

# Student Survey phase 1 January / February 2022

## Finance

Commissioned by NUS and NUS

Delivered by NUS Insight

# Project Overview

## Objectives

This is the first survey in a programme of research commissioned by NUS and NUS Charity to understand more about the wider student experience as we emerge from the Coronavirus pandemic.

This research follows on from the previous five waves of the Coronavirus Student Survey that ran from March 2020 to July 2021.

## Methodology

A sample of 3923 was achieved.

Respondents were given a chance to win £500 to encourage response. The survey was promoted via the NUS Student database and through NUS channels.

The survey took around 15-20 minutes to complete and was in field between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

Where questions have been repeated where relevant from previous covid research, we have tracked these questions to show any change in experience since summer 2021

## Breaking the data down

Within this report, a number of questions have been broken down by demographic groupings, which have been compared with each other. Where applicable and the base size is large enough ( $n > 50$ ), statistically significant differences between demographic groupings and their answers have been shown. A difference is significant when it is likely to have been caused by something other than random chance.

Finance

# Finance

Main outgoings =

Rent



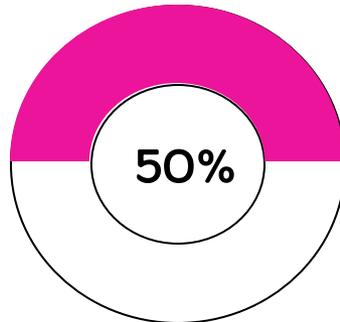
Food



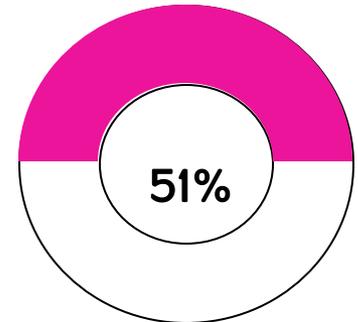
Utilities



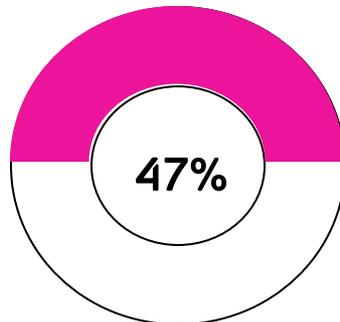
Half of students are in paid work alongside their studies



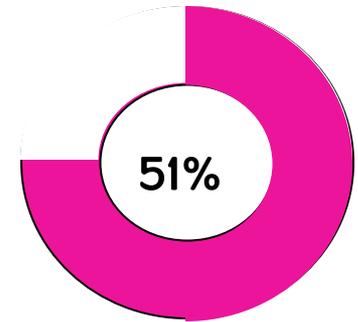
Half of students do not agree that student loan covers cost of living



Almost Half of students have sought financial support from family



A quarter of students have \$50 left over after bills and rent are paid



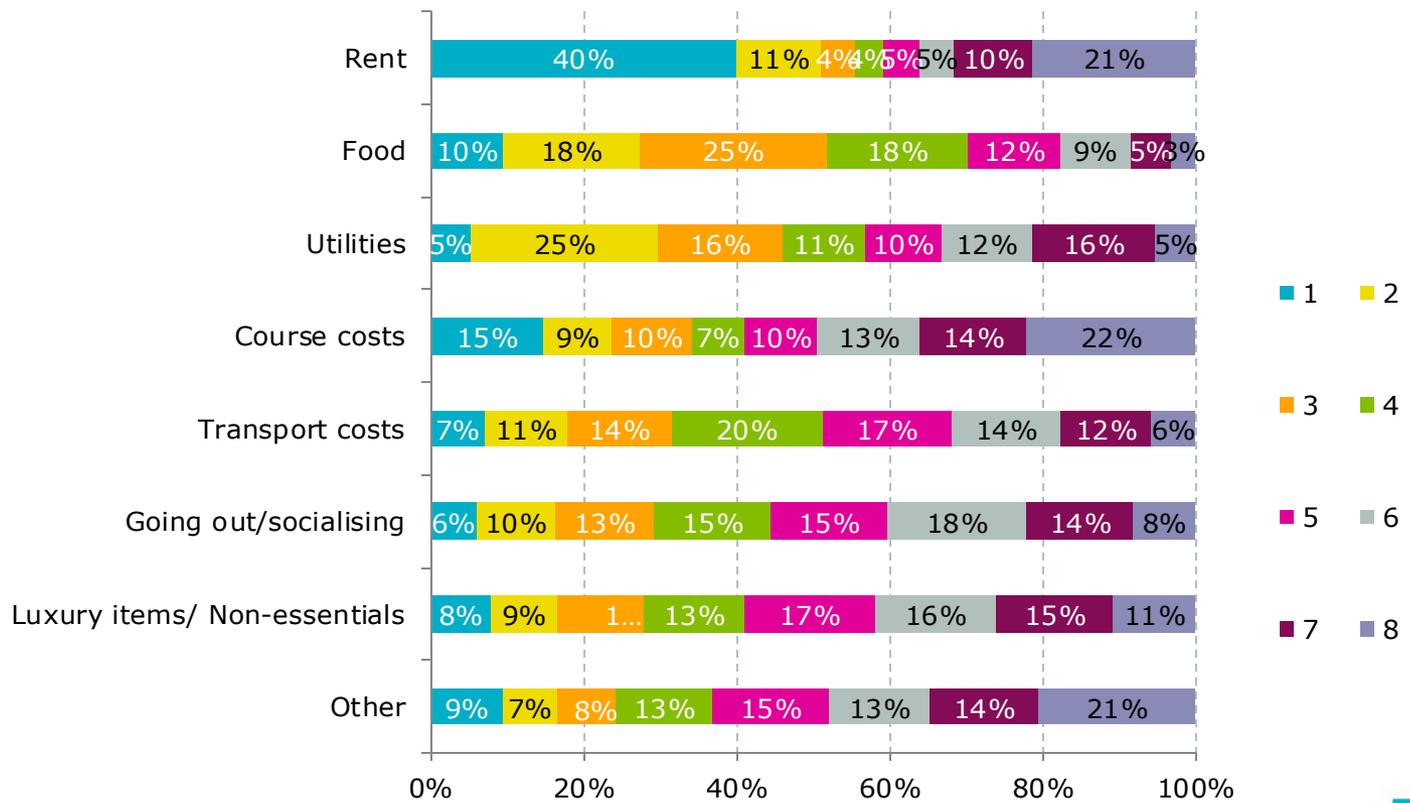
# Summary

- The **basics for living account for the main outgoings** for students: rent followed by food and utilities.
- **Half of students have paid work**, either full-time or part-time, alongside their studies.
- **Concern about being able to manage financially has increased** since last summer while **over half** of those with a **loan or a bursary do not believe it covers the costs of living**.
- Around a **quarter have less than £50 left over each month** after rent and bills are paid
- Almost **half of students** have **sought financial support/loan from their family**. A quarter have used savings and a further one in five say they have used credit cards to help them out.

Rent is most commonly ranked number 1 for spend of income. Food and Utilities also follow relatively highly in the ranking.

New for Student Survey phase 1

### Spend of income ranked



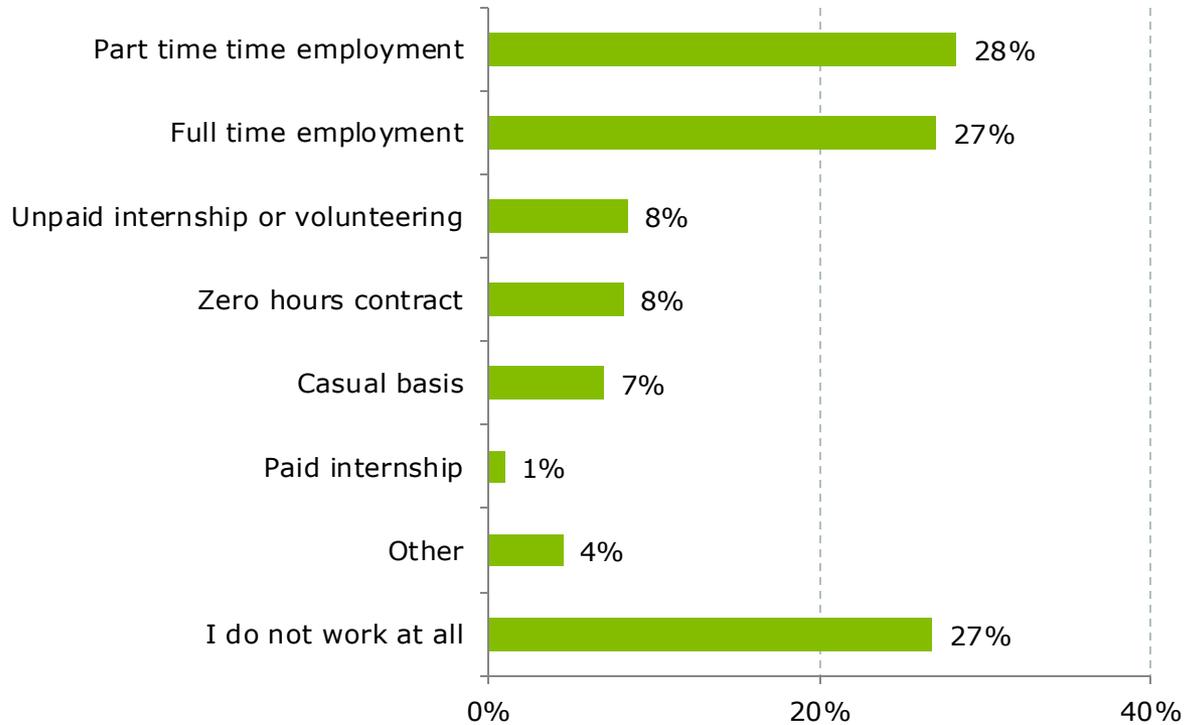
Average weighted Base: 3417

C1. Please rank the following in order of how much of your income you spend on each area.  
 Rank the following 1: I spend the most of my income on this and 8: I spend the least or none of my income on this

Over a quarter work in part time jobs alongside their studies, with a similar proportion in full time employment. The same proportion do not work at all.

**New for Student  
Survey phase 1**

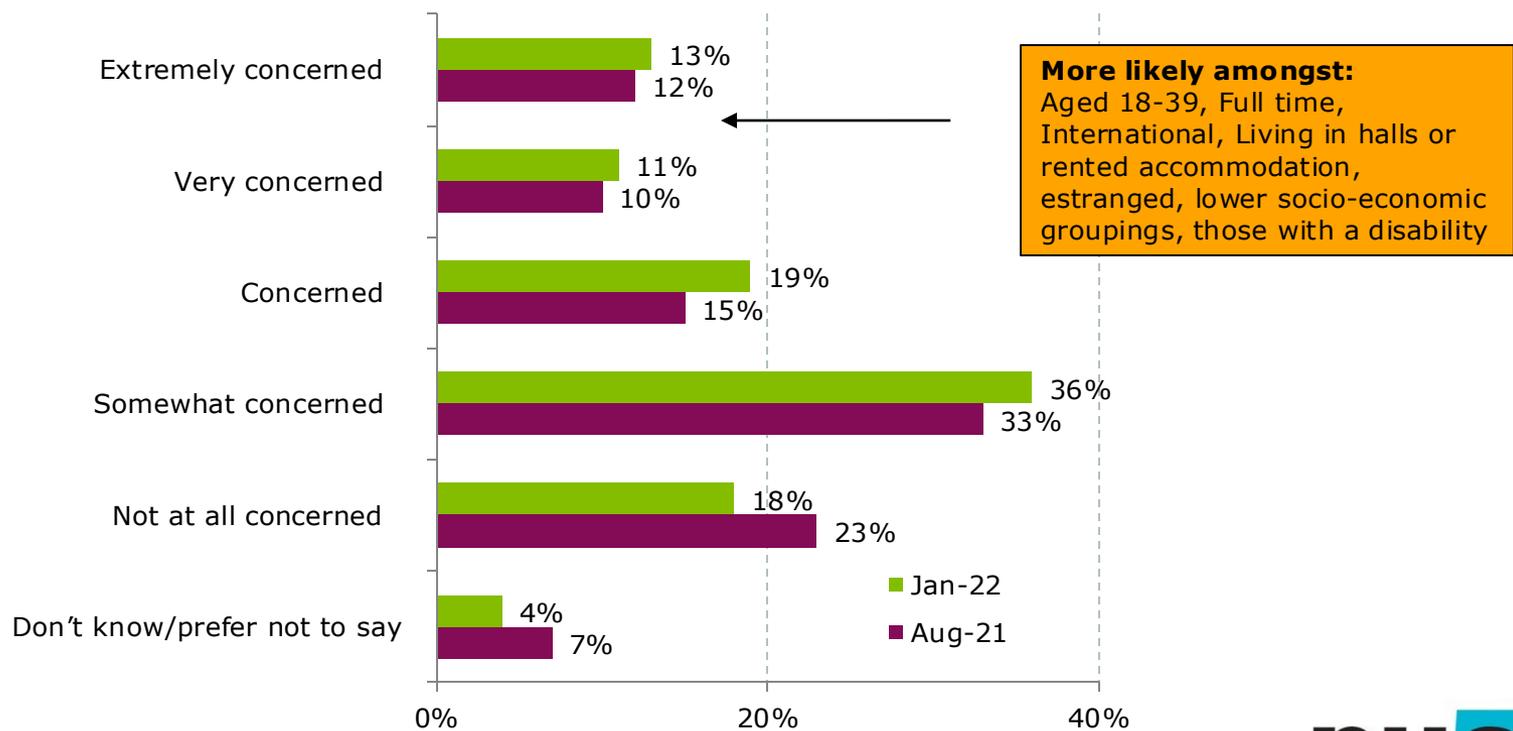
**Job(s) held alongside studies**



Worries about managing financially has increased slightly since last summer, with almost four in five expressing some level of concern

Tracked from July 2021

### Concern about ability to manage financially



Weighted Base: 3888 respondents. Balance: no response

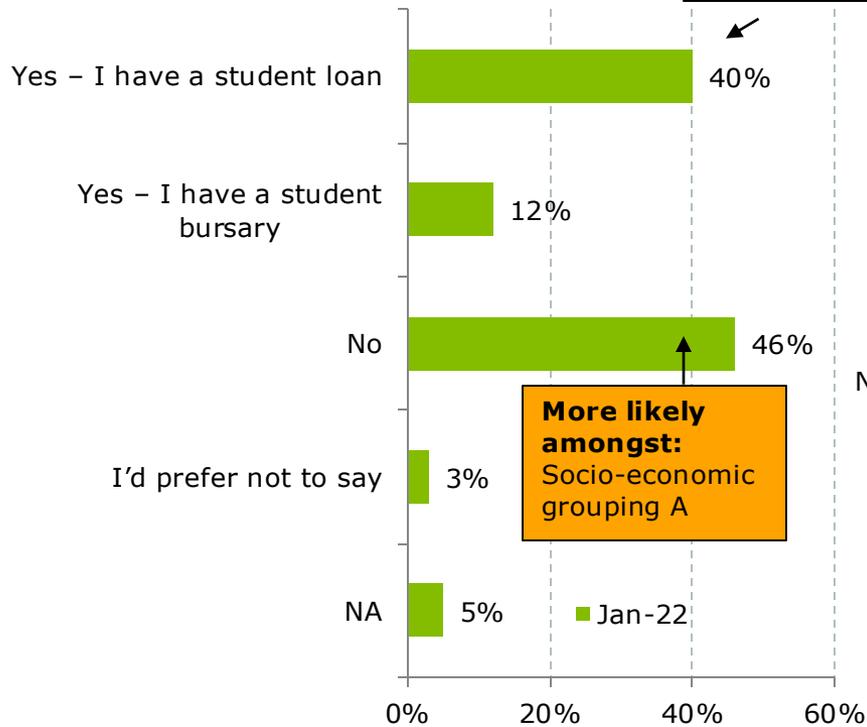
Two in five have a student loan while just over one in ten have a bursary. Those with a loan or a bursary largely disagree (51%) that it covers the cost of living.

Tracked from July 2021

**More likely amongst:**

Full time, living in England or Wales, living in halls or rented accommodation, those with a disability

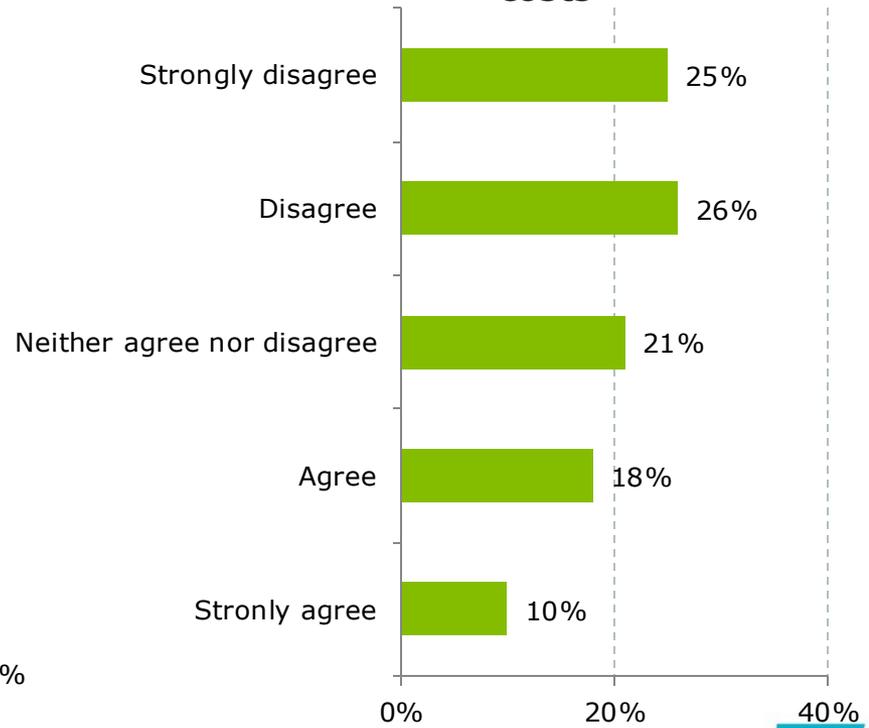
**Loan**



**More likely amongst:**

Socio-economic grouping A

**Agreement levels that student loan covers living costs**



Weighted Base: 3901 respondents. Balance: no response Weighted Base: 1764. Balance: Those without a loan or a bursary / no answer



national union of students

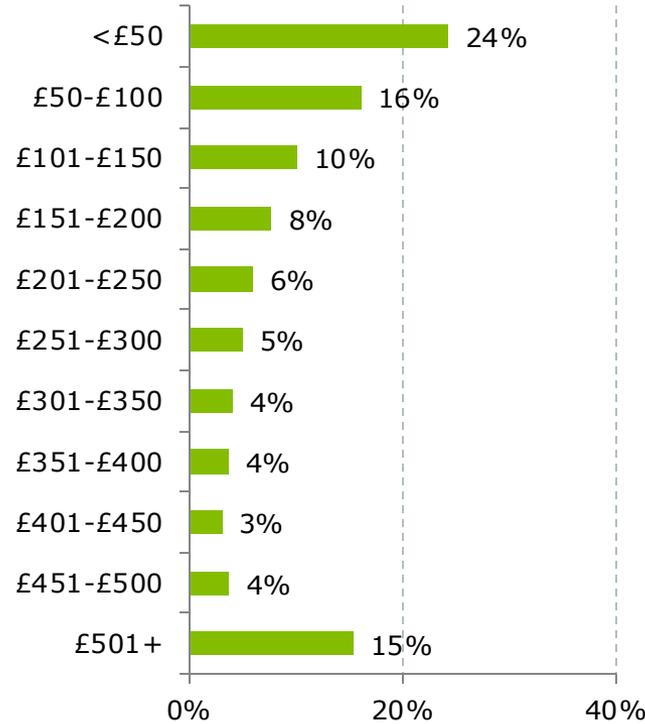
**C4. Do you have a UK student loan or a student bursary?**

**C5a. How far do you agree that your UK student loan / bursary currently covers your costs of living i.e. rent, bills, food, books, etc?**

Around a quarter claim to have less than £50 left over each month after rent and bills are paid

New for Student Survey phase 1

### Money left each month after rent and bills paid

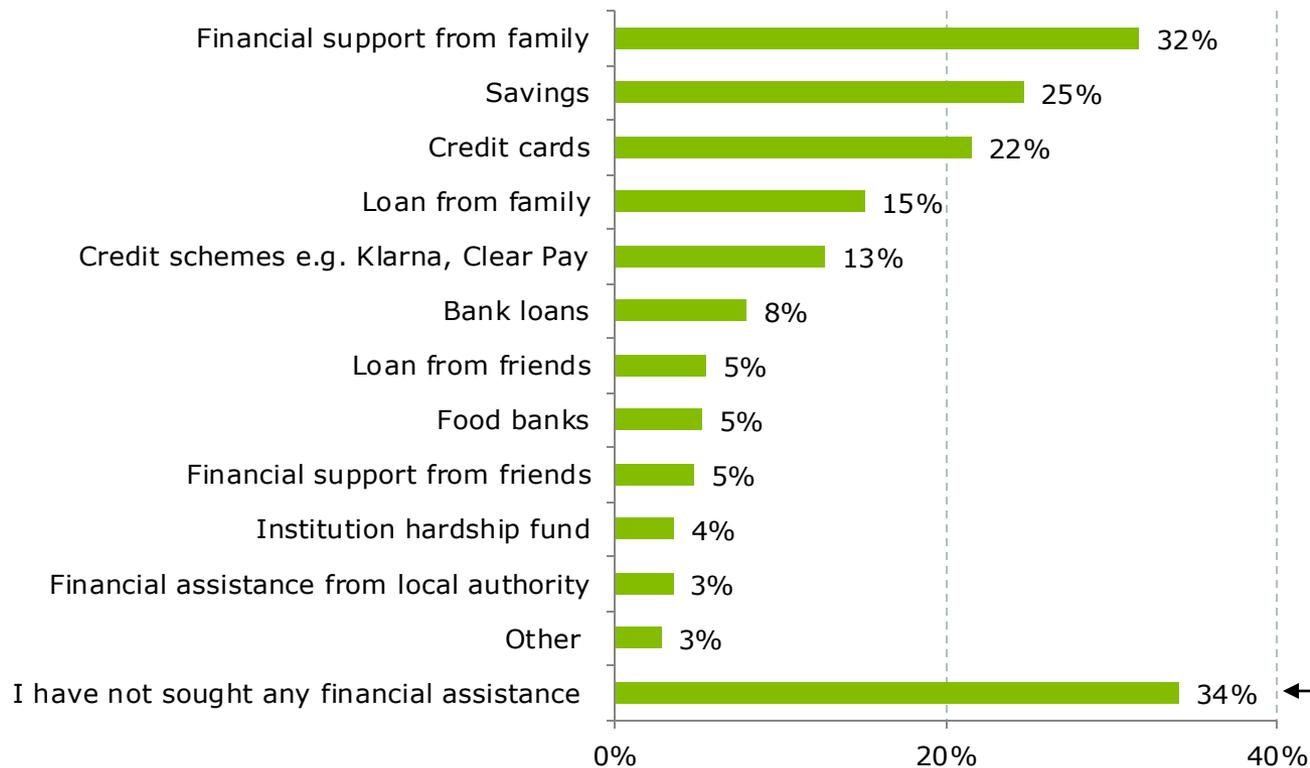


Weighted Base: 3829 respondents. Balance: no response

Around a third of students say they have sought financial assistance from family members, while a further 15% say they have asked family for a loan. A quarter have used savings and a further one in five say they have used credit cards to help them out.

New for Student Survey phase 1

### Which of the following have you sought support/assistance from during the pandemic



**More likely amongst:**  
Aged 16-17, Apprentice,  
PG, Living with own family  
or parents, non carer,  
those without a disability

# Issues to consider / opportunities

## **Financial support:**

- Concern over the ability to manage financially has increased since last summer,
- Create an FAQs or a Financial Tips document for students in addition to signposting to financial organisations that can provide support.
- Demonstrate that SUs know what the key concerns are for students at the moment and that they care and can provide some guidance.

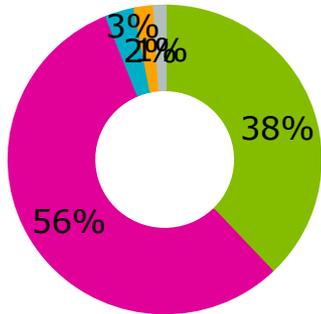
## **Paid work:**

- Around half work alongside their studies.
- Provide students with top tips / good practice guidance on managing studies alongside their work.
- Show students that the SU is aware of their current situation and potentially competing priorities.

# Demographics

# Key demographics (weighted base)

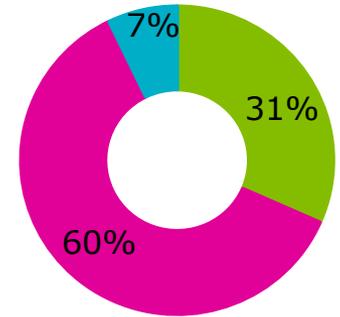
## Gender



- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- I prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

## Level of study

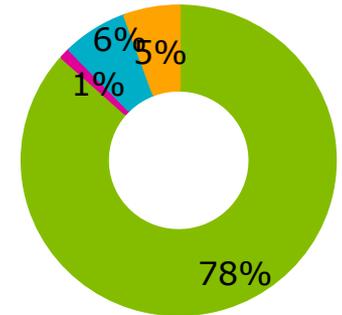
- FE
- HE
- Apprentice



## Age



- I am a UK citizen studying in the UK
- I am an Irish citizen from the UK studying in the UK
- I am an international student from within the EU studying in the UK
- I am an international student from outside the EU studying in the UK



**Full time: 63%**  
**Part time: 26%**  
**Distance learner: 19%**

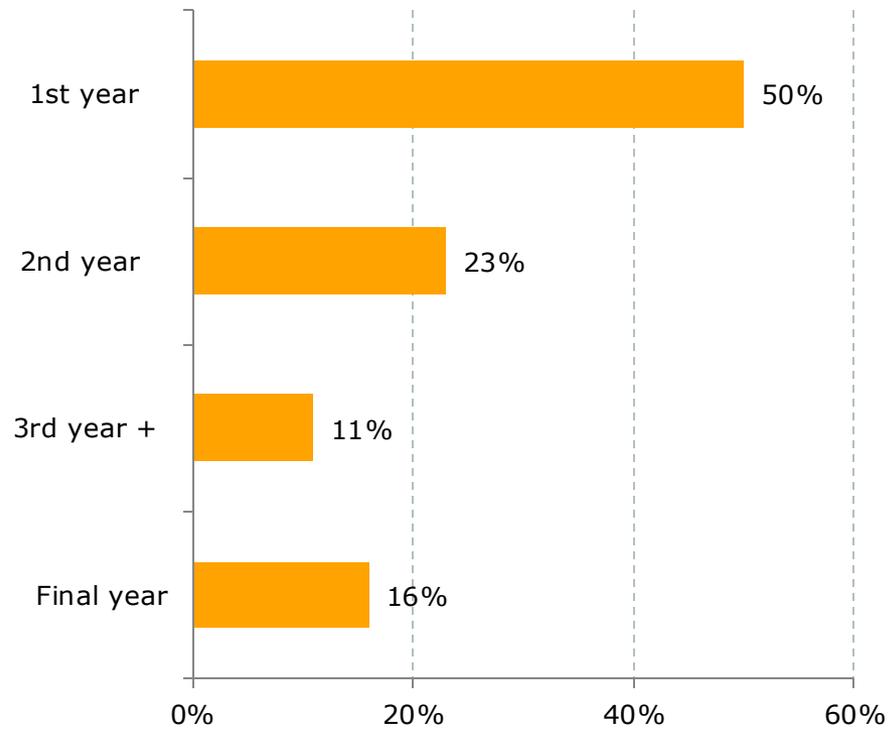
# Demographics

Region	Percentage
North East	5%
North West	9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	8%
East Midlands	8%
West Midlands	8%
London	18%
East of England	5%
South West	11%
South East	13%
<b>England Total</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5%</b>



# Demographics

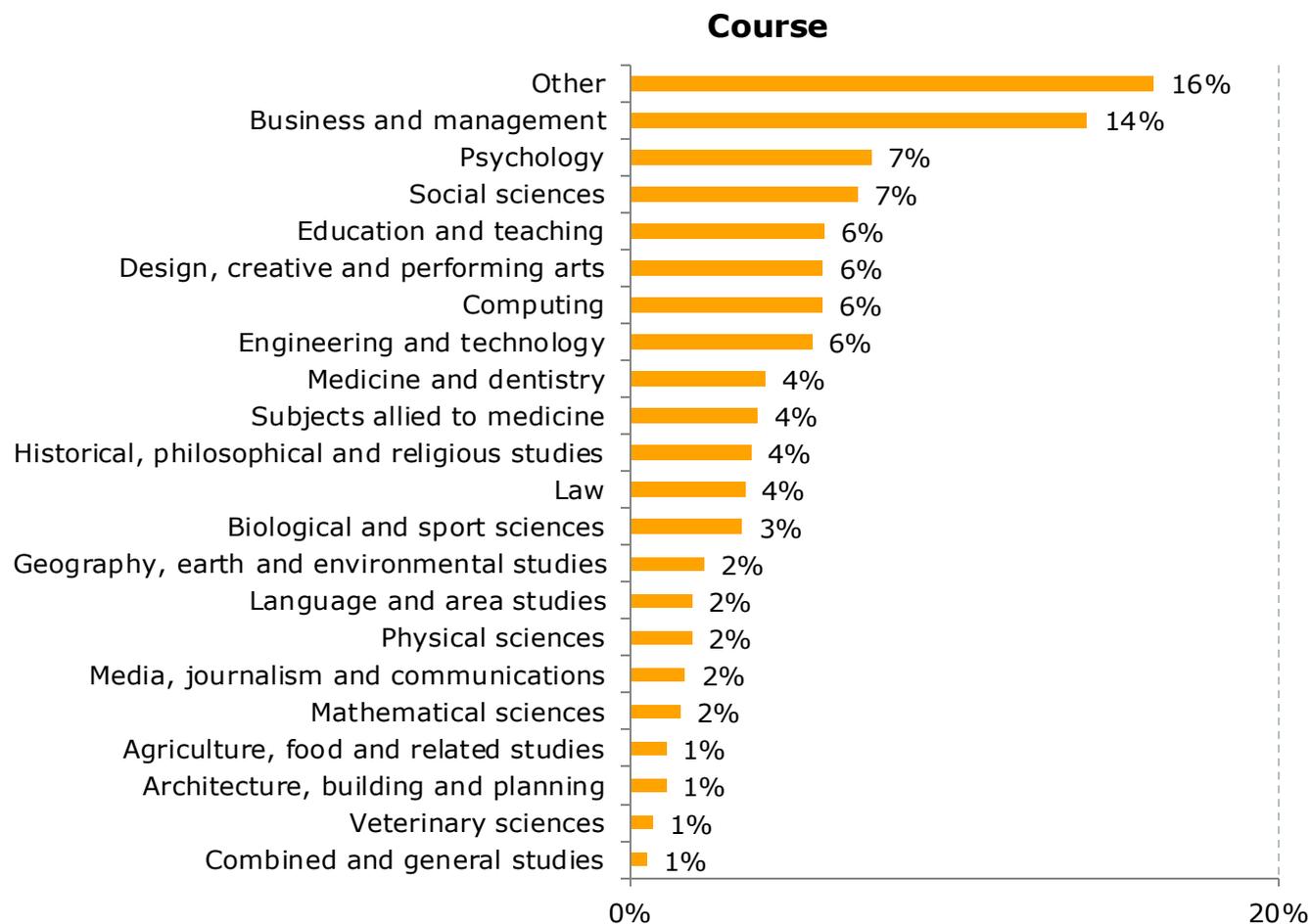
## Year of study



Weighted Base: 1417 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

H1. What year of study are you in?

# Demographics

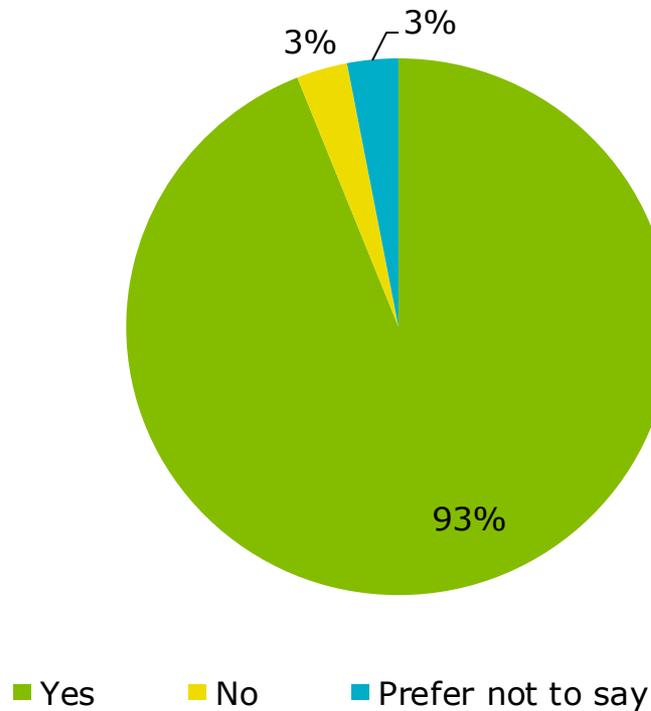


Weighted Base: 3884 respondents Balance: no response

**H4. Which of the following best describes your course (or your most recent course)?**

# Demographics

**Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?**

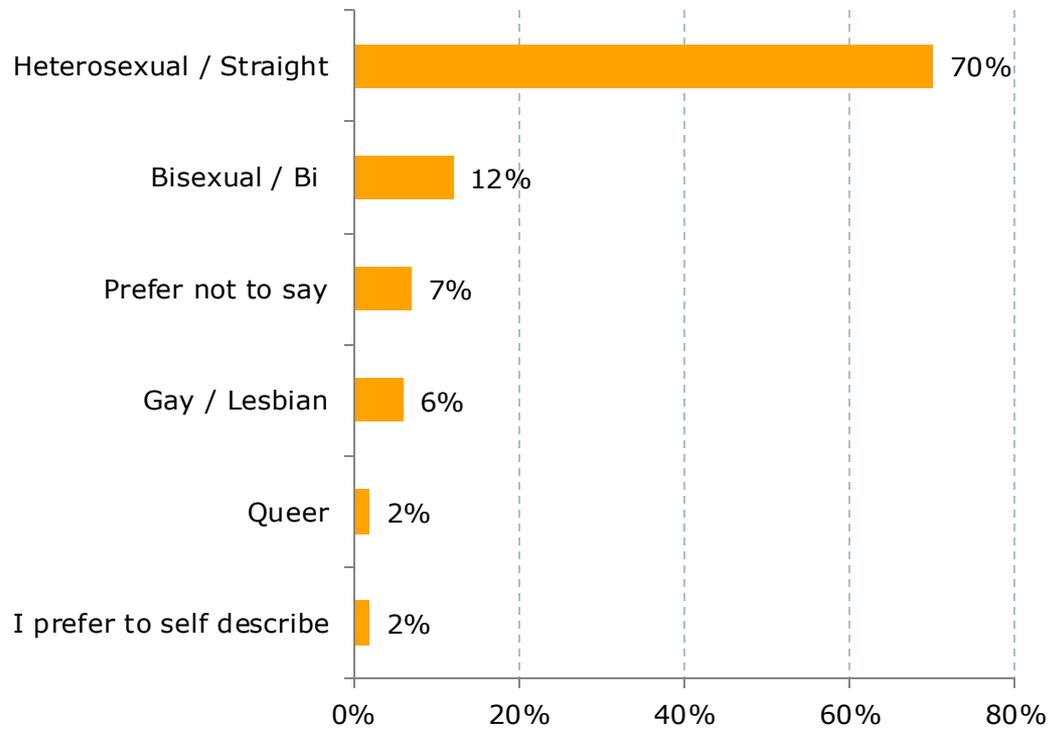


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

**H8. Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?**

# Demographics

## Sexual orientation/preference

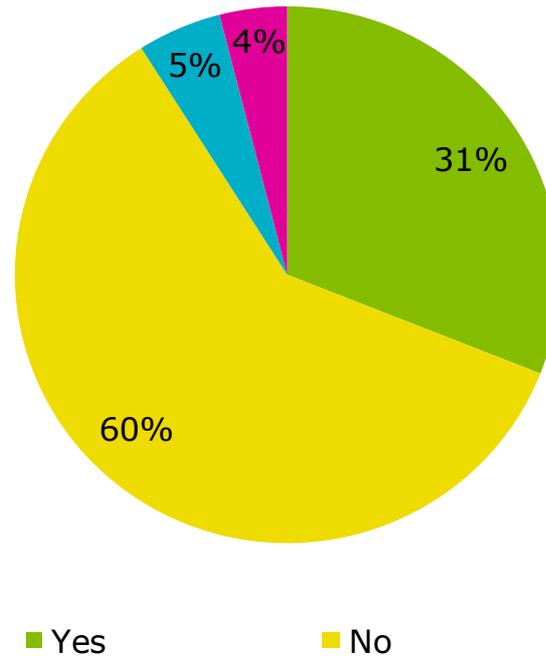


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

H9. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation/preference?

# Demographics

## Disability, impairment or long term health condition

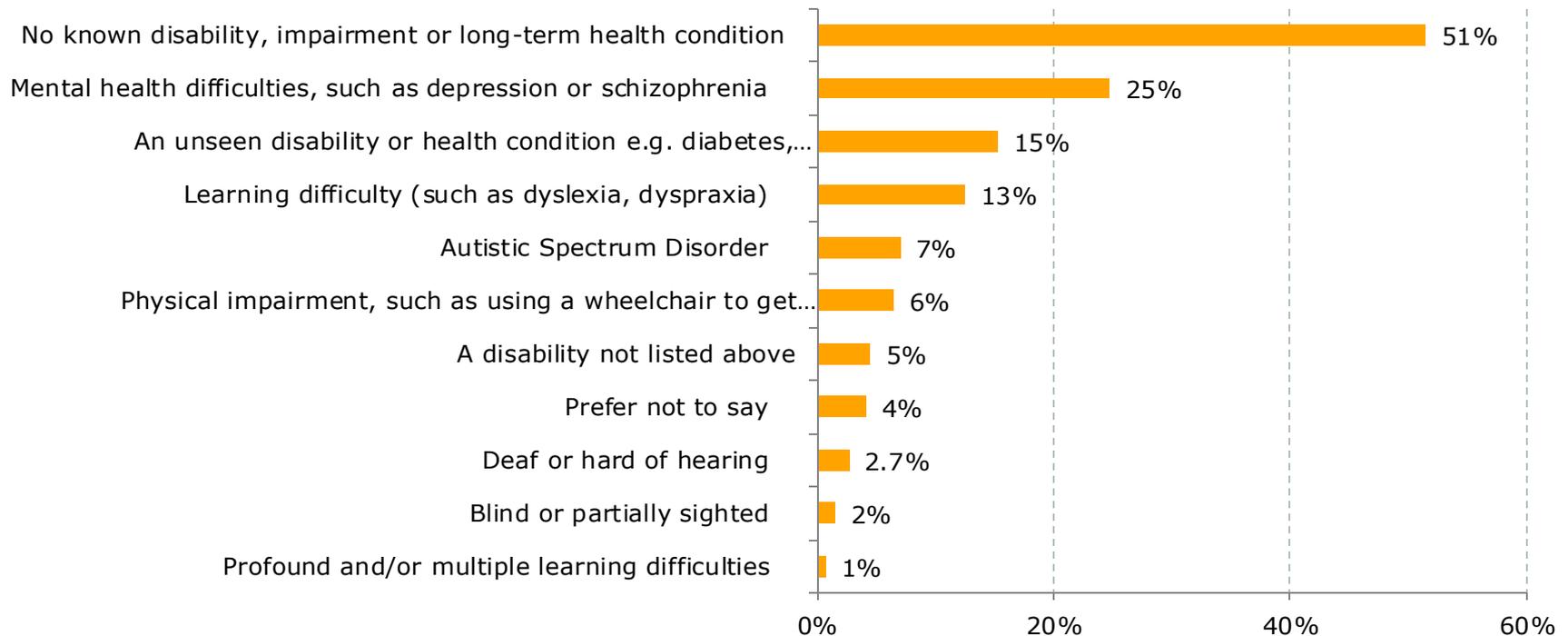


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

**H12. Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment, long-term illness or health condition?**

# Demographics

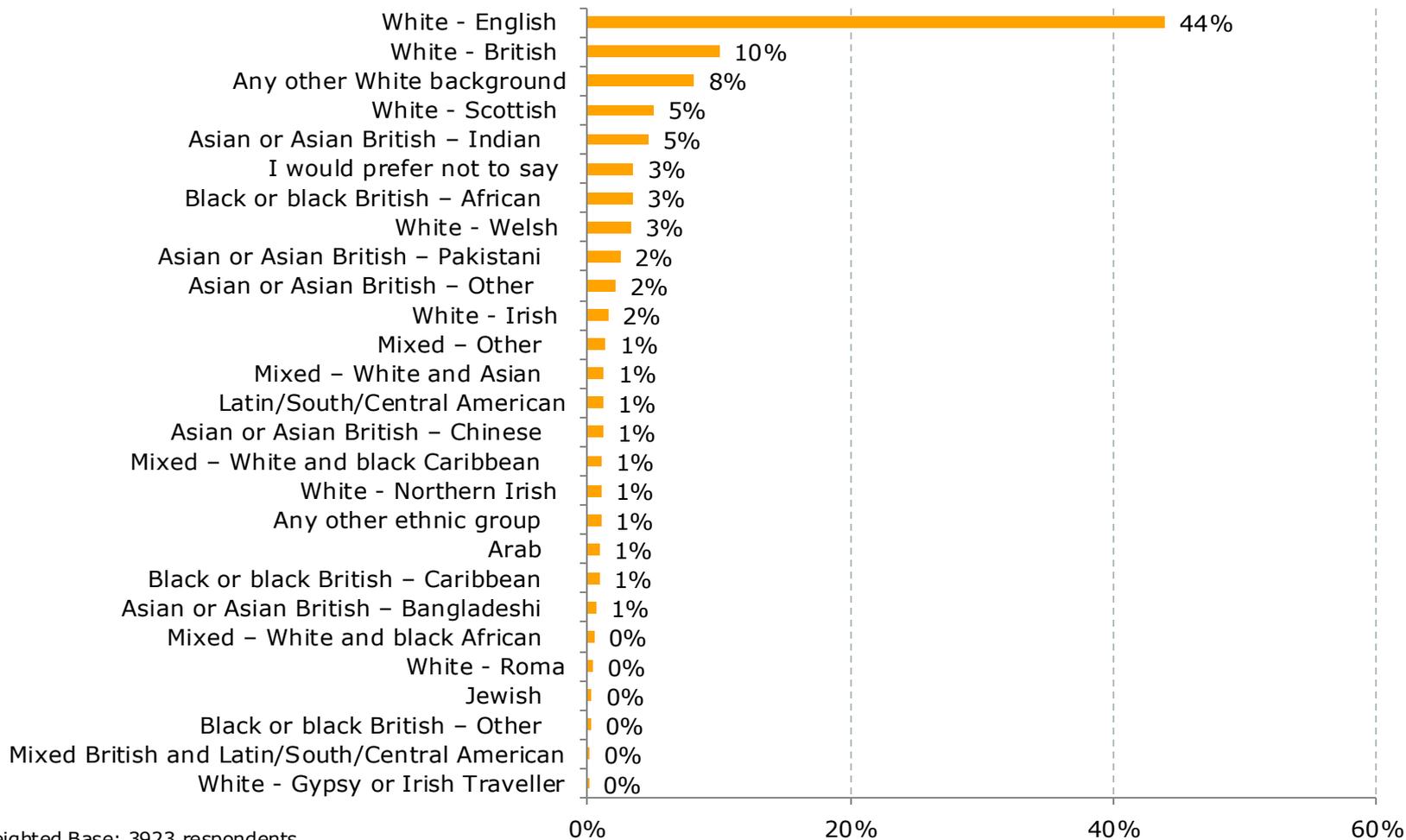
## Disability, impairment or long term health condition



Weighted Base: 3308 respondents

# Demographics

## Ethnicity

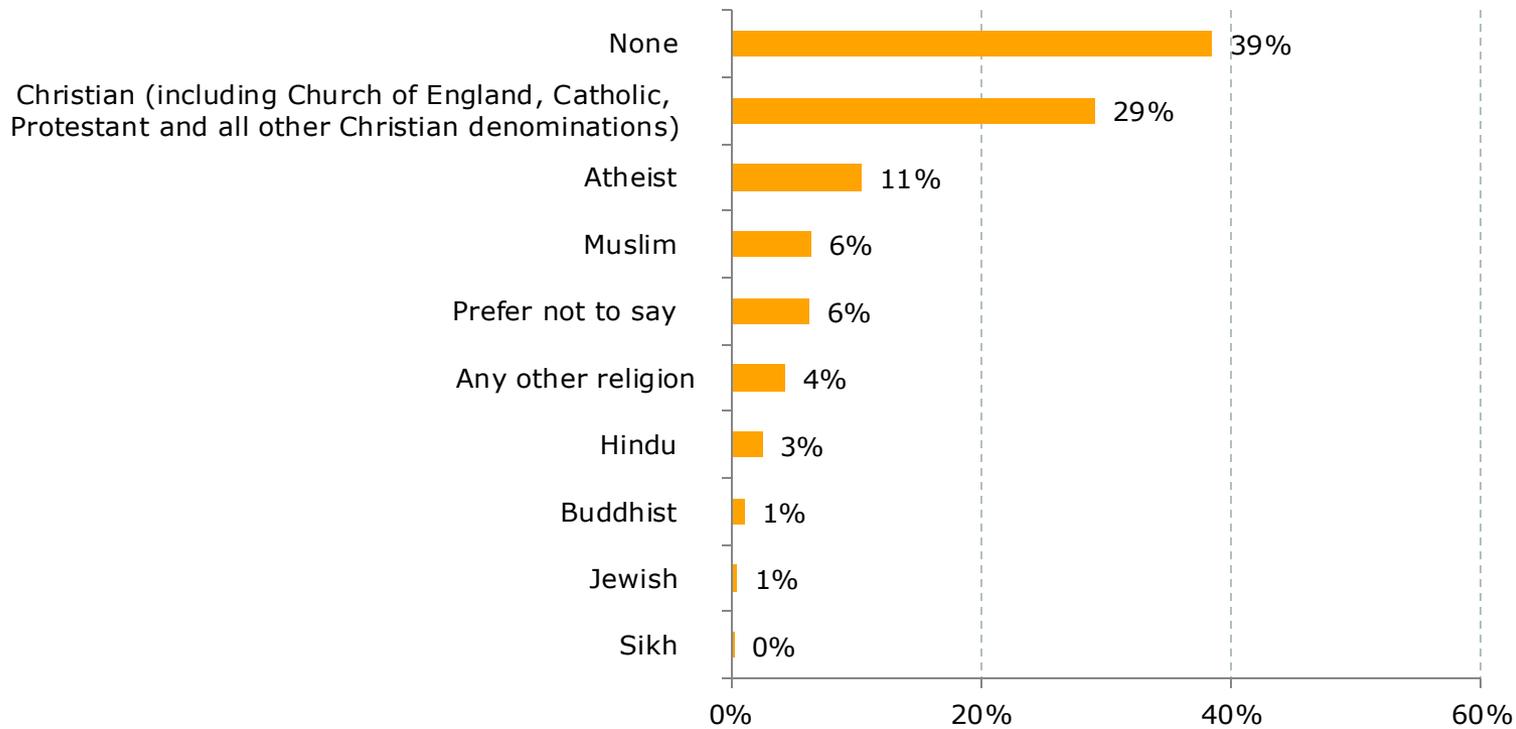


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

H10. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

# Demographics

## Religion, faith or belief

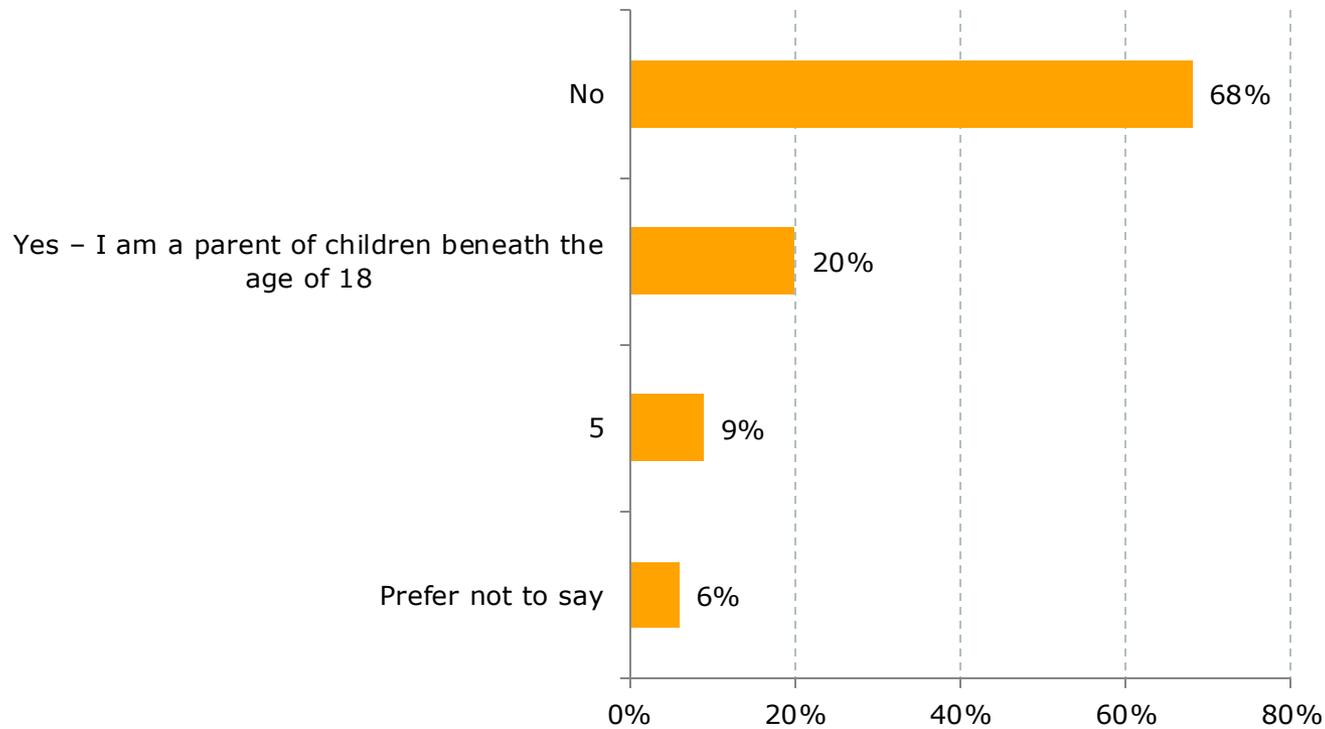


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

**H11. What is your religion, faith or belief?**

# Demographics

## Caring responsibilities

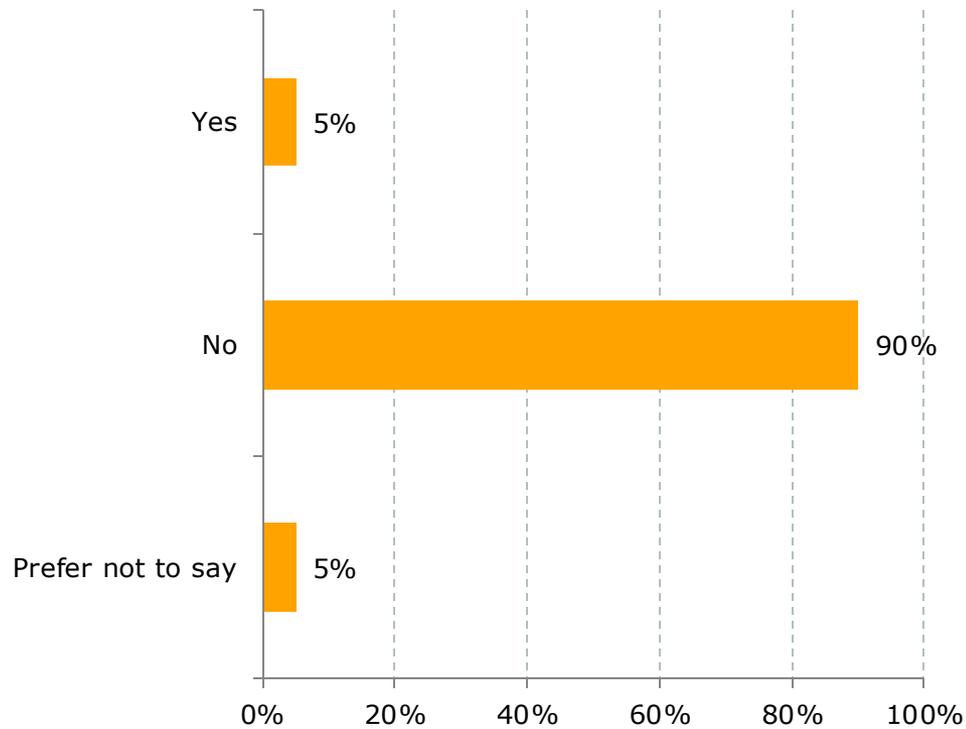


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

**H15. Do you have any caring responsibilities?**

# Demographics

## Care Leaver

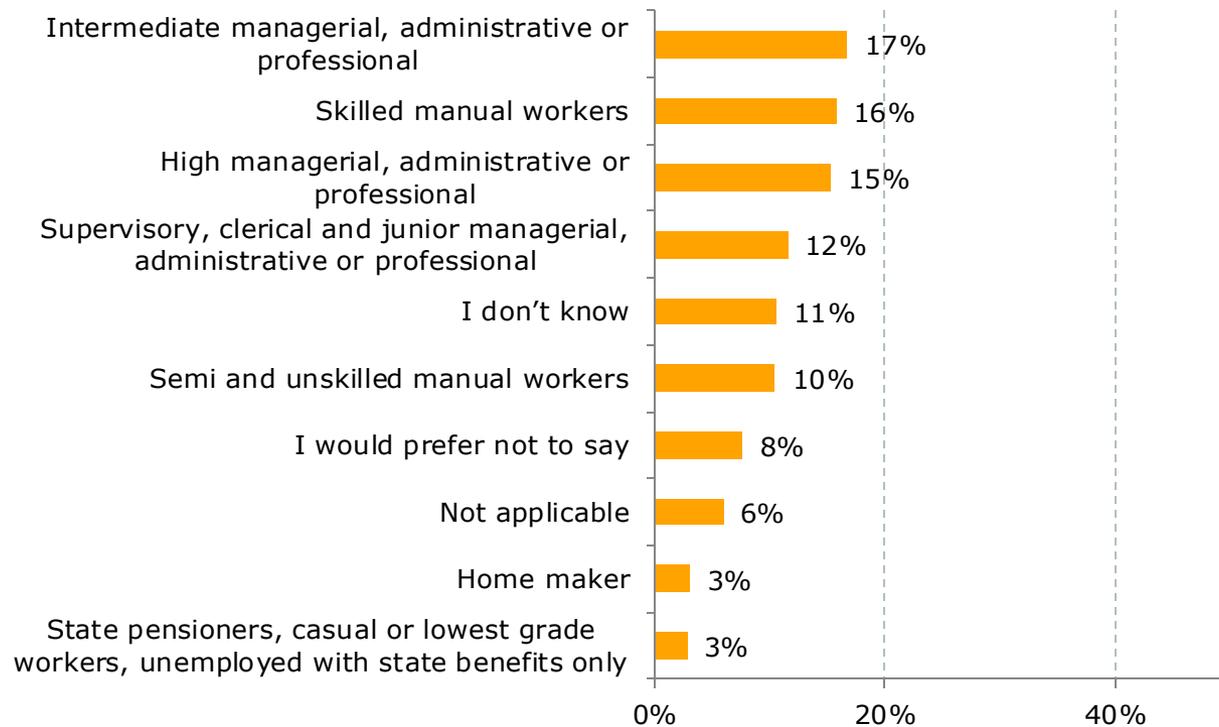


Weighted Base: 3923 respondents.

**H16. Do you consider yourself to be care-experienced or a care leaver?**

# Demographics

## Social Grade



Weighted Base: 3923 respondents. Balance: Don't know / would rather not say

# Student Survey phase 1 January / February 2022

**February 2022**