

University of Galway – StudentSurvey.ie 2023 results

University of Galway undertakes the StudentSurvey.ie annually and prior to COVID-19 outbreak consistently performed well against other Irish universities in both our participation rates and student satisfaction rates. It appears that, on average, University of Galway students were more negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which may in large part be related to distinctive features of our student demographics. University of Galway students are more geographically dispersed than other universities and we have a higher proportion of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. These factors may have had a disproportionately negative impact on our students' ability to adapt to online and remote learning during the pandemic.

The StudentSurvey.ie is designed to focus on student engagement, namely the amount of time and effort that students put into meaningful and purposeful educational activities and the extent to which institutions provide such opportunities and encourage students to engage with them. Research shows that students who engage more frequently in educationally purposeful activities both in and outside the classroom get better grades, are more satisfied, and are more likely to persist and graduate. University of Galway is committed to interpreting and utilising StudentSurvey.ie data to enhance the experiences of our students.

2685 of University of Galway students responded to StudentSurvey.ie (formerly known as ISSE) survey in 2023. This number yields a response rate of 26%.

Of these 1273 were First Year students (Y1), 697 were Final Year students (YF) and 697 were Postgraduate Taught students (PGT) (response rate 31.5%, 23.5%, 22.9% respectively). Historical responses to the two main questions of the survey are reported in Table 1.

Results: Overall Satisfaction

Table 1. 'How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?'

How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?								
(Percentage of students who responded positively [^])								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Uni Of Galway (%)	86.3	84.6	84.8	83.4	82.1	65.7	73.9	79.1
Other Irish Unis (%)	85.1	84.9	83.8	83.8	81.8	69.3	79.9	80.3
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?								
(Percentage of students who responded positively*)								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Uni Of Galway (%)	86.3	88.5	88.6	87.8	87.0	81.4	80.2	84.4
Other Irish Unis (%)	87.9	88.4	87.9	86.8	86.5	86.0	85.1	85.6

[^] Percentage of students who responded as good or excellent; * Percentage of students who responded

Table 1 demonstrates the overall satisfaction amongst University of Galway students. In 2023 79.1 % of University of Galway students rated their overall educational experience at University of Galway as Excellent/Good (73.9 % in 2022, 80.3 % Other Unis in 2023). 84.4 % of University of Galway students stated they would come to University of Galway if they had to start over again (80.2 % in 2022, 85.6 % Other Unis 2023) rating their educational experience at University of Galway as good or excellent.

In terms of the data, the percentage results for all questions are detailed in Table 3.

To aid navigation, these questions are grouped under certain engagement indicators and the responses for individual questions are combined to create nine related indicator scores. These indicator scores act as 'signposts' and are calculated on a scale from 0 to 60 - with the lowest response placed at 0, and the highest placed at 60 - and weighted based on cohort and gender.

10 Indicator Scores [out of max 60]

The following table (Table 2) provides the weighted calculated score (out of 60) for each of the 10 engagement indicators for both University of Galway and the average calculated score for the remaining 6 other Irish Universities. The detailed percentage responses per question are detailed in Table 3.

Table 2. Indices (GREEN - higher than Other Unis average, RED - lower, UNDERLINED - increase from 2022)

	<i>HO</i>	<i>RI</i>	<i>QR</i>	<i>LS</i>	<i>CL</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>ET</i>	<i>QI</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>LC</i>
2023	<u>35.7</u>	<u>32.7</u>	<u>21.4</u>	<u>32.3</u>	<u>29.4</u>	<u>12.8</u>	<u>32.4</u>	<u>40.4</u>	<u>29.4</u>	<u>32.5</u>
2022	35.7	32.4	20.7	31.9	28.0	11.9	31.7	37.4	27.7	32.4
Other Unis 2023	36.6	33.4	22.0	33.0	30.1	12.7	32.7	40.3	30.0	33.6
Other Unis 2022	36.3	33.3	21.7	32.7	29.1	12.4	32.8	38.1	29.2	33.5

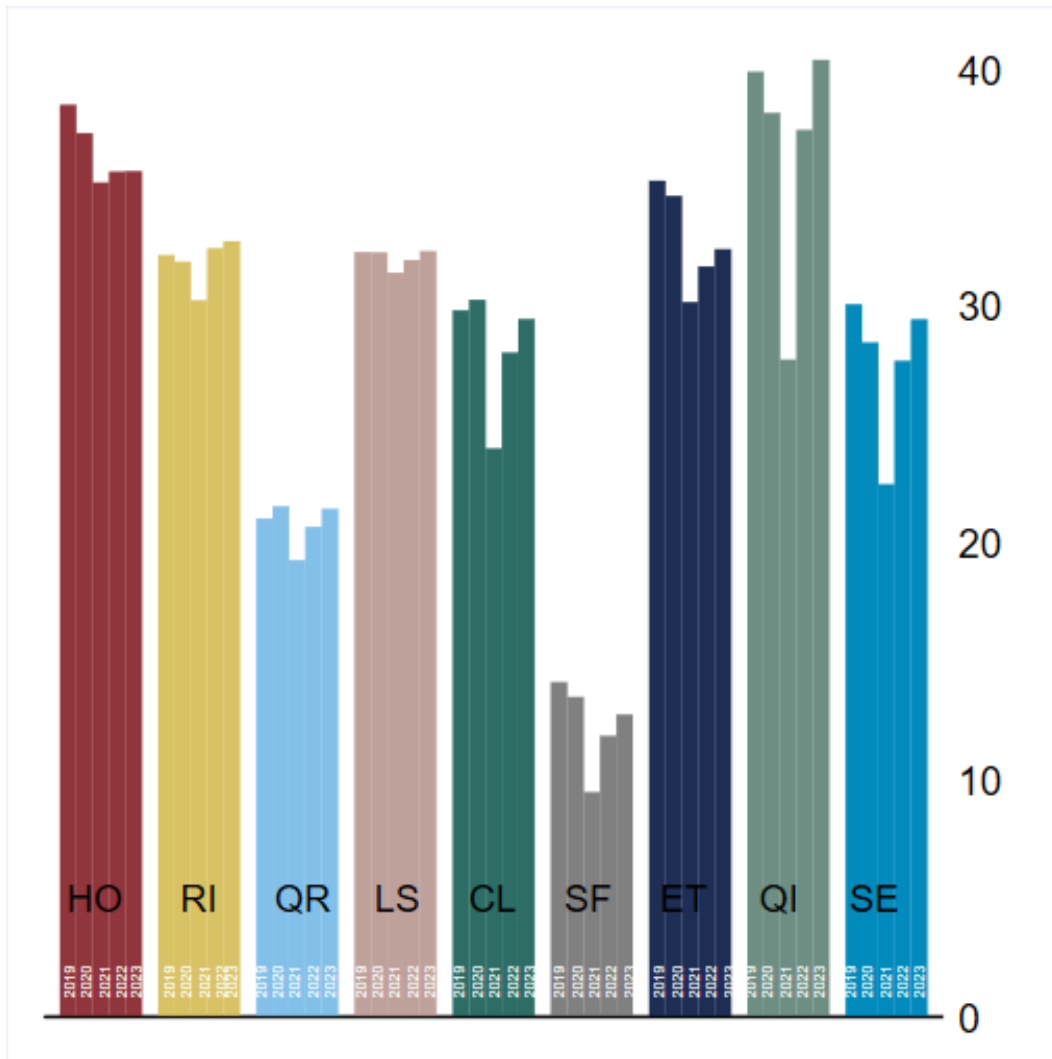
*GREEN - higher than Other Unis average, RED - lower, UNDERLINED - increase from 2022

Note: The colour coding highlights comparison with Other Unis averages and an index is UNDERLINED if it increased from the previous year. In 2023 10 out of 10 indices increased from 2022 year. In 2023 year, 2 out of 10 indices are above the Other Unis averages. In 2022 year, 0

out of 10 indices were above. Please, note, that a new index - LC - 'Learning, Creative and Social Skills' was introduced in 2023, which groups previously non-indicator variables and one new variable together. Please see APPENDIX 2 for further details.

Figure 1 depicts indices and helps to see the effect of COVID (year 2021 as in 2020 StudentSurvey was conducted BEFORE the lockdown) and recovery in 2022.

Figure 1. University of Galway Indices, 2019-2023.



The responses to the specific questions, detailed in Table 3, show the following strengths and weaknesses.

Table 3 shows the percentage of students responding positively to questions in each indicator category for University of Galway and the average for the 6 Other Unis.

Table 3. Percentage of students responding positively to each question.

Questions	2023	2022	Other Unis 2023	Difference 2023-2022	Difference 2023 Galway-Other
HO - Higher Order Learning					
Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new	64.2%	64.0%	63.1	0.2%	1.1%
Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining	56.9%	58.8%	57.3	-1.9%	-0.4%
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	61.2%	61.1%	60.2	0.2%	1.0%
Forming an understanding or new idea from various pieces of information	68.0%	68.6%	66.0	-0.6%	2.0%
RI - Reflective and Integrative Learning					
Combined ideas from different subjects / modules when completing assignme	59.9%	58.0%	60.0	1.9%	-0.1%
Connected your learning to problems or issues in society	49.1%	47.9%	46.4	1.1%	2.7%
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gende	38.1%	37.1%	34.4	1.0%	3.7%
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or iss	51.3%	51.1%	51.6	0.2%	-0.3%
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue	59.1%	58.9%	57.7	0.2%	1.4%
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	63.8%	63.5%	62.8	0.3%	1.0%
Connected ideas from your subjects / modules to your prior experiences an	70.2%	67.9%	69.3	2.3%	0.9%
QR - Quantitative Reasoning					
Reached conclusions based on your analysis of numerical information (numb	37.3%	34.5%	38.0	2.8%	-0.7%
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or	30.1%	27.5%	30.2	2.6%	-0.1%

issue (unem					
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	24.3%	21.4%	25.2	2.9%	-0.9%
LS - Learning Strategies					
Identified key information from recommended reading materials	55.8%	55.1%	58.0	0.6%	-2.2%
Reviewed your notes after class	56.5%	54.8%	58.0	1.7%	-1.5%
Summarised what you learned in class or from course materials	47.8%	46.3%	49.8	1.5%	-2.0%
CL - Collaborative Learning					
Asked another student to help you understand course material	42.9%	40.3%	43.3	2.6%	-0.4%
Explained course material to one or more students	46.4%	43.9%	46.7	2.5%	-0.3%
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course materi	45.0%	40.0%	45.4	5.0%	-0.4%
Worked with other students on projects or assignments	51.3%	47.0%	55.0	4.4%	-3.7%
SF - Student-Faculty Interaction					
Talked about career plans with academic staff	16.1%	12.5%	14.8	3.6%	1.3%
Worked with academic staff on activities other than coursework (committee	10.8%	9.9%	10.8	0.9%	0.0%
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with academic staff outside o	19.0%	17.2%	20.3	1.7%	-1.3%
Discussed your performance with academic staff	15.1%	14.3%	15.1	0.8%	0.0%
ET - Effective Teaching Practices					
Clearly explained course goals and requirements	67.2%	64.7%	67.3	2.4%	-0.1%
Taught in an organised way	70.4%	68.1%	70.7	2.3%	-0.3%
Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	68.4%	65.0%	68.3	3.5%	0.1%
Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	31.6%	32.3%	33.3	-0.7%	-1.7%
Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	39.1%	39.8%	41.4	-0.8%	-2.3%
QI - Quality of Interactions					
Students	93.0%	91.6%	92.8	1.4%	0.2%
Academic advisors	75.4%	71.6%	76.9	3.8%	-1.5%
Academic staff	86.4%	80.7%	87.0	5.8%	-0.6%

Support services staff	76.6%	69.8%	76.4	6.7%	0.2%
Other administrative staff and offices	78.8%	70.0%	76.6	8.8%	2.2%
SE - Supportive Environment					
Providing support to help students succeed academically	58.1%	55.9%	59.2	2.2%	-1.1%
Using learning support services	57.9%	55.6%	59.7	2.3%	-1.8%
Contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic,	43.9%	39.0%	46.5	4.8%	-2.6%
Providing opportunities to be involved socially	59.5%	48.9%	59.6	10.7%	-0.1%
Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, c	51.0%	45.8%	51.2	5.2%	-0.2%
Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.	26.6%	22.3%	25.1	4.4%	1.5%
Attending campus activities and events	41.4%	45.8%	45.1	-4.4%	-3.7%
Attending events that address important social, economic, or political is	49.9%	44.5%	54.4	5.4%	-4.5%
LC - Learning, Creative and Social Skills					
Writing clearly and effectively	61.8%	62.3%	63.4	-0.6%	-1.6%
Speaking clearly and effectively	48.1%	48.4%	51.4	-0.3%	-3.3%
Thinking critically and analytically	74.8%	73.3%	77.1	1.5%	-2.3%
Analysing numerical and statistical information	48.6%	46.3%	49.9	2.3%	-1.3%
Working effectively with others	63.7%	63.0%	66.3	0.6%	-2.6%
Solving complex real-world problems	51.8%	52.8%	54.5	-1.0%	-2.7%
Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)	43.7%	46.0%	46.5	-2.3%	-2.8%
Pgcreative	53.6%	52.8%	54.9	0.8%	-1.3%
Non-Indicator Questions					
Asked questions or contributed to discussions in class, tutorials, labs o	41.8%	45.0%	45.4	-3.2%	-3.6%
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	42.8%	38.4%	39.7	4.4%	3.1%
Made a presentation in	29.8%	29.9%	34.4	-0.0%	-4.6%

class or online					
Explored how to apply your learning in the workplace	39.6%	39.0%	41.3	0.6%	-1.7%
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	51.3%	48.3%	50.8	3.0%	0.5%
Blended academic learning with workplace experience	36.0%	35.4%	35.4	0.6%	0.6%
Worked on assessments that informed you how well you are learning	43.7%	39.2%	42.0	4.5%	1.7%
Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	54.6%	53.7%	57.1	0.9%	-2.5%
Community service or volunteer work	58.0%	57.6%	56.4	0.4%	1.6%
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this	79.1%	73.9%	80.3	5.2%	-1.2%
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you a	84.4%	80.2%	85.6	4.3%	-1.2%

APPENDIX 2: Grouped into new indicator (Learning, Creative and Social Skills).

1. Writing clearly and effectively
2. Speaking effectively [revised wording: the words 'clearly and' removed]
3. Thinking critically and analytically
4. Analysing numerical and statistical information
5. Working effectively with others
6. Solving complex real-world problems
7. Being an informed and active citizen (societal / political / community)
8. Being innovative and creative [new question]