



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## National Student Survey 2021: publication of data

**SFC Guidance**

Issue Date: 7 June 2021

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Issue date: 7 June 2021

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Summary: This publication provides information on the plans for the publication of the 2021 National Student Survey results.

FAO: Principals of Scotland's universities

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## National Student Survey 2021: publication of data

### Summary

1. The National Student Survey (NSS) is managed by the Office for Students (OfS) on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies – the Scottish Funding Council, the Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland), and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The survey provides information for prospective students and for stakeholders to support a high quality learning experience.
2. 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 Results Portal for providers.
3. This publication provides information on the plans for the publication of the 2021 NSS results.
4. The OfS published separate information in May 2021 on the publication of the Unistats dataset.

### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

5. The UK funders and regulators have committed to analyse the data to assess any impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the results and make professional judgements about its statistical reliability. Having completed an initial assessment, the UK funding and regulatory bodies are assured that the quality of the data is suitable for publication. Information about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, together with any implications for the onward use of the data, will be published alongside the results. We are considering what further contextualisation may be helpful in the presentation of the 2021 survey result.

### Publication of 2021 NSS data

6. NSS data will be published on the OfS website at **09:30 on Thursday 15 July 2021**. This will include data on the new set of COVID-19 questions added to the survey asking students about their experience during the coronavirus pandemic. These results will not be published at provider level, but we will present the findings by several broader sector splits such as subject and mode.
7. The OfS and the UK funding and regulatory bodies continue to make some decisions around the publication of data. We will inform the sector of any substantial changes in advance of data publication. Providers will be able to access their own detailed NSS results including subject level question

responses, open text comments and COVID-19 question results via the NSS Results Portal at 09:30 on Thursday 15 July 2021.

8. The OfS applies the Code of Practice for Statistics to the publication of NSS results data. More information about the Code of Practice can be found on the OfS website.

### **NSS data dissemination portal**

9. Further technical information on the NSS Results Portal release will be made available in the NSS Results Portal newsletter. This will be issued by Texuna to all active NSS contacts on the Portal in June 2021.
10. Texuna will be in touch with existing active provider contacts to request that contact details are confirmed or updated as appropriate from June 2021, ahead of the publication of the NSS data on the NSS Results Portal. Ensuring that these details are up to date will help providers access the NSS Results Portal for the NSS 2021 data quickly and easily.
11. From time to time, the underlying dataset for the NSS Results Portal may be subject to minor changes and amended during the year. However, the static reports available via the Results 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.
12. The NSS results are no longer presented by historical NSS subject groupings, i.e. using Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). The OfS will present the public data and providers' data on the NSS Results portal by Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) subject groupings only for 2021 results onwards.
13. Following feedback from users, and to align with recent advice, some changes have been made to the ethnicity groupings and labels on the NSS data dissemination portal:
  - The ethnicity four-way split has been changed to a five-way split. This separates the 'mixed' and 'other' ethnicity groups.
  - The labels for the two-way ethnicity split have been changed to 'white' and 'all other ethnic groups combined'.
14. These changes have been backdated to 2017 in order to allow comparisons across the five-year period.

## Further information

<b>For queries relating to</b>	<b>Organisation or team for first point of contact</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Providers' detailed results on the NSS Results Portal	Texuna Technologies Limited	<a href="mailto:nss@texunatech.com">nss@texunatech.com</a>
Release and publication of NSS results	NSS team at the OfS SFC Learning and Quality team	<a href="mailto:nss@officeforstudents.org.uk">nss@officeforstudents.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dhorsburgh@sfc.ac.uk">dhorsburgh@sfc.ac.uk</a>
Queries about publication of the NSS within the Unistats dataset	Discover Uni team at the OfS	<a href="mailto:discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk">discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk</a>