

Reading guide for the Study Environment Survey (SMU) at SDU

Here you can read about what to keep in mind when looking at the results of the Study Environment Survey for your education programme, including how to read the reports used in the presentation of the results.

As the response rate for the SMU is relatively low, the responses received must be interpreted restrictively. In the same way, a relatively low total number of responses requires a restrictive interpretation.

It is only possible to see the reports for programmes where at least five responses have been provided to all the questions. Please note that SDU has had to completely remove a few selected education programmes from the presentation of the responses, as the response rate on these programmes is so low that it would be impossible to maintain the confidentiality of the responses.

Some education programmes have been partially discretised so that questions about either the study start or the introduction to the master's programme have been removed, as there are fewer than five responses to the questions.

Concepts used in the presentation of the responses.

- Response rate:
 - The percentage of the possible respondent group that has answered a given question.
- Number of responses:
 - How many have actually answered a given question.
- Proportion:
 - The proportion is the positive responses ('Agree completely', 'Agree') out of all the response options, incl. 'Don't know'.
 - The nominal value of responses provided where the responses have been positive. Please note that some questions subjectively interpreted are the other way around; that is, the proportion calculated for 'stress', for instance, still shows the proportion of respondents who have answered 'Agree completely' or 'Agree' to the question.
- Average:
 - The averages have been calculated based on the responses that can be ranked from low to high, bad to good, etc. Responses that cannot be ranked have not been used in the calculation of averages. This means, for instance, that 'Don't know' is not included in the calculation. For most questions, the calculation is performed using values from 1 to 5 where a high value indicates a positive response. The higher the average, the higher the positive response rate.
- The relative interpretation of the two measurements:
 - When the average is high but the relative proportion is low on a scale question, this may be an indication either that a large part of the responses have been provided

as a medium/neutral assessment, or that a large part of the respondents have provided responses such as 'don't know' or 'not relevant'

- Therefore, care must be exercised in the assessment of the responses to a given question.