

What students think – Report for candidates in the election.

This dataset represents a broad, multi-campus snapshot of UWS student sentiment, covering study experience, financial pressures, facilities, union services, and university operations. The feedback spans Paisley, Lanarkshire, Ayr, Dumfries, London, and online cohorts, with strong representation from Health & Life Sciences, Computing & Engineering, and Business & Creative Industries.

Overall sentiment is mixed: many students cite *positive teaching experiences and supportive staff*, but there are significant, repeated concerns around facilities, communication, financial strain, and academic organisation.

PART 1 — THEMATIC BREAKDOWN BY CAMPUS (DETAILED)

Each campus includes:

- **Top Themes**
- **Theme Frequency (Low/Medium/High/Very High)**
- **Severity Rating (1–5)**
- **Representative Examples**
- **Risks/Impact**
- **Recommended Actions (Targeted)**

PAISLEY CAMPUS

1. Facilities Issues

Frequency: High

Severity: 4/5

Issues Identified:

- Only one student microwave on campus, and it is broken.
- Parking described as “a nightmare.”
- Poor signage around buildings.
- Requests for more hot water access.[\[1\]](#)

Representative Comment:

“The microwave above The Neuk is not working... this is the only microwave available.”

“Parking is a nightmare!”

[\[1\]](#)

Impact:

- Direct effect on wellbeing during long days.

- Students spending more money on food.
- Accessibility barriers for commuting students.

Recommended Actions:

- Replace/repair microwaves immediately.
 - Expand parking capacity or implement digital occupancy management.
 - Improve wayfinding and signage across campus.
-

2. Academic Delivery & Organisation

Frequency: Medium–High

Severity: 4/5

Issues:

- Chaotic modules, especially in years 2–3 of Mental Health Nursing.
- Room sizes too small for growing class numbers.
- Inconsistent lecturer communication.

[\[1\]](#)

Representative Comment:

“Classes were chaotic and frantic — little actual academic support.”

[\[1\]](#)

Impact:

- Heightened anxiety around assessments.
- Perception of academic inequality between cohorts.

Recommended Actions:

- Standardise module delivery frameworks.
 - Increase academic support workshops in weeks 2–10.
 - Audit room allocations vs. actual class sizes.
-

3. Student Support Gaps

Frequency: Medium

Severity: 3/5

Issues:

- Personal tutors not initiating contact.
- Students struggling to join societies (e.g., psychology society application failures).[\[1\]](#)

Recommended Actions:

- Mandatory PT check-in schedule.
 - Fix society sign-up portal and automate confirmations.
-

4. Financial Issues

Frequency: Medium

Severity: 4/5

Issues:

- Confusion around term-based payment deadlines.
 - Students requesting more flexible instalments.[\[1\]](#)
-

LANARKSHIRE CAMPUS

1. Facilities (Dominant Theme)

Frequency: VERY HIGH

Severity: 5/5

Issues:

- **Microwaves removed entirely** — biggest pain point across entire dataset.
- Canteen prices too high.
- Charging ports broken across multiple buildings.
- Water fountains slow / too few.
- Requests for kettles and designated food-heating zones.[\[1\]](#)

Representative Comments:

“We need microwaves or kettles.”

“Canteen prices are too expensive.”

“Charging ports broken for years.”[\[1\]](#)

Impact:

- Students on placement and low-income students disproportionately affected.
- Creates strong negative perceptions of campus experience.

Recommended Actions:

- Install supervised microwave stations near café.
 - Reduce food price margins or expand value meal offerings.
 - Launch electrical maintenance audit across campus.
-

2. Library Hours Reduced (24/7 Removal)

Frequency: VERY HIGH

Severity: 5/5

Issues:

- Strong opposition to the new 9pm closure.
- Mature students, carers, parents, and placement-heavy students heavily impacted.[\[1\]](#)

Representative Comments:

“I passed my exams because of access after 9pm.”

“24/7 access is essential — home study is impossible.”

“Please restore the library back to 24 hours.”[\[1\]](#)

Recommended Actions:

- Reinstate 24/7 access during peak assessment periods.
 - Pilot extended hours (e.g., midnight) for 6 weeks.
-

3. Placement Inequalities (Nursing & Midwifery)

Frequency: High

Severity: 5/5

Issues:

- Some students received placement allocations months later than peers.
- Lack of choice in placement areas.
- Ward staff not trained on placement documentation.
[\[1\]](#)

Recommended Actions:

- Transparent placement release calendar.
 - Training package for ward mentors.
 - Allow ranking of preferred placement areas.
-

4. Financial Pressure

Frequency: Medium–High

Severity: 4/5

Key groups impacted:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedic Science

Many report severe cost-of-living difficulties.

[\[1\]](#)

LONDON CAMPUS

1. Facilities Deficits

Frequency: VERY HIGH

Severity: 5/5

Issues:

- **No microwaves, no hot water**, no affordable food options.
- Students compare UWS negatively to neighbouring universities.[\[1\]](#)

Representative Comment:

“I had to go to Anglia Ruskin to heat my food — they have 5–6 microwaves.”

[\[1\]](#)

2. Academic Organisation & Timetabling

Frequency: High

Severity: 4/5

Issues:

- Long gaps between classes (3+ hours).
 - One entire module taught online due to lack of classroom space.
 - Aula/Moodle difficult to navigate without induction support.[\[1\]](#)
-

3. Financial Administration Problems

Frequency: High

Severity: 5/5

Issues:

- Portal shows various fee plans but only one is valid for internationals.
- Billing errors; some students charged for the wrong year.

[\[1\]](#)

4. Student Support Gaps

Frequency: High

Severity: 4/5

Issues:

- London students feel “ignored” by central management.

- Need for stronger SU presence.[\[1\]](#)
-

AYR CAMPUS

1. Facilities

Frequency: Medium–High

Severity: 4/5

Issues:

- Too few microwaves.
 - Limited dietary options.
 - Repetitive canteen menu.[\[1\]](#)
-

2. Academic Experience

Frequency: High

Severity: 3/5

Mixed feedback:

- Extremely positive praise for Childhood Studies staff.
 - Nursing students note repetitive and unengaging on-campus teaching.
[\[1\]](#)
-

3. Student Union Presence

Frequency: Medium

Severity: 3/5

Requests for union bar reopening and more events.

DUMFRIES CAMPUS

1. Facilities

Frequency: Medium

Severity: 4/5

Issues accessing creative studios (ceramics, printmaking, digital suite).

[\[1\]](#)

2. Academic Support

- No dyslexia support for a trimester.[\[1\]](#)
-

PART 2 — THEMATIC BREAKDOWN BY SCHOOL (DETAILED)

School of Health & Life Sciences

Dominant Themes

1. **Microwave & hot water shortages (very high frequency)**
2. **Placement inequality & documentation issues**
3. **High financial strain (bursary insufficient)**
4. **Canteen food too expensive**
5. **Low academic organisation in some nursing programmes**[\[1\]](#)

Severity: 5/5

This school shows the highest distress levels in the dataset.

School of Business & Creative Industries

Dominant Themes

1. **Timetabling issues (London especially)**
2. **Inconsistent academic support**
3. **Requests for more events and SU presence**
4. **Poor facilities in some locations (microwaves, hot water)**[\[1\]](#)

Severity: 3/5

School of Computing, Engineering & Physical Sciences

Dominant Themes

1. **Need for updated curriculum aligned to industry**
2. **Facilities inadequate: charging ports, lab access, microwaves**
3. **Classrooms too small for cohort sizes**
4. **Technical barriers (older systems not supported)**
[\[1\]](#)

Severity: 4/5

School of Education & Social Sciences

Dominant Themes

1. **Strong praise for Ayr staff (Childhood Studies)**
2. **Concerns about tutor professionalism in some PGDip courses**
3. **Requests for preferred name/pronoun system**
4. **Placement and assignment clarity issues**

[1]

Severity: 3/5 (but with isolated 5/5 issues)

Cross-School Patterns

Across all schools, the following appear consistently:

Theme	Frequency	Severity
Microwave & food-heating access	Very High	5/5
Financial admin problems	High	4/5
Canteen price concerns	High	4/5
Academic communication gaps	High	4/5
Library hours concerns (Lanarkshire)	Very High	5/5
Placement allocation concerns	High (Health)	5/5