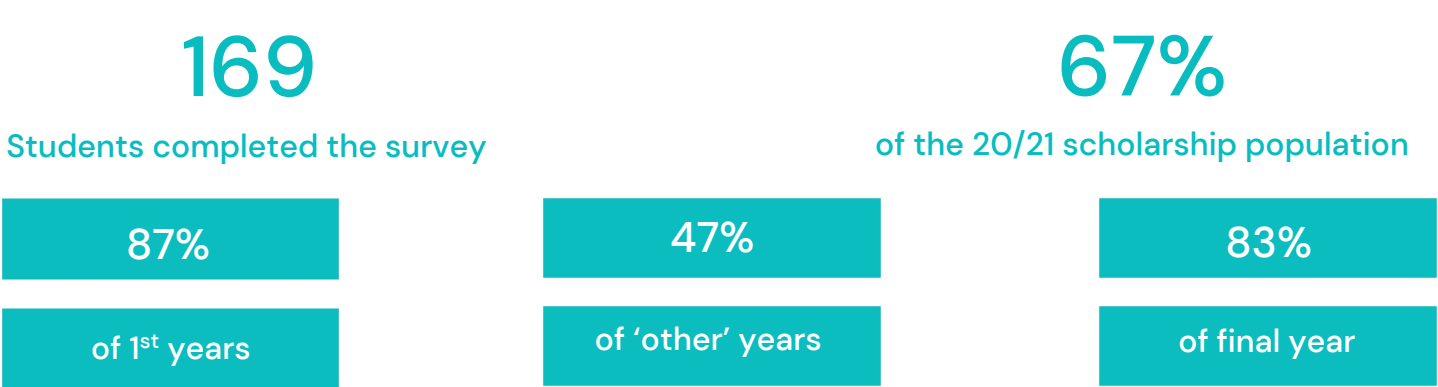


# Scholarship student annual survey 2021

The survey was undertaken in June 2021 and was the first standard survey since 2019 as the March 2020 survey focussed exclusively on the Covid pandemic, the impact of which was first being felt.

This survey explored the legacy of the pandemic on student’s views of university and their home; examined levels of confidence across areas of academic progress, housing, employability and sense of self; looked at graduate destinations and captured thoughts on the impact of the scheme from their perspective.

## Participation



## Most important impact of the scheme

- 1 = Removed stress and anxiety to allow focus on study (40%)
- 2 = Able to take part in full university experience (32%)
- 3 = Feeling safe and secure in accommodation (16%)

“[The] scholarship has helped me on making new friends and saving a lot of my student finance money. I had an amazing, safe and very exciting experience because of the great conditions and people (students & staff) I had around. All this great stuff wouldn’t have happened if I had to live by myself, so I am very grateful for being given this scholarship. Thank you.”

“The scholarship provided me with a sense of security and safety that I was previously lacking from my life, once I had that security and safety I was able to focus my time and energy on greater things. These opportunities enhanced my skillset and opened up new worlds to me, instilling me with confidence. The scholarship kind of creates a snowball effect of positive change. I wish that governments would ensure that all care experienced people at university would have their accommodation paid for and provide a support system for them at university.”

“It has given me stable accommodation during my course enabling me to live on campus and not worry about the financial burden and emotional stress during winter and summer periods.”

## Thoughts about uni in 2021

# 70%

Had something positive to say

- 34% = Positive academic experience  
"online learning has been easier"
- 15% = Good social connection  
"Societies"
- 14% = Personal support  
"Plenty of mental health support"
- 7% = Access to employment opportunity  
"Had a really good placement"

29% = negative or neutral learning  
"Nothing, it was all online and very difficult"

Throughout the student population, there has been a wide spectrum of experience at university this year, that is unique to each individual. Broadly, students on the scholarship remain positive and for some the restrictions of Covid created an environment that was found to be helpful from different ways of learning through to making friends.

## There is still room for improvement...

# 33%

of respondents want more contact from their university

"Check in with us more often!"

Additionally:

- 15% = More financial help  
"I'm lucky enough to have the scholarship but if I didn't, like a lot of estranged students, the university support given wouldn't be enough"
- 14% = More social opportunity  
"Different events to attract shy people"
- 9% = Academic input  
"Support for those with technical problems"
- 20% = Mixed 'other'  
"To convince SFE that estranged students shouldn't have to prove their estrangement each year."
- 32% = Positive or neutral  
"If I'm honest the services have been excellent"

## Feelings about home in 2021

# 29%

Said it's all about making great friendships

"I've met some really nice people and hopefully some lasting friends."

"The first week I made a load of friends which I was able to go out with and chill at home with."

"Meeting flat mates, and friends for life."

"I met the love of my life!"

"Able to spend more quality time with my housemates."

Plus:

23% = Space, security and location

"Feeling secure and safe"

6% = Service level

"Really good Covid compliance and staff here are super friendly and knew me by sight so quickly"

4% = Academic

"I have definitely managed to get better results in my academics at University and been able to focus on getting the best grades possible as being in this home setting has been very calming and allowed to have my own study space."

2% = Acceptance

"I came out as trans this year and they were very accepting and accommodating"

2% = Negative experience

"I've had TERRIBLE flatmates this year!"

# 26%

Felt facilities could be improved by improving communication (e.g. scheduling maintenance) and introducing more social events

Other:

23% = Made suggestions

"I would have liked some extra online sessions with other tenants"

22% = Thought it was great

"I think the situation right now is great. It's nice to be treated as any other normal tenant."

13% = Need better awareness

"Not for Unite, but I wish landlords would understand care leavers situations more – we don't usually have a guarantor"

## Final year students

65%

Didn't yet know their grade outcome at the time of survey

47%

Said their course timetable had been extended, postponed or delayed due to Covid.

18 %	=	did not know what they were going to do after graduation with some reporting being rejected for, or still awaiting outcome of, post graduate study applications
15%	=	were moving into post graduate study (this is lower than previous year surveys which averaged over 25% and may be directly connected to waiting on grade outcomes)
42%	=	were job hunting at that time
24%	=	had a job secured on graduation with most being within the field of health