OUCS Thema survey of Oxford students' experience of technology

About this survey

Welcome! This survey is part of Thema, a research project in the Computing Services department which is investigating students' experiences of computers and other digital technologies. The findings will help the University to understand how students use contemporary technologies and what role these technologies might play in its courses. They will also contribute to a broader picture of students' experiences nationwide.

The survey is divided into four sections (pages) which ask you about a) yourself, b) your use of technology in general, c) your experience of technology on your course and d) the extent to which you are familiar with the new "social" Websites such as FaceBook, Flickr and YouTube, as well as messaging. It should take you about 10 minutes to complete all the questions.

<u>When you have finished</u>…
Click the "Save and exit" message (NB Don't click the Cancel message or close this browser window as you'll lose everything that you have written!).

All fully completed surveys will be eligible for a prize draw, with the chance to win a video iPod. Entry into the draw is optional, so tell us in question 2 if you would like to take part. You'll also need to give us our University card number. However, we will discard it from the survey data immediately after use, so your responses will be stored anonymously and you will not be identifiable in any published work.

Thank you very much for taking part.

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To start, click "Next Page" below.

A: About you…

In this section we would like you to tell us about yourself:

1. The <u>barcode</u> number on your University card:
(It's the number immediately above the barcode). We will remove it from the survey data after use.

[   ]

2. Would you like to take part in the prize draw?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

3. Which degree are you studying for?

- ○ Undergraduate
- ○ Postgraduate: taught Master's degree (MSc, MBA, MSt, MJur, BCL, BPhil, MPhil)
- ○ Postgraduate: Diploma or certificate (PGCert, PGDip, Cert Theology)
- ○ Teacher training (PGCE)
- ○ Research degree (e.g. MLitt, DPhil)
- ○ Other (please specify)

[   ]

4. Which year of your course are you in?

- ○ 1st. Also click this box if your course is only one year long
- ○ 2nd
- ○ 3rd
- ○ 4th or above

5. What are you studying? You can tick more than one subject if you need to.

- Anthropology
- Area studies (e.g. African, Latin American, China, Japanese, Russian & E European)
- Archaeology or Ancient History
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences incl. Plant Sciences, Zoology
- Business Studies, Management
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Computer Science/Informatics
- Earth Sciences
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering, Materials
- English
- Environment
- Geography, Transport
- Geosciences
- History, incl. Art History
- International Development
- Law, Criminology
- Mathematics, Statistics
- Medicine and related subjects
- Medieval/Modern Languages incl. Linguistics
- Music
- Oriental Studies
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology, Social Work, Social Policy
- Theology
- Other

6. To which division of the University does your faculty, department or unit belong?

- Humanities
- Mathematics, Physical & Life Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Continuing Education
- I'm not sure

7. Your age

- 18-21
- 22-24
- 25-34

jn 35-54

jn 55 or over

8. Your gender

jn Male

jn Female

9. Did you have a gap in your studies before you started this course at Oxford?
For example, you may have taken a "gap year" between school and university, or you may have returned to studying after several years in a job or raising a family.

jn No gap

jn Between 1 and 2 years

jn Between 2 and 5 years

jn More than 5 years and less than 10 years

jn 10 years or more

10. Is English your native language?

jn Yes

jn No

11. Where do you do most of your private studying (i.e. when you aren't in classes, lectures or tutorials)? You can tick more than one box.

ϵ Home/college room/student residence

ϵ Library

ϵ Postgraduate study room in my department

ϵ Learning centre or other study facilities within the university

ϵ In my place of work

ϵ Other (please specify)

[   ]

B. Your use of technology in general

The questions in this section ask about your general use of computers and other digital technologies:

12. <u>On average</u>, how many hours do you spend on the computer each day? (Include time spent using it for personal and social purposes as well as for your studies.)

- ◯ 1 hour or less
- ◯ Between 1 and 3
- ◯ Between 3 and 6
- ◯ More than 6

13. How many of the digital technologies listed below do you own at the moment? Tick as many boxes as you need.

- ☐ Laptop or tablet computer
- ☐ Mobile phone
- ☐ iPod or MP3 player (also tick this box if your mobile phone has one)
- ☐ Personal digital assistant (PDA) or handheld computer e.g. iPAQ (also tick this box if your mobile phone has PDA-like functions)
- ☐ Webcam

14. If you have a <u>laptop or tablet PC</u>, does it have any of the following features? Tick each box that applies, even if you don't actually use the feature.

- ☐ Wireless connectivity
- ☐ Bluetooth connectivity
- ☐ Mobile phone connectivity
- ☐ None of these / I don't know what these are / Not applicable

15. If you have a <u>mobile phone or PDA</u>, does it have any of the following features? Tick each box that applies, even if you don't actually use the feature.

- ☐ Web access
- ☐ Email access (other than via a Website)
- ☐ Wireless connectivity
- ☐ Bluetooth connectivity
- ☐ None of these / I don't know what these are / Not applicable

16. How well can you use the following programs to carry out tasks like the examples given?

	By myself (using help or a manual if necessary)	Need help from someone who can do it already	Never used
Word processor (e.g. Word, to write an essay or report with subheadings and page numbers)	◯	◯	◯
Spreadsheet (e.g. Excel, to design a new sheet & enter simple numerical data)	◯	◯	◯
Database (e.g. Access, to create a new database of your own with simple text entries)	◯	◯	◯
Graphics program (e.g. Photoshop, to crop an image or convert it from colour to B&W)	◯	◯	◯
Web authoring tool (e.g. FrontPage or Dreamweaver, to create a personal webpage)	◯	◯	◯
Presentation tool (e.g. Powerpoint, to create a short talk with slides)	◯	◯	◯

Chat program (e.g. MSN Messenger, to talk to someone in another country)	jn	jn	jn
Search engine (e.g. Google, to find websites related to a particular theme or keyword)	jn	jn	jn

17. Please indicate in general terms how you use the email addresses(s) that you have. You can tick more than one box if you need to.

	I use this address for communications about my studies	I use this address for personal and social purposes	I automatically forward (redirect) messages sent here to another address	I do not use this address/I do not have such an address
Your Oxford University email address (i.e. Your.Name@xxxx.ox.ac.uk)	€	€	€	€
Your personal/home email address (e.g. hotmail, gmail, btinternet)	€	€	€	€
Your email address at your place of work (if you are in employment)	€	€	€	€

18. In general, how much do you like using computers and other digital technologies? Please rate yourself on this scale:

jn I don't like using technology at all

jn I don't like using technology very much

jn I don't mind whether I use technology or not

jn I quite enjoy using technology

jn I enjoy using technology very much

C. Technology and your course

Here we would like you to tell us about the way in which computers and digital technologies have been used in your course and about any specific experiences that you have had in this respect.

19. Let's think about the amount of technology use in your course. Overall, have your lecturers and tutors used technology more than you expected, or less than you expected? Please rate your answer on this scale:

jn A lot less than I expected

jn A bit less than I expected

jn About the same as I expected

jn A bit more than I expected

jn A lot more than I expected

jn I didn't really have any expectations

20. Does the University require you to have your own laptop for use in class?

jn Yes

jn No

21. Let's think about the effectiveness of technology use in your course. Overall, to what extent have your lecturers and tutors used technology in a way that has motivated you and benefited your learning? Please rate your opinion on this scale:

jn Very ineffective use

jn Fairly ineffective use

jn No particular opinion

jn   Quite effective use

jn   Highly effective use

22. If you can, please give one example where a tutor used technology in an exciting or creative way:

jn ...Close down your email inbox etc. so that you can concentrate wholly on your work?

23. Suppose you're using the computer to prepare (i.e. research and write) an essay, report or other assignment. Do you...

jn ...Close down your email inbox etc. so that you can concentrate wholly on your work?

jn ...Focus on your work, but maybe check your email etc. every 30 minutes or so?

jn ...Switch between your work and email, your chat window, Facebook etc. every few minutes?

jn ...Work in another way? If so, please tell us:

24. How much do you like using computers and other technology <u>in your studies</u>? Please rate yourself on this scale:

jn   I don't like using technology at all

jn   I don't like using technology very much

jn   I don't mind whether I use technology or not

jn   I quite enjoy using technology

jn   I enjoy using technology very much

25. Do you feel that you have sufficient IT skills to use the tools and technologies that are required in your course?

jn   Yes

jn   No

jn   It's difficult to say

26. Suppose that you need to use an online tool or a computer program in your course that you haven't used before. Here are four ways in which you might learn how to use it. Please indicate on the scale how likely you are to try each one:

	Very unlikely	Not very likely	Not sure	Quite likely	Very likely
Find out if the faculty/department/college organises training	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Find out if the central Computing Services run a training course	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Try to learn to use it by myself, perhaps using a help system or manual	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Get together with a friend, perhaps using a help system or manual	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Finally in this section, we would like you to tell us about the 3 most <u>useful, exciting or impressive</u> tools or Websites which

you started using during the course. It doesn't matter whether you have used them for your studies or for personal/social purposes: we're interested in everything. For example, they could be:

- Websites of resources for your subject
- "Productivity" tools e.g. EndNote, RefWorks, modelling tools or computer-aided design tools
- "Social" sites e.g. Facebook, Flickr, YouTube
- Hardware e.g. webcam, interactive whiteboard

Leave the questions blank if nothing in particular has impressed you.

27. Tool/Website no. 1: Name and short description or Web address:

28. How did you find out about this tool?

- j From a tutor/lecturer
- j From another student on my course/in my college
- j I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- j From another source (please tell us):

29. Tool/Website no. 2: Name and short description or Web address:

30. How did you find out about this tool?

- j From a tutor/lecturer
- j From another student on my course/in my college
- j I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- j From another source (please tell us):

31. Tool/Website no. 3: Name and short description or Web address:

32. How did you find out about this tool?

- j From a tutor/lecturer
- j From another student on my course/in my college
- j I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)
- j From another source (please tell us):

D. "Social software"

We are also investigating students' use of "social software" or "Web 2.0 tools:" i.e. Websites that are characterised by user-generated content and often involve collaboration and sharing.
In this final section of the survey, we ask you to indicate how familiar you are with different types of social software. It doesn't matter whether you have used them in your studies or not: we're interested in <u>any</u> use that you have made of them.

33. Wikipedia and other online encyclopaedias that allow users to add and edit material:

- ☐ I have added/edited material in one
- ☐ I have looked up information in one
- ☐ I have heard of online encyclopaedias but have never used one
- ☐ I do not know what online encyclopaedias are

34. Websites for storing photographs, images and/or videos and sharing them with other people, e.g. Flickr, YouTube:

- ☐ I have put my own materials on such sites
- ☐ I have looked at other people's material on this sort of site but haven't added any of my own
- ☐ I have heard of such sites but have never used one
- ☐ I do not know what these sites are

35. Podcasts (incl. video podcasts):

- ☐ I have created podcasts myself <u>and</u> listened to other people's podcasts
- ☐ I have listened to podcasts created by other people
- ☐ I have heard of podcasts but have never listened to one
- ☐ I do not know what podcasts are

36. Blogs (online journals) written by other people:

- ☐ I read other people's blogs and add comments if I have something to say
- ☐ I read other people's blogs but don't add any comments
- ☐ I have heard of blogs but have never read one
- ☐ I do not know what blogs are

37. Do you have your own blog?

- ☐ Yes, I write in it regularly and respond to the comments that people make
- ☐ I have started a blog but I don't write in it very much
- ☐ I did have my own blog but have stopped writing in it
- ☐ I have never had my own blog

38. Social networking sites for keeping in touch with people and finding out about events e.g. MySpace, Facebook:

- ☐ I have an account (profile) and use it regularly
- ☐ I have an account (profile) but don't use it very much
- ☐ I have heard about this sort of site but have never used one
- ☐ I do not know what social networking sites are

39. Social bookmarking tool for storing Website addresses online so that you can access them anywhere and/or share them with others e.g. del.icio.us, Furl:

- Yes, I use one
- I have heard of social bookmarking tools but have never used one
- I do not know what social bookmarking tools are

40. Online calendar e.g. Google Calendar, iCal, Yahoo Calendar:

- Yes, I use one
- I have heard of online calendars but have never used one
- I do not know what online calendars are

41. Newsfeeds (RSS) that give you the latest information from particular Websites:

- I read newsfeeds on websites, through a browser and/or through an aggregator (e.g. Bloglines, Google Reader)
- I have heard of newsfeeds but I don't read them
- I do not know what newsfeeds are

42. Communication tools:

	Yes, I use this regularly	Yes, I use this but not very often	I have heard of this but have never used it	I do not know what this is
Internet telephony (VOIP): e.g. Skype, Ventrilo				
Chat or instant messaging: e.g. MSN Messenger, Google Talk				
Discussion forum (but not as part of your studies)				
Newsgroup				

43. Virtual worlds e.g. Second Life, There

- I regularly spend time in a virtual world
- I have created my own avatar but don't spend much time in the virtual world
- I did have my own avatar but have stopped using the virtual world
- I have heard of virtual worlds but have never been in one
- I do not know what a virtual world is

44. Multiplayer online games that you play over the Internet with other people: e.g. EverQuest, Eve, chess

- I regularly play at least one such game
- I have tried playing them but I don't play regularly
- I did play such games but have stopped
- I have heard of multiplayer online games but have never played one
- I do not know what multiplayer online games are

This is the end of the survey: thank you very much for taking part. For more information about the Thema project, please visit our Website at http://thema.oucs.ox.ac.uk.
We will email the winner of the prize draw by 15th June.