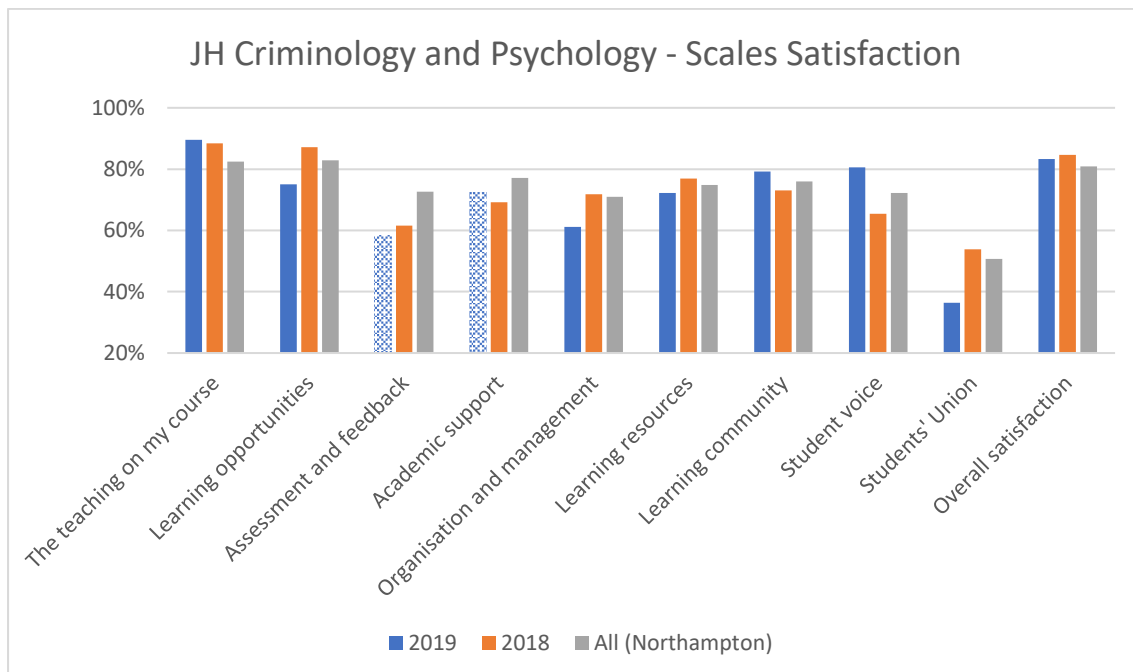


JH Criminology and Psychology

Despite a negligible fall from the previous year, overall satisfaction for JH Criminology and Psychology remains above the University's threshold. Meanwhile, course teaching is less than 0.5 ppts from attaining its target, as all respondents found the course intellectually stimulating (Q3). However, assessment and feedback has now descended to below 60%, with scores as follows:

- Clear marking criteria (Q8): 58% (up by 12 ppts);
- Fair marking (Q9): 58% (down by 11 ppts);
- Timely feedback (Q10): 42% (down by 12 ppts);
- Helpful comments (Q11): 75% (down by two ppts).

Also below its threshold is academic support, with less than three-fifths concluding that advice was available to make study choices (Q14). Moreover, only 42% believed the programme to be well-organised (Q15, organisation and management scale), after a regress of 28 ppts.



A couple of respondents outlined differences between Psychology and Criminology. Both praised the former, declaring to be 'extremely happy ... with the Psychology department and modules'; however, Criminology faced a criticism at its staff, while one said: "Some of the modules do not feel that they will help me in my exams and criminological understanding."

Another added: "Feedback is not timely, and for a specific course, the assessment structure was very unclear and that will influence people's grades." One sample member felt that Joint Honours students 'do not get the same opportunities, knowledge and teaching' as their Single Honours counterparts. They continued: "Single Honours Psychology students had a mini-dissertation in their second year for an assignment; however, Joint Honours students were never given this practice due to the limited Psychology courses we do."

RECOMMENDATIONS: Assignment briefs should be clearly linked to learning outcomes and be distributed to students. All assignments should have clear and detailed marking rubrics to ensure fair and consistent marking. Students must be given timely feedback on their work. Course changes must be communicated to students at the first opportunity. Staff should reflect on the possible perception of Joint Honours students not receiving the advantages of Single Honours students.