

Transforming a Learning Technology Team for a 21st Century Institution

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UON





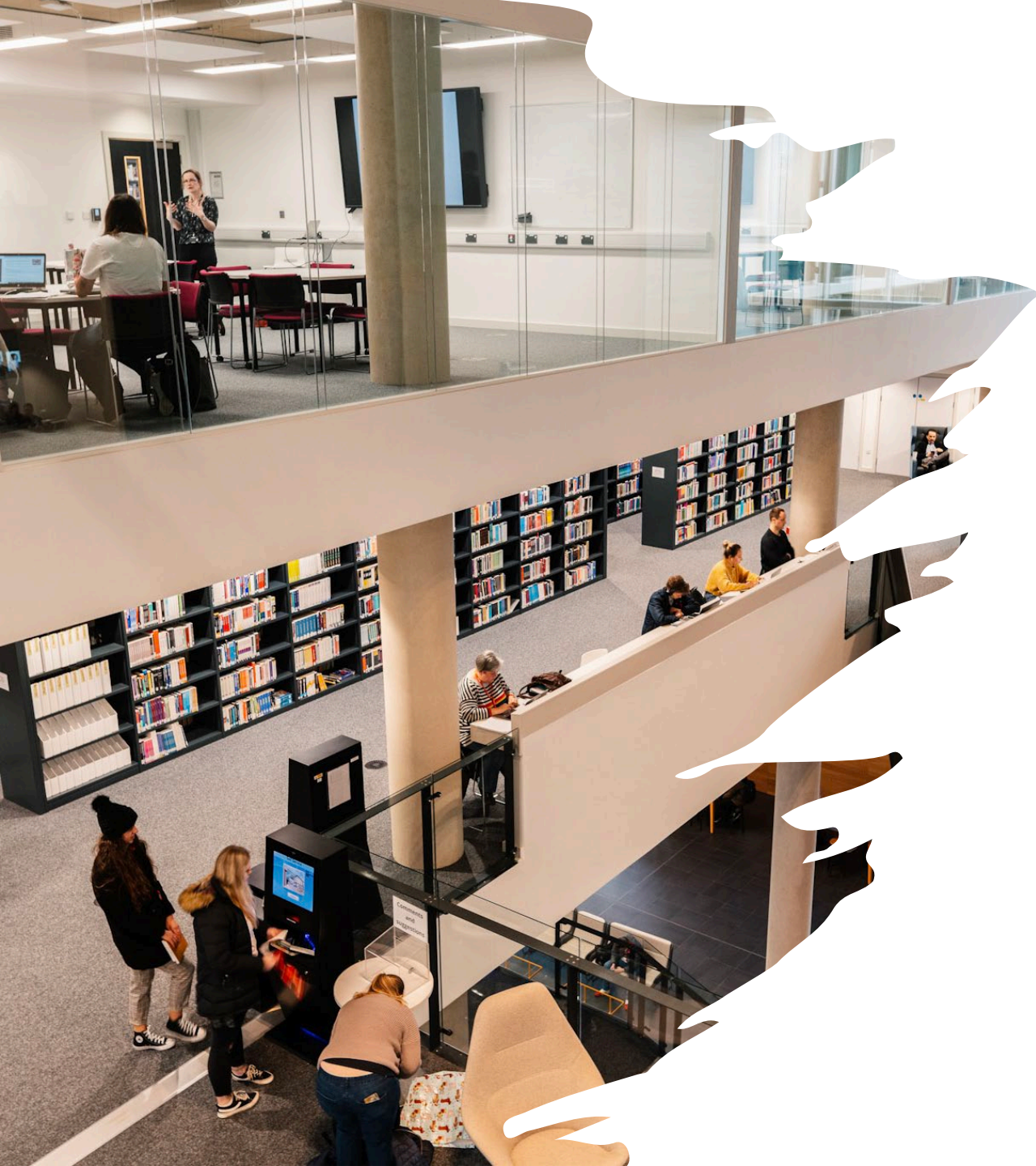
University of Northampton

c.14,400 students studying in Northampton;
c. 6,100 students study off campus in the UK and internationally, mainly through partnership arrangements.



Waterside Campus, University of Northampton

- Built on a brown field site and opened in 2018
- Replacing two older campuses on much larger footprints and buildings in varying stages of disrepair
- Pedagogy and student experience integrated into site design and building architecture
- Conceived as a sustainable and digitally enabled campus, with adaptable learning and teaching spaces, based on laptops and 'BYOD', reduced paper use, open plan, hot desking staff office space (without physical filing), and shared networked printers.



Rethinking Learning and Curriculum Design

Active Blended Learning

A Constructivist and social learning pedagogic model, ABL focuses on students' construction of knowledge and skills development through tasks and interactions with peers, staff, and through work-based learning (off site or virtual).

ABL unites these pedagogic approaches in a physical and virtual learning environment, combining face-to-face activities with synchronous and asynchronous digitally enabled learning.

Campus spaces are designed for collaboration, small group learning, and one-to-one conversations. Relatively little space on campus is suitable for larger group meetings or lectures.



Learning Resources and Space

- The Learning Hub, and to a large extent the Waterside campus, is built around four guiding principles; it is Adaptable, Integrated, IT Rich and Democratic.
- The library is woven through the main Learning Hub building design so that students, staff and visitors are immersed in the library service, without actually stepping into a building named 'Library'
- All buildings at Waterside offer a mix of task orientated spaces to be shared by all users; the Learning Hub blends teaching, working, learning, catering and social spaces and is the popular environment on campus.
- Most space is adaptable and not imprinted with the culture of particular disciplines, however it avoids being sterile and corporate, including eclectic and even eccentric spaces.
- The campus move meant a reduction of around 43% in the print collections. Titles on reading lists were replaced, where possible, with e-versions. A data driven approach was taken to appropriateness, relevance and usage of print titles. The result is a much harder working and relevant print collection.

Learning Technology Team

- Team of 12 (including 7LTs) covering:
 - Learning Technology Strategy
 - Support, training and development of the UON Learning Environment
 - All Faculty staff support
 - Content development support
 - Student Engagement systems training and support



UON students score above the sector mean in multiple aspects of learning, teaching and assessment.

UON scores nearly 7% above the sector mean for the digital environment being excellent or the best imaginable

Jisc Digital Insights survey 2022

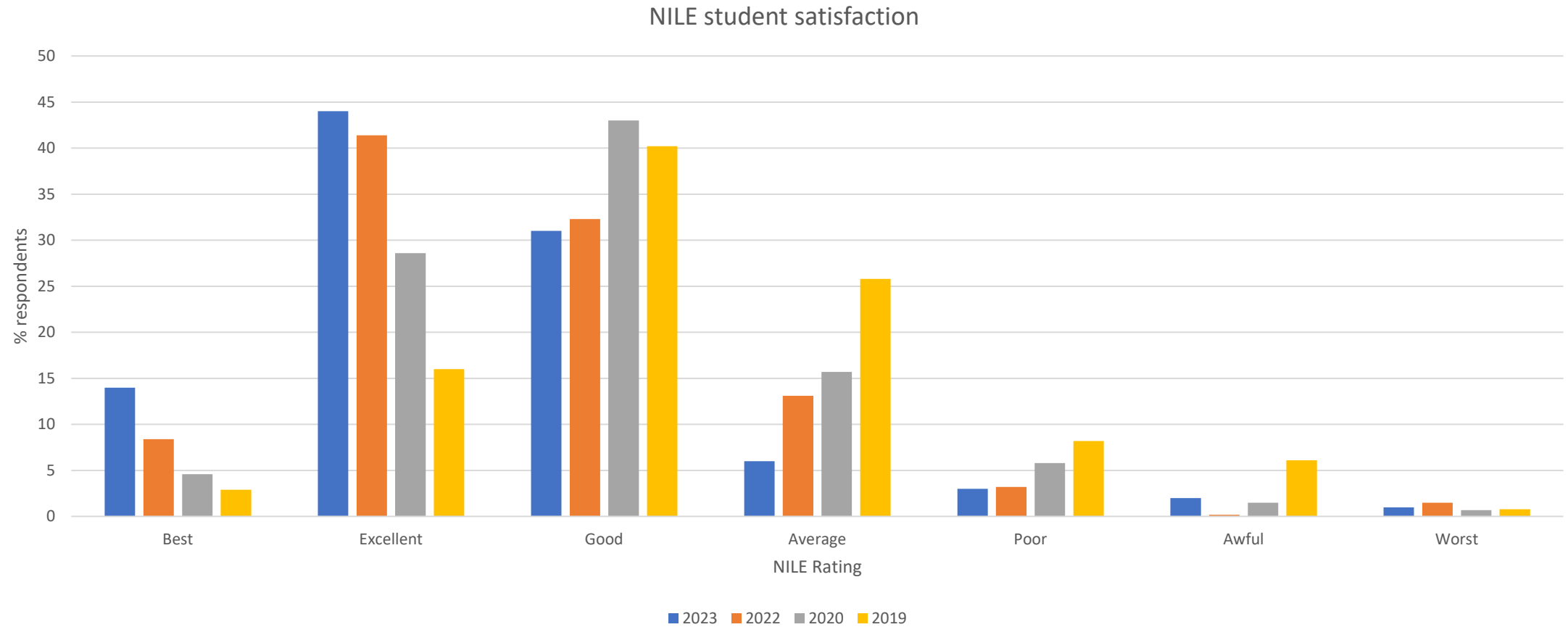
Finding	UON%	Sector %	Difference
Students more likely to agree that learning online makes them feel part of a community of staff and students	40	28	12
Students more likely to agree that we have provided an assessment of their digital skills and training needs	45	33	12
Students more likely to indicate we have provided reward and recognition for their digital skills	35	24	11
Students more likely to agree that learning online allows them to contribute in the ways that they prefer	59	49	10
Students more likely to say the online learning environment is excellent or best imaginable	37	30	7

UON academic staff report digital support and competence at the rate above the sector average.

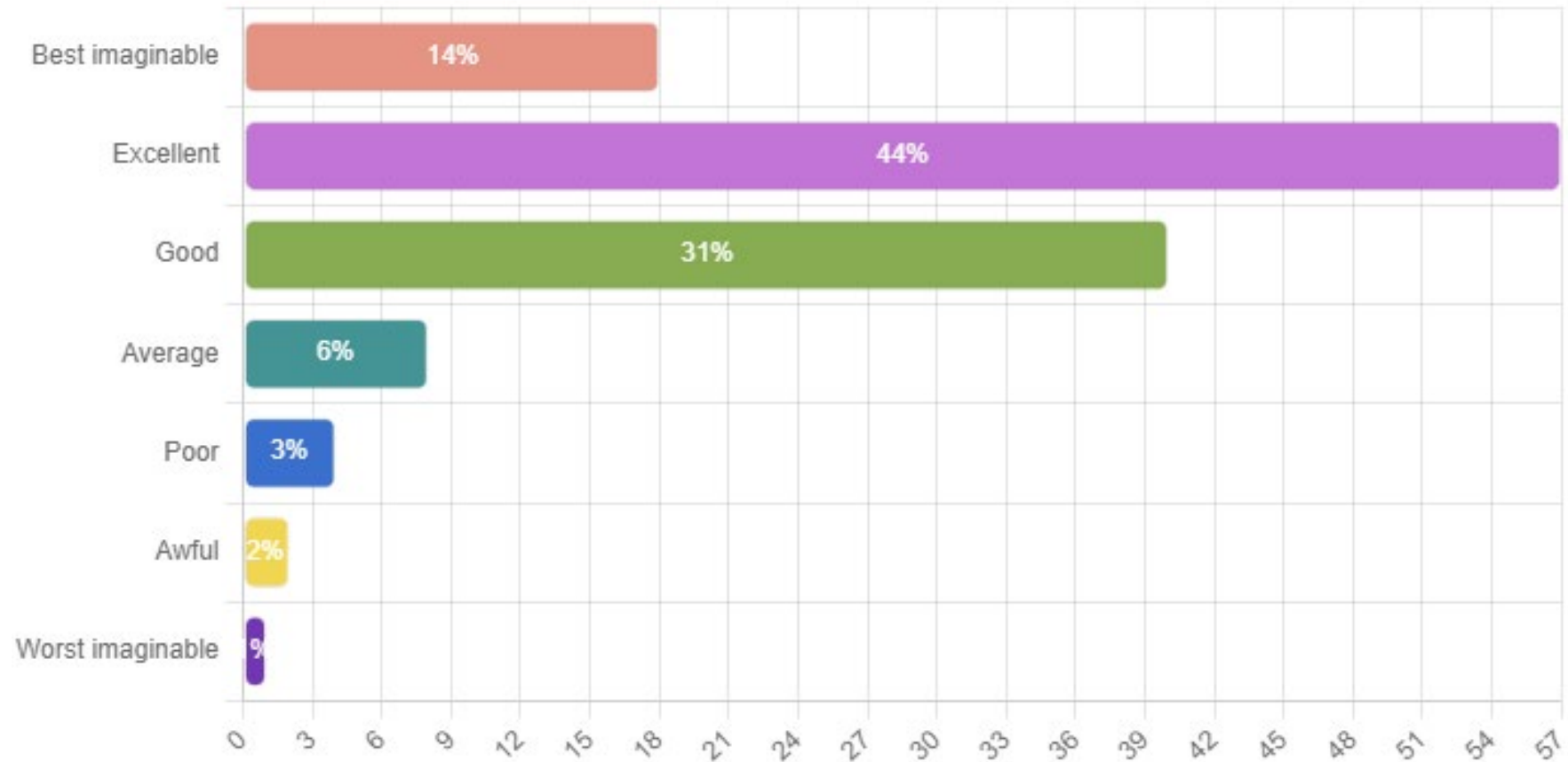
Jisc Digital Insights Survey 2022

Finding	UON %	Sector %	Difference
more likely to go to teaching and learning/e-learning staff for help with online and digital skills	65	43	22
more likely to use collaborative applications e.g., Teams, virtual boards, wikis	54	39	15
more likely to have had support or training for digital copyright and licensing	37	24	13
more likely to have had support or training for creating accessible digital content	46	35	11

Continuous Improvement in the Learning Environment



Focusing on the current 2023 NILE survey, 89% of students are rating NILE as good or above with 44% rating it as excellent.



Internal aims for the Learntech Team

- Tangible and intangible benefits impacting finance
- Highly networked (e.g. Centre for Active Digital Education)
- Inclusive
- A 'friendly base' for advice and support
- Elevate and support all those we are working with – symbiotic relationships
- Involved in cross cutting activities (e.g. AI, Accessibility and Regional Engagements)

Working with sector

- Communities, networks
- Staff development, showcasing
- Surveys, benchmarking, case studies
- Horizon scanning, research
- Digital Transformation pilot
- Wider Northamptonshire futures
- Expert advice



Thank you!

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