35.8%
	Very much	15.4%	15.3%	13.1%	19.3%
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	2.7%	2.0%	5.5%	0.0%
	Fair	9.4%	8.9%	12.4%	5.8%
	Good	40.1%	40.8%	42.1%	34.5%
	Excellent	47.9%	48.3%	39.9%	59.8%
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	4.4%	3.3%	9.2%	0.0%
	Probably no	7.7%	6.8%	10.7%	5.7%
	Probably yes	39.9%	41.5%	38.8%	36.7%
	Definitely yes	48.1%	48.5%	41.4%	57.6%