

## Introduction

The National Student Survey is part of the quality assurance process for higher education. The survey aims to gather student feedback on the quality of their courses, to contribute to public accountability as well as to help potential higher education students make better informed choices.

Through the survey, students express their views on teaching and learning; assessment and feedback; academic support; organisation and management; learning resources; personal development; and overall satisfaction. The results of the survey are published on the Unistats website ([www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)).

Ipsos MORI carries out the survey each year on behalf of the higher education funding bodies for the UK. The survey covers mainly final year students on higher education programmes registered at universities or further education colleges in England.

This information bulletin presents the outcomes of the National Student Survey for higher education students in further education colleges<sup>1</sup>. It provides an overview of:

- students' overall satisfaction with the quality of their course
- students' perceptions of the quality of their higher education experience
- general information about students on higher education courses in further education colleges
- additional sources to help inform student choice of institution and course as well as further information on quality and standards in higher education.

## Findings from the National Student Survey

### Key



### The teaching on my course

Staff are good at explaining things



Staff have made the subject interesting



Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching



The course is intellectually stimulating



### Assessment and feedback

The criteria used in marking have been clear in advance



Assessment arrangements and marking have been fair



Feedback on my work has been prompt



I have received detailed comments on my work



Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand



### Academic support

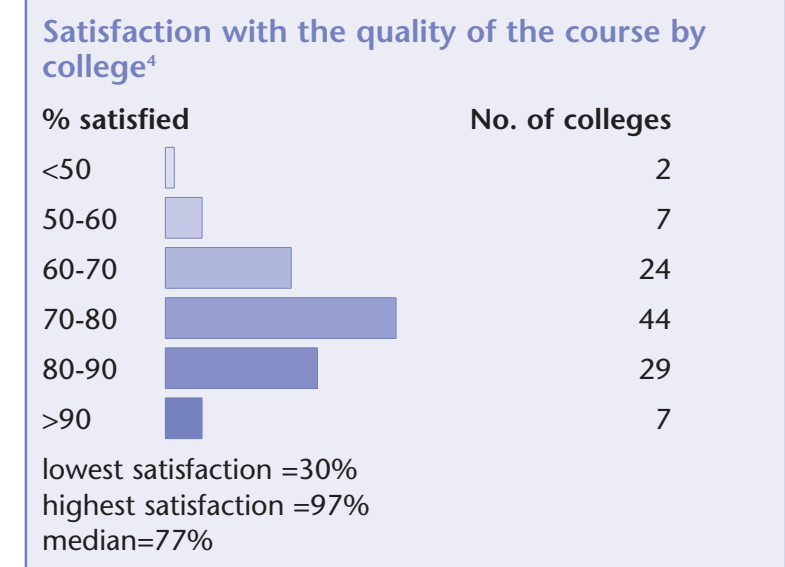
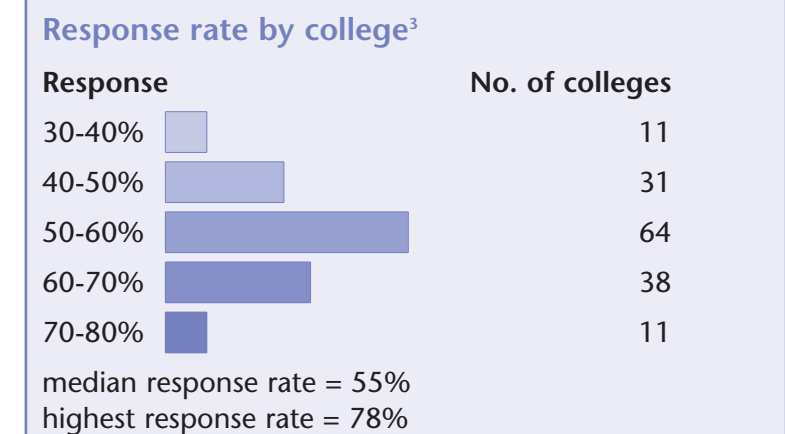
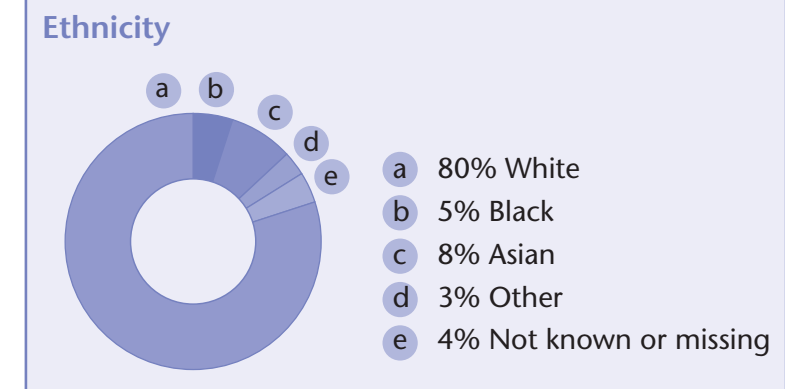
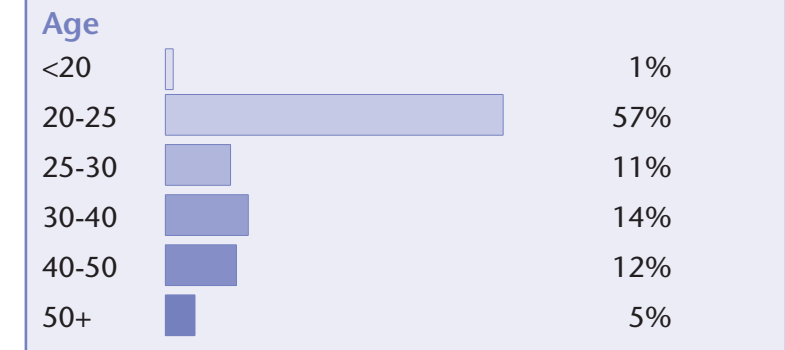
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies



I have been able to contact staff when I needed to



Good advice was available when I needed to make study choices



### Key findings

In the survey of 2008<sup>2</sup>:

- 23,366 students studying a higher education award in a further education college were included in the survey
- 269 further education colleges where higher education programmes are delivered were included in the survey, and responses were received from 261 colleges
- 76 per cent of students on higher education programmes in further education colleges who took part in the National Student Survey agreed that, overall, they were satisfied with the quality of their course
- 12,776 students on higher education programmes in further education colleges responded to the National Student Survey, giving a response rate of 55 per cent, of which:
  - 43 per cent are male and 57 per cent are female
  - 16 per cent study part time
  - 84 per cent study full time.

### Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course



<sup>1</sup> Students are regarded as in a further education college if they spend the majority of their first year at the college.

<sup>2</sup> All NHS students are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Response rates are included for colleges with 23 or more respondents.

<sup>4</sup> Response rates are included for colleges with 23 or more respondents and more than or equal to 50% response rate.

## Satisfaction by subject

Agriculture & related subject	68%
Biological sciences	79%
Business and administrative studies	80%
Computer science	78%
Creative arts and design	73%
Education	78%
Historical and philosophical studies	83%
Initial teacher training	80%
Languages	86%
Law	80%
Physical sciences	69%
Social studies	75%
Subjects allied to medicine	74%

## National Student Survey results website

The National Student Survey results website ([www.ipsos-mori.com/nss](http://www.ipsos-mori.com/nss)) provides detailed survey results, including students' comments, to help institutions and students' unions identify areas for improvement and areas of best practise. The site is aimed at participating universities, colleges and students' unions and is for internal use only. The site is produced by Ipsos MORI, on behalf of the higher education funding bodies of the UK.

For further information, contact [nss@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:nss@ipsos-mori.com)

## For further information please contact:

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education  
Southgate House  
Southgate Street  
Gloucester GL1 1UB

Tel 01452 557000  
Fax 01452 557070  
Email [comms@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:comms@qaa.ac.uk)  
Web [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)

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ISBN 978 1 84482 898 2

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Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786

**Unistats**  
from universities and colleges in the UK

**Ipsos MORI**



## Key

Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree
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## Organisation and management

The timetable works efficiently as far as my activities are concerned

73%	12%	15%
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Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively

60%	16%	24%
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The course is well organised and is running smoothly

58%	18%	24%
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## Learning resources

The library resources and services are good enough for my needs

71%	12%	17%
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I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to

75%	10%	14%
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I have been able to access specialised equipment, facilities or rooms when I needed to

64%	19%	17%
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## Personal development

The course has helped me present myself with confidence

78%	15%	7%
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My communication skills have improved

78%	16%	6%
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As a result of the course, I feel confident in tackling unfamiliar problems

76%	17%	7%
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## Unistats

The Unistats website ([www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)) was developed for HEFCE, by UCAS and Hotcourses Ltd, on behalf of the four funding bodies of the UK. The site provides official, detailed, information about universities and colleges and allows the comparison of institutions and subjects across the sector. Unistats provides information on what students thought about their experience at university or college, the quality of learning and what they did afterwards.

## Further information about teaching quality

Further information about teaching quality is available from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)) and on the Unistats website ([www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)).

# Higher education in further education colleges in England

## Outcomes of the 2008 National Student Survey

# Information bulletin 2008