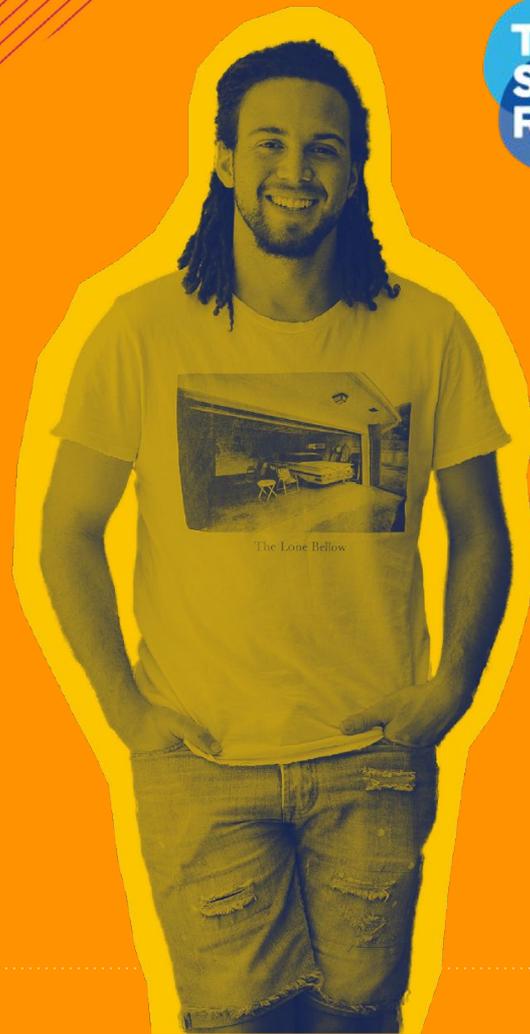


Student life, personal statements, uni application submission and festive revision

Student sentiment update by The Student Room

5 December 2022 - 1 January 2023



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 six 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 2022 we shared 13 of these updates, showcasing 108 community polls, with over 23,000 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

- When it comes to student life, students most want alcohol-free social events, free on-campus social events, Mental health and wellbeing support from their university
- 97% of students want info from universities with personal statements
- 70% of TSR members have already submitted their university application
- Holiday spelled revision for most students

The student life experiences students really want from their universities

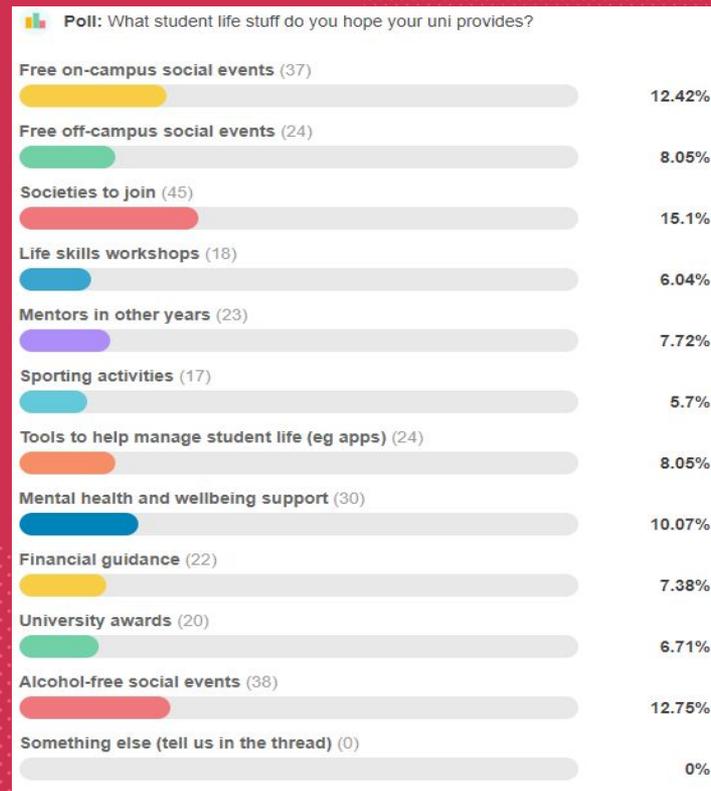
Now that 2023 is officially here, it won't be long before our new cohort of fresher hopefuls are in the thick of prepping to start university.

We know that for many students, university is about more than the academics, so we asked TSR members what opportunities outside the lecture hall students would like their universities to provide. The most important things are:

Alcohol-free social events

Free on-campus social events

Mental health and wellbeing support



97% of students want info from universities with personal statements

Following recent [calls from HEPI](#) to reform personal statements, and some [conversation](#) on The Student Room, our market research team at TSR Insight have shared some learnings hot off the press about what students feel about personal statements.

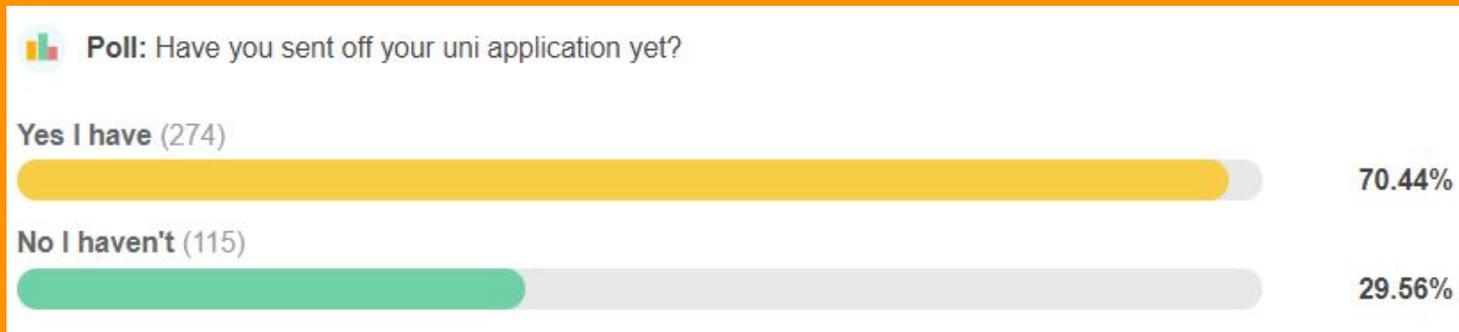
Here's a snippet of the results from our survey of 484 prospective 2023 and 2024 entry undergraduates aged 16+.

You can [download the full report here](#)

- 68% were very or quite concerned about writing their personal statement; key concerns were making their personal statement stand out and avoiding cliché
- They felt personal statements were second only to their predicted grades in importance on their UCAS application
- 97% wanted unis to provide information to support with writing personal statements
- Despite all of this, 57% would prefer to stick with the current format rather than move to a short response format

70% of TSR members have already submitted their university application

For 70% of TSR members who voted in our poll, they were able to heave a sigh of relief having submitted their university application before Christmas! We take this with a pinch of salt though, because we know polls like this might get a higher proportion of 'yes' votes given these students are already on TSR getting help with their apps. We still expect to see many more popping into TSR for support before submitting for the deadline.



Holiday spelled revision for most students

While I was dreaming of pigs in blankets, the majority of students from the TSR community were in the throes of revision over the Christmas break this year, but it was great to see a balance between productivity and relaxation!

I'm planning to do revision for Yr 13 content I've completed this year and some interview prep. But then again I might just binge 'His Dark Materials'

I'll do my flashcards when I feel like it but that's probably it. I'm super burned out and tired even though I did all the things to prevent burnout, and I think I just really need a break more than anything.

I have exams right after Christmas so there goes my holiday! I'll be studying (read: screaming) about the insane amount of syllabus I have throughout

