NEWS - PRESS RELEASES

Students Place Leicester in First Position

First ever National Student Survey places Leicester joint first among universities teaching full-time students

The University of Leicester has topped the list of universities teaching full-time students in terms of overall satisfaction in the new National Student Survey.

Results of the survey were launched today (Thursday Sept 22) as part of the national Teaching Quality Information (TQI) site developed by the UK higher education funding bodies and the National Union of Students.

Leicester scored 4.3 out of 5 overall for student satisfaction (a score also achieved by near neighbours Loughborough University). On the full list, specialist colleges and part-time education providers took the first four places - Leicester is the first University with full-time students to appear and was ranked joint 5th.

The University was also ranked joint 1st for teaching quality, academic support and personal development in the survey amongst universities teaching full-time students.

This is the first survey including all publicly-funded higher education institutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Not only was Leicester highly ranked in the National Student Survey of 170,000 final year students, its courses took pride of place in the poll.

Two departments, Economics and Mass Communications, were rated joint top in the country for these subjects by students, with over two thirds of Leicester subjects featuring in the top ten nationally including Politics (joint 2nd), Physical Sciences - which includes Chemistry, Physics and Geology(joint 3rd), English (joint 3rd), Law (joint 7th), Medicine (joint 7th), Psychology (joint 7th) and Biological Sciences (joint 9th).

The Survey results are a significant coup for the University which is rated in the top 20 in the UK for research and, for teaching, has an unbroken run of 14 Excellent teaching quality scores since 1998.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Burgess said:

"It is vitally important that those who use our services, be they students, research bodies, business and industry, conference delegates or visitors receive a first-class service from the University of Leicester.

"This survey is important because it gives, for the first time, a national picture of how students rate their institutions and provides a basis for potential students to make informed decisions about their future choices in higher education."
"I am delighted that Leicester has fared so well overall and performed magnificently in particular subject areas. It is a splendid achievement that demonstrates the high quality work that University staff engage in with their students."

"I make it a point to meet as many students as possible upon their arrival and when they graduate. During my many meetings with students, it is impressed upon me how Leicester has a decisive influence on people’s lives and I am pleased that this has been borne out by the National Student Survey."

Marketing Director Richard Taylor said:

"We have worked hard with student officers and staff to provide services that enhance the student experience at Leicester. We aim to provide a high quality learning experience for our students in which the cutting edge research of our academic staff brings intellectual excitement to the curriculum. This survey provides evidence from the students themselves that they hold Leicester in very high regard."

Vice-President (Education) of the Students' Union, Simon Green said:

"As Vice-President (Education) I am delighted that the institution has made this significant achievement. I am also extremely proud of the role of the University of Leicester Students' Union and our Course Representatives who worked extensively with this survey which has categorically demonstrated the prime quality of the student experience and the learning environment here at Leicester."

For more information about the National Student Survey, follow the links below:

Case Study
Fact File
National Student Survey/TQI Press Conference - Press Release
Universities UK

**Note to Newsdesk:**

Media enquiries to Richard Taylor, Marketing Director, University of Leicester, 0116 252 2850