



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## National Student Survey 2020: publication of data

**SFC Guidance**

Issue Date: 7 May 2020

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Issue date: 7 May 2020

Reference: SFC/GD/04/2020

Summary: This publication provides information on the plans for the publication of the 2020 National Student Survey results.

FAO: Principals of Scotland's universities

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## Summary

1. The National Student Survey (NSS) is managed by the Office for Students (OfS) on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies – the Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland), the Scottish Funding Council and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. The survey provides information for prospective students and for stakeholders to support a high quality learning experience.
2. The survey is delivered on behalf of the UK funding and regulatory bodies by:
  - Ipsos MORI, who are administering the survey.
  - Texuna Technologies, who will deliver the NSS Results Portal for providers.
3. This publication provides information on the plans for the publication of the 2020 NSS results.
4. The OfS will publish separate information in May 2020 on the publication of the Unistats dataset.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

5. Given the pressures and uncertainties universities and colleges are facing in responding to coronavirus, the UK funding and regulatory bodies are keeping the NSS under review in conjunction with Ipsos MORI. NSS fieldwork started on 6 January and concluded on 30 April. The UK funders and regulators will review NSS data to assess any impact the coronavirus outbreak has had on the results and make professional judgements about its statistical reliability before any decision on its publication is made.

## Publication of 2020 NSS data

6. The 2020 NSS data is scheduled to be published on the OfS website at **09:30 on Wednesday 1 July 2020**. Please note that this date is subject to change in response to the current coronavirus pandemic.
7. Providers will be able to access overall provider-level and subject-level question responses, open text comments, and all providers' NSS results at provider and subject level via the NSS Results Portal at **09:30 on Wednesday 1 July 2020**.
8. The OfS applies the Code of Practice for Statistics to the publication of NSS results data. More information about the Code of Practice can be found on the OfS website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/producing-statistics/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/producing-statistics/).

9. The NSS results will no longer be presented by historical NSS subject groupings, i.e. Joint Academic Coding System (JACS)<sup>2</sup>. From 2020 onwards, the OfS will present the public data and the NSS data dissemination portal by Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) subject groupings only. However, to minimise burden on providers and to allow providers a one-year transition till JACS is fully removed with HESA<sup>[1]</sup>, providers will be able to see their NSS results by JACS on the NSS data dissemination portal. This will be for one year only and will be available through the My Organisation internal reports.

### **NSS data dissemination portal**

10. Further technical information on the NSS Results Portal release has been made available in the NSS Results Portal newsletter. This will be issued by Texuna to all active NSS contacts on the Portal in May 2020.
11. Texuna will be in touch with existing active provider contacts to request that contact details are confirmed or updated as appropriate from 1 June 2020, ahead of the publication of the NSS data on the NSS Results Portal. Ensuring that these details are up to date will help providers access the NSS Results Portal for the NSS 2020 data quickly and easily.
12. From time to time, the underlying dataset for the NSS Results Portal may be subject to minor changes and amended during the year. However, the static reports available via the Results Portal will not be updated for minor changes. Static reports should therefore be understood as capturing a snapshot of the data, correct at the time of publication.

### **NSS 2020 pilot data**

13. Information on how providers will be able to access their pilot data will be made available separately.

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<sup>[1]</sup> See <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/jacs>

## Further information

<b>For queries relating to:</b>	<b>Organisation or team for first point of contact</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Providers' detailed results on the NSS Results Portal	Texuna Technologies Limited.	<a href="mailto:nss@texunatech.com">nss@texunatech.com</a>
Release and publication of NSS results	NSS team at the OfS SFC Learning and Quality Team	<a href="mailto:nss@officeforstudents.org.uk">nss@officeforstudents.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dhorsburgh@sfc.ac.uk">dhorsburgh@sfc.ac.uk</a>
Queries about publication of the NSS within the Unistats dataset	Discover Uni team at the OfS	<a href="mailto:discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk">discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk</a>