



Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey 2025-26

Background and Appendices



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

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ISSUE DATE:	1 September 2026
REFERENCE:	SFC/ST/07/2026
SUMMARY:	To inform stakeholders of the publication of the college 2025-26 Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey (SSES) outcomes.
FAO:	Principals and Chairs of Scotland's colleges, students, parents, guardians and the general public.
FURTHER INFORMATION:	datarequests@sfc.ac.uk

This is an official statistics publication.

All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics, which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision-making. Find out more about the Code of Practice for Statistics at the [UK Statistics Authority's website](#).

Correction notice: A correction was issued for Annex A on 04/09/2026. Details of the correction can be found in a note accompanying the table.

Contents

Purpose..... 4

Rounding and suppression..... 4

Appendix A: Full-time survey response and satisfaction rates by college 5

Appendix B: Publication Metadata..... 6

Appendix C: Glossary 8

Purpose

1. The Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey (SSES) provides a means to evaluate and enhance college provision in Scotland through a national approach to monitoring student satisfaction and engagement. Over time, this will provide a consistent basis for college regions to evidence impact and improvement within their outcome agreements. With sparqs support it is envisaged that it will help to strengthen the role of students' associations in representation and advocacy and will contribute to public accountability.
2. The survey asks students to rate their satisfaction ('strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree', or 'strongly disagree') on 13 statements.
 - The overall satisfaction figure is the key outcome agreement measure for student satisfaction and is based on the combined figure for 'strongly agree' and 'agree' for the statement: *'Overall, I am satisfied with my college experience'*.
 - For the engagement statement - *'The college students' association influences change for the better'* - students have the option of providing a 'don't know' response. However, our calculations to derive the levels of satisfaction exclude those 'don't know' responses.
3. The SSES publication reports on students studying full-time or part-time. Students studying on a distance learning or flexible basis are also eligible to take part in the survey, but are currently not reported on due to low numbers.
4. Further information on the survey method, coverage and timing is available in separate guidance: [College Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey Guidance 2025-26](#).

Rounding and suppression

5. The following rounding and suppression rules have been applied to all statistics in the 2025-26 SSES publication in order to prevent against the identification of individual students:
 1. All numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.
 2. Any number greater than 0 but lower than 7.5 is rounded to 5.
 3. Actual 0 values are reported as blank.
 4. Halves are always rounded upwards (e.g. 12.5 is rounded to 15).
 5. Percentages based on fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed.
 6. Year-on-year changes based on fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed.

Appendix A: Full-time survey response and satisfaction rates by college

College	FE		HE	
	Response rate	Satisfaction rate	Response rate	Satisfaction rate
Ayrshire College	74.0%	96.3%	52.6%	95.9%
Borders College	44.5%	95.9%	25.5%	87.1%
City of Glasgow College	70.9%	95.2%	65.8%	93.0%
Dumfries and Galloway College	83.2%	98.9%	73.7%	97.7%
Dundee and Angus College	64.4%	96.8%	56.9%	96.5%
Edinburgh College	54.9%	96.4%	40.9%	92.7%
Fife College	86.2%	95.4%	79.8%	94.1%
Forth Valley College	38.2%	96.9%	24.3%	97.1%
Glasgow Clyde College	51.0%	97.0%	50.0%	95.1%
Glasgow Kelvin College	56.9%	96.1%	50.4%	92.7%
New College Lanarkshire	64.1%	91.9%	61.0%	88.7%
Newbattle Abbey College	71.9%	-	-	-
North East Scotland College	77.2%	95.8%	76.0%	92.9%
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig*	100.0%	92.2%	-	-
Scotland's Rural College*	77.9%	93.4%	-	-
South Lanarkshire College	81.5%	88.4%	86.0%	77.8%
UHI Argyll*	67.0%	90.5%	-	-
UHI Inverness*	72.2%	95.8%	-	-
UHI Moray*	70.7%	96.4%	-	-
UHI North, West and Hebrides	46.0%	94.2%	-	-
UHI Orkney*	16.1%	93.5%	-	-
UHI Perth*	62.5%	95.8%	-	-
UHI Shetland*	-	-	-	-
West College Scotland	59.8%	96.3%	51.5%	94.5%
West Lothian College	64.4%	97.8%	59.3%	95.8%
Scotland	65.1%	95.5%	59.2%	92.9%

Correction notice: Satisfaction rates at many colleges were incorrectly suppressed in the first release of this report. Annex A was updated on 04/09/2026 to correctly report satisfaction rates in line with SFCs Rounding and suppression policy.

*HE level student satisfaction for UHI partner colleges and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is reported in the [National Student Survey 2026 results](#).

Appendix B: Publication Metadata

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey 2025-26
Description	College student satisfaction data for full-time and part-time courses during the academic year 2025-2026.
Theme	Education
Topic	College Student Satisfaction information
Format	Web (HTML) report, PDF
Data source(s)	Scotland's colleges student satisfaction survey (for Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and the UHI partner colleges coverage is only for FE level students).
Date that data is acquired	2 June 2026
Release date	1 September 2026
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Academic year (1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026), and limited trend data from academic year 2017-18 onwards. Data is not available for 2019-20 as the survey was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Continuity of data	From 2015-16 aggregate student satisfaction data has been submitted in Excel tables. Data for 2019-20 is not available as the survey was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Revisions statement	There are no revisions to this publication.
Revisions relevant to this publication	The 2020-21 satisfaction rate in Table 5 of the report has been revised by 0.1%. This is due to the removal of HE students from UHI colleges and SRUC who were mistakenly included in this figure in previous publications.
Concepts and definitions	Please see the College Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey Guidance 2025-26
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	The results from the publication are used by the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Government, Audit Scotland, Colleges Scotland, academics, and member of the general public to monitor college student satisfaction and to support policy development.
Disclosure	Rounding and suppression rules have been applied to all statistics to prevent against the identification of individual students. Totals, year-on-year changes and

	percentages are calculated from unrounded figures. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	N/A
Last published	14 October 2025
Next published	August 2027
Date of first publication	27 October 2017

Appendix C: Glossary

College student satisfaction data - aggregate data from colleges based on the number of current students, at the point of survey, responding.

FE level - courses at SCQF or 'broadly comparable' level 6 and below.

HE level - courses at SCQF or 'broadly comparable' level 7 and above.

Full-time

- Programme of at least 600 planned notional hours, or for a one-year HNC at least 480 hours.

Part-time

- Self-contained full-time programme, i.e. one not supplemented by other periods of study of 18 weeks duration or less.
- Programme for which students are released by their employer for periods of full-time attendance.
- Programme for which employer-sponsored students are released by their employer for part of the week.
- Day programmes in which periods of evening or twilight study form an integral part of the programme.
- Programme held only in evening or twilight sessions or at weekends.

Student target group - students on courses of 160 hours or more in duration.

Survey timing - the period and the number of weeks the survey should be conducted. This is within an eight-week window between March and April and during this period, colleges will operate their survey for a period of six weeks (and this could straddle the Spring break).