

Unlike out other categories, this award is not decided by our esteemed judges but rather by the results of a survey, carries out by market research company YouthSight, of about 15,000 students from institutions across the country. Universities where more than 50 students were interviewed were ranked, with 90 of the 114 institutions included returning at least 100 respondents.

The winner is the institution the "advanced most in terms of both the ranked increase in its absolute score and in terms of its ranked position", said James MacGregor, YouthSight's director for higher education.

This year, that honour goes to Cardiff Metropolitan University, which scored particularly high on good relationships with teaching staff, helpful and interested general staff, and a good community atmosphere.

The has helps it climb 28 places in the ranking and to improve its overall scored by four points.

"in our experience, these things don't happen by accident: a strong effort is required to improve the connection and engagement between staff and students. And according to our analysts, improvement in these areas can pay big dividends," Mr. MacGregor said.

"In addition, Cardiff Met students gave high ratings for facilities in general and the library specifically."

Ben Marks, managing director of YouthSight, said this year's survey had been the most comprehensive the firm ha carried out on the subject.

"This year we surveyed more than 15,000 students, an increase of 1,000 over the previous year, making this the biggest Student Experience Survey for *Times Higher Education*.