

By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Metrics matter

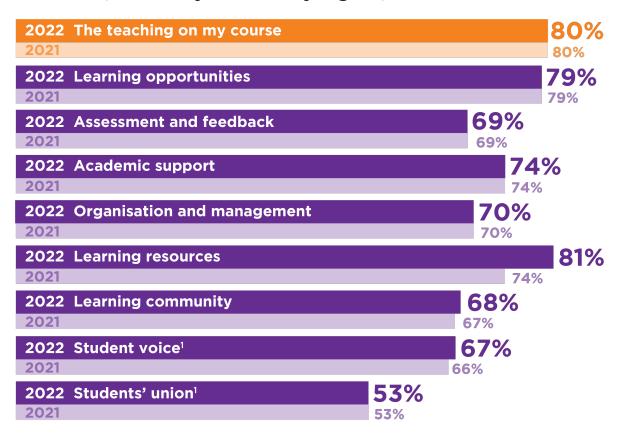
- Continuation
 - Getting to the second year
 - Belonging
- Completion
 - Confidence
 - Getting to the end of the course
- Progression
 - Getting a graduate job
 - Skills
- Plus awarding (gaps), NSS teaching, NSS A&F, NSS AS, NSS Feedback, NSS Learning resources





2022 National Student Survey

Percentage of respondents who gave the two most positive answers ('definitely' or 'mostly' agree) on:



¹ The data for the 'student voice' scale does not include responses to Q26 on the students' union, which is reported separately in this table.

Achillies heel of NSS...

Assessment and feedback:

- 8. The criteria used in marking have been clear in advance. 73%
- 9. Marking and assessment has been fair. 68%
- 10. Feedback on my work has been timely. 84%
- 11. I have received helpful comments on my work. 91%
- Also highest active disagree (14%)
- (SU NAND was 19%)



Achillies heel of NSS...

Three themes:

- 1. Link to criteria being clear in advance
- 2. Demonstrable application of that criteria
- 3. Consistency of marking



		I feel	part of a comr	munity of stude	ents and staff
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
How fair has	Very fair	46% ↑	21% ↓	15% ↓	10%↓
arid	Fair	49%↓	67% ↑	61%	52%
assessment been on your	Not very fair	5%↓	11%	20%↑	22% ↑
course?	Not at all fair	0%↓	1% ↓	5% ↑	16% ↑



	I f	eel part of a	community	y of student	s and staff
How fair has		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
the marking and assessment	Fair	95%	88%	76%	62%
been on your course?	Not fair	5%	12%	25%	38%



Achilles heel of NSS...

Five themes:

- 1. Link to criteria being clear in advance
- 2. Demonstrable application of that criteria
- 3. Consistency of marking
- 4. Hadn't taken into account their circumstances fairly (best of ability)
- 5. They have personal connections, I don't



Why is assessment unfair?

- I had to take the first half of my course online due to visa issues which caused a huge gap in my experience and relation to the material in comparison to my class.
- Poor brief and not a good idea of what they want.
- I'm not one of the favourites.
- Often feels like a score for participation mark very unfair as not all of us can be there all of them time.
- We've been told that multiple lectures go over to confirm the results. Nobody believes this.
- I feel like for some people is harder to get higher scores due to the differences in age (work experience, other further studies).
- I think I was severely under marked for an essay that I don't think was that bad, and others agree.
- It can sometimes feel as though we are thrown into the deep end with assessment. We have no exemplar work to study and understand, therefore it feels as though we're being graded on a skill that we haven't properly developed or understood.





Concrete Experience

(doing / having an experience)



Active Experimentation

(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation

(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)



Abstract Conceptualisation

(concluding / learning from the experience)

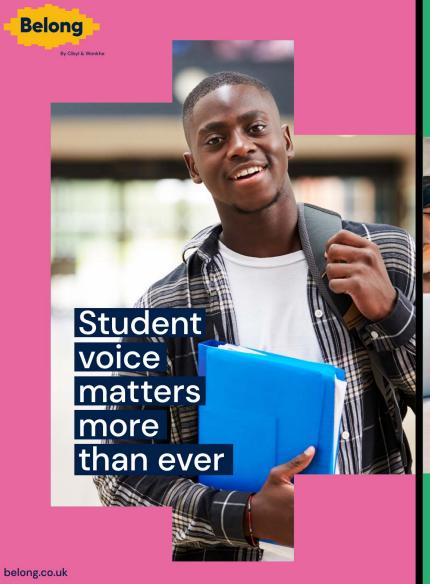


Questions

- What matters most to students, the uni and to SUs
- Why are the scores the way they are? What leads to...
- How are we doing against national or benchmark group?
- What characteristics or contexts lead to...
- Where are we on key contemporary issues?
- Can we influence what is asked?















belong.co.uk

belong.co.uk

A student research platform

- Monthly pulse measure over time
- Key NSS questions
- Outcomes confidence and SU satisfaction/awareness
- Qual (lots of qual)
- Compare with national picture
- Analyse relationships characteristics and other
- Monthly themes and national policy write ups
- Freemium (if your SU subscribes to Wonkhe SUs)



5 things we're learning

- Community and belonging
- Confidence
- Freedom of speech
- Cost of living
- Food



Power of community

		l feel	part of a con	nmunity of stud	lents and staff
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am good enough to	Strongly agree	41% ↑	18%	↓ 14%↓	24%
be here	Agree	45% ↓	64%	19%	32% ↓
	Disagree	11% ↓	14%	29% ↑	20%
	Strongly disagree	3%↓	4%	8%	24% ↑



Power of community

			I feel part of a c	ommunity of stu	dents and staff
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
How easy was it to	Very easy	70% ↑	35% ↓	21% ↓	17% ↓
contact staff when	Easy	28% ↓	55% ↑	56% ↑	53%
you needed to?	Not very easy	1% ↓	9%	19% ↑	15%
	Not at all easy	1% ↓	2% ↓	5%	16% ↑



	Di	isability/long term condition etc			
		Yes	No		
I feel part of	Strongly agree	18%↓	26% ↑		
community of students	Agree	43% ↓	55% ↑		
and staff	Disagree	26% ↑	15%↓		
	Strongly disagree	13% ↑	4%↓		



			Prior schooling
I feel part of a	Private/independent education		State education
community of students and staff	Strongly agree	32% ↑	20%↓
	Agree	48%	52%
	Disagree	15%	21% ↑
	Strongly disagree	5%	8% ↑



			Home	e domicile
I feel part of		UK	EU/EEA	Outside EU/EEA
a community	Strongly agree	21% ↓	11% ↓	31% ↑
of students and staff	Agree	50%↓	60%	55%
Di	Disagree	21% ↑	22%	11%↓
	Strongly disagree	8% ↑	8%	2% ↓



Community and time

	I am able to d	I am able to devote most of my time to being a student						
		Totally	Mostly	Not really				
I feel part of	Strongly agree	41% ↑	19%↓	13% ↓				
community of students and staff	Agree	48%↓	59% ↑	44%↓				
	Disagree	9%↓	17%	32% ↑				
	Strongly disagree	2% ↓	5%	11% ↑				



Distance...

				I	Round trip t	to campus i	n minutes
l am		0	1–15	16-30	31-45	46-60	60+
able to devote	Totally	35%	35% ↑	27%	30%	22%	18%↓
most of my time	Mostly	48%	55%	61%	55%	56%	55%
to being a student	Not really	17%	11% ↓	12%	15%	21% ↑	27% ↑



Burdens

					Term	n time part ti	me work
l am		0	1-5	6-10	11–15	16-20	21+
able to devote	Totally	34% ↑	30%	25%	26%	25%	15% ↓
most of	Mostly	57%	60%	54%	58%	54%	37% ↓
my time to being a student	Not really	9%↓	11%	21% ↑	16%	20% ↑	48% ↑



Doing our best

		I am performing to the best of my ability on this cours					
I am able to		Totally	Mostly	Not really	Not at all		
devote most of my time	Totally	62% ↑	17%↓	15% ↓	7%↓		
to being a Mostl	Mostly	31% ↓	72% ↑	58%	45%		
	Not really	7%↓	11% ↓	27% ↑	48% ↑		



Doing our best

Over the last month,	Daily	19%
how often	Weekly	31% ↑
have you felt lonely?	Monthly	22%
,	Once/twice	12% ↓
	Never	16%↓



Community and Ioneliness

Over the last month, how often have you felt lonely?						
I feel part of a community of students and staff		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Once or twice	Never
	Strongly agree	23%	18%↓	22%	33% ↑	36% ↑
	Agree	33%↓	60% ↑	61% ↑	56%	47%
	Disagree	31% ↑	17%	13%↓	9%↓	14%
	Strongly disagree	14% ↑	5%	3%	2%	2% ↓



Why aren't students attending?

- 1. Health (esp mental health)
- 2. Paid employment
- 3. Public transport and/or long journey
- 4. Teaching quality/format
- 5. Busy with assignments/independent study

Time is more precious now - students are weighing up best use of their time, and that is often not coming to campus



Why not (last 3)

- Combination of a waste of time, depression hitting hard, my physical state being ignored by the university with regards to walking back and forth from campus (it's too painful sometimes).
- Because the other lectures by that staff member had been very dull and about very simple concepts, so I felt I would be better served by just reading the content in my own time.
- Work, I'm come from a low social economic family and therefore have to work to afford living in Brighton (expensive city without the London maintenance loan).
- I either felt unmotivated, depressed, unprepared or anxious scared to be asked questions and have to speak
- Sometimes staff are funny about lateness I commute an hour by car and occasionally would be 10 minutes late, if they were rude in class about it I just wouldn't turn up next time I was late because I don't see the point when it's our money paying them they shouldn't really care.



How good are staff at explaining things and making the subject engaging?						
l am		Very good	Good	Not very good	Not at all good	
performing to the best	Totally	48% ↑	19%↓	17% ↓	27%	
of my ability on this	Mostly	41% ↓	53% ↑	33%↓	16%↓	
course	Not really	8%↓	20% ↑	31% ↑	23%	
	Not at all	1% ↓	4%	13% ↑	31% ↑	



How easy was it to contact teaching staff when you needed to?					
I am performing to the best of my ability on this course		Very good	Good	Not very good	Not at all good
	Totally	44% ↑	18%↓	16%↓	31%
	Mostly	40%↓	54% ↑	44%	20%↓
	Not really	11% ↓	20% ↑	27% ↑	19%
	Not at all	3%	4%	8%	28% ↑



Belong - ing

- Listening is often about asking the right questions (laterally)
- Theorising is often about understanding lives rather than opinions
- Planning is often about experimenting course reps, officers and committers as social entrepreneurs
- Helping universities to learn is the ultimate gift of student representation



Free speech

During your		
studies, how free did you	Very free	33%
feel to express	Free	52%
your ideas, opinions	Not very free	12%
and beliefs?	Not at all free	3%



Community and Ioneliness

	I feel part of a community of students and staf				
During your studies, how free did you feel to express your ideas, opinions and beliefs?					
	Very free	59% ↑	27% ↓	19%↓	11% ↓
	Free	36%↓	61% ↑	51%	42%
	Not very free	3%↓	11%	25% ↑	31% ↑
	Not at all free	1%	1% ↓	4%	16% ↑



Why do students say they are not free to express themselves?

- 1. Lack of personal confidence in general/fear of being judged
- 2. Course not amenable to discussions re opinions and beliefs
- 3. Feeling that personal characteristics or background not similar enough/fitting in
- 4. Belief that personal opinions will be unpopular with other students (left wing bias)
- 5. Different understanding of question (focussed on feedback about staff/course)



Why do students say they are not free to express themselves?

- I don't have the confidence to speak in seminars, everyone else has more interesting things to say. I still get nevous to express my opinion since I am new and trying to understand the people/collegues.
- I feel only a certain type of opinion is allowed at university (extreme left wing), any other part of the political spectrum is condemned by students. I do not feel I can openly express my centrist opinions nor safely discuss them sometimes.
- My degree doesn't allow me to have much on opinion on things as a lot of it is simply factual.
- Possibilities to express personal ideas, opinions and beliefs were given, but still, I felt limited doing that because of the judgements received after.
- Sometimes I voiced some of my opinions and concerns, and the most of the staff always responded to me in a hostile way.



	18-24s	Students
Reactionary conservatives	18%	15%
Sceptical ambivalents	11%	7%
Apathetic	26%	24%
Aspirational liberals	15%	19%
Disengaged progressives	11%	12%
Leftist activists	7%	8%
Established liberals	12%	16%



				Confidence
		Very confident + Confident	NCNNC	Unconfident + Very unconfident
To what extent do you	Navigating the campus	82% ↑	12% ↓	6%↓
feel confident	How to avoid academic misconduct	84% ↑	12% ↓	4% ↓
about	Using the library and learning resources	81% ↑	13% ↓	6%↓
	Accessing and using the IT equipment and software I need to succeed	76% ↑	16%	8%↓
	The foundational skills and knowledge needed to do well on the course	74% ↑	15% ↓	10%
	Working with other students in groups	74% ↑	15% ↓	11%
	Making the most of lectures	76% ↑	15% ↓	9%↓



				Confidence
		Very confident + Confident	NCNNC	Unconfident + Very unconfident
To what extent do you	What I have to do to get a good grade on my course	67%	23% ↑	11%
feel confident about	Approaching and discussing my progress with academic staff	65%↓	21%	14%
	Spending my time during independent study productively	70%	15% ↓	14%
	Knowing what to do when others' behaviour is unacceptable	64%↓	23% ↑	13%
	Knowing what to do when an aspect of the delivery of my course is unacceptable	53%↓	26% ↑	21% ↑
	Understanding how my final mark is calculated	58%↓	24% ↑	18% ↑
	What is needed to get a graduate job	46%↓	27% ↑	27% ↑



Home domiciled school Private State What I have to 25% 16% ↓ Very confident do to get a good grade on 48% 42% Confident my course 28% 24% NCNU 9% 5% Unconfident Very 3% 1% unconfident



	I feel part of a community of staff and students					
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
What I	Very confident	43% ↑	16%↓	9%↓	8%↓	
have to do to get a good grade on my course Confident NCNU Unconfident	Confident	45%	56%↑	31% ↓	22%↓	
	NCNU	9%↓	21%	37% ↑	37% ↑	
	Unconfident	3%↓	6%↓	19% ↑	16% ↑	
	Very unconfident	0%↓	1% ↓	4%	18% ↑	



Becoming

- All the inform, ation in one place
- Support for state school students who lack the foundational knowledge lecturers presume you'll have
- I feel I am a person that needs a lot of reassurance, and this is hard when there is so many people within each school, so no one gets known on a personal level.
- Before the semester begins, more time to introduce how to adapt to university.
- Making people feel like they belong.
- Make small student groups where we can support each other, among peers



Belonging and community

		l feel	part of a com	munity of stud	ents and staff
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
enough to be here	Strongly agree	41% ↑	18% \	, 14%↓	24%
	Agree	45% ↓	64% 1	49%	32% ↓
	Disagree	11%↓	14%	29% ↑	20%
	Strongly disagree	3%↓	4% \	8%	24% ↑



			I feel part of a	community of stu	idents and staff
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
was it to contact staff when you needed to?	Very easy	70% ↑	35%	↓ 21%↓	17% ↓
	Easy	28%↓	55%	↑ 56% ↑	53%
	Not very easy	1% ↓	9%	19% ↑	15%
	Not at all easy	1% ↓	2%	↓ 5%	16% ↑



Disability/long term condition etc Yes No I feel part of a 18% ↓ 26% ↑ Strongly agree community of students and staff 55% ↑ Agree 43% ↓ 26% ↑ 15% ↓ Disagree 13% ↑ 4% ↓ Strongly disagree



			Prior	schooling
		Private/independe nt education	State education	School outside UK/Ireland
	Strongly agree	32% ↑	20%↓	27%
community of students	Agree	48%	52%	57% ↑
and staff	Disagree	15%	21% ↑	13%↓
	Strongly disagree	5%	8%↑	2% ↓



			Р	rior schooling
I feel part of a community of		UK	EU/EEA	Outside EU/EEA
	Strongly agree	21% ↓	11% 、	31% ↑
students and staff	Agree	50%↓	60%	55%
Otali	Disagree	21% ↑	22%	11%↓
	Strongly disagree	8% ↑	8%	2% ↓



	l am	I am able to devote most of my time to being a student				
I feel part of a community of		Totally	Mostly	Not really		
	Strongly agree	41% ↑	19%↓	13% ↓		
students and staff	Agree	48%↓	59% ↑	44%↓		
	Disagree	9%↓	17%	32% ↑		
	Strongly disagree	2% ↓	5%	11% ↑		



		I am perform	ning to the best	t of my ability o	n this course
to being a student		Totally	Mostly	Not really	Not at all
	Totally	62% ↑	17% ↓	15% ↓	7% ↓
	Mostly	31% ↓	72% ↑	58%	45%
	Not really	7%↓	11%↓	27% ↑	48% ↑



	How good are staff at explaining things and making the subject engaging?					
of my ability on this		Very good	Good	Not very good	Not at all good	
	Totally	48% ↑	19%↓	17% ↓	27%	
	Mostly	41% ↓	53% ↑	33% ↓	16%↓	
	Not really	8%↓	20% ↑	31% ↑	23%	
	Not at all	1% ↓	4%	13% ↑	31% ↑	



		How easy was it to contact teaching staff when you needed to?					
l am		Very good	Good	Not very good	Not at all good		
performing to the best of my ability on this course Totally Mostly Not really	Totally	44% ↑	18%↓	16%↓	31%		
	Mostly	40%↓	54% ↑	44%	20%↓		
	Not really	11%↓	20% ↑	27% ↑	19%		
	Not at all	3%	4%	8%	28% ↑		



				F	Round trip t	to campus i	n minutes
l am		0	1–15	16-30	31-60	61-90	91+
able to devote	Totally	35%	35% ↑	27%	30%	22%	18%↓
most of	Mostly	48%	55%	61%	55%	56%	55%
my time to being a	Not really	17%	11%↓	12%	15%	21% ↑	27% ↑
student							



					Term	n time part tir	me work
I am able		0	1-5	6-10	11–15	16-20	21+
to devote most of my time to being a student	Totally	34% ↑	30%	25%	26%	25%	15% ↓
	Mostly	57%	60%	54%	58%	54%	37% ↓
	Not really	9%↓	11%	21% ↑	16%	20% ↑	48% ↑



		Man	Woman
Best of my ability	Totally	30%	27%
,	Mostly	46%	46%
	Not really	15%	19%
	Not at all	5%	4%

		Disabled	Not
Best of my ability	Totally	18% ↓	31% ↑
	Mostly	42%	48%
	Not really	26% ↑	15%↓
	Not at all	10% ↑	3%↓



Over the last month,	Daily	19%
how often	Weekly	31% ↑
have you felt lonely?	Monthly	22%
	Once/twice	12% ↓
	Never	16%↓



	Over the last month, how often have you felt lonely?							
0 . 0 .		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Once or twice	Never		
	Strongly agree	23%	18%↓	22%	33% ↑	36% ↑		
of students and staff	Agree	33%↓	60% ↑	61% ↑	56%	47%		
ſ	Disagree	31% ↑	17%	13% ↓	9%↓	14%		
	Strongly disagree	14% ↑	5%	3%	2%	2% ↓		



Why aren't students attending?

- 1. Health (esp mental health)
- 2. Paid employment
- 3. Public transport and/or long journey
- 4. Teaching quality/format
- 5. Busy with assignments/independent study

Time is more precious now - students are weighing up best use of their time, and that is often not coming to campus.



Why not (last 3 missed)

- Combination of a waste of time, depression hitting hard, my physical state being ignored by the university with regards to walking back and forth from campus (it's too painful sometimes).
- Because the other lectures by that staff member had been very dull and about very simple concepts, so I felt I would be better served by just reading the content in my own time.
- Work, I'm come from a low social economic family and therefore have to work to afford living in Brighton (expensive city without the London maintenance loan).
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- Sometimes staff are funny about lateness I commute an hour by car and occasionally would be 10 minutes late, if they were rude in class about it I just wouldn't turn up next time I was late because I don't see the point when it's our money paying them they shouldn't really care.



During your		
studies, how free did you	Very free	33%
feel to	Free	52%
express your ideas, opinions	Not very free	12%
and beliefs?	Not at all free	3%



		1:	feel part of a con	nmunity of stud	ents and staff
feel to express your ideas, opinions and					
	Very free	59% ↑	27% ↓	19%↓	11% ↓
	Free	36%↓	61% ↑	51%	42%
	Not very free	3%↓	11%	25% ↑	31% ↑
	Not at all free	1%	1% ↓	4%	16% ↑



Why do students say they are not free to express themselves?

- Lack of personal confidence in general/fear of being judged
- Course not amenable to discussions re opinions and beliefs
- Feeling that personal characteristics or background not similar enough/fitting in
- Belief that personal opinions will be unpopular with other students (left wing bias)
- Different understanding of question (focussed on feedback about staff/course)



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- I don't have the confidence to speak in seminars, everyone else has more interesting things to say. I still get nevous to express my opinion since I am new and trying to understand the people/collegues.
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- My degree doesn't allow me to have much on opinion on things as a lot of it is simply factual.
- Possibilities to express personal ideas, opinions and beliefs were given, but still, I felt limited doing that because of the judgements received after.
- Sometimes I voiced some of my opinions and concerns, and the most of the staff always responded to me in a hostile way.



				Confidence
		Very confident + Confident	NCNNC	Unconfident + Very unconfident
To what extent do you	Navigating the campus	82% ↑	12% ↓	6%↓
feel confident	How to avoid academic misconduct	84% ↑	12% ↓	4%↓
about	Using the library and learning resources	81% ↑	13% ↓	6%↓
	Accessing and using the IT equipment and software I need to succeed	76% ↑	16%	8%↓
	The foundational skills and knowledge needed to do well on the course	74% ↑	15% ↓	10%
	Working with other students in groups	74% ↑	15% ↓	11%
	Making the most of lectures	76% ↑	15% ↓	9%↓



				Confidence
		Very confident + Confident	NCNNC	Unconfident + Very unconfident
To what extent do you	What I have to do to get a good grade on my course	67%	23% ↑	11%
feel confident about	Approaching and discussing my progress with academic staff	65%↓	21%	14%
	Spending my time during independent study productively	70%	15% ↓	14%
	Knowing what to do when others' behaviour is unacceptable	64%↓	23% ↑	13%
	Knowing what to do when an aspect of the delivery of my course is unacceptable	53%↓	26% ↑	21% ↑
	Understanding how my final mark is calculated	58%↓	24% ↑	18% ↑
	What is needed to get a graduate job	46%↓	27% ↑	27% ↑



Students and food

Worried food would run out in next two weeks

Very or Somewhat

Not very or Not at all

DN/PNTS

Overall

32%

52%

DN/PNTS



Students and food

How it differs by domicile						
Worried		Overall	UK	EU	Non-EU	
food would	Very or Somewhat	32%	31%	26%	40%	
two	Not very or Not at all	52%	53%	61%	46%	
	DN/PNTS	15%	16%	14%	14%	



Students and food

				Home d	omiciled
Worried food		Overall	First in family	Bursary	State educated
would run out in	Very or somewhat	31%	33%	39%	32%
next two weeks	Not very or not at all	53%	52%	47%	53%
	Don't know or PNTS	16%	14%	14%	16%





Relationship between food and NSS

			All taught
How good are staff at explaining things?		No food emergency	Experienced food emergency
	VERY POSITIVE NSS	33%	25%
	POSITIVE	57%	57%
	NEGATIVE	8%	15%
	VERY NEGATIVE	1%	3%



Relationship between food and NSS

			All taught
How fair has the marking and assessment been on your course?		No food emergency	Experienced food emergency
	VERY POSITIVE NSS	30%	23%
	POSITIVE NSS	60%	57%
	NEGATIVE NSS	8%	14%
	VERY NEGATIVE NSS	2%	6%



Relationship between food and community

			All students
I feel part of a community of staff and students		Positive about community	Negative about community
	Has experienced food emergency	14%	23%
	Not experienced food emergency	82%	57%
	Don't know or PNTS	4%	14%



Campus life

	All students							
		All sample	Sports	Societies	Rep'n	Media	Liberation	None
I feel part of a community of staff and students	Positive re community	78%	82%	84%	88%	94%	83%	67%
	Negative re community	22%	18%	16%	12%	6%	17%	33%



Campus life

		All students					
of staff and Students Negative		Volunteering	Night events	Day events	Enterprise	Leader	None
	Positive re community	83%	86%	90%	95%	82%	67%
	Negative re community	17%	14%	10%	5%	18%	33%



Problems with food?

- ONS poll of first-year students in 2021
- 23 percent of students suggested possible issues with food or body image
- 27 percent suggested that they may have an eating disorder SCOFF questionnaire: five-item measure to assess the possible presence of an eating disorder.
- Do you make yourself sick because you feel uncomfortably full?
- Do you worry you have lost control over how much you eat?
- Have you recently lost more than one stone (6.4kg) in a 3 month period?
- Do you believe yourself to be fat when others say you are too thin?
- Would you say that food dominates your life?



SCOFF

- no sign of possible issue eating disorder (SCOFF) score of O
- possible issues with food or body image eating disorder (SCOFF) score of 1
- possible eating disorder eating disorder (SCOFF) score of 2 to 5
- NHS 17-23 y/os more than six in ten 17- to 23-yearolds had score of 1 or more



		ONS2021	BELONG2023
Do you make yourself sick because you feel uncomfortably full?	Yes	9%	12%
	No	91%	88%



Do you worry you have lost control over how much you eat?		ONS2021	BELONG2023
	Yes	29%	30%
	No	71%	70%



Have you recently lost more than one stone (6.4kg) in a 3 month period?

Yes

10%

15%

No

90%

85%



Do you believe yourself to be fat when others say you are too thin?		ONS2021	BELONG2023
	Yes	9%	12%
	No	91%	88%



Would you say that food dominates your life?		ONS2021	BELONG2023
	Yes	20%	28%
	No	80%	72%



SCOFF scores

In our sample, the percentages were as follows:

- no sign of possible issue 51% (ONS 50%)
- possible issues with food or body image 26% (ONS 23%)
- possible eating disorder 23% (ONS 27%)



Why don't they take part?

Confidence, availability, workload, disability (starting smaller)

- NEW: Intersecting issues of distance from campus, time available and wider pressures all featured more heavily in the responses in these waves:
 - "I work a lot of hours part-time due to financial reasons...! often feel that events are geared towards students who have a lot of free time."
 - "Also, everything costs money nowadays which you can imagine is difficult as a student."
 - "Money! And a lack of friends has meant that certain events I just wouldn't go to."



What do students say would help them become?

- 1. Peer support
- 2. Not understanding the components of success as a student
- 3. Dedicated and ongoing support for FiF, clearing and those with contextual offers
- 4. Understanding of personal circumstances/characteristics from other students
- 5. Structural understanding of personal circumstances/characteristics from university



Becoming

- I'm not confident in my abilities. I feel very behind and anxious about my course and I have nobody to talk to.
- I feel I am a person that needs a lot of reassurance, and this is hard when there is so many people within each school, so no one gets known on a personal level.
- I just think I need help with a lot of these things through the whole semester not just at start
- Knowing what you are supposed to know instead of finding it out once you failed or are sruggling
- I missed the first four weeks and nothing was done about what I missed even I asked



Belong – ing and learning

- Listening is often about asking the right questions (laterally)
- Theorising is often about understanding lives rather than opinions
- Planning is often about experimenting course reps, officers and committers as social entrepreneurs

 Helping universities to learn is the ultimate gift of student representation



Belonging

- Impacted by CoL, diversity and burdens
- But can be overcome through deliberate steps
- Assumptions of importance, size, immersion and ease
- Shallower ends and doing things together
- Time on campus more precious and social
- Supporting SUs to target those most at risk of poor belonging
- School or programme level crucial



If it was up to me

- Deliberate steps to foster belonging
- Subject level interventions, led by students but involving academics and regulatory bodies
- Structural and Financial interventions aimed at valuing engagement on campus
- A focus on affordability and access to food
- A wider look at student health and what universities (inc peers) can do to improve it



