

# **StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)**

## **Institution name: National College of Ireland**

### **Results of StudentSurvey.ie 2021**

#### **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 five institutions participated in 2021.

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 [Patricia.Maguire@ncirl.ie](mailto:Patricia.Maguire@ncirl.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	35.74
Reflective and Integrative Learning	30.62
Quantitative Reasoning	21.38
Learning Strategies	32.46
Collaborative Learning	25.86
Student-Faculty Interaction	10.11
Effective Teaching Practices	33.28
Quality of Interactions	33.06
Supportive Environment	25.64

## 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	6.4	7.2	5.5	6.0
	Some	29.4	32.6	30.5	26.6
	Quite a bit	39.6	37.8	41.6	40.4
	Very much	24.7	22.4	22.4	27.0
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	10.2	13.6	5.6	8.9
	Some	31.1	32.8	46.7	25.2
	Quite a bit	38.5	39.5	31.8	39.7
	Very much	20.2	14.1	15.9	26.2
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	7.9	8.7	7.7	7.4
	Some	30.2	32.9	33.3	27.2
	Quite a bit	38.6	39.0	36.6	38.9
	Very much	23.2	19.3	22.4	26.5
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.9	5.9	10.9	4.5
	Some	26.4	26.0	29.0	25.9
	Quite a bit	42.7	45.2	47.1	39.5
	Very much	25.0	22.9	13.1	30.1

<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	7.7	9.4	5.3	7.1
	Sometimes	32.3	39.2	30.7	27.5
	Often	42.6	38.2	45.9	44.9
	Very often	17.5	13.2	18.1	20.5
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	18.3	19.8	19.7	16.8
	Sometimes	39.7	36.5	42.4	41.3
	Often	30.2	32.1	28.4	29.3
	Very often	11.7	11.6	9.5	12.5
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	40.9	43.0	34.3	41.3
	Sometimes	33.9	33.6	41.6	31.9
	Often	18.9	16.0	16.8	21.7
	Very often	6.2	7.3	7.3	5.0
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	11.4	13.8	12.4	9.3
	Sometimes	35.9	35.6	45.7	33.4
	Often	38.9	37.3	27.9	43.3
	Very often	13.7	13.3	13.9	14.0
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	9.1	10.3	9.6	8.0
	Sometimes	33.2	24.6	44.8	36.3
	Often	40.3	46.6	33.7	37.5
	Very often	17.4	18.6	11.9	18.1
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	6.5	4.4	6.5	8.1
	Sometimes	33.3	31.4	49.2	30.0
	Often	42.6	48.2	36.3	40.1
	Very often	17.6	16.0	8.0	21.8
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	4.5	3.5	5.6	5.0
	Sometimes	31.7	29.9	33.0	32.6
	Often	38.9	40.8	37.2	37.9
	Very often	24.9	25.8	24.2	24.4

<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	19.2	22.3	17.8	17.2
	Sometimes	40.3	50.0	44.0	31.7
	Often	27.5	22.2	27.3	31.7
	Very often	12.9	5.4	10.9	19.4
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	34.1	44.9	28.0	27.5
	Sometimes	38.9	37.4	38.4	40.3
	Often	20.2	14.9	24.7	23.0
	Very often	6.8	2.8	8.9	9.2
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	38.0	40.7	42.4	34.6
	Sometimes	39.8	40.2	37.9	40.1
	Often	18.8	17.2	15.5	21.1
	Very often	3.3	1.9	4.2	4.1

<b>Learning Strategies</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	9.7	12.4	23.1	3.7
	Sometimes	35.1	35.3	39.4	33.6
	Often	40.8	37.3	32.3	46.0
	Very often	14.4	15.0	5.2	16.6
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	6.8	6.8	8.4	6.3
	Sometimes	34.4	32.0	39.6	34.8
	Often	35.9	38.5	37.8	33.3
	Very often	22.9	22.7	14.2	25.6
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	10.3	10.0	12.9	9.8
	Sometimes	40.1	39.2	46.3	39.0
	Often	36.3	38.0	30.4	36.6
	Very often	13.3	12.8	10.4	14.5

<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	25.2	32.7	18.6	21.4
	Sometimes	44.3	43.6	38.8	46.6
	Often	21.1	18.1	28.4	21.2
	Very often	9.4	5.6	14.3	10.8
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	17.2	20.8	9.8	16.7
	Sometimes	46.1	51.1	32.9	46.3
	Often	25.1	19.5	33.7	26.8
	Very often	11.6	8.6	23.7	10.3
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	32.7	40.9	35.7	25.6
	Sometimes	34.4	35.5	29.9	34.9
	Often	23.3	20.0	21.7	26.3
	Very often	9.6	3.7	12.8	13.2
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	11.5	12.2	3.0	13.4
	Sometimes	37.1	44.3	30.3	33.6
	Often	30.6	27.4	29.7	33.3
	Very often	20.9	16.1	37.1	19.7

<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	61.3	82.8	43.8	49.8
	Sometimes	25.6	12.8	27.0	35.1
	Often	8.3	2.9	13.2	11.0
	Very often	4.8	1.5	16.0	4.1
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	78.7	85.0	70.2	76.4
	Sometimes	14.6	11.1	19.0	16.1
	Often	4.7	2.9	8.0	5.2
	Very often	1.9	1.0	2.8	2.3
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	59.1	67.5	48.3	55.9
	Sometimes	26.9	19.0	36.4	30.2
	Often	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.7
	Very often	4.3	3.9	5.7	4.2
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	56.4	67.3	45.3	51.2
	Sometimes	33.0	25.5	39.5	37.0
	Often	7.8	6.0	10.1	8.4
	Very often	2.9	1.3	5.1	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	5.9	4.1	10.1	6.1
	Some	21.8	17.0	26.8	24.1
	Quite a bit	37.4	42.5	26.6	36.6
	Very much	34.9	36.4	36.4	33.2
Taught in an organised way	Very little	4.3	2.2	9.8	4.2
	Some	28.3	22.9	28.9	32.1
	Quite a bit	35.3	40.0	28.5	33.8
	Very much	32.1	34.9	32.8	29.9
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	5.1	3.6	2.9	7.0
	Some	26.3	26.5	24.9	26.6
	Quite a bit	36.6	33.9	45.2	36.2
	Very much	31.9	36.1	27.0	30.2
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	33.2	37.8	24.7	32.2
	Some	33.6	36.2	42.2	29.0
	Quite a bit	21.4	18.1	22.0	23.6
	Very much	11.9	7.8	11.1	15.2
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	25.2	25.2	29.9	23.8
	Some	37.0	37.9	40.0	35.5
	Quite a bit	21.5	20.7	21.7	21.9
	Very much	16.4	16.2	8.5	18.8

<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	4.3	4.1	8.0	3.4
	2	9.0	8.1	7.9	10.0
	3	13.8	16.2	12.7	12.3
	4	19.0	18.1	22.1	18.8
	5	22.3	23.7	17.6	22.7
	6	18.1	18.2	19.6	17.6
	7=Excellent	13.5	11.7	12.3	15.2
Academic advisors	1=Poor	8.0	10.5	8.4	6.2
	2	17.5	17.2	17.2	17.8
	3	11.2	10.9	10.4	11.6
	4	22.2	21.5	17.2	24.1
	5	18.4	17.5	17.9	19.2
	6	14.4	16.4	19.9	11.4
	7=Excellent	8.3	6.0	9.0	9.7
Academic staff	1=Poor	4.5	5.5	2.8	4.2
	2	10.9	10.2	15.1	10.2
	3	12.0	12.2	11.2	12.0
	4	19.3	16.0	18.8	21.8
	5	23.4	27.4	22.4	20.6
	6	19.6	21.0	18.9	18.7
	7=Excellent	10.4	7.6	10.8	12.4

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	9.9	9.2	12.9	9.6
	2	11.2	13.5	7.5	10.8
	3	11.0	15.9	8.0	8.5
	4	15.6	16.2	20.4	13.7
	5	17.3	19.1	14.8	16.7
	6	19.1	16.2	14.5	22.6
	7=Excellent	15.8	9.8	22.0	18.1
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	12.2	11.0	20.3	10.7
	2	14.0	13.3	12.5	15.0
	3	10.3	11.6	10.6	9.3
	4	19.1	18.4	14.5	21.0
	5	16.3	20.8	22.2	11.3
	6	17.9	17.3	11.6	20.1
	7=Excellent	10.2	7.6	8.2	12.7

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	10.4	7.6	12.6	11.8
	Some	28.4	30.8	27.0	27.0
	Quite a bit	36.2	35.6	29.9	38.6
	Very much	25.0	26.0	30.5	22.6
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	16.7	13.6	12.8	20.3
	Some	26.8	25.2	30.8	26.9
	Quite a bit	31.9	35.9	22.8	31.6
	Very much	24.6	25.4	33.5	21.2
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	29.0	28.1	26.3	30.5
	Some	32.6	29.8	34.1	34.2
	Quite a bit	27.0	28.3	25.7	26.3
	Very much	11.5	13.8	14.0	9.0
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	26.6	25.0	20.1	29.7
	Some	32.7	30.8	37.2	32.8
	Quite a bit	27.9	31.6	21.9	26.9
	Very much	12.8	12.6	20.9	10.6
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	14.6	12.7	11.7	16.8
	Some	25.8	25.4	26.6	26.0
	Quite a bit	34.8	38.5	30.3	33.3
	Very much	24.8	23.4	31.4	23.9
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	44.8	44.2	50.6	43.5
	Some	31.1	34.1	26.8	30.0
	Quite a bit	16.9	15.4	11.7	19.7
	Very much	7.2	6.3	10.9	6.8
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	46.4	49.7	34.8	47.4
	Some	27.0	26.4	28.6	26.9
	Quite a bit	17.0	15.3	20.9	17.2
	Very much	9.6	8.6	15.7	8.5
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	42.7	44.7	37.7	42.8
	Some	31.0	29.3	28.0	33.1
	Quite a bit	17.6	16.3	24.2	16.7
	Very much	8.7	9.7	10.2	7.4

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	9.0	10.5	9.8	7.6
	Sometimes	41.4	42.0	47.9	39.0
	Often	29.6	27.6	21.0	33.6
	Very often	20.1	20.0	21.3	19.9
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	33.3	40.9	28.2	29.1
	Sometimes	46.7	45.4	43.2	48.8
	Often	14.0	9.2	17.2	16.7
	Very often	5.9	4.5	11.4	5.4
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	26.5	34.8	9.6	25.1
	Sometimes	42.0	43.4	39.2	41.7
	Often	21.3	13.0	31.5	24.6
	Very often	10.2	8.8	19.7	8.5
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	6.0	8.2	12.8	2.3
	Sometimes	28.1	27.8	30.5	27.6
	Often	39.5	42.2	33.3	39.3
	Very often	26.4	21.8	23.4	30.8
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	17.3	18.9	22.5	14.6
	Sometimes	37.2	39.8	33.4	36.3
	Often	30.1	23.8	29.5	35.2
	Very often	15.3	17.6	14.6	13.9
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	41.6	46.4	35.4	39.8
	Sometimes	23.3	19.0	27.3	25.5
	Often	18.3	18.6	19.9	17.7
	Very often	16.7	16.1	17.4	17.0
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	34.7	39.5	34.3	31.2
	Sometimes	30.7	29.5	32.2	31.2
	Often	24.4	22.3	26.1	25.5
	Very often	10.1	8.7	7.4	12.1
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	19.5	22.6	32.0	13.3
	Sometimes	39.3	34.7	42.3	41.9
	Often	29.4	29.5	18.3	32.6
	Very often	11.9	13.3	7.5	12.1
Memorising course material	Very little	24.0	16.5	27.7	28.7
	Some	39.7	33.8	42.8	43.4
	Quite a bit	26.8	36.9	17.4	21.9
	Very much	9.4	12.8	12.2	6.0
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	33.9	49.1	28.0	24.0
	Do not plan to do	26.1	20.2	41.0	26.2
	Plan to do	31.3	29.9	13.0	37.8
	Done or in progress	8.7	0.7	18.0	11.9
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	35.1	37.8	38.7	32.1
	Do not plan to do	28.6	20.4	36.9	32.4
	Plan to do	28.7	37.1	10.6	27.8
	Done or in progress	7.5	4.7	13.8	7.8
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	8.0	11.0	7.3	6.0
	Some	28.9	31.4	26.4	27.7
	Quite a bit	44.7	47.7	44.3	42.6
	Very much	18.4	9.9	22.0	23.6

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	13.5	13.0	12.4	14.2
	Some	24.7	28.3	21.6	22.9
	Quite a bit	37.6	37.4	35.1	38.5
	Very much	24.2	21.3	30.9	24.4
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	19.5	19.9	15.1	20.5
	Some	30.3	33.5	21.8	30.5
	Quite a bit	34.0	32.8	37.7	33.7
	Very much	16.2	13.7	25.3	15.3
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	5.4	5.6	6.5	5.0
	Some	24.5	31.1	16.3	21.9
	Quite a bit	39.4	37.2	44.0	39.7
	Very much	30.7	26.1	33.2	33.5
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	14.8	14.7	8.8	16.7
	Some	30.0	36.0	33.5	24.4
	Quite a bit	32.5	35.4	27.9	31.7
	Very much	22.7	13.9	29.7	27.2
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	13.4	19.4	11.7	9.4
	Some	27.0	31.8	30.0	22.4
	Quite a bit	34.3	27.1	30.1	41.1
	Very much	25.3	21.7	28.2	27.2
Working effectively with others	Very little	11.5	9.8	8.2	13.8
	Some	29.2	34.8	15.1	29.1
	Quite a bit	35.7	36.3	36.8	34.9
	Very much	23.6	19.0	39.8	22.2
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	13.6	17.8	16.8	9.4
	Some	32.6	35.8	30.7	30.7
	Quite a bit	35.3	33.6	34.9	36.8
	Very much	18.5	12.9	17.6	23.1
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	30.1	30.9	26.0	30.7
	Some	31.5	32.1	31.8	31.0
	Quite a bit	26.4	27.9	23.0	26.4
	Very much	12.0	9.1	19.2	11.9
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	5.7	3.5	5.9	7.3
	Fair	24.2	24.3	20.5	25.2
	Good	44.5	44.0	45.2	44.7
	Excellent	25.6	28.2	28.4	22.8
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	4.4	2.1	9.0	4.8
	Probably no	14.3	10.2	15.3	17.0
	Probably yes	43.5	39.8	42.3	46.5
	Definitely yes	37.9	47.9	33.3	31.6