

SUCCEED: Enhancing the Use of StudentSurvey.ie Data to Improve

Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Student Engagement

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Quality in Higher Education:

Sectoral Findings & Enhancement Showcase

Dublin Royal Convention Centre, 4th December 2025





Why StudentSurvey.ie Matters

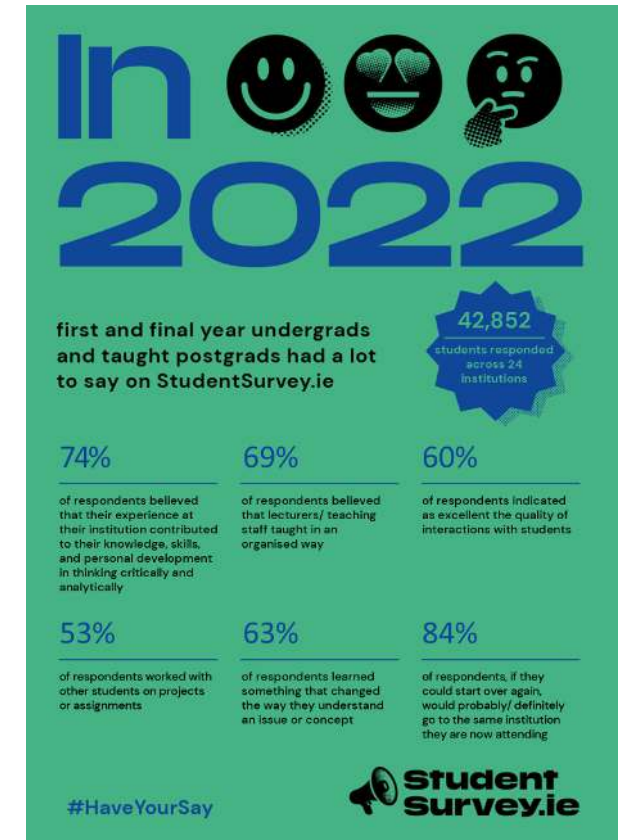
- National annual survey of:
 - 1st year undergraduate students
 - Final year undergraduate students
 - Students on taught postgraduate programmes
- Asks students about their experiences of higher education
- ~ 70 questions, summarised by 10 indicators
- > 350,000 students participated since 2013
- New 2026 StudentSurvey.ie fieldwork commences February/March 2026





The Challenge: Underutilised Student Feedback

- National summary + high-level institutional reports produced
- Contextualisation required for detailed institutional interpretation
- Challenge:
 - Data underutilisation by academic units
 - Missed teaching, learning, assessment and student engagement (TLASE) enhancement opportunities based on real student feedback
- Required:
 - Standardised, accessible approach to make data actionable





SUCCEED - Standardising the Use, Communication & Capability of StudentSurvey.ie Data

- Goal: To standardise how StudentSurvey.ie data is used across MTU
- Team:



Linda O'Sullivan,
Academic Project Lead
Teaching & Learning Unit (TLU)



Róisín O'Grady
Student Engagement Officer
AnSEO – The Student Engagement
Office



Marese Bermingham
(Retired) Head of Department
AnSEO, TLU & Arts Office



Dr Seán Lacey
Research Integrity & Compliance
Officer



SUCCEED in a Nutshell

Data

Population Data

Sample Data

Organisational Structure



Standardised Reports



Supportive Meetings



Interpret Results

Facilitate Discussions

Explore Supports



SUCCEED's Three-Pronged Approach



Data
Standardisation



Collaborative
Engagement



Resource
Development





SUCCEED Sample Report - Extract

SUCCEED: Standardising the Use, Communication and Capability of studEntsurvEy.ie Data

Response rate: To determine an appropriate response rate, the maximum margin of error must be considered as well as the desired confidence level. Different research requires different degrees of reliability, depending on the specific objectives and possible consequences of the survey findings. Often, an acceptable margin of error used by survey researchers falls less than 8% at the 95% confidence level. More information on response rate and margin of error can be found on <https://mathematics.cit.ie/quartiles>.

Indicators: There are 10 StudentSurvey.ie indicators which range in value from 0 - 60 points. Although StudentSurvey.ie indicators are presented together in parts of this report, the indicator scores are not to be compared against each other. The survey is not designed with this purpose in mind, but rather the survey is designed to determine trends within indicator scores - i.e., trends across years and/or against similar programmes and/or academic units within individual indicator scores.

StudentSurvey.ie is distributed to first year and final year undergraduates, and students pursuing taught postgraduate studies only.

Abbreviations: CI - Confidence Interval; SD - Standard Deviation.

Part I - School v. Faculty v. University

Response Rate at School Level (2016 - 2023)

School	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Alpha	36%	1.07%

Response Rate at Faculty Level (2016 - 2023)

Faculty	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Beta	40%	0.72%

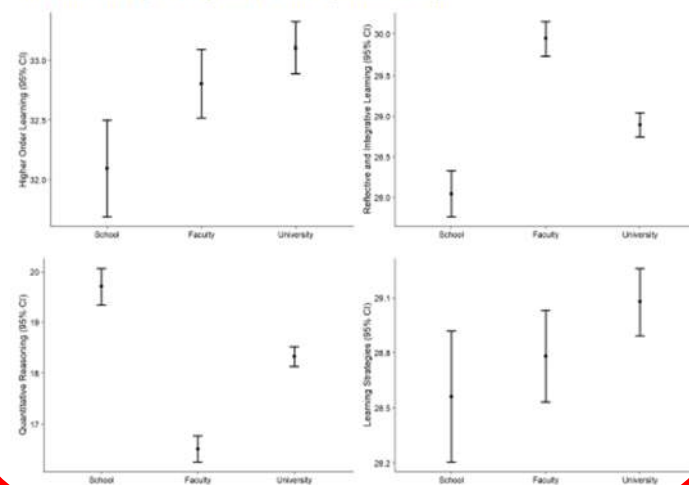
Response Rate at University Level (2016 - 2023)

University	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Gamma	33%	0.56%

Indicator Descriptive Statistics for School (2016 - 2023)

Indicators	Sample size	Mean	95% CI (lower)	95% CI (upper)	SD	Median	1st Quartile	3rd Quartile	Min	Max
Higher Order Learning	4284	32.1	31.7	32.5	13.5	30.0	20.0	40.0	0	60
Reflective and Integrative Learning	5298	28.0	27.8	28.3	10.5	28.6	20.0	34.3	0	60
Quantitative Reasoning	4711	19.7	19.3	20.1	12.9	20.0	13.3	26.7	0	60
Learning Strategies	4712	29.6	29.2	29.9	12.5	26.7	20.0	40.0	0	60
Collaborative Learning	5251	32.4	32.0	32.7	12.1	30.0	25.0	40.0	0	60
Student Faculty Interaction	4700	11.8	11.5	12.1	11.4	10.0	0.0	20.0	0	60
Effective Teaching Practices	4323	32.4	32.0	32.8	13.2	32.0	24.0	40.0	0	60
Quality of Interactions	3750	36.2	35.7	36.6	13.9	36.0	26.0	46.0	0	60
Supportive Environment	4259	26.3	25.9	26.8	13.5	25.0	17.5	35.0	0	60
Learning, Creative and Social Skills	627	33.7	32.7	34.7	13.1	32.5	25.0	42.5	0	60

Error Bar Plots (95% CI) for Indicators (2016 - 2023)



Part II - Year-on-Year School Analysis

When it comes to having confidence that the data collected is generalisable for the entire Department, it is not solely about a good response rate, but also a low margin of error. The latter being a better indicator than the former. The following is a guideline:

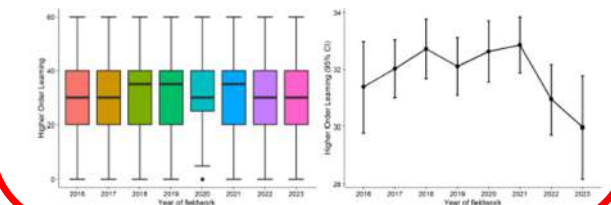
- Margin of error $\leq 8\%$ - data gathered is generalisable for entire population
- $8\% < \text{Margin of error} \leq 10\%$ - trends may be accurate and catalyst to improve response rate
- Margin of error $> 10\%$ - difficult to draw accurate conclusions. Data is still of use, but with caution when interpreting

Response Rate for the School (2016 - 2023)

School	Year of fieldwork	Responses	Population	Response Rate	Margin of Error
Alpha	2016	414	1765	23%	4.22%
Alpha	2017	821	1765	47%	2.5%
Alpha	2018	819	1916	43%	2.59%
Alpha	2019	847	1876	45%	2.49%
Alpha	2020	699	1889	37%	2.94%
Alpha	2021	846	2059	41%	2.59%
Alpha	2022	636	1962	32%	3.2%
Alpha	2023	275	1773	16%	6.83%

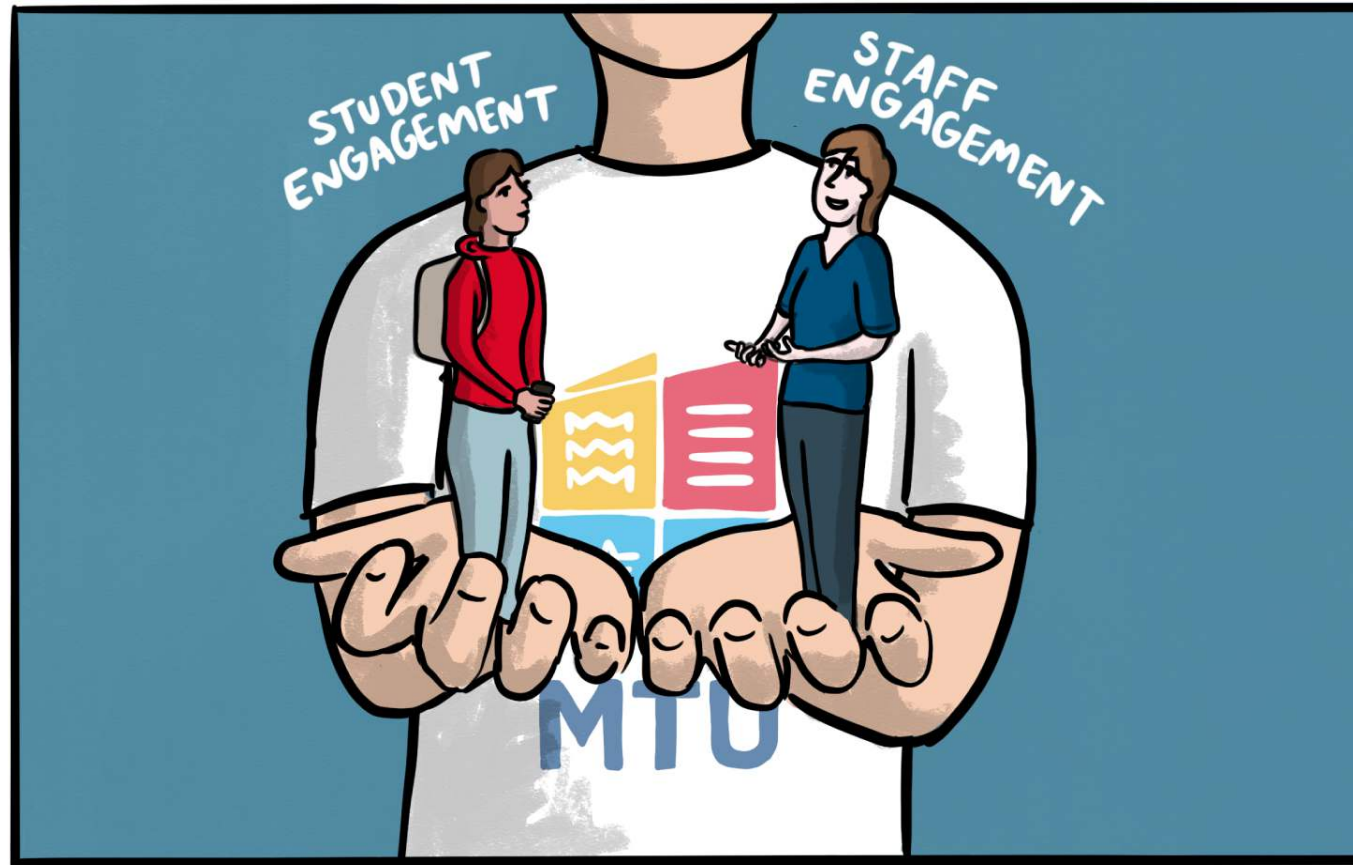
Higher Order Learning Descriptive Statistics

School	Year	Sample size	Mean	95% CI (lower)	95% CI (upper)	SD	Median	1st Quartile	3rd Quartile	Min	Max
Alpha	2016	343	31.4	29.8	33.0	14.95	30	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2017	700	32.0	31.0	33.0	13.67	30	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2018	617	32.7	31.7	33.6	13.26	35	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2019	641	32.1	31.1	33.1	13.08	35	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2020	581	32.6	31.6	33.7	13.17	30	25	40	0	60
Alpha	2021	717	32.9	31.9	33.8	13.48	35	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2022	500	31.0	29.7	32.2	13.88	30	20	40	0	60
Alpha	2023	165	30.0	28.2	31.8	12.37	30	20	40	0	60

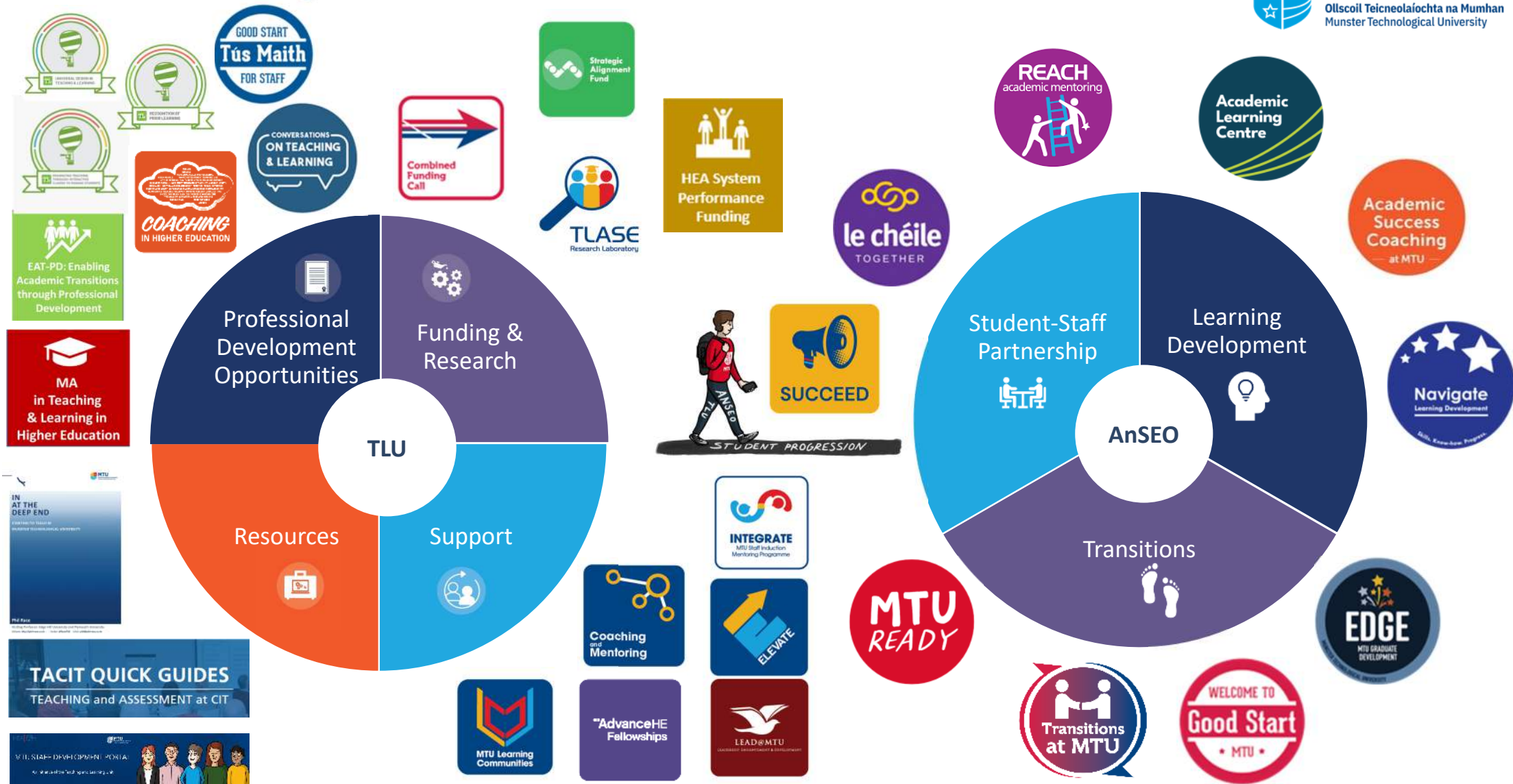


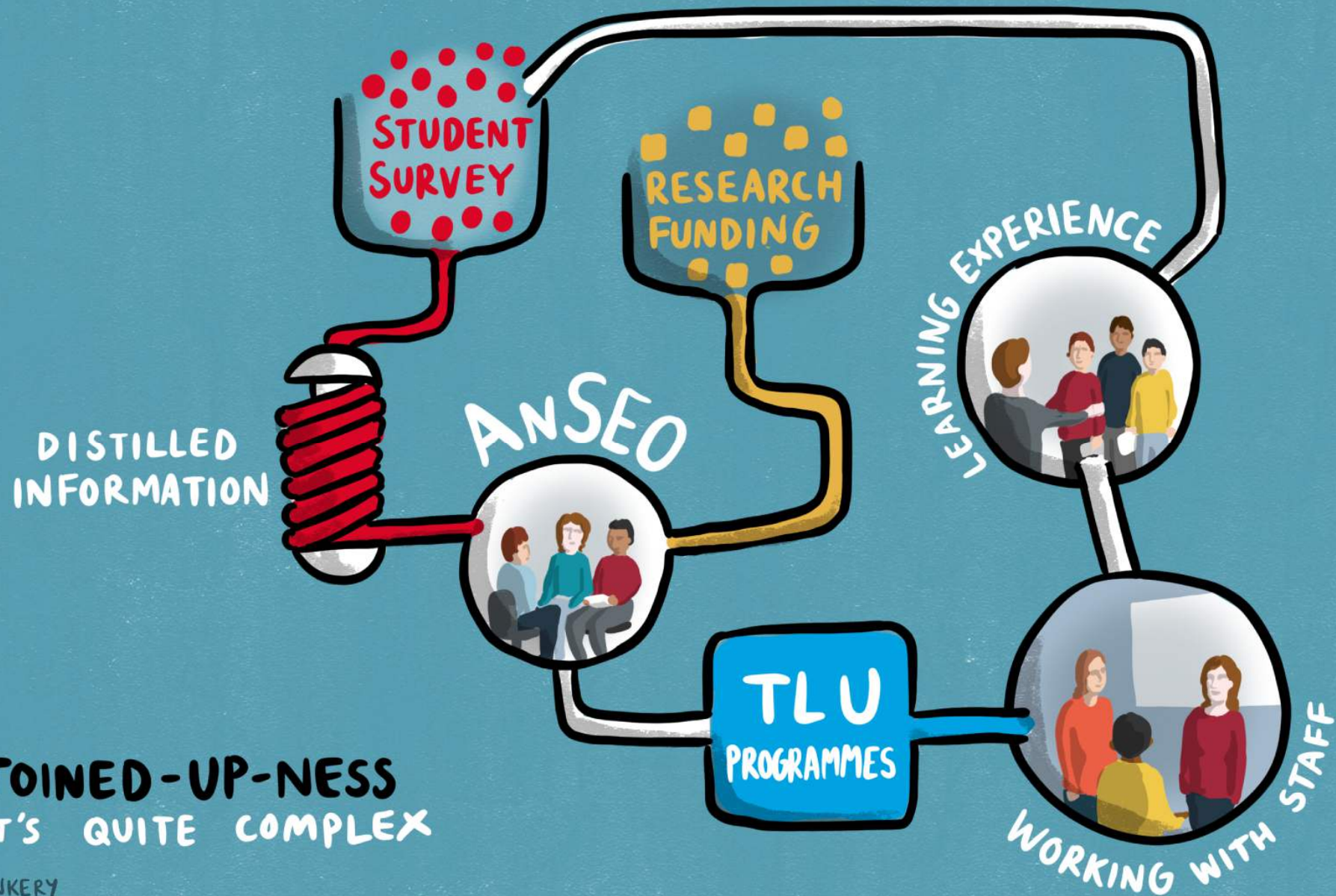


Empowering Success through Collaboration



TLU & AnSEO Overview







Mapping of TLU & AnSEO Programmes to StudentSurvey.ie Base Question Indicator Groupings

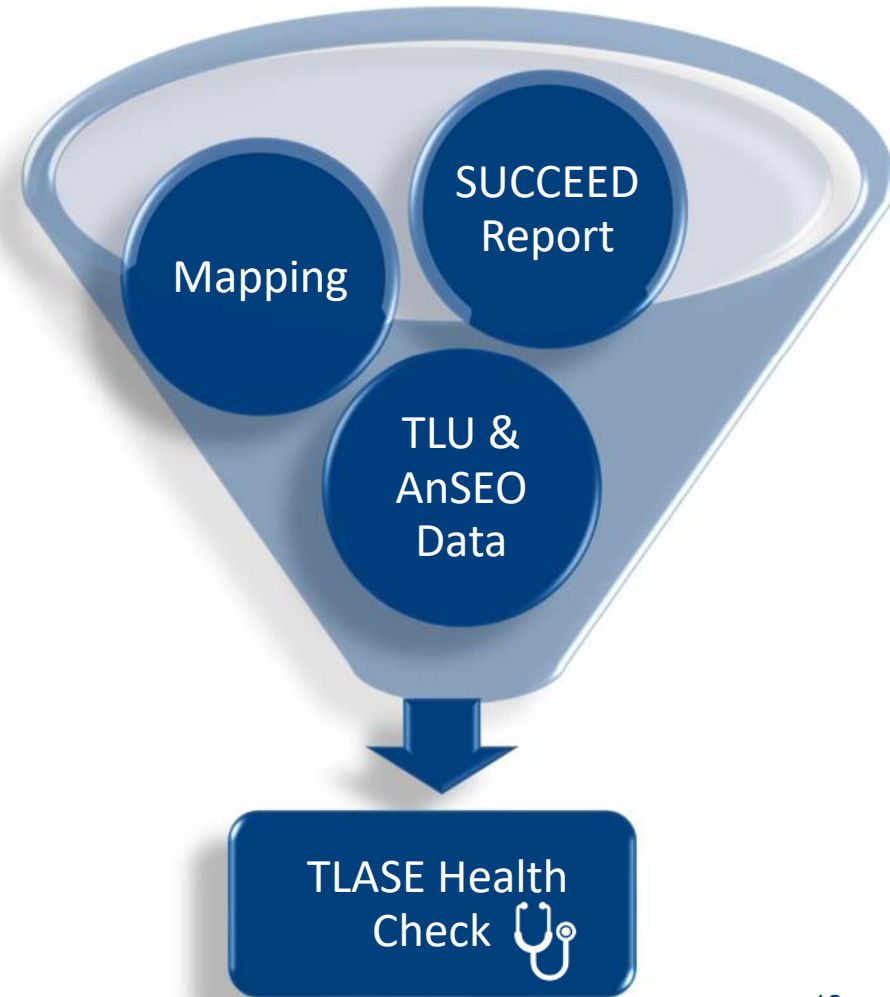


Group	Programmes	StudentSurvey.ie Indicators									
		Higher Order Learning	Reflective and Integrative Learning	Quantitative Reasoning	Learning Strategies	Collaborative Learning	Student-Faculty Interaction	Effective Teaching Practices	Quality of Interactions	Supportive Environment	Learning, Creative and Social Skills
AnSEO - The Studentmt Engagement Office	Academic Learning Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	EDGE - MTU Graduate Development					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Good Start						✓		✓	✓	✓
	Le Chéille					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	MTU Ready						✓		✓	✓	✓
	Transitions at MTU Funding					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Teaching & Learning Unit (TLU)	MA Teaching & Learning in Higher Education	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
	EAT-PD Programme	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓
	National Digital Badges	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
	Coaching in Higher Education Programme		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Workshops & Seminars	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Combined Funding Call	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	SATLE Funding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	TLASE Research Laboratory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
	Learning Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Coaching & Mentoring		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	INTEGRATE Staff Induction Mentoring Programme		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
	ELEVATE - Leadership Development Training						✓		✓	✓	
	LEAD - Leadership Enhancement & Development Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Advance HE Fellowship Programme	✓	✓			✓		✓			
	Resources	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓



How does this help?

- Mapping provides basis to triangulate data
- Allows **SUCCEED** team perform a TLASE Health Check on the academic unit which enables:
 - Identification of initiatives contributing to successes
 - Suggestion of initiatives to potentially address deficits
 - Spotlight/Showcase good practice



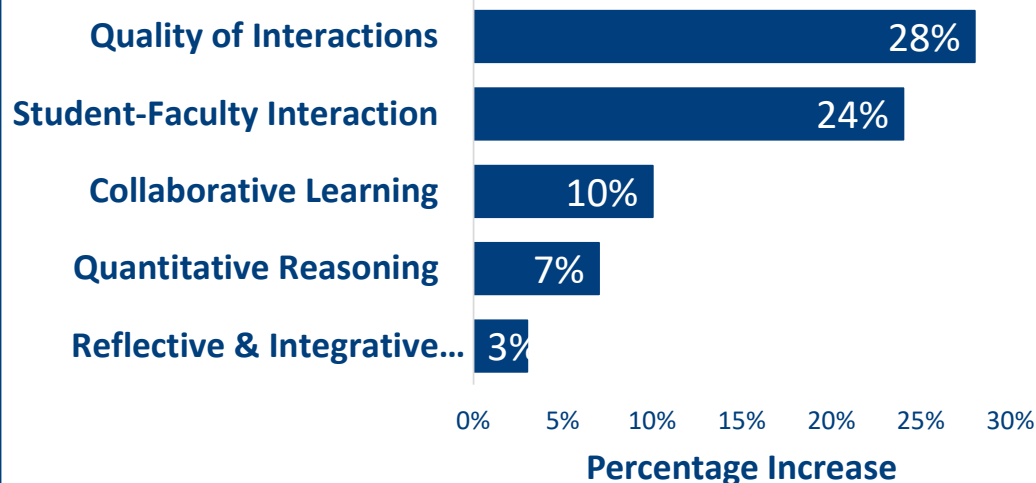


Impact Highlights: 2021-2023

The National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 recommends:

“Higher education institutions should put in place systems to capture feedback from students, and use this feedback to inform institutional and programme management, as well as national policy.”

StudentSurvey.ie Base Question Indicator Groupings Scores



Scale & Reach

35 departmental, 11 school-level, 3 faculty reports/year
20+ structured consultations held



Institutional Recognition

DELTA AWARD

- Supported 2 Awardees (2023, 2025)
- Supporting 2 Applicants (2025–2026)



Culture Change

Embedding student data use into Teaching, Learning. Assessment & Student Engagement enhancement processes



DELTA Award Testimonial

“SUCCEED provided us with evidence from our students as to what we were doing well and as a result enabled us to identify areas of enhancement to teaching excellence. This insight was invaluable in developing our successful action plan and ultimately our DELTA Award success.”

Lecturer, Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies, MTU





Key Learnings



Data only leads to enhancement when it's shared, clearly understood, and translated into action



SUCCEED ensures student feedback is accessible, meaningful, and genuinely usable



Collaboration, not just consultation, is what sustains impact over time.



The SUCCEED model is scalable, adaptable, and well positioned for the next phase of StudentSurvey.ie.



Further Information



TLU		AnSEO	
		https://www.linkedin.com/company/mtu-teaching-and-learning	
		<p>Teaching & Learning Unit</p>  <p>go.mtu.ie/tlu</p>	<p>AnSEO - The Student Engagement Office</p>  <p>go.mtu.ie/anseo</p>
		<p>tlu_team@mtu.ie</p> <p>Direct contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linda O’Sullivan (linda.osullivan@mtu.ie), TLU• Róisín O’Grady (roisin.ogrady@mtu.ie), AnSEO	