

Student Belonging Good Practice Guide



Appendix 1 - Teesside University Pre-Arrival Student Survey Questions

Appendix 1: Exemplar questions from the Teesside University pre-arrival student survey (STEP)

Previous Experience

1. What qualifications do you have? (Please select all that apply).
2. What is your highest previous qualification? (Please select one option.)
3. What year did you achieve this highest previous qualification? (Select year from list (1980-2023))
4. Did you study your highest previous qualification in the UK, or outside of the UK?
5. In the year immediately before starting your Teesside University course, would you describe yourself as mainly having been in: (Please select the one answer that most reflected your situation)
 - Study or training at school/college
 - Study and working (e.g., studying part-time)
 - Studying on a university course
 - In full-time paid work as an employee or self-employed
 - In part-time paid work as an employee or self-employed
 - In voluntary work or unpaid work
 - Unemployed
 - Looking after the home/family
 - Travelling / gap year
 - Retired
 - Other
6. How did you typically receive feedback on the work you submitted (either assessed or non-assessed)? (Please select all that apply)
 - Written feedback (paper copy)
 - Written feedback (digitally / online)
 - Face-to-face with your teacher/tutor (individually)
 - Face-to-face with your teacher/tutor (as a group)
 - Audio (verbally recorded)
 - I don't know
 - I don't remember receiving feedback on my assessments
 - Other
7. What was your preferred way of receiving feedback? (Please select one option)
 - Written feedback (paper copy)
 - Written feedback (digitally / online)
 - Face-to-face with your teacher/tutor (individually)
 - Face-to-face with your teacher/tutor (as a group)
 - Audio (verbally recorded)
 - I don't know
 - Other

8. Did you always read your feedback? (Please select one option)
9. Did you ever approach a teacher/tutor to discuss the academic feedback that accompanied your mark? (Please select one option)

Motivation and challenges of study

We would like to know what motivated you to study the course you are about to start at Teesside University and any challenges you may be facing entering this level of study.

1. Do you feel a sense of belonging to the University?
2. What are your reasons for undertaking this particular qualification? (Please select all that apply)
 - I was encouraged by a former teacher/tutor
 - I was encouraged by an employer
 - The funding was available
 - I was interested in the subject
 - To improve my employment prospects
 - My family expect me to undertake further study
 - I had been unable to find a suitable job
 - My friends expected me to go as they were also going
 - To prove I was capable of university study
 - I want to continue studying
 - Other
3. What was it about this course you found particularly appealing? (Please select all that apply to you)
 - Course specific facilities/resources
 - Teesside University's league table ranking in the subject
 - Employment prospects
 - Course modules
 - Course links with industry
 - Course flexibility (shared/common units)
 - Opportunity to take a placement
 - Opportunities to study abroad
 - Course accreditation
 - Entry requirements
 - Met and liked the academic staff
 - Open day/visit/interview experience
 - Teaching and assessment methods
 - Proximity to home
 - Teesside University's reputation in the subject area
 - Equality and diversity ethos of the University
 - None of these
4. How do you rate your skills in the following? For the following statements, please select one answer for each statement which best represents your feelings about your learning skills. (*Likert scale*)
 - Quick assimilation of ideas
 - Ability to organise my study independently
 - Study skills (e.g. critical analysis)
 - Knowledge of the subject I will be studying on this course

- Literacy skills (reading and writing)
 - Numeracy skills
 - Computer literacy skills (IT/ digital)
5. For the following, state how you feel about starting your course (*Likert scale*)
- Adequate information about how to study at university
 - Commuting to attend my studies
 - Fitting my study around work commitments
 - Fitting my study around family commitments
 - Getting used to living in a new country
 - Coping with the level of study at university
 - Getting used to moving away from home for the first time
 - Returning to study after a long time out of education
 - Access to suitable Wi-Fi connection in my home
 - Access to suitable workspace in my home
 - Suitable / affordable childcare
 - The course is right for me
 - Getting involved in university life
 - Managing debt and finances
 - Finding suitable accommodation
 - Looking after my health and welfare
 - Your overall feeling about starting your course

If you have any other concerns or wish to obtain further information about your concern, you can inform us of this at the end of the survey.

Student expectations

This section will ask you questions about your study expectations for the course you are about to begin at Teesside University.

1. What are you looking forward to about starting your course? (Please select all that apply)
 - Learning new things
 - Making friends
 - To better myself
 - Meeting new people
 - Developing employability skills
 - To have a good time and enjoy myself
 - Living away from home
 - Gaining independence
 - Gaining the professional skills I need for my current job

2. How many hours in total do you expect to study independently each week on top of your contact hours? (Please select one option)

3. Please select one response which most represents how you prefer to study. (Please select one option)
 - I prefer to study independently
 - I prefer to study in a group
 - I like to do both
 - I have no preference

4. Please select one response which most represents how you prefer to be assessed. (Please select one option)
- I prefer undertaking group-based assessments
 - I prefer undertaking individual assessments
 - I prefer exams
 - I prefer a mix of exams and individual/group assessments
 - Unsure
5. What university support services do you think you might use whilst studying your course? *This is for information only and not a referral to any services.* (Please select all that apply)

Lived context

1. In terms of your study accommodation, which is most likely
- Staying at home and attending Teesside University
 - Staying local but moving into university accommodation
 - Staying local but moving into private rented accommodation
 - Moving to the area and moving into university accommodation
 - Moving to the area and moving into private rented accommodation
 - Other
2. What will the distance be from where you are living once you start your studies to Teesside University?
3. Will you be living:
- By yourself
 - With other students
 - With friends
 - With your parents/guardians
 - With a partner/spouse
 - With a partner/spouse and children
 - Other
4. Do you intend undertaking paid work during your studies?
5. Did your parents / guardians go to university?
6. How many brothers or sisters do you have that are either studying at, or have been to, University?
7. What is your age group?
8. Do you consider English to be your first language?