

## Sexual Misconduct Comms to students eligible to complete NSS

As a final year FdA/FdSc or BA/BSc undergraduate student at University College Birmingham, you are likely to be eligible to complete the [National Student Survey \(NSS\)](#) in March/April 2025.

This year, following the completion of the NSS, all final year students nationally will be given the option of completing the Sexual Misconduct Survey (SMS). **This survey is entirely optional, and you do not have to take part or answer any questions you don't want to.**

*“The Sexual Misconduct Survey is intended to understand more about student experiences in this area. The survey is entirely optional. You may find some of the subject matter and questions in this survey cause you distress and the organisers of the survey, the Office for Students, recognise this. We appreciate that this is a sensitive subject and emphasises **that completion of the Sexual Misconduct Survey is not compulsory, and it is possible to opt out in advance.**”*

*Staff in departments, including Senior Tutors, are aware that the survey is going out to students.”*

- **If you want to have the option to complete the survey**, you do not need to do anything. Once you have completed the NSS you will see the link to the optional survey (you can then choose to complete it or not complete it).
- **If you want more information** or would like to see the questions in advance, in order to make your decision, you can do this by reading the [guidance document](#) which includes the questions asked.
- **If you wish to opt out of the Sexual Misconduct Survey (SMS)** this can be done in advance by emailing [thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com](mailto:thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com). Ipsos will ask you to confirm your details to ensure that the correct records are removed from the contact list. You can do this at any time between now and the survey end date, 30 April 2025. You will still receive the request to complete the NSS but you will not see the optional Sexual Misconduct Survey when you have completed your NSS survey.

If anything, we have communicated with you causes you any concern or distress, **we encourage you to talk to:**

- **Student Services and Wellbeing** [wellbeing@ucb.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@ucb.ac.uk)
- **Student Safeguarding Support** [safeguarding@ucb.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ucb.ac.uk)

**Other sources of support are below including national advice centres in the West Midlands**

## Who is running the Sexual Misconduct Survey?

This confidential survey will be conducted by [Ipsos](#), an independent research agency. It is commissioned on behalf of the Office for Students (OfS), the regulator of higher education in England. The OfS protect the interests of students by working with universities and colleges to ensure a high-quality learning experience where students can thrive and feel safe. See [Student guide to harassment and sexual misconduct - Office for Students](#) for more information about their work in this area.

## How to take part

To make taking part in the Sexual Misconduct Survey simpler, **the survey will be offered to you by Ipsos after you have completed the NSS.**

This survey is entirely optional, and you do not have to take part or answer any questions you don't want to.

**The Sexual Misconduct Survey is completely confidential and you will not be identified.**

Once you have completed the NSS, you will be invited to opt-in to complete the Sexual Misconduct Survey immediately afterwards. You will not be contacted about the Sexual Misconduct Survey separately.

This survey, like the NSS, is a task carried out in the public interest.

Personal data is held in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. All your responses will remain strictly anonymous and at no point will you be identified. Any personally identifiable data will be securely deleted by Ipsos after the survey closes and will not be shared with any third parties.

If you would prefer not to be shown the sexual misconduct survey, you can opt-out by following the details in the OfS [privacy notice](#), available under 'student surveys'. This notice also explains more about how and why we use your data.

The data used for the sexual misconduct survey is drawn from the data collected for the NSS. If you wish to know more about NSS data and processes, [please see our privacy policy](#).

## Why is the Sexual Misconduct Survey important?

Whether or not you have experienced misconduct, your voice is extremely important to us and your answers will help the OfS to understand the incidence of sexual misconduct in Higher Education and help universities develop tools to tackle this serious issue. We recognise that sexual misconduct is a sensitive subject and really appreciate your input.

If you have any questions, please let us know or alternatively email [thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com](mailto:thestudentsurvey@ipsos.com).

## Sources of support at University College Birmingham include:

- Student Services and Wellbeing
- Student Safeguarding Support

\* The Guild of Students at University College Birmingham is also available for current students.

## Local to the Birmingham area organisations that offer help and support include:

- <https://rsvporg.co.uk/>
- <https://horizonsarc.org.uk/>
- [Support after rape and sexual assault | West Midlands Police Link opens in a new window](#)
- <https://www.ipwm.org.uk/sexual-abuse-support/help-and-advice/>

- Police: call 101. This is a national 24/7 helpline.
- Samaritans: call 116 123. This is a national 24/7 helpline.
- [SHOUT](#): Text '85258'

**National charities and organisations that offer help and support include:**

- The Survivors Trust: [thesurvivorstrust.org](https://thesurvivorstrust.org) or 0808 801 0818
- Women's Aid Federation: [womensaid.org.uk](https://womensaid.org.uk) or National Domestic Violence Helpline (24hrs): 0808 2000 247
- [SurvivorsUK.org](https://SurvivorsUK.org) or 020 3322 1860
- Victim support: [victimsupport.org.uk](https://victimsupport.org.uk) or 0808 168 9111
- Safeline: [safeline.org.uk](https://safeline.org.uk) or 01926 402498
- Galop (the LGBT+ anti-violence charity): [galop.org.uk](https://galop.org.uk) or 0800 999 5428
- NHS mental health support: [nhs.uk/mental-health](https://nhs.uk/mental-health)
- Mind (mental health charity): [mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines](https://mind.org.uk/information-support/helplines) or 0300 102 1234
- Rape Crisis: [rapecrisis.org.uk](https://rapecrisis.org.uk) or 0808 500 2222