

BALANCING THE FREE SPEECH-INCLUSION SEE-SAW

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By Cibyl & Wonkhe

Free speech

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

Free speech in the NSS...

Groups of students who are less positive include:

- Students that aren't white
- Students from the most deprived areas
- Those eligible for free school meals
- Those from the EU
- Disabled students
- Care experienced students



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Community and free speech

| | | I feel part of a community of students and staff | | | |
|---|--|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| During your studies, how free did you feel to express your ideas, opinions and beliefs? | | Strong yes | Yes | No | Strong no |
| 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% |



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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 nervous to express my opinion since I am new and trying to understand the people/colleagues.
- 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 of an 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.



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