Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey 2018-19

Issue date: 29 October 2019

Reference: SFC/ST/09/2019

Summary: To inform stakeholders of the publication of the college 2018-19 Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey outcomes.

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland’s colleges, students, parents, guardians and the general public.

Further information:

Contact: Kenny Wilson
Job title: Senior Analysis Officer
Department: Data Collections
Tel: 0131 313 6509
Email: kwilson@sfc.ac.uk

This is an official statistics publication
All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority’s Code of Practice to Official Statistics, which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision-making. Find out more about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at
www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/
Executive Summary

1. This report is an overview of student satisfaction in colleges in Scotland for 2018-19. It provides survey response rates and satisfaction rates for students on full-time further education (FE) and higher education (HE) courses. It also provides sector summary data on student satisfaction for part-time FE and HE students.

2. Survey response rates continue to be variable across colleges however; improvements this year in survey response rates mean that we can publish, for the first time, satisfaction data for full-time FE and HE students at a college level (Appendix A). We also publish part-time FE and HE data at sector level. However, we have no plans to publish distance/flexible satisfaction data due to the continuing very low response rates.

3. Overall 102,227 full-time and part-time college students were surveyed.

4. The number of students responding to the survey is:
   - 34,687 full-time students, a 49.4% response rate.
   - 9,434 part-time students, a 29.4% response rate.

5. Of those students studying an FE course, those studying on a part-time basis were more satisfied (94.9%) than full-time students (93.0%) as was the case for HE students (89.2% and 86.8% respectively).

6. When comparing full-time students, those studying at FE level were more satisfied (93.0%) than those studying at HE level (86.8%). Furthermore, part-time FE students were more satisfied (94.9%) than their part-time HE peers (89.2%).

7. To ensure greater consistency and procedural accuracy across colleges we will continue to work with the sector and Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (sparqs) to improve response rates for some colleges and to develop further the survey for future years.
Student Satisfaction and Engagement 2018–19

102,227 students surveyed
44,121 students responded

Response rate by student type
- HE Full-time: 45.3%
- FE Full-time: 52.5%
- HE Part-time: 24.6%
- FE Part-time: 30.7%

Overall satisfaction – FE College students
- Full-time:
  - Strongly Agree: 41.7%
  - Agree: 51.3%
  - Disagree: 5.4%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1.6%
  - 93% satisfied overall

- Part-time:
  - Strongly Agree: 52.2%
  - Agree: 42.7%
  - Disagree: 4.1%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1.0%
  - 95% satisfied overall

Overall satisfaction – HE College students
- Full-time:
  - Strongly Agree: 38.9%
  - Agree: 47.9%
  - Disagree: 9.8%
  - Strongly Disagree: 3.4%
  - 87% satisfied overall

- Part-time:
  - Strongly Agree: 37.5%
  - Agree: 51.6%
  - Disagree: 8.5%
  - Strongly Disagree: 2.4%
  - 89% satisfied overall

☑ Percentage of respondents satisfied with overall college experience (either strongly agree or agree).