



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw

Press release

Date: Wednesday, 12 September 2007

Title: Students in Wales show satisfaction with courses

The third annual National Student Survey (NSS) shows that those in higher education in Wales continue to have a high level of satisfaction with their student experience.

The 2007 NSS shows that 83 per cent of students in Wales are satisfied with their experience, which remains above the figure achieved for the UK as a whole.

This year's consistently high results also saw improved outcomes for academic support and learning resources.

The results for Wales have shown stability over the three years in which the survey has been carried out.

| Questions | | 2005 NSS | 2006 NSS | 2007 NSS |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | % agree | | |
| 1-4 | The teaching on my course | 82 | 83 | 82 |
| 5-9 | Assessment and feedback | 62 | 63 | 62 |
| 10-12 | Academic support | 72 | 73 | 74 |
| 13-15 | Organisation and management | 71 | 70 | 71 |
| 16-18 | Learning resources | 79 | 80 | 81 |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|----|----|----|
| 19-21 | Personal development | 77 | 78 | 77 |
| 22 | Overall satisfaction | 82 | 83 | 83 |

Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills said: “This is great news for Welsh Higher Education institutions and proves that UK students can be confident in the high quality teaching and the whole student experience they will get in Wales.

“Excellence of education provision is something we must all strive for and these results prove that we continue to move in the right direction”.

Amanda Wilkinson, the Director of Higher Education Wales, the representative body of Vice Chancellors and Principals in Wales, said “These results once more confirm the ongoing commitment of our higher education institutions to provide a high quality student experience and are further evidence of the significant return universities make on Assembly Government investment.

“We must not forget that sustained investment in the HE sector is essential if Welsh HEIs are to continue to attract and support local and national students while remaining globally competitive.”

Professor Philip Gummatt, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said: “Once again, the National Student Survey has confirmed, independently, the high level of satisfaction with higher education in Wales. This shows that universities and colleges in Wales take seriously their role in providing a rewarding student experience.”

Ben Gray, President of NUS Wales, said: “The National Union of Students Wales is very pleased to see that Students across the country are impressed with the quality of their education. I look forward to working with our partner organisations in maintaining this quality when faced with the rising cost of education in the years to come.”

The NSS data will be available on a new website, Unistats.com. The site will help students researching entry to higher education to compare information about different subjects and institutions.

The survey covers higher education students in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and eight Scottish universities. In 2007, students studying NHS subjects - who have been included in the survey in Wales since its inception - were also included for the whole of the UK.

Notes

Contact for further information

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The National Student Survey (NSS) - background

1. The percentages used in this press release relate to students registered with Welsh higher education institutions.
2. The results of the National Student Survey (NSS) will be available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/nss/data/2007> from midday on Wednesday, 12 September.
3. The NSS covers higher education students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Eight Scottish universities and the independent University of Buckingham also took part in the 2007 survey.
4. The NSS was carried out by Ipsos MORI. The data will be available on the Unistats web-site which is developed and maintained by UCAS and Hotcourses. The Unistats website will present the data in a form which prospective students can use to inform their choice of what and where to study.

5. Due to differences in quality assurance arrangements in different parts of the UK, some types of information are not published for all institutions. Most students who were near the end of undergraduate courses (bachelors degrees, foundation degrees, higher education certificates and diplomas) were invited to take part, with over 290,000 students being eligible to participate. Over 177,000 full-time and part-time students responded, a response rate of 60%. A very small proportion of part-time students who completed the survey may not have been in their final year.

The National Student Survey (NSS) - Unistats

Unistats will provide potential students with information that they would not be able to find elsewhere in a user-friendly, accessible format. The site will enable users to:

- Learn what over 177,000 students thought about the quality of their higher education experience
- Compare UCAS points and other information for different subjects and institutions
- Discover the achievements of recent students and the types of jobs they are doing six months after finishing

The launch of the Unistats web-site has been moved back from 12 September to enable changes to the site following user testing which was carried out as part of the design process. Changes are currently being implemented to ensure the site is fit for purpose, to support potential students in making choices about what and where to study

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is an Assembly Government Sponsored Body responsible for administering funds made available by the Welsh Assembly Government in support of:

- the provision of education in higher education institutions (HEIs);
- the undertaking of research by HEIs; and
- the provision of prescribed courses of higher education at further education institutions.

HEFCW is also responsible for accrediting providers of initial teaching training for school teachers and commissioning research to improve the standards of teachers and teacher training.

In addition to its funding responsibilities, HEFCW provides advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding needs, aspirations and concerns of the higher education sector in Wales.