

Research shows divide between teachers and students over university application support

New research from The Student Room, the world's largest online student community, shows a massive divide between how students and teachers perceive the university application support provided in schools. The research comes as The Student Room launch [a teacher and student guide to university applications](#) which aims to make the process easier to understand.

Only 15% of students say they get more than 6 hours individual support compared to 47% of teachers. Furthermore, while 70% of teachers say their institution supports all students equally, only 47% of students see this as being true – with the majority believing Oxbridge and Russell Group candidates monopolise teachers' attention.

However, students rate the quality of support provided by teachers far higher than teachers do themselves. Almost 70% of students say teachers are meeting their needs during the application process, compared to only 58% of teachers who think they do.

Teachers generally view the support provided to students more critically than students themselves. Only 52% of teachers believe universities are meeting students needs (compared to 62% of students), and the majority of teachers think parents are failing to support their children (only 39% think parents are meeting students' needs compared to 58% of students).

There are other significant differences in terms of university fees and finance, with only 19% of teachers believing there is a problem with how fees and costs of going to university are explained to students, compared to a concerning 38% of students.

Hannah Morrish, education community manager at The Student Room, says: "Choosing the right university can be a stressful time for students, now more than ever given the costs associated with going to uni. It is crucial that both teachers and students feel they have the best information to hand to help them make choices and steer them through the complexities of the application process."

"Because of this, The Student Room have produced an authoritative and easy to use guide to university applications for teachers to use with their students. It covers the whole process from advice on selecting universities, through to producing personal statements and understanding student finance."

**The survey by The Student Room polled 307 UK students and 119 UK teachers between 14th and 18th November 2015.*

Notes to editors

- The Student Room and [Which? University](#) have worked together to produce the 'Getting into Uni Guide'

Which? University is a free and independent website to help students make more informed decisions about higher education, featuring more than 30,000 courses and 300 universities

and colleges to search and compare. It brings together facts and statistics from official sources including Ucas, the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the National Student Survey and Destination of Leavers of Higher Education survey. This is combined with real-life insight from students and the unbiased, expert analysis you'd expect from Which?.

FACT SHEET:

47% of teachers say students get more than 6 hours of individual support with their university applications compared to 15% of students who say they get more than 6 hours

70% of teachers says their institutions support all students equally with their university applications compared to 46% of students who feel the same

12% of teachers say there is more focus on Oxbridge applicants at their school/college compared to 36% of students feel Oxbridge applicants get more focus than others

19% of teachers say the fees and costs of going to university aren't properly explained to their students. 38% of students said the fees and costs aren't properly explained to them.

67% of students say universities are meeting their needs during the application process compared to 52% of teachers that say the same

58% of students say parents are meeting their needs during the application process compared to 39% of teachers who think they are

36% of teachers think parents aren't pulling their weight compared to 26% of students who think they aren't

58% of teachers say they are meeting the needs of students during the application process compared to 68% of students

65% of private school teachers that say their students have more than 6 hours compared to 37% of state schools

20% of private school teachers say they focus more on Oxbridge applicants compared to 11% in state schools. However 13% of state school teachers say they focus more on Russell Group applicants compared to just 5% of private school teachers