

Press release

Students demand right to know teaching qualifications of lecturers, new survey reveals

Students say they should have the right to know what qualifications university lecturers hold according to new research from The Student Room, the world's largest online student community.

77% of the students surveyed believe university lecturers' qualifications should be made publicly available, ideally on the university website and in prospectuses. 1 in 5 say this information would 'definitely' affect their university choice.

This research supports the government's aim of providing students with the information they need to judge teaching quality via the Teaching Excellence Framework, which will see the government monitoring and assessing the quality of teaching in England's universities.

Jack Wallington, community director at The Student Room says "The Student Room aims to provide as much information as possible on university choices, so students are in a position to make the best decisions on their educational career. Our research shows that students feel information on lecturers' qualifications is important in making these decisions, and we support any moves to make this information freely available"

Although students want the right to know the teaching qualifications teachers hold, they are not seen as the most important qualities in a lecturer. Proven depth of subject knowledge and passion are rated more highly by students. However, 57% of students are surprised that lecturers don't always have some form of teaching qualification.

** The survey by The Student Room polled 500 UK students between 11 September and 26 September 2015.*

About The Student Room

thestudentroom.co.uk

Founded in 2001, The Student Room is the world's largest online student community and the UK's no.1 education website according to ComScore data. The Student Room has over 3 million registered members, primarily aged between 14-24 and attracts over 8 million visitors a month. It provides student-to-student advice on studying, educational career choice and lifestyle issues. The Student Room works directly with most UK universities as well as a wide range of leading brands and companies. 24/7 honest, realistic advice and support.

For more information, images and interviews, please contact:

Charlotte Wilson

The Student Room

T: 01273 646 539

E: charlotte.wilson@thestudentroom.com

(Key stats)

- 77% of students say it's important to them that their lecturers have some form of teaching qualifications
- 57% of students are surprised that lecturers don't always have some form of teaching qualification
- 77% of students say they have a right to know the qualifications of their lecturer
- 1 in 5 students said if a university didn't require their lecturers to have some form of teaching qualification it would 'definitely' affect where they chose to study
- Over 50% of students said it would 'maybe' affect where they chose to study (26% said it would 'not at all' affect their choice)
- Students rate depth of knowledge of the subject they're teaching (ie. having a degree) as the most important to them (60%) followed by passion for the subject (22%), empathy for their students (9%) and a teaching qualification (9%)