

# Quality of Supervisions Report:

## Downing College

22 students from Downing College responded to the CUSU Quality of Supervisions survey, which is 5% of the undergraduate student population.

### Preparation for Supervisions

All students find that their supervision work relates well to their course. 87% know what is expected of them when their supervision work is set compared to 81% of all students. 27% sometimes or always struggle with their supervision work, which is lower than in the general trend (32%). Students comment that a number of factors help make preparation for supervisions easier:

*"It's always easier when you are given a set reading list rather than knowing a general topic and then having to gauge for yourself how much work to do on it."*

*"I think that the amount of time available for supervisions is fine and that the supervisors are generally flexible about arranging times."*

### Experience in Supervisions

Several students make very positive comments about the supervision system and clearly find supervisions to be very useful to their learning:

*"I view supervisions as a chance to really improve and I regard myself fortunate that we get them."*

*"Supervisions are not only an excellent learning device, I also find them wonderfully enjoyable."*

However, other students comment that although the supervision system works well, quality is sometimes variable and how good their supervisions are depends on which supervisor they have.

*"There is a huge range in quality of supervisions."*

*"On the whole I think the supervision system is good and has the potential to really help you get to grips with a subject, but it depends on the supervisor."*

87% have their questions answered well in supervisions compared to 90% of all students. 48% receive constructive feedback with suggestions for improvements on their supervision work, compared to 56% of all students.

71% feel happy to contribute often to supervisions, which is slightly lower than the general trend of 76%. Students do comment on there being occasions when they feel that they lack the confidence to contribute to supervisions. 99% of students find that their supervisors make it easy to contribute and 78% find that other students make it easy to contribute (lower than the general trend of 93%). 87% would feel comfortable approaching their supervisor with their concerns.

### Recommendations:

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- **Students' varied experiences of supervisions should be monitored through feedback provided to the College.**
- **The College could encourage all supervisors to attend supervisor training sessions.**

### **Supervision reports**

**90% receive supervision reports from all or most of their supervisors, compared to 85% of all students and 96% have a CAMCORs password (86% in the general trend). 96% discuss their supervision reports with their personal tutor, Director of Studies or both, compared to 89% of all students. 70% find that this discussion is constructive with suggestions for improvement (73% in the general trend).**

### **College feedback**

**81% provide feedback to the College on their supervisions (compared to 70% of all students). 69% find that the College usually responds well to student feedback, which is higher than the general trend of 62%. Students' comments suggest that when problems are brought to the College's attention, action is taken: "I had a terrible supervisor and I asked if my college would find me someone else and this was done with no problems at all." "This year complaints were made by every member of a particular supervision group about the poor standard of teaching. Within a week we had a new supervisor."**

### **Recommendations:**

- **All students should continue to be invited to provide feedback on quality of supervisions to College and should also be provided with 'feedback on their feedback'.**