**NSS 2025**

For 2025, the core survey questions will remain the same as last year. However, it’s important to highlight a significant addition to the NSS 2025: the Sexual Misconduct Survey. Additionally, several structural changes were made to the NSS in 2023, which we must continue to consider as we launch the survey this year. This document provides key information regarding the NSS 2025 launch at Hope, as well as a summary of the new Sexual Misconduct Survey.

1. **Survey Structure**
   1. **The response scale**

Moved away from the five-point Likert scale:

(Definitely agree; Mostly agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Mostly disagree; Definitely disagree; Not applicable)

To a question specific response of 4 options, which can be different for every question:

for example, Very good; Good; Not very good; Not at all good; This does not apply to me or Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me etc.  The range of responses for each question are shown in Appendix 1.

* 1. **The survey questions**

In 2023, there were two new section headings and questions related to 'Mental wellbeing services' and 'Freedom of expression'.  These questions remain for 2025 and are as follows:

**Mental wellbeing services**

26. How well communicated was information about your university/college's mental wellbeing support services?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

**Freedom of expression** (not included for Welsh, Northern Irish and Scottish providers)

27. During your studies, how free did you feel to express your ideas, opinions, and beliefs?

Very free; Free; Not very free; Not at all free; This does not apply to me

* 1. **The final overall satisfaction question was removed.**

Note that this is only in England – the other parts of the UK have retained this.

* 1. **two optional questions about assessments were included:**

Teaching staff test what I have understood rather than what I have memorised.

Assessment methods employed in my course require an in-depth understanding of the course content.

* 1. **Social Work students received a specific set of questions concerned with practice placements.**

These questions are as follows:

I received sufficient preparatory information prior to my placement(s).

I was allocated placement(s) suitable for my course.

I received appropriate supervision on placement(s).

I was given opportunities to meet my required practice learning outcomes / competences.

My contribution during placement(s) as part of the clinical team was valued.

My practice supervisor(s) understood how my placement(s) related to the broader requirements of my course."

*These changes remain for the NSS 2025.*

1. **In addition to the standard open question there was one for all Hope students which will also be included in the survey this year:**

What feature or facility at Hope has provided the best support for your learning experience?

1. **Arrangements for the 2025 survey at Hope**

The survey will launch at Hope in the week of 20th January 2025. A note will go from the University at the start of the week. Ipsos will write to all students on the Thursday of that week, 23rd January 2025.

We will have three university level prizes, which will be drawn on Monday 15th April 2024.

We are required to send the eligible students an email about GDPR, before they start the survey. The letter also talks about inappropriate influence and directs the students to the OfS website on what universities can and can't do <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/nss-influence/> Heads will need to be clear to staff about inappropriate influence please send out this link to official OFS guidance to all your teams.

An NSS 2025 group has been convened to ensure all deadlines are met and to agree university level marketing and communication. You are welcome to be part of this – please let Harry know if you would like to join the group.

A meeting will take place with Level H Leads week AT Hope Park and the Creative Campus commencing 2nd December 2024 to disseminate the survey arrangements.

1. **Preparation for the survey**
   1. **Action Plans from NSS 2024**

All Faculties have well developed action plans following NSS2024 outcomes. Please will you return to these and ensure that you have picked up all the relevant issues. These will be discussed at the first NSS Action Group by each Faculty Associate Dean Student Experience.

* 1. **Course Evaluations**

These are used as a sounding board for the survey and to allow Schools to put quick fixes in place where necessary. These are ready to go and contain the format of questions as above. An additional two questions will be included focused on employability. I have asked that the links be sent to all Heads by **Tuesday 19th November 2024** so that you can make the judgement about when best to release them in your school/department. Please ensure that you have circulated them and given a response to students before the end of term with a copy of this response being placed on Moodles. Please also keep a record of any actions that you take as a result of the evaluations.

1. **Sexual Misconduct Survey 2025**
   1. **Addition to the end of the NSS Survey**

As a one-year pilot, the OfS is trialling a short, online only sexual misconduct survey to better understand the prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education. The survey will ask students about their experiences of sexual harassment and sexual assault/ violence and their understanding and experience of reporting sexual misconduct to their provider.

Once a student has completed the NSS 2025, they will be invited to take part in the sexual misconduct survey. Students will be given the option to opt in/out of the SMS. We are not required to promote the SMS survey but are encouraged to inform students of the addition to the main NSS. The results of the SMS will be used for internal analysis by the OfS only, they will then decide what data to publish and how to share it once the pilot has finished. Appendix two outlines the specific questions each student will be asked.

**Appendix 1: NSS 2025 Core questionnaire**

Please note: the response scale is indicated beneath each question.

# Teaching on my course

1. How good are teaching staff at explaining things?

Very good; Good; Not very good; Not at all good; This does not apply to me

2. How often do teaching staff make the subject engaging?

Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me

3. How often is the course intellectually stimulating?

Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me

4. How often does your course challenge you to achieve your best work?

Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me

# Learning opportunities

5. To what extent have you had the chance to explore ideas and concepts in depth?

To a large extent; To some extent; To a small extent; Not at all; This does not apply to me

6. How well does your course introduce subjects and skills in a way that builds on what you have already learned?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

7. To what extent have you had the chance to bring together information and ideas from different topics

To a large extent; To some extent; To a small extent; Not at all; This does not apply to me

8. To what extent does your course have the right balance of directed and independent study?

To a large extent; To some extent; To a small extent; Not at all; This does not apply to me

9. How well has your course developed your knowledge and skills that you think you will need for your future?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

# Assessment and feedback

10. How clear were the marking criteria used to assess your work’?

Very clear; Clear; Not very clear; Not at all clear; This does not apply to me

11. How fair has the marking and assessment been on your course?

Very fair; Fair; Not very fair; Not at all fair; This does not apply to me

12. How well have assessments allowed you to demonstrate what you have learned?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

13. How often have you received assessment feedback on time?

Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me

14. How often does feedback help you to improve your work?

Very often; Fairly often; Not very often; Rarely; This does not apply to me

# Academic support

15. How easy was it to contact teaching staff when you needed to?

Very easy; Easy; Not very easy; Not at all easy; This does not apply to me

16. How well have teaching staff supported your learning?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

# Organisation and management

17. How well organised is your course?

Very well organised; Well organised; Not very well organised; Not at all well organised;

This does not apply to me

18. How well were any changes to teaching on your course communicated?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

# Learning resources

19. How well have the IT resources and facilities supported your learning?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

20. How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces)

supported your learning?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

21. How easy is it to access subject specific resources (e.g., equipment, facilities, software)

when you need them?

Very easy; Easy; Not very easy; Not at all easy; This does not apply to me

# Student voice

22. To what extent do you get the right opportunities to give feedback on your course?

To a large extent; To some extent; To a small extent; Not at all; This does not apply to me

23. To what extent are students' opinions about the course valued by staff?

To a large extent; To some extent; To a small extent; Not at all; This does not apply to me

24. How clear is it that students' feedback on the course is acted on?

Very clear; Clear; Not very clear; Not at all clear; This does not apply to me

25. How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic

interests?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

# Mental wellbeing services

26. How well communicated was information about your university/college's mental

wellbeing support services?

Very well; Well; Not very well; Not at all well; This does not apply to me

# Freedom of expression

27. During your studies, how free did you feel to express your ideas, opinions, and beliefs?

Very free; Free; Not very free; Not at all free; This does not apply to me

# Open text question

29. Looking back on the experience, are there any particularly positive or negative aspects

you would like to highlight?

**Appendix 2: Sexual Misconduct Survey 2025 Core questionnaire**

# **Unwanted experiences since becoming a student**

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 | 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 | 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 | 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 |

## 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**

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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

## 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 | 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 |