

The Alumni Experience Starts the First Day of School The Importance of Acting on Student Feedback





## 3<sup>rd</sup> largest global market research company

(Source: ESOMAR Report 2016, IMS Health Report 10-K)



MARKETING RESEARCH:

#### Ipsos Marketing Ipso

Helping clients to optimise their brand portfolio strategies and positioning. Segmenting their markets and seizing new opportunities. Understanding the path to purchase and designing products and services.

#### MEDIA AND ADVERTISING RESEARCH:

#### **Ipsos Connect**

Assisting clients in measuring and weighing their brands, advertising and media in order to optimise communications and content in a highly digitised world and a fragmented audience. Every individual is in turn a Consumer, Customer, Citizen or Employee

Ipsos Loyalty Assisting clients in measuring customer experience, satisfaction and loyalty by measuring, modelling & managing customer and employee relationships.

CLIENT AND EMPLOYEE

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT:

#### OPINION AND SOCIAL RESEARCH: Ipsos Public affairs

Helping companies and institutions understand how the world is changing, the behaviour and opinions of citizens and consumers and the trends underway, in order to enhance their reputation and communications.

#### ONLINE OPERATIONS: Ipsos Interactive Services

#### OFFLINE OPERATIONS: Ipsos Offline Operations

Expert in collecting, processing and providing offline quantitative research data (face-to-face interviews and by telephone). Expert in online and mobile surveys, managing online consumer panels and the infrastructures that support them (4.5 million panellists in 50 countries).

## **Ipsos MORI, UK**

## **Higher Education Research**

We carry out small and large-scale research studies, including student surveys. We offer a range of student and stakeholder research; we have an established reputation for our work with universities, students, government agencies and other stakeholders and audiences.



# What I will talk about...

- Informing student choice: university and course
- Student satisfaction, student engagement, survey research
- Enhancing reputation: Surveys data, league tables and reputation



## Students across Europe approach university/course choice differently



## UK student most likely to choose university on functional criteria

What is the main reason you enrolled in the course you are currently studying? Base: total interviews



# Swedish students most likely to choose what they like best

What is the main reason you enrolled in the course you are currently studying? Base: total interviews



ALUMNI,
REPUTATION
AMBASSADORS

# Where are Europe's happiest students?



## Spanish and French students *least* satisfied



Source: Ipsos MORI

# UK students *happiest...*



How satisfied would you say you are overall with your higher Education institution?

# UK students proudest...



Which of the following statements best defines your feelings about your Higher Education institution?

Seven in ten students in Britain said: I am proud to be a student at this higher education institution: I feel very identified with it.

- I am proud to be a student at this higher education institution: I feel very identified with it
- I am neither proud nor disappointed with regard to my higher education institution: I have no special feelings towards it
- I am disappointed with my higher education institution: I do not feel at all identified with it
- DK/NA

## German students least proud



Which of the following statements best defines your feelings about your Higher Education institution?

More than half the students in Germany are neither proud nor disappointed with their higher education institution: ... they have no special feelings towards it.

- I am proud to be a student at this higher education institution: I feel very identified with it
- I am neither proud nor disappointed with regard to my higher education institution: I have no special feelings towards it
- I am disappointed with my higher education institution: I do not feel at all identified with it
- DK/NA

# French students most *disappointed*

Which of the following statements best defines your feelings about your Higher Education institution?

One in ten students in France said I am disappointed with my higher education institution: I do not feel at all identified with it.



- I am proud to be a student at this higher education institution: I feel very identified with it
- I am neither proud nor disappointed with regard to my higher education institution: I have no special feelings towards it
- I am disappointed with my higher education institution: I do not feel at all identified with it
- DK/NA



## **The Student Experience**

Student satisfaction is a key measure of the student experience therefore how a university/course is doing

# YOU CAN ONLY Improve what You measure



## **Survey Research**

Surveys have become the norm for gathering student opinion on university/course experience

Survey data inform official statistics, prospective students, media stories, league tables, policy makers, universities and course leaders etc.



## The UK loves surveys...





Course and module evaluations

Universities' internal surveys

Student Unions' surveys

Alumni surveys

Postgraduate Taught Experience

**Survey:** A UK higher education sector-wide survey to gain insight from taught postgraduate students about their learning and teaching experience

## **Postgraduate Research Experience**

**Survey:** A UK higher education sector-wide survey to gain insight from postgraduate research students about their learning and supervision experience

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## UK Engagement Survey: A nationwide UK

undergraduate survey focusing on student engagement

## **Student Academic Experience Survey:**

An annual Student Academic Experience Survey – it shows how full-time undergraduate students rate their time in higher education and their attitudes towards policy issues that impact upon them

And, many syndicated and ad-hoc surveys...



# National government funded studies

# DORS

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Other

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency



## **National Student Survey**



Source: Office for Students



## **National Student Survey Results**

Percentage of respondents who gave the two most positive answers ('definitely' or 'mostly' agree) on:



## **Trends**



National Student Survey 2005-2016, Higher Education Funding Council for England



#### National Student Survey 2017-2018, HEFCE/OfS





## **Can surveys enhance reputation?**

# to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it.

Benjamin Franklin

# Or ... are institutions chasing fake prestige through league tables?







 Quality of teaching, the structure of the course, the overall student experience are important and need to be measured



## League tables hold too much power? 'Good' survey data inform 'bad' league tables...



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## TripAdvisor style feedback...

**Sport** Lifestyle Culture More ~ n Nagging university students for feedback is like pestering for TripAdvisor reviews Universities are manipulating their students into providing positive NSS scores to boost their reputations. This has to stop SAMSUNG oo tripadvisor' **TripAdvisor Hotels** 00 Restaurants Advisor 🕹

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a job

▲ 'For university staff, it can feel as if the focus is purely on getting the scores to go up every year - just as some restaurants are obsessed with handing out freebies to secure those elusive five stars.' Photograph: Alamy Stock





- To outline what institutions do to improve the student experience
- To demonstrate that feedback is taken seriously
- To point out changes/improvements made

**Published data: Advantages** 

- May enhance reputation...
- Alumni will remember what it was like: Best 'reputation ambassadors'

## League tables: Double-edged sword?

- It helps to be at the top of league tables
- Methodology of some tables can be obscure
- You can drop places easily; you can do nothing about it
- Not much between 1<sup>st</sup> and the n<sup>th</sup> ...!



- Data need to be seen in context
- When published you have no control
- But, visibility matters





# Thank you!

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