

## Guidance

# Learner satisfaction survey 2015 to 2016: minimum sample size calculator

Updated 21 October 2015

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The learner satisfaction survey will be accessible online 24 hours a day, seven days a week between 2 November 2015 and 1 April 2016. We strongly recommend that all your learners are given the opportunity to take part.

As in previous years, you will only be able to obtain a score in the survey if the number of learners responding represents a sufficiently large sample of all the in-scope learners in your organisation during the survey period.

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The minimum number of responses that will be needed to guarantee a valid

score is based on the sample size required to give 95% confidence that the score is accurate to +/-3%. The calculator will help you to estimate this, but we urge you to aim for a sample well above this minimum figure in case of invalid or duplicate responses.

Enter the total number of in-scope learners you expect to have in the green box and the minimum required sample will appear in the yellow box.

To ensure that the minimum sample size is realistic for smaller providers we set a ceiling of 70% of in-scope learners and no provider will be required to exceed this percentage. Therefore the minimum sample size generated by the calculator is based on either the 70% rule or 3% confidence interval, whichever is the smaller.

It is important that the sample is broadly representative of your learner population in terms of age, gender and level of study. Corrective weightings are applied to ensure any bias in the sample is accounted for but this is not possible where sample skew is too large. Therefore badly skewed samples may not receive a valid score.

Some responses may be ruled invalid if they are duplicates or if the learners are not on provision funded by the Skills Funding Agency. These factors can lead to your final sample being smaller than the original number of responses submitted by your learners. Always aim for a response well above the required minimum.

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