

# StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

**Institution name: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)**

## 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@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	39.5
Reflective and Integrative Learning	34.7
Quantitative Reasoning	22.6
Learning Strategies	36.5
Collaborative Learning	33.9
Student-Faculty Interaction	15.3
Effective Teaching Practices	35.7
Quality of Interactions	42.5
Supportive Environment	33.4

## 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	4.3	4.2	2.8	6.3
	Some	18.3	18.8	16.4	18.8
	Quite a bit	43.3	44.4	38.3	44.8
	Very much	34.1	32.7	42.5	30.1
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	5.4	5.1	10.2	1.5
	Some	23.8	25.4	19.0	23.5
	Quite a bit	39.7	40.9	40.6	34.8
	Very much	31.1	28.6	30.2	40.2
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	6.8	6.0	14.3	1.5
	Some	28.1	31.4	24.0	21.6
	Quite a bit	36.2	37.4	33.5	35.2
	Very much	28.9	25.2	28.2	41.7
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	6.0	6.0	8.8	3.3
	Some	19.4	18.7	16.6	24.6
	Quite a bit	42.8	45.9	42.0	33.4
	Very much	31.7	29.3	32.6	38.7

<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	4.4	3.8	6.4	4.6
	Sometimes	33.3	37.9	23.1	28.2
	Often	41.5	42.1	40.9	40.3
	Very often	20.7	16.2	29.7	27.0
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	8.2	8.8	8.8	5.9
	Sometimes	39.1	44.5	27.1	32.6
	Often	31.4	30.3	27.1	39.5
	Very often	21.3	16.4	37.1	22.0
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	17.7	18.5	18.3	14.5
	Sometimes	44.6	46.6	32.3	49.7
	Often	26.5	22.9	36.1	29.3
	Very often	11.2	11.9	13.4	6.5
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	4.7	4.7	7.7	1.5
	Sometimes	38.0	39.1	31.4	40.6
	Often	40.1	40.8	41.2	37.0
	Very often	17.2	15.4	19.7	20.9
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	4.3	3.8	4.0	5.9
	Sometimes	34.4	35.1	31.1	35.4
	Often	39.3	40.1	37.3	38.8
	Very often	22.0	21.0	27.6	19.9
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	1.8	1.9	2.6	0.6
	Sometimes	30.6	34.0	25.9	24.3
	Often	45.9	43.2	47.7	53.2
	Very often	21.6	20.9	23.8	21.9
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.1	1.5	2.4	4.0
	Sometimes	23.4	26.6	17.0	18.8
	Often	44.8	46.3	44.3	40.3
	Very often	29.7	25.5	36.3	37.0

<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	19.7	16.8	29.9	19.3
	Sometimes	45.3	49.5	32.5	44.0
	Often	26.8	26.9	24.4	29.1
	Very often	8.2	6.9	13.3	7.6
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	25.9	26.8	27.5	21.3
	Sometimes	45.3	44.3	39.6	54.7
	Often	23.6	25.4	19.8	21.2
	Very often	5.2	3.5	13.1	2.9
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	26.9	24.4	34.9	27.1
	Sometimes	44.9	48.6	32.0	45.4
	Often	21.7	21.8	23.1	20.2
	Very often	6.5	5.2	10.0	7.3

<b>Learning Strategies</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	12.2	15.7	12.4	0.0
	Sometimes	36.8	35.7	37.9	39.8
	Often	34.3	33.7	31.8	38.8
	Very often	16.7	15.0	17.9	21.4
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	2.2	1.7	5.9	0.0
	Sometimes	24.2	19.0	35.3	30.7
	Often	37.5	38.4	34.4	37.9
	Very often	36.1	40.9	24.4	31.5
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	4.8	2.9	7.0	8.9
	Sometimes	33.5	31.0	41.0	34.3
	Often	35.4	36.0	29.6	39.5
	Very often	26.3	30.1	22.4	17.3

<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	7.6	5.4	4.2	18.6
	Sometimes	36.9	36.1	26.2	50.1
	Often	35.4	35.8	45.9	23.4
	Very often	20.1	22.7	23.6	7.9
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	4.4	4.6	4.1	4.1
	Sometimes	41.4	40.1	20.7	66.3
	Often	35.1	35.1	49.7	20.3
	Very often	19.1	20.2	25.5	9.2
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	7.8	5.4	5.0	18.4
	Sometimes	34.4	37.0	18.2	42.2
	Often	33.3	32.5	43.1	26.1
	Very often	24.5	25.1	33.7	13.2
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	8.2	1.6	17.4	21.4
	Sometimes	36.5	39.6	25.6	36.9
	Often	35.0	39.6	30.4	24.1
	Very often	20.3	19.3	26.6	17.5

<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	45.2	49.7	26.6	49.2
	Sometimes	39.2	38.0	45.3	37.0
	Often	11.8	10.6	15.3	12.3
	Very often	3.8	1.7	12.8	1.5
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	57.1	58.4	40.5	69.8
	Sometimes	32.9	33.4	44.4	19.2
	Often	6.4	6.4	6.8	6.0
	Very often	3.6	1.7	8.3	4.9
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	38.9	42.2	33.1	33.5
	Sometimes	39.5	38.4	38.8	43.7
	Often	15.6	15.0	18.1	15.0
	Very often	6.0	4.3	10.0	7.8
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	34.3	37.0	28.3	31.1
	Sometimes	48.2	46.9	55.1	45.6
	Often	12.9	13.5	7.9	15.8
	Very often	4.6	2.6	8.7	7.5

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	3.1	1.9	8.3	1.5
	Some	21.7	22.9	26.4	12.9
	Quite a bit	39.7	43.6	29.4	38.0
	Very much	35.5	31.5	35.9	47.6
Taught in an organised way	Very little	5.4	3.9	11.2	3.8
	Some	26.3	29.5	33.0	9.2
	Quite a bit	40.7	43.5	37.0	35.6
	Very much	27.7	23.1	18.8	51.4
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	3.4	3.4	5.4	1.5
	Some	16.9	18.2	16.8	13.0
	Quite a bit	42.2	45.0	45.3	30.2
	Very much	37.4	33.5	32.5	55.2
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	24.4	28.4	27.4	8.5
	Some	32.4	37.0	20.4	30.5
	Quite a bit	23.8	21.6	34.3	19.7
	Very much	19.4	13.0	17.9	41.2
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	22.2	26.0	26.2	6.1
	Some	31.7	32.6	34.5	25.7
	Quite a bit	27.7	29.3	20.2	30.2
	Very much	18.4	12.1	19.1	37.9

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	0.8	0.5	2.9	0.0
	2	2.3	3.3	1.4	0.0
	3	3.1	1.9	6.2	3.8
	4	8.5	7.6	9.5	10.5
	5	17.8	20.4	13.8	13.4
	6	25.2	27.1	17.9	26.5
	7=Excellent	42.2	39.2	48.3	45.8
Academic advisors	1=Poor	4.0	4.5	4.4	1.7
	2	5.6	5.6	7.9	3.4
	3	9.6	9.6	10.8	8.0
	4	16.1	17.4	20.9	7.0
	5	18.8	20.8	12.5	18.6
	6	20.7	20.3	18.9	24.0
	7=Excellent	25.2	21.8	24.5	37.3
Academic staff	1=Poor	3.2	4.8	0.0	1.6
	2	4.1	4.3	3.1	4.7
	3	5.3	5.9	9.1	0.0
	4	16.3	19.3	11.9	11.3
	5	22.0	22.4	23.1	19.4
	6	23.1	21.7	26.0	24.5
	7=Excellent	25.9	21.7	26.9	38.5

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	5.0	3.1	9.3	6.9
	2	7.0	7.7	4.9	6.7
	3	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.9
	4	15.7	17.6	12.8	11.2
	5	15.8	17.6	6.4	21.1
	6	16.8	16.2	23.6	10.2
	7=Excellent	30.3	28.3	33.7	33.9
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	5.5	4.1	10.0	5.4
	2	4.9	5.2	1.6	7.3
	3	9.0	9.5	13.4	2.7
	4	15.3	15.5	17.3	12.3
	5	18.7	20.2	6.6	26.1
	6	17.5	18.3	20.7	11.3
	7=Excellent	29.2	27.2	30.6	34.9

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	5.8	4.2	11.4	5.2
	Some	24.3	22.5	23.0	31.0
	Quite a bit	38.2	37.7	37.6	40.7
	Very much	31.7	35.6	28.0	23.1
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	10.5	9.4	14.4	10.0
	Some	29.4	28.1	29.2	33.5
	Quite a bit	34.7	35.3	31.0	36.6
	Very much	25.4	27.2	25.5	19.8
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	9.8	7.1	9.1	19.0
	Some	26.0	26.3	18.7	32.5
	Quite a bit	32.0	31.5	33.9	31.3
	Very much	32.3	35.1	38.3	17.1
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	14.2	8.5	11.4	34.9
	Some	20.9	16.7	20.7	34.2
	Quite a bit	35.7	40.2	30.8	26.4
	Very much	29.3	34.6	37.1	4.5
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	11.5	5.7	7.3	34.0
	Some	24.2	20.2	22.1	39.0
	Quite a bit	31.3	36.9	28.7	16.4
	Very much	32.9	37.2	41.9	10.6
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	27.5	19.9	33.5	45.4
	Some	29.1	28.7	28.0	31.3
	Quite a bit	30.3	35.8	26.4	17.2
	Very much	13.1	15.6	12.1	6.0
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	17.6	7.2	11.8	56.1
	Some	24.9	26.3	25.8	19.5
	Quite a bit	34.0	36.9	37.3	21.3
	Very much	23.5	29.6	25.1	3.0
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	31.6	21.9	34.4	59.3
	Some	32.0	35.9	28.2	23.5
	Quite a bit	23.1	26.5	22.5	12.7
	Very much	13.4	15.7	14.8	4.5

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	5.3	5.7	7.4	1.5
	Sometimes	46.1	51.8	29.7	43.3
	Often	29.3	28.2	33.9	28.4
	Very often	19.4	14.3	29.0	26.8
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	24.1	18.5	17.0	50.6
	Sometimes	49.5	53.7	45.3	39.5
	Often	18.0	20.5	20.3	7.2
	Very often	8.4	7.4	17.4	2.7
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	13.9	14.6	6.7	18.4
	Sometimes	54.9	64.4	31.6	45.4
	Often	21.3	17.5	31.4	24.0
	Very often	10.0	3.5	30.2	12.1
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	6.9	8.9	4.1	2.9
	Sometimes	32.6	39.5	24.0	18.0
	Often	37.3	33.6	39.2	47.6
	Very often	23.2	17.9	32.7	31.6
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	10.2	12.5	8.1	4.4
	Sometimes	34.7	41.4	22.2	24.4
	Often	35.3	32.9	37.0	41.4
	Very often	19.9	13.1	32.7	29.9
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	19.4	14.8	16.4	38.2
	Sometimes	30.6	33.2	19.8	32.5
	Often	26.9	27.6	30.9	20.4
	Very often	23.2	24.5	32.9	8.9
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	14.5	19.3	8.3	4.4
	Sometimes	35.0	41.7	22.7	24.5
	Often	32.9	30.0	34.7	40.8
	Very often	17.6	8.9	34.4	30.4
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	15.0	13.5	20.7	14.2
	Sometimes	40.6	43.8	30.3	40.1
	Often	34.3	33.8	33.8	36.8
	Very often	10.1	8.9	15.3	8.9
Memorising course material	Very little	10.4	4.6	1.4	38.3
	Some	19.2	14.6	14.6	39.2
	Quite a bit	29.5	33.2	31.4	15.4
	Very much	40.9	47.7	52.6	7.1
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	24.8	26.5	14.4	30.4
	Do not plan to do	11.3	7.0	14.1	22.4
	Plan to do	44.4	60.8	10.1	26.8
	Done or in progress	19.5	5.6	61.4	20.4
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	16.7	10.9	11.0	42.4
	Do not plan to do	13.7	5.7	13.4	40.4
	Plan to do	43.5	60.0	22.9	10.9
	Done or in progress	26.1	23.4	52.7	6.3
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	3.2	2.8	3.0	4.6
	Some	17.5	17.1	7.5	28.7
	Quite a bit	37.0	36.7	35.8	39.5
	Very much	42.3	43.3	53.8	27.2

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	18.2	21.6	22.4	3.0
	Some	30.9	37.8	21.0	19.2
	Quite a bit	33.7	30.6	30.7	46.6
	Very much	17.2	10.0	25.9	31.2
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	11.7	13.4	12.6	5.3
	Some	27.1	31.1	10.5	30.9
	Quite a bit	43.0	40.1	45.9	49.2
	Very much	18.2	15.3	30.9	14.6
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	6.8	8.3	7.7	1.5
	Some	20.1	23.5	13.4	15.9
	Quite a bit	41.2	44.7	28.9	42.4
	Very much	31.9	23.5	50.0	40.1
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	17.7	18.6	17.8	14.6
	Some	33.0	36.3	23.6	32.1
	Quite a bit	36.7	35.6	40.4	36.3
	Very much	12.6	9.5	18.2	17.0
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	6.9	7.2	6.0	6.8
	Some	24.0	26.9	19.0	20.0
	Quite a bit	35.3	34.3	31.4	42.4
	Very much	33.8	31.6	43.6	30.8
Working effectively with others	Very little	5.4	4.3	9.2	4.6
	Some	20.0	22.7	10.4	21.4
	Quite a bit	40.9	42.2	35.8	42.2
	Very much	33.7	30.8	44.6	31.8
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	10.0	10.1	11.8	7.6
	Some	28.1	30.1	16.4	33.6
	Quite a bit	36.9	37.9	34.4	36.5
	Very much	25.0	21.9	37.4	22.2
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	20.6	18.8	31.0	15.6
	Some	32.4	33.2	25.4	36.9
	Quite a bit	27.9	30.3	21.0	27.5
	Very much	19.1	17.7	22.6	20.0
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	2.7	1.5	6.1	3.1
	Fair	10.7	12.3	13.4	3.3
	Good	48.7	51.8	41.8	45.9
	Excellent	37.9	34.4	38.7	47.7
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	3.3	1.5	8.9	3.1
	Probably no	8.9	11.8	7.5	1.5
	Probably yes	45.0	46.4	46.7	39.2
	Definitely yes	42.8	40.4	36.8	56.2