

Cylchlythyr | Circular

2017 National Student Survey: Publication of data

Date: 24 May 2017
Reference: W17/10HE
To: Heads, governing bodies, and student representative
bodies of regulated institutions
Other interested parties
Response by: No response required
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This circular provides information on the next steps in the 2017 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable for when institutions will be able to access their results via the NSS results dissemination site and Unistats websites. No action is required in response.

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



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Introduction

1. This circular provides information on the next steps in the 2017 National Student Survey (NSS) process, including a timetable for when institutions will be able to access their results via the NSS results dissemination site and Unistats websites. No action is required in response.
2. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all participating institutions for their commitment and contribution to the 2017 NSS.

Background

3. In [W16/32HE: A new National Student Survey for 2017](#), we set out details of the new NSS, including the introduction of a new survey questionnaire. As in previous years, data will be released in stages, allowing institutions to access their own data at detailed level, and at sector wide level - under strict embargo - before public release in August on the HEFCE website. We have made minor changes to the data publication process, which includes releasing open text comments at an earlier stage.
4. We published a separate circular [W17/04HE: Unistats: Data collection timetable and changes for 2017](#) in March 2017.

Publication of the 2017 NSS results on dissemination website

5. On 28 July 2017, Texuna Technologies Ltd will launch **stage 1** of the NSS results release. Stage 1 will present institutions' own detailed NSS data, including student open comments at the lower publication threshold of 10 responses, and can only be viewed by the institution concerned. The agreed NSS contact at each institution will be sent further details of how to access the data closer to the time. Institutions are responsible for ensuring that they keep their contact details up to date at the NSS results website (<http://texuna.com/nss>).
6. On 4 August, **stage 2** of the NSS results will be released. This will include:
 - a preview of the provisional 2017 NSS institutional benchmark data for Question 27 (the overall satisfaction question);
 - all institutions' public data reports and custom analysis, at the publication threshold of 10 responses and 50 per cent.
7. All NSS data is **subject to strict embargo until 9 August 2017**.
8. More technical detail on the dissemination site release is available in the NSS results website newsletter issued by Texuna to NSS contacts on 4 May 2017.
9. To view further information about the NSS 2017 results publication, please visit <http://texuna.com/nss>.

10. HEFCE will publish the 2017 NSS results on **9 August**, on behalf of all the funders. The information will include sector summary data as well as complete subject-level data for all institutions with publishable data. Institutions are reminded that the 2017 survey has new and revised questions and that the 2017 results will therefore be different from previous years.

Publication of the 2017 NSS results on Unistats website

11. In September 2017, Unistats will undergo its annual update to display course data for the following academic year. As part of this, 2017 NSS data which meets the publication threshold of 10 respondents and 50 per cent will be displayed on the Unistats website together with the updated Key Information Set (KIS) data, which this year will be revised to incorporate the results from Year 2 of the Teaching Excellence Framework.
12. The data on the Unistats website will be available for public access from 4 September 2017.
13. As part of the KIS submission process, from early July institutions will be able to access a report showing NSS public results for your institution. This is part of the Unistats data to be published for all of the courses for which you have submitted a Unistats record and is accessible before the release of your detailed institutional data **on 28 July. All NSS results, including those accessed through the Unistats preview, remain under embargo until 9 August 2017.**

Timetable

14. A timetable is provided below for ease of reference.

Note: All NSS data is subject to strict embargo until 9 August.

2017	2017 NSS results
28 July	Stage 1 Institutions will be able to access their own detailed 2017 NSS data on the Texunatech NSS results site.
4 August	Stage 2 Institutions will be able to access the public datasets on the Texunatech NSS results site.
9 August	HEFCE website to publish 2017 NSS results.
4 September	Update of Unistats with 2017 dataset.

Determining the data to be released and published

15. The funders are currently considering the ways to maximise the use of 2017 NSS data, taking into account the characteristics of the new survey data-set that will be finalised during May.
16. In previous years, where data has not met the response threshold, the data has been aggregated, including with previous years' data. As the 2017 questionnaire has changed substantially, aggregation with previous years at question level is not possible in a robust way. Alternative approaches to this are being tested, with a view to maximising the use of data by institutions, whilst ensuring its publication in a robust way that is meaningful to students.
17. The options for this are being discussed with sector representative bodies and the Student Information Advisory Group during May and June 2017. The funding bodies will agree the final approach and we will communicate the outcome of this process, including its implications for the release and publication of 2017 NSS data, in a further circular letter in early July.

Changes to the NSS for 2017

18. The funders have started to evaluate the impact of NSS 2017, by running a short online evaluation survey with students after they have answered the NSS 2017. An evaluation survey with institutions is planned for autumn 2017.

Further information

19. If you have any queries regarding the NSS results site 2017, please contact Texunatech (email nss@texunatech.com). For Unistats queries, regulated higher education institutions should contact the Higher Education Statistics Agency (email liaison@hesa.ac.uk, tel 01242 211144) and regulated further education colleges should contact HEFCE (email unistats@hefce.ac.uk, who are dealing with this on behalf of all the funders.
20. For any other information, contact Nicola Hunt (tel 029 2085 9735; email nicola.hunt@hefcw.ac.uk).