

**SENATE**

**Title of paper:** NSS and PTES 2025: Russell Group and sector comparison

**Main purpose of the paper:** For information

**Presenter(s):** Ruth Valentine, PVC Education

**Date of paper:** 9 September 2025

**Purpose of the paper:**

To provide a summary of key metrics from this year's National Student Survey (NSS) and Postgraduate Taught Survey (PTES) focusing on Russell Group and sector comparison. A more substantial item on the institutional actions in relation to NSS and PTES will come to the next meeting of Senate

**Recommendations:**

N/A

**Consultation to date (including any previous committee consideration and its outcome):**

N/A

## National Student Survey 2025

### Key results:

- Scores have increased across all themes, but benchmarks in all themes have increased more, leaving us in a weaker position re: TEF.
- Below benchmark for 5 of 7 themes - significantly below benchmark (>2.5%) in four themes - Teaching on my course (-2.9%), Learning Opportunities (-3.8%), Assessment and Feedback (-6.4%), Student Voice (-4.6%)
- Above benchmark for Learning Resources (by 1.2%) and Academic Support (by 0.1%)
- Russell Group ranking has fallen for all themes
- Bottom of the Russell Group ranking for Teaching on my course, and 23rd of 24th for Learning Opportunities.

**Table 1 NSS Theme: Positivity score and difference from benchmark 2025 vs 2024**

	Positivity score (%)		Difference from benchmark (%pt)	
	2025	Vs 2024	2025	Vs 2024
Theme 1: Teaching on my course	84.1	0.1	-2.9	-1.2
Theme 2: Learning opportunities	79.7	0.3	-3.8	-1.4
Theme 3: Assessment and feedback	71.3	1.1	-6.4	-1.7
Theme 4: Academic support	88.5	2.4	0.1	0.1
Theme 5: Organisation and management	78.1	3.3	-0.2	0.0
Theme 6: Learning resources	89.4	0.4	1.2	-0.7
Theme 7: Student voice	71.7	0.1	-4.6	-3.6
Students' Union (Q25)	73.0	1.2	-0.3	-1.9
Mental Wellbeing (Q26)	89.8	3.5	7.7	-0.5
Freedom of expression (Q27)	86.6	0.9	-1.0	-0.7

**Table 2 NSS Theme: Newcastle vs RG average vs Sector avg; Russell group rank**

	Newcastle 2025	vs RG	vs Sector	Russell Group Rank 2025 (n=24)	Vs 2024
Theme 1: Teaching on my course	84.1	-3.0	-2.5	24	-7
Theme 2: Learning opportunities	79.7	-2.6	-4.3	23	-6
Theme 3: Assessment and feedback	71.3	-3.0	-8.5	21	-6
Theme 4: Academic support	88.5	0.6	0.8	11	-1
Theme 5: Organisation and management	78.1	-0.8	-0.3	=13	-1
Theme 6: Learning resources	89.4	0.7	1.3	12	-3
Theme 7: Student voice	71.7	-4.2	-6.0	20	-8

Full data institutional and comparator data is available in the [Strategic Insights Portal](#)

## Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2025

### Key results:

- Newcastle positivity scores are **above** sector benchmark for 8 of 12 themes, significantly above benchmark (>2.5%) for Support (+3.3%) and On-Campus Resources (+3.2%); for both themes Newcastle is in the first quartile
- Scores are **below** sector benchmark for 4 of 12 themes – End-point Assessment (-15.4%) (please note that this question theme was available to apprenticeship programmes only), Dissertation (-1.5%), Assessment (-1.0%) and Overall (-0.5%)
- In Russell Group, Newcastle is above benchmark for 11 of 12 themes, significantly above benchmark (>2.5%) for 4 themes – Support (+3.7%), Community (+3.1%), On-Campus Resources (+2.8%), Assessment (+2.7%), being in the first quartile for Support, On-Campus Resources and Skills Development
- Sector ranking for question themes:

Overall 53 out of 102	Assessment 54 out of 102	Community 33 out of 102	Engagement 37 out of 102	Online Learning Resources 34 out of 102	On-Campus Resources 12 out of 82
Teaching 39 out of 102	Organisation 31 out of 102	Skills development 37 out of 102	Support 16 out of 102	Dissertation 49 out of 83	End-point Assessment --

	Positivity score 2025 (%)	Positivity score 2024 (%)	Change in score	Sector benchmark 2025 (%)	Difference from benchmark 2025
Teaching & learning	87.4	86.2	1.2	87	0.4
Engagement	84.4	81.9	2.5	84.3	0.1
Community	70.3	66.8	3.5	69.1	1.2
Assessment & feedback	81.2	79.9	1.3	82.2	-1.0
Dissertation / major project	84.1	84.1	0.0	85.6	-1.5
Organisation and management	81.7	80.5	1.2	80.7	1.0
On-campus resources	92.5	92.6	-0.1	89.3	3.2
Online learning resources	92.1	93.2	-1.1	90.9	1.2
Support	86.1	84.8	1.3	82.8	3.3
Skills development	85.2	82.6	2.6	84.9	0.3
Overall	85.6	85.4	0.2	86.1	-0.5

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