



**STUDENTS'
UNION**
BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SPEAK WEEK RESULTS

NOVEMBER 2022



SPEAK WEEK

NOVEMBER 2022

845
participants

SPEAK WEEK

Tell us **YOUR** views

- The full-time student officers designed the survey themes to explore: the costs of living, access to learning and life on campus
- The survey ran between 21st and 25th November 2022
- 845 students took part - 824 responded to the online survey, and 21 completed a feedback card - this is the highest SPEAK WEEK participation on record!

Communication and reward assets:

Take our SURVEY

Get entered into a PRIZE DRAW!

SPEAK WEEK
Tell us **YOUR** views
21st - 25th November

ALL PRIZES UNLOCKED!

50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FEEDBACK!

THERE'S STILL **ONE MORE DAY** TO
GET YOURSELF ENTERED INTO THE PRIZE DRAW

[Click for survey instructions](#)

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FEEDBACK!

We've had over 800 submissions!

All prizes have been unlocked!

£50 VOUCHER
Gift Vouchers

Skate Rink Tickets

BOOM BATTLE BAR
Boom Battle Bar Vouchers

Xmas Jumper

and more!

The lucky winners will be contacted by email over the next week.

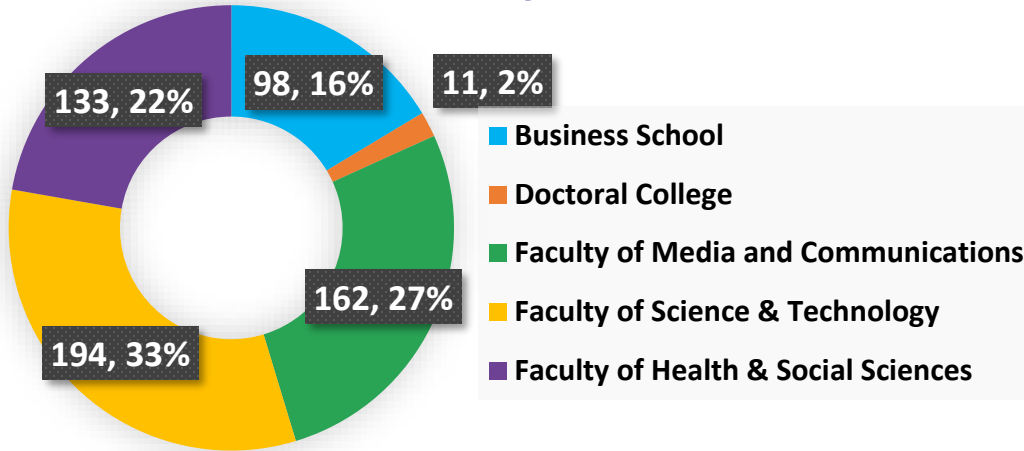
SPEAK WEEK
Tell us **YOUR** views
21st - 25th November

[Click for a video of the prizes](#)

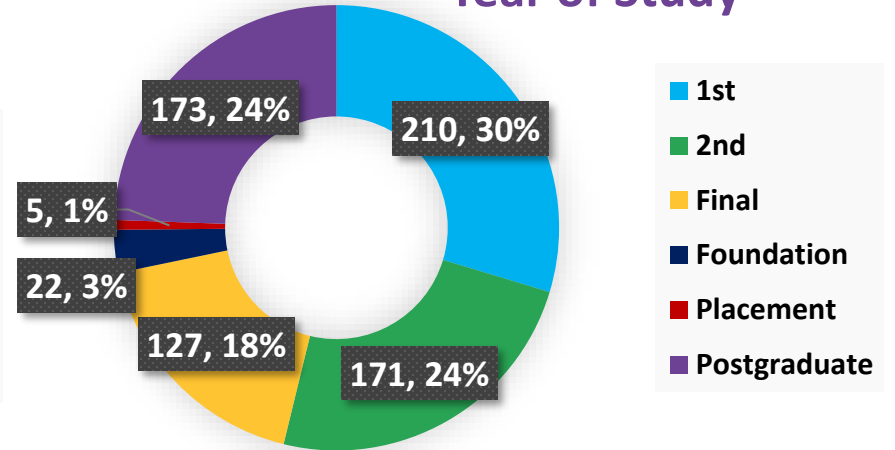
SPEAK WEEK

845
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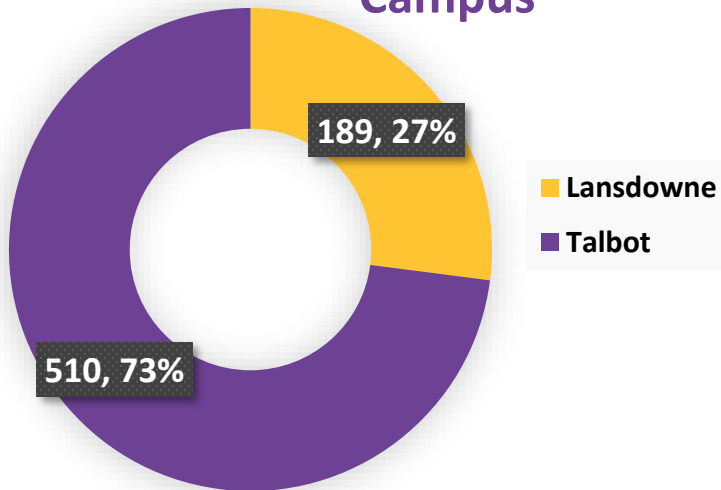
Faculty



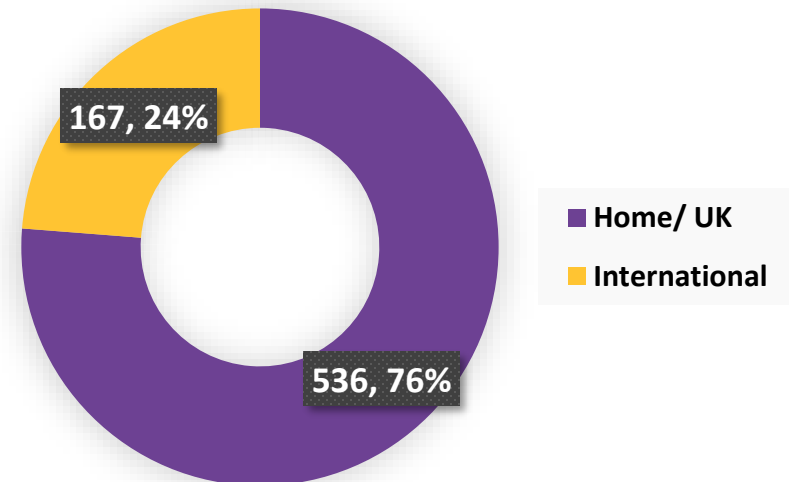
Year of Study



Campus



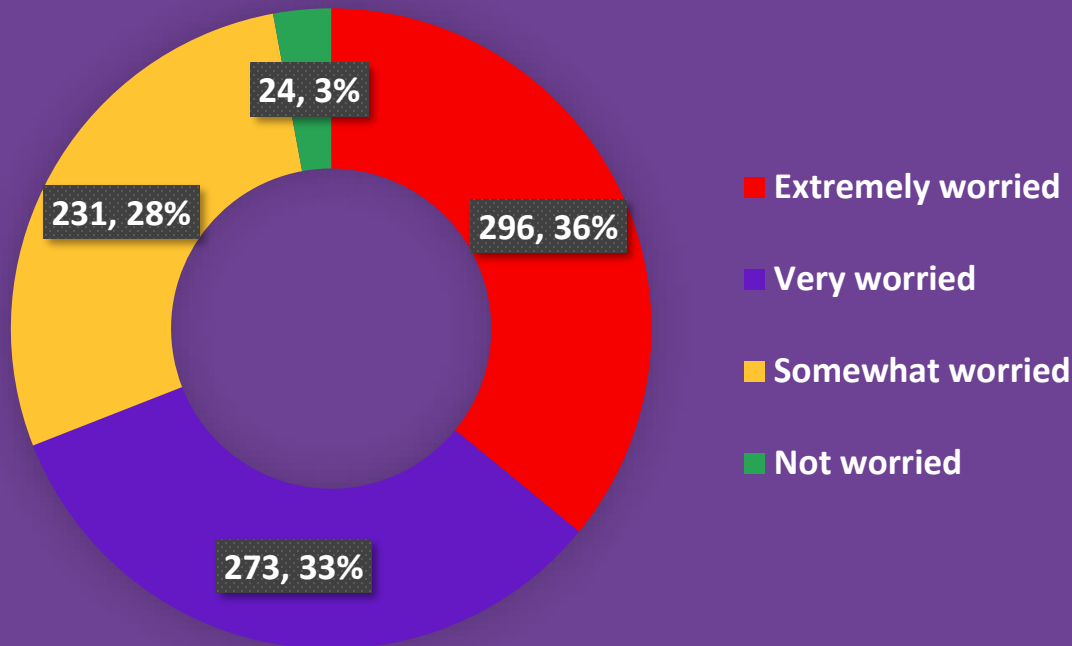
Fees



THEME 1: THE COSTS OF LIVING



Q1 How worried are you personally about the rising costs of living?

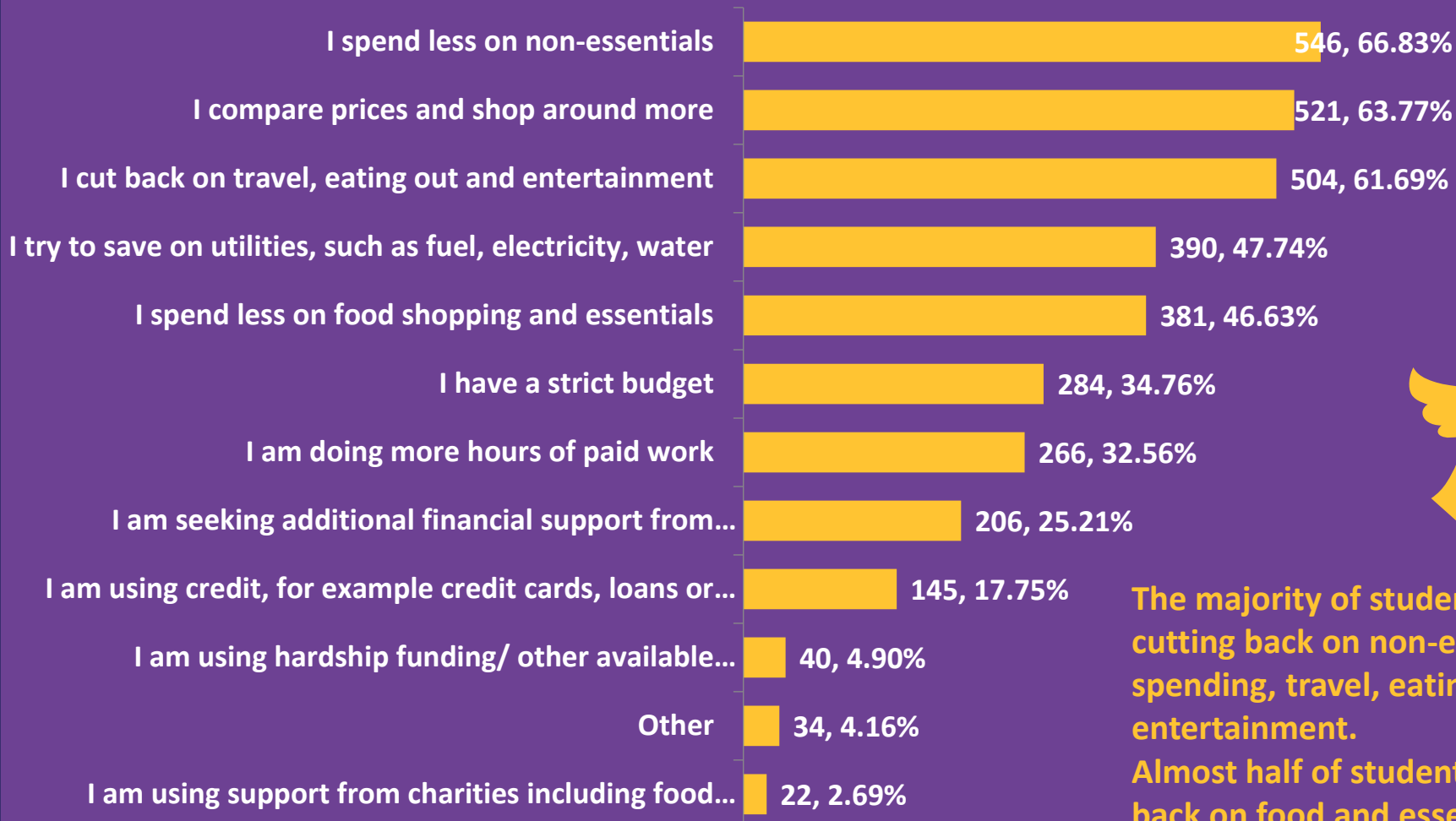


Almost all students said that they were worried about the rising living costs at least to some extent.

Two-thirds of students said they were very or extremely worried.

THEME 1: THE COSTS OF LIVING

Q2 Which of these are you doing because of the increased costs of living?



The majority of students reported cutting back on non-essential spending, travel, eating out and entertainment.

Almost half of students were cutting back on food and essentials.

THE COST OF LIVING

KEY THEMES WORD CLOUD



THEME 1: THE COSTS OF LIVING



KEY THEMES: What worries you the most?

Emotional Distress, Anxiety and Worry

80 out of 212 free text comments

“Feel like I’m constantly thinking about money all the time.”

“I am so scared I can’t afford to eat sometimes”

Most common concerns shared by students were the feelings of helplessness, emotional distress, anxiety and worry with the rising prices of food and essentials. There were a small number of students who experienced extreme anxiety and fear.

Accommodation, Food, Transport, Bills

75 out of 212 free text comments

These were the areas students struggled the most with. Many reported cutting down meals, not putting the heating on or choosing between the two. Students were struggling with the price of transport so many chose to walk instead. Students in halls where bills were included were feeling significantly less distressed.

“it’s so cold in the flat the electric heater goes into “warning there’s a window open” alert mode as we can’t afford the heating”

“Having to think about whether getting lunch is worth not having money for the bus home.”

THEME 1: THE COSTS OF LIVING



KEY THEMES: What worries you the most?

Work and Future

30 out of 212 free text comments

“Worried about what life post uni will look like if I don’t go straight into employment”

Many students need to work more hours and choose between work and studies. Some mentioned finding online sources of income. Certain groups such as students with disabilities are struggling to find work, while international students are limited by the terms of their visa. Many students expressed fear about their future after university.

International and Mature Students, Student Parents, Students with Disabilities

27 out of 212 free text comments

These groups of students reported significantly more struggles with bills, accommodation, balancing work with studies and keeping afloat.

“I worry if I’ll be able to afford to stay living in my flat. As a single mother I worry I’ll have to move.”

“As an International student, rising inflation fills me with dread. Cost of basic utilities, transport and food are increased, and it’s extremely difficult to commute and budget.”

THEME 1: THE COSTS OF LIVING



KEY THEMES: What worries you the most?

Living with Family, Sharing

22 out of 212 free text comments

“I have no other option but to live further away with my parents.”

Many students rely on their parents to support them and live with family or partners to share expenses.

Campus Affordability, Student Finance

19 out of 212 free text comments

Students felt their student loan is barely covering their rent, so they are left to seek additional employment and family support so they can cover their living costs. Many students felt food on campus was unaffordable.

“Attending uni may not be possible without a part-time job along with maintenance loans, if you don't have financial support from parents/ guardians .”

“One thing I do is make sure I bring food with me from home as the university facilities are extremely expensive.”

Almost all students are worried about the rising costs of living



97%

of students said that they were worried at least to some extent about the rising living costs

69%

of ALL students and

81%

of International students

said that they were very or extremely worried with increased prices

62%

of students reported cutting back on travel, eating out and entertainment

47%

almost half of students were also cutting back on food and essentials

SPEAK WEEK

Tell us **YOUR** views



1 in 4

108 COMMENTS

Students want advice and signposting on Finance, Budgeting, Saving, Discounts, Cooking

“Highlight the support available more - community kitchen and hardship funds are great but not that many people know about them”

“Tips on how to budget, cheaper but filling meals, lollipop tickets (so we can still have a bit of fun), competitions for vouchers, how to reduce costs of things like electricity, gas, water, etc.”

YOU SAID:



1 in 4

108 COMMENTS

Financial support

Students expect clear financial support, review of eligibility for international students and help with applications

“BU/SUBU could provide help by financially supporting students, especially those in vulnerable situations e.g. unsupportive families, students with disabilities, international students with financial difficulties, families which are at an economic disadvantage.”

1 in 4

103 COMMENTS

Food and hot drinks on campus

Reducing the price of food on both campuses will be welcome, as would be access to hot water, milk & microwaves.

“Take students into consideration more with the prices at uni, for students the food on campus is extremely pricey and just not affordable.”

“Make the community kitchens more available and less prejudiced”



WE DID:



✓ Launched the SUBU community kitchen



✓ Brought together a wide range of partners from SUBU, BU and the local community in a 'Winter Planning' working group



✓ Your VP Welfare & Community Chike is actively lobbying and leading on this theme



Cost of Living Support

Food and Drink



Sanitary Products



Heating

Travel

Funding

Free Advice



Developed a Cost-of-Living Hub, signposting you to available support

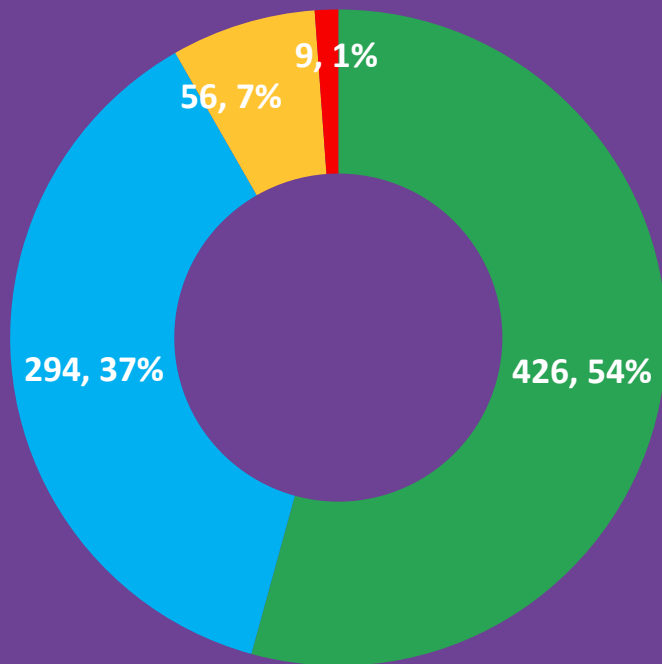


THEME 2: ACCESS TO LEARNING



Thinking about your course/ placement learning resources

Q4 (for example lectures, Brightspace, library, books), how accessible are these for you personally?



- All learning resources are accessible to me
- Most learning resources are accessible to me
- Some learning resources are accessible to me
- Very few learning resources are accessible to me

Just over half (54%) of students felt that all learning resources are accessible to them, and a third (37%) said most resources were accessible, including lectures, Brightspace, library, books and other materials.

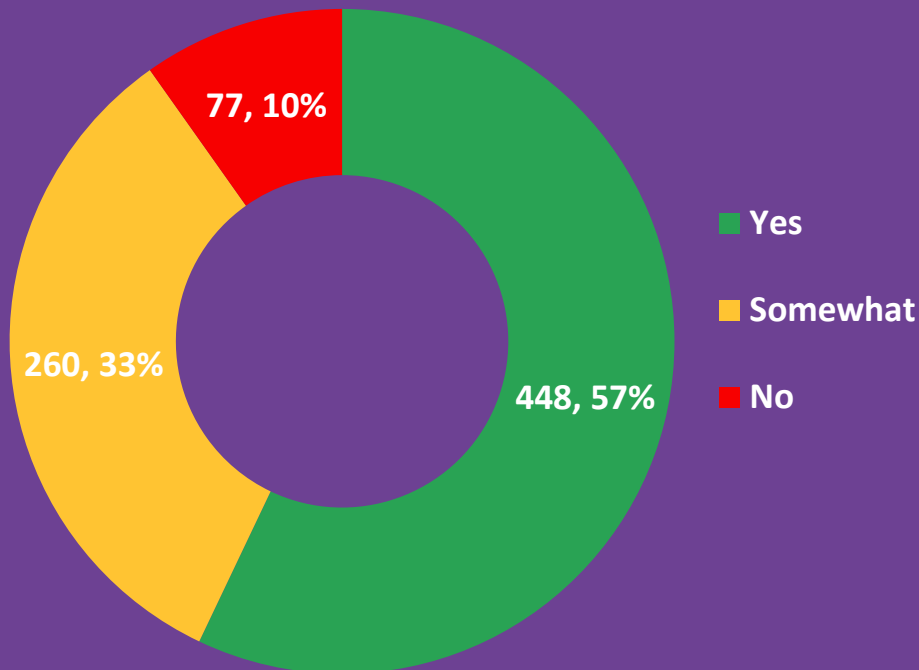
These are on the whole very positive results, with only 1% of students feeling they can only access very few resources. Still, more work is needed to ensure more students can access all their resources.



THEME 2: ACCESS TO LEARNING



Q5 Do you feel that your specific learning needs have been sufficiently addressed?



The majority of students felt their learning needs were sufficiently addressed.

One in every 10 students however said their specific learning needs are not met.

A vast majority of students can access their learning material



92%

of students can access most or all of their course learning resources

Over a half of students (57%)

felt that their specific learning needs have been sufficiently addressed

7%

said they can only access some of their learning material, and

A third (33%)

said their learning needs were somewhat addressed, and

1%

that they could only access very few resources

1 in 10 (10%)

felt their learning needs were not met

SPEAK WEEK

Tell us **YOUR** views



THEME 2: ACCESS TO LEARNING

KEY THEMES: What are key barriers to learning access?

Books and digital resources, remote access and recorded lectures

Major theme - more than half of all free text comments

There are comments that lectures are not consistently recorded, slides and library books are not always available in advance or accessible in digital or physical format, and books are expensive to purchase. A few students also said they were not shown how to use the library resources.

"Most lectures aren't recorded."

"Some compulsory texts have only one copy in the library to share amongst a class of 20."

"I wish more resources were digitally available as it makes it easier to manage coursework."



KEY THEMES: What are key barriers to learning access?

Brightspace

One-fifth of free text comments

“I can't see an overview of tasks and deadlines. Each unit is organised differently. Face to face verbal instructions are missing.”

Many students said Brightspace is easy to navigate and useful, but the needs to be more consistency, with some comments that it can be confusing and unfriendly.

There were reports of students unable to access timetables from mobile devices, assignments appearing last minute and being missed, and an over-reliance on technology versus face to face communication.

Multi-factor verification and wi-fi signal

1 in 10 comments

A number of students complained about wi-fi access across campus and many struggled with multiple logins and verification.

“The two factor authentication is a large obstacle for me as sometimes I won't get the message and then I can't log into anything. I can't access Brightspace, online lectures, email, even my timetable.”

Additional Learning Support

44 comments

A number of students were struggling to speak about, access support and get diagnosis and adjustments related to their learning needs.

What can BU/ SUBU do to make learning more accessible for you?

1 in 2

160 COMMENTS

Recorded lectures, digital resources, remote access, user experience, timetables

“All lectures should be recorded without fail, so those who are neurodivergent can go back and not miss out on things they might have struggled to absorb during the lecture”

“Would like a platform where everything is well organised, instead of multiple platforms designed like mazes”

“Brightspace needs a search field.”



YOU SAID:

1 in 4

86 COMMENTS

Face to Face communication, physical spaces & resources, groups

“More options to meet with tutors or staff to talk about general worries, concerns about assignments or lectures. It's very isolating and lonely.”

“I don't engage with online so well.”

“More beach-hut style study spaces”

“ADHD study and support group”

1 in 10

30 COMMENTS

Visual and practical hands-on content

Students also wanted more visual and engaging content and more examples and hands on experience rather than just text.

“Not just reading off slides, more engaging activities and group work”

1 in 10

34 COMMENTS

More accessible ALS/ adjustments support



WE DID:



✓ Your student reps regularly provide SimOn feedback from your course that informs policy and strategy across the university.

✓ Your VP Education Norah is lobbying the University and Faculty Committees for consistent lecture recordings and advanced access to learning materials. Norah is also investigating ALS Funding. ★

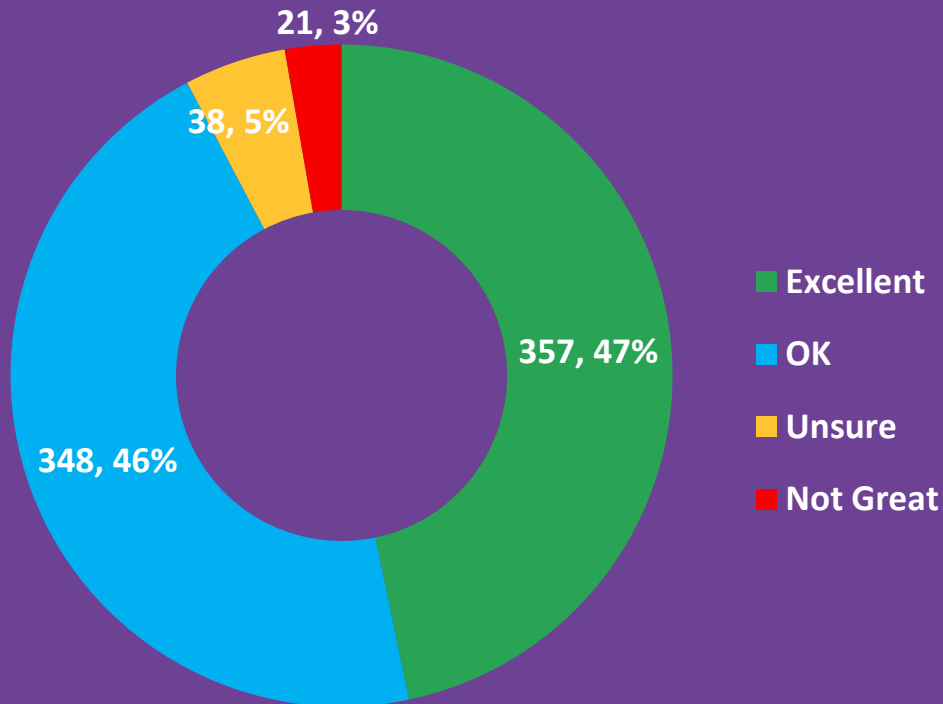


THEME 3: CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Q7

Thinking about the atmosphere, facilities, events, and activities available on campus over the first semester, how would you rate your overall campus experience?

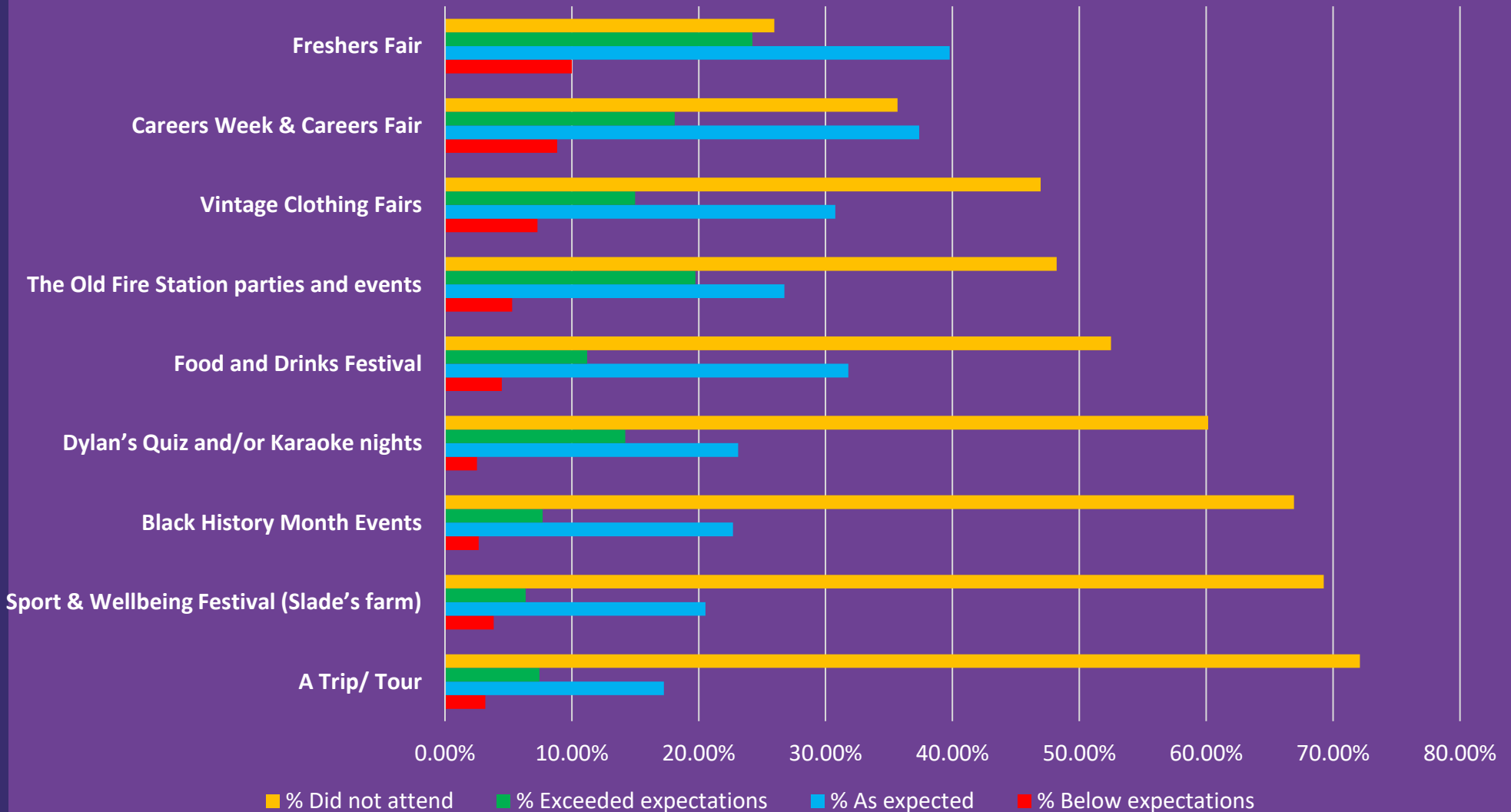


The vast majority of students were satisfied with their campus experience over the first semester with almost half of students rating the atmosphere, facilities, events and activities on campus as excellent.

THEME 3: CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



Q8 How would you rate the following events/ campaigns?



The vast majority of students enjoyed their campus experience



92%

of students were satisfied with their campus experience

Most popular events

74% | 81% | 65%

of surveyed students

of 1st year students

felt the Freshers Fair met or exceeded their expectations

95% | 88%

Talbot base

Lansdowne base

attended the Freshers Fair

47%

of students rated the atmosphere, facilities, events and activities on campus as 'Excellent'

65% | 77% | 65%

of surveyed students

of Postgraduate students

felt the Careers Fair met or exceeded their expectations

attended the Careers Fair

SPEAK WEEK

Tell us **YOUR** views

What can BU/ SUBU do to make campus more vibrant, inclusive and fun for you?



YOU SAID: More Events

106 COMMENTS, 1 in 2

“Even more fun events...”

Students enjoyed the wide range of events on campus and had many ideas for more opportunities to meet friends, have fun, enjoy stalls, explore cultures and learn life skills.

More cultural, art, sports, crafts and music events, but also animals, food stalls, vintage, plant, poster sales were suggested and more events focused on marginalised groups, including black and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, disabled, international and mature students.

To improve events, students asked for:

- Better communication
- Avoiding timetable clashes

“More inclusive events for the disabled. More events for mature students. A better introduction to academic writing and referencing.”

“Monitoring course timetables to actively plan student activities. Some come during assignments or heavy coursework which means students have to prioritise.”

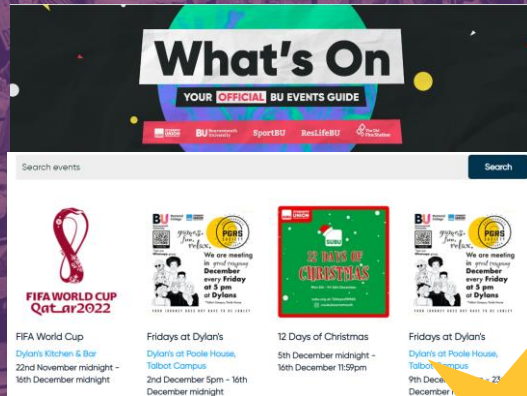


WE DID:



Your dedicated SUBU teams have delivered an exciting programme of events. See your official events guide.

Your VP Opportunities Fiifi is leading on clubs, societies and student experience and championing the sports bursary scheme.



Your SU President Omuwa is leading on careers and life skills events and championing the international students buddy scheme.



What can BU/ SUBU do to make campus more vibrant, inclusive and fun for you?



YOU SAID:

Better student space and events in Lansdowne

25 COMMENTS

“More social and relaxing spaces in Lansdowne campus. More events at Bournemouth Gateway...”

Students based in Lansdowne were more likely to feel they were left out and the atmosphere is not as vibrant and fun as on Talbot campus.

A number of comments were linked to the lack of social space to hangout, eat, chat and relax between lectures and the prices on campus.

To improve the experience students asked for:

- More events on Lansdowne
- Better seating areas and sofas
- Dedicated space for students
- Cost-of-living support



WE DID:



✓ Bringing together a range of partners from SUBU and BU Faculty of Health & Social Sciences to discuss student issues.

We are working with the High Sheriff of Dorset to make the SUBU space on Lansdowne fit for purpose: a space to relax, work together and feel part of the wider community.

✓ Developing a student-led community kitchen project in Lansdowne

Cost of Living Support

Food and Drink	▼
Sanitary Products	▼
Heating	
Travel	
Funding	
Free Advice	▼

Cost-of-Living Hub, signposting to available support (includes Lansdowne)



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