

# THE IRISH SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (ISSE)

**Institution name: University of Limerick**

## Results of ISSE 2018

### **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 2018.

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 [VPA@ul.ie](mailto:VPA@ul.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	36.3
Reflective and Integrative Learning	30.5
Quantitative Reasoning	19.7
Learning Strategies	31.0
Collaborative Learning	32.2
Student-Faculty Interaction	12.8
Effective Teaching Practices	34.3
Quality of Interactions	37.4
Supportive Environment	30.7

## 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	5.9	6.5	5.8	4.4
	Some	24.3	28.0	20.9	17.9
	Quite a bit	41.2	41.7	39.5	42.5
	Very much	28.6	23.8	33.9	35.2
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	7.7	9.5	6.6	3.5
	Some	32.0	38.5	28.9	15.9
	Quite a bit	37.0	34.4	36.5	46.7
	Very much	23.3	17.6	28.0	33.9
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	9.3	9.8	11.8	3.2
	Some	31.0	37.0	23.6	23.6
	Quite a bit	37.9	37.9	36.1	40.9
	Very much	21.8	15.3	28.5	32.3
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	6.2	8.0	4.3	3.8
	Some	26.7	33.3	20.3	15.4
	Quite a bit	42.3	40.5	45.3	43.1
	Very much	24.8	18.2	30.1	37.7

<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	6.2	9.1	3.3	1.0
	Sometimes	37.8	44.2	29.3	30.2
	Often	39.5	36.7	44.7	39.7
	Very often	16.6	10.0	22.7	29.0
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	18.0	21.6	15.1	10.1
	Sometimes	41.6	46.3	36.0	34.8
	Often	27.8	24.4	33.2	30.2
	Very often	12.6	7.8	15.7	25.0
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	35.0	38.5	31.7	28.2
	Sometimes	35.9	36.1	39.2	28.8
	Often	19.8	17.6	21.3	25.2
	Very often	9.3	7.9	7.8	17.8
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	11.6	14.7	8.5	5.7
	Sometimes	43.3	47.9	42.0	28.5
	Often	32.8	30.3	31.0	45.7
	Very often	12.3	7.0	18.6	20.1
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	7.6	9.3	5.1	6.2
	Sometimes	43.4	46.9	42.9	31.5
	Often	33.2	33.1	29.5	40.8
	Very often	15.8	10.7	22.5	21.5
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	2.8	3.7	1.9	1.5
	Sometimes	35.7	37.5	37.2	26.2
	Often	43.9	45.6	39.1	47.2
	Very often	17.5	13.2	21.8	25.1
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.7	3.3	2.7	0.4
	Sometimes	33.9	42.0	26.1	18.9
	Often	41.0	38.5	45.5	41.4
	Very often	22.4	16.3	25.7	39.2

<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	24.5	28.1	19.8	20.2
	Sometimes	41.9	45.7	35.2	40.6
	Often	23.0	19.2	30.6	22.5
	Very often	10.6	7.0	14.3	16.7
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	40.2	45.4	33.8	33.3
	Sometimes	37.8	36.6	41.4	35.0
	Often	16.9	14.8	18.2	22.1
	Very often	5.2	3.2	6.6	9.6
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	37.4	40.6	34.9	31.1
	Sometimes	41.5	44.5	34.3	44.3
	Often	16.1	12.6	22.4	16.4
	Very often	5.0	2.3	8.4	8.2

<b>Learning Strategies</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	9.3	12.3	6.9	2.8
	Sometimes	42.0	47.9	38.0	27.9
	Often	36.5	31.6	42.2	43.7
	Very often	12.2	8.2	12.9	25.6
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	8.3	6.7	11.9	7.3
	Sometimes	41.8	44.5	41.0	33.6
	Often	33.6	36.4	26.0	37.6
	Very often	16.3	12.5	21.1	21.5
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	8.0	8.4	8.9	5.2
	Sometimes	42.6	43.4	41.2	42.6
	Often	35.0	33.6	39.0	32.8
	Very often	14.3	14.7	11.0	19.4

<b>Collaborative Learning</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	9.2	8.8	7.2	14.4
	Sometimes	45.2	47.4	40.8	45.3
	Often	32.6	32.9	35.1	27.0
	Very often	13.0	10.8	17.0	13.2
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	7.6	6.7	9.2	7.7
	Sometimes	42.2	46.1	32.0	47.1
	Often	35.1	36.1	36.1	29.7
	Very often	15.1	11.0	22.7	15.5
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	12.9	15.1	9.3	11.8
	Sometimes	37.7	41.4	30.8	37.4
	Often	28.2	26.6	31.0	28.5
	Very often	21.2	16.8	29.0	22.4
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	7.2	8.0	7.0	4.4
	Sometimes	31.1	37.4	22.6	24.0
	Often	36.1	38.0	34.7	32.1
	Very often	25.6	16.6	35.8	39.5

<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>Undergrad - Year 1</b>	<b>Undergrad - Final Yr</b>	<b>Postgrad taught</b>
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	54.1	61.5	48.3	38.4
	Sometimes	31.3	28.7	33.7	36.4
	Often	10.7	7.6	13.3	17.5
	Very often	3.8	2.3	4.7	7.7
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	70.4	74.1	69.5	58.8
	Sometimes	19.0	17.4	17.9	27.1
	Often	8.4	6.9	9.8	11.3
	Very often	2.1	1.6	2.8	2.8
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	46.6	53.6	45.9	22.5
	Sometimes	35.8	33.6	34.6	46.0
	Often	13.7	9.7	16.1	23.8
	Very often	3.9	3.1	3.4	7.7
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	41.9	53.4	27.3	27.3
	Sometimes	43.3	36.2	54.7	47.5
	Often	12.4	8.7	16.1	19.1
	Very often	2.4	1.6	1.9	6.0

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	6.0	6.8	4.9	5.2
	Some	23.4	23.2	24.9	21.0
	Quite a bit	46.3	49.9	44.6	37.1
	Very much	24.3	20.1	25.5	36.7
Taught in an organised way	Very little	4.0	3.3	5.5	3.3
	Some	25.8	26.2	25.1	25.8
	Quite a bit	44.4	46.9	45.8	33.5
	Very much	25.8	23.5	23.6	37.3
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	3.3	2.9	4.3	2.7
	Some	24.2	25.6	21.3	24.9
	Quite a bit	42.3	41.6	46.5	37.0
	Very much	30.2	29.9	27.9	35.3
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	23.2	28.0	16.7	19.0
	Some	36.1	38.3	35.5	29.6
	Quite a bit	24.7	22.9	27.9	25.1
	Very much	15.9	10.8	19.8	26.3
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	19.1	19.9	19.2	16.5
	Some	35.6	38.0	36.4	25.7
	Quite a bit	28.5	27.0	29.5	31.8
	Very much	16.8	15.1	14.9	26.1

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	1.0	0.7	1.6	0.8
	2	1.7	1.5	2.3	1.0
	3	4.6	5.0	3.9	4.4
	4	11.1	10.9	9.2	15.1
	5	21.2	24.6	16.7	18.1
	6	24.1	27.9	20.1	19.0
	7=Excellent	36.3	29.4	46.1	41.7
Academic advisors	1=Poor	11.4	10.3	17.5	3.7
	2	9.9	11.4	9.2	6.4
	3	13.3	15.1	11.2	11.4
	4	18.9	21.3	17.3	14.0
	5	19.3	16.6	26.1	15.3
	6	13.1	12.4	10.2	20.9
	7=Excellent	14.1	12.9	8.5	28.3
Academic staff	1=Poor	3.6	4.6	2.8	1.8
	2	5.9	6.5	5.7	4.2
	3	11.9	13.0	11.7	8.8
	4	19.2	21.5	20.8	9.1
	5	24.9	24.6	26.5	22.8
	6	18.8	15.4	22.5	23.7
	7=Excellent	15.7	14.5	10.1	29.7

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Support services staff (career services, student activities, accommodation, etc.)	1=Poor	5.1	4.6	6.9	3.0
	2	6.1	5.6	7.0	6.4
	3	10.8	10.6	12.3	8.7
	4	19.9	16.2	26.3	20.5
	5	21.9	23.2	19.4	22.1
	6	19.3	22.4	14.5	17.2
	7=Excellent	16.9	17.3	13.6	22.1
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	6.7	5.5	9.5	5.8
	2	9.0	9.1	11.1	4.9
	3	12.9	13.4	14.5	8.3
	4	21.7	22.8	22.5	16.6
	5	21.6	21.2	23.0	20.6
	6	15.7	16.0	11.2	23.1
	7=Excellent	12.3	12.0	8.2	20.7

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	6.6	6.0	6.4	9.3
	Some	29.3	22.9	40.0	32.2
	Quite a bit	41.9	46.8	37.2	33.4
	Very much	22.2	24.3	16.4	25.1
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	11.8	10.2	13.5	14.6
	Some	22.1	21.7	24.5	19.5
	Quite a bit	34.9	34.3	36.4	34.3
	Very much	31.1	33.9	25.5	31.6
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	22.1	21.1	22.7	24.6
	Some	37.6	39.2	41.9	24.0
	Quite a bit	25.9	25.3	23.4	32.3
	Very much	14.5	14.4	11.9	19.2
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	11.6	10.4	11.5	16.3
	Some	28.6	29.6	28.0	26.4
	Quite a bit	35.7	34.6	37.4	36.6
	Very much	24.0	25.4	23.1	20.7
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	8.6	9.1	6.2	11.2
	Some	28.6	26.1	34.0	27.2
	Quite a bit	36.1	34.9	38.1	36.7
	Very much	26.7	29.8	21.6	24.8
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	35.3	33.2	38.0	38.2
	Some	37.9	38.8	38.8	33.4
	Quite a bit	19.0	19.4	17.6	20.2
	Very much	7.8	8.7	5.7	8.3
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	14.4	17.1	7.8	16.6
	Some	34.5	30.6	42.1	34.2
	Quite a bit	35.0	35.6	34.7	33.6
	Very much	16.2	16.7	15.3	15.6
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	23.3	24.3	21.2	23.6
	Some	39.1	37.2	42.8	38.9
	Quite a bit	26.3	27.0	25.6	25.2
	Very much	11.3	11.5	10.4	12.3

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked questions or contributed to discussions in class, tutorials, labs or online	Never	7.5	9.7	6.4	1.6
	Sometimes	44.6	48.6	45.2	28.2
	Often	28.9	28.1	25.7	38.2
	Very often	19.0	13.5	22.7	32.0
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	26.5	24.4	27.2	33.0
	Sometimes	48.5	49.0	47.2	48.7
	Often	17.8	19.5	18.0	11.1
	Very often	7.2	7.0	7.5	7.1
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	25.2	31.2	19.4	13.9
	Sometimes	41.8	45.2	36.7	38.9
	Often	19.7	15.6	24.2	26.3
	Very often	13.3	7.9	19.7	20.8
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	5.2	6.3	3.9	3.5
	Sometimes	31.3	35.1	28.8	22.1
	Often	42.5	44.5	40.7	38.6
	Very often	21.1	14.1	26.7	35.8
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	17.2	22.4	12.9	6.2
	Sometimes	39.1	43.2	37.5	27.0
	Often	28.2	26.7	26.6	36.7
	Very often	15.6	7.7	23.0	30.1
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	21.4	21.3	20.4	23.8
	Sometimes	29.2	26.4	31.0	36.2
	Often	23.8	27.1	20.9	17.0
	Very often	25.6	25.2	27.8	23.0
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	26.4	36.0	14.1	14.6
	Sometimes	33.7	35.0	32.2	32.2
	Often	25.6	21.9	32.8	25.2
	Very often	14.3	7.1	20.9	28.0
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	21.6	21.1	27.7	12.0
	Sometimes	45.4	47.9	42.3	42.3
	Often	25.2	22.5	26.5	32.5
	Very often	7.8	8.5	3.6	13.2
Memorising course material	Very little	14.8	10.5	16.2	27.1
	Some	34.8	36.4	29.2	39.2
	Quite a bit	35.8	39.1	36.9	23.0
	Very much	14.5	14.0	17.7	10.8
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	27.3	38.5	11.6	16.9
	Do not plan to do	27.7	23.0	40.7	20.8
	Plan to do	24.7	34.0	7.2	23.9
	Done or in progress	20.2	4.6	40.4	38.4
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	21.0	25.0	14.9	17.9
	Do not plan to do	27.7	17.6	42.3	36.9
	Plan to do	30.2	39.5	16.6	22.2
	Done or in progress	21.0	17.8	26.2	23.0
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	4.9	6.1	3.3	3.6
	Some	21.3	22.9	21.1	16.4
	Quite a bit	51.3	52.5	52.6	45.3
	Very much	22.5	18.6	23.0	34.7

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	13.7	16.3	12.8	6.5
	Some	33.0	37.2	30.2	23.9
	Quite a bit	35.6	36.6	34.5	34.3
	Very much	17.7	9.9	22.5	35.4
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	18.5	20.3	18.9	11.6
	Some	30.9	35.3	24.9	26.9
	Quite a bit	32.5	33.4	33.1	28.6
	Very much	18.1	11.0	23.2	33.0
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	3.5	4.1	2.5	3.5
	Some	22.8	29.2	14.7	16.1
	Quite a bit	42.3	43.1	43.6	37.2
	Very much	31.3	23.6	39.3	43.2
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	19.6	23.3	15.1	15.3
	Some	30.3	30.1	30.3	31.1
	Quite a bit	32.4	32.0	35.5	27.9
	Very much	17.7	14.6	19.2	25.7
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	10.0	12.1	7.2	7.9
	Some	27.0	31.3	20.3	24.4
	Quite a bit	42.4	39.5	50.6	37.2
	Very much	20.6	17.1	21.9	30.5
Working effectively with others	Very little	4.8	6.1	2.7	4.4
	Some	21.7	25.4	13.8	23.4
	Quite a bit	46.5	44.8	54.1	38.0
	Very much	27.0	23.6	29.4	34.1
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	14.3	16.1	12.2	11.7
	Some	31.0	36.3	21.7	29.9
	Quite a bit	37.1	32.9	48.1	31.4
	Very much	17.6	14.6	18.0	27.0
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	23.3	24.8	24.4	16.2
	Some	34.8	39.7	28.4	29.8
	Quite a bit	27.1	25.7	26.2	33.5
	Very much	14.8	9.8	21.0	20.5
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	2.9	2.1	3.0	5.5
	Fair	10.9	12.0	8.6	11.4
	Good	50.6	53.7	49.3	42.6
	Excellent	35.5	32.2	39.1	40.5
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	2.8	2.0	2.7	6.0
	Probably no	7.6	7.9	7.2	7.6
	Probably yes	37.1	40.1	33.5	33.5
	Definitely yes	52.4	50.1	56.6	52.9