Survey which focuses on the social dimension of higher education.

21,000 responses from students in Irish HEIs in 2022.

Data is comparable across Europe.

Student voice on living situation, family, jobs, finances, workload, well-being...

eurostudent.eu

HEA | AN TÚRAS UM AODA-ÓIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
EUROSTUDENT SURVEY VIII
REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS IN IRELAND 2022

Report Layout

1. Demographic profile of students
2. College entry route, transition and access
3. Course characteristics
4. Student income and expenditure
5. Student accommodation
6. Course workload, student employment and time budget
7. Student mobility
8. Mental health and well-being
10. Digitalisation of teaching, learning and student life
11. Experiences of discrimination
Today's presentation will focus on:

- Mental health
- Effect of Covid 19
- Discrimination
- Workload and employment
- Financial difficulties
- Belonging
Mental Health and Well-being
Disability

Students were asked if they had a disability, impairment, long-standing health problem, functional limitation or learning disability:

- 17% mental health condition
- 7% learning condition
- 7% other condition
- 5% physical condition
- 5% sensory condition
- 1% mobility condition

Overall 32% of students.
How happy are you?

Across all students:

- 15% extremely happy
- 41% happy
- 29% neither happy nor unhappy
- 11% unhappy
- 3% extremely unhappy
"I have felt cheerful and in good spirits"

At least half of the time: 54%

At no time: 2%
In the last two weeks...

"I have felt calm and relaxed"

At least half of the time: 43%

At no time: 8%
In the last two weeks...

"I have felt active and vigorous"

At least half of the time: 42%

At no time: 10%
"I woke up feeling fresh and rested"

*At least half of the time: 30%*

*At no time: 21%*
Isolation

From:
- Fellow students
- Family/partner
- Friends
- Others in general
Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic
Effect of pandemic

**Motivation**
Negative or very negative impact: 59%
No impact: 28%
Positive or very positive impact: 13%

**Mental health**
Negative or very negative impact: 58%
No impact: 35%
Positive or very positive impact: 7%

**Contact with students**
Negative or very negative impact: 68%
No impact: 23%
Positive or very positive impact: 9%
Experiences of discrimination
Because of who you are...

Subjected to physical violence
Many times: 0%
Never: 90%

Treated as less smart or capable
Many times: 6%
Never: 70%

Experienced sexual harassment
Many times: 5% (7% female, 2% male)
Never: 77% (68% female, 86% male)
How safe do you feel...

Walking alone in the dark in your neighbourhood
Very safe: 29% (15% female, 45% male)
Very unsafe: 11% (19% female, 3% male)

Walking alone in the dark in your institution
Very safe: 37% (20% female, 56% male)
Very unsafe: 6% (10% female, 1% male)
Course workload and student employment
Age

Full-time undergraduates
- 71% under 21 years old
- 5% over 30 years old

Part-time undergraduates
- 5% under 21 years old
- 68% over 30 years old

Full-time postgraduates
- 76% under 30 years old
- 24% over 30 years old

Part-time postgraduates
- 26% under 30 years old
- 74% over 30 years old
Children

11% of the total student population have children:

Full-time undergraduates: 4%
Part-time undergraduates: 46%
Full-time postgraduates: 12%
Part-time postgraduates: 43%
Average weekly workload for full-time students

Taught studies: 18 hours
Personal study: 19 hours

Subtotal: 37 hours

Total including paid jobs: 46 hours
Average weekly workload for part-time students

Taught studies: 7 hours
Personal study: 13 hours

Subtotal: 20 hours

Total including paid jobs: 55 hours
Employment

Full-time students

Undergraduates
- 57% work during term-time
Postgraduates
- 58% work during term-time

Part-time students

Undergraduates
- 90% work during term time
Postgraduates
- 93% work during term-time
Financial Well-being

- 33% experiencing financial difficulties
- Compares with 26% in previous Eurostudent report
Institutional services

Knowledge of services:
- 68% know of study-related counselling
- 75% know of mental health counselling
- 56% know of financial counselling
- 39% know of housing counselling

Use of services:
- 8% have used study-related counselling
- 13% have used mental health counselling
- 6% have used financial counselling
- 2% have used housing counselling
Belonging
"It was always clear I would study in higher education one day."

75% strongly agree or agree
13% strongly disagree or disagree

"I know a lot of fellow students with whom I can discuss subject-related questions."

58% strongly agree or agree
24% strongly disagree or disagree
Belonging

"I often have the feeling that I don't really belong in higher education."

22% strongly agree or agree
61% strongly disagree or disagree

"I am seriously thinking of completely abandoning my higher education studies."

6% strongly agree or agree
87% strongly disagree or disagree
Conclusions
Overall high levels of student satisfaction with higher education provision!

Significant numbers of students reporting challenges with mental health and well-being.

Isolation from fellow students, partly driven by Covid-19, has impacted negatively on students.

Financial challenges are a reality for many students.

Critical importance of student support services in mental health, finances, study support, and efforts to combat discrimination.
THANK YOU

hea.ie/resources/publications