

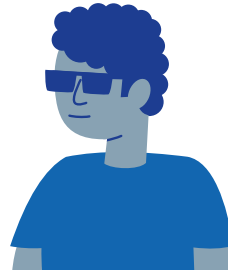
Australian Jewish University Experience Survey

Key results



64%

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM AT UNIVERSITY.



57%

OVER HALF OF JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE HIDDEN THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY AT UNIVERSITY IN ORDER TO AVOID ANTISEMITISM.



76%

THREE-QUARTERS OF JEWISH STUDENTS WOULD BE MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MAKING COMPLAINTS IF THEIR UNIVERSITY ADOPTED A DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM.

ONE IN FIVE JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE AVOIDED CAMPUS IN ORDER TO AVOID ANTISEMITISM.



These are the key findings of a nationwide survey of Jewish university students carried out by the Social Research Centre. Approximately one in every 14 current Jewish university students participated in the survey.

The survey also found that university staff were identified as active participants in antisemitic behaviour on 29 per cent of occasions. And that Jewish students are not submitting complaints about antisemitic incidents because they don't think universities will take them seriously, and they don't think it will make a difference.

A key strength of this survey was asking students about their experiences, rather than relying on reported incidents. Students were also asked whether and how they have modified their behaviour to avoid antisemitism, and why they're not complaining to university administrations.

Experiences of antisemitism

Students experience a wide variety of antisemitism, in classrooms and university grounds, and by staff and students.

64%

OF JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM.

88%

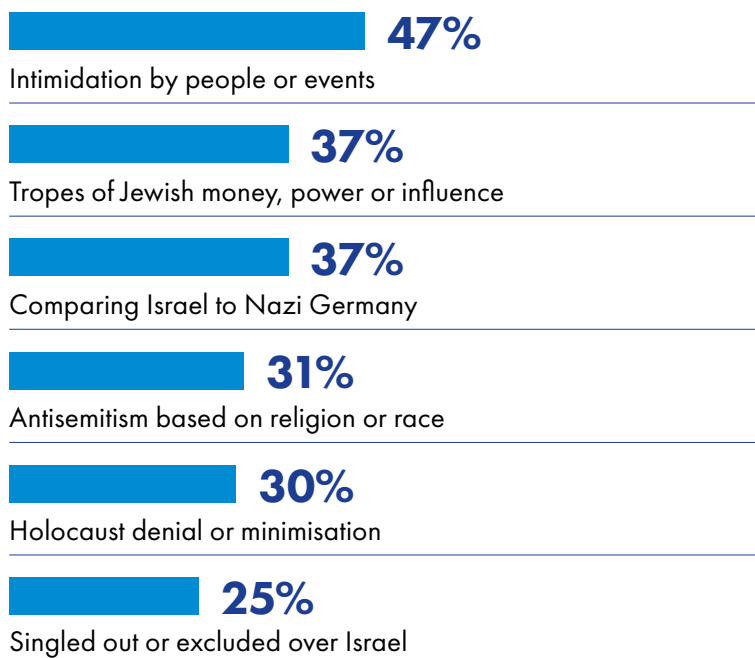
OF THESE HAVE EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

“Almost every day I attend university, I see/hear/witness one or more antisemitic groups or antisemitic incidents. These come from staff, students, materials shown in class ... These range from comments like ‘Nazis were good people’, which was made by an arts faculty chief examiner ... to being told that I would not be welcome in a mainstream progressive club because I am a Zionist.”

“A teacher told me I would be good at business because I was a Jew, and other similar remarks.”

“A person in my class heiled Hitler to me and not a single professor/tutor or student did anything. The uni needs to step up.”

Types of antisemitism experienced



When asked about the most impactful antisemitic incident in the last 12 months:

29%

REPORTED THAT STAFF PARTICIPATED.

70%

REPORTED THAT WHERE STAFF WERE PRESENT BUT NOT INVOLVED, STAFF IGNORED THE INCIDENT.



Behaviour modification to avoid antisemitism



Students are hiding their Jewishness

This shows that experiencing discrimination on campus has long-term impacts

57%



67%

OF STUDENTS HAVE HIDDEN THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY TO AVOID ANTISEMITISM AT UNIVERSITY.

AMONG THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM ALREADY.

Jewish students are avoiding campus

19%



24%

OF JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM CAMPUS TO AVOID ANTISEMITISM.

AMONG FEMALE RESPONDENTS.

Among those who have experienced antisemitism

27%

OVER A QUARTER HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM CAMPUS, AGAIN SHOWING THAT EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATION ON CAMPUS HAS LONG-TERM IMPACTS.

“I feel uncomfortable about being openly Jewish with other students (other than my close friends). Whenever I would mention it, it always feels a bit like coming out, where you don’t exactly know how people will respond, if they will judge you negatively or change their behaviour because of it.”

“The anti-Israel narrative is so overwhelmingly strong on my university campus that I always hide this part of my Jewish identity... I would be nervous about being present at a Jewish society event if an Israeli flag was displayed.”

Lacking confidence in the complaints process

Students are not confident that their university will act on antisemitism. For this reason:

85%

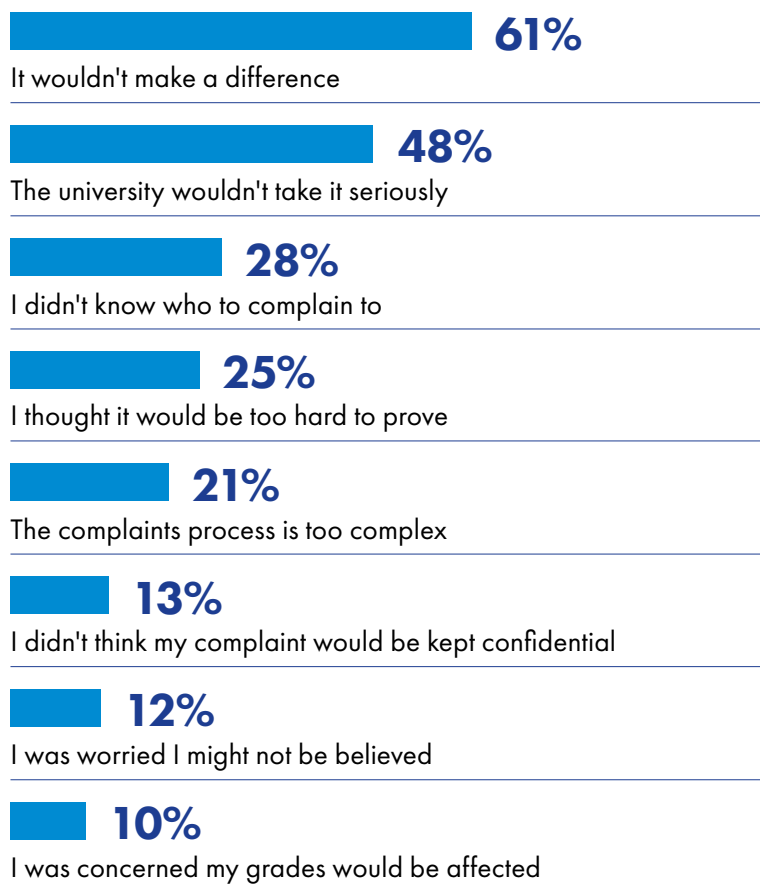
OF STUDENTS DID NOT MAKE A COMPLAINT AFTER THE MOST IMPACTFUL INCIDENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

61%

OF THOSE THAT DID COMPLAIN WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME.



Why didn't you make a complaint?



"A lot of universities ... don't take antisemitic complaints/issues as seriously as others (e.g. homophobic, Islamophobic, and so on)."

"My university handled my complaints about antisemitism disgustingly. Aside from one lecturer who took it seriously, I was ridiculed and intimidated by the faculty when I broached antisemitism. They actually even offered me a deal to force me to shut up, stating that they wouldn't make me pay for unit withdrawal and that they'd wipe it from my record, in exchange for dropping my complaints against an antisemitic marker."

Students want a definition

Most Australian universities do not define antisemitism. Confidence in the complaints process would dramatically rise if they did.

Confidence in complaints processes

37%
Students who are confident making a complaint

76%
Students who would be more confident if their uni adopted a definition of antisemitism

This figure rises still further:

84%

THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT MAKING A COMPLAINT BUT WOULD BE MORE CONFIDENT IF THEIR UNIVERSITY ADOPTED A DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM.

“Not only do we need universities to adopt definitions but provide students and staff with an explanation of the definition they are adopting and why it is important. The IHRA definition is great but people need to understand it if we want to make a difference. It’s not just about getting people ‘in trouble’ for being antisemitic, it’s about explaining to them what is antisemitic and why. The universities are also responsible for this.”

