The Nottingham Jewish Student Census: What’s Happening on Campus?

Presented by Matthew Davis
About me

- Nottingham Undergraduate in my final year
- Studying Sociology
- Research Methods background
- Orthodox Jew
Origins of this projects

- Set up by Nottingham Jsoc in 2014
- Nottingham as a ‘Jewni’
Aims

- Aimed to understand who Nottingham students are
- Wanted to increase satisfaction
- Looked at how the student Jewish experience could be improved
- Fears that too many organisations are fragmenting the Jewish student experience
Nottingham Breakdown

- University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University
Organisations in Nottingham - Aish/Genesis
Organisations in Nottingham - Chabad
Jewish and Israel Society - JSoc
Sample breakdown

- Date Created: Wednesday, March 05, 2014
- 151 Engagements
- 114 completed responses
Sample

Nottingham Trent University

University of Nottingham
Year of Study
How best would you describe your Jewish identity?

- I do not know much, if...
- I have some knowledge but...
- I have not explored my...
- I am from a traditional...
- I have a strong Jewish...

Answer Choices:
- I do not know much, if anything, about being Jewish. 1.19%
- I have some knowledge but do not attend Jewish events. 1.19%
- I have not explored my Jewish identity but I am open to do so in the future. 0.00%
- I am from a traditional background and have a moderately weak Jewish identity. I will rarely attend Jewish events. 14.29%
- I am from a traditional background and have a moderately strong Jewish identity. I will occasionally attend Jewish events. 36.90%
- I have a strong Jewish identity and attend many Jewish events and wish to continue to do so. 46.43%
## Frequency of attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Frequently</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nottingham</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>J Soc</td>
<td>13.41%</td>
<td>28.05%</td>
<td>21.95%</td>
<td>28.05%</td>
<td>8.54%</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nottingham</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplaincy</td>
<td>29.27%</td>
<td>25.61%</td>
<td>21.95%</td>
<td>20.73%</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chabad</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>22.89%</td>
<td>14.46%</td>
<td>31.33%</td>
<td>6.02%</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aish/Genesis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24.39%</td>
<td>25.61%</td>
<td>15.85%</td>
<td>19.51%</td>
<td>14.63%</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nottingham</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew Congregation</td>
<td>70.37%</td>
<td>16.05%</td>
<td>9.88%</td>
<td>3.70%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>81</td>
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</table>
Inclusivity: Did you feel that the event was inclusive for all?

- **Definitely. Everyone was...** (70.51%, 55 responses)
- **Mostly. I felt included but...** (24.36%, 19 responses)
- **Not at all. I did not feel...** (5.13%, 4 responses)

Total responses: 78
Inclusivity: Which organisation could do more to improve inclusivity?
Location: Asked to rank ideal location for Friday Night Dinner

Only 3 people voted against Lenton being their 1st or 2nd choice, and helps to explain one of the reasons as to the popularity of Chabad and Aish.
### Positive Jewish Experience in Nottingham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham has a vibrant Jewish student community with many exciting events</td>
<td>63.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>throughout the year.</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham is a good place to be a Jewish student but there are other</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>universities where there is more going on.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham has very little services for Jewish students and I would not</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recommend studying here.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 80
Positive Jewish Experience in Nottingham

- “I wear a kippah openly at university and used to wear my tzitzit out for a few months. I’ve never experienced anti-Semitism on my campus. In fact, I’ve experienced curiosity and encouragement more than anything from both Jews and non-Jews.”

- No responses informing of anti-Semitism on campus

- “I think coming to Nottingham has heightened my sense of Jewish identity. I have a lot more Jewish friends which has encouraged my Judaism. I have also brought some of my Jewish friends who had not grown up in a strictly Jewish background to Jewish events.”
Key Finding - The need for a JSoc House in Lenton

- Need to have a base in Lenton to accommodate a central location for most students to access
- Would allow the JSoc to have a space for more speakers and promote inclusivity
What’s happened since?

- Findings were presented to UJS and UJIA
- Helped to inform successive Jewish societies
- Led to motion being put forward at UJS conference in December 2015
Thank you for listening and I will now answer any questions you may have.

For further enquiries I can be contacted at matthew.davis11@ymail.com