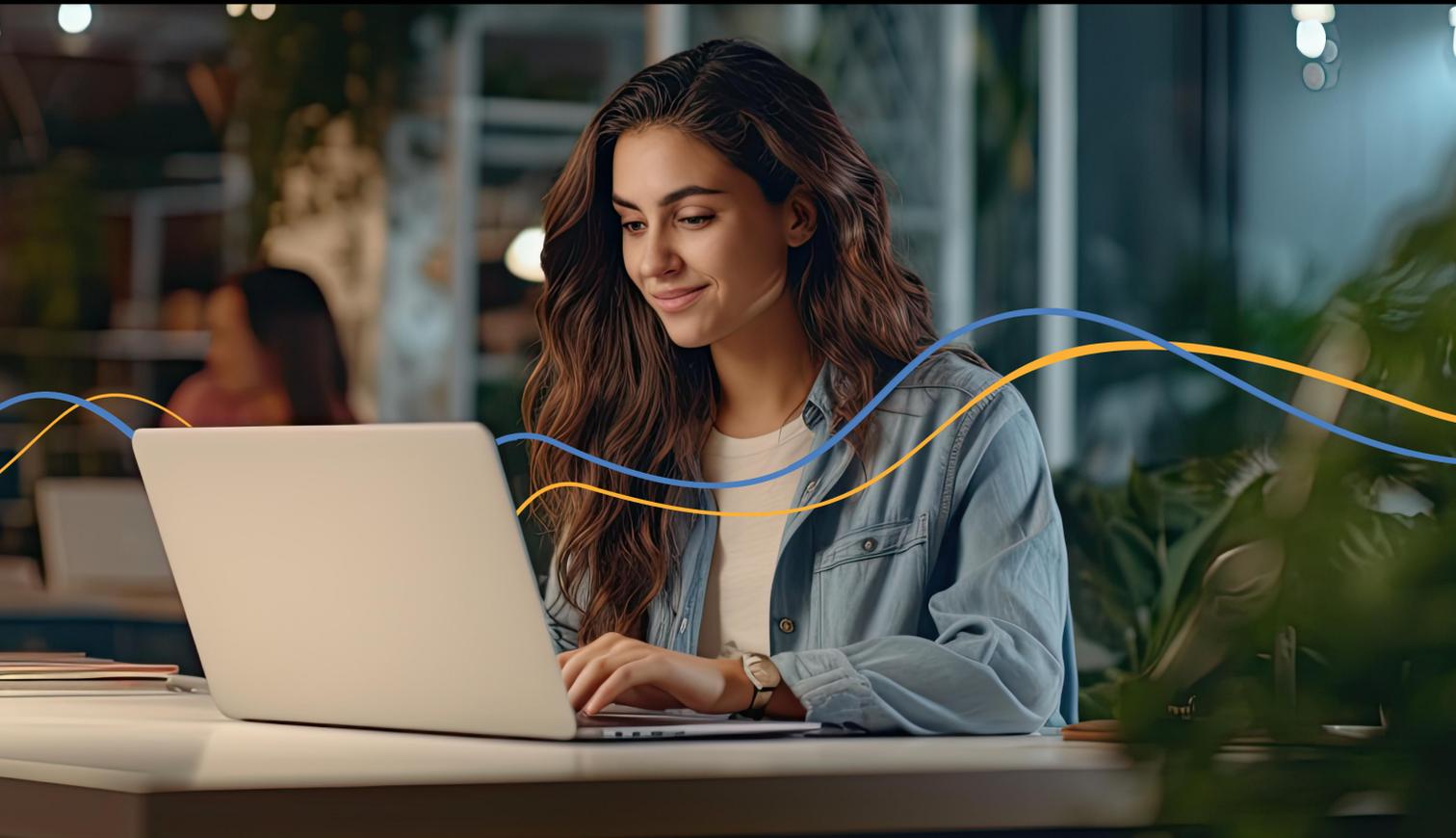


# Challenges and opportunities for higher education in 2026



Key insights from the TCS higher education study:  
Digital readiness and student experience in US, UK and AUS

## Biggest barriers and opportunities for higher education in 2026

### Top barriers to new technology adoption

- #1** Budget constraints
- #2** Lack of scalability
- #3** Legacy infrastructure
- #4** Resistance to change

### Forces impacting university direction

- 

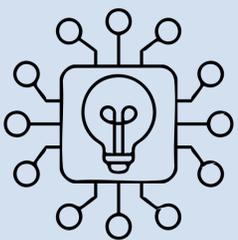
**Develop a clear digital strategy**  
Digital transformation and emerging technologies #3 top driver of university growth
- 

**Redefine student experience**  
Digital equity issues negatively impacting student experiences
- 

**Boost IT investments**  
Prioritize digital transformation, AI/ML, and engagement platforms; strengthen data privacy and security.
- 

**Create a culture of innovation**  
Invest in staff and faculty training to meet rising expectations and improve competitiveness.
- 

**Monitor ROI & outcomes**  
Track impact of AI/ML on student success, retention, and operational efficiency.



### The big takeaway

By embracing a strategic, AI-driven approach to digital transformation, universities can unlock new possibilities and deliver exceptional experiences for students - while strengthening competitiveness in a rapidly changing education landscape.

[Read the full report](#)

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