

# Appendix 3

## Survey of students' experience in higher education

### Introduction

Please answer all of the questions in this form, unless otherwise indicated. Most can simply be answered by putting a tick in the relevant box(es) or by writing in your answer.

If you have changed your course or institution, then please answer all the following questions about your current course.

### 1 Why did you decide to enter higher education? Please indicate how important or otherwise each of the following factors was for you.

Tick one box on each line

	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Not relevant	
1. I was interested in the subject	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	(16)
2. It was the normal thing to do after finishing school/college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(17)
3. I felt it was expected of me to go to university/college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(18)
4. To help me get a job/better job/promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(19)
5. I could not find a job I wanted to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(20)
6. I wanted to pursue a particular career and need a particular qualification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(21)
7. I wanted a change in direction in my life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(22)
8. To get away from home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(23)
9. I needed a higher qualification to get on in life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(24)
10. I wanted to continue studying/learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(25)

### 2 And which was the most important reason you decided to enter higher education?

Enter the number from the list above this box  (26-27)

### 3 When you were thinking about going to university or college, which of the following opportunities and experiences did you hope to have while in higher education?

Tick all that apply

To meet new people	<input type="checkbox"/>	(28)
To develop new or existing skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	(29)
To broaden my horizons	<input type="checkbox"/>	(30)
To have a good time	<input type="checkbox"/>	(31)
To experience intellectual growth and stimulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	(32)
To increase my self esteem/confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	(33)



#### 4 Why did you decide to go to your particular university/college?

*Tick all that apply*

- 1. It was the only one that offered me a place  (35)
- 2. It was the best one for the subject I wanted to study  (36)
- 3. It was the only institution that ran the course/subject I wanted to study  (37)
- 4. It has a good academic reputation  (38)
- 5. It has a reputation for a good social life  (39)
- 6. It has good facilities for extra-curricula activities (eg sports, drama)  (40)
- 7. It was recommended by friends and family  (41)
- 8. It was recommended by the career officer/people at a college/school  (42)
- 9. It had links with the college where I did my Access course (Preferred Student Status)  (43)
- 10. I wanted to go to a campus university/college  (44)
- 11. I wanted to go to a university/college in a town/city  (45)
- 12. I liked what I saw when I went for interview/attended an open day  (46)
- 13. I particularly liked the course I was going to take  (47)
- 14. I could do the course I wanted part-time  (48)
- 15. It was near my home  (49)
- 16. It was not near my home  (50)
- 17. It had a good reputation for getting people jobs  (51)

#### 5 And what was the most important reason for choosing your particular university/college?

Enter the number from the list above this box  (52-53)

#### 6 Was the institution you are attending your first choice?

Yes  (1) No  (2) (54)

#### 7 a) As best as you can remember, before you started at your institution did you know about ...?

b) If yes, did this make your institution more or less attractive, or did it make no difference to you?

	Knew about		Effect			
	Yes	No	More attractive	Less attractive	No difference	
Its academic reputation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> (55)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	(60)
Its teaching record	<input type="checkbox"/> (56)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(61)
Its research status	<input type="checkbox"/> (57)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(62)
The type of extra-curricular opportunities available	<input type="checkbox"/> (58)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(63)
The type of living accommodation available	<input type="checkbox"/> (59)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(64)

#### 8 What was the most important reason why you chose your particular course at

**your institution?**

Write in your answer:

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(65-66) (67-68) (69-70) (71-72)

**9 a) As best as you can remember, before you started your course did you know about...?**

**b) If yes, did this make your course more or less attractive, or did it make no difference to you?**

	Knew about		Effect		
	Yes	No	More attractive	Less attractive	No difference
The subjects covered in your course	<input type="checkbox"/> (12) 1	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(22)
How you would be assessed	<input type="checkbox"/> (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(23)
How your course would be organised	<input type="checkbox"/> (14)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(24)
Whether your course would be modular	<input type="checkbox"/> (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(25)
Whether it was a sandwich course	<input type="checkbox"/> (16)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(26)
The type of non-academic skills you would learn (eg computing, communication skills)	<input type="checkbox"/> (17)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(27)
How job related your course was	<input type="checkbox"/> (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(28)
The number of hours of work involved	<input type="checkbox"/> (19)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(29)
When the teaching would take place (eg evenings, single days)	<input type="checkbox"/> (20)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(30)
Whether you would qualify for a maintenance grant	<input type="checkbox"/> (21)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(31)

**About your course**

**10 a) Is your course full or part-time?**

Full-time  (1) Part-time  (2) (32)

**b) Why did you choose this mode of study? Write in your answer:**

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(33-34) (35-38) (37-38) (39-40)

**11 Is your course modular?**

Yes  (1) No  (2) (41)

**12 a) Which of the following teaching and learning methods are used on your course, and**

**b) for each used, who is involved?**

Tick all that apply

Used?	Who involved?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lecturers
<input type="checkbox"/>	including Post-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professors graduates Others



### 15 Roughly, how many hours a week on average do you spend in:

Please write in the number of hours for each

	Hours per week
Lectures	<input type="text"/> (19-20)
Seminars/tutorials	<input type="text"/> (21-22)
Practicals/projects	<input type="text"/> (23-24)
Other teaching situations	<input type="text"/> (25-26)
Independent study	<input type="text"/> (27-28)

### 16 Since starting your course, to what extent have your skills in the following improved, deteriorated or stayed the same?

Tick one box on each line

	Improved	Deteriorated	Stayed the same	
Analytical skills	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	(29)
Absorbing information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(30)
Self motivation/drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(31)
Using your initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(32)
Communication skills/oral presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(33)
Planning your work/organising your time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(34)
Numeracy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(35)
Writing skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(36)
Working independently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(37)
Working with other people/in teams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(38)
Self-confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(39)
Computing/IT skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(40)

### 17 Of the following assessment methods

a) which are used on your course?

b) which are used that contribute towards your final qualification?

Tick all that apply

	Used?	Contribute towards final qualification?
Written examinations	<input type="checkbox"/> (41)	<input type="checkbox"/> (49)
Multiple-choice questions	<input type="checkbox"/> (42)	<input type="checkbox"/> (50)
Essays	<input type="checkbox"/> (43)	<input type="checkbox"/> (51)
Oral presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> (44)	<input type="checkbox"/> (52)
Projects/dissertation	<input type="checkbox"/> (45)	<input type="checkbox"/> (53)
Practical write-ups	<input type="checkbox"/> (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> (54)
Other coursework	<input type="checkbox"/> (47)	<input type="checkbox"/> (55)
Work based learning	<input type="checkbox"/> (48)	<input type="checkbox"/> (56)

### 18 How fairly or otherwise do you think that your assessment methods (the ones you ticked at Q17a) assess your:

a) Knowledge and understanding

b) Intellectual and other skills

Tick one box for each area



The availability of books in the library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(23)
The computing facilities available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(24)
The amount of computing support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(25)
The laboratory facilities available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(26)
Access to specialist equipment needed for your course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(27)
The support from the Students' Union	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(28)
The facilities in the Students' Union	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(29)
The extra-curricular activities available (eg sports/drama)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(30)
Awareness of the needs of students with family responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(31)
Childcare provision for students with children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(32)
Access for those with health problems or disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(33)
Career guidance and support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(34)

## 22 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Tick one box in each line

	Neither					
	Strongly agree		agree nor disagree		Strongly disagree	
	agree	Agree	disagree	Disagree	disagree	
So far, my time at university/college has lived up to my expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	(35)
So far my time at university/college has been <u>better</u> than I expected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(36)
So far my time at university/college has been <u>worse</u> than I expected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(37)
My qualification will get me a good job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(38)
Staff are more interested in their research than teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(39)
I would like more contact with the senior staff/head of Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(40)
Post-graduates/teaching assistants are used too often for teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(41)
I am content with the mix of teaching methods used on my course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(42)
I would like more opportunities to learn in small groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(43)
I feel that my course is too fragmented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(44)
My work is assessed too frequently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(45)
What I have to do to get a high grade is clear to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(46)
I do not feel that I am part of any one Department/College	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(47)
I do not think that enough thought is given to the needs of mature students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(48)
My course is equipping me for the demands of working life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(49)

## 23 What changes or improvements would you like to see made to your institution or to your course?

Write in your answer:

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## 24 What do you hope to do when you have finished your course?

Tick one box

- |                                            |                                 |                             |                            |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Get a job                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (58) | Take time out/go travelling | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Get a different job in a new type of work  | <input type="checkbox"/> 2      | Don't know yet              | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Do another qualification/continue studying | <input type="checkbox"/> 3      |                             |                            |

## Details about your institution/course

## 25 What is the name of the institution where you are studying?

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

(59-60)

## 26 What are you studying for?

Tick one box

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| First degree          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (61) |
| Dip HE/Cert HE        | <input type="checkbox"/> 2      |
| HND/HNC               | <input type="checkbox"/> 3      |
| Other write in: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 4      |

## 27 What is the main subject you are studying?

Tick one box

- |                                                       |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Medicine/dentistry/health subjects allied to medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (62) |
| Mathematics/computing                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2      |
| Sciences (physics, chemistry)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 3      |
| Engineering/technology/architecture                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4      |
| Social science/studies                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 5      |
| Humanities/law/languages                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 6      |
| Creative arts                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 7      |
| Education                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 8      |
| Multidisciplinary                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 9      |

## 28 How many years does your full course last and what year are you in now?

Tick one box in each column

- | Duration of course |                                 | Year of study     |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 year             | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (63) | 1st year          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (64) |
| 2 years            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2      | 2nd year          | <input type="checkbox"/> 2      |
| 3 years            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3      | 3rd year          | <input type="checkbox"/> 3      |
| 4 years            | <input type="checkbox"/> 4      | 4th year          | <input type="checkbox"/> 4      |
| 5 years or more    | <input type="checkbox"/> 5      | 5th year or above | <input type="checkbox"/> 5      |

## 29 Do you receive a maintenance grant?

Yes  (1) No  (2) (65)

## 30 Have you ever taken out a loan from the Student Loan Company?



Yes  (1) No  (2) (66)

## Background information

### 31 Are you...?

Male  (1) Female  (2) (67)

32 How old were you in the August before you started your current course?   
(68-69)

### 33 Before you started your current course, were you ...?

Tick one box

In full-time education  1 (70)  
Caring for children full-time  2  
In full-time employment  3  
In part-time employment  4  
Unemployed  5

### 34 Are you ...?

Married/cohabiting/living as married  1 (71)  
Divorced/separated/widowed  2  
Single, never married  3

### 35 Do you have any dependent children, and, if so, how old are they?

No dependent children  1 (12)  
Yes, I have dependent children  2 If yes please write in their ages in the boxes below:

Child 1  (13-14) Child 2  (15-16) Child 3  (17-18) Child 4  (19-20) Child 5  (21-22)

### 36 In which of the following regions were you ordinarily resident before you started your course?

Tick one box

South East (inc London)	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 (23-24)	North West	<input type="checkbox"/> 37
East Anglia	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	North	<input type="checkbox"/> 38
South West	<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Wales	<input type="checkbox"/> 39
West Midlands	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/> 40
East Midlands	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/> 41
Yorkshire & Humberside	<input type="checkbox"/> 36		

### 37 To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

White	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (25)	Pakistani/Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Black – African	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Black – Caribbean/other	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		

**38a Thinking about the household in which you were (mainly) brought up, who would you say is, or was, the main wage earner?**

- Father  1 (25)  
Mother  2  
Stepfather  3  
Stepmother  4  
Other  5

**38b And what is their present job (if working) or their last main job (when they were working)?**

Job title or description:

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Trade, industry, business, profession:

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(32-33) (34-35)

**39a Before you started your current course, had you ever been in paid work?**

Yes  (1) No  (2) *If no, then please go to 40*

**39b What was the main job you had before becoming a student?**

Job title or description:

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Trade, industry, business, profession:

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(32-33) (34-35)

## ***Employment status***

**40 Are you currently:**

*Tick one box*

- In full-time employment  
In part-time employment  
Not in employment

- 1 (36)  
 2  
 3

*If you are in employment, either full or part-time, please answer 41-44. Otherwise go to 45*

**41 How encouraging or otherwise has your employer been towards you doing your course?**

*Tick one box*

- Very encouraging  
Encouraging  
Neither encouraging nor discouraging  
Discouraging  
Very discouraging

- 1 (37)  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5

**42 Did your employer require you to do your qualification?**

Yes  (1) No  (2) (38)

**43 Does your employer help you in any of the following ways:**

*Tick all that apply*

- Paid time off work to study  (39)
- Unpaid time off work to study  (40)
- Pay fees  (41)
- Pay for books, materials or equipment  (42)
- Pay travel expenses  (43)

**44 How supportive or otherwise has your employer been in helping you do your studies?**

*Tick one box*

- Very supportive  1 (44)
- Supportive  2
- Neither supportive nor unsupportive  3
- Unsupportive  4
- Very unsupportive  5

***Willingness to help again***

**45 We may want to do some more research in this area. Would you be willing to help us again?**

No  1 (45)

Yes  2 To help us to do this, could you please write in below your long term address – one where we could contact you in the future.

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your help in completing this questionnaire. Now please return it to BMRB in the reply paid envelope provided.*