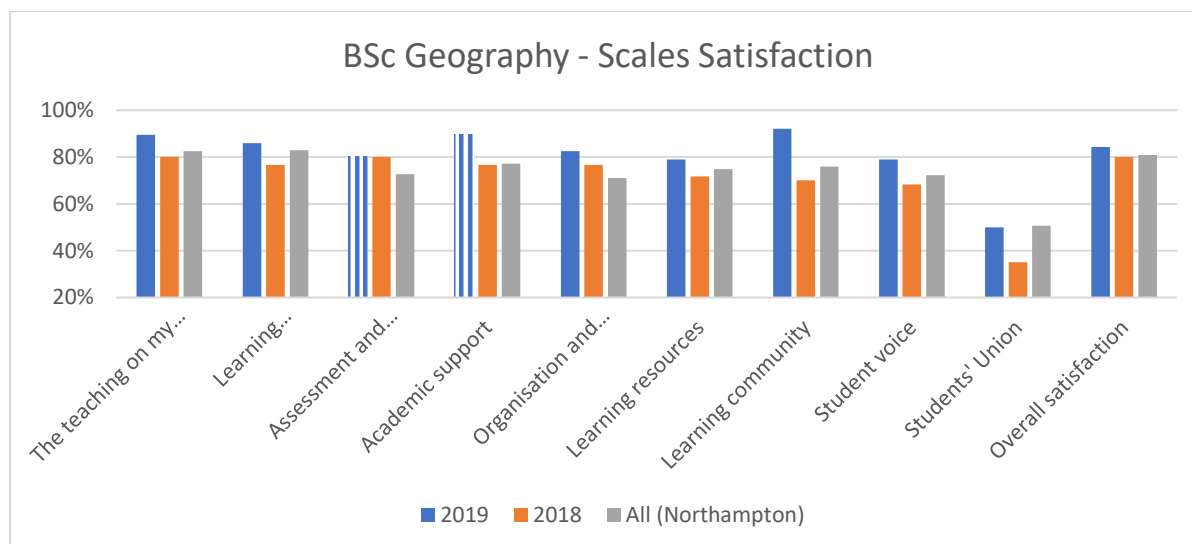


### **BSc Geography**

There was an improvement in overall approval of four ppts for BSc Geography to take it above the University-wide mark. Indeed, satisfaction has grown on every scale since last year and is ahead of the University across the board, except for the Students' Union by a fractional amount. Thus, both assessment and feedback, as well as academic support, have surpassed the respective Northampton targets, while teaching missed out on repeating the trick by a negligible 0.5 ppts. In the case of academic support, 95% felt that they had received sufficient course advice (Q13) – a rise of 25 ppts.



However, there were plummets in scores on individual questions:

- Fair marking (Q9, assessment and feedback scale): 68% (down by 12ppts);
- Efficient timetabling (Q16, organisation and management scale): 63% (down by 17 ppts);
- IT resources (Q18, learning resources scale): 63% (down by 12 ppts).

Numerous respondents were highly complimentary of the programme's field trips, which were described as 'amazing' and a 'great way to learn'. Indeed, one student opined that the USA trip was a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience. Others expressed satisfaction with the feedback they had received, which was 'always useful to help me improve for other assignments', according to a respondent. Meanwhile, students also appreciated the class sizes, which were small and thus produced 'more face-to-face learning time'. Moreover, the course was recognised for being well-organised.

However, there was disapproval regarding the standard of marking. Indeed, one respondent said: "Not all staff are consistent with marking criteria." Another added: "When teachers are marking, they mark to how they like it individually rather than how it should be marked." Two sample members wondered whether the Human Geography pathway could have a greater choice of modules, while there were issues with the GIS software (that it was 'often problematic, needs updating' or 'not available at home', while 'computers for GIS work [are] not available [until] 6pm').

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** All assignments should have clear and detailed marking rubrics to ensure fair and consistent marking. More reliable and greater accessibility to GIS is needed. Better promotion of the MyNorthampton app to staff is required, so that they send out notifications to students in the event of room changes.