

Exams and Assessment Survey 2026

Purpose

The Oxford SU Exams and Assessment Survey gathers student experience of examinations and assessment to support the University's ongoing work on assessment practice. The full report has been submitted to Education Committee.

Several strands of work on assessment are currently in progress across the collegiate University. These include the use of in person typed examinations, the planned renovation of the Examination Schools, and the University's own examination feedback survey. Each of these benefits from current evidence of student experience.

Oxford SU ran the survey to contribute that evidence. The intention was to complement existing University data sources with a direct account from students, gathered outside the casework and complaints routes through which the SU usually encounters these issues.

The survey covered:

- in person typed examinations, including hardware, software and accessibility
- the case for a second assessment sitting window
- the environment at the Examination Schools
- collections
- the Mitigating Circumstances procedure
- exam accommodations and adjustments
- the University's examination feedback survey

Method and respondents

The survey was designed and led by Oluwaseun Sowunmi, SU President for Undergraduates (2025-26). It was open to all Oxford students, promoted by targeted emails and social media, and completed anonymously through Microsoft Forms. All respondents gave express data protection consent.

158 students completed the survey: 139 undergraduates (88%) and 19 postgraduate taught students (12%). All four academic divisions were represented, with MPLS at 37.3%, Humanities at 34.2%, Social Sciences at 15.8%, Medical Sciences at 8.9%, and Continuing Education and Oxford Lifelong Learning at 3.8%.

Respondents self-selected, so the sample is not statistically representative of the student body. The findings are indicative. They identify issues raised independently by a number of students, but the sample does not support disaggregation by college, course

or demographic group. Postgraduate taught numbers were low, so the recommendations address undergraduate assessment principally, and the report proposes separate work on postgraduate taught experience.

Governance route

Education Committee is responsible for education policy, quality and standards across the collegiate University, and its decisions inform University regulations and the work of the Proctors, Central Academic Services, the Examination Schools and the colleges.

The report has been submitted to canvas opinion. The Committee is invited to consider the findings and to steer further work on the recommendations.

Oxford SU's role

Oxford SU is represented on the University committees where assessment policy is considered, and contributes student evidence to them. The SU also works directly with the services responsible for the delivery of examinations, including the Proctors' Office, Central Academic Services, the Examination Schools management team, the Disability Advisory Service, and the Conference of Colleges. Course representatives, divisional representatives and the SU's democratic structures provide accountability for this work.

Next steps

Subject to the Committee's steer, Oxford SU proposes to take the findings forward with:

- the Proctors' Office, Central Academic Services and the Examination Schools management team, on examination infrastructure and conditions at the Schools
- the Disability Advisory Service, on guidance for exam adjustments and on service resourcing
- the Conference of Colleges, in particular the Senior Tutors' Committee and the Quality Assurance Working Group
- the Student Data Insight Team and University communications, on a partnership approach to the examination feedback survey

The new Sabbatical officers' team (2026-2027) have been briefed on the findings and will continue to raise them through university committees. Oxford SU will provide a further update once the Committee has considered the recommendations.

Contact

If you face any problems with examinations and assessment, please contact **Academic Representation team, Oxford SU:** academicrepresentation@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk