

Cylchlythyr | Circular

National Student Survey 2019: Publication of data

Date: 29 March 2019
Reference: W19/06HE
To: Governing bodies and heads of regulated and/or funded institutions in Wales Student representative bodies in Wales
Other parties with an interest in public information
Response by: No response required
Contact: Name: Savanna Jones
Telephone: 029 2085 9737
Email: savanna.jones@hefcw.ac.uk

This paper provides institutions with information on accessing the results of their 2019 National Student Survey (NSS) via the dissemination portal. It also includes information on the publication of NSS data on the Unistats website. No response is required.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

Introduction

1. This paper provides institutions with information on accessing the results of their 2019 National Student Survey (NSS) via the dissemination portal. It also includes information on the publication of NSS data on the Unistats website. No response is required.

Background

2. The NSS is managed by the Office for Students (OfS) on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies, including 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 data dissemination portal for providers.
4. The OfS will publish separate information in April 2019 on the publication of the 2019 Unistats dataset.

Publication

5. The OfS will publish 2019 NSS data on its website on **09:30 on 3 July 2019**.

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 09:30 on 3 July 2019.

6. The OfS applies the Code of Practice for Statistics to its publication of NSS results data. Further information can be found on the OfS website.¹
7. The 2019 NSS results will be presented by both Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) and historical NSS groupings, based on the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS).² Both methods will continue to be included in the OfS public data and the NSS dissemination portal. This will be reviewed in 2020.
8. The UK funding and regulatory bodies are committed to making more NSS data publically available. Consequently, the 2019 NSS result spreadsheets

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

² See www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/jacs and www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos

published on the OfS website will include scales as well as questions. A scale is a group of themed questions, for example 'The teaching on my course'. Percentage agree results at a scale level will be made available for both taught and registered providers, split by mode of study, at all three subject levels and at provider level.

9. The 2019 NSS results will also be available on the OfS website in a visual format to improve accessibility. In addition to Excel spreadsheets, institutions have the opportunity 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 use of Tableau will be reviewed in autumn 2019.

NSS Dissemination portal

10. Texuna technologies will deliver the NSS data dissemination portal for providers. 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 styles, buttons, forms and general interface element. The functionality and structure will remain the same to promote ease of use.
11. The student static report will contain:
 - Positive comments
 - Negative comments
 - Own question responses.
12. These will be broken down by:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Ethnicity four-way split
 - POLAR and IMD
 - Gender
 - Course title
 - Course ID
 - Department 1
 - Department 2
 - Mode of study.
13. This data will be split into 10 worksheets each for Taught and Registered.
14. Further technical information on the NSS dissemination portal release will be made available in the forthcoming NSS data dissemination portal newsletter. The newsletter will be issued to NSS contacts by Texuna 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, prior to the publication of the NSS data on the dissemination portal. Ensuring that these details are up to date will facilitate quick and easy access for providers to the dissemination portal.
16. Further information for providers is available about the NSS 2019 data dissemination portal is available at nss@texunateach.com.

Publication of static reports

17. 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

18. If you have any queries regarding the NSS dissemination portal please contact Texuna Technologies (nss@texunatech.com). For queries about Unistats data collection, please contact unistats@officeforstudents.org.uk.
19. For any other information, contact Savanna Jones (029 2085 9737; savanna.jones@hefcw.ac.uk).