



CQAB

Course Quality Advisory Board

ERASMUS MUNDUS ASSOCIATION

SEFOTECHNUT-European Master of Science in Food Science,
Technology and Nutrition

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1 Foreword

The present report was compiled by the Course Quality Advisory Board (CQAB) of the Erasmus Mundus Student and Alumni Association (EMA) with the main purpose of providing Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) courses with customized student feedback that emerged from the 2015 edition of the Course Quality Student Services (CQSS) survey. This feedback can aid courses in their quest of **improving student services**, and **benchmark** against other course in the Erasmus Mundus umbrella.

The CQSS survey reached its **second edition**. The current edition of the survey brings a number of improvements. Many of these **improvements emerged from the feedback provided by EMJMD consortia** following the release of the previous CQSS survey reports, and **Erasmus Mundus students**. At the recommendation of EMJMD consortia, the course reports now include **comparative information** about each course in relation to the other EMJMD courses that received a sufficient number of responses. At the suggestion of survey respondents, the 2015 CQSS survey edition was released at the end of the academic year, to ensure that all respondents have completed at least two EMJMD semesters before being asked to evaluate their experience. Additional changes have been made to the 2015 edition of the CQSS survey to streamline the survey experience, to facilitate the data analysis process, and to capture information about key subpopulations among EMJMD students. For further reference, a **full description of the methodology** behind the creation of the 2015 edition of the CQSS survey and the analysis procedures behind the CQSS reports has been published in the academic journal **Education Studies Moscow** (<https://vo.hse.ru/en/2016--1/178804999.html>).

Due to our responsibility towards the entire EMJMD community and the over 2000 students and alumni that fully completed our lengthy survey, **the results emerging from the 2015 edition of the CQSS survey will be made available to the broad public on an interactive online platform**. The online platform will contain the graphical information included in this report, and be made available online shortly after the distribution of course reports to EMJMD consortia. By making this information public, CQAB does not aim at classifying or creating rankings among EMJMD courses, but to add transparency to our data analysis, and offer current and prospective students the ability to better prepare for what CQAB considers to be an invaluable educational experience.

The work of CQAB would not exist and could not continue **without the support of numerous committed volunteers spread all across the world**, driven by a strong motivation to help improve the quality of EMJMD courses. During the last 18 months, over 40 volunteers were involved with different stages of the CQSS project, from analyzing feedback received following the 2013 edition of the CQSS survey, to coding qualitative data, interpreting graphical information. **CQAB is grateful, humbled and proud to have supported the CQSS project fully through volunteer work**, and thus without external interference.

Among the CQAB volunteers, two stand out: Mikhail Balyasin and Luis Carvalho. Mikhail is responsible for the substantial improvements to the design and content of course reports, has skilfully generated the graphical information made available in this report, and created the CQSS interactive online platform. Luis coordinated the process of analyzing the vast qualitative data that emerged from the CQSS survey, rethought the architecture of the CQSS survey and helped streamline the survey experience for respondents.

CQAB is grateful for the ongoing support received from the **Erasmus Mundus Student and Alumni Association, and its leadership structures**. We are indebted to representatives of the **European Commission**, and **EMJMD course coordinators** whom we consider allies in a joint quest of consolidating the excellence brand of EMJMDs.

CQAB is eager to receive further feedback from each course coordinator and other stakeholders on how future CQSS reports and their contents may be improved in order to maximize their usefulness. We understand that courses themselves are best suited to address quality concerns, and we strongly suggest that the information in this report, with its limitations, is triangulated with internally available data at the level of each course.

Please address all questions and remarks about this report to Georgiana Mihut at cqab.chair@em-a.eu.

With gratitude and hope for a fruitful future collaboration,
Georgiana Mihut, Chair of the Course Quality Advisory Board



2 Introduction

2.1 Course Quality Advisory Board

CQAB is an independent advisory body that operates on a voluntary basis as part of the Erasmus Mundus Student and Alumni Association. Its members have not and do not receive financial benefits as a result of their CQAB related activities. Membership to CQAB is assured through a competitive recruitment process among EMA members. Internally, CQAB has three main separate structures:

1. Management of the e-mail account **em.feedback@em-a.eu**, that assists students with pressing quality issues;
2. **Survey Team**, tasked with conducting the CQSS survey;
3. **Communication Team**, a newly created structure aimed at facilitating the promotion of CQAB activities.

CQAB was created as a result of the pressing and constant concerns of EMA members about the quality of the student experiences as part of an Erasmus Mundus course. Internally, CQAB has a variety of tools to capture student concerns and to interact with student representatives from various programs, but the CQSS survey represents its most comprehensive and systematic initiative focused on quality assurance. The inception and design of the CQSS survey is enrooted in the complexity of the EMJMD student experience and driven by two distinct factors: the perceived systemic yet unique issues around quality across joint degree courses, and the general underrepresentation of students in the systemic evaluation of the EMJMD program.

2.2 Introduction to the current report

This report introduces three distinct sources of information. First, it aims to bring to your attention the **16 responses** received from current or past students of SEFOTECHNUT-European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition. The respondents represent **12 distinct nationalities**. Collectively they have spent more than **24 hours** answering and thinking about the survey questions. The responses are introduced in graphical form for each indicator and dimension captured in the CQSS survey that received 10 or more responses. The graphical information follows the structure illustrated in Figure 1, where the name of the dimension (and often the name of the survey question) appears as a figure header (**Overall satisfaction**), and each indicator is displayed on a separate row. The figure illustrates the proportion of respondents that selected each of the four Likert scale options available. Figure 1 illustrates overall satisfaction of respondents with the course.

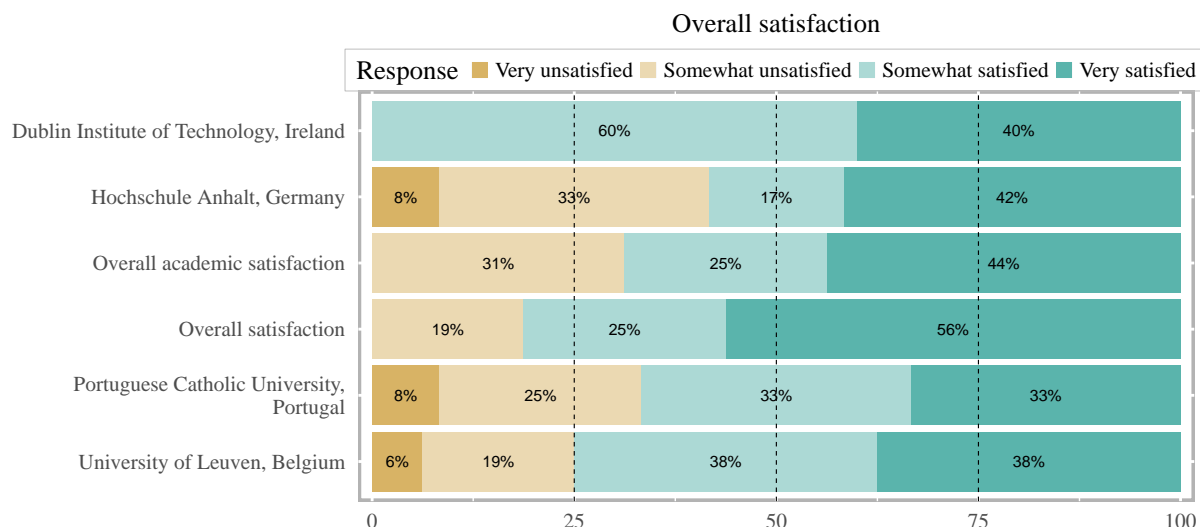


Figure 1: Example of graphical distribution of survey responses

Second, for each indicator evaluated through the CQSS survey, comparative data on the aggregated performance among all EMJMD courses with 10 or more responses is introduced (see Table below).

	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Course content	16	3.38	3.21	2.54 - 3.06	3.07 - 3.23	3.24 - 3.40	3.41 - 3.70
Enrolling in classes	16	3.44	3.44	2.57 - 3.25	3.26 - 3.45	3.46 - 3.62	3.63 - 3.92
Evaluation methods	15	3.20	3.06	2.23 - 2.88	2.88 - 3.06	3.07 - 3.21	3.22 - 3.76

Each row in Table above represents a distinct indicator evaluated as part of the CQSS survey. Each table includes all indicators which received 10 or more responses and compose a dimension. Tables include

- The number of responses received for each indicator (n);
- The mean for each indicator corresponding to SEFOTECHNUT-European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (Mean);
- The aggregated mean for the respective indicator across all EMJMD courses (EM mean).

Additionally, the table provides information about the distribution of means across all EMJMD courses with 10 or more responses. The distribution of means is displayed as ranges of means in quartile increments. As such, 25% of all EMJMD courses with 10 or more responses will be found in each of the four columns. The quartile corresponding to the course profiled in each report is highlighted. This display facilitates an easy comparison between a given program and its peers. The means displayed in the comparison tables are obtained by converting Likert-scale survey responses to numeric values. CQSS respondents were asked to evaluate each indicator on a four point Likert-scale, from “Very unsatisfied” or “Disagree” to “Very satisfied” or “Agree”. For the purpose of the means utilized in this report, each Likert-scale option corresponds to the following numeric values:

- “Very unsatisfied” or “Disagree” = 1;
- “Unsatisfied” or “Somewhat disagree” = 2;
- “Satisfied” or “Somewhat agree” = 3;
- “Very satisfied” or “Agree” = 4.

Therefore, the average score for any given indicator in a table ranges from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 4, where 4 represents a perfect score for an indicator.

Third, few of the sections of the report introduce an overall description of the qualitative analysis of relevant open ended questions the CQSS survey asked. These selected sections do not pertain solely to the qualitative answers received for SEFOTECHNUT-European Master of Science in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition, but instead offer the range of positions and issues discussed freely by respondents **across all EMJMD courses**.

The information introduced in this report follows the structure employed by the CQSS survey. Through its design, the CQSS survey aims to capture both the **overall experience** of students within an EMJMD, and the experience students had independently at **each institution attended**. To reflect this dichotomy, each section of the report displays both the **overall evaluation of an indicator**, as reflected by respondents, and **the evaluation of the same or comparable indicator in the context of different universities attended**. The most extensive section of the report focuses on providing information about the **supporting services available to students**. The evaluation of the quality of supporting services available to students is broken down between the following components:

- Support structures received before the start of the EMJMD program;
- Support structures received during the orientation program;



3. The general helpfulness of various units and individuals;
4. Support received on various specific student issues.

Additionally to including information about your course, this report tries to offer consortia an insight into the qualitative data received during the CQSS survey. Unfortunately, we were unable to extract exclusively the open responses received from your students. We also felt that in many cases confidentiality could have not been assured if we were to share with you these comments. In return, throughout the report, boxed texts that reflect a general analysis of the open answers received from all CQSS survey respondents are included. These blurbs of text are clearly marked and are not necessarily representative for your course, but they do bring light on some of the challenges faced by EMJMD students in general.

Over 20 volunteers were involved in creating the text accompanying the graphs displayed as part of 78 distinct course reports. Together, these volunteers have written almost 100.000 words. Most of these volunteers, including the coordinating team, are not native english speakers. Despite our best effort to ensure a proper editing and proofreading process, this was simply outside of our capacity. As such, **you may encounter spelling and grammar errors**. At times, the formulation might seem sloppy. We apologize for this. Due to high number of volunteers involved, we were also unable to check the accuracy of all percentage points displayed in the text throughout this report. **You may identify inconsistencies between the written text and the graphs in the report. In all cases, the figures displayed in graphical form are accurate.**

Do not hesitate to contact CQAB if you have any concerns, questions or feedback about the information displayed in this report by writing an e-mail to cqab.chair@em-a.eu.



3 Supporting services

3.1 Support received before the start of the Erasmus Mundus course

Students showed varied levels of satisfaction across indicators for support received before the start of the Erasmus Mundus course. Students expressed highest level of dissatisfaction with “Timetable” with 19% of the students stating to be “very unsatisfied” and another 6% “somewhat unsatisfied”. A significant number of students also reported dissatisfaction with “Information about fieldwork” (21% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 7% “very unsatisfied”) and “Evaluation methods” (27% “somewhat unsatisfied”). A vast majority of the students (94%) were satisfied with “Course content”, with 44% stating to be “very satisfied”. A majority of the students also reported to be “very satisfied” with “Enrolling in classes” (62%) and “Standards of behavior” (60%). The majority of the means fell in the third quartiles.

At the Dublin Institute of Technology, students reported overall high levels of dissatisfaction across a majority of the indicators. Highest dissatisfaction was expressed for “Accommodation” (with 50% of the students reporting to be “very unsatisfied” and another 21% “somewhat unsatisfied”). A high number of students also reported dissatisfaction with “Estimation of living expenses” (23% “very unsatisfied” and 23% “somewhat unsatisfied”) and with “Local transportation” (27% “very unsatisfied” and 13% “somewhat unsatisfied”).

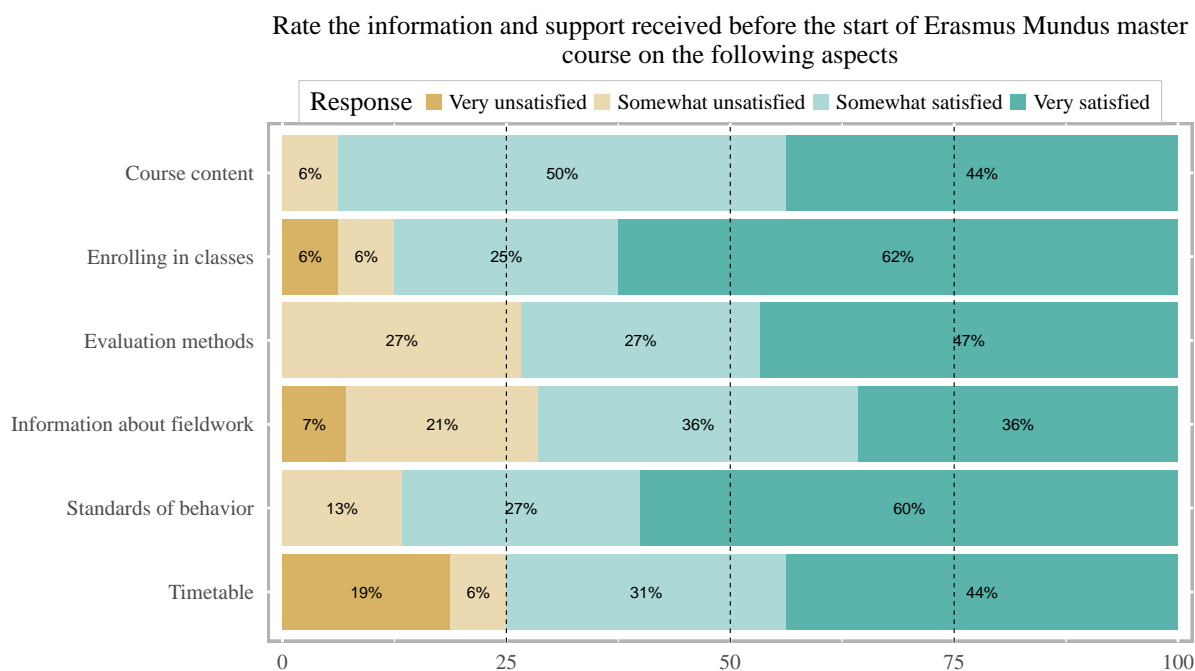
At Hochschule Anhalt, 33% of the students were “very unsatisfied” with “Local transportation” and 17% with “Accommodation”. Nonetheless, some students also reported to be “very satisfied”, 33% and 42% of the students respectively.

At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, students showed mixed levels of satisfaction. Students were most dissatisfied with “Accommodation”, with 27% of the students stating to be “very unsatisfied” and 18% “somewhat unsatisfied”. A high number of students reported to be “very satisfied” with “Estimation of living expenses” (50%) and “Local transportation” (45%).

At University of Leuven students were in general highly satisfied across all indicators with 47%-69% of the students reporting to be “very satisfied”. Highest dissatisfaction was expressed for “Language courses” with 27% of the students stating to be “very unsatisfied”. Also, some students expressed to be “very unsatisfied” with “Banking” (15%), “Estimation of living expenses” (13%) and “Accommodation” (12%).



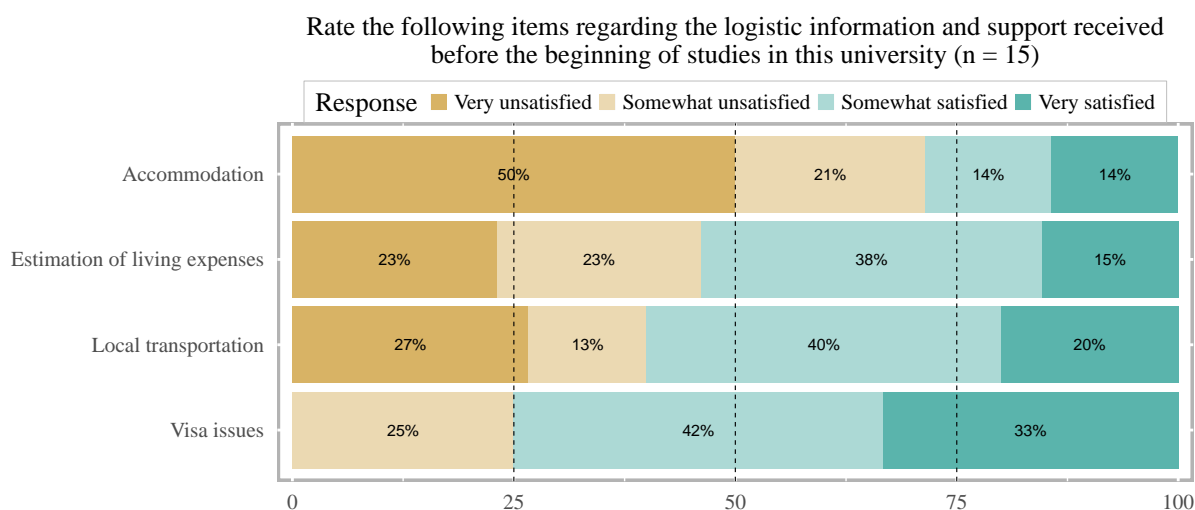
3.1.1 Consortia



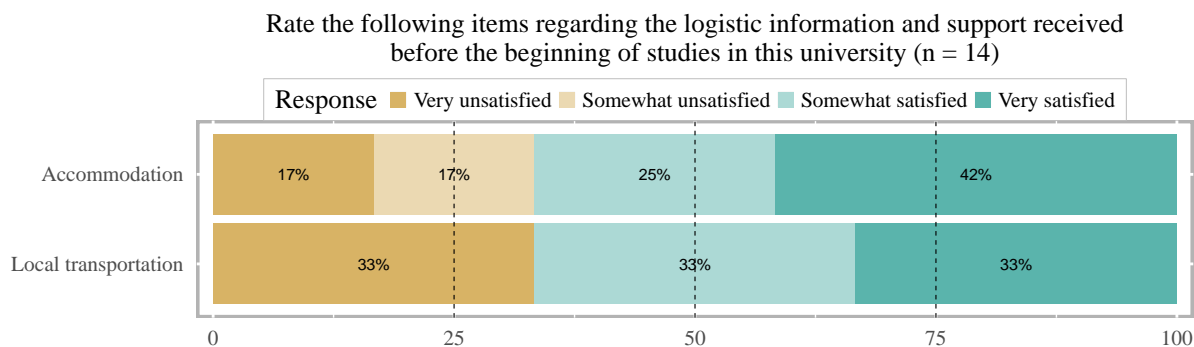
	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Course content	16	3.38	3.21	2.54 - 3.06	3.07 - 3.23	3.24 - 3.40	3.41 - 3.70
Enrolling in classes	16	3.44	3.44	2.57 - 3.25	3.26 - 3.45	3.46 - 3.62	3.63 - 3.92
Evaluation methods	15	3.20	3.06	2.23 - 2.88	2.88 - 3.06	3.07 - 3.21	3.22 - 3.76
Information about fieldwork	14	3.00	2.98	2.00 - 2.80	2.81 - 3.00	3.01 - 3.19	3.20 - 3.57
Standards of behavior	15	3.47	3.45	2.77 - 3.29	3.30 - 3.42	3.43 - 3.63	3.64 - 3.90
Timetable	16	3.00	3.15	1.94 - 2.96	2.97 - 3.20	3.21 - 3.33	3.34 - 3.80

Table 1: Summary statistics

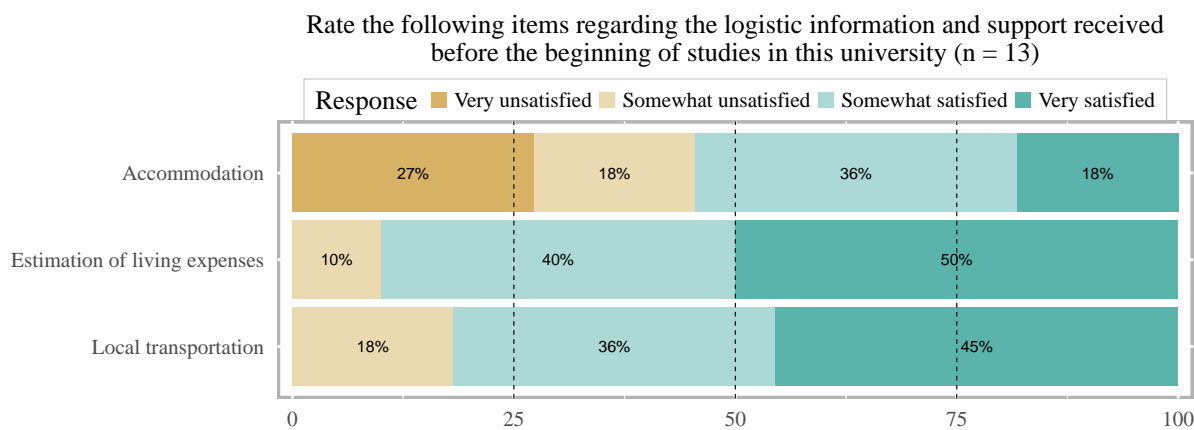
3.1.2 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



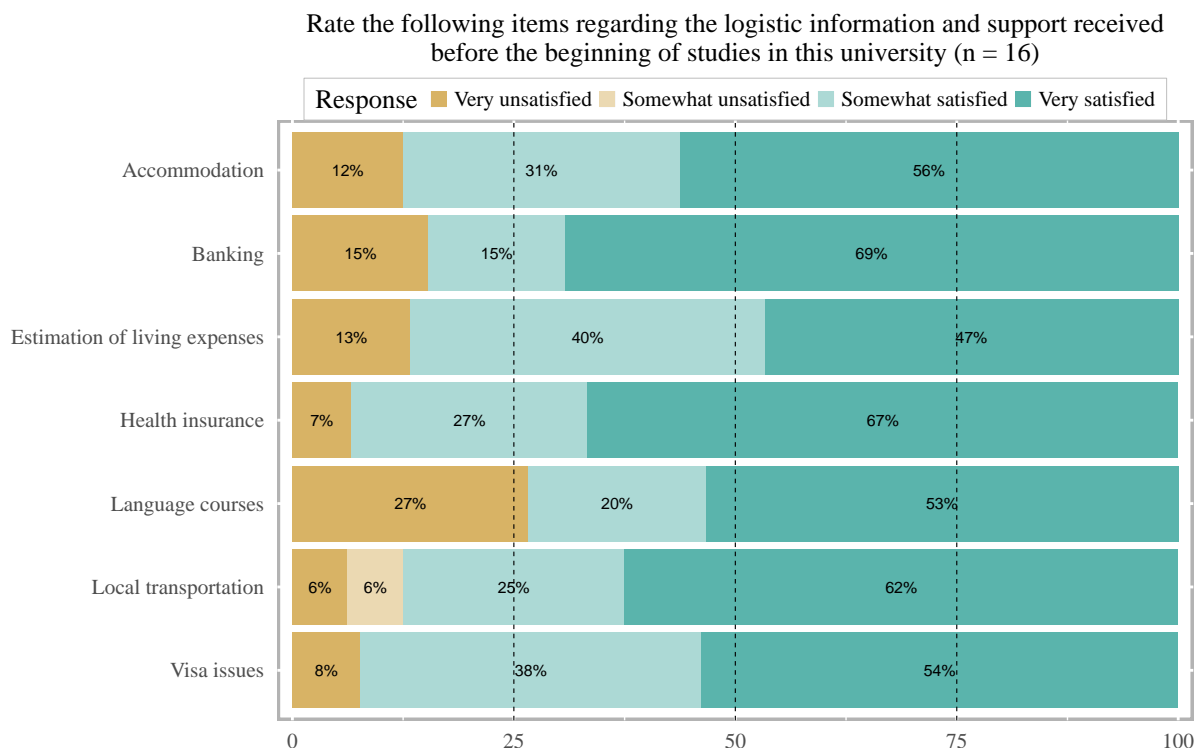
3.1.3 Hochschule Anhalt, Germany



3.1.4 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal



3.1.5 University of Leuven, Belgium



Open answers by CQSS respondents to the question: "Please comment on any other aspect relevant to family relocation throughout Erasmus Mundus Course" (n = 23)

Thirty-nine percent of CQSS respondents considered the family relocation assistance offered by their program administration inadequate due to the lack of help from staff regarding travelling arrangements. Almost half of the respondents reported they have received no assistance at all, and a smaller fraction emphasized financial difficulties faced during their family relocation. Second, 26 percent of the students highlighted the lack of support received from administration staff in securing family accommodation and health insurance. Finally, 17 percent of respondents mentioned that obtaining a visa for family members was problematic. Visa rejections, challenges in visa extension, and lengthy issuing processes were cited as some of the difficulties encountered.

3.2 Support received during the orientation program

Overall students showed mixed levels of satisfaction across the indicators for support received during the orientation program. Half of the students were dissatisfied with "Student association", with 21% reporting to be "very unsatisfied" and 29% "somewhat unsatisfied". High levels of dissatisfaction were also reported for "Administrative staff" (20% of the students being "very unsatisfied"), "Other students" (17% "very unsatisfied" and 8% "somewhat unsatisfied") and "Library" (14% "very unsatisfied" and 7% "somewhat unsatisfied"). Additionally, the means for all the indicators fell in the first quartile, except for "International Student Office" whose mean was in the third quartile. Highest number of students reported some level of satisfaction with "Academic staff" (94%) and "University facilities" (88%). Highest number of students reported to be "very satisfied" with "International Student Office" (53%).

At Dublin Institute of Technology students were in general satisfied across all indicators. Highest levels of dissatisfaction were reported for "Other students" (27% reporting to be "somewhat unsatisfied" and 9% "very unsatisfied"), "Administrative staff" (20% reporting to be "somewhat unsatisfied" and 13% "very unsatisfied"),



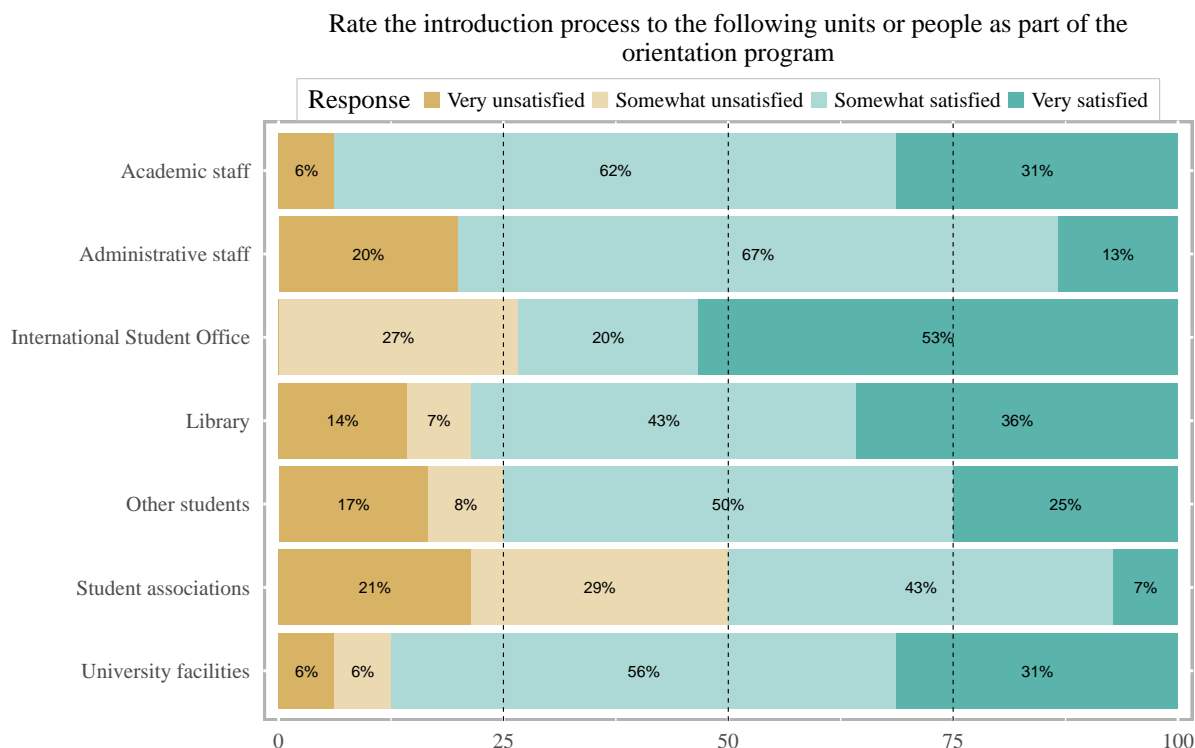
“International Student Office” (23% reporting to be “somewhat unsatisfied” and 8% “very unsatisfied”) and “Student associations” (17% reporting to be “somewhat unsatisfied” and 8% “very unsatisfied”). All of the students were satisfied with “Academic staff”, with 53% reporting to be “very satisfied”. Additionally, 93% of the students were satisfied with “Library”, with 60% reporting to be “very satisfied”.

At Hochschule Anhalt, three quarters of more of the students were satisfied across all indicators. Highest number of students reported to be “very unsatisfied” with “University facilities” (25%) and with “Library” (18%).

At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, students were in general satisfied across all indicators, with 42%-67% reporting to be “very satisfied”. Some students (8%) reported to be “very unsatisfied” with “International Student Office”. Additionally, some students were “somewhat unsatisfied” with “University facilities” (25%), “Library” (20%) and “Academic staff” (17%). All of the students were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with “Administrative staff”.

At University of Leuven, students reported mixed levels of satisfaction across the indicators. Highest number of students were dissatisfied with “Library” (36% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 14% “very unsatisfied”), “Student associations” (25% “very unsatisfied” and 17% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Other students” (21% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 14% “very unsatisfied”) and “International Student Office” (20% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 13% “very unsatisfied”). Also, 19% of the students reported to be “very unsatisfied” with “Administrative staff”. Students were most satisfied with “Academic staff”, with 56% expressing to be “very satisfied” and another 38% “somewhat satisfied”.

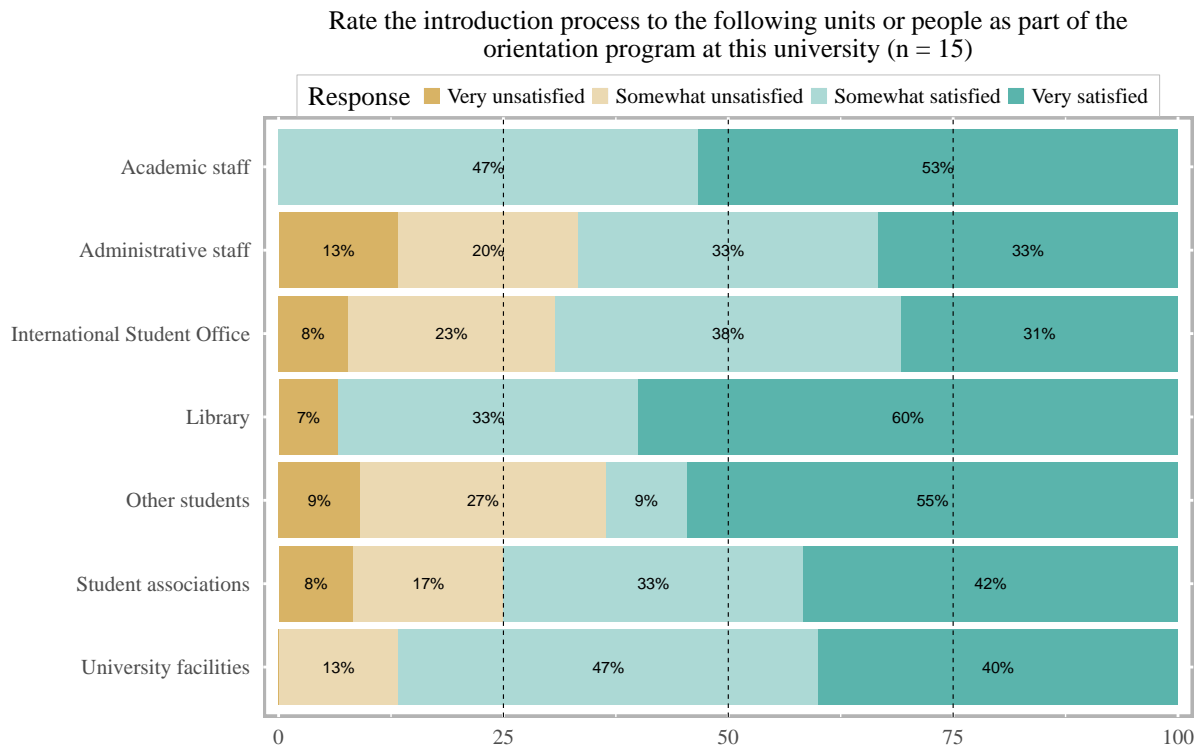
3.2.1 Consortia



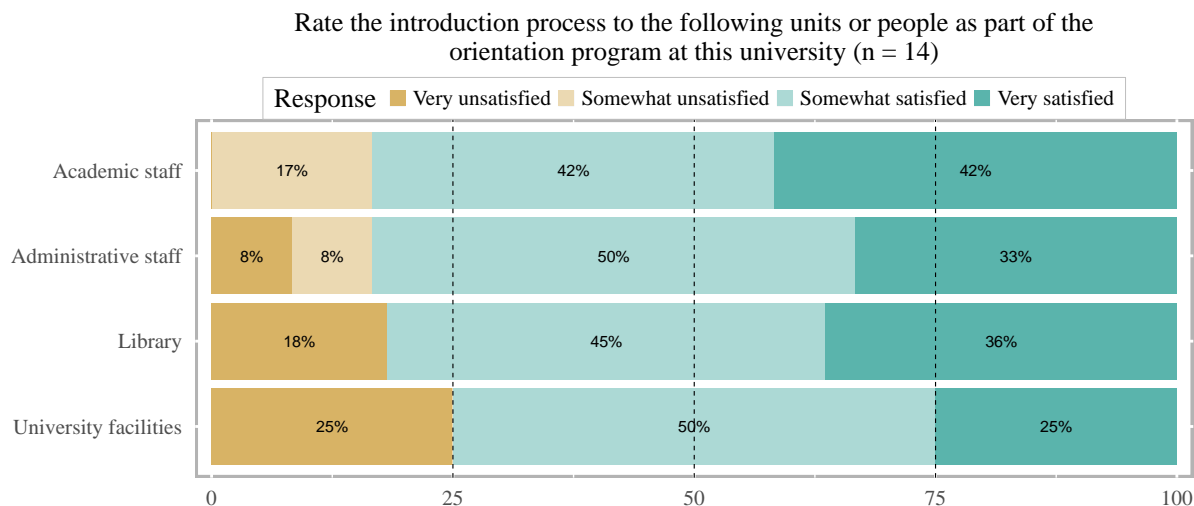
	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Academic staff	16	3.19	3.46	2.40 - 3.29	3.30 - 3.47	3.48 - 3.63	3.64 - 3.92
Administrative staff	15	2.73	3.40	2.30 - 3.20	3.21 - 3.43	3.44 - 3.62	3.63 - 3.93
International Student Office	15	3.27	3.23	2.47 - 3.04	3.05 - 3.27	3.28 - 3.48	3.49 - 3.90
Library	14	3.00	3.37	2.50 - 3.20	3.21 - 3.35	3.36 - 3.58	3.59 - 3.91
Other students	12	2.83	3.33	2.36 - 3.18	3.19 - 3.36	3.37 - 3.47	3.48 - 3.86
Student associations	14	2.36	2.99	1.92 - 2.76	2.77 - 3.02	3.03 - 3.22	3.23 - 3.62
University facilities	16	3.12	3.39	2.40 - 3.21	3.22 - 3.39	3.40 - 3.57	3.58 - 3.92

Table 2: Summary statistics

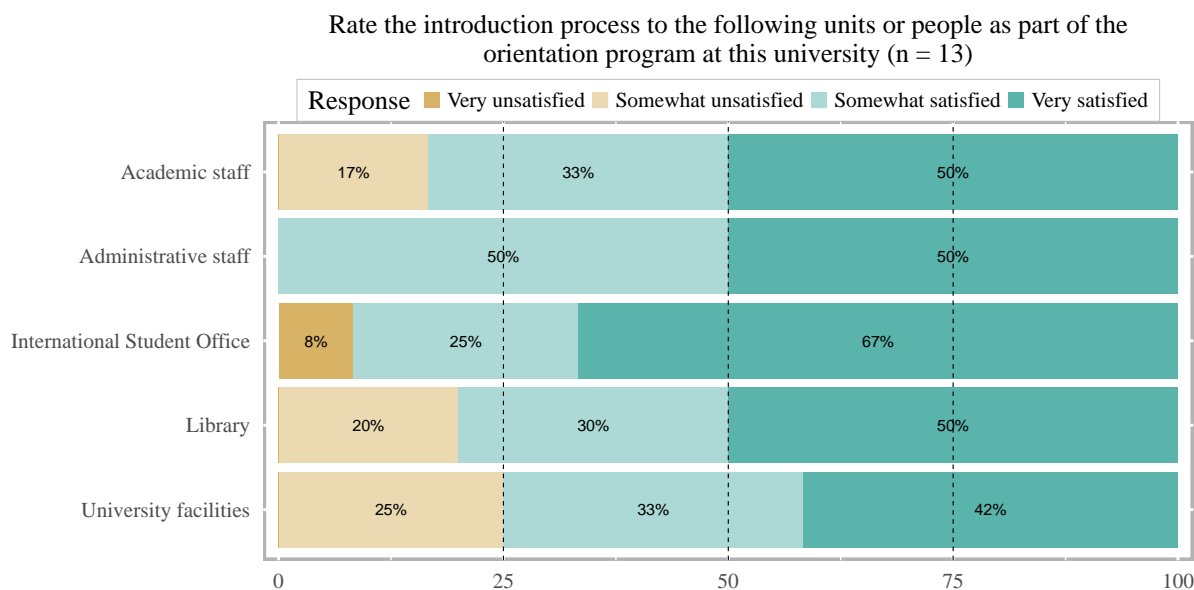
3.2.2 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



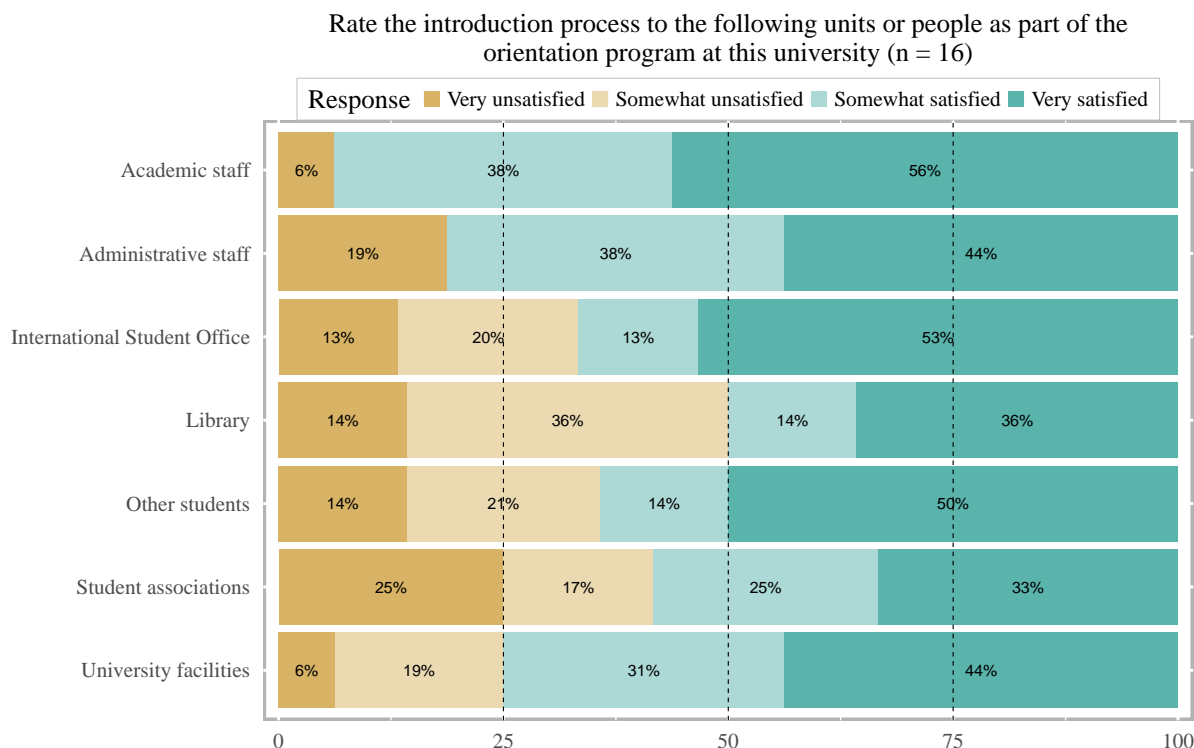
3.2.3 Hochschule Anhalt, Germany



3.2.4 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal



3.2.5 University of Leuven, Belgium



Open answers by CQSS respondents to the question: "Please comment on any other aspect relevant to the accommodation of disability throughout Erasmus Mundus" (n = 8)

Regarding support to accommodate respondent's disabilities, 37% of respondents highlighted the inadequacy of administrative assistance. Problems related to finding accommodation, poor standard of housing, complicated registration at universities, and lack of organized support from course coordinators constituted the critical issues raised.

3.3 Helpfulness of units and people

Students expressed mixed levels of satisfaction across indicators for helpfulness of units of people, with the majority of the means falling in the first quartile and the rest in the second quartile. Students reported highest levels of dissatisfaction for "Student associations" (with 33% stating to be "somewhat unsatisfied" and 17% "very unsatisfied"). Students reported also significant levels of dissatisfaction for "Other students" (15% "very unsatisfied" and another 15% "somewhat unsatisfied"), "Administrative staff" (19% "very unsatisfied") and "International Student Office" (33% "somewhat unsatisfied"). A highest majority of the students were satisfied with "Academic staff" (94%) and "University facilities" (88%). Highest numbers of students reported to be "very satisfied" with "Library" (56%).

At Dublin Institute of Technology, students in general reported high levels of satisfaction across all indicators. Highest dissatisfaction was expressed for "Administrative staff" with 40% of the students reporting to be "somewhat unsatisfied". Also 9% of the students were "very unsatisfied" and another 9% "somewhat unsatisfied" with "International Student Office". All of the students were satisfied with "Health services", "Library", "Academic staff" and "University facilities", with 70%, 67%, 53% and 47% respectively reporting to be "very satisfied".

At Hochschule Anhalt, the high number of the students were "very satisfied" with "Academic staff" (58%) and "Administrative staff" (50%). Some students expressed to be "very unsatisfied" with "University facilities"

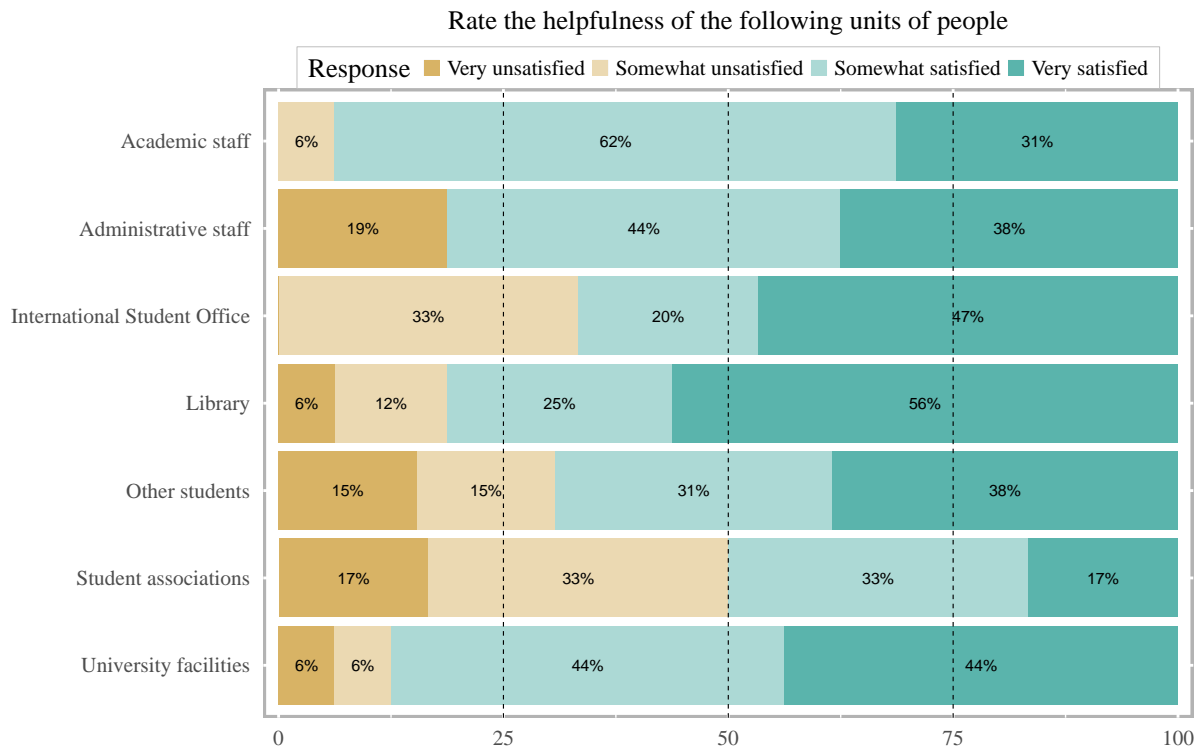


(25%) and “Administrative staff” (17%).

At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, students were in general satisfied across all indicators with 42%-67% expressing to be “very satisfied”. Students were most dissatisfied with “Library” (27% reporting to be “somewhat unsatisfied” and 9% “very unsatisfied”) and “University facilities” (33% “somewhat unsatisfied”). All of the students were satisfied with “Academic staff” and “Administrative staff”.

At University of Leuven, students expressed mixed levels of satisfaction across the indicators. Highest levels of satisfaction were reported for “Library” (29% reporting to be “somewhat unsatisfied” and 14% “very unsatisfied”), “Student associations” (25% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 17% “very unsatisfied”), and “International Student Office” (27% “somewhat unsatisfied” and 7% “very unsatisfied”). Also, 19% of the students reported to be “very unsatisfied” with “Administrative staff”. Highest number of students were overall satisfied with “Academic staff” (94%) and highest number of students were “very satisfied” with “Other students” (57%) and “Health services” (55%).

3.3.1 Consortia

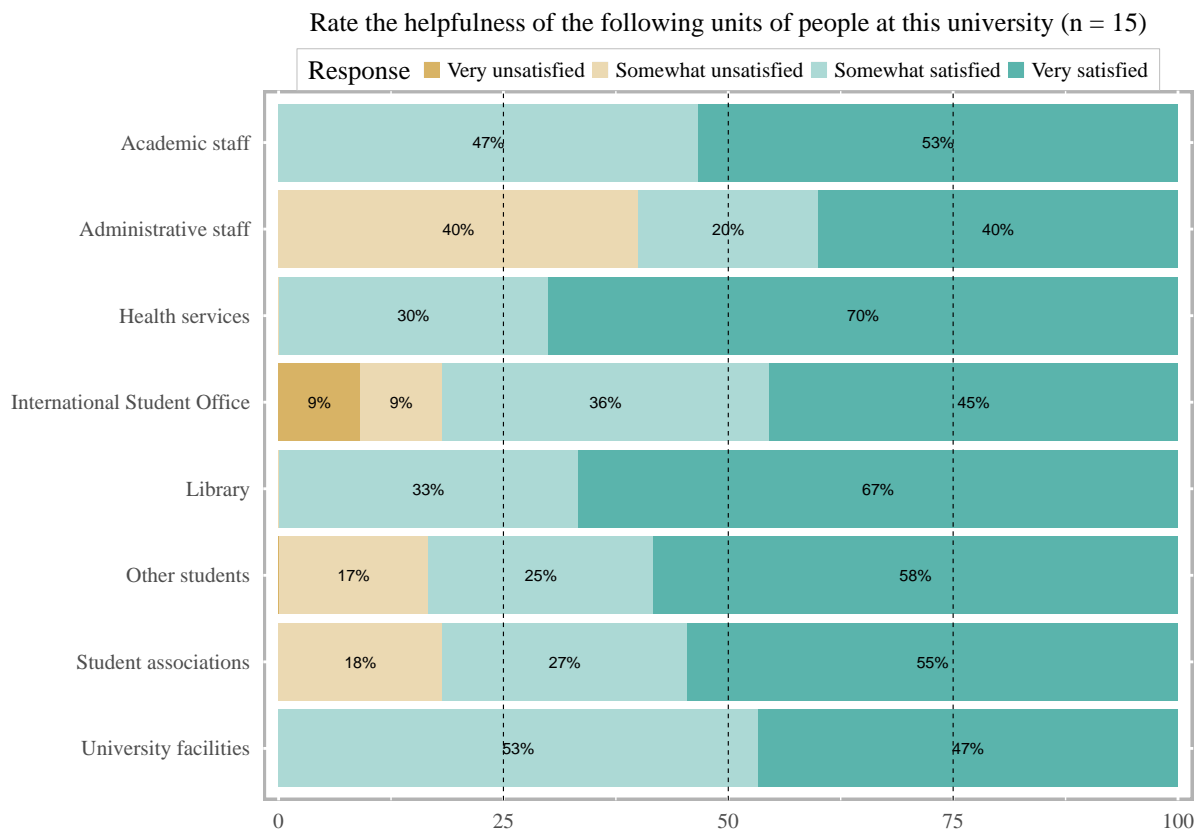


	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Academic staff	16	3.25	3.47	2.50 - 3.30	3.31 - 3.46	3.47 - 3.62	3.63 - 4.00
Administrative staff	16	3.00	3.36	2.10 - 3.18	3.19 - 3.45	3.46 - 3.61	3.62 - 4.00
International Student Office	15	3.13	3.24	2.45 - 3.09	3.10 - 3.27	3.28 - 3.50	3.51 - 3.71
Library	16	3.31	3.41	2.80 - 3.20	3.21 - 3.44	3.45 - 3.60	3.61 - 3.93
Other students	13	2.92	3.40	2.45 - 3.21	3.22 - 3.39	3.40 - 3.55	3.56 - 3.85
Student associations	12	2.50	3.05	2.10 - 2.92	2.93 - 3.08	3.09 - 3.24	3.25 - 3.68
University facilities	16	3.25	3.42	2.71 - 3.27	3.28 - 3.48	3.49 - 3.63	3.64 - 3.86

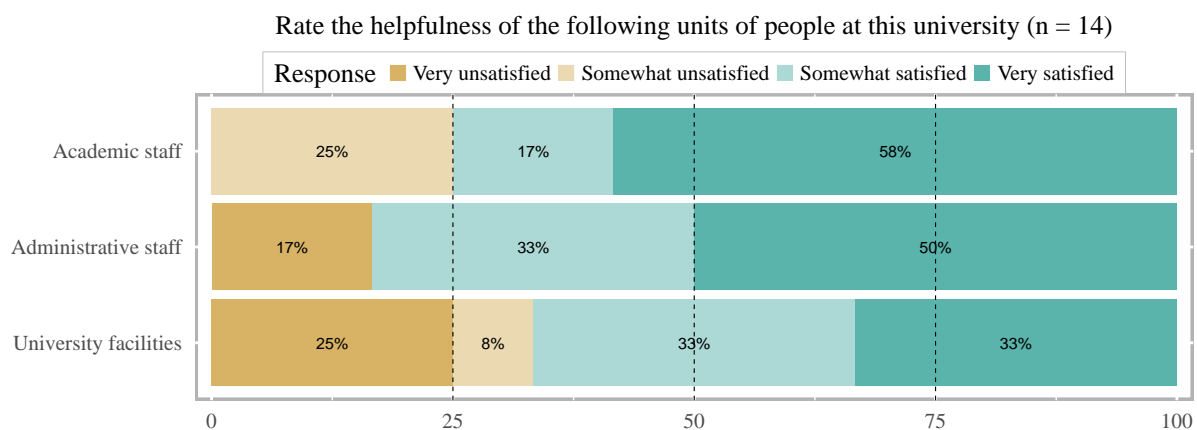
Table 3: Summary statistics



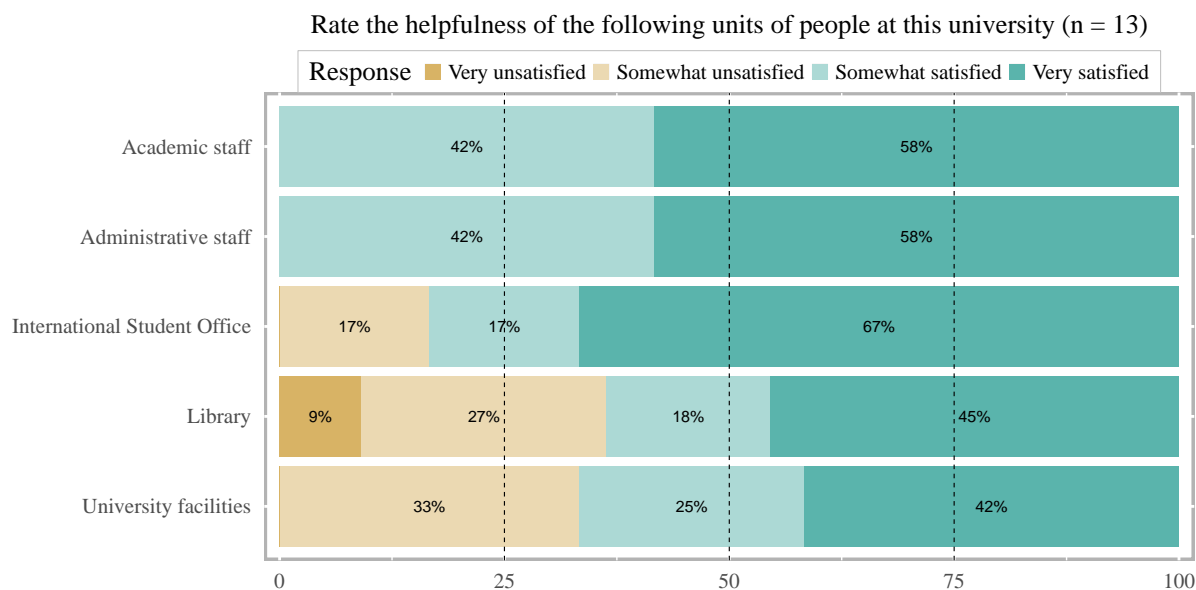
3.3.2 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



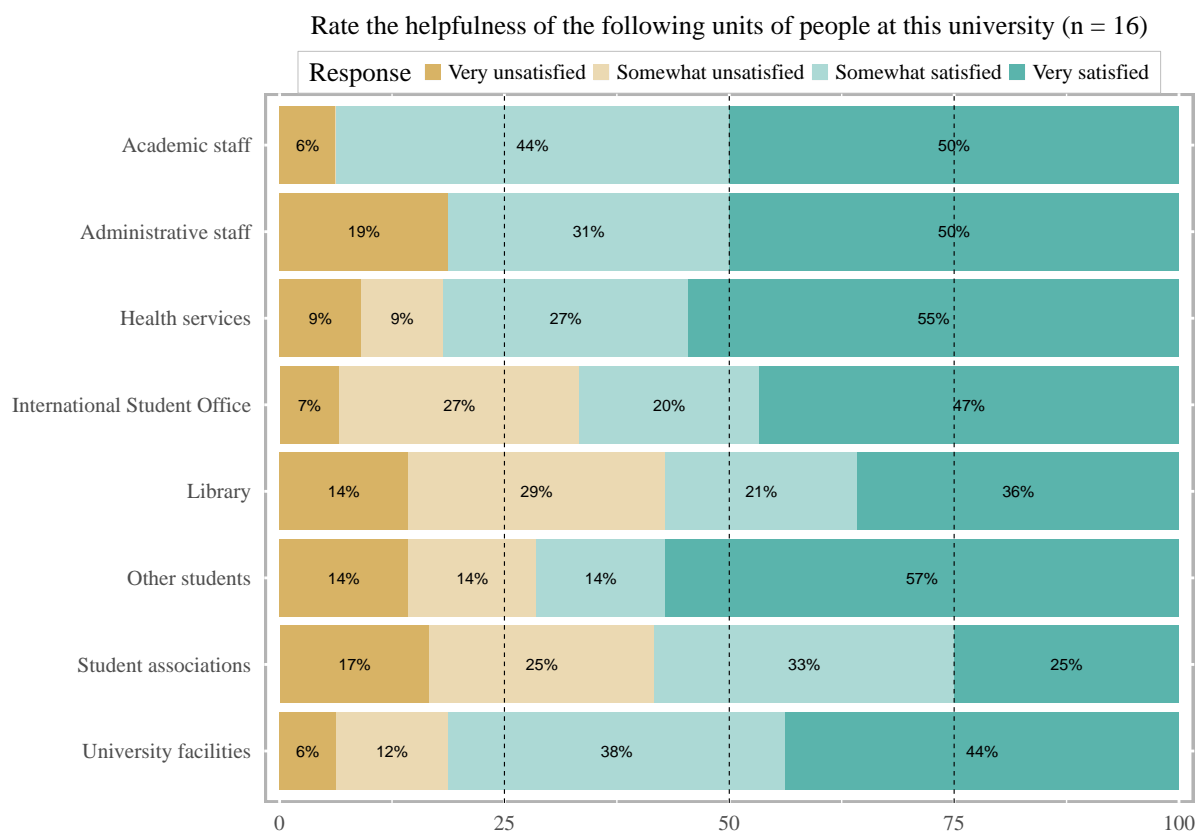
3.3.3 Hochschule Anhalt, Germany



3.3.4 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal



3.3.5 University of Leuven, Belgium



Open answers by CQSS respondents to the question: "How could orientation and integration experience have been improved" (n = 1443)

The most common suggestion given by respondents (19 %) in response to this question was that each of the universities should offer a **comprehensive international student orientation program**. The orientation program should involve information on health services, transportation, as well as guided sessions to campus facilities, such as library, gym, food courts, and a city tour in the first few days upon arrival. It was suggested that a **complementary Erasmus Mundus focused orientation program** should be provided. This additional orientation session should introduce the academic and administrative personnel, draw expectations, and give an overview of the program structure. Students who arrived after the start of the program due to visa issues, and thus missed the orientation sessions, emphasized the importance of a **special orientation arrangement** for their integration. Additionally, students recommended that their programs **provide an information booklet upon arrival**.

Concerns regarding **administrative assistance** were mentioned by 14 percent of participants. Students requested **better assistance with accommodation and student housing services** on campus. Their responses stated that absence of pre-arrival housing information and arrangements by the program administration reduced the students' chances of finding affordable and conveniently located housing. **Administrative assistance for an efficient visa application processes** was also mentioned. Dealing with visa processes without proper administrative assistance was described to cause distraction from studies. Some respondents particularly emphasized the need for **further administrative assistance** for students that are coming from **non-EU/overseas countries**, and those who are travelling abroad for the first time. Students stressed the importance of **assistance with services which involve bureaucratic processes and paperwork**, as in health services, banking, and local registration upon arrival. Last, students suggested that the program administrations should organize more **social events** and extracurricular activities for students and staff to facilitate integration among program participants.

Third, 10 percent of the respondents drew attention to **challenges faced in communicating with administrative staff**. The responses suggested that the communication flow between students and staff is almost non-existent in some contexts. In some cases staff was not well informed about the nature of the specific master's course, nor prepared to support international students. Longer working hours for existing personnel and recruitment of professional full-time staff are two of the recommendations made by the participants. **Promptness in correspondence** was the second most mentioned improvement area. The students emphasized timely communication of clear and accurate information as crucial for the facilitation of integration. Finally, responses indicated the importance of a qualified administrative staff, responsive to student needs and questions without any language barriers. Students expressed that **insufficient English language** skills of the contact persons at times caused discomfort and stress in their interactions with administrative staff.

Another key issue mentioned by 9 percent respondents was the need for more **interaction and integration with local non-Erasmus Mundus students** through **attending courses together and participating in extracurricular or social activities**. Some respondents mentioned that **residing in campus accommodations** close to local students could play a role in establishing better integration. Respondents also suggested the need for host universities to arrange platforms that create opportunities and facilitate the active engagement of Erasmus Mundus students in their institutions.

Some respondents (6%) also indicated the need to introduce or **strengthen the buddy and tutor support services** in order to assist the smooth integration of students into the new university, city and country. Respondents particularly emphasized the significance of **assigning English speaking tutors**.

3.4 Support received on various issues

Students were in general satisfied with support received for "Health insurance" and "Financial issues" and with 60% and 50% of the students respectively reporting to be "very satisfied". A minority of the students reported to be "very unsatisfied" with "Financial issues" (12%) and "Health insurance" (7%). The means fell



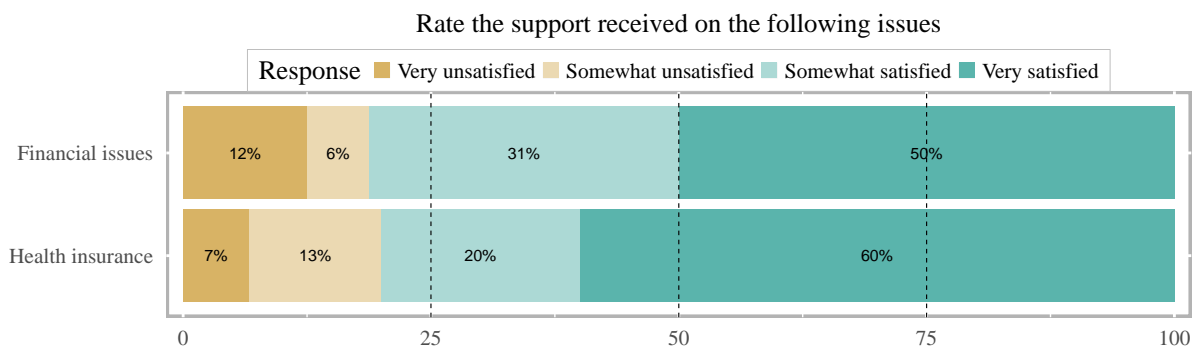
in the first and second quartiles.

At Dublin Institute of Technology, 80% of the students were satisfied with “Quality of extracurricular activities” and 70% with “Availability of extracurricular activities”, with the majority reporting to be “somewhat satisfied”.

At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, 80% of the students were satisfied with “Quality of extracurricular activities” and 70% with “Availability of extracurricular activities”, with the majority reporting to be “somewhat satisfied”.

At University of Leuven, students expressed dissatisfaction with “Availability of extracurricular activities”, with 17% stating to be “very unsatisfied” and 25% “somewhat unsatisfied”. A majority of the students (70%) reported to be “somewhat satisfied” with “Quality of extracurricular activities”.

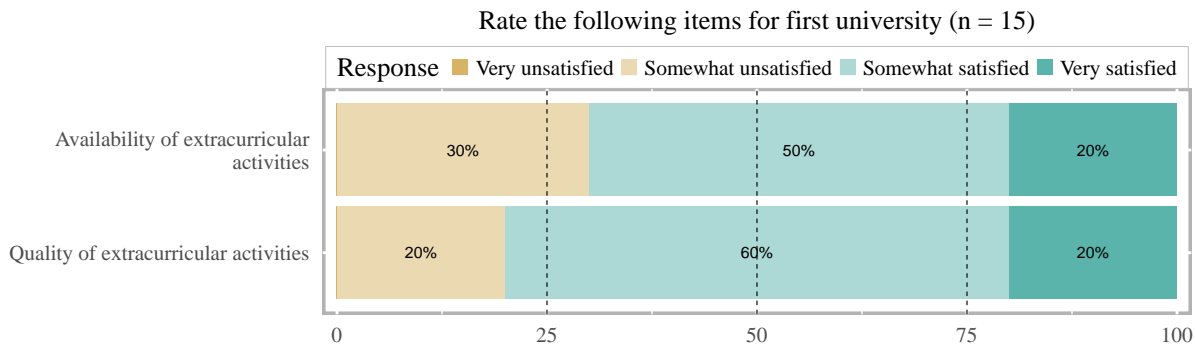
3.4.1 Consortia



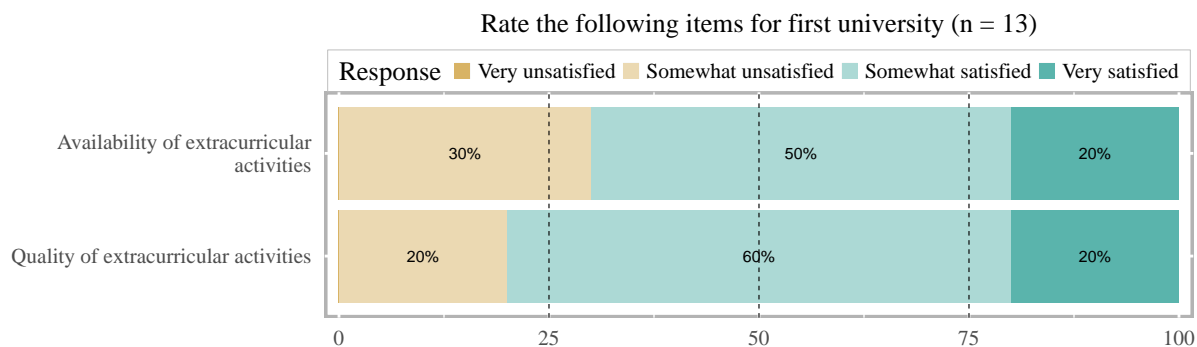
	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Financial issues	16	3.19	3.34	2.50 - 3.19	3.20 - 3.40	3.41 - 3.57	3.58 - 3.90
Health insurance	15	3.33	3.37	2.54 - 3.25	3.26 - 3.38	3.39 - 3.56	3.57 - 3.84

Table 4: Summary statistics

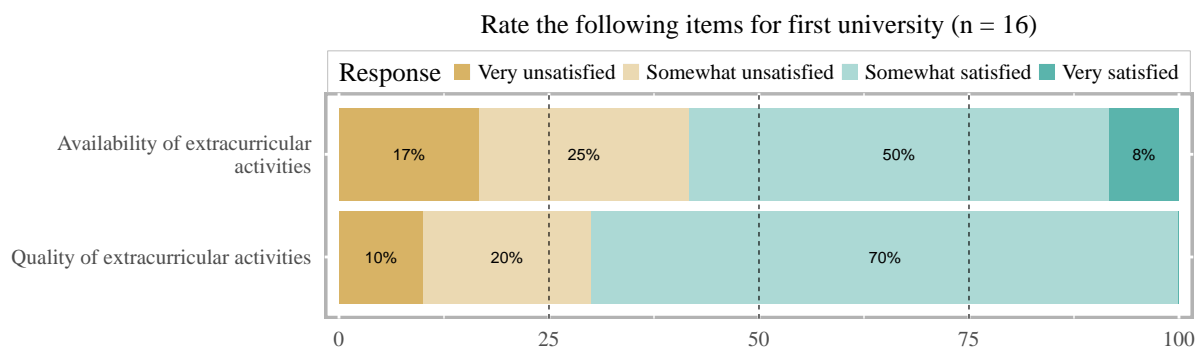
3.4.2 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



3.4.3 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal



3.4.4 University of Leuven, Belgium



4 Assessment and feedback

4.1 Module assessment

Students reported mixed levels of satisfaction across indicators for module assessment. Half of the students were dissatisfied with “Feedback on evaluation results and grades” (with 19% reporting to be “very unsatisfied” and 31% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Consistency of module’s assessment across universities” (12% “very unsatisfied” and 38% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Clarity of evaluation criteria across universities” (12% “very unsatisfied” and 38% “somewhat unsatisfied”), and “Grade conversion across universities” (12% “very unsatisfied” and 38% “somewhat unsatisfied”), with all of the means falling in the first quartile, except for the mean for “Feedback on evaluation results and grades” which fell in the second quartile. Students also expressed dissatisfaction with “Implementation of recommendations given by students to improve EM course experience” (with 9% “very unsatisfied” and 27% “somewhat unsatisfied”). Highest levels of satisfaction were expressed for “Availability of course coordinator to discuss questions or problems related to my studies and mobility experience” (69% reporting to be “very satisfied” and 12% “somewhat satisfied”) and “The willingness and ability of the course coordinator to follow up on unresolved issues addressed” (56% reporting to be “very satisfied” and 25% “somewhat satisfied”), although the means fell in the third and second quartiles respectively.

At Dublin Institute of Technology, a majority of the students (71%-93%) were satisfied across all indicators, with 43%-53% reporting to be “very satisfied”. Highest level of dissatisfaction was expressed for “Implementation of recommendations given by students to improve EM course experience” with 29% reporting to be “somewhat unsatisfied”.

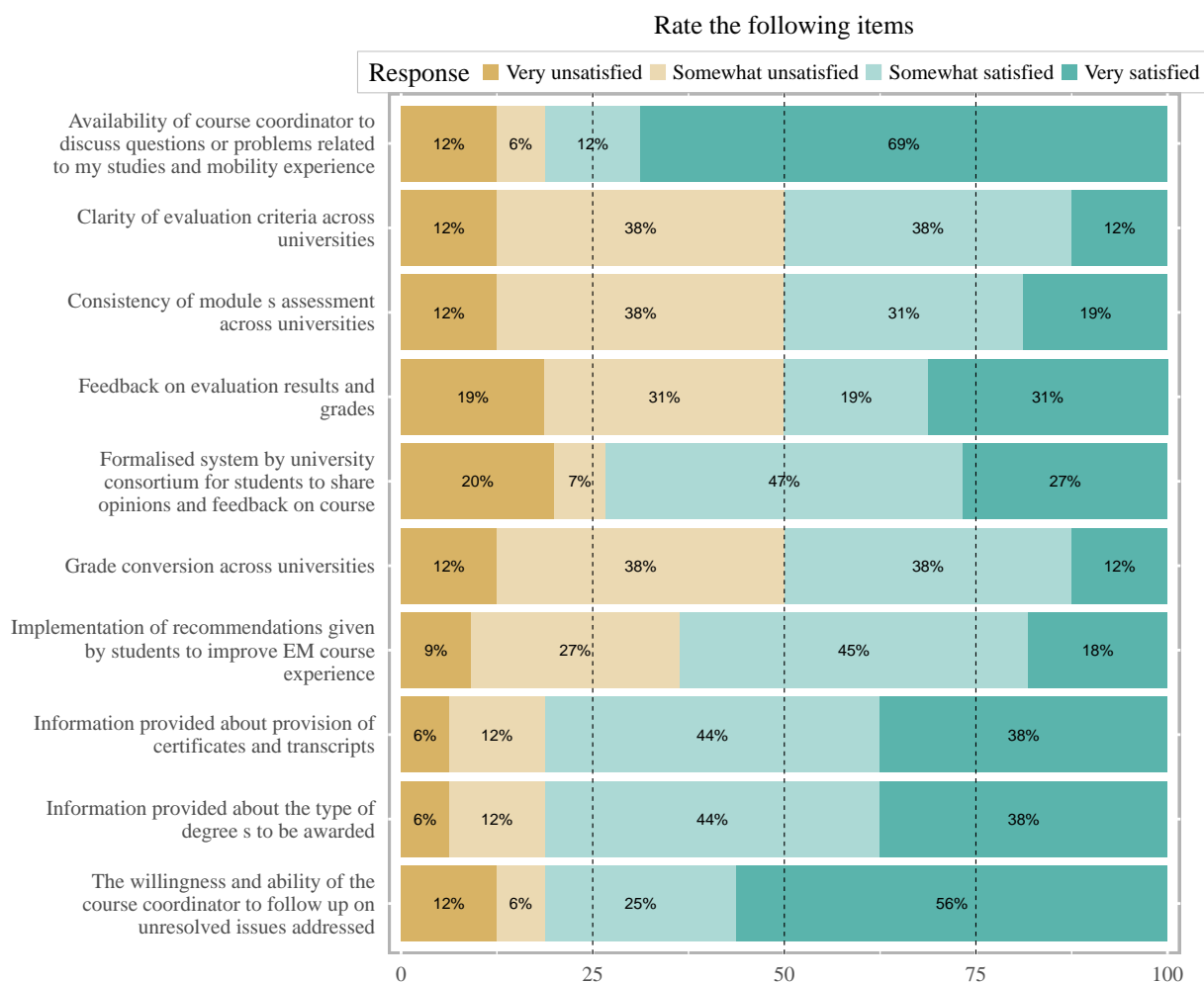
At Hochschule Anhalt, a large number of students (33%-60%) reported dissatisfaction across all indicators. Furthermore, a significant number of students (27%-30%) reported to be “very unsatisfied” across all indicators except for “Feedback of evaluation results and grades” were 8% reported to be “very unsatisfied”. Conversely, 36%-50% of the students reported to be “very satisfied” across all indicators.

At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, a significant number of students (36%-50%) reported to be dissatisfied across all indicators, with 10%-27% reporting to be “very unsatisfied”. Across all indicators, some students expressed to be “very satisfied” (18%-30%).

At University of Leuven, a majority of the students (57%-87%) were satisfied for all indicators, although high levels of dissatisfaction were expressed for “Feedback on evaluation results and grades” (25% reporting to be “very unsatisfied” and 19% “somewhat unsatisfied”). Highest satisfaction was expressed for “Ability to provide feedback on the quality of course” with 47% of the students being “somewhat satisfied” and 40% “very satisfied”.



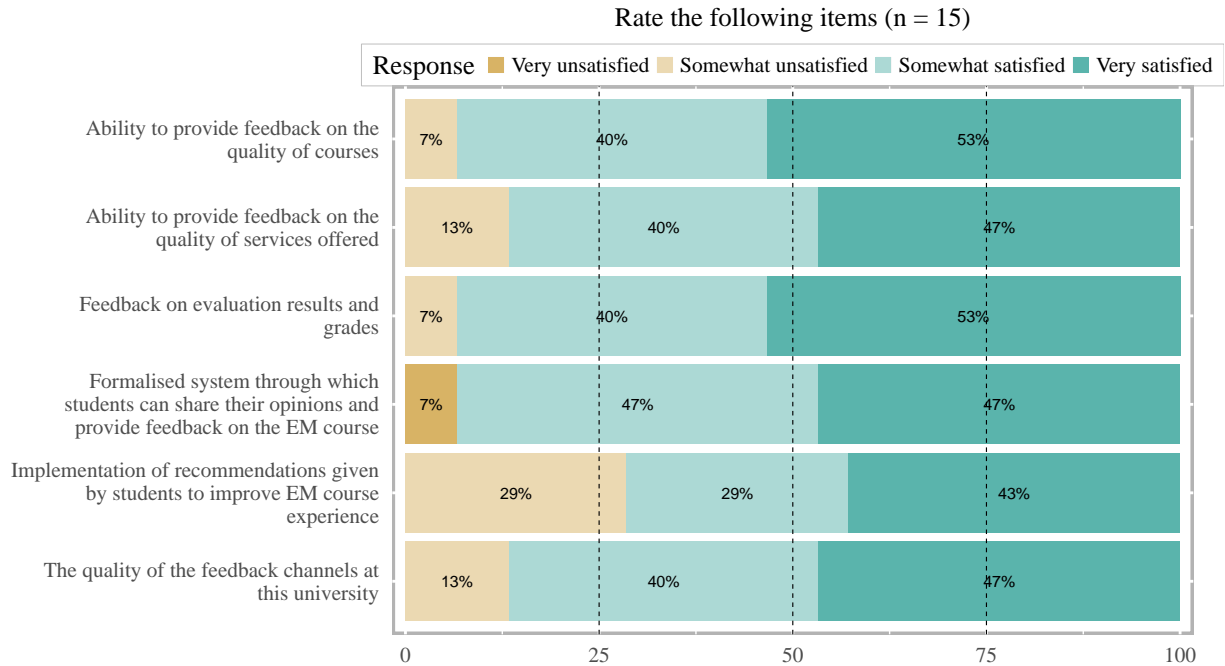
4.1.1 Consortia



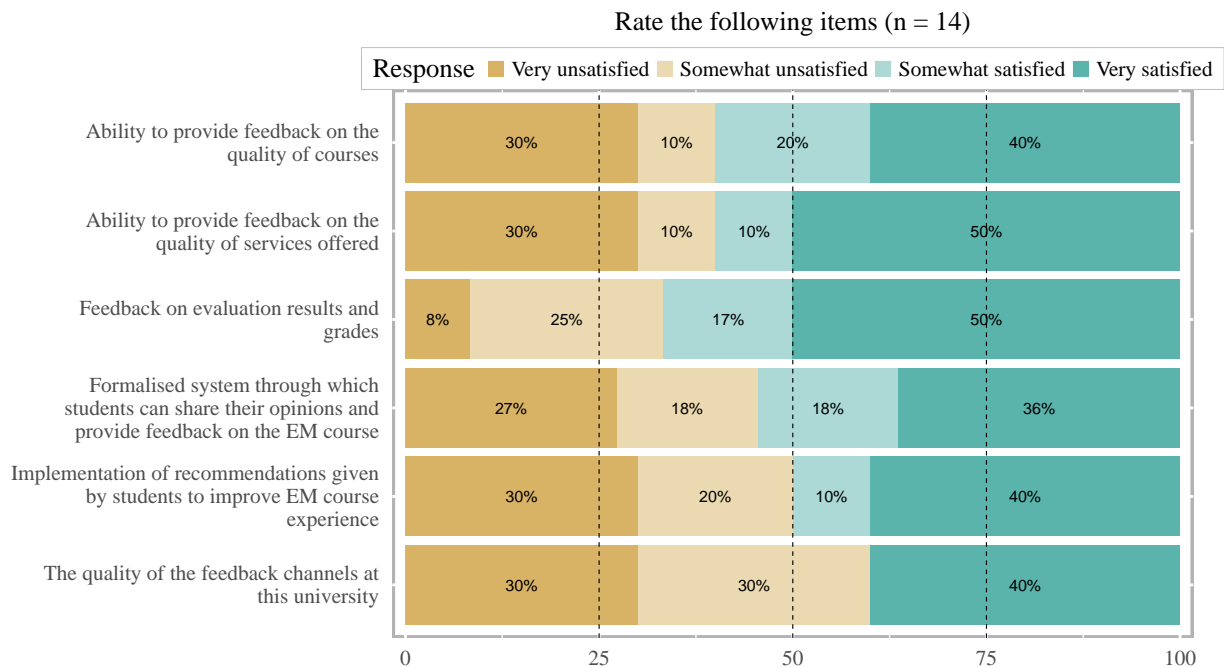
	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Availability of course coordinator to discuss questions or problems related to my studies and mobility experience	16	3.38	3.30	2.10 - 3.12	3.13 - 3.33	3.34 - 3.49	3.50 - 3.90
Clarity of evaluation criteria across universities	16	2.50	2.78	1.90 - 2.55	2.56 - 2.79	2.80 - 3.00	3.01 - 3.60
Consistency of module s assessment across universities	16	2.56	2.82	1.89 - 2.58	2.59 - 2.79	2.80 - 3.01	3.02 - 3.50
Feedback on evaluation results and grades	16	2.62	2.78	1.70 - 2.57	2.58 - 2.83	2.84 - 3.00	3.01 - 3.60
Formalised system by university consortium for students to share opinions and feedback on course	15	2.80	2.95	1.75 - 2.73	2.74 - 2.97	2.98 - 3.19	3.20 - 3.55
Grade conversion across universities	16	2.50	2.86	2.17 - 2.71	2.72 - 2.83	2.84 - 3.00	3.01 - 3.56
Implementation of recommendations given by students to improve EM course experience	11	2.73	2.84	1.58 - 2.62	2.63 - 2.86	2.87 - 3.15	3.16 - 3.44
Information provided about provision of certificates and transcripts	16	3.12	3.04	1.96 - 2.85	2.86 - 3.07	3.08 - 3.27	3.28 - 3.67
Information provided about the type of degree s to be awarded	16	3.12	3.14	2.40 - 2.95	2.96 - 3.16	3.17 - 3.35	3.36 - 3.70
The willingness and ability of the course coordinator to follow up on unresolved issues addressed	16	3.25	3.27	1.80 - 3.00	3.01 - 3.32	3.33 - 3.47	3.48 - 3.92

Table 5: Summary statistics

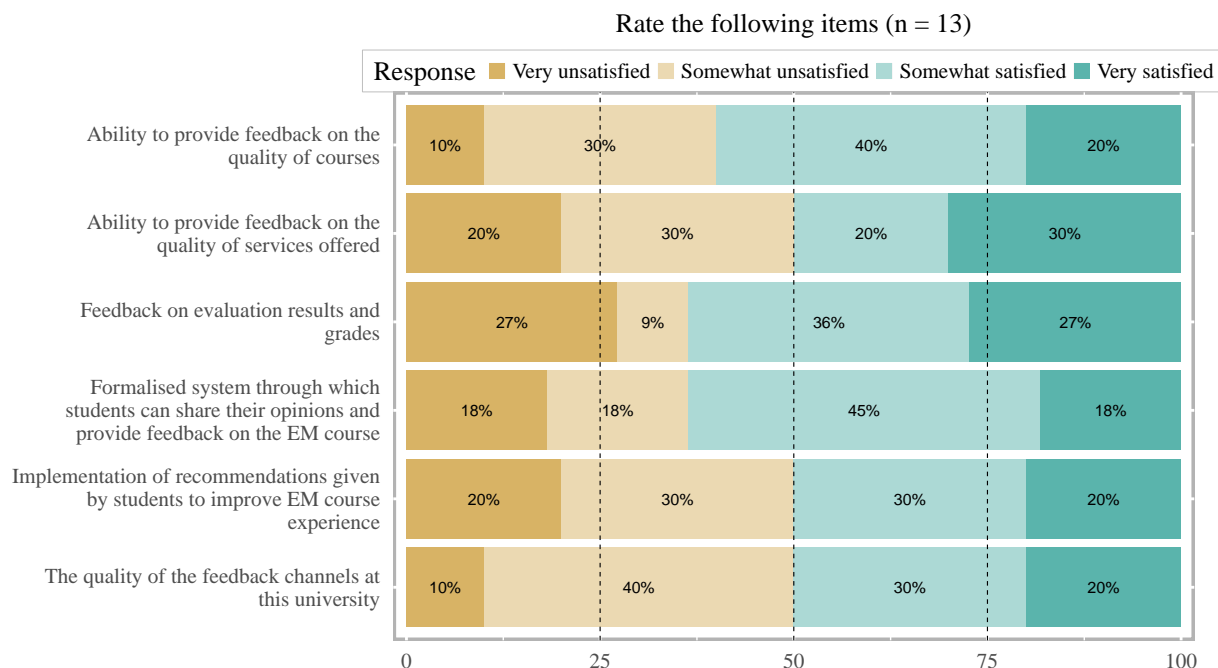
4.1.2 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



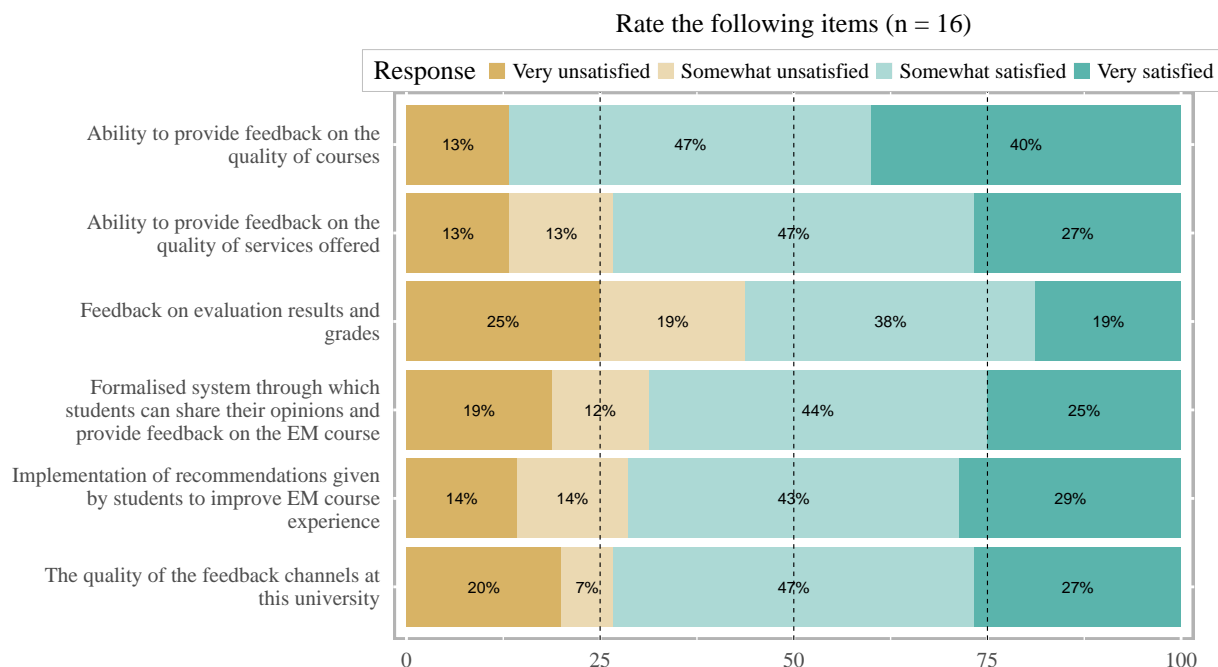
4.1.3 Hochschule Anhalt, Germany



4.1.4 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal



4.1.5 University of Leuven, Belgium



Open answers by CQSS respondents to the question: "What recommendations would you give to build or improve student feedback channels at the university?" (n = 540)

The following recommendations to improve **feedback mechanisms at the level of the course** were suggested by 30 percent of respondents.

1. **Face-to-discussions**, in the form of group meetings, either in the end of each semester, or regularly during the academic year. Respondents mentioned that these spaces for open discussion could be held in the presence of professors, but also administrative staff, especially course coordinators.
2. **Formalized feedback system**. This plea for having a formal system to collect feedback suggests that at many institutions such systematic mechanisms still do not exist. This does not mean that students cannot express their suggestions or complaints, but that they need to rely on ad-hoc initiatives, often through staff members that assume the responsibility of collecting feedback individually.
3. Implementation of **surveys** as a preferred way to provide feedback.
4. Presence of **online platforms** to centralize the collection of feedback. Some respondents mentioned the possibility of having online surveys, blogs, forums or even an online chatroom.
5. Broaden the focus of assessment during course evaluation.

Eighteen percent of students discussed the quality of **feedback provided by teachers on student's academic performance**. Several students voiced their urge to receive more comments, suggestions and criticism on their academic work. Their replies clearly stated that in many cases they did not receive any **qualitative feedback** focused on improvement in addition to a quantitative grade. Students also expressed the need to have **more detailed evaluation criteria** (e.g., rubrics), in order to have a more transparent grading system. In some cases, students also indicated that the feedback on their work was **overdue**. Lastly, students mentioned a desire to **discuss face-to-face** their examinations and other assessment procedures with their teachers.

Additionally, respondents (13%) mentioned the necessity to receive feedback on "their own provided feedback". Responses suggested that despite the existence of feedback mechanisms, where students could voice their needs or concerns, it was very **uncommon that feedback would produce any effects**.



5 Teaching/learning and supervision

5.1 Teaching/learning

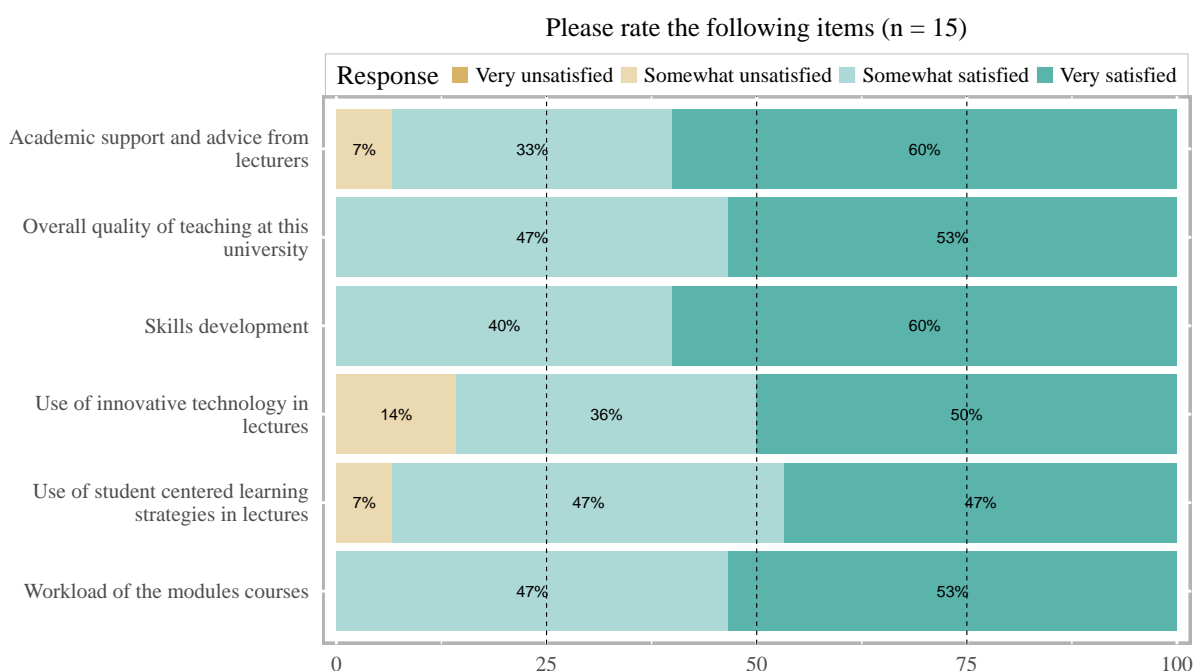
At Dublin Institute of Technology, a vast majority of the students were satisfied across all indicators with 47%-60% reporting to be “very satisfied”. A small minority of students expressed to be “somewhat unsatisfied” with “Use of innovative technology in lectures” (14%), “Academic support and advice from lecturers” (7%) and “Use of student centered learning strategies in lectures” (7%).

At Hochschule Anhalt, students reported mixed levels of satisfaction across the indicators. A majority of the students were dissatisfied with “Overall quality of teaching at this university”, with 17% reporting to be “very unsatisfied” and 42% “somewhat unsatisfied”. Student also expressed dissatisfaction for “Skills development” (8% “very unsatisfied” and 33% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Workload of the modules courses” (8% “very unsatisfied” and 25% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Use of student centered learning strategies in lectures” (9% “very unsatisfied” and 18% “somewhat unsatisfied”), and “Academic support and advice from lecturers” (8% “very unsatisfied” and 17% “somewhat unsatisfied”). Conversely, there students also expressed to be “very satisfied” (36%-50%) across all indicators.

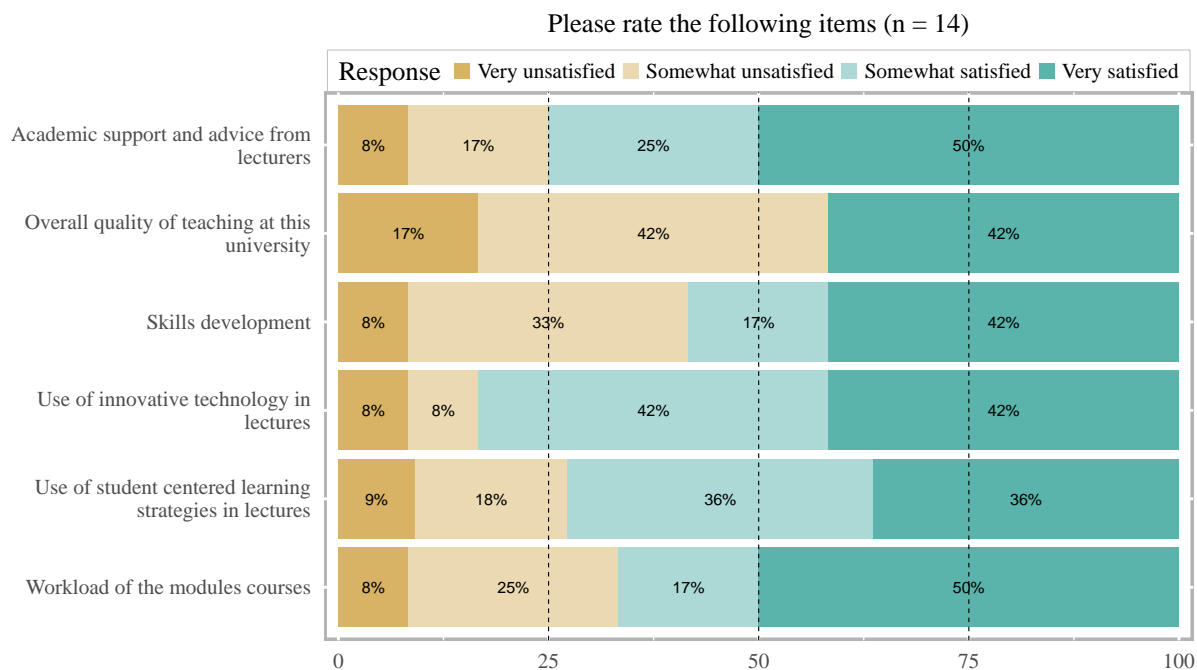
At Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, students were in general satisfied across all indicators. Highest dissatisfaction was expressed for “Skills development” (17% “very unsatisfied” and 17% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Use of innovative technology in lectures” (17% “very unsatisfied” and 17% “somewhat unsatisfied”), “Overall quality of teaching at this university” (8% “very unsatisfied” and 25% “somewhat unsatisfied”), and “Workload of the module courses (33% “somewhat unsatisfied”). Across all indicators, some students (27%-42%) also reported to be “very satisfied”.

At University of Leuven, about three quarters of the students expressed satisfaction across all indicators. Nineteen percent of the students reported to be “very unsatisfied” with “Workload of the modules courses”, while 6%-7% reported to be “very unsatisfied” across all of the other indicators. For all indicators, 19%-38% of the students reported to be “very satisfied”.

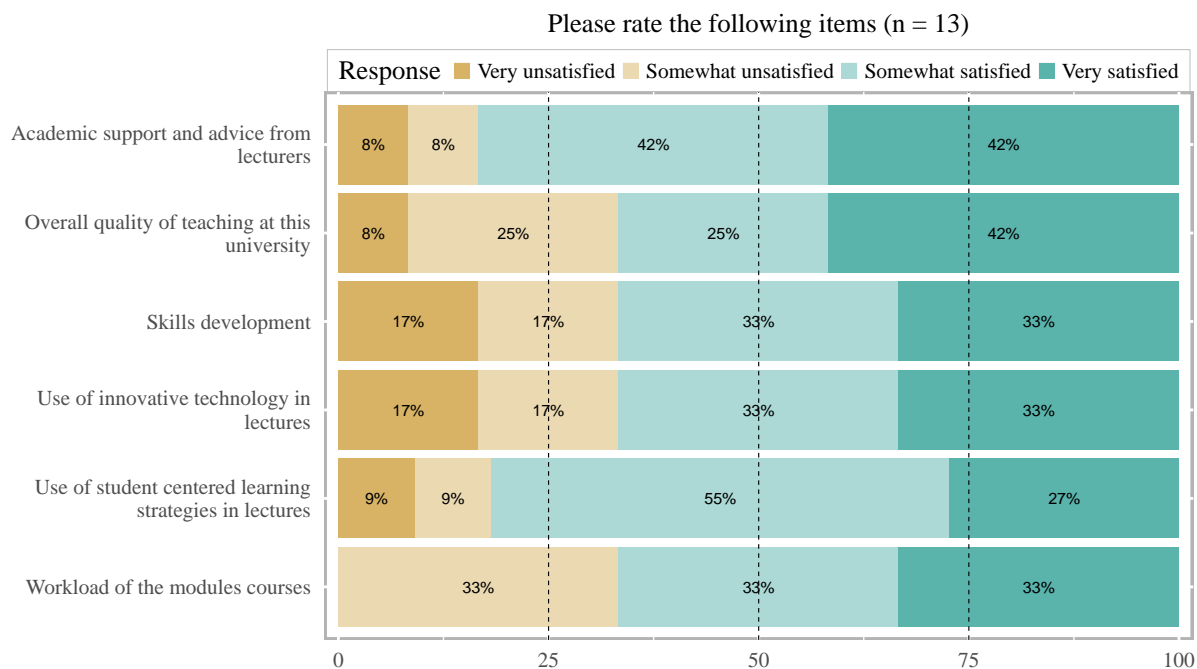
5.1.1 Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland



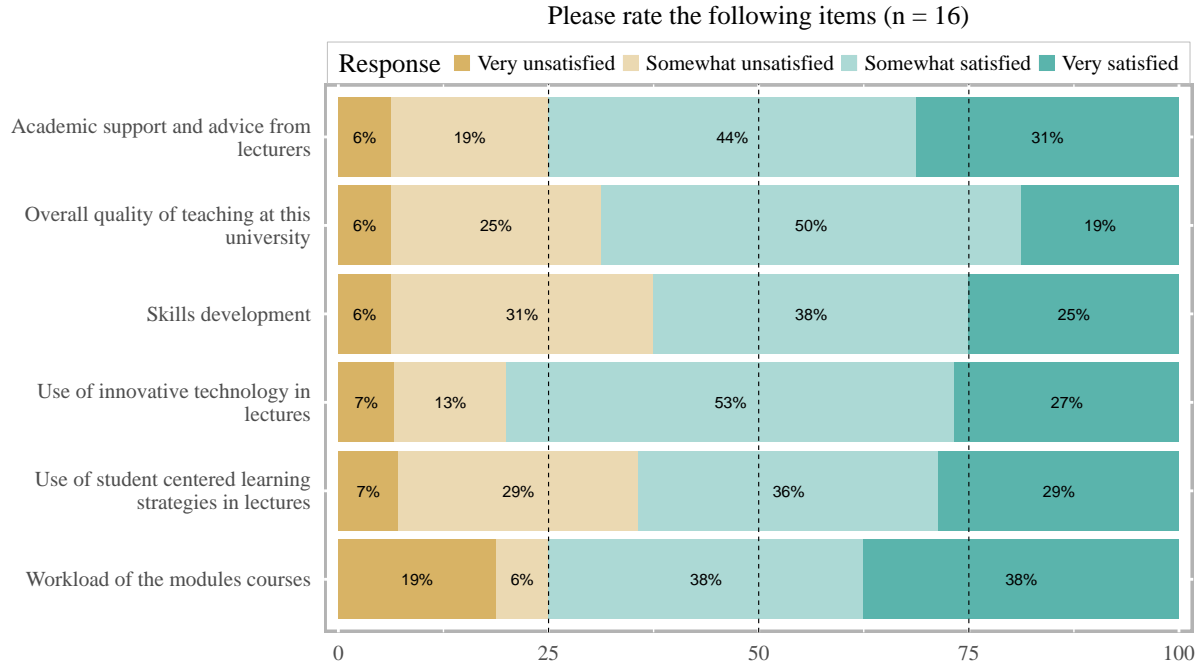
5.1.2 Hochschule Anhalt, Germany



5.1.3 Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal

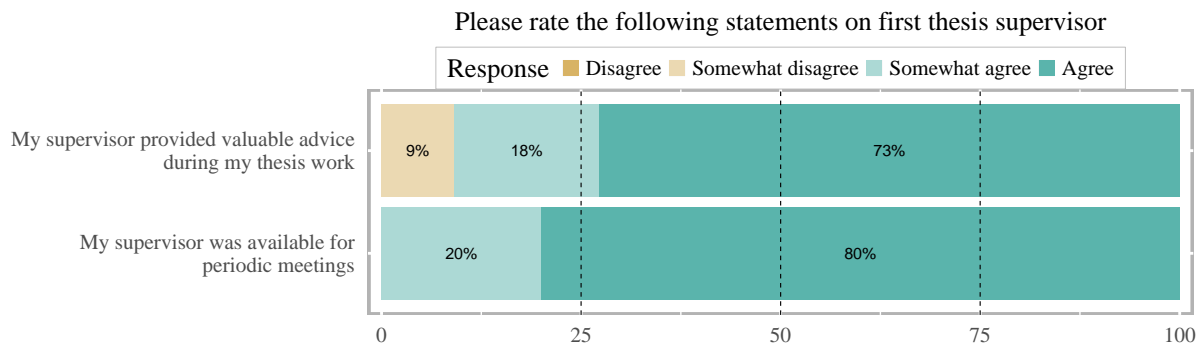


5.1.4 University of Leuven, Belgium



5.2 First supervisor

Students reported very high levels of satisfaction for teaching/learning and supervision provided by first supervisor, with the means falling in the third and fourth quartiles. All of the students expressed some level of agreement with “My supervisor was available for periodic meetings” with 80% reporting to “agree”. A majority of the students (73%) expressed to “agree” with “My supervisor provided valuable advice during my thesis work”, although 9% reported to “somewhat disagree”.



	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
My supervisor provided valuable advice during my thesis work	11	3.64	3.52	2.64 - 3.43	3.44 - 3.60	3.61 - 3.75	3.76 - 4.00
My supervisor was available for periodic meetings	10	3.80	3.55	2.79 - 3.46	3.47 - 3.62	3.63 - 3.80	3.81 - 4.00

Table 6: Summary statistics



Open responses by CQSS respondents to the question: "Please explain your answer regarding the academic satisfaction with course" (n = 650)

The majority of respondents (52%) related their academic satisfaction or dissatisfaction to the **curriculum** of their courses. Many respondents (145) reported being satisfied with curriculum. However, 193 responses stated that the curriculum of their program could be improved. The majority of those who commented negatively on curriculum aspects referenced the low academic level of the program. Some respondents felt that the curriculum they were exposed to did not advance adequately their subject knowledge. They emphasized the lack of practical orientation of the curriculum and the inflexibility in the choice of modules they could take.

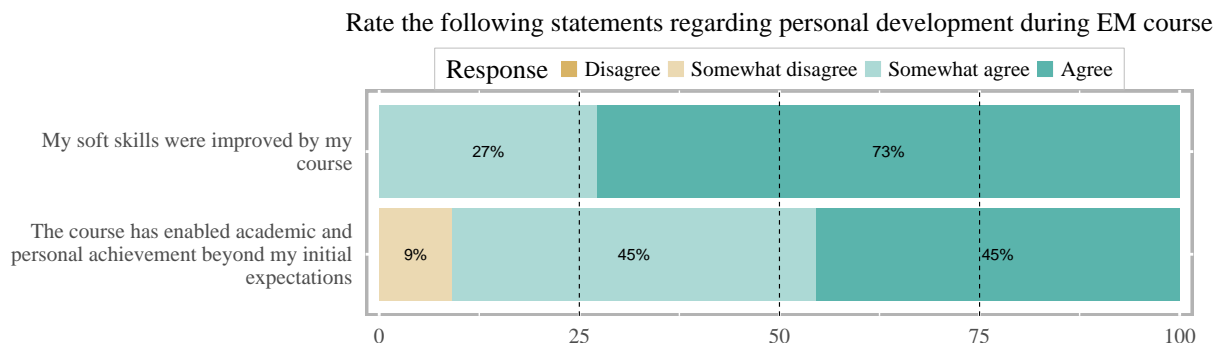
Some respondents (13%) addressed the efficiency of coordination between various consortium members and the **consistency of standards across attended universities**. Several respondents were concerned with **significant differences in the quality of teaching** between consortium universities. They suggested that **overlap in contents** between different institutions made some courses redundant. Another major concern was a **difference in assessment methods** among the consortium members which seemed confusing for some of the respondents. A small number of respondents underlined the **lack of administrative coordination and communication** between universities which made mobility between institutions somewhat difficult.

Importantly, 10% of responses emphasized the **positive impact studying as part of an Erasmus Mundus Master's course had on their personal growth** mentioning positive changes in their behavior, having had gained invaluable personal skills and confidence, and referred to their Erasmus Mundus course as a 'life changing experience'.

6 Internship/field experience and personal development

6.1 Personal development

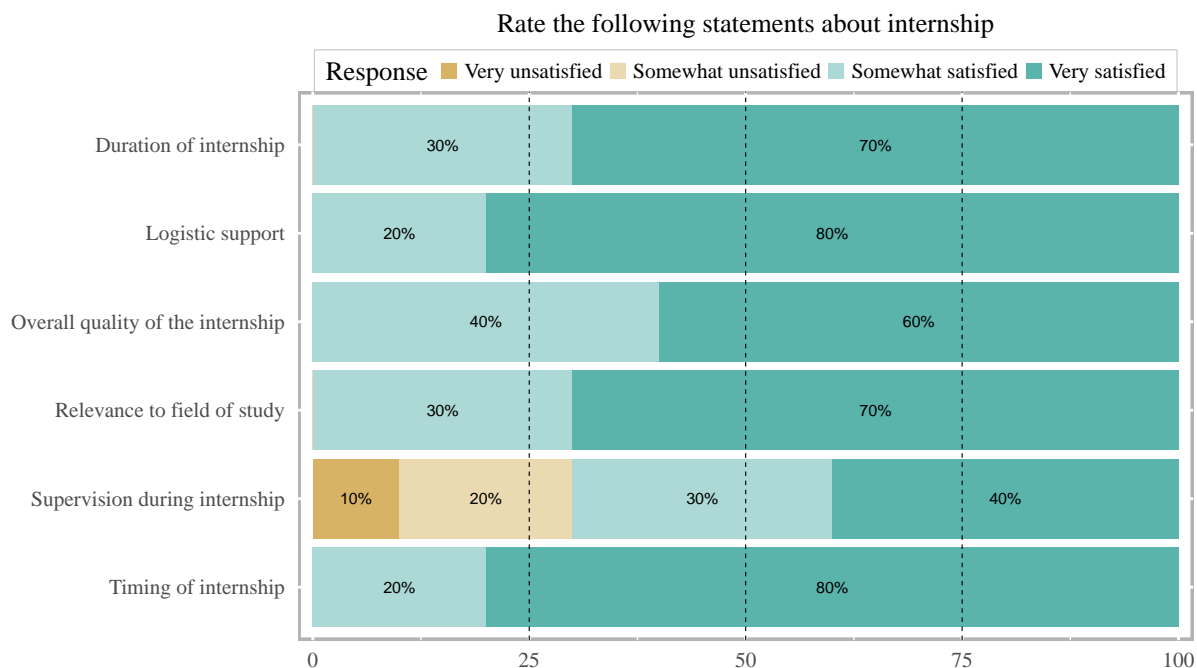
Overall students reported very high levels of satisfaction for personal development. All of the students expressed some level of agreement with “My soft skills were improved by my course”, with 73% reporting to “agree”. For “The course has enabled academic and personal achievement beyond my initial expectations”, 45% of the students reported to “agree”, although 9% expressed to “somewhat disagree”.



	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
My soft skills were improved by my course	11	3.73	3.50	2.90 - 3.40	3.41 - 3.56	3.57 - 3.71	3.72 - 4.00
The course has enabled academic and personal achievement beyond my initial expectations	11	3.36	3.31	2.46 - 3.20	3.21 - 3.37	3.38 - 3.56	3.57 - 3.91

Table 7: Summary statistics

6.2 Internship



	n	Mean	EM mean	0% - 25%	25% - 50%	50% - 75%	75% - 100%
Duration of internship	10	3.70	3.47	3.00 - 3.35	3.36 - 3.59	3.60 - 3.71	3.72 - 3.90
Logistic support	10	3.80	3.24	2.41 - 3.09	3.10 - 3.25	3.26 - 3.56	3.57 - 3.80
Overall quality of the internship	10	3.60	3.46	2.30 - 3.29	3.30 - 3.50	3.51 - 3.71	3.72 - 4.00
Relevance to field of study	10	3.70	3.66	2.70 - 3.53	3.54 - 3.68	3.69 - 3.79	3.80 - 4.00
Supervision during internship	10	3.00	3.32	2.60 - 3.18	3.19 - 3.30	3.31 - 3.65	3.66 - 4.00
Timing of internship	10	3.80	3.58	2.90 - 3.59	3.60 - 3.67	3.68 - 3.79	3.80 - 4.00

Table 8: Summary statistics

Open responses by CQSS respondents to the question: "In what way could your course have supported you better to find a job" (n = 37)

When asked about the ways in which their EMJMD course could improve students' prospects of finding a job, 35% of respondents mentioned that **internships** may represent one of the most significant addition to their Erasmus Mundus experience.

Additionally, respondents (27%) highlighted the need to have more **opportunities to engage and network with representatives from the industry and labour market** (e.g. campus activities for recruitment, establish specific networks and partnerships with companies).

Other tangible suggested actions include **the establishment of alumni networks, access to online platforms with job vacancies, mentoring for teachers on career preparation and more practical emphasis as part of the course curriculum.**

7 Acknowledgments

The work of CQAB would not exist and could not continue without the **support of numerous committed volunteers spread all across the world**, driven by a strong motivation to help improve the quality of EMJMD courses. During the last 18 months, over 40 volunteers were involved with different stages of the CQSS project, from analyzing feedback received following the 2013 edition of the CQSS survey, to coding qualitative data and interpreting descriptive graphical information. **CQAB is grateful, humbled and proud to have supported the CQSS project fully through volunteer work**, and thus without external interference.

Georgiana Mihut was responsible for the challenging task of coordinating the 40 CQAB volunteers. She managed the problems and troubles that unavoidably arise during the work of such a diverse group while working on a very demanding task. Georgiana lead and organized all major steps and tasks during the re-design, implementation and data analysis of the survey.

Mikhail Balyasin is responsible for the substantial improvements to the design and content of course reports, has skilfully generated the graphical information made available in this report and all others, and created the CQSS interactive online platform. **Luis Carvalho** coordinated the process of analyzing the vast qualitative data that emerged from the CQSS survey, rethought the architecture of the CQSS survey and helped streamline the survey experience for respondents. **Waqas Ahmed** kindly provided ongoing support with tasks that needed a last minute volunteer. **Patrik Punco** and **Haneen Deeb** worked tirelessly to create the online version of the CQSS survey, and became SurveyMonkey experts in the process. Additionally, **Hannen** was involved in the process of restructuring the survey together with Luis. The new version of the CQSS survey benefited from the proofreading skills of **Tugce Schmitt** and **Chiara Dalla Libera**. **Chiara** has graciously facilitated our internal communication before the creation of a communication team. **Kristina Jaksa**, **Zhanna Saidenova**, **Sayeeda Amber Sayed**, **Rediet Tesfaye** and **Hacer Tarcanli** brought an invaluable contribution to the analysis of the qualitative data emerging from the 2015 CQSS survey. Completing the qualitative analysis was far from being a simple task, and their attention to detail, team effort and systematic approach under the coordination of **Luis** serve as an example of good practice in analyzing large sets of qualitative data.

In the fall of 2015, CQAB conducted a new recruitment process to consolidate its volunteer basis. The new CQAB members provided invaluable contributions towards finalizing the products emerging from the CQSS survey, including the 78 course reports CQAB generated this year. **Aferdita Pustina**, **Eias Hausen**, **Felix Donkor**, **Jacob Sydenham**, **Joanna Dziadkowiec**, **Marsela Giovani Husen**, **Mattia Gusella**, **Pouneh Eftekhari**, **Rishikesh Ganjwe**, **Thuy Van Truong**, **Tiana Vekic**, **Tijana Maksimovic**, **Ana Godonoga**, **Bishnu Sarker**, **Chengjia Wang**, **Daniel Prasetyo**, **Elizabeth Humberstone**, **Habtamu Diriba Garomssa**, **Kseniia Goroshko**, **Nuoya Chen**, **Xinyu Wang**, and **Sonja Song** offered meaning and provided text to the numerous graphs that emerged for each course from the quantitative analysis of the CQSS survey. Combined, these volunteers wrote 91,163 words, or 1169 customized words for each report. Each of them wrote an average of 4144 words.

Primary analyst for that report is **Tiana Vekic** and *secondary analyst* is **Aferdita Pustina**.

Muhammad Sohaib Aslam, **Wei Wang**, **Wenjie Shi**, and **Yemi Adeyeye**, members of the newly formed CQAB Communication Team provided support on communication tasks, proofreading and more. **Catherine Lourdes Dy** joined the CQSS task force by provided last minute proofreading help.

