

StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

Institution name: University College Cork

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 registrar@ucc.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	35.21
Reflective and Integrative Learning	30.43
Quantitative Reasoning	18.16
Learning Strategies	31.57
Collaborative Learning	19.25
Student-Faculty Interaction	8.11
Effective Teaching Practices	30.83
Quality of Interactions	28.52
Supportive Environment	23.32

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	9.1	9.6	7.8	9.1
	Some	28.0	29.3	28.5	24.5
	Quite a bit	37.9	36.5	36.9	42.1
	Very much	25.0	24.6	26.9	24.4
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	11.5	14.3	9.2	7.3
	Some	30.1	31.2	31.5	26.5
	Quite a bit	37.5	34.9	39.5	41.1
	Very much	20.9	19.6	19.8	25.0
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	10.6	14.0	7.4	5.8
	Some	29.5	32.2	28.3	24.7
	Quite a bit	38.5	34.5	43.3	42.8
	Very much	21.4	19.3	20.9	26.7
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.5	6.8	4.0	4.2
	Some	25.8	26.4	29.1	21.3
	Quite a bit	43.5	42.2	42.5	47.4
	Very much	25.2	24.7	24.4	27.1

Reflective and Integrative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Combined ideas from different subjects / modules when completing assignments	Never	9.6	13.4	5.7	4.8
	Sometimes	37.0	40.3	34.5	31.8
	Often	35.2	31.5	37.7	41.2
	Very often	18.3	14.9	22.1	22.2
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	15.7	18.2	14.0	11.7
	Sometimes	37.8	40.5	38.1	31.7
	Often	30.3	27.3	31.8	35.5
	Very often	16.2	14.0	16.2	21.1
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments	Never	34.5	40.2	28.6	27.3
	Sometimes	33.0	30.9	35.4	35.2
	Often	20.8	18.2	25.0	22.9
	Very often	11.7	10.7	11.0	14.6
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	14.1	17.8	13.3	6.6
	Sometimes	39.8	43.1	37.9	34.4
	Often	32.9	28.7	33.8	41.3
	Very often	13.2	10.5	15.0	17.7
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	11.8	15.6	9.0	6.1
	Sometimes	37.3	38.4	37.6	34.6
	Often	33.5	30.1	37.2	37.7
	Very often	17.3	15.8	16.3	21.6
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	5.3	5.9	6.2	2.9
	Sometimes	34.3	34.1	39.5	29.6
	Often	41.8	41.4	38.7	45.8
	Very often	18.7	18.6	15.7	21.7
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	4.0	5.6	3.1	1.3
	Sometimes	30.8	33.9	31.9	23.0
	Often	41.8	41.1	41.4	43.8
	Very often	23.4	19.4	23.6	31.8

Quantitative Reasoning	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	33.0	34.4	31.3	31.5
	Sometimes	38.3	40.5	34.1	37.5
	Often	18.9	17.1	23.3	18.5
	Very often	9.8	8.0	11.3	12.5
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	39.1	40.5	36.2	38.7
	Sometimes	34.5	36.4	31.1	33.2
	Often	17.7	15.2	22.7	18.5
	Very often	8.8	7.9	10.0	9.6
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	47.2	50.5	40.9	45.8
	Sometimes	35.5	33.3	38.6	37.5
	Often	13.6	12.3	17.4	12.9
	Very often	3.7	3.8	3.1	3.8

Learning Strategies	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	9.1	12.1	8.2	3.2
	Sometimes	38.0	43.1	37.4	26.8
	Often	36.3	32.0	38.8	43.8
	Very often	16.6	12.8	15.5	26.1
Reviewed your notes after class	Never	8.5	7.6	10.2	8.6
	Sometimes	34.5	35.3	33.7	33.2
	Often	37.8	37.4	41.8	35.1
	Very often	19.2	19.7	14.2	23.1
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	Never	12.4	13.2	12.4	10.6
	Sometimes	41.5	42.7	42.6	37.9
	Often	32.6	30.4	34.0	36.2
	Very often	13.5	13.7	11.0	15.4

Collaborative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	33.4	35.7	25.7	35.5
	Sometimes	38.4	37.4	40.3	38.9
	Often	18.6	18.3	21.9	16.3
	Very often	9.6	8.6	12.1	9.4
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	30.5	36.5	18.5	28.5
	Sometimes	41.2	39.5	41.9	44.2
	Often	19.0	15.5	27.5	18.9
	Very often	9.3	8.5	12.1	8.4
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	43.6	48.6	32.2	43.1
	Sometimes	32.2	29.5	39.0	31.7
	Often	15.7	14.7	17.2	16.6
	Very often	8.5	7.1	11.6	8.6
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	38.3	42.0	35.9	32.2
	Sometimes	36.2	38.6	32.8	34.1
	Often	17.2	13.9	20.5	21.6
	Very often	8.3	5.5	10.8	12.1

Student-Faculty Interaction	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	70.5	79.1	58.5	62.6
	Sometimes	21.2	15.1	29.2	27.1
	Often	5.7	3.3	9.3	7.5
	Very often	2.7	2.4	3.1	2.8
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	79.1	82.7	72.8	77.0
	Sometimes	13.6	11.5	16.1	15.8
	Often	5.1	3.8	8.5	4.8
	Very often	2.2	2.0	2.5	2.5
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of class	Never	63.5	70.8	54.7	55.4
	Sometimes	25.8	20.7	33.0	30.4
	Often	7.4	5.5	9.7	9.6
	Very often	3.3	3.0	2.5	4.7
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	61.9	70.1	55.0	50.1
	Sometimes	29.2	24.6	34.8	34.3
	Often	6.0	3.2	8.1	10.6
	Very often	2.9	2.2	2.1	5.0

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	6.3	6.4	6.5	5.9
	Some	24.7	25.1	26.9	21.9
	Quite a bit	38.7	37.9	41.6	37.8
	Very much	30.3	30.6	25.1	34.4
Taught in an organised way	Very little	4.8	4.3	6.1	4.8
	Some	23.6	23.2	29.5	18.9
	Quite a bit	45.6	46.9	45.0	43.2
	Very much	26.0	25.6	19.4	33.2
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	6.8	6.1	8.6	6.7
	Some	25.0	22.3	29.1	27.0
	Quite a bit	39.6	40.5	40.0	37.3
	Very much	28.6	31.1	22.3	29.0
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	44.1	47.7	42.5	37.7
	Some	32.3	31.3	31.6	35.0
	Quite a bit	16.8	14.5	20.2	18.7
	Very much	6.8	6.5	5.7	8.6
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Very little	33.3	33.7	39.2	26.8
	Some	34.4	36.9	34.1	29.0
	Quite a bit	20.3	17.7	18.9	27.2
	Very much	12.1	11.7	7.8	17.0

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	12.1	13.4	8.7	12.5
	2	13.4	16.1	9.5	11.0
	3	14.2	14.9	11.3	15.4
	4	19.2	18.8	19.6	19.5
	5	17.6	15.1	20.0	20.9
	6	14.9	15.2	19.2	10.1
	7=Excellent	8.6	6.5	11.7	10.6
Academic advisors	1=Poor	12.3	13.3	11.2	10.9
	2	16.6	18.2	16.4	13.1
	3	18.0	17.5	21.1	16.4
	4	17.6	19.5	16.7	14.4
	5	16.8	14.8	16.1	21.6
	6	11.9	10.9	12.2	13.9
	7=Excellent	6.8	5.8	6.3	9.6
Academic staff	1=Poor	6.2	6.3	5.8	6.5
	2	11.0	11.9	10.7	9.5
	3	15.5	14.6	20.7	12.6
	4	21.0	22.5	19.1	19.4
	5	20.9	19.8	22.0	22.3
	6	16.4	16.1	17.1	16.2
	7=Excellent	9.0	8.8	4.7	13.5

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	16.3	14.8	17.4	18.5
	2	14.3	16.0	10.5	14.4
	3	14.5	13.4	18.4	13.3
	4	19.0	19.0	21.3	16.4
	5	15.4	15.4	13.9	17.0
	6	13.3	13.3	12.0	14.9
	7=Excellent	7.2	8.2	6.5	5.5
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	17.4	18.3	14.2	18.9
	2	13.6	13.8	12.6	14.3
	3	13.3	14.6	13.4	10.9
	4	18.1	15.5	22.6	19.1
	5	14.2	12.7	17.5	14.1
	6	14.0	13.6	14.4	14.4
	7=Excellent	9.3	11.6	5.3	8.5

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	10.9	9.0	10.8	15.2
	Some	35.1	33.0	42.5	32.8
	Quite a bit	37.2	38.0	33.4	39.1
	Very much	16.8	20.0	13.3	12.9
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	20.1	17.5	20.6	25.2
	Some	31.5	30.4	35.0	30.7
	Quite a bit	31.9	32.3	30.7	32.2
	Very much	16.5	19.8	13.7	11.9
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Very little	33.9	32.4	31.5	39.4
	Some	33.5	33.6	38.6	28.6
	Quite a bit	21.7	21.8	20.9	22.4
	Very much	10.9	12.2	9.0	9.6
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	32.5	31.6	25.6	40.7
	Some	35.3	35.2	36.6	34.4
	Quite a bit	22.4	22.8	26.1	18.1
	Very much	9.8	10.4	11.7	6.8
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	22.0	19.7	23.5	25.6
	Some	33.8	33.8	31.0	36.7
	Quite a bit	29.1	29.5	31.7	25.6
	Very much	15.1	17.0	13.8	12.1
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	51.3	48.8	52.9	55.4
	Some	29.5	31.0	27.7	27.9
	Quite a bit	13.7	13.8	14.2	13.0
	Very much	5.5	6.4	5.3	3.7
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	45.2	48.5	29.6	52.2
	Some	26.4	24.2	32.0	25.9
	Quite a bit	20.4	19.8	28.6	14.0
	Very much	8.1	7.5	9.7	7.9
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	Very little	29.5	27.2	28.1	36.0
	Some	34.7	34.3	37.7	32.9
	Quite a bit	25.9	28.3	24.2	22.1
	Very much	9.9	10.3	10.0	9.0

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	12.1	14.5	13.5	5.6
	Sometimes	44.2	47.9	44.3	35.8
	Often	26.1	24.1	24.6	32.0
	Very often	17.6	13.6	17.6	26.7
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	Never	33.0	33.7	25.4	38.6
	Sometimes	45.0	44.2	48.4	43.4
	Often	14.6	14.7	16.5	12.7
	Very often	7.4	7.4	9.7	5.3
Made a presentation in class or online	Never	49.1	64.1	27.3	36.9
	Sometimes	30.8	23.8	44.0	33.6
	Often	13.6	8.8	19.5	18.6
	Very often	6.5	3.3	9.3	10.8
Improved knowledge and skills that will contribute to your employability	Never	12.3	15.1	11.6	6.8
	Sometimes	35.8	39.5	35.7	27.7
	Often	34.6	32.3	34.6	39.8
	Very often	17.3	13.2	18.1	25.8
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	34.1	43.4	31.1	16.2
	Sometimes	33.4	31.2	34.6	37.1
	Often	21.3	16.8	25.1	27.9
	Very often	11.2	8.6	9.1	18.8
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	Never	26.1	27.6	20.1	28.3
	Sometimes	29.5	27.6	33.5	29.8
	Often	22.6	23.2	23.9	20.0
	Very often	21.8	21.5	22.5	21.8
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	56.7	66.9	54.4	36.3
	Sometimes	20.1	18.3	19.0	25.3
	Often	13.9	9.2	15.9	22.6
	Very often	9.2	5.6	10.7	15.8
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	26.0	22.0	35.8	25.7
	Sometimes	38.7	40.1	36.8	37.6
	Often	26.1	27.8	20.4	27.9
	Very often	9.1	10.2	7.0	8.9
Memorising course material	Very little	23.8	16.2	26.5	38.2
	Some	36.4	37.5	34.9	35.3
	Quite a bit	25.5	27.8	27.2	18.6
	Very much	14.3	18.4	11.4	7.9
Work with academic staff on a research project	Have not decided	36.9	50.9	16.5	24.7
	Do not plan to do	23.3	16.7	39.5	23.2
	Plan to do	26.9	30.0	10.9	34.7
	Done or in progress	12.9	2.4	33.1	17.4
Community service or volunteer work	Have not decided	31.1	36.0	21.7	29.1
	Do not plan to do	20.1	9.2	33.3	32.4
	Plan to do	33.2	46.3	17.0	18.9
	Done or in progress	15.6	8.5	28.0	19.7
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	Very little	7.6	7.7	6.4	8.5
	Some	27.7	29.7	25.8	24.8
	Quite a bit	44.4	42.7	44.8	47.9
	Very much	20.4	19.9	23.1	18.8

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	15.6	21.4	7.2	10.6
	Some	28.1	31.5	25.8	23.1
	Quite a bit	32.7	29.7	38.0	34.5
	Very much	23.5	17.5	29.0	31.8
Speaking clearly and effectively	Very little	27.8	38.1	12.3	19.3
	Some	30.2	28.8	33.0	30.7
	Quite a bit	28.0	22.2	35.4	34.1
	Very much	14.0	10.8	19.3	15.9
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	6.3	8.9	1.8	4.4
	Some	23.6	26.7	21.2	18.9
	Quite a bit	38.1	37.6	38.3	39.0
	Very much	32.1	26.7	38.8	37.7
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	28.1	29.6	22.2	30.2
	Some	29.9	30.4	28.8	29.8
	Quite a bit	26.7	26.3	27.8	26.5
	Very much	15.4	13.8	21.3	13.5
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	19.6	23.3	16.6	14.3
	Some	30.4	32.2	29.2	27.5
	Quite a bit	30.0	27.7	30.2	34.9
	Very much	20.0	16.8	23.9	23.4
Working effectively with others	Very little	24.2	31.7	10.6	20.6
	Some	30.7	33.8	27.0	27.4
	Quite a bit	28.8	22.8	37.6	34.0
	Very much	16.2	11.7	24.8	18.1
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	16.6	19.8	13.1	12.9
	Some	33.6	37.1	30.0	29.1
	Quite a bit	32.6	27.7	34.7	41.2
	Very much	17.2	15.4	22.1	16.8
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	24.7	27.1	18.6	25.1
	Some	30.6	33.3	28.3	26.8
	Quite a bit	30.0	26.9	35.3	31.7
	Very much	14.7	12.6	17.9	16.4
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	6.5	8.1	4.2	5.1
	Fair	25.6	29.9	17.7	23.4
	Good	44.0	41.3	49.0	45.6
	Excellent	23.9	20.8	29.2	25.9
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	2.5	1.9	1.7	4.5
	Probably no	8.6	7.0	11.2	10.0
	Probably yes	42.8	41.7	43.9	44.1
	Definitely yes	46.1	49.4	43.2	41.3