

StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement)

Institution name: University of Limerick

Results of StudentSurvey.ie 2022

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 2022.

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 provost@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	35.4
Reflective and Integrative Learning	32.2
Quantitative Reasoning	20.4
Learning Strategies	32.5
Collaborative Learning	30.1
Student-Faculty Interaction	11.9
Effective Teaching Practices	32.5
Quality of Interactions	36.3
Supportive Environment	29.7
Learning, Creative and Social Skills	32.8

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	6.8	9.0	6.4	4.5
	Some	29.5	29.6	29.4	29.5
	Quite a bit	38.7	39.6	38.8	37.6
	Very much	25.0	21.8	25.4	28.4
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Very little	9.2	11.2	7.1	8.1
	Some	32.4	36.9	30.7	28.2
	Quite a bit	38.7	36.1	41.3	40.2
	Very much	19.7	15.8	20.8	23.5
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Very little	9.7	14.4	7.9	5.6
	Some	29.3	33.1	30.1	24.5
	Quite a bit	40.9	39.5	40.4	42.8
	Very much	20.0	13.0	21.7	27.1
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	Very little	5.1	6.6	4.1	4.0
	Some	27.0	31.4	30.7	19.8
	Quite a bit	45.4	42.2	47.9	47.6
	Very much	22.4	19.8	17.2	28.6

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	5.0	6.7	3.4	3.9
	Sometimes	35.0	41.1	35.6	26.7
	Often	40.4	37.2	40.2	44.8
	Very often	19.6	15.1	20.9	24.5
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	Never	16.7	23.3	14.2	9.8
	Sometimes	36.0	39.6	40.0	28.5
	Often	31.8	26.5	30.5	39.5
	Very often	15.6	10.6	15.4	22.2
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial, ethnic, gender, etc.) in discussions or assignments*	Never	32.5	39.9	32.8	22.8
	Sometimes	36.0	34.4	36.1	38.1
	Often	22.0	18.4	20.5	27.9
	Very often	9.4	7.4	10.6	11.3
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	Never	9.8	12.5	10.6	5.6
	Sometimes	37.4	41.5	40.1	30.2
	Often	39.7	35.2	37.3	47.0
	Very often	13.2	10.8	12.0	17.2
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective	Never	7.1	9.5	6.1	4.7
	Sometimes	37.1	39.3	37.9	33.6
	Often	40.2	38.2	39.3	43.4
	Very often	15.6	13.0	16.7	18.3
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	Never	3.2	3.9	3.6	1.9
	Sometimes	32.0	39.1	30.9	23.5
	Often	45.0	40.6	48.2	48.8
	Very often	19.8	16.4	17.3	25.9
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences and knowledge	Never	2.9	4.1	2.9	1.3
	Sometimes	26.4	34.7	28.4	14.1
	Often	42.1	39.8	44.3	43.7
	Very often	28.6	21.3	24.4	40.9

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	25.4	26.8	22.9	25.4
	Sometimes	38.9	40.0	34.3	40.5
	Often	24.6	24.3	29.7	22.0
	Very often	11.0	9.0	13.1	12.1
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	Never	36.9	41.2	35.8	32.4
	Sometimes	38.4	39.1	35.0	39.5
	Often	17.4	14.2	20.7	19.2
	Very often	7.3	5.5	8.5	8.9
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	Never	37.6	42.2	36.1	33.0
	Sometimes	40.2	41.2	37.7	40.5
	Often	17.6	13.9	19.7	20.7
	Very often	4.6	2.7	6.4	5.7

Learning Strategies	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	Never	8.3	11.6	10.1	3.3
	Sometimes	35.6	42.3	38.5	25.8
	Often	37.5	33.1	34.7	44.5
	Very often	18.6	13.0	16.7	26.4
Reviewed your notes after class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	6.1	5.8	8.9	4.7
	Sometimes	36.3	39.6	36.0	32.6
	Often	40.1	38.1	38.8	43.4
	Very often	17.5	16.5	16.3	19.4
Summarised what you learned in class, tutorials, labs or studios, or from course materials*	Never	9.6	10.4	10.4	8.3
	Sometimes	42.0	45.4	41.4	38.3
	Often	34.8	32.4	32.1	39.2
	Very often	13.6	11.8	16.1	14.2

Collaborative Learning	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked another student to help you understand course material	Never	15.7	14.8	14.7	17.7
	Sometimes	43.5	43.8	39.3	46.0
	Often	27.9	29.8	29.6	24.4
	Very often	12.8	11.6	16.4	11.8
Explained course material to one or more students	Never	10.5	9.6	9.2	12.6
	Sometimes	42.3	44.8	38.4	41.7
	Often	31.5	31.0	32.1	31.6
	Very often	15.7	14.6	20.3	14.1
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	Never	22.0	20.9	18.1	26.1
	Sometimes	34.3	38.3	30.9	31.3
	Often	27.6	27.7	27.9	27.2
	Very often	16.1	13.1	23.1	15.4
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	Never	10.0	9.6	6.7	12.7
	Sometimes	30.4	33.9	26.6	28.3
	Often	34.7	37.1	33.3	32.5
	Very often	25.0	19.5	33.5	26.5

Student-Faculty Interaction	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Talked about career plans with academic staff	Never	59.5	67.1	50.0	56.3
	Sometimes	27.8	23.4	34.3	28.9
	Often	8.7	7.3	10.2	9.4
	Very often	4.0	2.2	5.5	5.3
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Never	73.4	76.4	69.7	72.1
	Sometimes	18.0	16.7	17.8	19.6
	Often	6.3	5.6	8.5	5.8
	Very often	2.3	1.4	4.0	2.5
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside of scheduled class, tutorials, labs or studios*	Never	45.6	54.1	44.1	36.5
	Sometimes	35.8	32.0	33.9	41.5
	Often	13.6	11.0	15.9	15.4
	Very often	4.9	2.9	6.2	6.6
Discussed your performance with academic staff	Never	51.6	58.6	48.6	45.3
	Sometimes	34.3	33.3	34.5	35.5
	Often	10.9	6.3	12.0	15.6
	Very often	3.1	1.8	4.9	3.7

Effective Teaching Practices	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	Very little	6.4	6.9	6.5	5.8
	Some	26.5	29.4	28.5	22.0
	Quite a bit	37.0	37.4	38.1	35.8
	Very much	30.1	26.3	26.9	36.4
Taught in an organised way	Very little	4.6	3.2	5.9	5.5
	Some	27.9	31.1	29.7	23.1
	Quite a bit	38.4	42.3	36.4	35.2
	Very much	29.0	23.3	28.0	36.2
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	Very little	7.6	8.4	5.3	8.2
	Some	26.9	29.5	27.5	23.7
	Quite a bit	39.1	39.4	42.0	37.2
	Very much	26.3	22.8	25.3	30.9
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	Very little	31.9	32.5	35.1	29.3
	Some	34.3	36.5	34.1	32.0
	Quite a bit	21.9	21.0	19.8	24.2
	Very much	11.9	10.0	11.1	14.6
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assessments*	Very little	22.1	23.8	27.2	17.2
	Some	38.0	40.2	39.3	34.8
	Quite a bit	25.6	24.3	22.8	28.9
	Very much	14.2	11.6	10.7	19.1

Quality of Interactions	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Students	1=Poor	1.8	2.4	1.1	1.5
	2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.3
	3	5.8	5.9	7.2	4.8
	4	11.7	11.4	11.8	12.0
	5	20.6	21.4	18.8	20.7
	6	29.4	27.8	30.9	30.4
	7=Excellent	28.3	28.5	27.6	28.4
Academic advisors	1=Poor	8.6	7.1	13.8	6.7
	2	11.7	12.5	14.7	8.6
	3	11.7	13.4	13.3	8.8
	4	16.9	19.4	13.7	16.2
	5	19.5	22.1	17.9	17.7
	6	19.4	18.2	15.6	23.6
	7=Excellent	12.1	7.4	11.0	18.5
Academic staff	1=Poor	2.2	1.8	2.5	2.6
	2	5.6	6.8	5.4	4.5
	3	9.6	10.6	11.0	7.7
	4	18.0	20.1	20.9	13.9
	5	25.2	27.5	26.6	21.7
	6	24.8	22.5	20.9	29.8
	7=Excellent	14.5	10.7	12.7	19.8

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	7.6	4.8	10.6	9.2
	2	11.5	11.9	14.0	9.2
	3	11.4	12.9	11.9	8.9
	4	20.8	21.2	21.4	19.7
	5	18.8	20.6	21.4	14.3
	6	20.1	21.5	13.1	23.3
	7=Excellent	9.8	7.1	7.6	15.3
Other administrative staff and offices (registry, finance, etc.)	1=Poor	6.4	5.7	10.7	4.3
	2	11.8	11.4	13.2	11.4
	3	13.1	12.5	14.5	13.0
	4	19.9	23.0	20.9	15.4
	5	20.4	21.2	18.7	20.5
	6	17.6	16.1	13.1	22.3
	7=Excellent	10.8	10.0	8.9	13.0

Supportive Environment	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Providing support to help students succeed academically	Very little	8.5	6.1	9.2	10.8
	Some	28.5	26.2	33.6	27.9
	Quite a bit	41.2	43.9	39.5	39.2
	Very much	21.8	23.7	17.8	22.1
Using learning support services (learning centre, computer centre, maths support, writing support etc.)	Very little	10.8	8.9	9.3	13.8
	Some	22.9	19.6	28.0	23.6
	Quite a bit	35.4	37.7	35.8	32.6
	Very much	30.9	33.8	26.9	30.1
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial, ethnic, religious, age-groups etc.)*	Very little	22.6	20.4	25.7	23.2
	Some	36.0	37.2	38.1	33.6
	Quite a bit	27.9	30.5	26.0	26.2
	Very much	13.4	11.9	10.2	17.0
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Very little	16.5	13.7	12.8	21.8
	Some	29.9	30.2	33.3	27.4
	Quite a bit	34.9	36.1	34.6	33.6
	Very much	18.8	20.0	19.2	17.2
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counselling, etc.)	Very little	14.4	13.4	12.6	16.5
	Some	29.8	28.3	34.6	28.7
	Quite a bit	36.2	38.7	35.9	33.5
	Very much	19.6	19.6	16.9	21.3
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	Very little	42.8	44.6	46.5	38.5
	Some	34.5	32.9	35.3	35.7
	Quite a bit	16.5	17.4	13.4	17.2
	Very much	6.3	5.1	4.8	8.5
Attending campus activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.)	Very little	19.4	13.5	19.2	26.0
	Some	32.1	33.0	35.0	29.4
	Quite a bit	32.9	36.3	31.7	29.9
	Very much	15.6	17.2	14.0	14.7
Attending activities and events (special speakers, cultural performances, sporting events, etc.) organised by your institution*	Very little	18.1	13.9	20.2	21.4
	Some	32.1	30.6	37.0	30.8
	Quite a bit	35.0	39.1	30.2	33.4
	Very much	14.8	16.3	12.5	14.4

Learning, Creative and Social Skills	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	9.7	15.9	5.7	5.3
	Some	27.7	31.8	25.2	24.6
	Quite a bit	38.9	36.9	42.3	39.1
	Very much	23.7	15.4	26.9	31.1
Speaking effectively*	Very little	19.1	25.4	13.4	15.5
	Some	32.8	33.9	31.4	32.3
	Quite a bit	31.2	28.0	36.8	31.4
	Very much	16.9	12.7	18.4	20.8
Thinking critically and analytically	Very little	4.8	6.7	2.4	4.1
	Some	19.7	22.6	16.8	18.4
	Quite a bit	43.7	46.3	46.0	39.4
	Very much	31.8	24.4	34.9	38.2
Analysing numerical and statistical information	Very little	20.4	21.0	18.4	21.0
	Some	32.1	33.2	25.2	35.1
	Quite a bit	28.5	32.0	28.1	24.9
	Very much	18.9	13.8	28.3	19.0
Working effectively with others	Very little	8.0	8.1	6.2	8.8
	Some	27.1	25.5	23.5	31.0
	Quite a bit	40.1	42.6	42.1	36.1
	Very much	24.8	23.8	28.1	24.0
Solving complex real-world problems	Very little	13.5	16.0	12.1	11.5
	Some	33.6	35.7	33.8	31.2
	Quite a bit	33.0	33.6	31.0	33.7
	Very much	19.9	14.8	23.0	23.6
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	Very little	21.7	23.0	22.0	20.0
	Some	34.2	37.0	33.1	31.9
	Quite a bit	28.5	27.0	28.4	30.1
	Very much	15.6	13.0	16.5	18.0
Being innovative and creative Writing clearly and effectively	Very little	12.7	14.0	13.7	10.7
	Some	32.9	34.7	30.1	32.6
	Quite a bit	36.1	37.3	35.1	35.4
	Very much	18.3	14.0	21.1	21.2

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Asked questions or contributed to discussions in class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online*	Never	9.7	14.4	9.4	3.8
	Sometimes	40.9	47.8	44.7	29.4
	Often	29.9	25.0	25.7	39.2
	Very often	19.5	12.9	20.2	27.5
Attended class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online without doing the preparation expected of you (completing readings or assignments, etc.)*	Never	20.0	15.8	11.9	31.0
	Sometimes	45.1	46.5	44.2	43.9
	Often	21.4	22.2	28.2	15.8
	Very often	13.5	15.5	15.7	9.3
Made a presentation in class, tutorials, labs, studios, or online*	Never	27.8	41.1	14.5	19.2
	Sometimes	40.2	37.0	48.2	38.9
	Often	20.8	14.6	22.7	27.7
	Very often	11.2	7.2	14.5	14.2

Non-indicator items	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	Never	19.3	29.8	17.1	8.2
	Sometimes	33.0	34.9	37.9	27.6
	Often	30.7	24.6	30.2	38.3
	Very often	17.1	10.8	14.7	25.9
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Never	25.2	21.5	19.0	33.5
	Sometimes	26.8	25.7	31.5	25.3
	Often	23.1	24.4	22.2	22.2
	Very often	24.8	28.4	27.4	19.0
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	Never	31.5	47.6	23.0	17.5
	Sometimes	29.3	29.4	33.0	27.1
	Often	23.5	14.7	30.3	29.6
	Very often	15.7	8.4	13.6	25.8
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	Never	18.4	17.5	23.5	16.3
	Sometimes	41.1	44.0	44.3	35.9
	Often	29.1	29.4	22.7	32.7
	Very often	11.4	9.1	9.5	15.2
Engage in voluntary activity (whether related to your course/ institution or in your life outside your institution)*	Have not decided	28.9	32.3	28.0	25.7
	Do not plan to do	20.4	11.8	26.7	26.4
	Plan to do	28.5	39.4	18.8	22.0
	Done or in progress	22.2	16.6	26.5	25.9
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	Very little	10.9	14.4	7.4	9.2
	Some	27.3	31.5	26.6	23.0
	Quite a bit	36.2	35.1	39.0	35.9
	Very much	25.6	19.1	27.1	31.9
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Poor	3.5	2.9	4.6	3.5
	Fair	15.0	16.5	15.9	12.7
	Good	48.1	51.3	46.8	45.5
	Excellent	33.4	29.3	32.7	38.3
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Definitely no	3.9	2.4	5.4	4.6
	Probably no	10.1	8.2	13.2	10.4
	Probably yes	38.1	41.2	37.2	35.2
	Definitely yes	47.9	48.2	44.2	49.8

Withdrawal	Responses	All Students	Undergrad - Year 1	Undergrad - Final Yr	Postgrad taught
Have you ever seriously considered withdrawing from your degree programme?*	No, I have not seriously considered withdrawing	65.1	63.4	59.1	70.7
	Yes, for financial reasons	10.0	9.6	16.3	6.6
	Yes, for personal or family reasons	11.5	11.4	14.0	10.1
	Yes, for health reasons	5.1	4.3	6.7	5.0
	Yes, for employment reasons	4.6	5.5	5.4	3.1
	Yes, to transfer to another institution	6.5	8.8	6.7	3.8
	Other reason	11.0	11.9	11.5	9.9

*This question was revised for 2022

**Shows proportion of students that selected any response to the withdrawal question