The National Student Survey 2019

Publication of data

Reference OfS 2019.09

Enquiries to nss@officeforstudents.org.uk

Publication date 29 March 2019

Contents

Summary **3**

Publication of 2019 NSS data **4**

NSS data dissemination portal 4

Further information 5

Publication for:

- Higher education providers and further education colleges in Northern Ireland
- Higher education providers and further education colleges in England
- Higher education providers in Scotland
- Other providers in England who participate in the National Student Survey

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales will write separately to providers in Wales.

Summary

1. 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 - and Health Education England. The survey provides information for prospective students and for stakeholders to support a high-quality learning experience.

2. 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 data dissemination portal for providers.

3. This publication provides information on the plans for the publication of the 2019 National Student Survey (NSS) results.

4. The OfS will publish separate information in April 2019 on the publication of the 2019 Unistats dataset.

Publication of 2019 NSS data

5. The OfS will publish 2019 NSS data on its website at **0930** on **Wednesday 3 July 2019**.

6. Providers will be able to access overall institution-level, subject-level question responses, open text comments, and all institutions' NSS results at institutional and subject level via the NSS data dissemination portal at **0930** on **Wednesday 3 July 2019**.

7. The OfS applies the Code of Practice for Statistics to its publication of NSS results data. More information about the Code of Practice can be found on the OfS website[1].

8. The OfS will continue to present 2019 NSS results by both Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) and historical NSS subject groupings, based on the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS)[2]. Both methods will continue to be included in both our public data and the NSS data dissemination portal. This will be reviewed for 2020.

9. The UK funding and regulatory bodies are committed to making more NSS data publicly available. For this reason, the 2019 NSS result spreadsheets published on our website will each include scales as well as questions. A scale is a group of themed questions, for example 'The teaching on my course'. The percentage agree results at scale level will be made available for both the taught and registered providers, split by mode of study, at all three subject levels and at provider level.

10. In order to improve the accessibility of the NSS data, the 2019 results will also be available in a visual format on the OfS website. Alongside the Excel spreadsheets, users will be able to access the same data through visualisations produced by Tableau software. The 2018 NSS data will also be made available through Tableau on the OfS website prior to the publication of 2019 data. The OfS will review the use of Tableau in autumn 2019.

NSS data dissemination portal

11. Following feedback from providers after the publication of 2018 NSS data, there are two improvements to the dissemination portal for 2019:

    - The introduction of a static report for the student comment dataset
    - A redesign of the look and feel of the portal to improve user experience. This will include updates to portal styles, buttons, forms and general interface elements. The functionality and structure will remain the same to promote ease of use.

12. The student comment static report will contain:

    - Positive comments
    - Negative comments
    - Own question responses.

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

[2] See https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/jacs and https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos

13. Comments will be broken down by the following attributes for taught and registered providers:

    - Age
    - Disability
    - Ethnicity four-way split
    - POLAR and IMD
    - Gender
    - Course title
    - Course ID
    - Department 1
    - Department 2
    - Mode of study.

14. Further technical information on the NSS data dissemination portal release will be made available in the forthcoming NSS data dissemination portal newsletter. This will be issued by Texuna to NSS contacts in April 2019.

15. Texuna will be in touch with existing institutional contacts to request that contact details are confirmed or updated as appropriate by 31 May 2019, ahead of the publication of the NSS data on the NSS 2019 data dissemination portal. Ensuring that these details are up to date will help providers to access the dissemination portal for NSS 2019 quickly and easily.

16. From time to time, the underlying dataset for the NSS data dissemination portal may be subject to minor changes and amended during the year. However, the static reports available via the dissemination 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.

Further information

For queries relating to:	Organisation or team for first point of contact	Email address
Providers' detailed results on the NSS data dissemination portal	Texuna Technologies	nss@texunatech.com
Release and publication of NSS results	NSS team at the OfS	nss@officeforstudents.org.uk
Queries about publication of the NSS within the Unistats dataset	Unistats team at the OfS	unistats@officeforstudents.org.uk

© The Office for Students copyright 2019

This publication is available under the Open Government Licence 3.0 except where it indicates that the copyright for images or text is owned elsewhere.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/