

Specific Privacy Statement: Student Social Survey 2019

1. Objective and Responsibility

The Student Social Survey is a survey of students in Austria that has been conducted at regular intervals since the 1970s. Since most of the information collected through the Social Survey is not otherwise available, the report is an important information basis for higher education policy. The objective of the survey is to be able to provide an overview of the study situation and living conditions of different groups of students. Similar surveys are carried out at regular intervals in other countries in Europe. The results of the Austrian student social surveys have also been analysed since the 1990s for international comparison purposes (EUROSTUDENT). These international comparison data are used in the Bologna Process and by international organisations like the EU, since only students themselves can provide information on how the different higher education systems and grant/support programmes function.

The survey will be carried out by the Higher Education Research Group HER at the Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna (IHS) (Josefstädter Str. 39, 1080 Wien) on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). The survey stays under the responsibility of the Director of the IHS, Prof. Dr. Martin Kocher, acting as Controller.

2. What personal information do we collect and through which technical means?

The target group for the survey are all regular students and students in further education programmes (with at least 30 ECTS) at public and private universities, universities of applied sciences (FH) and university colleges of teacher education (PH). Apart from personal characteristics, such as sex, age, citizenship or country of birth, the students are asked about their study and living conditions, such as the type of access to higher education, time budget and employment, income and expenditure, living conditions, and foreign mobility. Information about the health status of the students are considered particularly worthy of protection in accordance with Art. 9 GDPR ((EU) 2016/679).

The invitation to participate in the online survey will be sent via email. Since the invitations are sent out exclusively by the higher education institutions themselves, the names and e-mail addresses of the survey participants remain with the higher education institutions and are not passed on to either the IHS or the BMBWF.

Every email contains an individual link for the survey, so that respondents can interrupt the survey at any time and continue with this link where they left off. To handle the complexity of and provide barrier-free access to the comprehensive questionnaire, a customised survey software was developed for the Student Social Survey.

3. How do we anonymize your information?

When conducting the survey, the IHS does not receive personal information about the students, such as names and e-mail addresses. Therefore, the IHS cannot identify individuals through the survey link. Only the higher education institution knows, which students have received which survey link, but the higher education institutions have no access to the individual survey data. Within two weeks after the survey close date, the higher education institutions delete the combination of the personalised survey links and e-mail addresses of the students. This makes the information in the questionnaire anonymous.

The IHS will not publish any data on groups which contain fewer than 30 people. All survey data are used solely for scientific and statistical purposes.

All participating organisations take the necessary technical and organizational measures to protect your information from any unauthorised access. The survey is conducted in line with relevant data protection provisions, in particular GDPR ((EU) 2016/679), DSG and TKG 2003.

4. Consent

Your participation in the survey is voluntary. Not participating will not have any negative consequences for you.

The data will be stored for as long they are necessary for ensuring good scientific practice and be needed for further scientific and statistical research, such as the comparison of survey results across different survey waves.

In the course of the project EUROSTUDENT, microdata of the Student Social Survey will be made available in anonymised form via the Research Data Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies in Hannover, Germany to the participating institutions of the EUROSTUDENT countries and scientists and other users for scientific and statistical non-profit purposes. Information on the university attended, the chosen main study program and metadata, such as the survey link and the IP addresses, will not be transmitted. The data transmission happens on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

You have the right to know what data are stored about you, to correct the data stored about you, to restrict the purposes for which the data are being used, the right of opposition to processing of your data, the right to withdraw your consent for the future, as well as the right to complain to the relevant supervisory authority until the data have been anonymized (until the higher education institutions have deleted the combination of the personalised survey links and e-mail addresses of the students).

If you have any questions about the survey or the information processed in the context of the survey, or about your rights, or if you have any complaints, please contact the address below:

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Josefstädter Straße 39
1080 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43-1-59991-249
E-Mail: sozialerhebung@ihs.ac.at

If no satisfaction is obtained, you can file a complaint with the Austrian Data Protection Authority (www.dsb.gv.at).

Further information can be found on our website <http://www.sozialerhebung.at/index.php/en/>.

Thank you!

The Student Social Survey 2019 Team