

Cylchlythyr | Circular

National Student Survey 2020: Publication of Data

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To: Governing bodies and heads of regulated and/or funded institutions in Wales
Other parties with an interest in public information
Response by: No response required
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This circular provides information on the plans for the publication of the National Student Survey 2020 results.

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Introduction

1. This circular provides information on the plans for the publication of the National Student Survey 2020 results.
2. The National Student Survey (NSS) is managed by the Office for Students (OfS) on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies – the Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland), the Scottish Funding Council and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The survey provides information for prospective students and for stakeholders to support a high quality learning experience.
3. The survey is delivered on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies by:
 - Ipsos MORI, who are administering the survey
 - Texuna Technologies, who will deliver the NSS Results Portal for providers.
4. We will publish separate information in May 2020 on the publication of the Unistats dataset.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

5. Given the pressures and uncertainties that universities and colleges are facing in responding to coronavirus, the UK funding and regulatory bodies have kept the NSS under review in conjunction with Ipsos MORI. NSS fieldwork started on 6 January and continued until 30 April. Many students responded prior to the coronavirus lockdown; the UK funding and regulatory bodies wanted to offer students the opportunity to respond if they wished to do so. The UK funders and regulators will look at the data when received to assess any impact the coronavirus outbreak has had on the results and make professional judgements about its statistical reliability.

Publication of 2020 NSS data

6. The 2020 NSS data will be published on the [OfS website](#) at **0930 on Wednesday 1 July 2020**. This date is subject to change in response to the current coronavirus pandemic.
7. Providers will be able to access overall provider-level and subject-level question responses, open text comments, and all providers' NSS results at provider and subject level via the NSS Results Portal at **0930 on Wednesday 1 July 2020**.

8. The OfS applies the Code of Practice for Statistics to the publication of NSS results data. More information about the Code of Practice can be found on the OfS website¹.
9. The NSS results will no longer be presented by historical NSS subject groupings, i.e. Joint Academic Coding System (JACS), on the OfS website. From 2020 onwards, the OfS will present the public data by Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) subject groupings only. However, to minimise burden on providers and to allow providers a one-year transition until JACS is fully removed by HESA², providers will be able to see their NSS results by JACS on the NSS data dissemination portal. This will be for one year only and will be available through the 'My Organisation' internal reports on the Results portal.

NSS data dissemination portal

10. Further technical information on the NSS Results Portal release has been made available in the NSS Results Portal newsletter. This will be issued by Texuna to all active NSS contacts on the Portal in May 2020.
11. Texuna will be in touch with existing active provider contacts to request that contact details are confirmed or updated as appropriate from 1 June 2020, ahead of the publication of the NSS data on the NSS Results Portal. Ensuring that these details are up to date will help providers access the NSS Results Portal for the NSS 2020 data quickly and easily.
12. From time to time, the underlying dataset for the NSS Results Portal may be subject to minor changes and amended during the year. However, the static reports available via the Results Portal will not be updated for minor changes. Static reports should therefore be understood as capturing a snapshot of the data, correct at the time of publication.

NSS 2020 pilot data

13. Information on how providers will be able to access their pilot data will be made available separately.

Further information

14. For further information on providers' detailed results on the NSS Results Portal, contact Texuna Technologies Limited, email nss@texunatech.com.

¹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/producing-statistics/

² See www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos

15. For further information relating to the release and publication of NSS results, contact NSS team at the OfS, email nss@officeforstudents.org.uk.
16. For further queries about publication of the NSS within the Unistats dataset, contact the Discover Uni team at the OfS, email discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk.
17. For any other queries, contact Nicola Hunt (029 2085 9735; email nicola.hunt@hefcw.ac.uk).