Data Article

Student satisfaction in the Russell Group and Non-Russell Group Universities in UK

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ABSTRACT

Undeniably, student satisfaction in higher education is one of the important key factors for university ranking and league table. Accordingly, this article describes the student satisfaction data between Russell Group and Non-Russell Group universities in United Kingdom (UK). The data includes 19 Russell Group and 102 Non-Russell Group universities. We present some descriptive statistics of the variables included in the dataset. The results of the article are based on the two-Sample t-Test and CI. The findings from the data suggest that there is no statistically significant difference on student satisfaction rating between Russell Group and Non-Russell Group universities. This study has policy implications for the higher education in the UK.

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Specifications table

| Subject area               | Social sciences |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| More specific subject area| Education       |
| Type of data              | Tables and Figures |

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How data was acquired
Survey (The Higher Education Funding Council for England - Hefce, national database)

Data format
Raw, analyzed

Experimental factors
Student Satisfaction

Experimental features
Comparing Student Satisfaction between Russell Group Vs Non-Russell Group Universities

Data source location
121 Universities in United Kingdom

Data accessibility
Data are included in this article

Value of the data
• There is lack of research on student satisfaction in the UK and hence this article aimed to find out the correlation of student satisfaction between Russell Group Vs Non-Russell Group Universities.
• The data were collected from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce), UK.
• The data can be used to identify the key performance factors associated with UK universities.
• The article could be useful for further study on the gender voices (student satisfaction) in UK and comparison with other countries.

The data did not present the respondents identity and hence confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents were maintained. The dataset provides an original contribution to the understanding of the student satisfaction in the UK.

1. Data

Student perception survey is the most common approach to evaluate the quality of universities [1–4]. This is for quality improvement, in response to the increased international competition for students and operational funds in higher education [5–7].

Table 1 presents the sample of the study (n = 121). The study includes 19 Russell Group and 102 Non- Russell Group universities. Importantly, five renowned Russell Group universities were excluded due to the data availability: Cardiff University, Queen’s University Belfast, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, and University of Southampton.

National Student Survey (NSS) is compulsory for final year students on all courses in all higher education institutions in UK. Students respond based on a Likert scale where: 5 - Definitely agree, 4 - Mostly agree, 3 - Neither agree nor disagree, 2 - Mostly disagree, 1 - Definitely disagree. The following areas are covered in the following seven areas. In addition, the students respond to the Students’ Union question:

A. Teaching and learning

1. Staff are good at explaining things
2. Staff have made the subject interesting
3. Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching
4. The course is intellectually stimulating

A. Assessment and feedback

5. The criteria used in marking have been made clear in advance
6. Assessment arrangements and marking have been fair
7. Feedback on my work has been prompt
8. I have received detailed comments on my work
9. Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand
Table 1
Sample of the study (n = 121).

| Sl | Institution | Russell Group | Non-Russell Group | UK Provider Ref. No. |
|----|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Imperial College London | Y             |                   | 10003270            |
| 2  | King’s College London     | Y             |                   | 10003645            |
| 3  | Queen Mary University of London | Y |                   | 10007775            |
| 4  | The London School of Economics and Political Science | Y |                   | 10004063            |
| 5  | The University of Birmingham | Y |                   | 10006840            |
| 6  | The University of Leeds | Y              |                   | 10007795            |
| 7  | The University of Liverpool | Y |                   | 10006842            |
| 8  | The University of Manchester | Y |                   | 10007798            |
| 9  | The University of Nottingham | Y |                   | 10007154            |
| 10 | The University of Sheffield | Y |                   | 10007157            |
| 11 | The University of Warwick | Y              |                   | 10007163            |
| 12 | University College London | Y              |                   | 10007784            |
| 13 | University of Bristol     | Y              |                   | 10007786            |
| 14 | University of Cambridge   | Y              |                   | 10007788            |
| 15 | Durham University         | Y              |                   | 10007143            |
| 16 | University of Exeter      | Y              |                   | 10007792            |
| 17 | Newcastle University      | Y              |                   | 10007799            |
| 18 | University of Oxford      | Y              |                   | 10007774            |
| 19 | University of York        | Y              |                   | 10007167            |
| 20 | Anglia Ruskin University  | Y              |                   | 10000291            |
| 21 | Aston University          | Y              |                   | 10007759            |
| 22 | Bath Spa University       | Y              |                   | 10000571            |
| 23 | Birkbeck College         | Y              |                   | 10007760            |
| 24 | Birmingham City University| Y              |                   | 10007140            |
| 25 | Bishop Grosseteste University | Y |                   | 10007811            |
| 26 | Bournemouth University    | Y              |                   | 10000824            |
| 27 | Brunel University London  | Y              |                   | 10000961            |
| 28 | Buckinghamshire New University | Y |                   | 10000975            |
| 29 | Canterbury Christ Church University | Y |                   | 10001143            |
| 30 | City, University of London | Y |                   | 10001478            |
| 31 | Courtauld Institute of Art | Y |                   | 10007761            |
| 32 | Coventry University       | Y              |                   | 10001826            |
| 33 | De Montfort University    | Y              |                   | 10001883            |
| 34 | Edge Hill University     | Y              |                   | 10007823            |
| 35 | Falmouth University       | Y              |                   | 10008640            |
| 36 | Goldsmiths’ College       | Y              |                   | 10002738            |
| 37 | Guildhall School of Music & Drama | Y |                   | 10007825            |
| 38 | Harper Adams University   | Y              |                   | 10004081            |
| 39 | Heythrop College         | Y              |                   | 10007765            |
| 40 | Kingston University       | Y              |                   | 10003678            |
| 41 | Leeds Beckett University  | Y              |                   | 10003861            |
| 42 | Leeds College of Art      | Y              |                   | 10003854            |
| 43 | Leeds Trinity University  | Y              |                   | 10003863            |
| 44 | Liverpool Hope University | Y              |                   | 10003956            |
| 45 | Liverpool John Moores University | Y |                   | 10003957            |
| 46 | London Metropolitan University | Y |                   | 10004048            |
| 47 | London South Bank University | Y |                   | 10004078            |
| 48 | Loughborough University   | Y              |                   | 10004113            |
| 49 | Manchester Metropolitan University | Y |                   | 10004180            |
| 50 | Middlesex University      | Y              |                   | 10004351            |
| 51 | Newman University         | Y              |                   | 10007832            |
| 52 | Norwich University of the Arts | Y |                   | 10004775            |
| 53 | Nottingham Trent University | Y |                   | 10004797            |
| 54 | Oxford Brookes University | Y              |                   | 10004930            |
| 55 | Plymouth College of Art    | Y              |                   | 10005127            |
| 56 | Ravensbourne              | Y              |                   | 10005389            |
| 57 | Roehampton University     | Y              |                   | 10007776            |
| 58 | Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance | Y |                   | 10005523            |
| 59 | Royal College of Music    | Y              |                   | 10007778            |
| 60 | Royal Holloway, University of London | Y |                   | 10005553            |
| SI | Institution                                           | Russell Group | Non-Russell Group | UK Provider Ref. No. |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 61 | Royal Northern College of Music                       | Y             |                   | 10007837            |
| 62 | Sheffield Hallam University                           | Y             |                   | 10005790            |
| 63 | Southampton Solent University                         | Y             |                   | 10006022            |
| 64 | St Mary’s University, Twickenham                      | Y             |                   | 10007843            |
| 65 | St. George’s, University of London                    | Y             |                   | 10007782            |
| 66 | Staffordshire University                              | Y             |                   | 10006299            |
| 67 | Teesside University                                   | Y             |                   | 10007161            |
| 68 | The Arts University Bournemouth                       | Y             |                   | 10003385            |
| 69 | The Conservatoire for Dance and Drama                 | Y             |                   | 10001653            |
| 70 | The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts           | Y             |                   | 10003945            |
| 71 | The Open University                                   | Y             |                   | 10007773            |
| 72 | The Royal Academy of Music                            | Y             |                   | 10007835            |
| 73 | The Royal Agricultural University                     | Y             |                   | 10005545            |
| 74 | The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama           | Y             |                   | 10007816            |
| 75 | The Royal Veterinary College                          | Y             |                   | 10007779            |
| 76 | The School of Oriental and African Studies             | Y             |                   | 10007780            |
| 77 | The University of Bath                                | Y             |                   | 10007850            |
| 78 | The University of Bolton                              | Y             |                   | 10006841            |
| 79 | The University of Bradford                            | Y             |                   | 10007785            |
| 80 | The University of Chichester                          | Y             |                   | 10007137            |
| 81 | The University of Cumbria                             | Y             |                   | 10007842            |
| 82 | The University of East Anglia                         | Y             |                   | 10007789            |
| 83 | The University of Essex                               | Y             |                   | 10007791            |
| 84 | The University of Huddersfield                        | Y             |                   | 10007148            |
| 85 | The University of Hull                                | Y             |                   | 10007149            |
| 86 | The University of Kent                                | Y             |                   | 10007150            |
| 87 | The University of Lancaster                           | Y             |                   | 10007768            |
| 88 | The University of Leicester                           | Y             |                   | 10007796            |
| 89 | The University of Northampton                         | Y             |                   | 10007138            |
| 90 | The University of Reading                             | Y             |                   | 10007802            |
| 91 | The University of Salford                             | Y             |                   | 10007156            |
| 92 | The University of Surrey                              | Y             |                   | 10007160            |
| 93 | The University of West London                         | Y             |                   | 10006566            |
| 94 | The University of Westminster                         | Y             |                   | 10007165            |
| 95 | The University of Wolverhampton                        | Y             |                   | 10007166            |
| 96 | Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance         | Y             |                   | 10008017            |
| 97 | University College Birmingham                         | Y             |                   | 10000712            |
| 98 | University for the Creative Arts                      | Y             |                   | 10006427            |
| 99 | University of Bedfordshire                            | Y             |                   | 10007152            |
| 100| University of Brighton                                | Y             |                   | 10000886            |
| 101| University of Central Lancashire                       | Y             |                   | 10007141            |
| 102| University of Chester                                 | Y             |                   | 10007848            |
| 103| University of Derby                                   | Y             |                   | 10007851            |
| 104| University of East London                             | Y             |                   | 10007144            |
| 105| University of Gloucestershire                          | Y             |                   | 10007145            |
| 106| University of Greenwich                               | Y             |                   | 10007146            |
| 107| University of Hertfordshire                           | Y             |                   | 10007147            |
| 108| University of Keele                                   | Y             |                   | 10007767            |
| 109| University of Lincoln                                 | Y             |                   | 10007151            |
| 110| University of Northumbria at Newcastle                 | Y             |                   | 10001282            |
| 111| University of Plymouth                                 | Y             |                   | 10007801            |
| 112| University of Portsmouth                               | Y             |                   | 10007155            |
| 113| University of St Mark & St John                       | Y             |                   | 10037449            |
| 114| University of Sunderland                              | Y             |                   | 10007159            |
| 115| University of Sussex                                  | Y             |                   | 10007806            |
| 116| University of the Arts, London                         | Y             |                   | 10007162            |
| 117| University of the West of England, Bristol             | Y             |                   | 10007164            |
| 118| University of Winchester                               | Y             |                   | 10003614            |
| 119| University of Worcester                                | Y             |                   | 10007139            |
| 120| Writtle University College                            | Y             |                   | 10007657            |
| 121| York St John University                               | Y             |                   | 10007713            |

Note: Yes
A. Academic support

10. I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies
11. I have been able to contact staff when I needed to
12. Good advice was available when I needed to make study choices

A. Organization and management

13. The timetable works efficiently as far as my activities are concerned
14. Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively
15. The course is well organized and is running smoothly

A. Learning resources

16. The library resources and services are good enough for my needs
17. I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to
18. I have been able to access specialized equipment, facilities or rooms when I needed to

A. Personal development

19. The course has helped me present myself with confidence
20. My communication skills have improved
21. As a result of the course, I feel confident in tackling unfamiliar problems

A. Overall satisfaction

22. Overall I am satisfied with the quality of the course

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

According to the Russell Group, the universities have significant social, economic and cultural impacts nationally and around the globe (https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities). For example

- Russell Group universities produce more than two-thirds of the world-leading research produced in UK universities
- These universities support more than 300,000 jobs in UK with economic output is more than £32 billion every year.
- There were 417,000 undergraduates and 192,500 postgraduates were studying at a Russell Group university in 2015–16.

Fig. 1 shows the student satisfaction percentage in 2014 and 2015 based on the NSS Questionnaire survey. Importantly, teaching quality (Q1–4) is the highest satisfaction percentage. But for the assessment and feedback, the students were not satisfied and raised question on the quality of the feedback. In addition, the engagement of student union is not very active for many universities.

To achieve the objective of the study, the study has developed the following hypothesis:

Null hypothesis : \( H_0 : \mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0 \)

Alternative hypothesis : \( H_1 : \mu_1 - \mu_2 \neq 0 \)

Where, \( \mu_1 \) is the mean number of student satisfaction of Russell Group; \( \mu_2 \) is the mean number of student satisfaction of Non-Russell Group.
Table 2 reports the Descriptive Statistics of the study. It is found that the mean of the Students satisfaction (Russell Group) is 87 comparing to Students satisfaction (Non-Russell Group) with 85.48. The lower standard deviation of the Russell Group means that the data tend to be closer to the mean. Regarding the Estimation for Difference, we are 95% confident that the confidence interval as: \(-0.318 \leq \mu_1 - \mu_2 \leq 3.357\) (Table 3).

We find that t value is 1.70, df is 28 and \(p > .05\). This indicates that the null hypothesis is not rejected. Fig. 2 shows the individual Value Plot of Students satisfaction of Russell Group and Non-Russell Group.

Overall, we can conclude that since the null hypothesis is not rejected, the mean of student satisfaction between Russell Group and Non-Russell Group universities are not significantly different.

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**Table 2**  
Descriptive statistics.

| Sample                              | N  | Mean | SD  | SE Mean |
|-------------------------------------|----|------|-----|---------|
| Students satisfaction (Russell Group)| 19 | 87.00| 3.24| 0.79    |
| Students satisfaction (Non-Russell Group)| 102| 85.48| 4.35| 0.43    |

**Table 3**  
Estimation for difference.

| Difference | 95% CI for Difference |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1.519      | (-0.318, 3.357)        |
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Transparency document. Supplementary material

Transparency document associated with this article can be found in the online version at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.11.124.

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