

The 2022 results edition: How students felt before, during and after receiving results; and the support freshers need now

Student sentiment update by The Student Room
3 - 28 August 2022



Sharing the student voice

I'm Mhairi and I'm the Head of Student Voice and Diversity at The Student Room.



I've worked with TSR for over five years, having started as a Community and Volunteer Manager, then moving to Head of Community, and I'm now thrilled to continue transforming our support for students in this role. Before my TSR life I was a secondary school teacher and head of year. Through my career I've always been driven by my passion for supporting students and helping them to create a future they love, no matter their background or personal circumstance.

I started writing these student sentiment updates back in January of 2021, when schools were closed to most students and traditional exams were cancelled. At TSR, we spend our days chatting to students and hearing all about the way they experience their world and the challenges they face. In 2021 we shared 17 of these updates, showcasing 72 community polls, with over 42,000 votes from students. We have an incredible opportunity (and responsibility) as the UK's largest online student community, to raise the voice of students and share it with people like you who are there to support them. I really do believe that its by listening to students and working across the whole industry together that we can make a real difference in students' lives.

I'm always up for a chat, so do get in touch if you'd like to hear more about this work (or massively geek out about students with me over a coffee).

Mhairi

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Highlights in this update

Results season on The Student Room

- **Before results:** Half felt they'd missed the grades for their firm choice university, 40% were expecting to use clearing, 66% of yr13s were collecting results in person
- **Results:** SQA students had mixed reactions to their results, A-level (and equiv) students had their results expectations met less than in 2021, GCSE (and equiv) students were happier than they expected with their results
- **Looking ahead:** Freshers want life skills and money management support most
- As another cohort begin their university applications, we learned **The Student Room helps most** by connecting university applicants with peers and current students

Before Results...

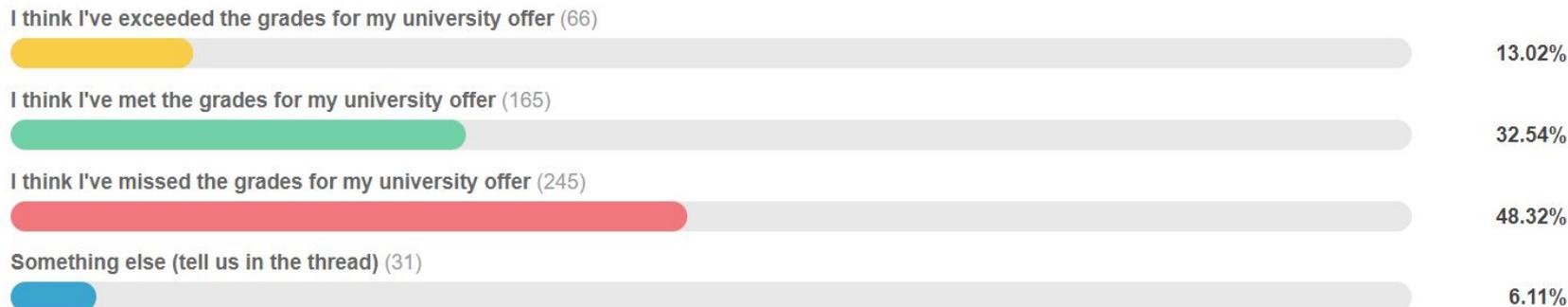


Right before results, half of students felt they'd missed the grades for their firm uni

Back in June, 48% of students said they think they've missed the grades for their uni offer. This was in the middle of the exam season, so we wondered whether that perspective may have been related to their feelings about how their exams were going.

June 2022

 **Poll:** How confident are you that you'll achieve the grades you need to get into your firm uni?



[vote in the poll](#)

total votes: 507

Right before results, half of students felt they'd missed the grades for their firm uni

We decided to ask the exact same question again the weekend before A-level results, and concerningly, 50% now think they've missed their grades for their firm choice university.

We have also seen a slight shift in those who think they've exceeded their required grades. In August we're now seeing 18% who think they've exceeded the grades they need (4% more than in June); while 26% now think they've met the grades they need (6% less than in June).

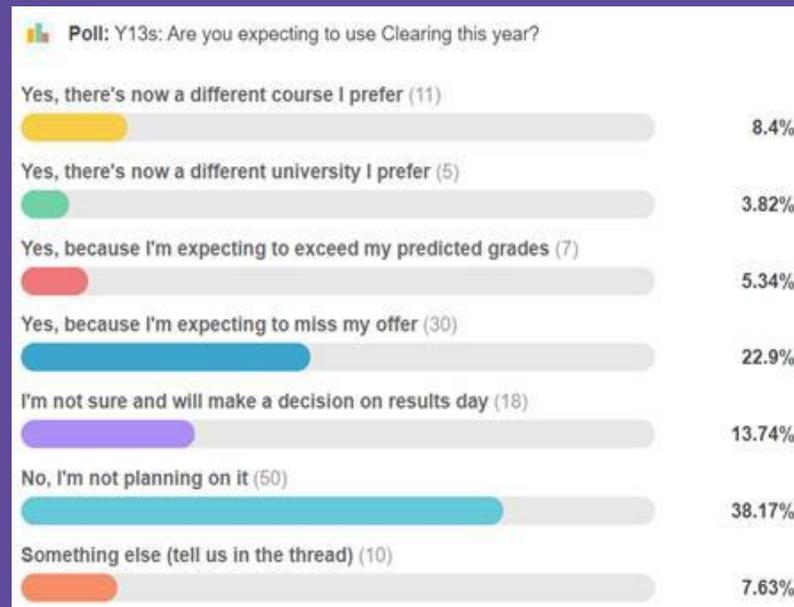
August 2022



40% of students in our poll said they were expecting to use clearing

Ahead of A-level, BTEC and T-level results day on the 18th of August, we saw 40% of students saying they were expecting to use clearing this year. This was the exact proportion Clare Marchant also spoke about from in her UCAS update the week of results.

Our poll found that around half of these students were expecting to use clearing because they felt they'd miss their offer.



If students missed their grades, they were most likely to go through clearing or resit their exams

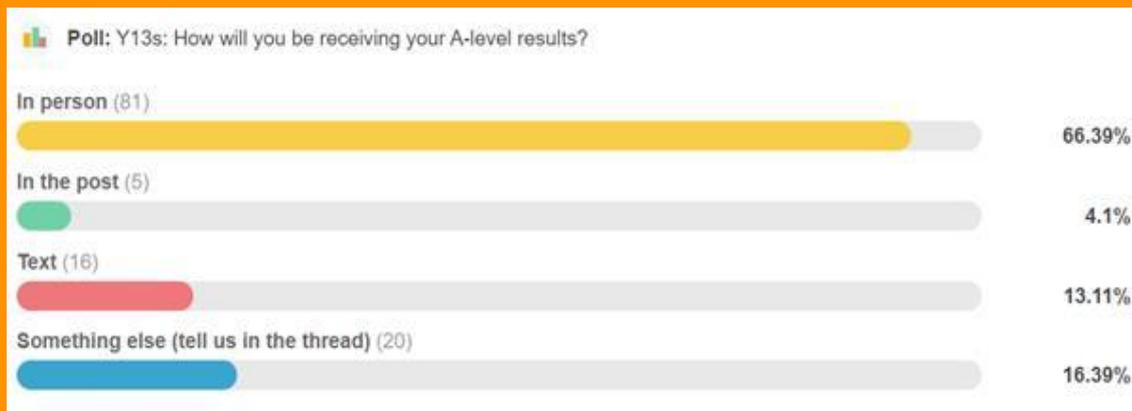
Before results, our poll showed pretty clearly what students are thinking! If students do not receive the results they were hoping for on Thursday, it was almost equally likely that they'll use clearing or resit their exams.

This gave us a fairly good indication of the sort of support students may need over results.



66% of TSR members in Yr13 planned on receiving their results in person

Before results, our poll shows in person is the most common way to find out results, though anecdotally I have seen some students talking around the site about preferring to know whether they got into their uni first (so relying on a notification about that first rather than results themselves). The discussion on this thread also shows some students have very rigid, but different methods of receiving results. Some **only in person**, others **only online** via a kind of digital student management platform.



66% of TSR members in Yr13 planned on receiving their results in person

I'm receiving my results via email and I'll be opening them immediately with my parents probably.

I'll be receiving my results in person, in a big brown envelope with my entire year group who'll probably be either sobbing or jumping for joy.

my school only allows us to collect results in person, the only exception is if we have nominated someone beforehand to come on our behalf... I'm planning to open them with my parents, but I'll hopefully see a few people there.

I am an international student so I am currently not in the UK. I'll phone my college to know my grades.

I have to receive mine via Go4Schools (which is the online system the school uses to track attendance, behaviour points, grades etc) which will be weird. I'd much rather get them in-person. I feel like I'll know from UCAS or via text whether or not I've got my uni place or not before I open my results, which might take away some of the stress (provided it's good news!) but also takes away from the anticipation.

Results...

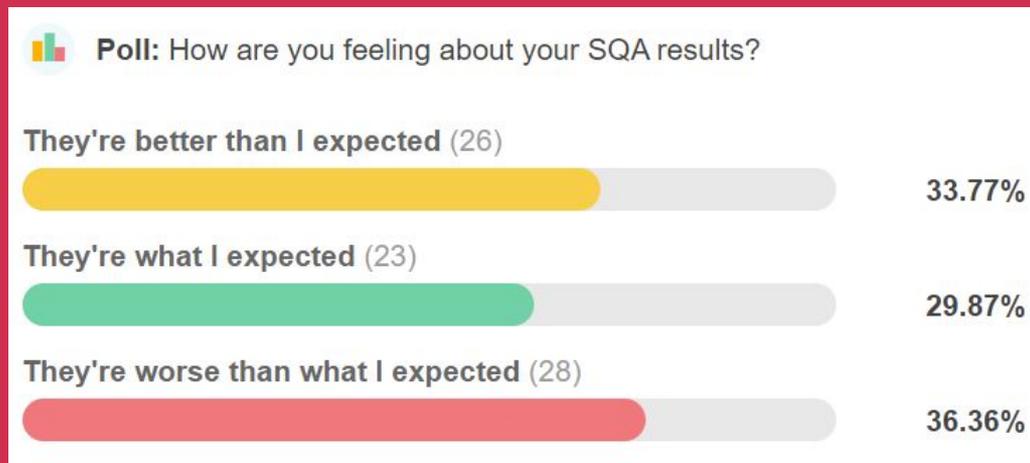


SQA students had mixed feelings about their results

On SQA results day, we asked the community how they were feeling about their results.

Although the poll received a small number of votes (77 over one day), we saw a reasonable dispersion of students feelings about the results they received.

Very slightly more students felt their results were worse than they expected. Anecdotally we saw students celebrating in the discussion, with at least one students waiting for their firm choice university to confirm their place.

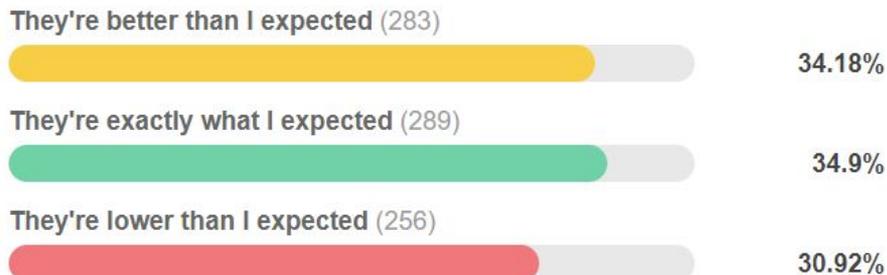


Compared to 2021, A-level students' results met their expectations less in 2022

Following the weekend after students received their A-level, BTEC and T-level results, we saw that out of 560 who voted, 40% received better results than they were expecting. 33% received lower results than they hoped for, and 25% received exactly what they thought they'd get. Compared to 2021, we saw less students receiving exactly what they expected, which is understandable given the teacher-assessed grades given in 2021.

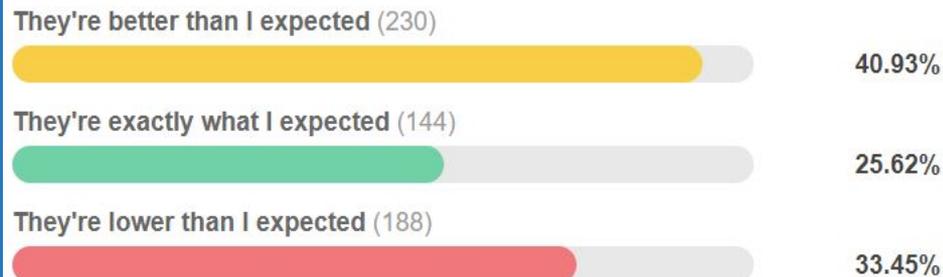
August 2021

 Poll: How are you feeling about your results?



August 2022

 Poll: How are you feeling about your results?



Compared to 2021, A-level students' results met their expectations less in 2022

We saw a mixture of highs and lows from students in The Student Room community as they received their results.

im so happy i got into Lancaster and I've wanted to go there since y11!!! so happy, I cant stop smiling

I got into my firm!! I can't believe that I've actually done it!!

I feel depressed. I was 5 marks off an A for maths man... Do I ask for a remark? This sucks. I just feel depressed I don't wanna go results day since I feel a bit ashamed.. sorry for ruining the mood..

*I didn't get into ICL. I never get lower than an A in mocks for AQA biology and apparently I got a B. I got a B in everything. I was predicted A*A*A so ****ed. Gonna appeal*

I got the grades I wanted! However my UCAS has only updated my insurance, not my firm, when should I start to worry?

GCSE and level 2 vocational students were broadly happy with their results

GCSE and level 2 vocational students on The Student Room were mostly pleasantly surprised by their results. With these and all other students who received results this month, it's interesting to consider the impact of previous years disrupted results seasons on students' perceptions of their results this year.

Students this year were also aware their results would be deliberately placed at a midpoint between 2019 and 2021, so it would be understandable if students may have been bracing themselves for a negative outcome, they may have been surprised when the result was more positive.



Looking ahead...

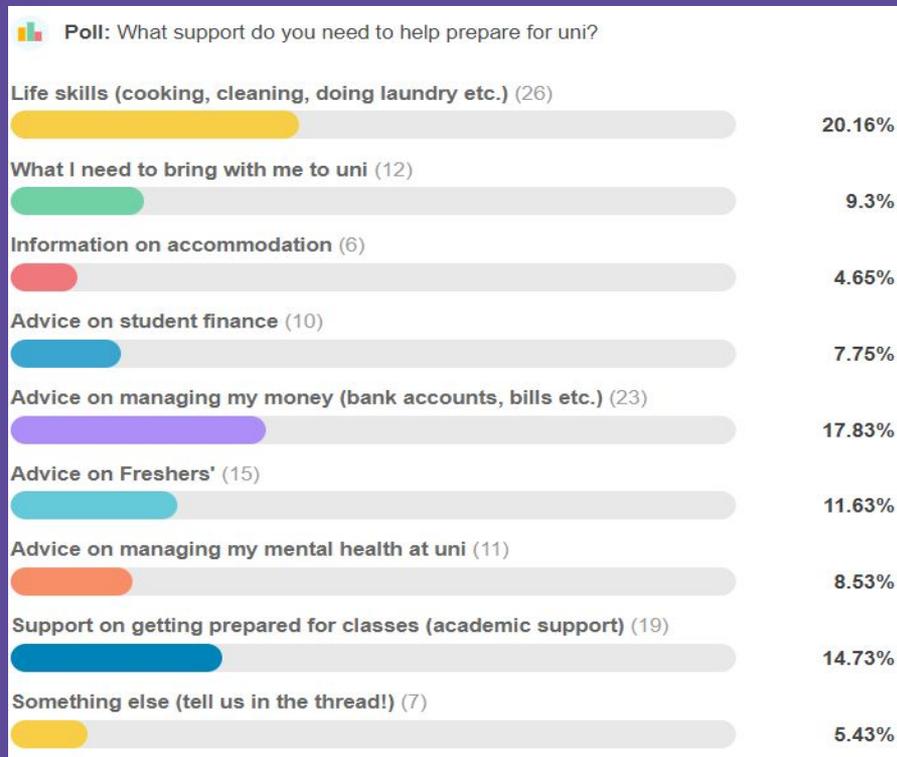


Freshers want life skills and money management support most

As many 18 year olds prepare to start university soon, we asked them what help they need as they need to prepare for uni.

Life skills and advice on managing money is what students most need support with to prepare for university, according to our poll this week.

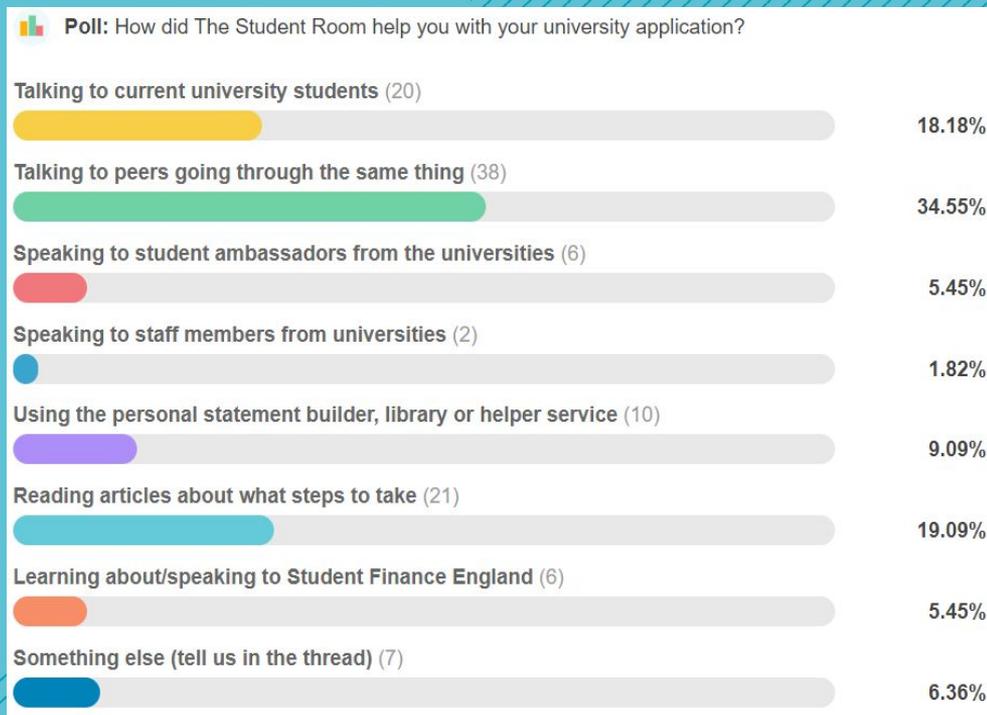
This mirrors exactly what students said when we asked the name question in [2021](#). It could be reasonable to deduce that regardless of the circumstances of how they get their results (ie. no exams, or exams), their basic needs for support around this transition is consistent.



The Student Room helps most by connecting university applicants with peers and current students

As another cohort of young people came to the final phase of their university applications, we took the opportunity to ask how The Student Room had helped them through the process.

Speaking to peers going through the same thing, speaking to current university students, and reading articles about what steps to take next are the three things students have been most helped by with their university applications on The Student Room.



The Student Room helps most by connecting university applicants with peers and current students

TSR helped me in so many ways, but I'd say the main one was actually moral support. Knowing that I wasn't the only one having to reapply and that there was a whole community of people I could discuss my application with was so reassuring. I found it really helpful comparing my UCAT mock results with others and the interview preparation thread in particular was very useful. I also really appreciated having such a supportive group of people to share my offers with when they came through.

TSR helped me with understanding SFE, UCAS, and guidance with my personal statement the personal statement builder really helped me as well

TSR helped me with a range of things from interview prep, strategically applying to universities, talking things through and getting reassured about even the little things. In terms of strategically applying to unis, previous application cycle's threads for specific courses and their unis aided us in finding out what that university's selection criteria was, the layout of how they would assess us and things to look out for. Getting to interact with people in the same position as me really honed in on the fact that no matter how nerve-wracking uni applications are, we're never alone - the community on here is so supportive, informative and friendly. For interview prep specifically, there was a thread where we could discuss main topics and areas to prepare for and having voices to guide us really made a huge difference. Not only that, it helped me become more confident in my answers and structuring. Don't know what I'd have done without TSR this year, especially as it was a reapplication!