

OfS Sexual misconduct survey: Content of the questionnaire

We are developing a survey to understand how widespread sexual misconduct in the higher education sector is and learn more about the context in which incidents occur.

The pilot is surveying a broad cross-section of higher education students at a selection of English universities. Fieldwork takes place in autumn 2023.

This document contains the explanatory text, questions and answer options used for the questionnaire in the pilot.

[Find out more about our survey of sexual misconduct](#)

Thank you for your interest in this survey, which is about sexual misconduct.

The aim of this survey is to understand whether university students have experienced either sexual harassment and/or sexual violence since they became a student, either within or outside a university setting. Your answers will help us to understand the incidence of sexual misconduct in Higher Education and help universities develop tools to tackle this serious issue. We recognise that sexual misconduct is a sensitive subject and really appreciate your input.

Your voice is extremely important and we want you to feel comfortable in answering these questions both freely and honestly. Please remember that:

- There are no right or wrong answers, but it is important that you answer the questions honestly.
- All of your answers will remain completely confidential in accordance with the Market Research Society (MRS) Code of Conduct and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- If you would prefer not to answer a particular question, you can select “Prefer not to say”.
- If you would like to opt out or remove your responses at a later date, simply let us know by emailing ofs_smsurvey@iffresearch.com.
- If you would prefer to answer the questions in stages, you can pause at any time. Simply click on the link in your invitation email to return to the last question you answered.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is being conducted by IFF Research on behalf of The Office for Students (OfS), the independent regulator of higher education in England. This survey has been designed in consultation with experts and following existing best practice from similar surveys internationally. If you have any further questions about the survey, please contact ofs_smsurvey@iffresearch.com or call IFF Research free on 0800 0147 350. You can find the privacy policy for this research here: [Privacy notice for the sexual misconduct pilot survey](#), and IFF’s privacy notice here: [Privacy policy | IFF Research](#).

The survey will start by asking about behaviours related to sexual harassment, excluding those involving physical contact. The latter is covered in the second half of the survey, alongside detailed descriptions of such behaviours. This is just to ensure accuracy in our measure of prevalence – all answers will be reported in aggregate form and no individual students will be identifiable in the reporting outputs.

At the end of the survey, you will also be given an opportunity to answer some questions on relationships between students and university staff members. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this section as well.

Some of the language used in this survey is explicit and some people may find it uncomfortable. But it is important that we ask questions in this way so that you are clear what we mean.

Such questions are clearly marked with content warnings throughout and can be skipped entirely if preferred.

All answers will be reported in aggregate form and no individual students will be identifiable in the reporting outputs.

Have questions? Further information about the research can be found at sexualmisconductsurvey.com and on the **OfS website**.

Need support / someone to talk to? Support available at [name of respondent's higher education provider] includes [details of respondent's provider's support].

Other national charities and organisations include:

- Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30 and 7-9:30)
- The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818
- Women's Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247
- Survivors UK – Male Rape and Sexual Abuse Support: SurvivorsUK.org or 02035983898
- Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111
- Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 0808 800 5008
- Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or London: 020 7704 2040/ National: 0800 999 5428
- NHS Mental Health support: nhs.uk/mentalhealth
- Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk
- Mind (mental health charity): you can call '0300 123 3393' or you can find support at mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/

Unwanted experiences since becoming a student

Content warning.

The first question will ask about any unwanted behaviours of a sexual nature you may have experienced. To remind you, you can skip any questions you do not wish to answer by selecting “Prefer not to say”.

Ask all

Since being a student, have you experienced any of the following behaviours? Someone...

Making sexual gestures or exposing themselves to you	1	
Making sexually suggestive looks or staring at your body	2	
Asking, hinting, or making unwelcome requests that you have sex with them	3	
Persisting with suggestions that you establish a sexual or romantic relationship with them	4	
Making unwelcome sexual comments or asking sexualised questions about your private life, body, or physical appearance	5	
Taking a nude or sexual photo or video of you without your permission	6	
Posting a nude or sexual photo or video of you online, or sending it to others, without your permission	7	
Privately sending you sexualised messages electronically, via text message, email, social media, etc	8	
Spreading unwelcome sexual rumours about you, either in person, or by text, email, social media, or other electronic means	9	
None of the above	10	
Don't know / Can't remember	11	
Prefer not to say	12	

Next page [only show to those who have experienced at least one (a1=1-9)]

Thank you for your answer. 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, how it has affected you and whether you have sought any support.

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 between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023

Ask those who experienced at least one (a1=1-9)

Did any of the incident(s) you mentioned occur between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (b1=1)

How many times between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 did this type of incident / these types of incidents occur?

Once	1	
2 to 5 times	2	
More than 5 times	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (b1=1)

Did any of the incident(s) you mention occur in a university setting?

By university setting we mean any place, event or social occasion that was arranged by or associated with your university. This could be on or off campus, or online.

The incident(s) took place exclusively in a university setting	1	
None were in a university setting	2	
Some took place in a university setting; some took place outside of a university setting	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who did not experience in a university setting (b3=2 or 3)

Thinking about the incident(s) you mentioned that did not occur in a university setting. Where did the incident(s) occur?

In the town or city where your university is located, but not in a university setting	1	
Online (but not in a university setting)	2	
Somewhere else (but not in a university setting)	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	5	EXCLUSIVE

Ask those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (b1=1)

Did the incident(s) involve someone connected with your university?

This might be another student, or someone who works at the university. To remind you, your answers will remain confidential at all times.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask those who experienced in a university setting (b3=1, b3=3)

Thinking about the incident(s) you mentioned that did occur in a university setting. Where in a university setting did this/these incident(s) occur?

University library	1	
Lecture theatres, computer labs, seminar rooms or other teaching spaces	2	
Academic or administrative staff office	3	
University hospitality or retail areas (bar, shops)	4	
University sports and recreational areas (gym, sports fields, galleries)	5	
Other general university or college areas (university carpark, walkways, gardens, toilets)	6	
The Student's Union, clubs and societies, events and spaces	7	
On work experience or professional placement	8	
At a private home or residence	9	

At halls of residence or other type of student accommodation	10	
Online spaces	11	
Somewhere else	12	
Don't know / Can't remember	13	
Prefer not to say	14	

Person(s) involved

Show to those who experienced in a university setting or by someone connected to university (B3=1, B3=3 OR B5=1):

The next two questions ask about the individual(s) involved in terms of their characteristics and if/how you knew them etc. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer by selecting "Prefer not to say".

Ask those who experienced in a university setting or by someone connected to university (B3=1, B3=3 OR B5=1)

You mentioned you've experienced at least one incident of sexual harassment between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 either in a university setting and/or involving someone connected to your university. The options you selected were:

[DS – Display options selected at A1.]

Would you describe the person/people involved in this/these incidents as...

A man/men	1	
A woman/women	2	
Both men and women	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who experienced in a university setting or by someone connected to university (B3=1, B3=3 OR B5=1)

Were the people/was the person any of the following...?

A student from your university	1	
A tutor, lecturer, research supervisor, or another member of academic staff from your university	2	
A non-academic (administrative) university staff member	3	
A sports coach	4	
Any other member of university staff	5	
Your supervisor or co-worker at your professional placement or internship	6	
An employer, manager, or co-worker at work	7	
A partner	8	
A hook-up, or date	9	

A family member	10	
A friend or acquaintance not from your university	11	
Someone else	12	
Don't know / Can't remember	13	
Prefer not to say	14	

Seeking support

Show to those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (B1=1):

The questions in the next section ask about seeking support in such situations. To remind you, you can answer “Prefer not to say” to any questions you wish to skip.

Ask those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (B1=1)

Still thinking about the experience(s) you mentioned between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023. Did you ever seek support from your university to help deal with this/these?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask those who sought support from their university (d1=1)

Have you sought support from any of the following sources?

University welfare wellbeing support services	1	
Campus security	2	
Someone in my faculty or school (lecturer or tutor)	3	
Someone from my residence (college/ flat /house)	4	
Student leader (e.g. Women's Officer or President of a Student Union, Association or Guild)	5	
Someone else associated with the university	6	
None of the above	7	EXCLUSIVE
Don't know / Can't remember	8	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	9	EXCLUSIVE

ask those who sought support from their university (D1=1)

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of receiving support from your university?

Very good	1	
Good	2	
Neither good nor poor	3	
Poor	4	
Very poor	5	
I sought support but did not receive any	6	
Don't know / Can't remember	7	
Prefer not to say	8	

ask those who did not seek support from their university (D1=2)

Many people do not seek support or a variety of reasons. Which of the following, if any, were reasons you did not seek support from your university?

I felt embarrassed or ashamed	1	
I was worried I wouldn't be believed	2	
I did not want anyone to know	3	
I was too scared or frightened	4	
I was not sure that it would be confidential	5	
I did not think I needed help	6	
I did not think it was serious enough	7	
I did not think others would take it seriously enough	8	
I did not want to get anyone into trouble	9	
I thought it would be too hard to prove	10	
I did not want to involve the police	11	
I did not want to involve the university	12	
I was worried it would affect my studies or career opportunities	13	
I did not know where to go to get support or assistance	14	
I didn't think that the support or assistance on offer would be helpful	15	
I handled it myself	16	
Other reasons	17	
I sought support somewhere else	18	If selected – route straight to D6
Don't know / Can't remember	19	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	20	EXCLUSIVE

Ask those who experienced at least one between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023
(B1=1)

Have you sought support from somewhere outside your university to help deal with your experience(s)?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask those who sought support from somewhere OUTSIDE the university (D4=18 OR D5=1)

Have you sought support from any of the following sources outside your university?

Friend	1	
Partner	2	
Family	3	
Support provided in the workplace	4	
Local sexual assault service/rape crisis centre	5	
Telephone or online counselling service	6	
Police	7	
Mental health professional	8	
Doctor, nurse or other healthcare professional	9	
Religious or spiritual leader	10	
Someone else	11	
Don't know / Can't remember	12	
Prefer not to say	13	

Reporting

Show to those who experienced in a university setting or by someone connected to university (B3=1, B3=3 OR B5=1):

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.

Ask those who experienced in a university setting or by someone connected to university (B3=1, B3=3 OR B5=1)

Have you formally reported or made a formal complaint about the incident(s) to your university? Again, as a reminder, your answers remain confidential at all times.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask if had formally reported to the university (E1=1)

At the point of making a complaint, was your university's formal reporting or complaint process clearly explained to you?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask if had formally reported to the university (E1=1)

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university's formal reporting process?

Very good	1	
Good	2	
Neither good nor poor	3	
Poor	4	
Very poor	5	
Don't know / Can't remember	6	

Prefer not to say	7	
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Ask those who experienced at least one incident between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023 (B1=1)

Was the incident / any of the incidents reported to the police?

Yes, by me	1	
Yes, but not by me	2	
No	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Unwanted sexual contact

Content warning.

The next section of the survey will ask about your experiences of unwanted sexual contact. They include details of acts of sexual assault and violence which some may find distressing, but it is important that we ask questions in this way so that you are clear what we mean.

All answers will remain completely confidential, will be stored securely and will be reported in aggregate form. This means that no individual students will be identifiable in the results of this survey.

If you would prefer not to answer a particular question, you can select "Prefer not to say" and move on to the next question.

Need support / someone to talk to? Support available at [name of respondent's higher education provider] includes [details of respondent's provider's support].

Other national charities and organisations include:

- Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30 and 7-9:30)
- The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818
- Women's Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247
- Survivors UK – Male Rape and Sexual Abuse Support: SurvivorsUK.org or 02035983898
- Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111
- Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 0808 800 5008
- Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or London: 020 7704 2040/ National: 0800 999 5428
- NHS Mental Health support: nhs.uk/mentalhealth
- Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk
- Mind (mental health charity): you can call '0300 123 3393' or you can find support at mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/

ask all

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, 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.

Why is this information needed? This level of detail is important to ensure people are aware of the range of different contexts where misconduct happens so we can understand the extent of the problem. All data will remain confidential, be stored securely and no individuals will be identifiable in the reporting outputs. If you would like to retract your answers at any point, simply let us know by emailing IFF Research on ofs_smsurvey@iffresearch.com or call IFF Research free on 0800 0147 350.

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)	1	
Someone performed oral sex on me or made me perform oral sex with them when I did not want them to	2	
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	3	
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)	4	
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	5	
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	6	
None of the above	7	EXCLUSIVE
Don't know / Can't remember	8	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	9	EXCLUSIVE

Show to those who experienced at least one (F1=1-6):

Thank you for all your answers so far. The remaining questions focus on details such as when and where this/these incidents of unwanted sexual contact occurred, the type of individual(s) involved, how it has affected you and whether you have sought any support. 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 by selecting "Prefer not to say".

Experiences between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023

Ask those who experienced at least one (F1=1-6)

Did any of the incident(s) you mentioned occur between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023?

single code

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask those who experienced between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

Did (any of) the incident(s) you mention occur in a university setting? By university setting we mean any place, event or social occasion that was arranged by or associated with your university. This could be on or off campus, or online.

The incident(s) took place exclusively in a university setting	1	
None were in a university setting	2	
Some took place in a university setting; some took place outside of a university setting	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who did not experience in a university setting (G2=2 OR 3)

Thinking about the incident(s) you mentioned that did not occur in a university setting. Where did the incident(s) occur?

In the town or city where your university is located, but not in a university setting	1	
Online (but not in a university setting)	2	
Somewhere else (but not in a university setting)	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who experienced between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

Did the incident(s) involve someone connected with your university? This might be another student or someone who works at the university, etc. To remind you, your answers will remain confidential at all times.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask those who experienced in a university setting (G2=1, G2=3)

Thinking about the incident(s) that did occur in a university setting. Where did this/these incident(s) occur?

University library	1	
Lecture theatres, computer labs, seminar rooms or other teaching spaces	2	
Academic or administrative staff office	3	
University hospitality or retail areas (e.g. bar, shops)	4	
University sports and recreational areas (e.g. gym, sports fields, galleries)	5	
Other general university areas (e.g. university carpark, walkways, gardens, toilets)	6	
The Students' Union, clubs and societies, events and spaces	7	
On work experience or professional placement	8	
At a private home or residence	9	
At halls of residence or other type of student accommodation	10	
Online spaces	11	
Somewhere else	12	
Don't know / Can't remember	13	
Prefer not to say	14	

Person(s) involved

Ask those who experienced between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

You mention you've experienced at least one incident involving unwanted sexual contact between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 either in a university setting and/ or involving someone connected to your university. The options you selected were:

[DS – Display options selected at F1.]

Would you describe the person/people involved in this/these incidents as...

Would you describe the person/people involved as...

A man / men	1	
A woman / women	2	
Both men and women	3	
Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Ask those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

Were the people/was the person one of the following?

A student from your university	1	
A tutor, lecturer or another member of academic staff from your university	2	
A non-academic (administrative) university staff member	3	
A sports coach	4	
Any other member of university staff	5	
Your supervisor or co-worker at your professional placement or internship	6	
An employer, manager, or co-worker at your work	7	
A partner	9	
A hook-up, or date	10	
A family member	11	
A friend or acquaintance not from your university	12	
Someone else	13	
Don't know / Can't remember	14	
Prefer not to say	15	

Seeking support

Ask those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023? (G1=1)

Still thinking about the experience(s) you mentioned. Did you ever seek support from your university to help deal with your experience(s)?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask those who sought support from their university (I1=1)

Have you sought support from any of the following sources?

University welfare or wellbeing support services	1	
Campus security	3	
Someone in my faculty or school (lecturer or tutor)	4	
Someone from my residence (college/dorm/house)	5	
Student leader (e.g. Women's Officer or President of a Student Union, Association or Guild)	6	
Someone else associated with the university	7	
Don't know / Can't remember	8	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	9	EXCLUSIVE

ask those who sought support from their university (I1=1)

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of receiving support from your university?

Very good	1	
Good	2	
Neither good nor poor	3	
Poor	4	
Very poor	5	
I sought support but did not receive any	6	
Don't know / Can't remember	7	
Prefer not to say	8	

ask those who DID NOT seek support from their university (I1=2)

Many people do not seek support for unwelcome sexual contact for a variety of reasons. Which of the following, if any, were reasons you did not seek support from your university?

I felt embarrassed or ashamed	1	
I was worried I wouldn't be believed	2	
I did not want anyone to know	3	
I was too scared or frightened	4	
I was not sure that it would be confidential	5	
I did not think I needed help	6	
I did not think it was serious enough	7	
I did not think others would take it seriously enough	8	
I did not want to get anyone into trouble	9	
I thought it would be too hard to prove	10	
I did not want to involve the police	11	
I did not want to involve the university	12	
I was worried it would affect my studies or career opportunities	13	
I did not know where to go to get support or assistance	14	
I didn't think that the support or assistance on offer would be helpful	15	
I handled it myself	16	
I sought support elsewhere	17	If selected route straight to I6
Other reasons	18	
Don't know / Can't remember	19	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	20	EXCLUSIVE

Ask those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

Have you sought support from somewhere outside your university to help deal with your experience(s)?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask those who sought support from somewhere OUTSIDE the university (I4=17 OR I5=1)

Have you sought support from any of the following sources outside your university?

Friend	1	
Partner	2	
Family	3	
Support provided in the workplace	4	
Local sexual assault service/rape crisis centre	5	
Telephone or online counselling service	6	
Police	7	
Mental health professional	8	
Doctor, nurse or other healthcare professional	9	
Religious or spiritual leader	10	
Someone else	11	
None of the above	12	EXCLUSIVE
Don't know / Can't remember	13	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	14	EXCLUSIVE

Reporting

ask if incident occurred in university setting or involved someone from university (G2=1 OR 3, G4=1)

Have you formally reported or made a formal complaint about the incident(s) to your university? As a reminder, your answers remain confidential at all times.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask if had formally reported to the university (J1=1)

At the point of making a complaint, was your university's formal reporting or complaint process clearly explained to you?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

ask if had formally reported to the university (J1=1)

Overall, how good or poor was your experience of the university's formal reporting process?

Very good	1	
Good	2	
Neither good nor poor	3	
Poor	4	
Very poor	5	
Don't know / Can't remember	6	
Prefer not to say	7	

Ask those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (G1=1)

Was/were any of the incident(s) reported to the police?

Yes, by me	1	
Yes, but not by me	2	
No	3	

Don't know / Can't remember	4	
Prefer not to say	5	

Impact

Show to those who those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (B1=1 OR G1=1):

The next few questions ask about ways the experience(s) you have mentioned throughout the survey in relation to sexual harassment and / or unwanted sexual contact may have affected you. They also ask about your confidence in seeking support and reporting such behaviour. To remind you, you can skip any questions if you do not wish to answer.

Ask those who those who experienced at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (B1=1 OR G1=1)

Thinking overall about the experience(s) you have mentioned throughout the survey that occurred between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023, were you impacted in any of the following ways?

Stopped going out so much	1
Stopped trusting people or experienced difficulty in relationships	2
Not doing as well on your course as you would have done otherwise	3
Skipped lecture, seminars, supervision meetings	4
Chose not to take a particular module	5
Changed your supervisors	6
Suspended your studies	7
Changed your institution	8
Turned down work roles at the institution	9
Turned down professional development opportunities	10
Changed your career	11
Experienced poor mental health or emotional problems	12
Self-harmed	13
Considered or attempted suicide	14
Other	15
I did not experience any impact / not applicable	16
Don't know / Can't remember	17
Prefer not to say	18

Understanding of process

Show to those who those who did not experience at least one incident between 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 (B1=2-4 AND G1=2-4):

The next few questions ask about your confidence in seeking support and reporting sexual harassment or misconduct. To remind you, you can skip any questions if you do not wish to answer.

Ask all

How confident are you about where to seek support within your university about an experience of sexual harassment or misconduct?

Very confident	1	
Fairly confident	2	
Not very confident	3	
Not at all confident	4	
Don't know	5	
Prefer not to say	6	

Ask all

How confident are you about how to formally report or make a formal complaint to your university about an experience of sexual harassment or misconduct?

Very confident	1	
Fairly confident	2	
Not very confident	3	
Not at all confident	4	
Don't know	5	
Prefer not to say	6	

Student/staff relationships

Show to all: Thank you for all your answers so far, you have now completed the main section of the Sexual Misconduct Survey. However, there is one final section of this survey which asks about your opinions, experiences and observations of staff/student relationships.

Please note, the members of staff referred to could be any person employed by your university (including postgraduate students if acting in a teaching, supervisory or pastoral capacity). As before, your answers to these questions will remain entirely confidential, and you will not be asked to identify specific individuals.

If you would like to answer the next set of questions on student/staff relationship, please select 'Continue with the survey'.

If you would like to close the survey, please select 'Close the survey'.

If they select 'close the survey' show:

Thank you for your time. To remind you:

Further information about the research can be found [here](#) and on the [OfS website](#).

Support available at [name of respondent's higher education provider] includes [details of respondent's provider's support].

Other national charities and organisations include:

- Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30 and 7-9:30)
- The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818
- Women's Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247
- Survivors UK – Male Rape and Sexual Abuse Support: SurvivorsUK.org or 02035983898
- Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111
- Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 0808 800 5008
- Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or London: 020 7704 2040/ National: 0800 999 5428
- NHS Mental Health support: nhs.uk/mentalhealth
- Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk
- Mind (mental health charity): you can call '0300 123 3393' or you can find support at mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/

If they select 'continue with the survey' go to m1:

Ask all

In your view, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you for a member of university staff to behave in the following ways...

	Very comfortable	Slightly comfortable	Uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable	Don't know / Prefer not to say
Socialise with students in their own time	1	2	3	4	5
Employ students for non-academic work outside of the university environment (such as babysitting or dog-walking)	1	2	3	4	5
Ask for phone numbers to contact students socially	1	2	3	4	5
Single out specific students for favourable attention	1	2	3	4	5
Follow students' personal social media accounts	1	2	3	4	5
Send private messages to students' personal social media accounts	1	2	3	4	5
Interact with students at the same university on dating apps	1	2	3	4	5
Make inappropriate comments to students about their physical appearance	1	2	3	4	5
Flirt or have sexualised conversations with students	1	2	3	4	5
Go on dates or have sexual encounters with students	1	2	3	4	5
Have ongoing romantic or sexual relationships with students	1	2	3	4	5
Have emotionally intimate relationships with students	1	2	3	4	5
Have relationships in which the student is financially dependent on them (but the staff member is not a	1	2	3	4	5

parent/guardian of that student)					
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Ask all

During your time as a student between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023, have you had an intimate relationship with a member of staff at your university? Please note:

The member of staff could be any person employed by your university (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.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Show to all those who had a relationship with a staff member (M2=1) = The next set of questions will ask about the details of this relationship. As a reminder, all of your responses will remain confidential.

Please note, if you have had more than one intimate relationship with a member of staff at your university, please consider all of these relationships when answering these questions.

Ask all who had a relationship with staff member (M2=1)

Is or was this/these university staff member(s) involved with your education and/or assessment, for example, your lecturer, tutor or supervisor?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all who had a relationship with staff member (M2=1)

Did or does/do the university staff member(s) have any non-academic professional responsibility for you? E.g. a student welfare worker, a sports coach, or security personnel.

Yes	1	
No	2	

Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all who had a relationship with a staff member (M2=1)

Have you ever felt pressure to begin, continue, or take the intimate relationship(s) with the member(s) of staff further than you wanted to because....

You were worried that refusing would negatively impact you, your studies or career in some way, even though the member of staff did not say or imply that would happen	1	
They stated/implied that refusing might negatively affect you, your studies or career in some way, e.g. you would receive poorer grades or less positive employment references	2	
They stated or implied that doing so would mean you were treated more favourably e.g. by suggesting that you would get better grades, or that they would put you forward for employment opportunities	3	
None of the above	4	EXCLUSIVE
Don't know / Can't remember	5	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	6	EXCLUSIVE

Ask all

During your time as a student between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023, have any [IF M2=1: other] university staff members ever attempted to pressure you, either in person or online, into an intimate relationship (e.g. sexual, romantic, emotional or financial) by:

What do we mean by 'member of staff' and 'intimate relationship'?

The member of staff could be any person employed by your university (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.

multi-code

Stating or implying that refusing them might negatively affect you, your studies or career in some way, e.g. you would receive poorer grades or less positive employment references	1	
Stating or implying that doing so would mean you would be treated more favourably, e.g. you would receive better grades, or be put forward for better employment opportunities	2	
In another way	3	

A [IF M2 =1: Another] member of staff has not attempted to pressure you, either in person or online, into an intimate relationship.	4	EXCLUSIVE
Don't know / Can't remember	5	EXCLUSIVE
Prefer not to say	6	EXCLUSIVE

IF M6=1-2

Is or was/were the university staff member(s) involved with your education and/or assessment e.g., a lecturer, tutor, supervisor etc?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

IF M6=1-2

Did or does/do the university staff member(s) have non-academic professional responsibility for you e.g., a student welfare worker, a sports coach, or security personnel etc?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all

Thinking just about the staff and students at your university: do you know of any students who have been involved in an intimate relationship with a staff member between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023?

The member of staff could be any person employed by your university (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.

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	

Prefer not to say	4	
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Ask all who know of a staff and student relationship (m9=1)

Is/was this university staff member involved with their education and/or assessment e.g., their lecturer, tutor or supervisor?

(If you are aware of more than one other staff-student relationship, please think about the one you're more familiar with):

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all who know of a staff and student relationship (M9=1)

Did or does the university staff member have any non-academic professional responsibility for them e.g., a university welfare adviser, administrator, sports coach, or security personnel?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know / Can't remember	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all who know of a staff and student relationship (M9=1)

Thinking about this student/staff relationship you are aware of, to the best of your knowledge, do you agree or disagree with the following statements (if you are aware of more than one staff-student relationship, please think about the one you're more familiar with):

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/Prefer not to say
The intimate relationship appears/appeared to be consensual	1	2	3	4	5	6
The student felt pressured into the intimate relationship, or took the relationship further than they wanted to, because they believed that they would gain favourable treatment (e.g., receiving	1	2	3	4	5	6

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/Prefer not to say
better grades, being put forward for opportunities, having missed deadlines overlooked.)						
The student felt pressured into the intimate relationship, or took the relationship further than they wanted to, because they were worried that refusing would negatively affect their studies, or their future career.	1	2	3	4	5	6
The student is/was worried that ending the intimate relationship might negatively affect their studies or their future career.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Ask all

During your time as a student between 1 Sept 2022 and 1 Sept 2023, do you know of an intimate relationship between a staff member and a student that ended, or where a student turned down the advances of a staff member?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Don't know	3	
Prefer not to say	4	

Ask all who are aware of staff and student relationship breakdown (M13=1)

Are you aware of any negative consequences for the student? Did the student:

Experience offensive behaviour from the staff member (such as public criticism, shaming or rumour spreading)	1	
Lose access to essential resources or activities (such as field trips, work placements, accommodation, visas.)	2	
Change module or course or avoid choosing a particular module/course	3	
Change university	4	
Change career	5	
Suffer impacts to their mental health	6	
Other	7	

I am not aware of negative consequences for the student	8	
Prefer not to say	9	

Thank and close

Thank you, you have reached the end of the survey. We really appreciate your support with this important research.

Ask all

As part of the project, we are conducting in-depth interviews to explore students' experiences of answering this survey to help improve the survey for future students. Interviews will take place between end of October and beginning of November 2023. Would you be willing to be contacted by IFF Research for this purpose? You do not have to take part when invited.

Yes	1	
No	2	

Ask if willing to be contacted for follow up survey (N1 = 1)

Thank you for agreeing to be contacted for the follow-up interview. Please provide your name and email address so that we can get in touch.

Name	
Email address	

Thank you. To remind you:

Further information about the research can be found at sexualmisconductsurvey.com and on the **OfS website**.

Support available at [name of respondent's higher education provider] includes [details of respondent's provider's support].

Other national charities and organisations include:

- Rape Crisis: rapecrisis.org.uk or 0808 802 9999 (12-2:30 and 7-9:30)
- The Survivors Trust: thesurvivorstrust.org or 0808 801 0818
- Women's Aid Federation: womensaid.org.uk or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247
- Survivors UK – Male Rape and Sexual Abuse Support: SurvivorsUK.org or 02035983898
- Victim support: victimsupport.org.uk or 0808 168 9111
- Safeline: safeline.org.uk or 0808 800 5008
- Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): galop.org.uk or London: 020 7704 2040/ National: 0800 999 5428
- NHS Mental Health support: nhs.uk/mentalhealth

- Student Minds (the UK's student mental health charity): studentminds.org.uk
- Mind (mental health charity): you can call '0300 123 3393' or you can find support at mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines/