

# StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

**Institution name: Maynooth University**

## Results of StudentSurvey.ie 2020

### 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 six institutions participated in 2020.

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@mu.ie](mailto:quality@mu.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	37.4
Reflective and Integrative Learning	32.9
Quantitative Reasoning	19.7
Learning Strategies	33.2
Collaborative Learning	29.3
Student-Faculty Interaction	12.3
Effective Teaching Practices	35.9
Quality of Interactions	39.5
Supportive Environment	28.9

## 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	6.9	6.2	8.1	6.9
	Some	24.5	27.3	24.9	17.2
	Quite a bit	42.6	44.5	40.2	40.9
	Very much	26.0	22.0	26.9	35.1
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	7.1	6.9	7.5	7.1
	Some	29.4	33.6	27.2	21.7
	Quite a bit	37.9	37.1	40.2	37.0
	Very much	25.6	22.4	25.2	34.2
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	8.6	8.5	10.7	5.9
	Some	25.9	27.8	27.7	18.4
	Quite a bit	39.9	41.4	36.3	41.0
	Very much	25.6	22.3	25.3	34.6
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.4	5.0	7.0	4.2
	Some	24.6	26.0	26.8	18.1
	Quite a bit	39.2	40.3	38.0	38.0
	Very much	30.8	28.8	28.1	39.7

<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	9.0	12.3	6.2	4.5
	Sometimes	34.3	37.9	33.8	25.6
	Often	38.5	37.0	39.9	40.4
	Very often	18.1	12.9	20.1	29.4
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	14.2	17.8	11.7	8.3
	Sometimes	34.2	36.4	37.3	23.6
	Often	33.2	31.5	31.2	40.6
	Very often	18.4	14.3	19.7	27.5
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	23.8	25.1	23.9	20.2
	Sometimes	36.7	39.1	35.2	32.4
	Often	26.5	24.8	27.5	29.6
	Very often	13.0	11.0	13.5	17.9
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	10.3	12.5	10.0	4.8
	Sometimes	37.9	39.6	41.8	27.7
	Often	37.5	36.4	35.6	43.0
	Very often	14.3	11.5	12.5	24.4
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	6.9	8.0	7.2	3.7
	Sometimes	33.0	35.9	35.0	22.4
	Often	42.0	41.3	37.7	50.0
	Very often	18.1	14.8	20.1	23.9
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	4.0	4.3	3.5	3.7
	Sometimes	31.5	35.2	31.3	22.0
	Often	44.5	43.8	46.7	43.2
	Very often	20.0	16.7	18.5	31.1
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.9	3.6	2.8	1.1
	Sometimes	27.7	29.8	32.2	15.9
	Often	42.9	42.5	43.7	42.8
	Very often	26.5	24.2	21.2	40.2

<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	29.6	33.4	25.5	25.4
	Sometimes	40.5	39.6	42.3	40.1
	Often	21.5	20.0	23.2	23.0
	Very often	8.5	7.0	9.0	11.6
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	35.3	38.4	31.8	32.0
	Sometimes	39.0	39.4	39.0	38.0
	Often	18.1	16.0	20.1	20.9
	Very often	7.6	6.1	9.1	9.1
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	37.3	41.1	34.6	31.0
	Sometimes	42.0	42.9	41.8	40.0
	Often	16.2	12.5	18.4	22.9
	Very often	4.5	3.5	5.2	6.0

<b>Learning Strategies</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	7.7	9.5	7.3	3.5
	Sometimes	33.3	37.5	32.9	22.8
	Often	40.4	39.0	40.1	44.4
	Very often	18.7	14.0	19.8	29.3
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	6.4	4.2	9.0	8.6
	Sometimes	36.7	35.9	40.5	33.6
	Often	38.6	41.3	33.4	38.9
	Very often	18.2	18.6	17.2	18.9
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	9.2	9.4	9.0	8.6
	Sometimes	38.4	39.3	40.3	33.7
	Often	37.1	36.7	35.3	40.9
	Very often	15.3	14.6	15.5	16.8

<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	14.1	13.9	13.3	15.6
	Sometimes	45.5	47.2	40.4	48.4
	Often	29.8	30.4	31.8	25.3
	Very often	10.6	8.5	14.5	10.7
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	8.3	8.9	6.7	9.0
	Sometimes	44.4	47.6	40.3	41.5
	Often	31.8	31.3	33.2	30.9
	Very often	15.6	12.2	19.9	18.6
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	21.8	23.7	15.3	26.2
	Sometimes	33.0	35.9	33.2	25.2
	Often	29.7	28.8	30.0	31.9
	Very often	15.4	11.6	21.4	16.8
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	13.3	15.2	11.7	10.5
	Sometimes	36.9	43.6	35.9	20.5
	Often	31.8	32.8	27.3	35.7
	Very often	18.0	8.5	25.1	33.2

<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	57.1	71.5	44.7	37.4
	Sometimes	30.1	21.6	41.0	36.9
	Often	9.5	4.7	11.5	19.1
	Very often	3.3	2.2	2.8	6.7
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	72.2	78.7	64.0	66.5
	Sometimes	17.7	13.5	23.4	20.7
	Often	8.2	6.5	10.2	9.7
	Very often	2.0	1.3	2.4	3.1
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	48.4	60.8	35.6	34.1
	Sometimes	35.2	27.9	45.5	39.6
	Often	11.7	8.9	13.3	16.7
	Very often	4.7	2.4	5.5	9.6
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	43.6	52.0	37.2	31.1
	Sometimes	40.3	36.4	46.2	42.3
	Often	12.2	9.0	12.9	19.5
	Very often	3.8	2.6	3.8	7.1

<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	3.5	3.8	3.0	3.3
	Some	20.9	21.4	21.6	18.7
	Quite a bit	45.2	46.7	44.2	42.8
	Very much	30.4	28.1	31.2	35.1
Taught in an organised way	Very little	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.4
	Some	22.9	21.9	26.9	19.8
	Quite a bit	45.8	46.4	49.1	39.6
	Very much	28.5	28.9	21.7	37.2
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.3
	Some	19.5	19.1	21.1	18.3
	Quite a bit	43.7	44.4	44.3	41.1
	Very much	34.2	33.8	31.9	38.3
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	21.0	20.6	24.8	16.5
	Some	33.4	34.8	35.9	26.2
	Quite a bit	27.6	27.9	26.0	29.2
	Very much	18.0	16.6	13.4	28.0
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	20.7	19.2	23.7	20.4
	Some	34.3	35.8	36.5	27.6
	Quite a bit	27.4	28.5	25.8	26.9
	Very much	17.5	16.5	14.0	25.1

<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	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.3
	2	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.6
	3	6.1	5.9	7.6	4.2
	4	12.3	12.4	13.1	10.8
	5	21.9	21.9	22.9	20.6
	6	25.9	25.1	24.3	30.1
	7=Excellent	30.6	31.7	28.0	31.3
Academic advisors	1=Poor	5.0	4.6	6.9	3.4
	2	6.5	7.6	7.1	3.1
	3	10.4	10.1	10.5	11.0
	4	19.2	18.0	24.9	14.3
	5	23.0	23.2	24.9	19.8
	6	19.0	20.0	14.5	23.1
	7=Excellent	16.7	16.5	11.2	25.4
Academic staff	1=Poor	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.6
	2	4.9	5.3	4.7	4.2
	3	9.7	9.6	11.8	6.8
	4	18.6	19.2	22.7	11.1
	5	24.9	25.1	23.8	25.8
	6	20.2	19.9	20.0	21.3
	7=Excellent	18.6	17.4	14.0	28.2

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	6.6	5.3	9.9	5.1
	2	7.7	6.8	9.6	7.0
	3	9.4	9.2	10.8	7.7
	4	15.7	14.5	18.5	14.8
	5	22.0	22.7	21.9	20.2
	6	19.1	20.1	16.6	20.1
	7=Excellent	19.4	21.3	12.8	25.2
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	5.8	5.2	6.3	6.8
	2	5.8	6.4	5.5	4.8
	3	10.3	9.5	13.4	8.1
	4	17.7	19.5	19.0	11.1
	5	21.1	21.4	22.5	18.4
	6	18.3	17.1	16.3	24.3
	7=Excellent	20.9	21.0	17.1	26.5

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	8.4	6.3	11.2	9.7
	Some	31.3	29.3	36.1	29.8
	Quite a bit	39.0	40.5	37.8	36.8
	Very much	21.3	23.9	14.9	23.6
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	14.2	10.0	18.1	19.3
	Some	28.1	24.0	33.5	30.9
	Quite a bit	31.6	33.9	30.9	26.6
	Very much	26.2	32.1	17.5	23.2
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	21.9	17.8	27.0	25.1
	Some	35.1	35.8	37.1	30.8
	Quite a bit	28.0	29.8	25.6	26.6
	Very much	15.0	16.6	10.3	17.5
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	14.4	10.0	14.1	26.3
	Some	30.8	27.3	36.8	31.1
	Quite a bit	34.0	37.5	32.2	27.8
	Very much	20.7	25.2	16.9	14.8
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	15.3	10.9	17.3	23.8
	Some	31.6	28.8	37.6	30.3
	Quite a bit	31.3	34.9	29.2	24.8
	Very much	21.9	25.4	15.9	21.1
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	38.8	33.2	47.7	40.9
	Some	34.3	37.0	30.6	32.4
	Quite a bit	18.5	21.0	14.8	17.1
	Very much	8.4	8.8	6.9	9.6
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	19.5	17.7	19.9	23.4
	Some	37.7	34.4	43.5	38.1
	Quite a bit	28.9	32.7	27.4	21.5
	Very much	13.9	15.2	9.2	17.0
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	25.4	23.6	25.0	30.5
	Some	38.9	36.3	46.6	34.6
	Quite a bit	24.8	28.0	19.6	23.6
	Very much	11.0	12.0	8.8	11.3

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	11.4	12.4	14.5	4.1
	Sometimes	42.0	46.0	46.3	25.1
	Often	27.9	27.9	23.4	34.5
	Very often	18.7	13.6	15.8	36.2
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	23.6	23.1	17.4	33.5
	Sometimes	50.3	52.3	49.1	46.9
	Often	18.1	16.6	23.3	14.3
	Very often	8.1	8.0	10.2	5.3
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	26.6	33.6	22.4	13.7
	Sometimes	45.7	45.0	53.7	35.8
	Often	20.5	17.9	17.8	31.5
	Very often	7.3	3.5	6.1	18.9
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	7.6	10.1	5.7	3.5
	Sometimes	33.2	36.7	36.9	19.3
	Often	38.8	37.3	40.0	40.7
	Very often	20.4	15.9	17.4	36.5
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	27.1	35.0	25.5	8.6
	Sometimes	36.7	36.8	42.2	28.9
	Often	23.9	20.5	24.1	32.2
	Very often	12.4	7.7	8.2	30.3
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	32.0	31.8	30.4	34.6
	Sometimes	31.1	30.4	35.6	26.5
	Often	18.3	18.9	16.9	18.7
	Very often	18.7	19.0	17.1	20.1
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	37.9	47.2	37.5	14.2
	Sometimes	29.3	29.6	32.3	24.5
	Often	18.6	12.9	21.1	30.0
	Very often	14.1	10.2	9.0	31.3
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	21.3	19.7	25.3	20.0
	Sometimes	39.5	43.2	39.7	29.4
	Often	29.7	28.9	26.3	36.5
	Very often	9.5	8.2	8.6	14.1
Memorising course material	Very little	20.0	17.5	8.8	41.9
	Some	32.7	36.2	27.2	31.6
	Quite a bit	30.3	32.5	33.2	20.7
	Very much	17.0	13.9	30.8	5.8
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	33.7	46.1	19.0	22.7
	Do not plan to do	23.4	19.1	34.8	18.7
	Plan to do	27.6	33.3	13.9	32.1
	Done or in progress	15.2	1.4	32.3	26.5
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	29.0	29.8	26.7	30.2
	Do not plan to do	23.1	16.3	29.0	32.2
	Plan to do	31.3	40.7	19.2	24.0
	Done or in progress	16.6	13.2	25.1	13.7
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	2.8	3.8	0.8	3.2
	Some	23.5	26.5	18.2	23.5
	Quite a bit	46.9	47.7	48.2	43.2
	Very much	26.7	22.0	32.9	30.1

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	11.6	13.2	9.5	10.3
	Some	28.7	31.4	25.7	25.9
	Quite a bit	39.3	41.2	37.5	37.2
	Very much	20.4	14.2	27.2	26.6
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	17.8	19.8	17.0	13.7
	Some	31.0	32.8	29.5	28.3
	Quite a bit	34.0	34.5	34.0	32.6
	Very much	17.3	12.9	19.5	25.5
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	2.8	3.2	1.7	3.5
	Some	17.8	21.9	11.2	16.5
	Quite a bit	44.3	45.9	45.6	38.7
	Very much	35.1	29.0	41.6	41.3
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	25.2	26.9	22.5	24.8
	Some	31.1	32.8	27.5	31.6
	Quite a bit	26.5	27.4	28.2	21.9
	Very much	17.2	13.0	21.8	21.7
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	19.2	23.2	18.0	10.8
	Some	32.4	36.2	31.3	24.2
	Quite a bit	28.5	25.4	32.5	30.7
	Very much	19.9	15.2	18.2	34.3
Working effectively with others	Very little	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.9
	Some	26.6	30.3	25.5	18.7
	Quite a bit	38.7	39.7	39.8	34.8
	Very much	25.1	20.6	25.1	36.6
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	18.5	20.6	16.8	15.7
	Some	34.7	37.9	33.8	27.8
	Quite a bit	30.1	28.9	30.5	32.6
	Very much	16.7	12.6	18.9	23.9
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	21.0	20.7	22.3	20.1
	Some	32.2	35.4	31.5	25.3
	Quite a bit	28.0	27.8	25.8	31.3
	Very much	18.8	16.2	20.4	23.3
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	2.2	1.6	3.0	2.6
	Fair	17.5	15.0	23.8	15.1
	Good	53.4	55.7	53.5	47.7
	Excellent	26.8	27.7	19.8	34.6
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	3.4	2.3	5.4	3.6
	Probably no	13.8	12.6	19.6	8.6
	Probably yes	44.8	43.5	46.6	45.3
	Definitely yes	38.0	41.7	28.4	42.5