

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SURVEY 2025

Information Guide for Higher
Education Providers in England

November 2024

Version 2

Updated 15 November 2024



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Introduction

As a one-year pilot, the OfS is trialling a short, online-only sexual misconduct survey with students across England to better understand the prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education. To reduce the burden on providers and students, the process will be administered by Ipsos using the same platform provided for delivery of the NSS. Students will be invited to take the sexual misconduct survey after they have completed the NSS 2025. The sexual misconduct questionnaire will be a shortened version of the pilot survey that was tested in 2023.¹

The aims of the pilot are:

- To test a method for delivering the sexual misconduct survey to students nationally and understand how this might affect the response rate
- To gain an estimate of the prevalence of student experiences of sexual misconduct and harassment at a national level
- To explore how experiences might vary between students with different characteristics.

The survey will ask students about their experiences of sexual harassment and sexual assault/violence, and their understanding and experiences of reporting sexual misconduct to their provider.

Some of the language used in the survey is explicit and some people may find it uncomfortable. However, it is important that we ask questions in this way so that students are clear what we mean – this will ensure accuracy in our measure of prevalence.

OfS appreciate that some of the items in the questionnaire could cause some students to recall difficult or traumatic experiences which they might find distressing. In recognition of this, content warnings will be included at the beginning and throughout the questionnaire to ensure that participants are clearly informed about what they will be asked and can exercise informed choice about taking part and continuing.

The questionnaire will include links in several places to national-level resources that offer support for victims or survivors of sexual misconduct. Providers will also have the opportunity to include local links to resources for their own students. Further information on this is available [here](#).

The sexual misconduct survey questionnaire has been thoroughly tested with students and the final version is available in [this section](#).

For further information about the sexual misconduct survey, please send enquiries to smsurvey@officeforstudents.org.uk.

¹ For more information, see [Survey of sexual misconduct - Office for Students](#).

How will the survey be conducted?

- Once students have completed the NSS 2025, they will be invited to take the sexual misconduct survey.
- If students prefer to do the sexual misconduct survey at a later stage, they can do so by using the original NSS invitation link to return to the survey platform. Because of the sequential nature of the surveys, students will need to click through the NSS again to reach the sexual misconduct survey. But don't worry – this won't overwrite their original NSS responses as these will have already been saved.
- The survey will be in field alongside the NSS, between 8 January and 30 April.
- The survey can be completed online only. Telephone interviews will therefore not be conducted.
- Information on the survey will be available via the [NSS website](#), and through provider communication. The eligible population will not receive communication from Ipsos about the survey and non-respondents will not receive any follow-up reminders about the sexual misconduct survey.

Eligibility

- Students who are 18 years of age at the time they started their course.
- Students who are studying at a provider based in England.
- The eligible survey population will be flagged by the OfS in the target list provided to Ipsos.

Opting Out

- Students will be given the option to opt in/out of the sexual misconduct survey once they have completed the NSS and they will be asked if they wish to complete it there and then. If a student opts out of the NSS, they will not be offered the option to complete the sexual misconduct survey.
- If students do not wish to be presented with the opportunity to complete the sexual misconduct survey, they should email the Ipsos student helpline via thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.
- Further information on this process can be found in the sexual misconduct survey privacy notice, available [here](#).

Survey Promotion & Response Rate Reporting

- Providers are not required to promote the sexual misconduct survey. However, providers may wish to inform their students about the sexual misconduct survey and raising awareness of the wellbeing and safeguarding support available to their students is strongly encouraged. Student facing information about the SMS pilot is available on the OfS website.
- Response rate reporting will not be available for the sexual misconduct survey. This does not affect the availability of the response rate reporting available for the NSS during fieldwork.

Data Publication

- Where possible, the OfS plan to publish data from the 2025 SMS pilot aggregated at sector level with a breakdown analysis of the data by student characteristics.
- As the SMS is a pilot survey distinct from the NSS, the OfS do not plan to publish provider-level data at the same time, nor will data appear as part of the 2025 OfS-published NSS dataset. Where data quality is sufficient however, **and student anonymity can be assured**, the OfS plan to share with providers their own 2025 pilot data so that it can support any local initiatives on this important issue. Again, this data will be aggregated to ensure student anonymity.

Actions for Providers

Providers are required to:

- Inform your students about what the sexual misconduct survey is using the pre-notification GDPR email template, available [here](#), **at least one week after** sending the pre-notification GDPR email for the NSS.
- Thank you to those of you that have completed the form requesting information on provider-level support links to be embedded into the survey. If you have not already done so, the link to the form is available here: <https://forms.gle/ELVQwWhk9gXnu1Cw5>. **Please ensure this form has been completed no later than 18 November.**

For more information, providers can refer to: [Survey of sexual misconduct - Office for Students](#)

For more information, students can refer to: [About our sexual misconduct pilot survey - Office for Students](#)

Annexes

Annexes

Pre-notification email to students

Dear [**Eligible Student**],

I am writing to inform you about an important survey that will be distributed in January regarding experiences of sexual harassment and misconduct among final year students across England.

The Sexual Misconduct Survey seeks to understand whether university students have experienced either sexual harassment and/or sexual violence since they became a student, either within their university setting, or at other sites or events unconnected to the university.

Your survey answers will help to build a national picture of the incidence of sexual misconduct experienced by students in Higher Education and help universities develop tools to tackle this serious issue.

We recognise that sexual misconduct is a sensitive subject and really appreciate your input.

Who is running the Sexual Misconduct Survey?

This confidential survey will be conducted by [Ipsos](#), an independent research agency. It is commissioned on behalf of the Office for Students (OfS), the regulator of higher education in England. The OfS protect the interests of students by working with universities and colleges to ensure a high quality learning experience where students can thrive and feel safe. See [Student guide to harassment and sexual misconduct - Office for Students](#) for more information about their work in this area.

The OfS also commission Ipsos to conduct the National Student Survey (NSS) on their behalf. We recently wrote to you on **XXX** to tell you all about the NSS and why your voice is so important to us. For more information about the NSS please see: <https://www.thestudentsurvey.com>

How to take part

To make taking part in the Sexual Misconduct Survey simpler, the survey will be offered to you by Ipsos after you have completed the NSS.

This survey is entirely optional and you do not have to take part or answer any questions you don't want to.

In January, Ipsos will invite you to complete the NSS and provide you with a unique link to the survey. Once you have completed the NSS, you will be invited to opt-in to complete the sexual misconduct survey immediately afterwards. You will not be contacted about the sexual misconduct survey separately.

Students cannot complete the sexual misconduct survey if they have not completed the NSS. Both surveys will be live from 8th January until 30th April 2025.

The Sexual Misconduct Survey is completely confidential and you will not be identified

This survey, like the NSS, is a task carried out in the public interest.

Personal data is held in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. All your responses will remain strictly pseudonymised and at no point will you be identified. Any personally identifiable data will be securely deleted by Ipsos after the survey closes and will not be shared with any third parties.

If you would prefer not to be shown the sexual misconduct survey, you can opt-out by following the details in the OfS [privacy notice](#), available under 'student surveys'. This notice also explains more about how and why we use your data.

The data used for the sexual misconduct survey is drawn from the data collected for the NSS. If you wish to know more about NSS data and processes, please see <https://www.thestudentsurvey.com/privacy-policy>.

Why is the Sexual Misconduct Survey important?

Whether or not you have experienced misconduct, your voice is extremely important to us and your answers will help the OfS to understand the incidence of sexual misconduct in Higher Education and help universities develop tools to tackle this serious issue. We recognise that sexual misconduct is a sensitive subject and really appreciate your input.

If you have any questions, please let us know or alternatively email thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.

Best wishes

[**Provider**]

Privacy Notice

Privacy notice for the Sexual Misconduct Survey pilot

1. Introduction

The Office for Students (OfS) is the regulator for higher education in England. We are committed to protecting your personal information and being clear about what information we hold about you and how we use it.

This privacy notice applies to the Sexual Misconduct Survey (SMS) pilot. It sets out details about the information we collect, who processes your information, what they use it for, the legal bases for this processing, and your rights under data protection legislation.

About the OfS

The OfS aims to ensure that every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers. This should mean students can study without facing harassment or sexual misconduct. The purpose of this pilot survey is to collect further evidence about the prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education in order to help us understand the scale of the issue and how different student groups are affected.

You can [find more information about the OfS and the work that we do on our website](#).

The Sexual Misconduct Survey will be carried out on our behalf by Ipsos (an independent social and market research agency). Ipsos also conduct the National Student Survey (NSS), which you are also invited to take part in.

The NSS and the Sexual Misconduct Survey are separate surveys, each with their own specific purpose but both are being delivered by Ipsos on behalf of the OfS.

The Sexual Misconduct Survey will be made available to you after you have completed the National Student Survey.

2. Data controller and Data Protection Officer

The OfS is the 'data controller' of any personal information collected within scope of this privacy notice.

Ipsos is a 'data processor' working on behalf of the OfS to administer the NSS.

Both the OfS and Ipsos are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and you can [check the entry details on the ICO website](#).

Our location and contact details are below:

Office for Students
Westward House
Lime Kiln Close
Bristol
BS34 8SR

Tel: 0117 931 7317

Email: dp@officeforstudents.org.uk

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the first point of contact for people whose information is processed. You can contact the DPO using the details above. You should note that this email address is monitored by other members of the OfS's data protection team. Therefore, please mark any correspondence 'for the attention of the Data Protection Officer'.

The OfS is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Our registration number is ZA309955 and you can [check our entry details on the ICO's website](#).

3. Our purpose for using the information

The Sexual Misconduct Survey aims to:

Build on the findings of the [first pilot survey conducted in 2023](#) and explore the national prevalence of sexual misconduct experienced by students at universities and colleges in England.

Trial a new route for delivering the survey; students will be invited to participate in the SMS after they have completed the NSS.

Trial a shortened version of the 2023 pilot survey.

Help inform decisions about future surveys.

We can only use your personal information where we have a specific purpose or purposes for doing so. This pilot survey intends to help us understand the scale of this important issue and how different student groups are affected.

If we want to use your personal information for a reason other than those purposes set out above, we will tell you before we start that use and provide further information about the new purpose(s).

4. Legal basis for using your personal information

Under data protection legislation, we require a legal basis to be able to process your personal information for the purposes set out above.

In this case, the legal basis is:

Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller (see UK GDPR Article 6(1)(e)) and for statistical and research purposes (see UK GDPR Article 89).

Processing of special categories of data is necessary for statistical and research purposes (see UK GDPR Article 9(2)(j)) in accordance with Article 89(1) and Schedule 1 part (4) of the DPA 2018.

5. Who sees my personal information

The OfS is the 'data controller' of any personal information collated and transferred for this pilot survey. The OfS may, from time to time, engage other non-statutory bodies or agents to carry out functions on their behalf. In order to carry out this survey the OfS has appointed Ipsos who will request personal information, including contact details, from your education provider. The OfS, as the data controller, will retain control of any personal data transferred under contract with non-statutory bodies.

The OfS is committed to protecting your personal information and being clear about what information we hold about you and how we use it. Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential by all parties involved. It will be stored securely within the United Kingdom and will not be transferred outside that territory without the explicit written consent of the OfS and then ensuring appropriate safeguards compliant with the requirements of data protection legislation are in place (whether in accordance with UK GDPR Article 46 or LED Article 37) as determined by the OfS.

6. Who we share your personal information with and why

Once the survey is complete, we may share your survey responses with a third-party supplier to enable the dissemination of results. Any results disseminated will be done so securely, in a way that takes steps to ensure the confidentiality of respondents.

If your feedback relates to any sexual misconduct experiences or incidents or you share any concerns about safeguarding, please note that these cannot be followed up with you by your education provider or the OfS due to confidentiality. The OfS will not have access to your contact details and will not be able to contact you and would not expect to make any contact with your education provider about specific situations. It is important

that if you have any concerns about your own wellbeing or safeguarding that you contact your education provider for information on the support and services available.

If you are currently in danger or need urgent medical attention, please contact the emergency services on 999.

In the table below is a list of support services that you can contact in a non-emergency situation, for help and advice:

| Support services available to you | Contact details |
|--|---|
| The Police (law enforcement) | Call '101'. This is a national, 24/7 helpline. |
| National Health Service (NHS) | Call '111'. This is a national, 24/7 helpline. |
| NHS mental health support | You can find support at: https://www.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/ . |
| The Samaritans (a charity dedicated to reducing feelings of isolation and disconnection) | Call '116 123'. This is a national 24/7 helpline. |
| Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity) | You can access support via: https://www.studentminds.org.uk/findsupport.html |
| Student Space (an online platform providing support services and advice and information on student life) | You can find support at: https://studentspace.org.uk/ |
| Mind (a mental health charity) | Call '0300 123 3393' or you can find support at: https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/ |
| SHOUT (a free, confidential text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope) | Text '85258' or you can find support at: https://giveusashout.org/ |
| Rape crisis England and Wales (dedicated helpline for victims of abuse in schools) | Call '0808 500 2222' or you can find support at: https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/ |

7. What personal information do you hold and collect about me?

Personal data for the sexual misconduct survey will be drawn from the NSS data collection and used to invite you to take part in this online survey about your experiences of sexual misconduct.

Student information for the NSS is initially collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and supplied to the OfS. The OfS then provide Ipsos with the following categories of personal data for each eligible student:

date of birth

course details

pseudonymised unique identifiers.

The OfS then requests student contact details from universities and colleges to be passed to Ipsos to conduct the survey. Universities and colleges provide Ipsos with the following categories of personal data for each eligible student:

name

email address

unique identifiers.

This information is used purely for the purpose of delivering the survey and will not be shared with any external organisation or the OfS.

In addition to your survey responses, Ipsos also collect paradata such as screen resolution and time taken to complete the survey. This information is supplied to the OfS and is only used for analysis and evaluation to see whether the survey is working successfully and whether it can be improved. Below is a list of the paradata:

date of response

length of time to respond

length of time on each screen (online)

information about the browser used

information about duplicate responses

information about partial responses

flags to show how many email addresses were supplied

whether emails bounced back.

The OfS will also match this data with the following special category data received from HESA and students' Individualised Learner Record (ILR):

ethnicity

religion (if applicable)

disability (if applicable)

sexual orientation.

Why we collect special categories of data before issuing the survey

The collection of the special category data listed above will be used to:

ensure that individuals with these characteristics are adequately represented and that their views and experiences are considered.

check whether there is any difference in response to the survey questions by students with a given characteristic.

Assess whether there is any response bias; whether students who responded had the same characteristics as the people who did not respond.

The OfS will then perform analysis on the data to identify the prevalence of sexual misconduct and understand the context surrounding sexual misconduct, including at different providers or with different groups of students.

Your participation in this research, together with your individual responses to the questions, will be kept strictly confidential in line with information security requirements and standards as agreed between Ipsos and the OfS.

The results of the pilot survey will be used by the OfS for internal analysis. The OfS will take final decisions on what data to publish and how to share it once the pilot is finished.

8. How long we hold your personal information

We are only able to retain a copy of your personal information if it is still needed for the purpose(s) for which it was collected. The following conditions apply to the personal information processed as part of the sexual misconduct survey:

Ipsos will destroy all student contact details within one calendar month of the survey closure (by 31 May 2025).

Within three calendar months of project closure, Ipsos will securely remove all other student data from their computer systems and transfer it in a pseudonymised format to the OfS, by 31 October 2025.

Pseudonymised responses to the survey and paradata about the response as described above will be retained indefinitely by the OfS for use in producing statistical analysis and research into quality and student experience, and trends in higher education. Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information that identifies an individual. This information will not be used to make any decisions about individuals and any reports the OfS publishes will not include identifiable individualised data.

9. Where your personal information will be stored

Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential by all parties involved, will be stored securely within the UK and will not be transferred outside that territory.

10. How we protect your personal information

The OfS has a number of security measures in place to protect your personal information, including:

Accredited to the [Cyber Essentials Plus](#) standard for cybersecurity.

All staff are required to undertake training in data protection and information security on joining the OfS.

Formal information security policies that must be read and understood by all staff.

Personal information is only available to those members of staff who require access as part of their role. This will be managed with an access control list, specifying which users are granted or denied access to the information.

Personal data is stored in pseudonymised form with access to the key which resolves the pseudonymisation strictly controlled.

You can read more information on [our approach to information security](#) on our website.

Ipsos has regular internal and external audits of its information security and is registered to the International Standard for Information Security, ISO 27001. Ipsos is a member of the Market Research Society, which means it has signed up to carrying out market research in an ethical and compliant way.

11. How do I opt out of being contacted by Ipsos to complete the Sexual Misconduct Survey?

You can ask Ipsos to remove your details from the contact list being used for the sexual misconduct survey. Students may do this by contacting [Ipsos](#).

Ipsos will ask you to confirm your details to ensure that the correct records are removed from the contact list. If you chose to opt out of the survey, Ipsos will retain your personal details for the duration of the survey but will not contact you again for the purposes of administering this survey. You may continue to receive information about the National Student Survey which Ipsos also administer on our behalf. Your personal data will be automatically destroyed by 31 May 2025.

You can also request to have your personal data erased. Students may do this at any stage by contacting [Ipsos](#).

If you choose data erasure, Ipsos will securely and permanently delete your personal information (contact details, date of birth, etc.) used for this survey. This is an irreversible process, which means you will not be able to take the survey once this process has been completed.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for the OfS to analyse student-level data relating to refusals or opt-outs. In this case, Ipsos will securely transfer data to the OfS about students who have actively opted out of the survey.

Please note providers may send their own communications to students regarding the sexual misconduct survey. Neither the OfS nor Ipsos are responsible for these provider communications.

For further information, please contact the research team at thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.

12. Your rights over your personal information

Once your personal information has been collected, you have certain rights in relation to that personal information that may be exercised. You have the right to request:

a copy of your personal information

inaccurate personal information held about you is corrected

your personal information to be deleted

processing of your personal information is restricted

a copy of your information in a format that allows easy transfer ('data portability')

that you are not subject to automated decision making or profiling (if these take place).

All these rights have certain limitations depending on the request and the purpose for which we are holding your personal information. Further information [about these rights and our processes](#) for handling such requests is available on our website.

13. Use of cookies

Cookies are test files placed on your computer to collect standard internet log information and visitor behaviour information. This information is used to track visitor use of the website and to complete statistical reports on website activity. For further information about [our cookies](#) visit our website, or for further general information visit: www.aboutcookies.org or www.allaboutcookies.org.

[Further information about the use of cookies by Ipsos](#) is available on the NSS website.

14. Complaints about the use of your personal information

If you are unhappy with the way in which your personal information has been handled by the OfS, please contact us via our Data Protection Officer (details in section two) and we will try to resolve your issue informally.

If you remain dissatisfied, you can complain to the data protection supervisory authority. In the UK, this is the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and they can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

15. Changes to this notice

We keep our privacy notices under regular review and we will inform you of any changes to this notice by placing an update on our [privacy notices](#) webpage.

This privacy notice was last updated on 28 October 2024.

16. How can I obtain further details about this privacy notice or our compliance with it?

If you have any questions or require further information about this privacy statement, you can email smsurvey@officeforstudents.org.uk

17. Can I provide feedback on the survey?

Yes. Ipsos and the OfS are committed to continuously improving the survey. Should you have a question, comment and/or complaint about this research please contact Ipsos at thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com or the OfS at smsurvey@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Questionnaire

Sexual Misconduct Survey

Thank you for considering participation in the sexual misconduct survey (SMS). The aim of this survey is to understand whether university/college students have experienced either sexual harassment and/or sexual violence since they became a student, either within or outside a university or college setting. Your answers will help us to understand the prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education and help universities and colleges to develop strategies to tackle this serious issue.

We recognise that sexual misconduct is a sensitive topic and deeply appreciate your willingness to share your experiences. Your voice is crucial, and we want you to feel safe and empowered to participate openly and honestly.

Key information about the survey:

- There are no right or wrong answers, but it is important that you answer the questions honestly.
- All of your answers will remain completely confidential in accordance with the Market Research Society (MRS) Code of Conduct and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- You may choose 'Prefer not to say' for any question you prefer not to answer.
- If you would like to opt out or remove your responses at a later date, simply let us know by emailing the thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.

The survey will take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete and is being conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the Office for Students (OfS), the independent regulator of higher education in England. This survey has been designed in consultation with experts and following existing best practice from similar surveys internationally. If you have any further questions about the survey, please contact thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com. You can find [the privacy policy for this research on the OfS website](#).

The survey will start by asking about your experience of behaviours related to sexual harassment. Then, the survey will ask about sexual violence. To ensure we are accurate in our measures of prevalence, there are detailed descriptions of these behaviours. All answers will remain completely confidential and will be stored securely. No individual students will be identifiable in the results of this survey.

Some of the language used in this survey is explicit and some people may find it uncomfortable. But it is important that we ask questions in this way so that you are clear what we mean.

Such questions are clearly marked with content warnings throughout and can be skipped entirely if preferred. If you have any questions about the survey or require further information please visit the OfS website or contact us at thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.

Please note that responses are not monitored in real-time. The OfS is unable to provide assistance or respond to specific concerns. If you would like to speak to someone regarding your wellbeing, [Name of respondent's higher education provider] offers support resources: [Details of respondent's provider's support]. If you are currently in danger or need urgent medical attention, please contact the emergency services on 999.

Alternatively, national charities and organisations that offer help and support include:

Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 500 2222

The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818

Women's Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247

Survivors UK: male rape and sexual abuse support: SurvivorsUK.org or 0203 598 3898

Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111

Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 01926 402498

Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or 0800 999 5428

NHS mental health support: nhs.uk/mental-health

Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk

Mind (mental health charity): mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines or 0300 102 1234.

Unwanted experiences since becoming a student

Content warning

The first question will ask about any unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature you may have experienced. Please select all that apply.

You can select “Prefer not to say” if you do not wish to answer any questions.

Since being a student, have you experienced any of the following behaviours? Someone...

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Making sexual gestures or exposing themselves to you |
| 2 | Making sexually suggestive looks or staring at your body |
| 3 | Asking, hinting, or making unwelcome requests that you have sex with them |
| 4 | Persisting with suggestions that you establish a sexual or romantic relationship with them |
| 5 | Making unwelcome sexual comments or asking sexualised questions about your private life, body, or physical appearance |
| 6 | Taking a nude or sexual photo or video of you without your permission |
| 7 | Posting a nude or sexual photo or video of you online, or sending it to others, without your permission |
| 8 | Privately sending you sexualised messages electronically, via text message, email, social media, etc. |
| 9 | Spreading unwelcome sexual rumours about you, either in person, or by text, email, social media, or other electronic means |
| 10 | None of the above |
| 11 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 12 | Prefer not to say |

The unwelcome behaviours described in the previous question are examples of sexual harassment. The next few questions focus on details such as when and where this/these incidents occurred, the type of individual(s) involved, and whether you have reported the incident to your university/college.

As a reminder, there are no right or wrong answers. We understand, for example, that many people do not seek support for a variety of reasons. To remind you, you can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Experiences of sexual harassment in the last 12 months

Did any of the incident(s) you mentioned occur in the last 12 months?

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Did any of the incident(s) you mention occur in a university/college setting?

By university/college setting we mean any place, event, or social occasion arranged by or associated with your university/college. This includes student accommodation, events organised by student groups or societies, and could be on or off campus, or online.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | The incident(s) took place exclusively in a university/college setting |
| 2 | None were in a university/college setting |
| 3 | Some took place in a university/college setting; some took place outside of a university/college setting |
| 4 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 5 | Prefer not to say |

Did the incident(s) involve someone connected with your university/college?

This might be another student, or someone who works at the university/college.

To remind you, your answers will remain confidential at all times.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Were the people/was the person any of the following...?

Please select all that apply.

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | A student from your university/college |
| 2 | A tutor, lecturer, research supervisor, or another member of academic staff from your university/college |
| 3 | A non-academic (administrative) university/college staff member |
| 4 | A sports coach |
| 5 | Any other member of university/college staff |
| 6 | Your supervisor or co-worker at your professional placement or internship |
| 7 | An employer, manager, or co-worker at work |
| 8 | A partner |
| 9 | A hook-up, or date |
| 10 | A family member |
| 11 | A friend or acquaintance not from your university/college |
| 12 | Someone else |
| 13 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 14 | Prefer not to say |

Reporting

The next few questions ask about reporting and making a formal complaint about the incident(s). Again, as a reminder, your answers remain confidential at all times and you can select "Prefer not to say" to skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Have you formally reported or made a formal complaint about the incident(s) to your university/college? Again, as a reminder, your answers remain confidential at all times.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university/college's formal reporting process?

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Very good |
| 2 | Good |
| 3 | Neither good nor poor |
| 4 | Poor |
| 5 | Very poor |
| 6 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 7 | Prefer not to say |

Unwanted sexual contact

Content warning

The next section of the survey will ask about your experiences of unwanted sexual contact and contains explicit language. This includes detailed descriptions of acts of sexual assault and violence which some may find distressing, but it is important that we ask questions in this way so that you are clear what we mean. All answers will remain completely confidential and will be stored securely. No individual students will be identifiable in the results of this survey.

If you would prefer not to answer a particular question, you can select “Prefer not to say” and move on to the next question.

Please note that we do not monitor this survey in real-time. It is important that if you have any concerns about your own wellbeing or safeguarding that you contact your education provider for information on the support and services available, [Name of respondent’s higher education provider] offers support resources: [Details of respondent’s provider’s support].

If you are currently in danger or need urgent medical attention, please contact the emergency services on 999. Alternatively, national charities and organisations that offer help and support include:

Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 500 2222

The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818

Women’s Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247

Survivors UK – male rape and sexual abuse support: SurvivorsUK.org or 0203 598 3898

Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111

Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 01926 402498

Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or 0800 999 5428

NHS Mental Health support: nhs.uk/mental-health

Student Minds (the UK’s student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk

Mind (mental health charity): mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines or 0300 102 1234.

Since being a student, has anyone ever done the following things to you when you did not want them to?

This could have been anywhere, not just at university/college, and includes when you were asleep or affected by alcohol or drugs. This might have been as a result of the individual(s):

Telling lies, threatening to end a relationship or to spread rumours about you, making promises you knew were untrue, or continually verbally pressuring you.

Showing annoyance, criticising your sexuality or attractiveness, getting angry but not using physical force.

Taking advantage of you when you were affected by alcohol or drugs.

Threatening to physically harm you or someone close to you.

Using force, for example holding you down with their body weight, pinning your arms, or having a weapon.

Engaging in the behaviour without any indication from you that such behaviour was welcome.

Why is this information needed?

This level of detail is important to ensure people are aware of the range of different contexts where misconduct happens so we can understand the extent of the problem. All data will remain confidential, be stored securely and no individuals will be identifiable in the reporting outputs. If you would like to retract your answers at any point, simply let us know by emailing thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Someone touched me in a sexual manner, kissed, pinched, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body (lips, breast/chest, crotch or bottom) or removed some of my clothes when I did not want them to (but did not attempt sexual penetration) |
| 2 | Someone performed oral sex on me or made me perform oral sex with them when I did not want them to |
| 3 | Someone put their penis, fingers, or other parts of their body, or objects into my anus or my vagina when I did not want them to |
| 4 | Someone made ME perform anal or vaginal sex when I did not want them to (i.e., putting my penis or my fingers, or other body parts or objects, into their anus or vagina) |

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Even though they were not successful, someone TRIED to put their penis, fingers, or other body parts, or objects into my vagina or my anus when I did not want them to |
| 6 | Even though they were not successful, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me when I did not want them to, or TRIED to make me perform oral sex on them when I did not want to |
| 7 | None of the above |
| 8 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 9 | Prefer not to say |

Experiences in the last 12 months

Did any of the incident(s) you mentioned occur in the last 12 months?

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Did (any of) the incident(s) you mention occur in a university/college setting?

By university/college setting we mean any place, event, or social occasion arranged by or associated with your university/college. This includes student accommodation, events organised by student groups or societies, and could be on or off campus, or online

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | The incident(s) took place exclusively in a university/college setting |
| 2 | None were in a university/college setting |
| 3 | Some took place in a university/college setting; some took place outside of a university/college setting |
| 4 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 5 | Prefer not to say |

Did the incident(s) involve someone connected with your university/college?

This might be another student or someone who works at the university/college, etc. **To remind you, your answers will remain confidential at all times.**

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Were the people/was the person any of the following...?

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | A student from your university/college |
|---|--|

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | A tutor, lecturer, research supervisor, or another member of academic staff from your university/college |
| 3 | A non-academic (administrative) university/college staff member |
| 4 | A sports coach |
| 5 | Any other member of university/college staff |
| 6 | Your supervisor or co-worker at your professional placement or internship |
| 7 | An employer, manager, or co-worker at work |
| 8 | A partner |
| 9 | A hook-up, or date |
| 10 | A family member |
| 11 | A friend or acquaintance not from your university/college |
| 12 | Someone else |
| 13 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 14 | Prefer not to say |

Reporting

Have you formally reported or made a formal complaint about the incident(s) to your university/college? As a reminder, your answers remain confidential at all times.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university/college's formal reporting process?

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Very good |
| 2 | Good |
| 3 | Neither good nor poor |
| 4 | Poor |
| 5 | Very poor |
| 6 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 7 | Prefer not to say |

Understanding of process

How confident are you about where to seek support within your university/college about an experience of sexual harassment or misconduct?

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Very confident |
| 2 | Fairly confident |
| 3 | Not very confident |
| 4 | Not at all confident |
| 5 | Don't know |
| 6 | Prefer not to say |

In the last 12 months, have you had an intimate relationship with a member of staff at your university/college?

Please note: The member of staff could be **any** person employed by your university/college (including postgraduate students if acting in a teaching, supervisory, support or welfare capacity).

By intimate relationship we mean any relationship that includes: physical intimacy, including one-off or repeated sexual activity; romantic or emotional intimacy; and/or financial dependency. This includes both in person and online, or via digital devices.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Has the university/college staff member(s) been involved with your education or assessment? For example, your lecturer, tutor, or supervisor?

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |
| 4 | Prefer not to say |

Has the university/college staff member(s) had any non-academic professional responsibility for you? For example, a student welfare worker, a sports coach, or security personnel

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Don't know / Can't remember |

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