

# Coronavirus and Students Survey: Wales Results

**April 2020**

NUS Insight

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# Project overview

## Objectives

NUS Insight conducted a survey alongside One Voice Digital who run the TOTUM product for students, and NUS member students' unions to understand more about how students feel about the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

## Explanation of weighting

For Wales we achieved an original sample of **336** students. We have weighted the data to reflect the student population of Wales resulting in **339** responses.

## Methodology

A sample of **9872** was achieved overall and in Wales we achieved **339** responses.

Respondents were given a chance to win £500 to encourage response.

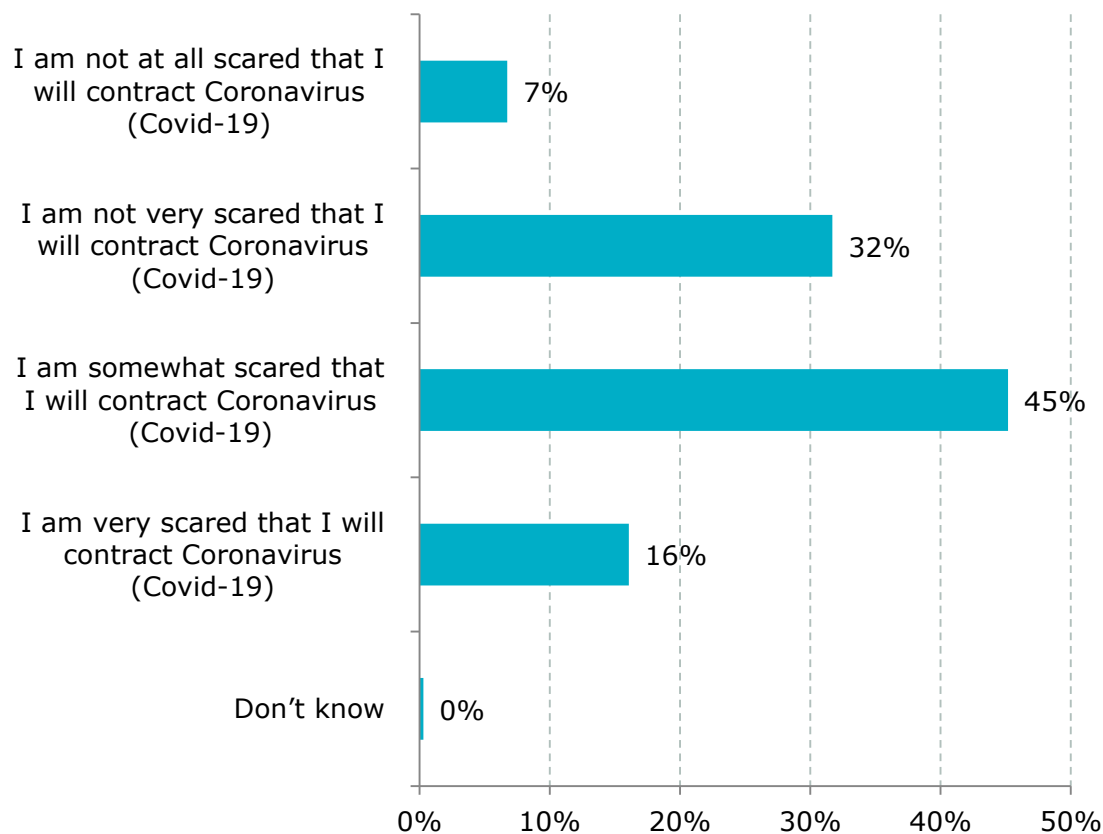
The survey was promoted via the NUS Student database, the TOTUM database, through social media & via NUS' member unions at the end of March 2020.

The survey took 20 **minutes** to complete & was in field from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

# Health, wellbeing and welfare

Three in five students in Wales are scared to some extent about getting Covid-19.

### Feelings towards contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

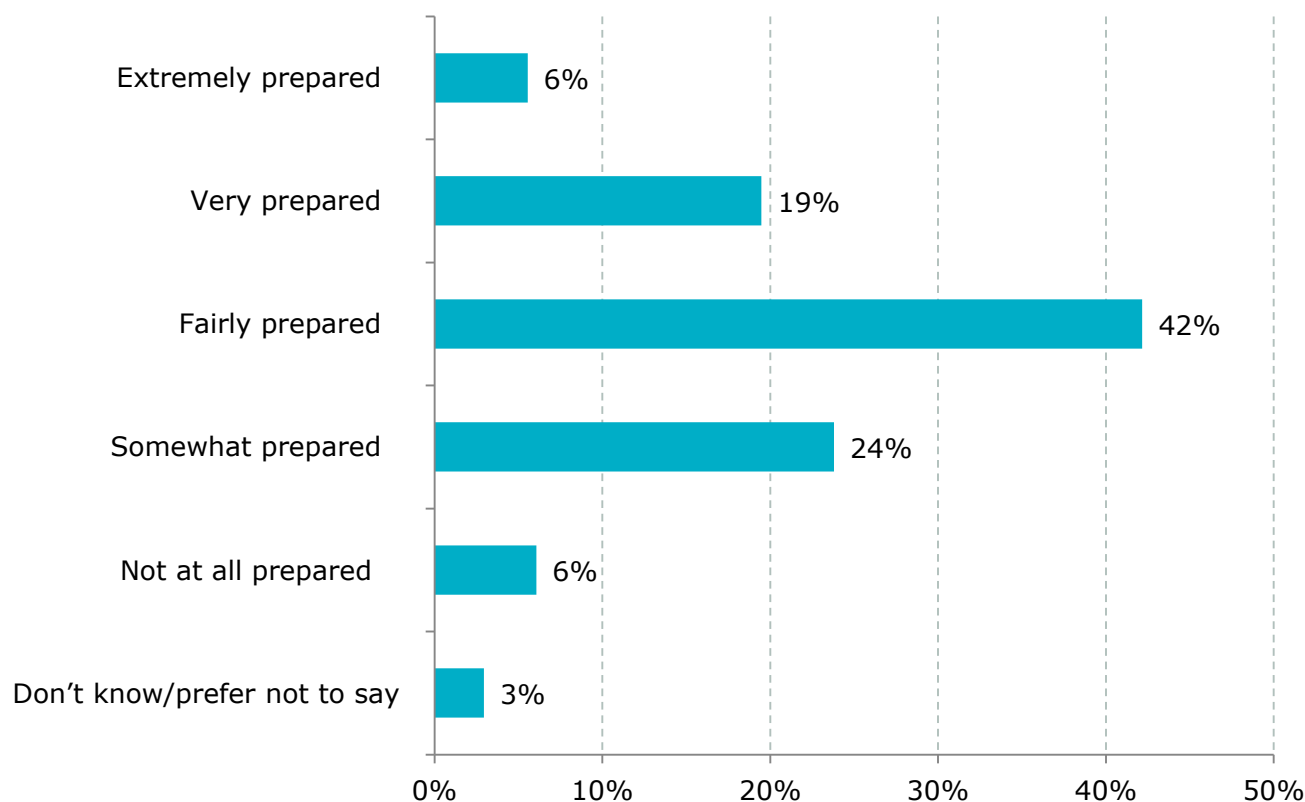


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**B1. Which, if any, of the following statements best describes your feelings towards contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**

Two thirds of students in Wales claim to feel 'somewhat' or 'fairly' prepared to manage any health conditions they have should they contract Covid-19.

### Preparedness to manage health conditions if contract Coronavirus (Covid-19)

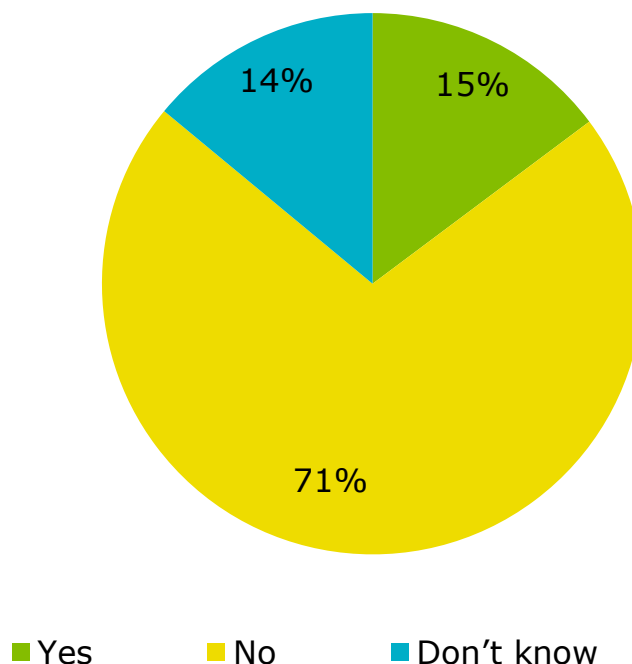


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**B2. How prepared are you personally to manage any health conditions you have should you contract Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**

Only 15% of disabled students have been asked to confirm or declare any impairments that may relate specifically to Covid-19 and their ability to study.

### Declaration of any impairments

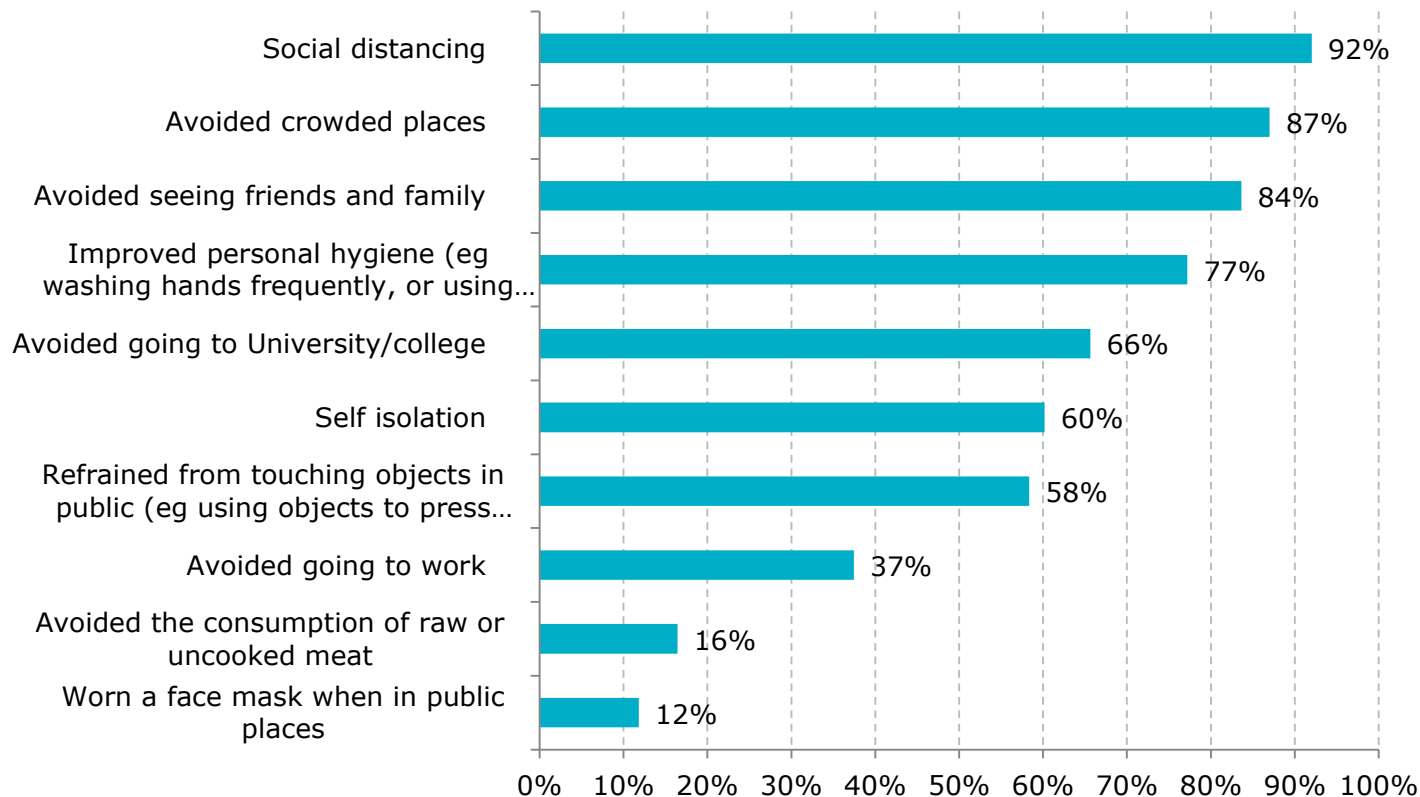


Weighted Base: 136 respondents. Balance: those with no known disability, impairment or long term health condition, no response

**B3. Have you been asked to confirm or declare any impairments that may relate specifically to Coronavirus (Covid-19) and your ability to study?**

The majority of students in Wales have practiced social distancing. Avoiding crowded places and avoiding seeing family and friends are other common measures. Two in three have avoided going to University/College.

**Measures taken in the past 2 weeks specifically to protect yourself from the Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

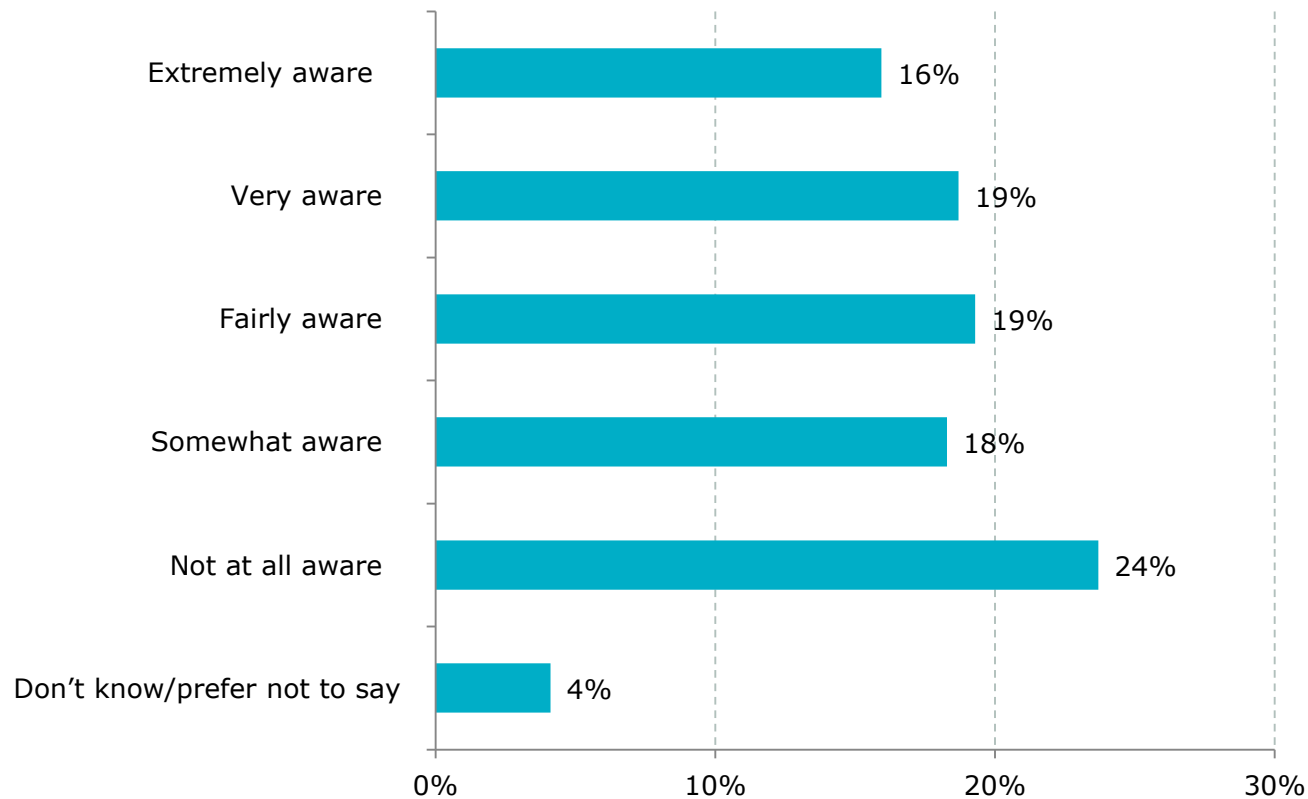


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.



Encouragingly almost two thirds of students are aware to some extent of the public health guidance on living in shared accommodation in relation to Covid-19. And over one in three claim to be 'very' or 'extremely' aware.

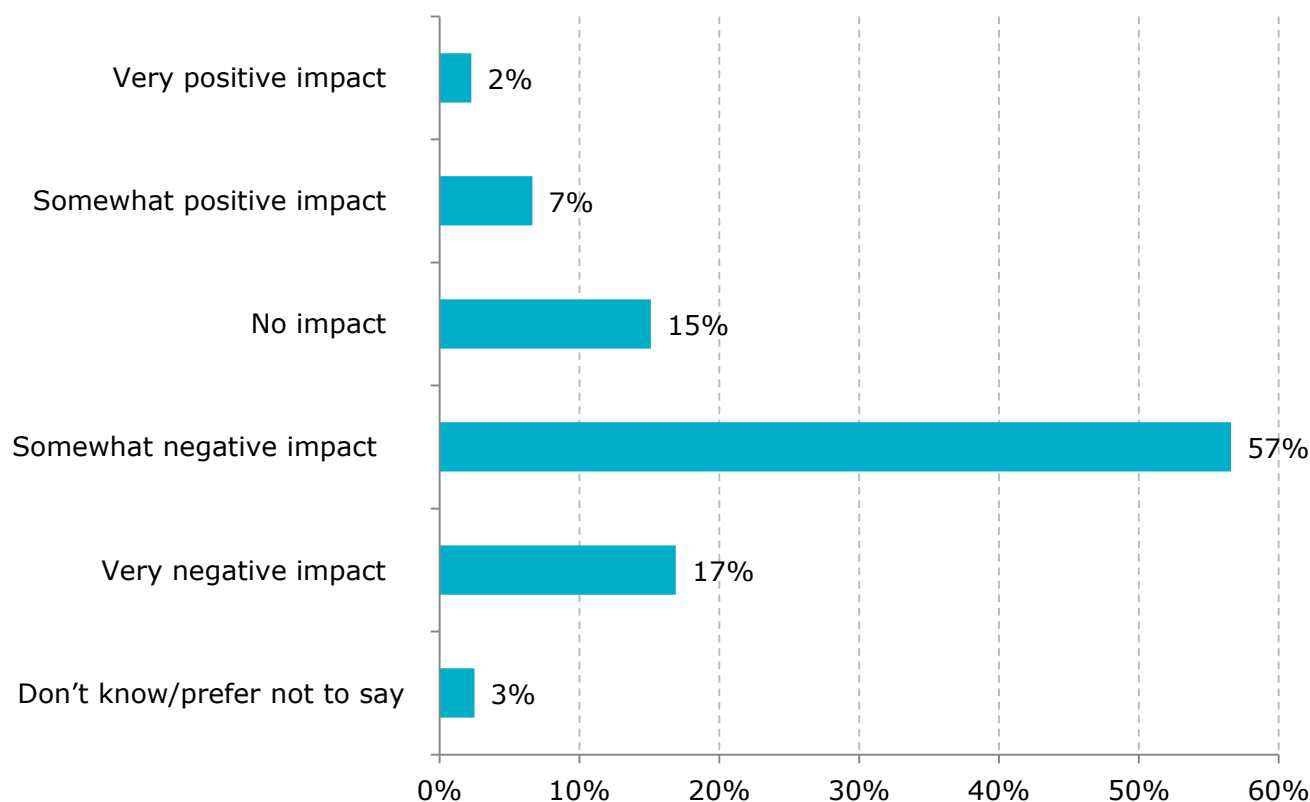
**Awareness of the public health guidance on living in shared accommodation in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19)**



Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

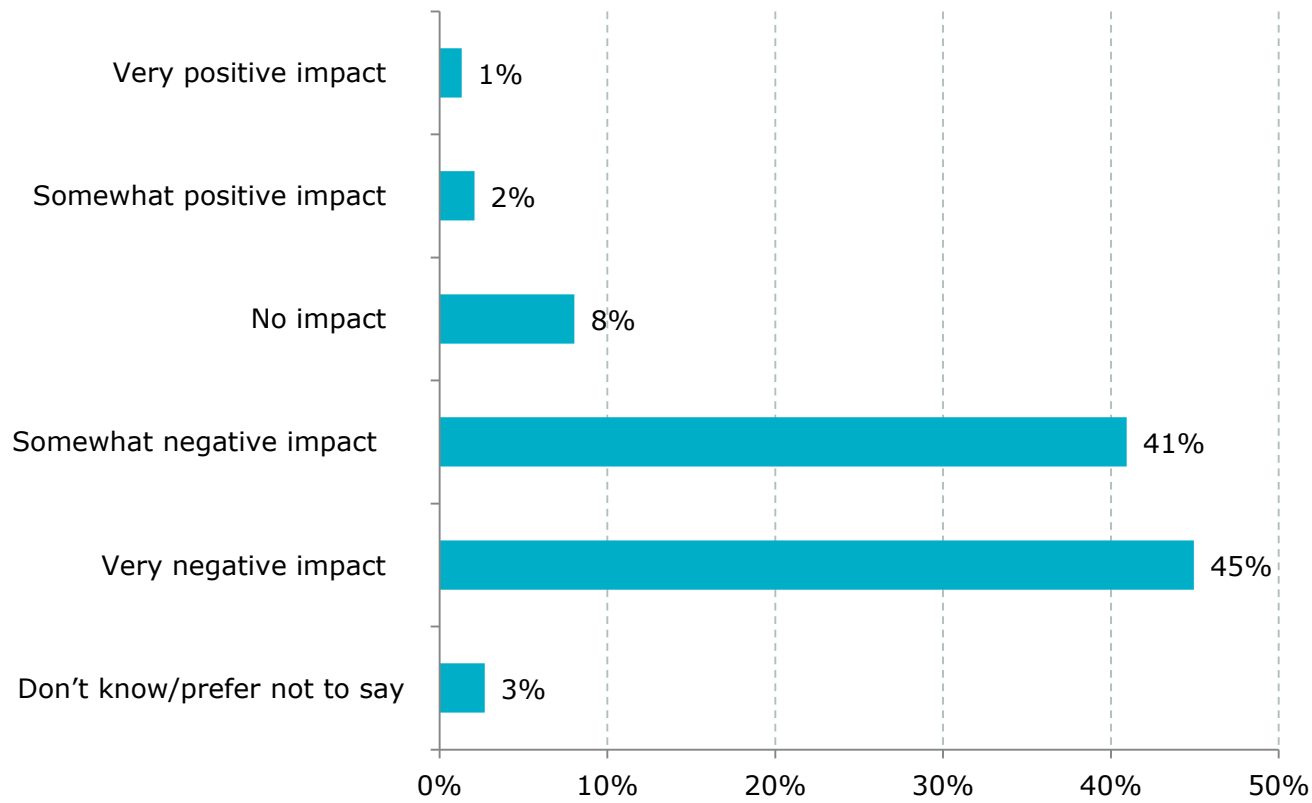
Almost one in four Welsh students say that Covid-19 has had a very negative impact on their family life; over half say it has had a somewhat negative impact.

### Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on family life



The majority of students say that Covid-19 has had a negative impact on their friends and social life.

### Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on friends and social life

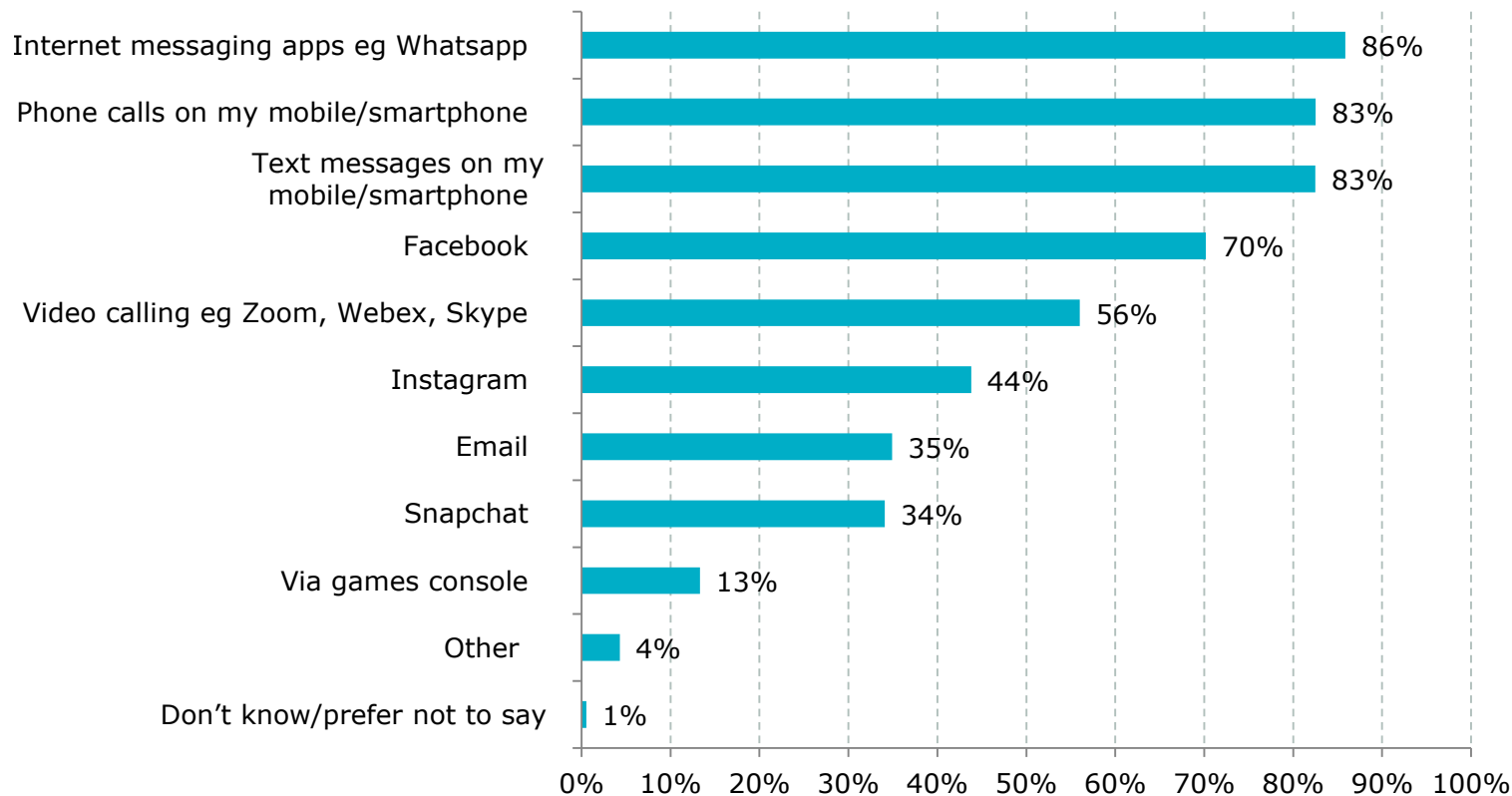


Weighted Base: 338 respondents. Balance: no response

**B7. And, what has been the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your friends and social life?**

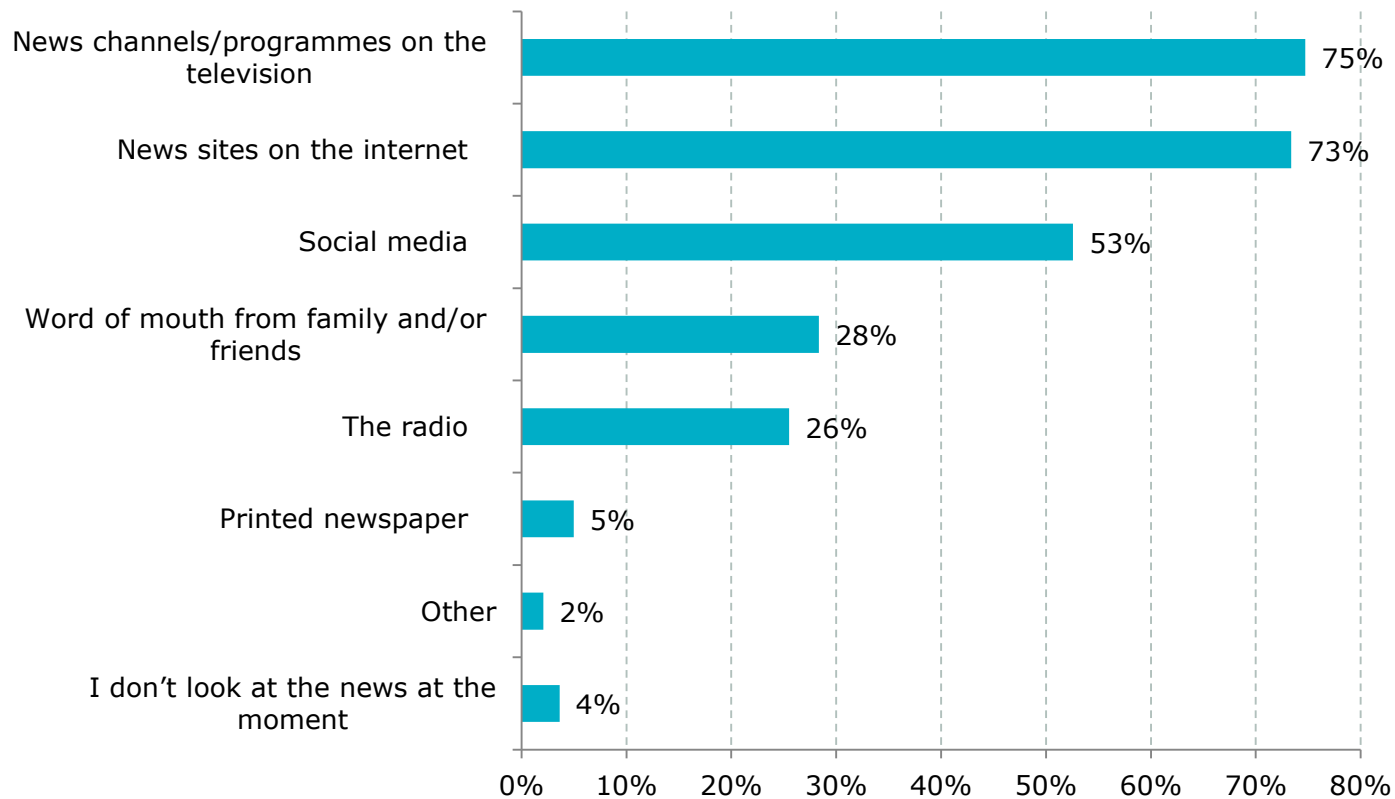
Students are most likely to be keeping in touch with friends and family via internet messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp), phone calls and text messaging. Facebook is a popular option for seven in ten.

### How students are staying in touch with friends and family



Students are most likely to be keeping up to date with developments or latest government advice via news outlets on TV or online.

### How students are keeping up to date with developments or latest government advice on the Coronavirus (Covid-19)



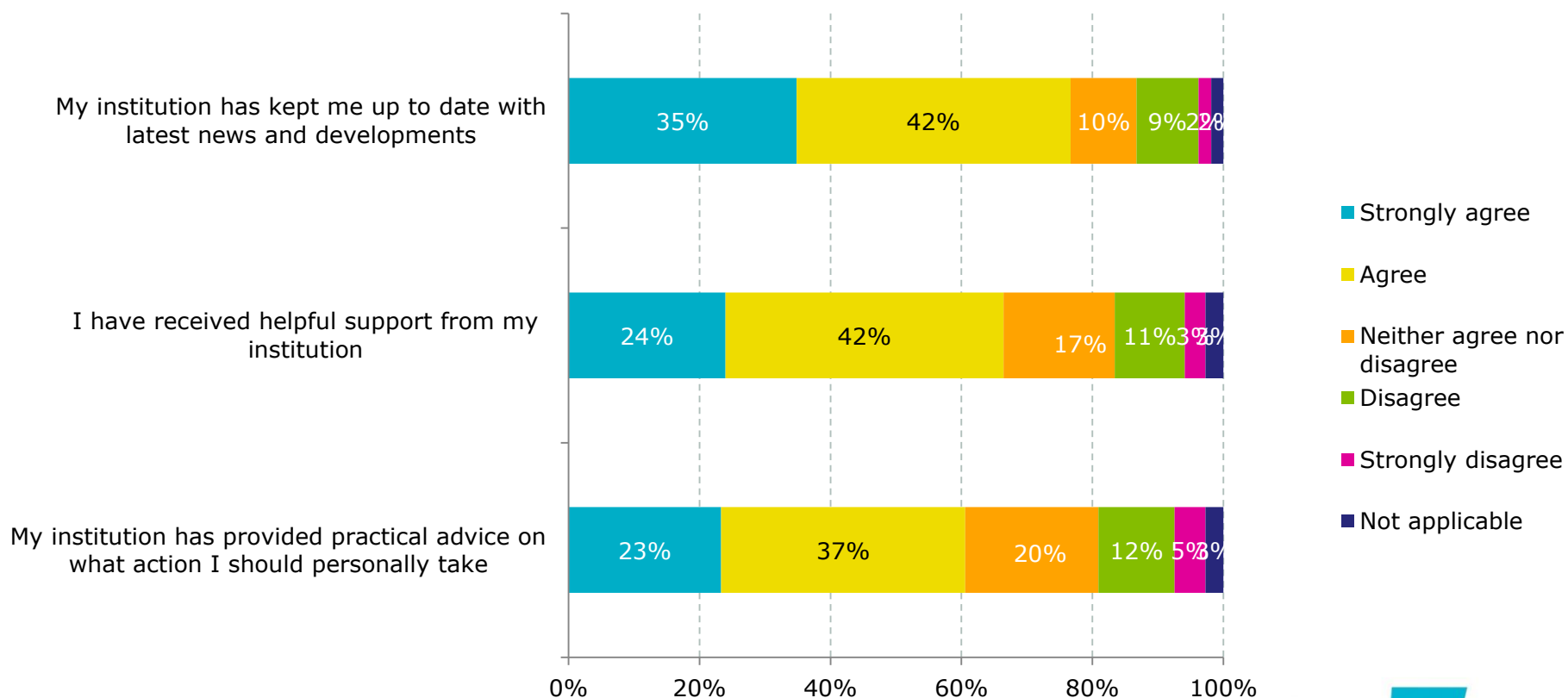
Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**B9. Which of the below do you use to keep up to date with developments or latest government advice on the Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**

# Support received from institutions about Coronavirus (Covid-19)

On the whole students agree that their institution has provided up to date news/developments, helpful support and practical advice on what action to take.

### Agreement with statements

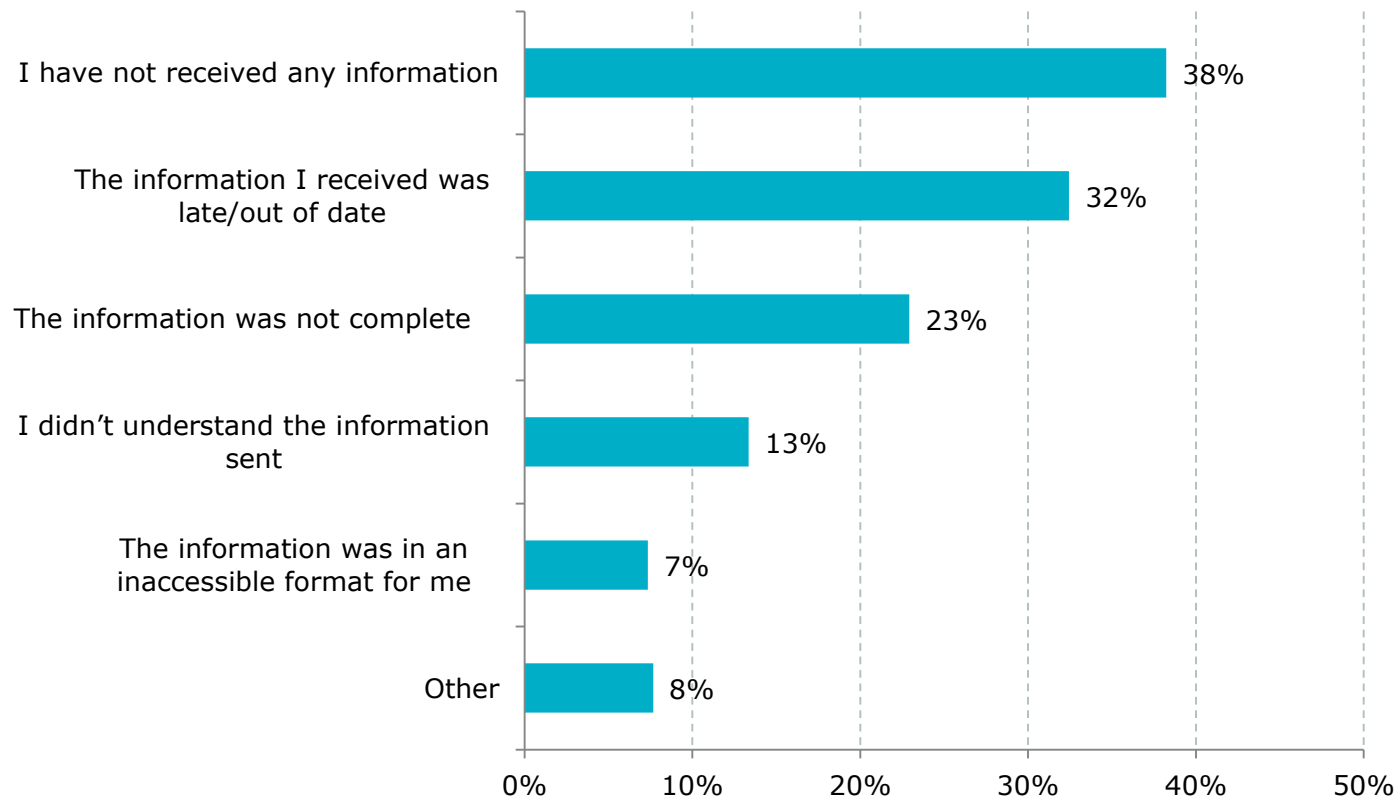


Weighted Base: 339

C1. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below?

Where students disagreed that their institution kept them up to date with the latest news/developments this was largely down not receiving any. A third said the information they had received was late or out of date.

**Reasons for disagreement that institution has kept you up to date with latest news and developments**



**11%  
disagreed**

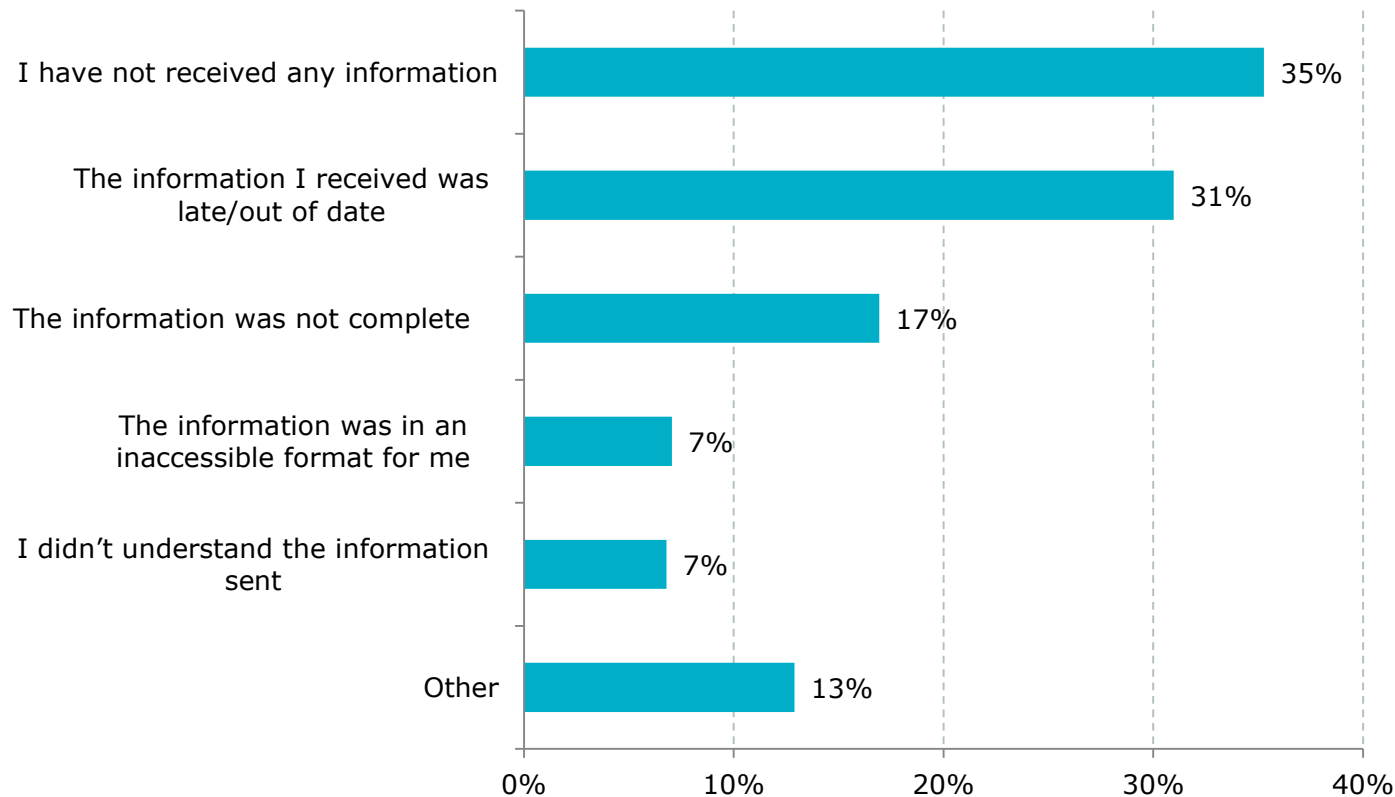
Weighted Base: 39 respondents. Balance: those who agreed that their institution had kept them up to date with latest news and developments, no response

**C2. You've told us that you don't agree that your institution has kept you up to date with latest news and developments, why is that?**



Where students disagreed that their institution had provided them with practical advice on what action to take, this was largely down to simply not having received any information at all, or receiving out of date information.

**Reasons for disagreement that institution has provided you with practical advice on what action you should personally take**



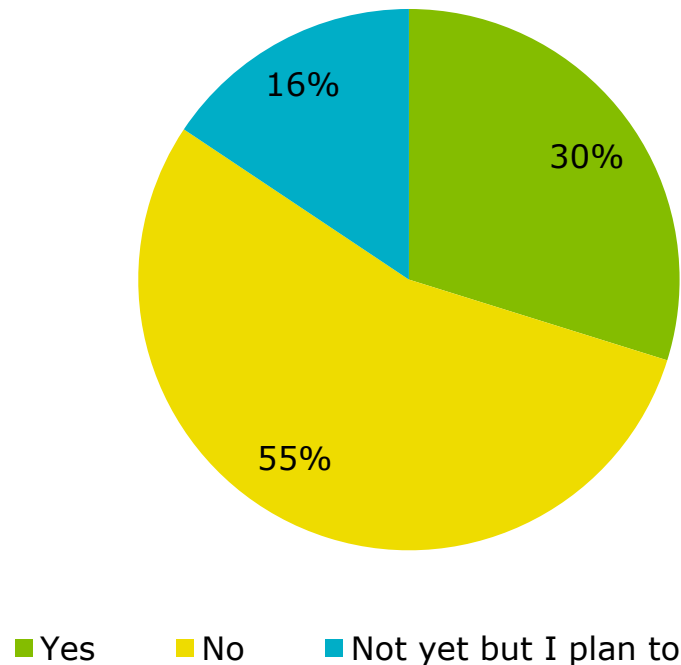
**17%  
disagreed**

Weighted Base: 54 respondents. Balance: those who agreed that their institution had provided practical advice on what action they should personally take, no response

**C3. You've told us that you don't agree that your institution has provided you with practical advice on what action you should personally take, why is that?**

Almost a third of students in Wales have already volunteered to help those within the community who are vulnerable or who may self isolating since the outbreak of Covid-19.

**Volunteered within community to help those who are more vulnerable or those who may be self isolating since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)**



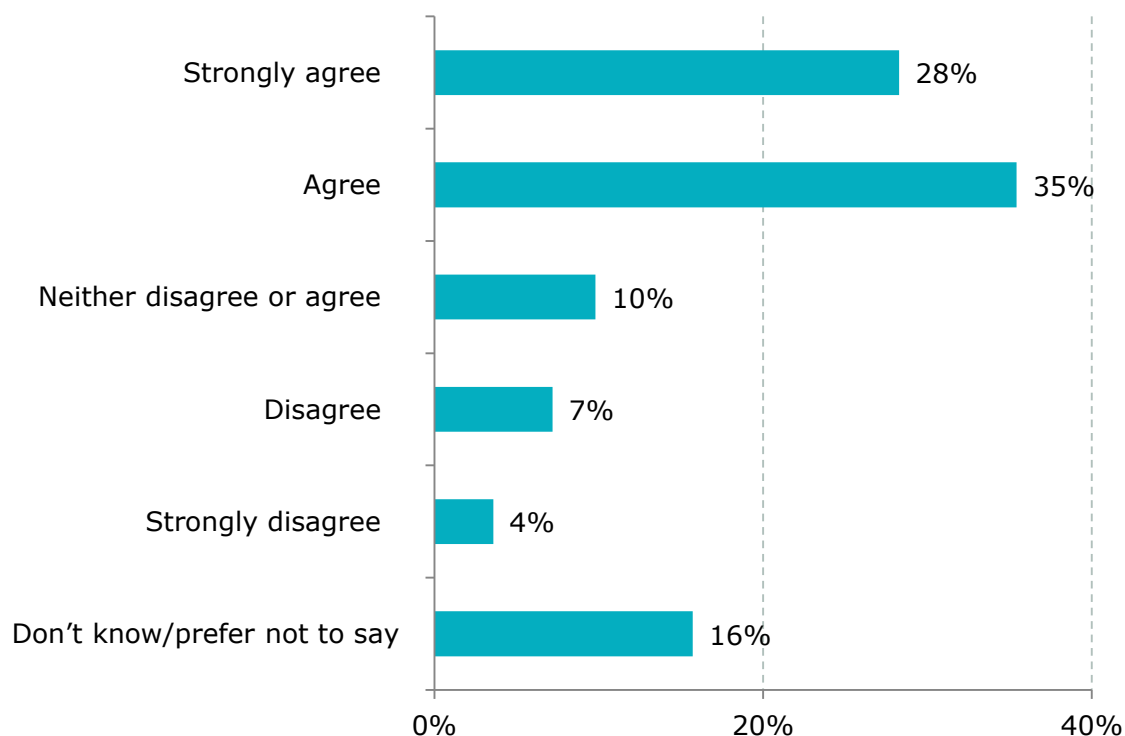
■ Yes    ■ No    ■ Not yet but I plan to

Weighted Base: 337 respondents. Balance: no response

**C7. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) have you volunteered within your community to help those who are more vulnerable or those who may be self isolating?**

Almost two thirds agree that people at their institution are adhering to the Government advice and guidance on social distancing and self isolation.

**Agreement that people at your institution are adhering to the Government advice and guidance on social distancing and self isolation**



Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

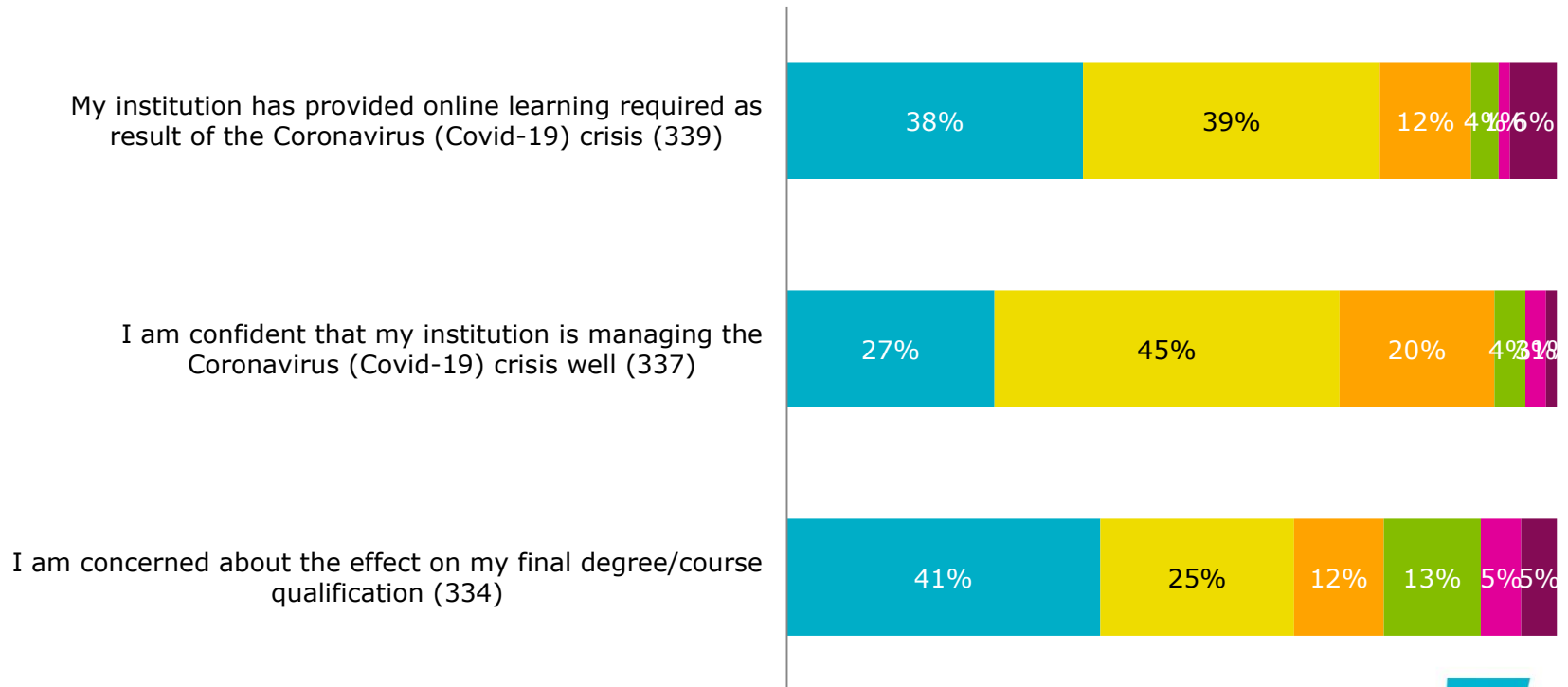
**C8. To what extent do you agree that people at your institution are adhering to the Government advice and guidance on social distancing and self isolation?**

Education: teaching and learning  
experience and academic success

Almost eight in 10 agree that their institution has provided online learning required as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and almost three quarters are confident that their institution is managing the crisis well. Two thirds are concerned about the effect of Covid-19 on their final degree/course qualification

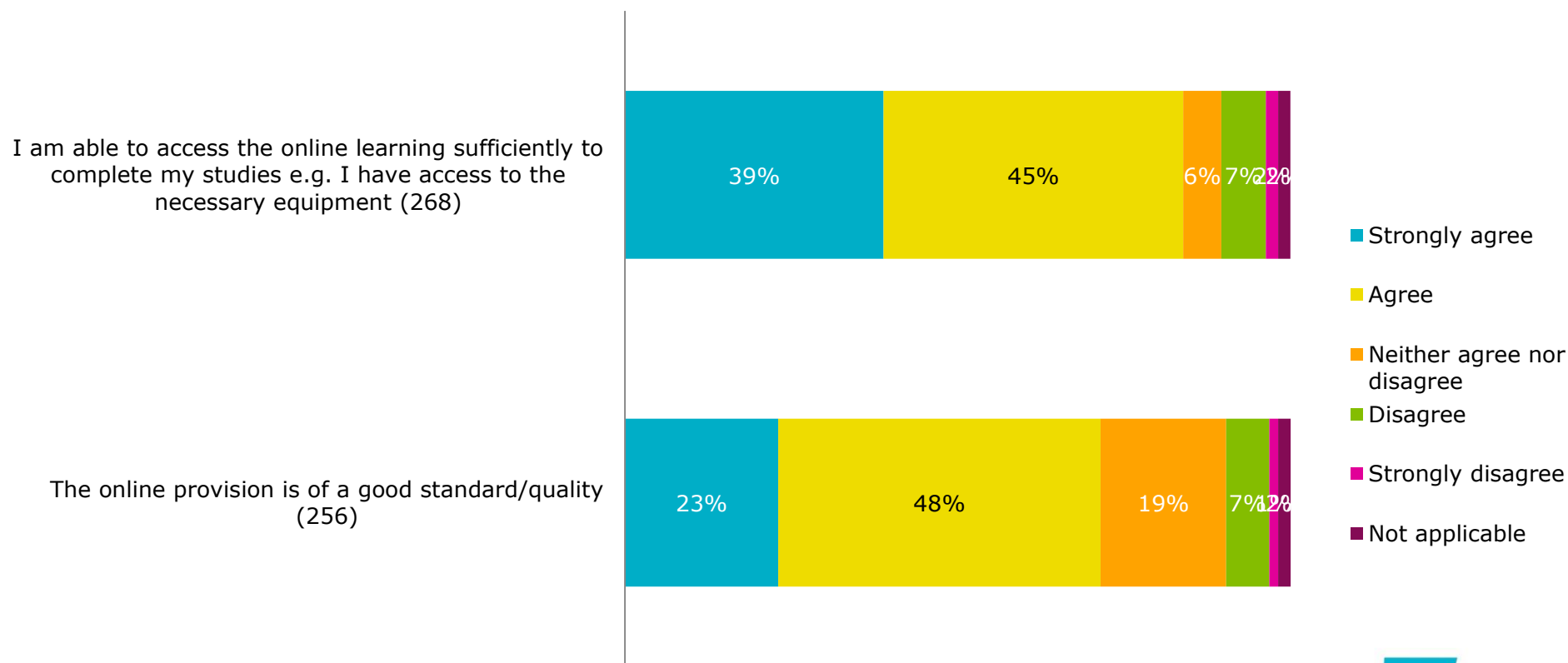
### Agreement with statements

■ Strongly agree 
 ■ Agree 
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree 
 ■ Disagree 
 ■ Strongly disagree 
 ■ Not applicable



Of the students in Wales who have had online learning provided by their institution, over four fifths agree that they are able to access the online learning sufficiently to complete their studies and almost three quarters agree the online provision is a good standard/quality.

### Agreement with statements – online learning has been provided

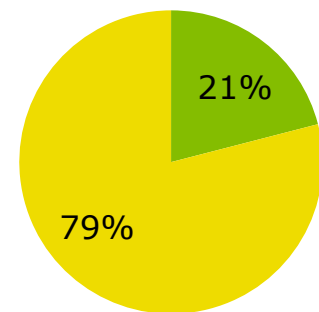


Weighted Base: (in brackets). Balance: those whose institution has not provided online learning in response to Coronavirus (Covid-19), no response

**D2. You mentioned that your institution has provided online learning in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19). How far do you agree with the following statements?**

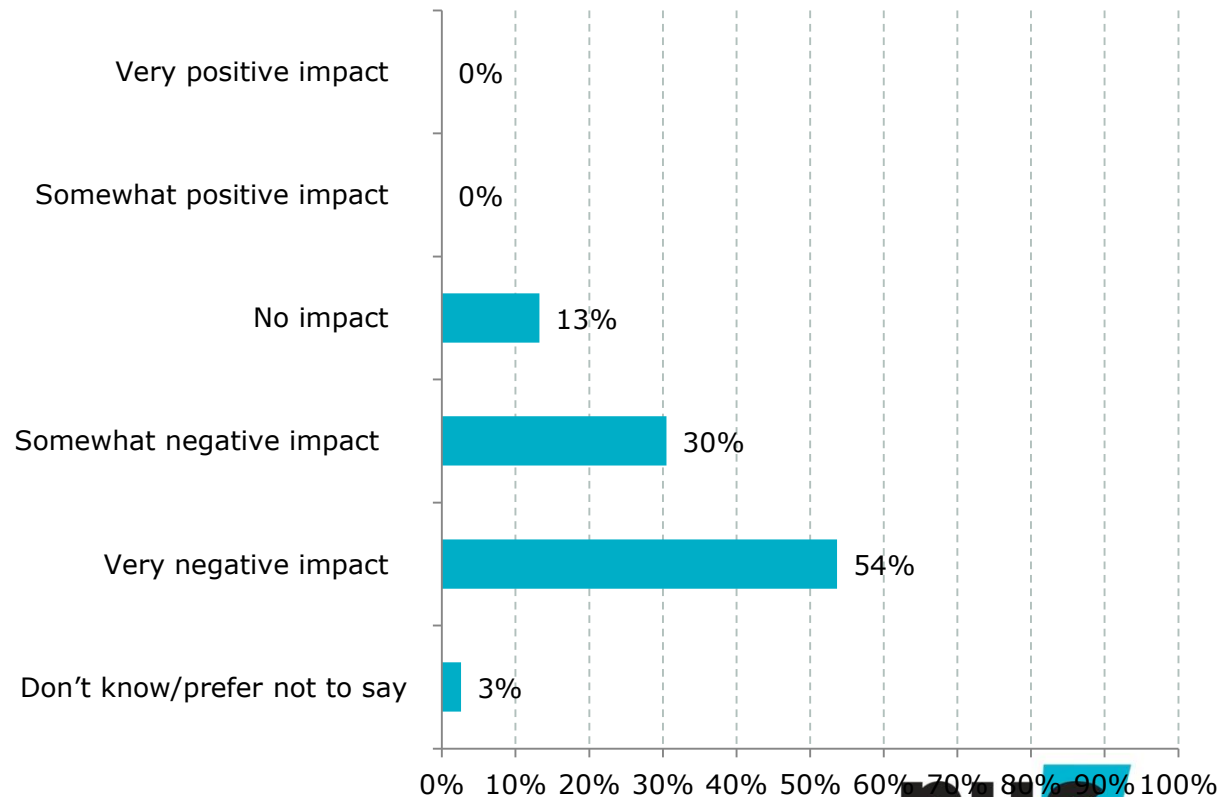
A fifth of students in Wales have a placement as part of their course. Of these the majority believe the current Covid-19 outbreak will have a negative impact on their ability to complete their placement.

### Placement as part of course



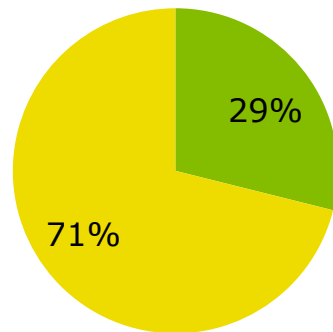
■ Yes ■ No

### Impact you think Coronavirus (Covid-19) will have on your ability to complete your placement



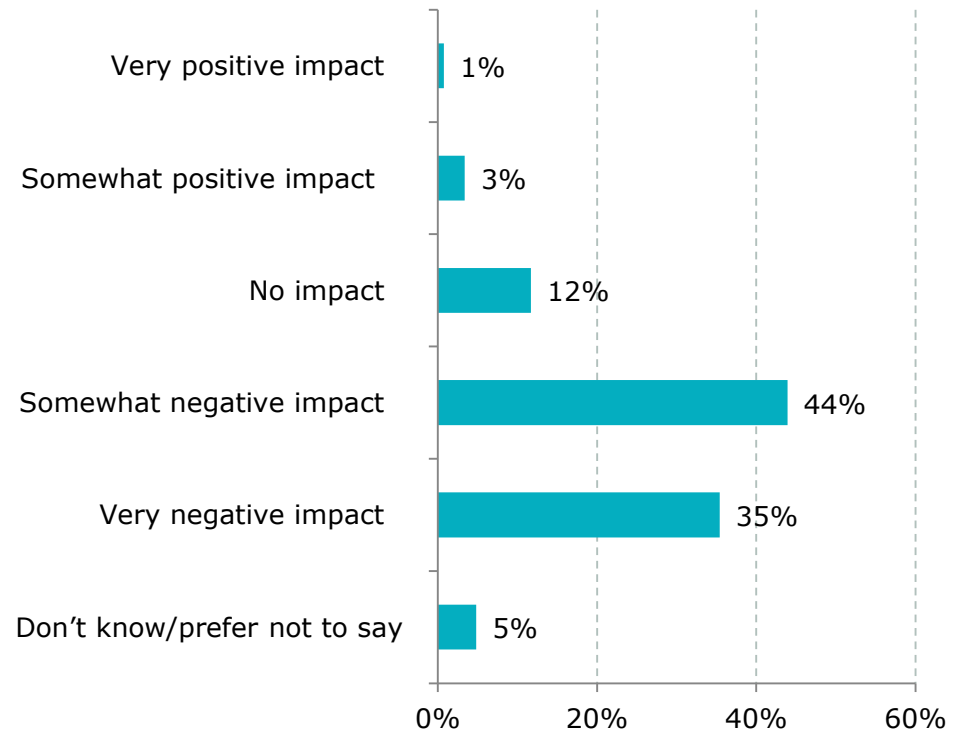
Just over a quarter of students studying in Wales have a vocational component to their course. Of these, over three quarters believe the Covid-19 outbreak will have a negative impact on the vocational element of their course.

### Vocational / vocational component



■ Yes ■ No

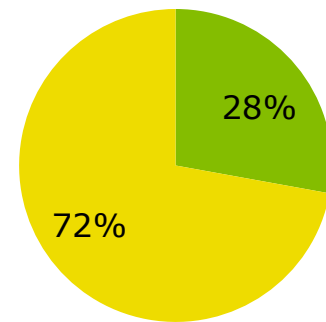
### Impact you think Coronavirus (Covid-19) will have on the vocational element of your course





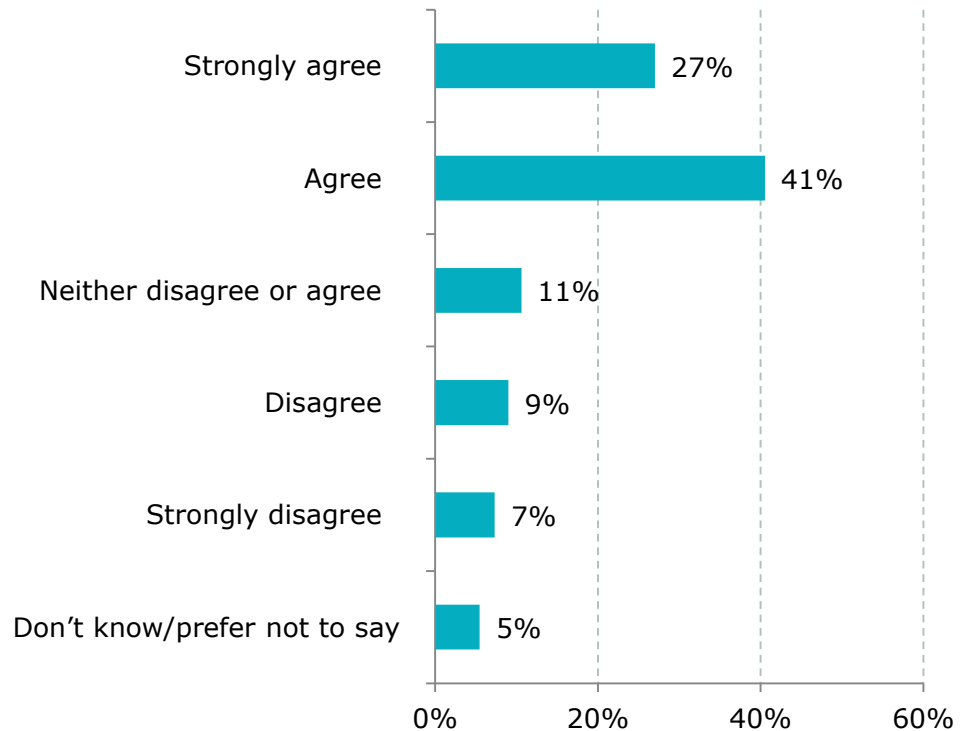
Of those who receive learning support from their institution, just over two thirds feel they have received adequate support to enable them to continue their work to the best of their ability throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Learning support



■ Yes    ■ No

### Agreement that you have received adequate support from your institution to enable best ability

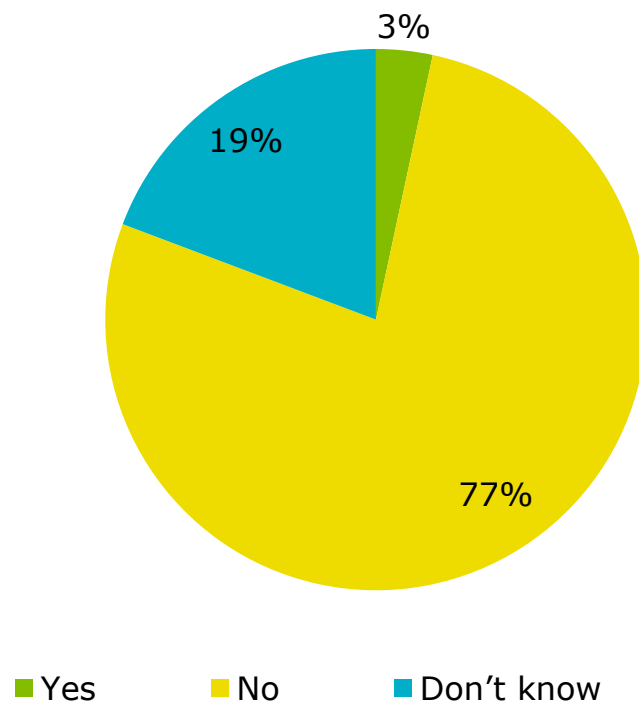


Weighted base: 338/94 respondents. Balance: those who do not receive learning support from their institution

**D7, D8. How far do you agree or disagree that you have received adequate support from your institution to enable you to continue to work to your best ability throughout the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?**

Only 3% have themselves or known of someone who has been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the covid-19 outbreak.

**Have you, or anyone you know been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**



■ Yes

■ No

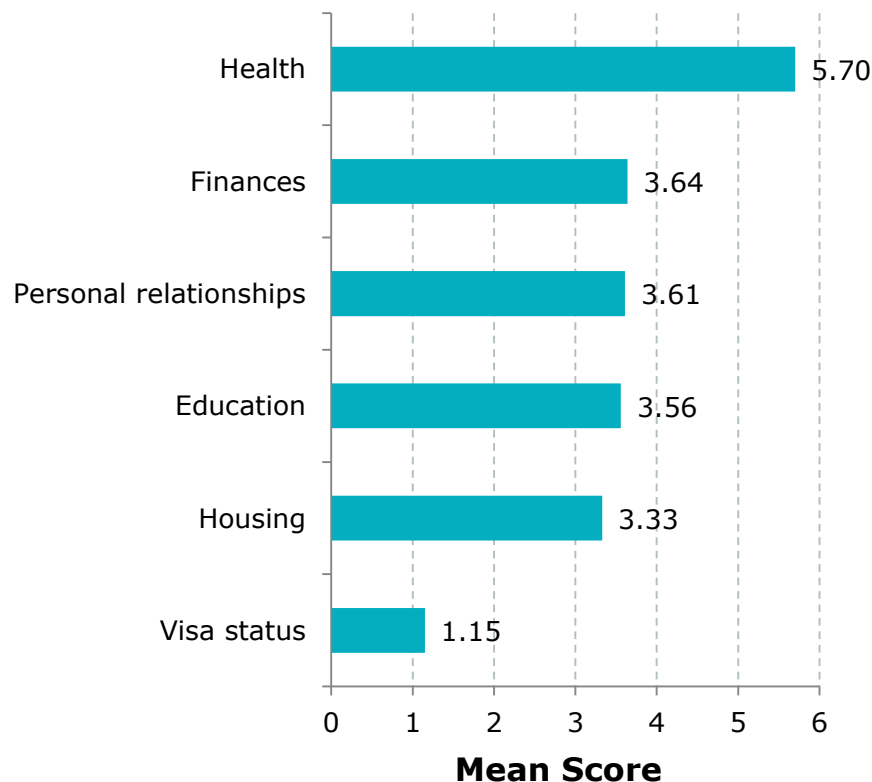
■ Don't know

Weighted Base: 336 respondents. Balance: no response

**D9. Have you, or anyone you know been disciplined for non-attendance as an attempt to minimise social interaction since the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**

Health is the number 1 priority during the Covid-19 outbreak for students in Wales. Finances was most likely to be ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important concern, followed by personal relationships, education, housing, and then Visa status (which is only relevant for certain international students)

### Ranking of importance for yourself during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak



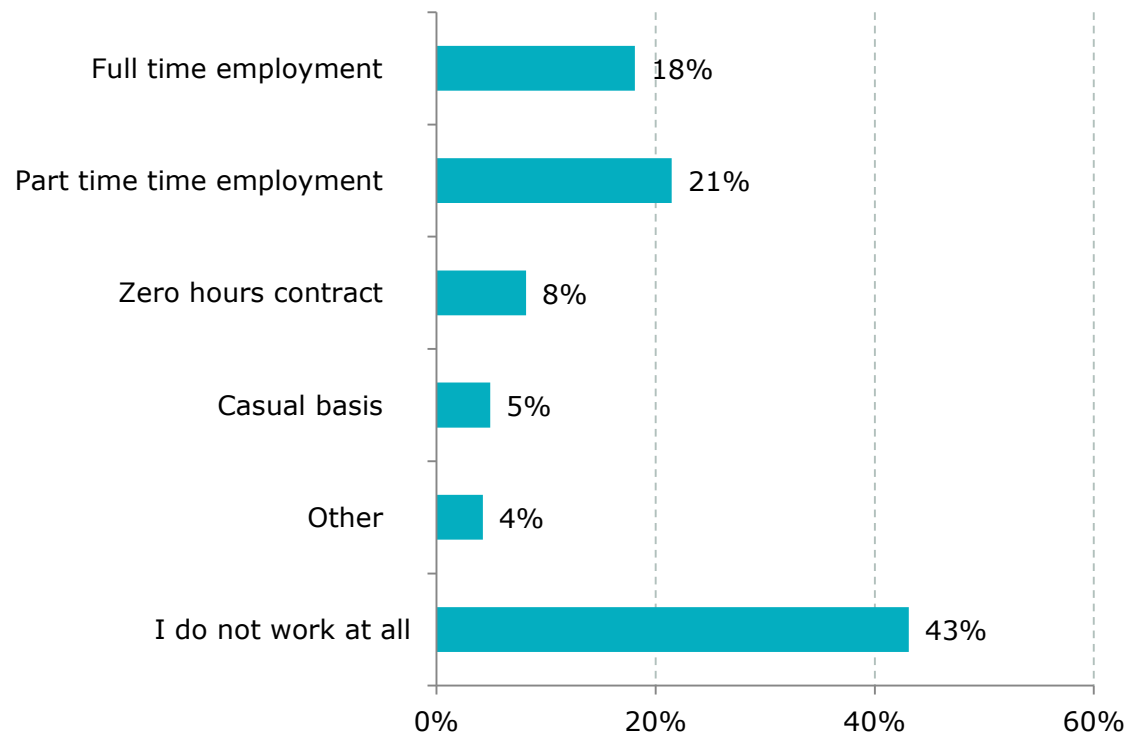
Weighted base: 330 respondents Balance: no response

**D10. Please rank the following in order of importance for yourself during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. 6 is most important.**

# Income and Financial Circumstances

Two in five students are in either full or part time employment. Almost one in ten have a zero hours contract.

### Job(s) held alongside studies

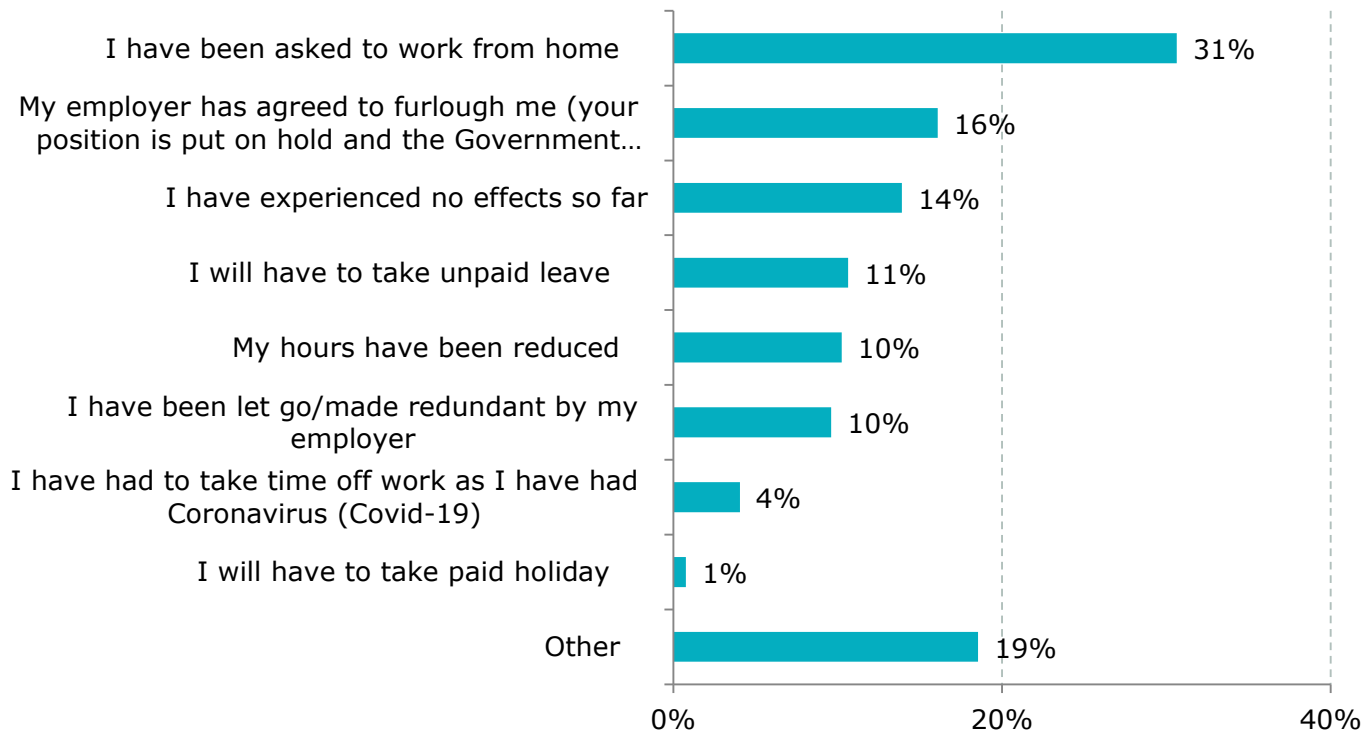


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**E1. Do you have a job alongside your study? If you have several jobs, please choose your main one.**

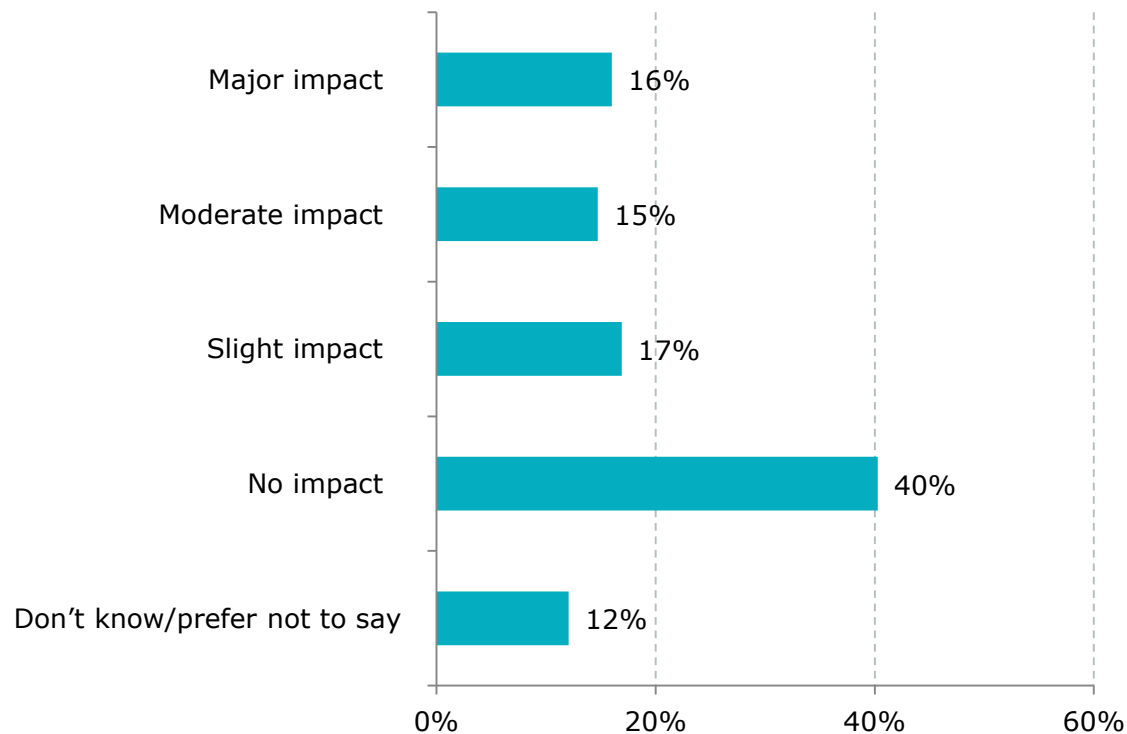
Of those students who currently work, a third have been asked to work from home, while 16% have been furloughed. One in 10 have been made to take unpaid leave.

### How work has been affected by Coronavirus (Covid-19)



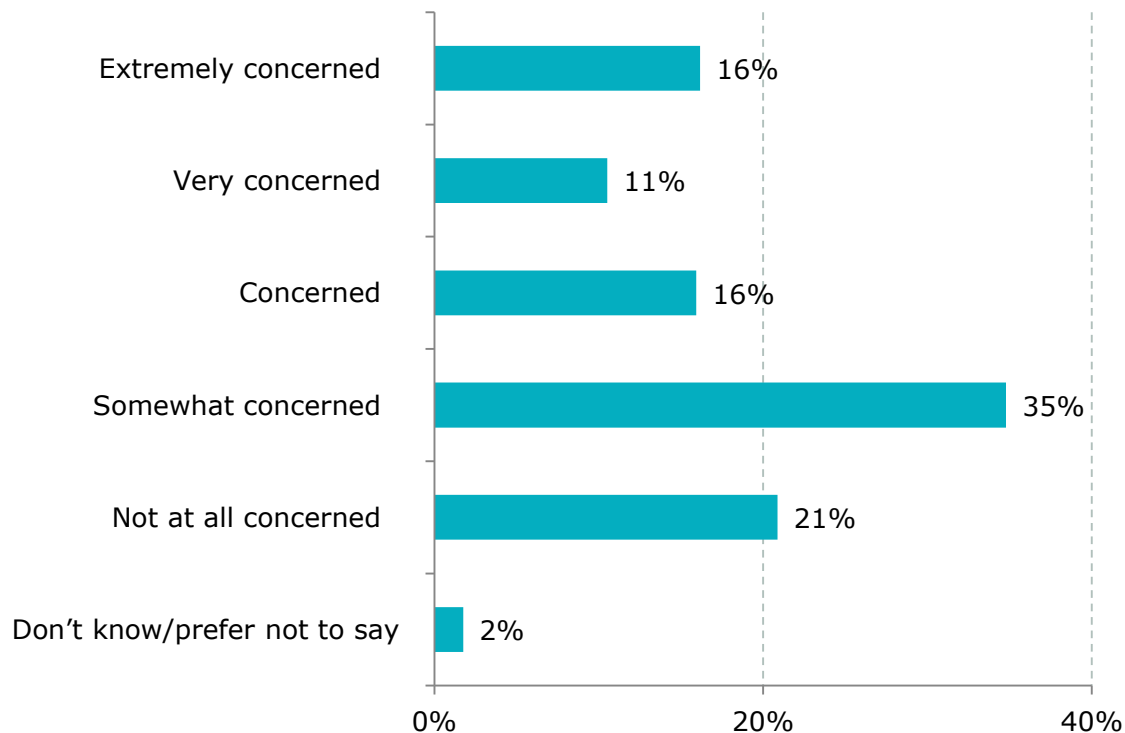
Almost half of students in Wales say that the income of someone who supports them financially has been impacted by Covid-19.

**Has the income of someone who helps support you financially been impacted by Coronavirus (Covid-19)?**



Over three quarters of students are concerned about their ability to manage financially during the Covid-19 outbreak. Just over a quarter are 'extremely' or 'very' concerned

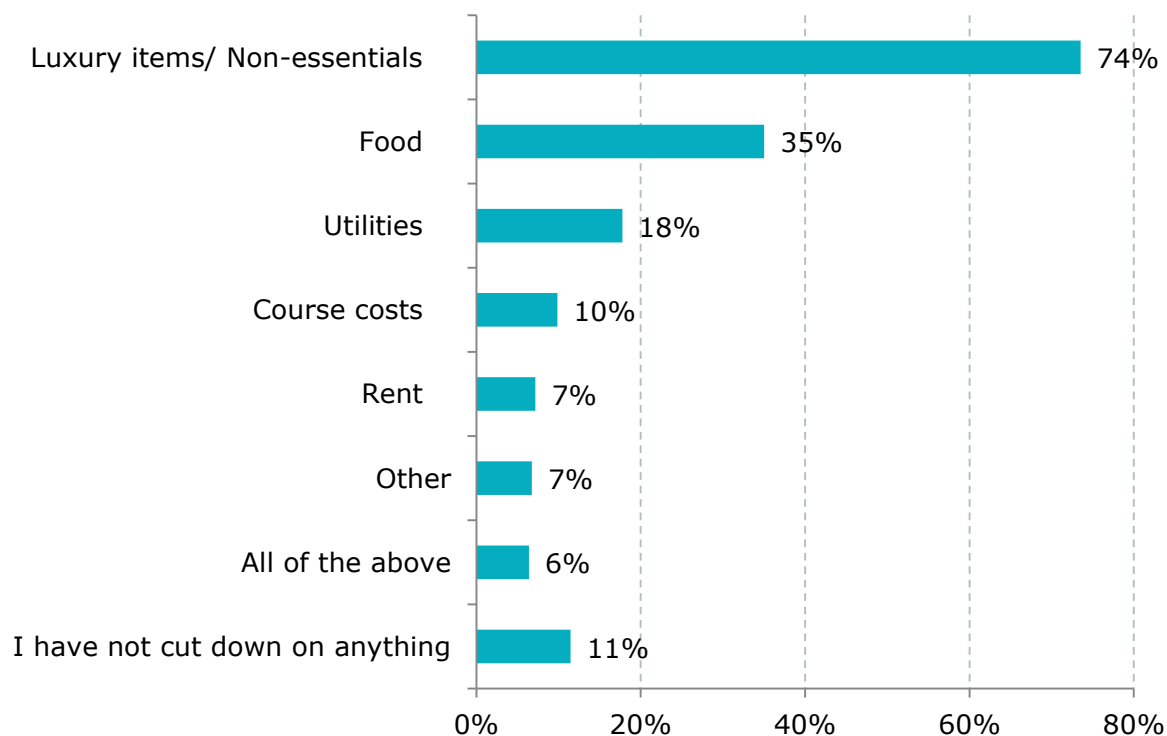
### Concern about ability to manage financially during outbreak





Three quarters of students in Wales have cut back on luxury/non-essential items since the Covid-19 outbreak. A third have also cut back on food expenditure and around a fifth have cut back on utilities.

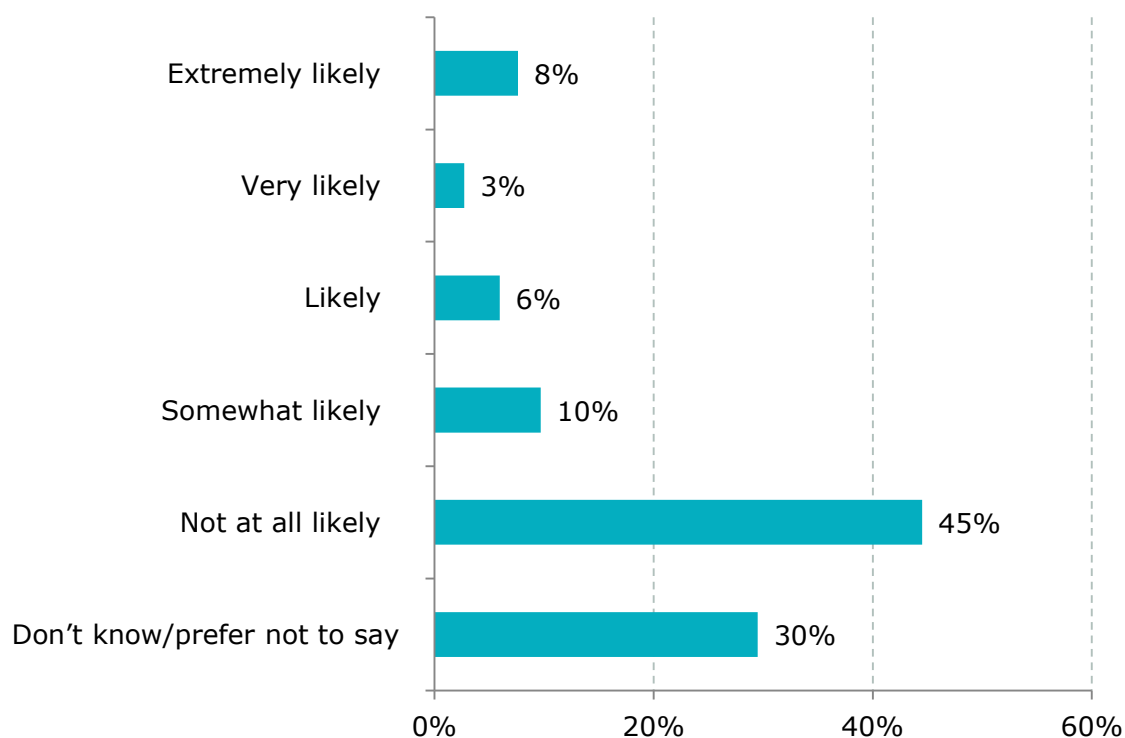
### Cutting back in terms of spending since Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak



# Accommodation

A quarter of students who are living in privately rented accommodation/owned halls of residence say there is some likelihood that they will need to stay in their current property beyond the original planned contract date.

### Likelihood of remaining in current property beyond original planned contract data

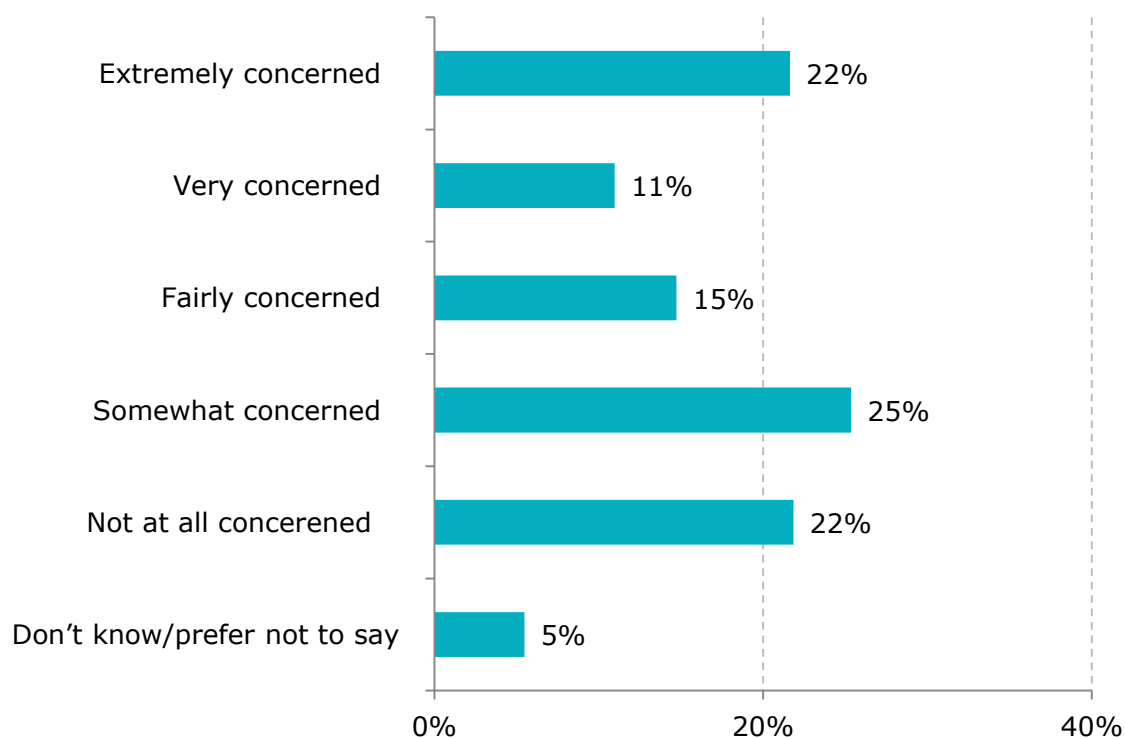


Weighted Base: 149 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

**F1 How likely is it, if at all that you will need to remain in your current property beyond the originally planned contract date as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak?**

Three quarters are concerned to some extent about their ability to pay rent as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. A third are 'very' or 'extremely' concerned.

### Level of concern about financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on ability to pay rent

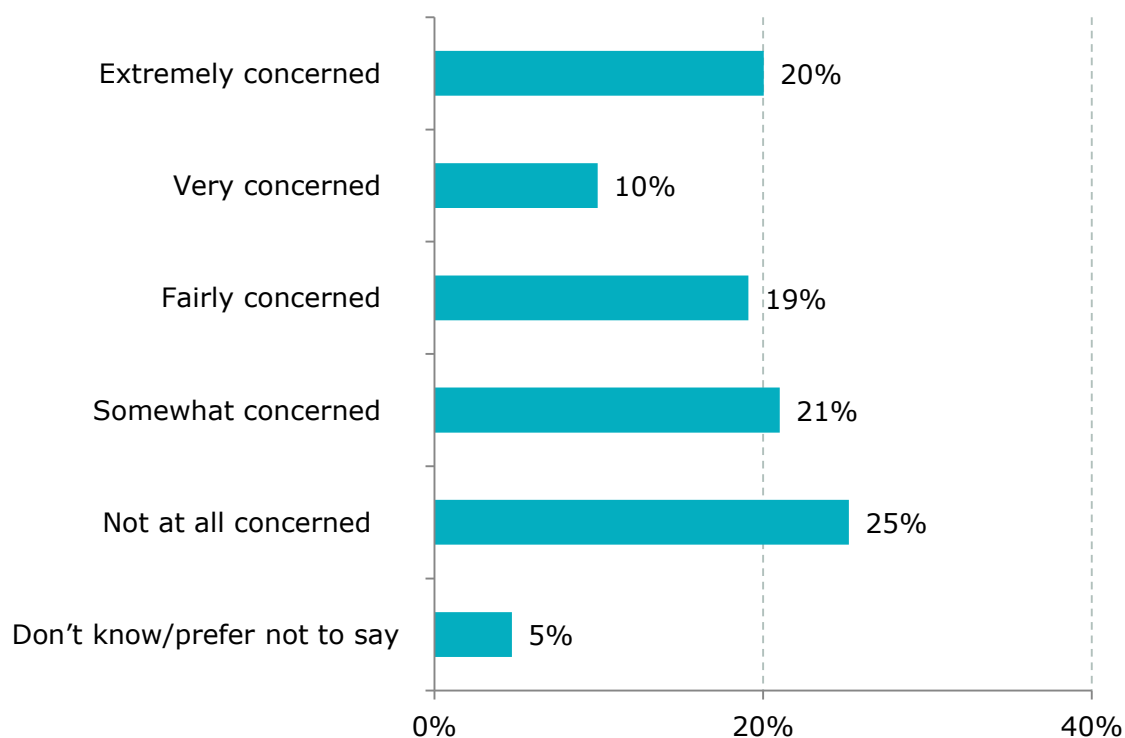


Weighted Base: 148 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

**F3. How concerned are you, if at all, about the financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your ability to pay rent?**

Almost three quarters of students in Wales are concerned to some extent about their ability to pay their bills as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Almost a third are either 'very' or 'extremely' concerned.

### Level of concern about financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on ability to pay bills

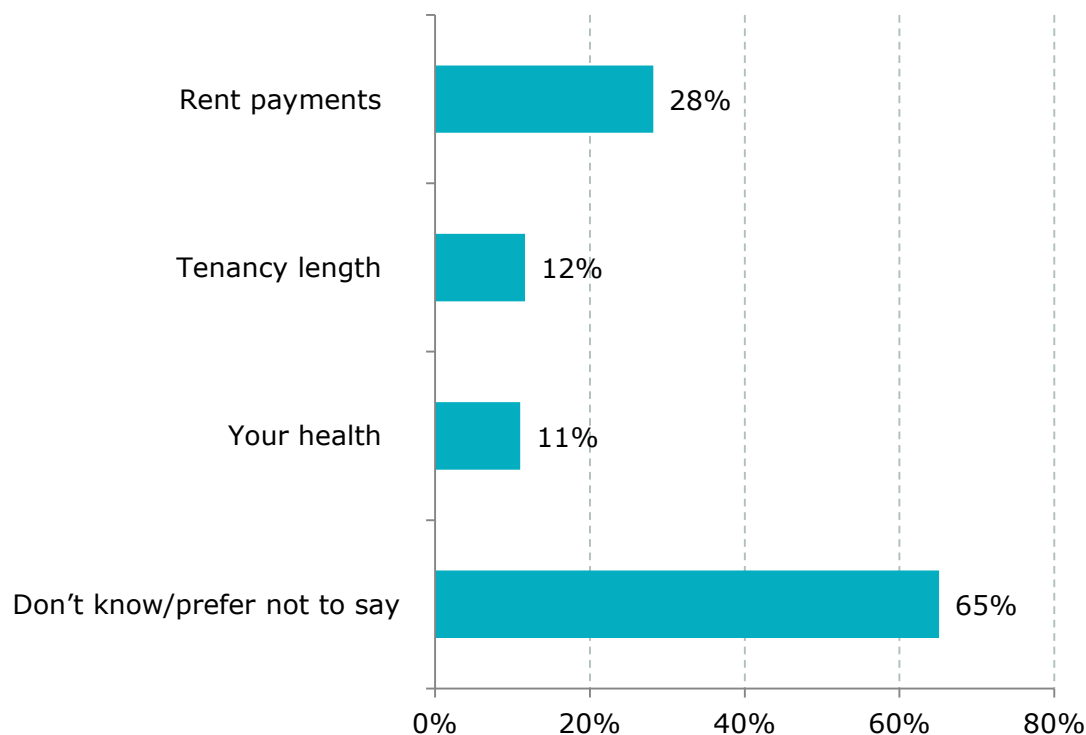


Weighted Base: 149 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or owned halls of residence

**F4. How concerned are you, if at all, about the financial impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your ability to pay bills?**

Over a quarter of students have communicated with their landlord about rent payments

**Have you spoken to your landlord about these issues?**

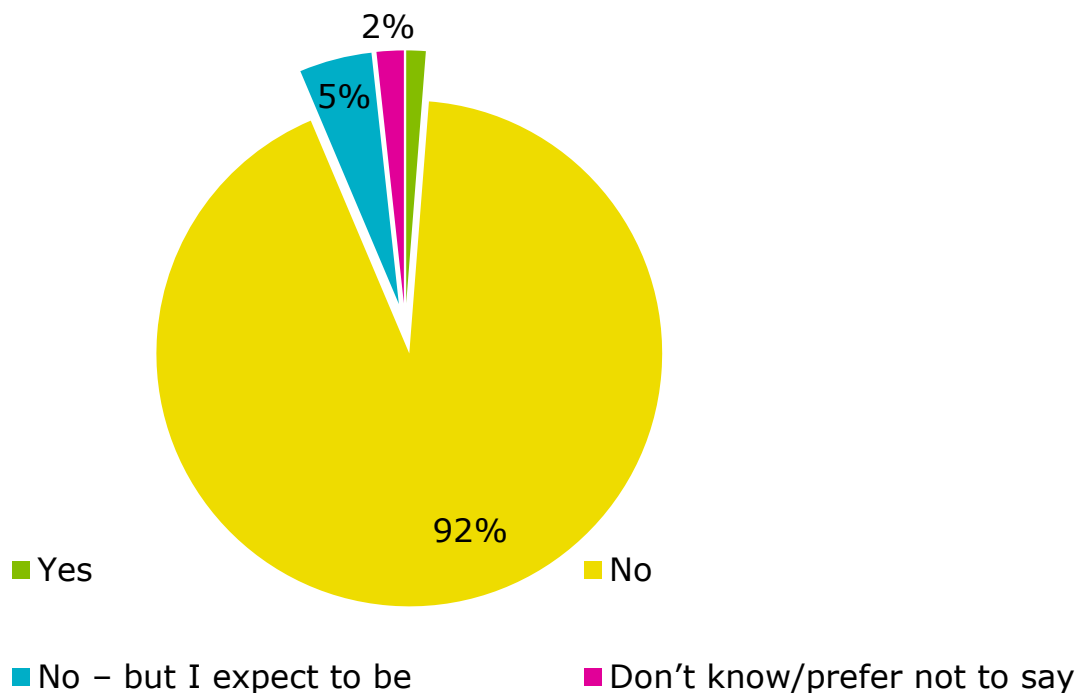


Weighted Base: 126 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

**F5. Have you discussed or had any communication with your landlord/accommodation provider on any of the following issues during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?**

Encouragingly the majority of students in private rented accommodation/owned halls of residence have not been issued with an eviction notice.

**Have you been issued with an eviction notice?**

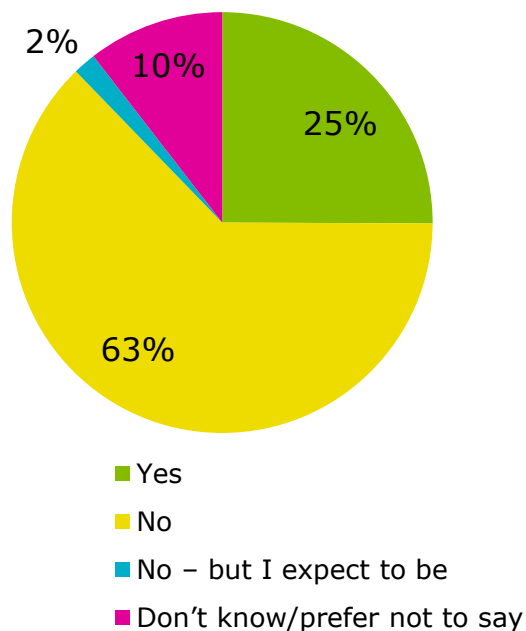


Weighted Base: 149 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

**F7. Have you been issued with an eviction notice?**

A quarter of students would like to be released early from their rental obligations. The main reason given for this preference is the fact that learning has now moved online.

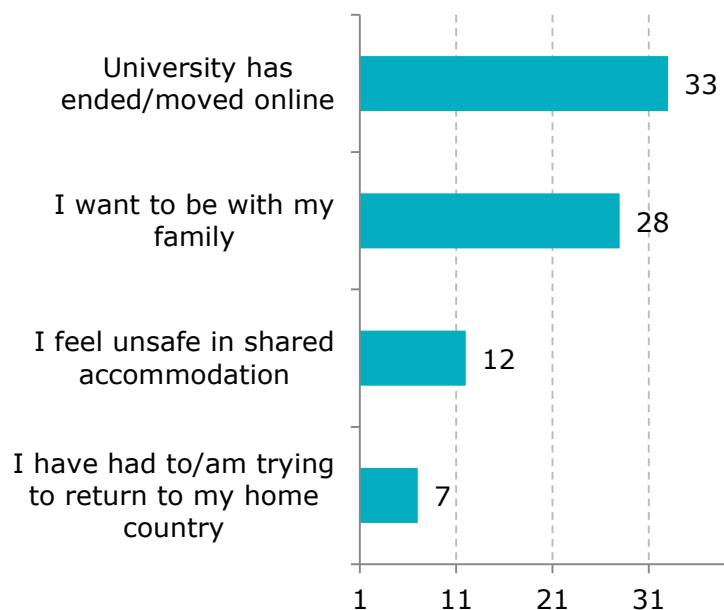
### Preference for being released from rental early?



Weighted Base: 147 respondents. Balance : those who have been issued with an eviction notice

**F8. As a result of Coronavirus, would you like to be released from your current tenancy contract/rent obligations early and move out?**

### Why do you want to be released from your contract?



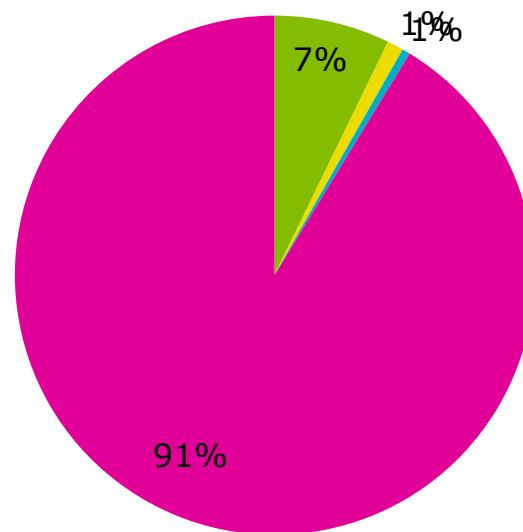
Weighted Base: 37 respondents. Balance : those who do not want to be released from their contract

**F9. Why do you want to be released from your contract?**



However, fewer than one in ten have been given the opportunity to be released early from their tenancy/rental obligations.

**Has your landlord given you the option to release early from your current contract?**



■ Yes ■ Yes, but with a fee ■ Yes, but not as early as I would like ■ No

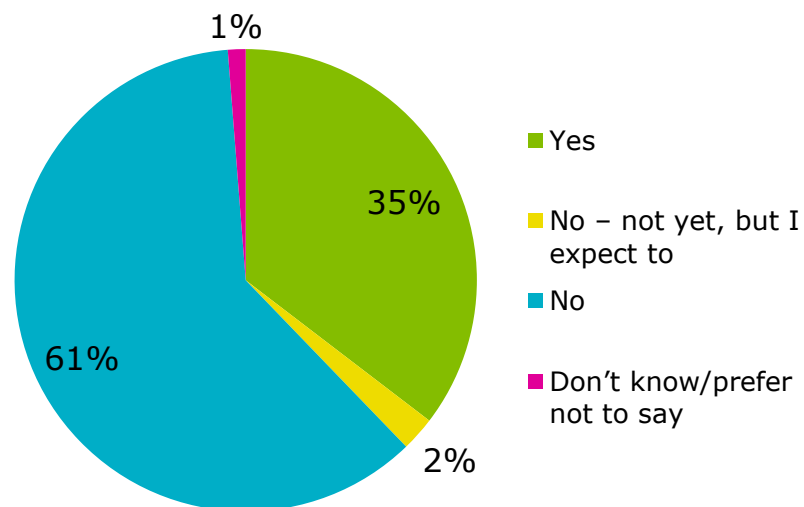
Weighted Base: 147 respondents. Balance : those not living in privately rented accommodation or privately owned halls of residence

**F10. Has your landlord/accommodation provider offered you the opportunity to be released early from your current tenancy/rent obligations as a result of Coronavirus?**

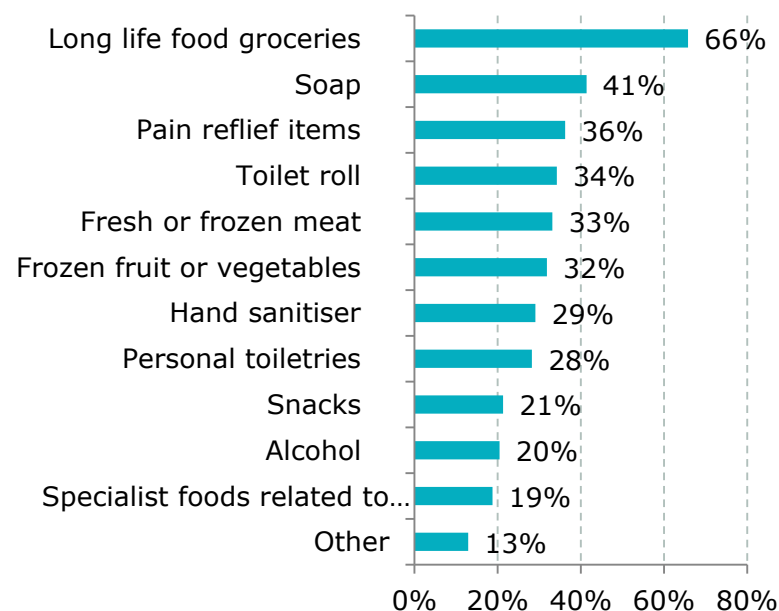
# Consumption/Goods and Purchases

A quarter of students studying in Wales say they have purchased something more than usual. In the main this has related to long life groceries. Soap and pain relief items are also a common purchase

### Have you purchased more of anything than usual?



### What items have you bought/are considering buying more of in the last 3 weeks?

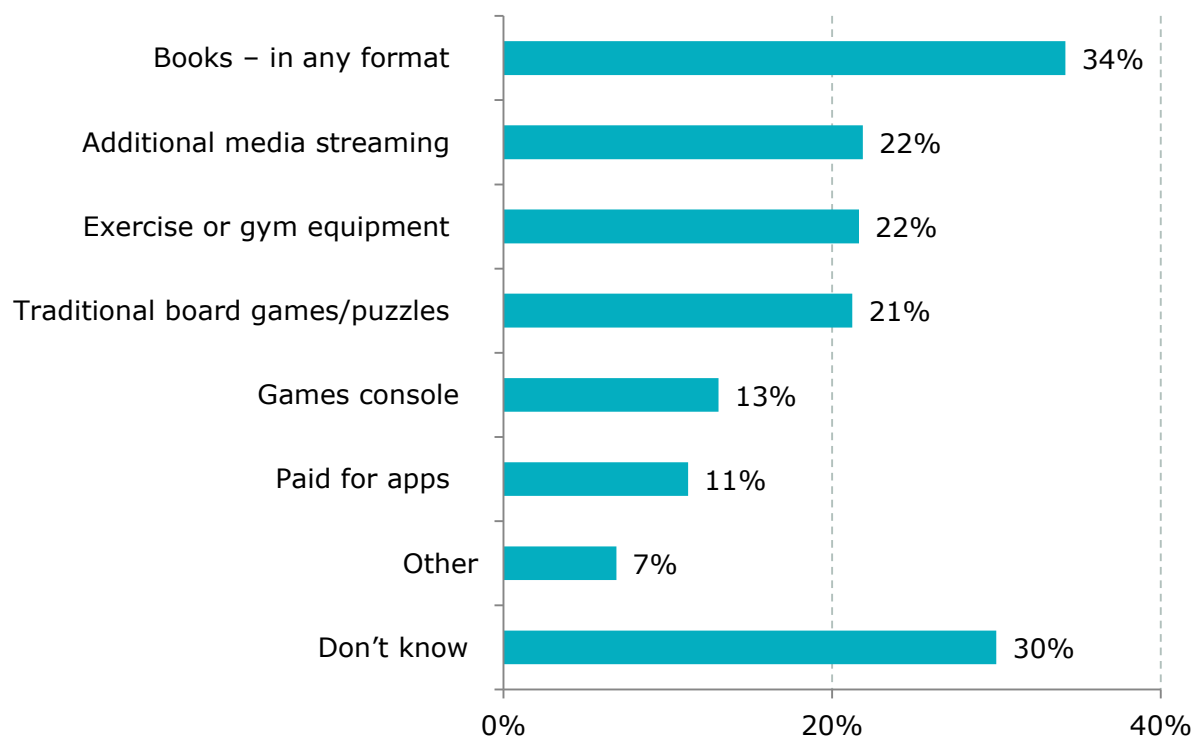


Weighted Base: 128 respondents. Balance : those who have not bought/don not expect to buy more than usual

**G2. Please tell us what items you have bought more of in the past 3 weeks, or are considering buying?**

In an attempt to manage self-isolation and movement restrictions students are most likely to be buying books. Additional media streaming, exercise equipment or board games are also popular with around one in five.

**What have you/are you considering buying to manage self isolation or movement restrictions?**



Weighted Base: 315 respondents. Balance: no response

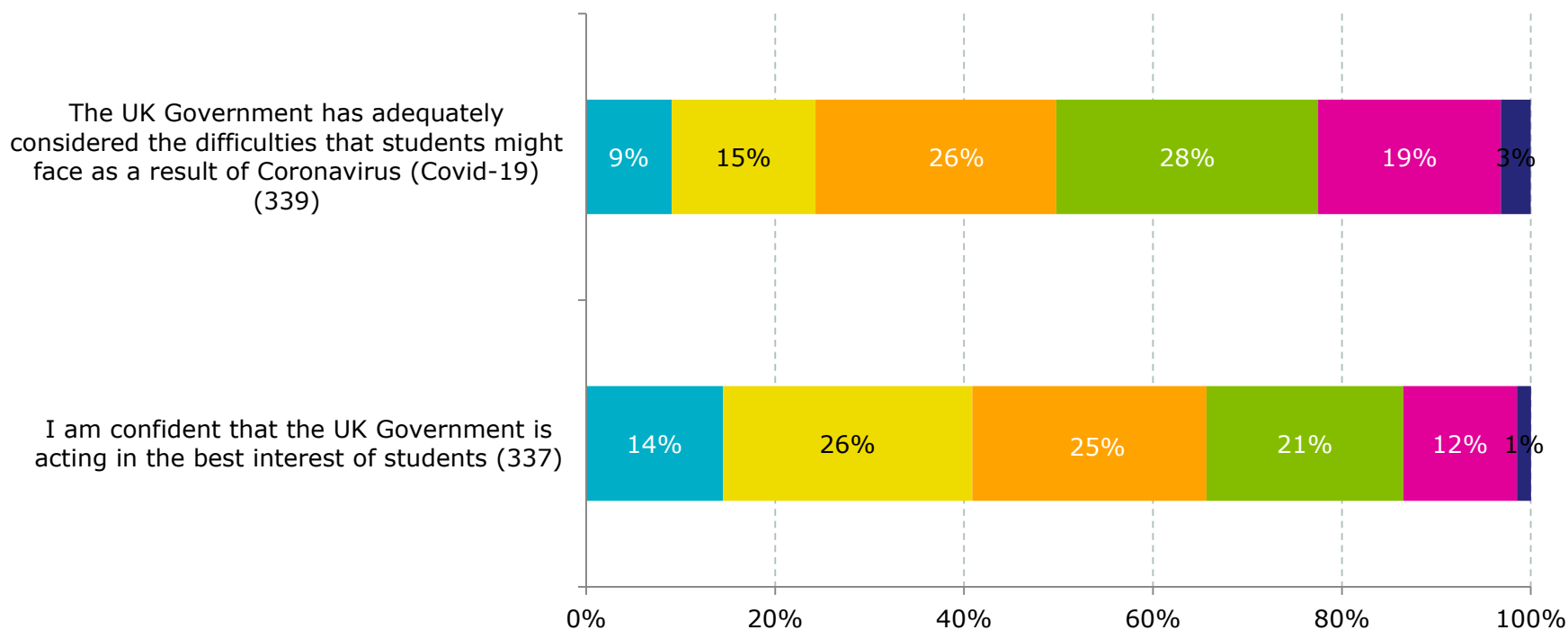
**G3. Have you, or are you considering buying any of the below to manage either self isolation or the newly announced movement restrictions?**

# Government actions

Around a quarter of students in Wales believe the UK government has adequately considered the difficulties of students at this time, while two in five believe the government is acting in the best interests of students

### Agreement with statements – UK Government

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/Not applicable

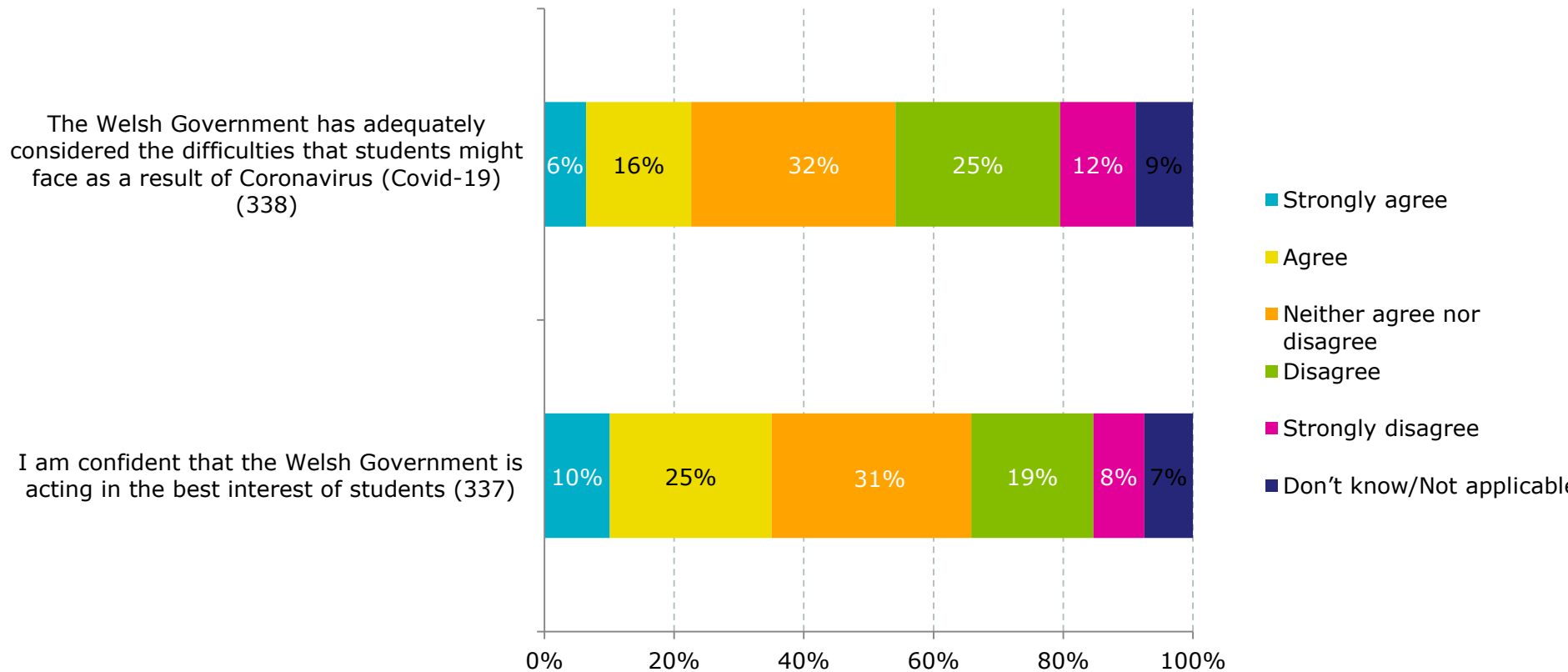


Weighted Base: (in brackets). Balance: no response

**H1. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?**

A third of students in Wales agree that the Welsh Assembly are adequately considering the difficulties students are facing as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Just over one fifth agree that they are acting in the best interests of students

### Agreement with statements – Welsh Assembly

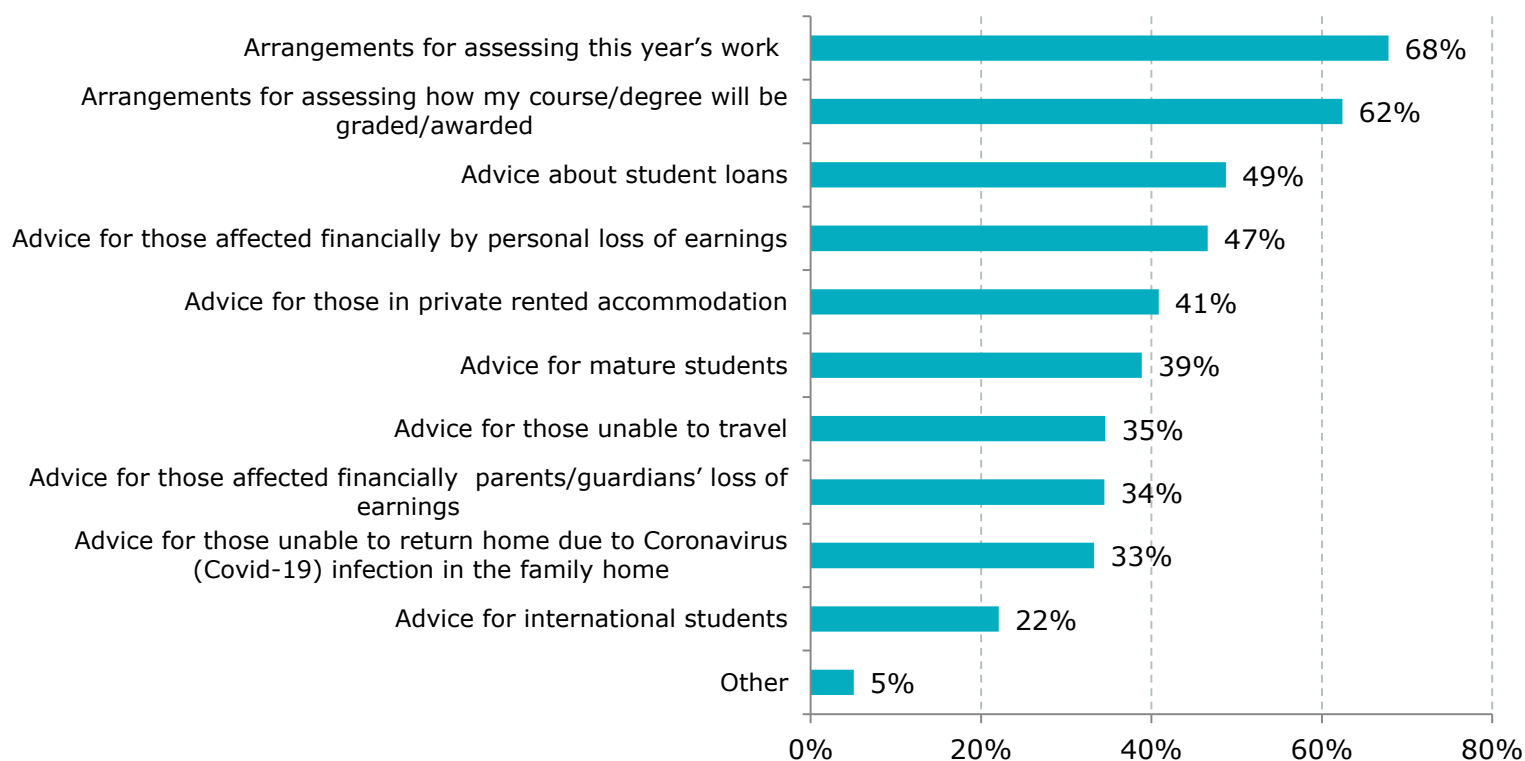


Weighted Base: (in brackets). Balance: students not studying in Wales

**H3. Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the statements below in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?**

Around two thirds of students in Wales would like further info/guidance from governments on how their course/degree will be graded/awarded.

### Other information/guidance would like from governments



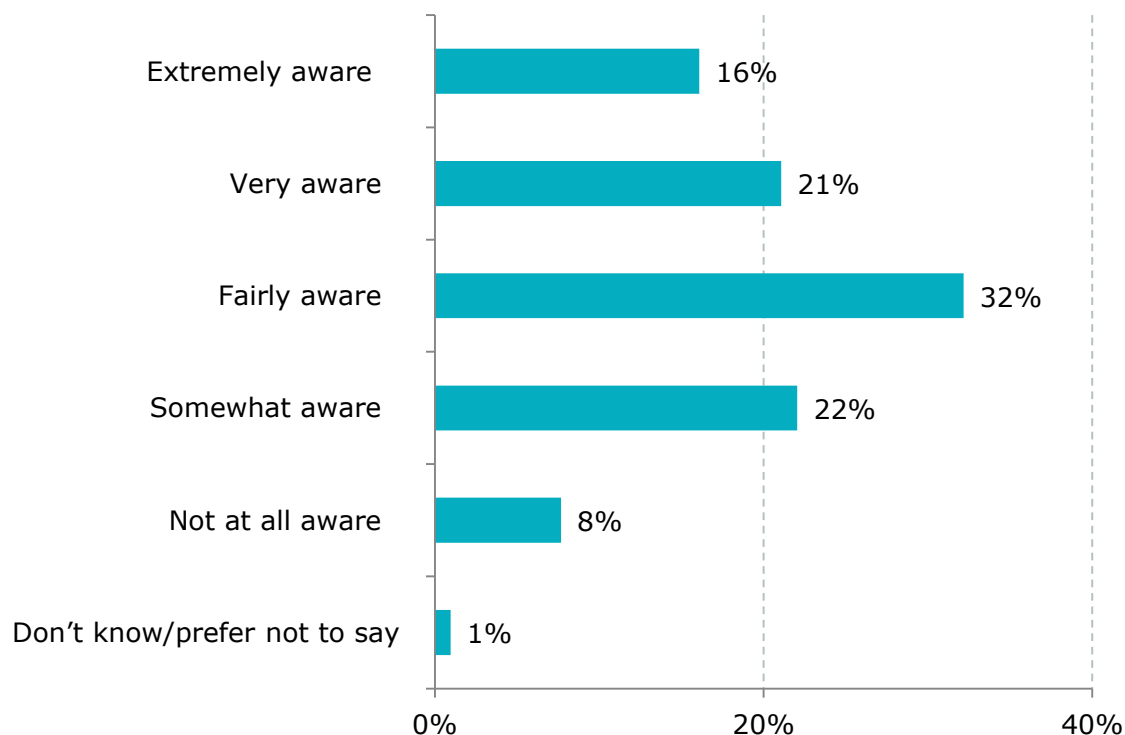
Weighted Base: 321 respondents. Balance: no response

**H5. What further information or guidance would you like the relevant Governments (UK, Scottish, Welsh and NI) to issue for students?**



The vast majority of students are aware to some extent of the measures the governments are taking so far to combat the economic impacts of the Covid-19. Over one in three are either 'very' or 'extremely' aware.

### Awareness of Government measures to combat economic impacts



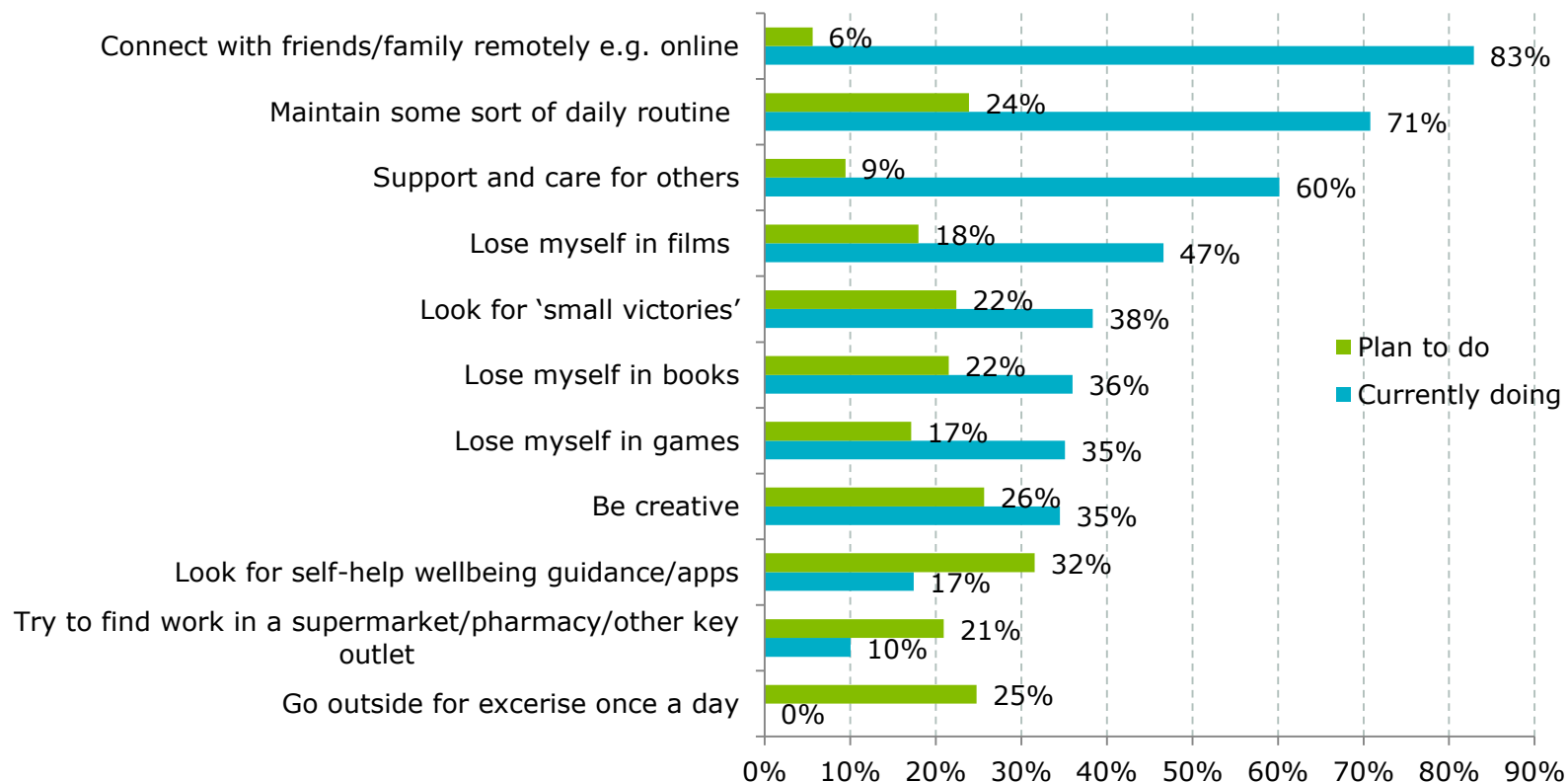
Weighted Base: 336 respondents. Balance: no response

**H6. How aware are you, if at all, of the measures that the relevant Governments (UK, Scottish, Welsh and NI) have taken so far to combat the economic impacts of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?**

# Self isolating/your health/movement restrictions

The vast majority of respondents currently connect with friends and family online. They are less likely to look for self help, although a third plan to do this, or work in a supermarket, although one in five plan to do this

### What are you currently doing/plan to do to support your well being?

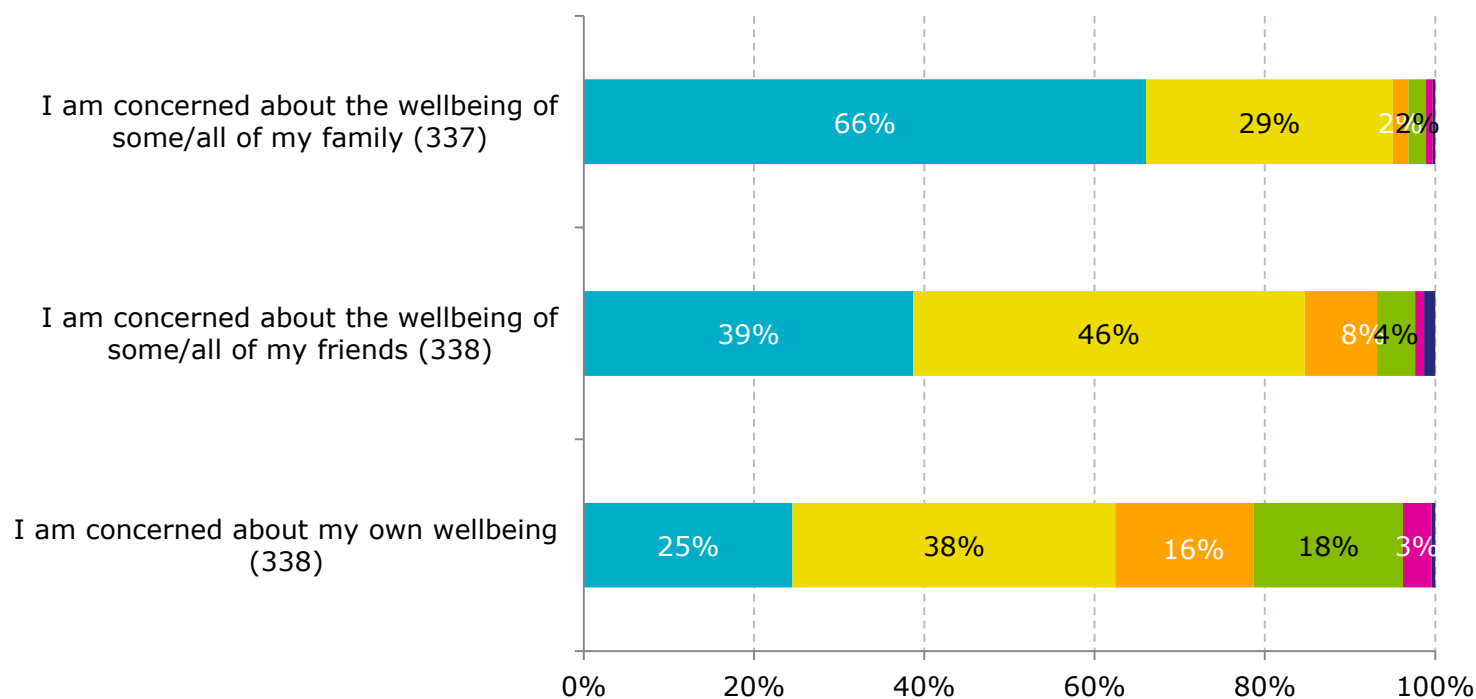


Weighted Base: 9872

Students in Wales are more likely to be concerned about the wellbeing of their family than of their friends or themselves

### Agreement with statements

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know/Not applicable



Weighted Base: (in brackets). Balance:

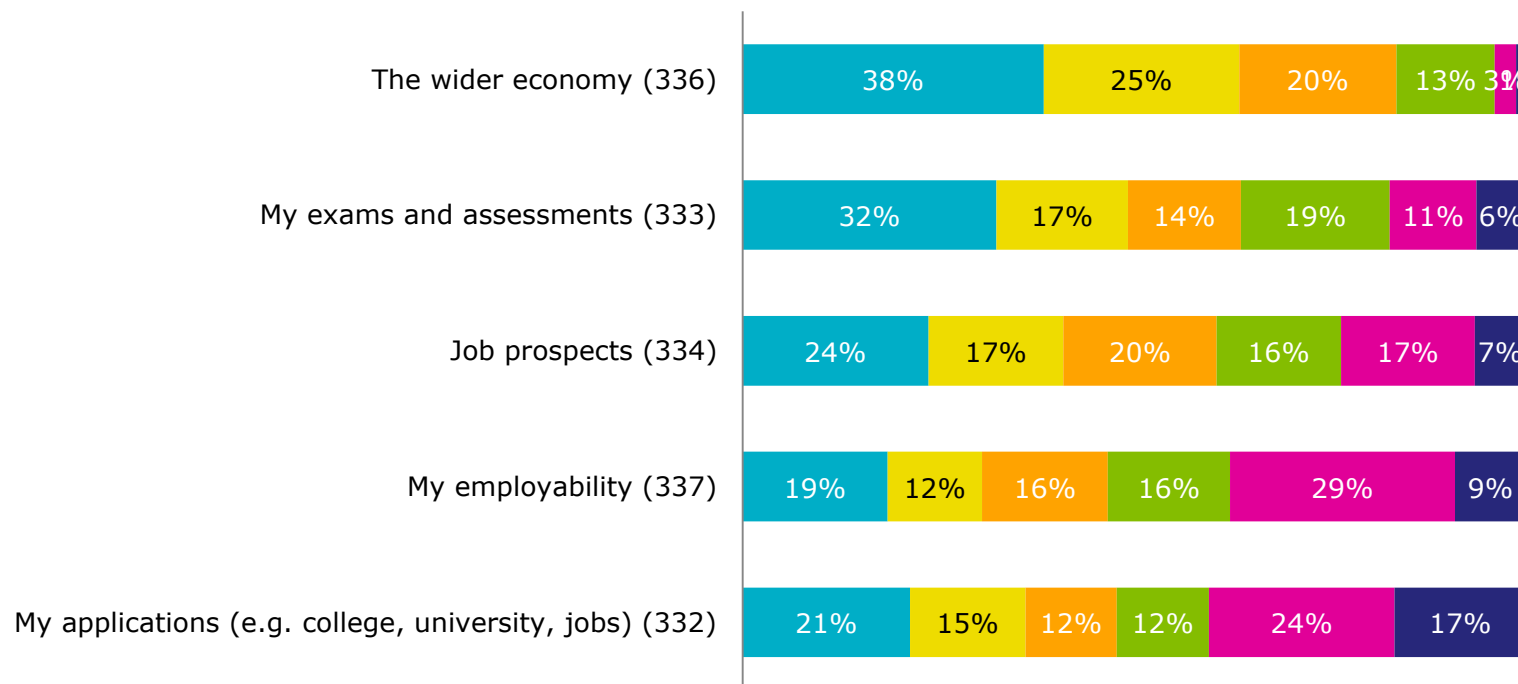
12. How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19)?

# The future

Students in Wales are most likely to show a level of concern for the wider economy than their exams and assessments

### Levels of concern about impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

■ Extremely concerned     ■ Very concerned     ■ Concerned  
■ Somewhat concerned     ■ Not at all concerned     ■ Don't know/Not applicable



Weighted Base: (in brackets) respondents. Balance: no response

**J1. How concerned are you about the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the following?**

Students are concerned about the impact of the virus on so many aspects their studies and student life. These are just the main areas highlighted

### Key themes:

- **Ultimate grades / predicting grades**
- **Lack of time** to prepare / meeting deadlines
- Having to **work / submit online**
- Lack of **motivation** / focus / concentration
- Impact on **stress and health**

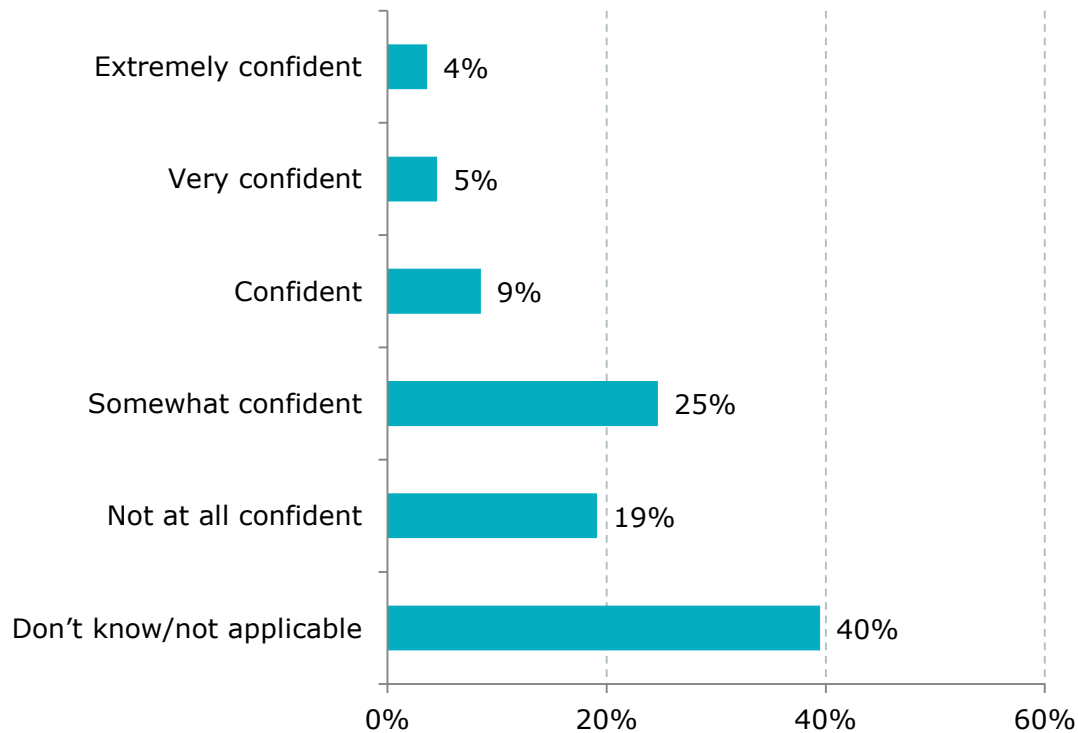
*"That my assessment grade will drop due to the stress and worry I'm experiencing. I find it extremely hard to concentrate on my work."*

*"with online study and no fixed timetabled routine. hard to find motivation and the little motivation is overcome with worry and stress about degree result. I won't do as well."*

*"Exams would have to be online or changed into assessments which imply more work and less time. We only have access to information uploaded online, not to online lectures, therefore learning is going to be harder."*

Over two in five students are confident to some extent that enrolment will take place in person next year

**Confidence that next year of study enrolment will take place in person on campus**



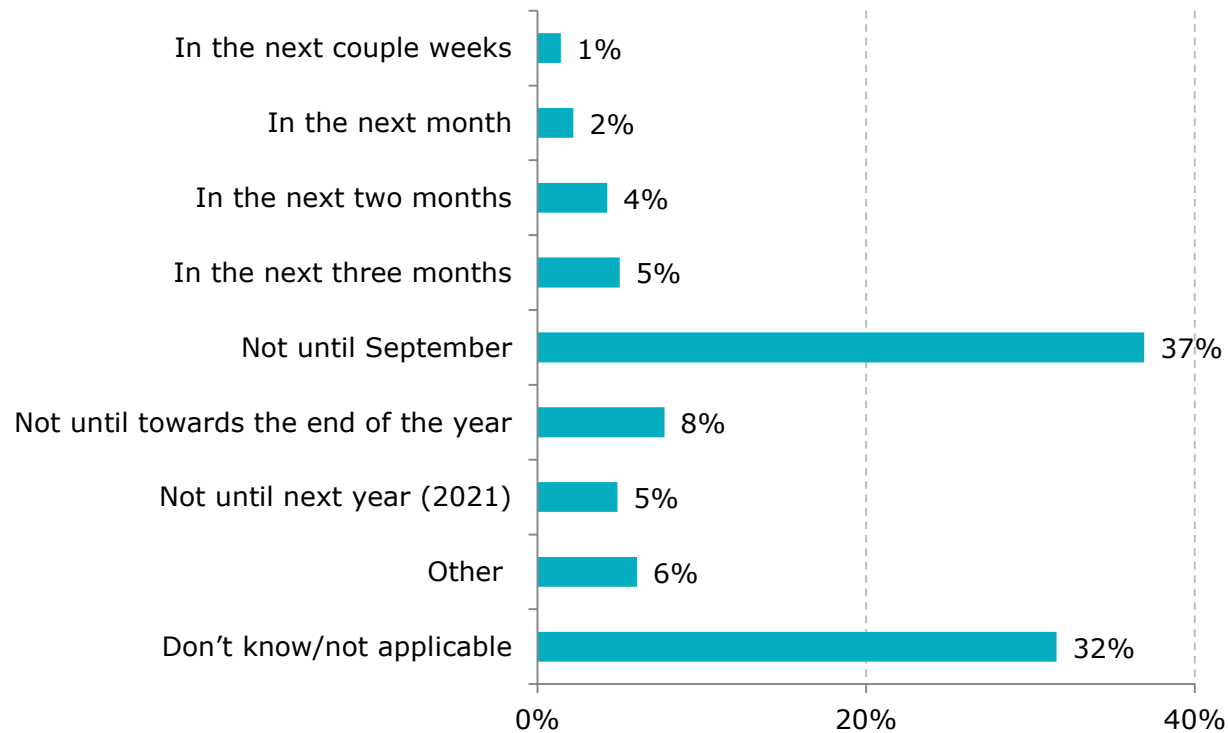
Weighted Base: 334 respondents. Balance: no response

**J3. Thinking ahead to your next year of study, how confident are you that enrolment will take place in person on campus as opposed to remotely?**



## Students most commonly believe that they will return to study in September

### When expect to return to studying?

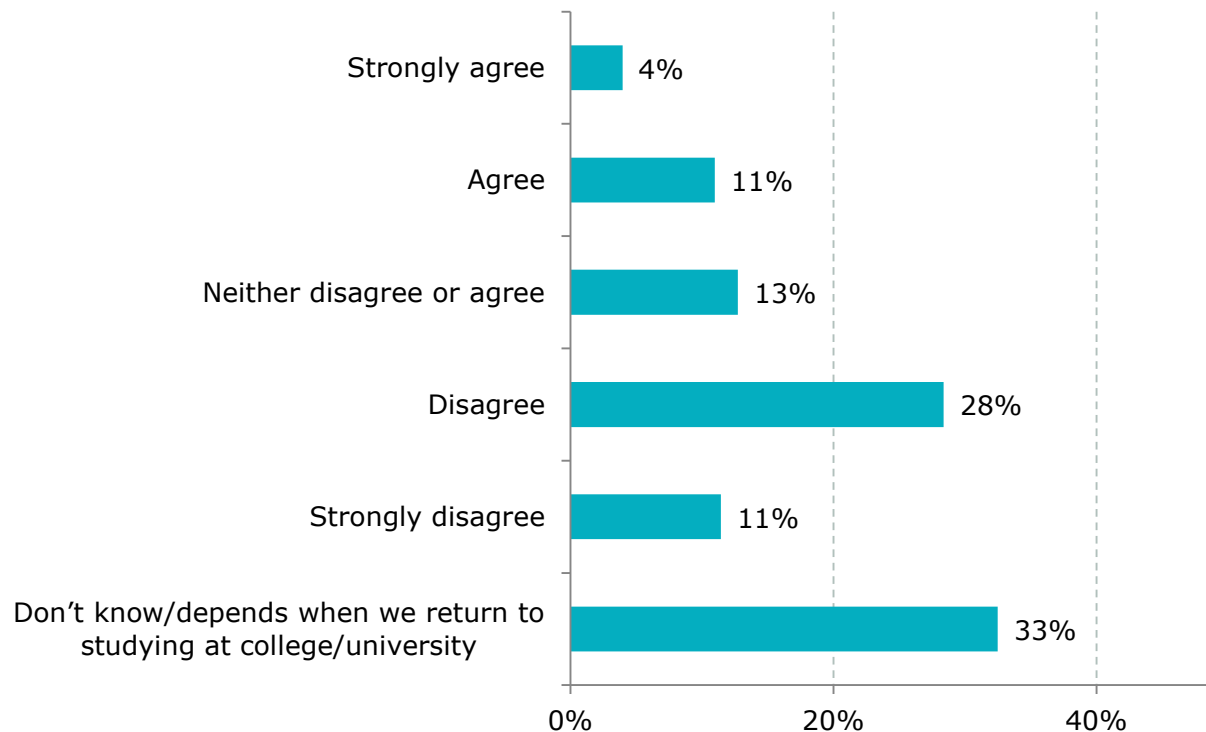


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**J4. When do you expect to return to studying at your college/university?**

Almost two in five do not expect that they will return to 'business as usual' when they recommence their studies. A third are unsure and believe it will be down to when they actually return to their course

### Expectation that when you return to studying it will be 'business as usual'



Weighted Base: 3397 respondents. Balance: no response

**J5. When you return to studying at your college/university how far do you agree or disagree that it will be 'business as usual' e.g. Fresher's Fairs taking place, Clubs & Societies running as normal, large scale events happening etc.**

# Demographics

# Key demographics (weighted base)

## Gender



Women 54%

Men 43%

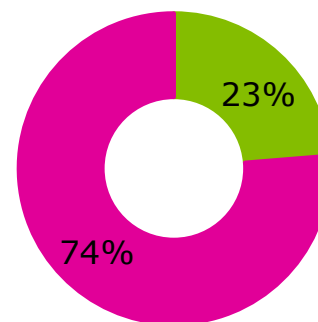
## Age



## Level of study

FE

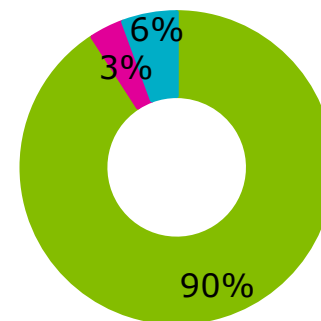
HE



I am a UK citizen 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



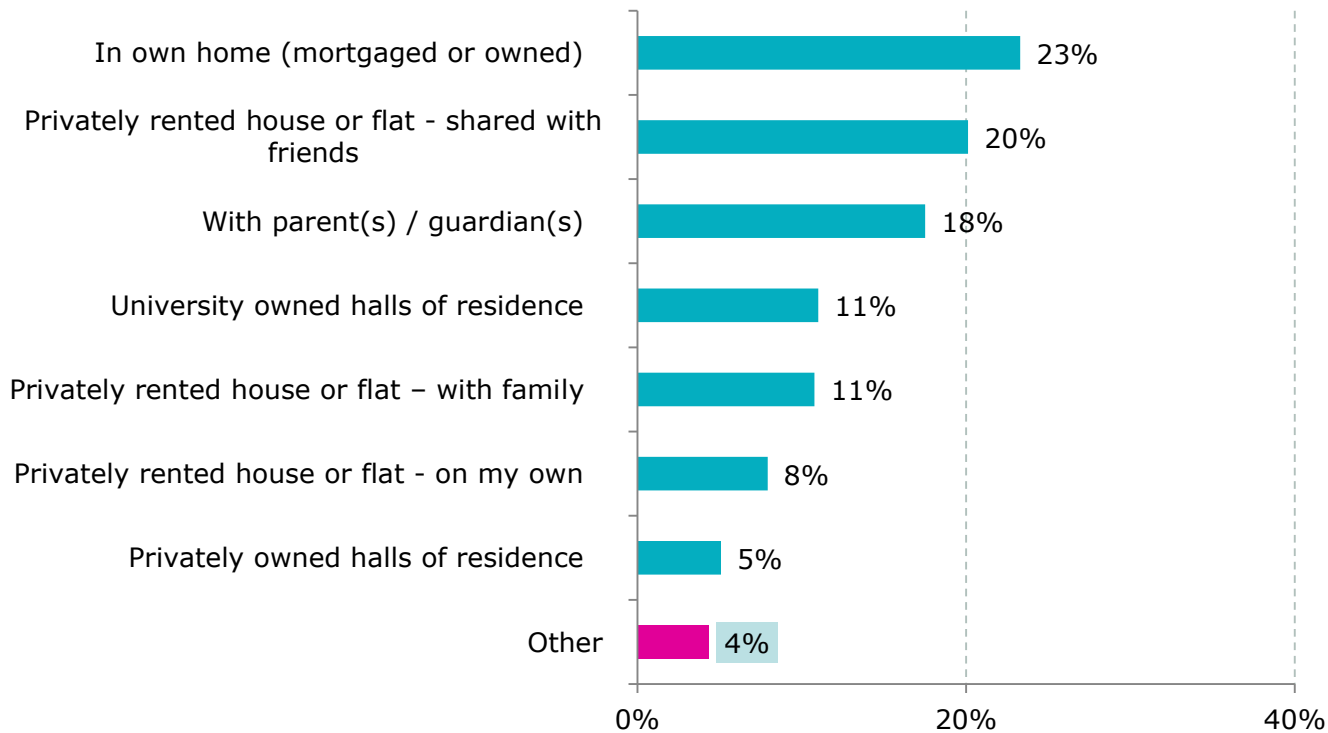
Full time: 68%

Part time: 25%

Distance learner: 14%

# Demographics

## Usual term time living circumstances before the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak

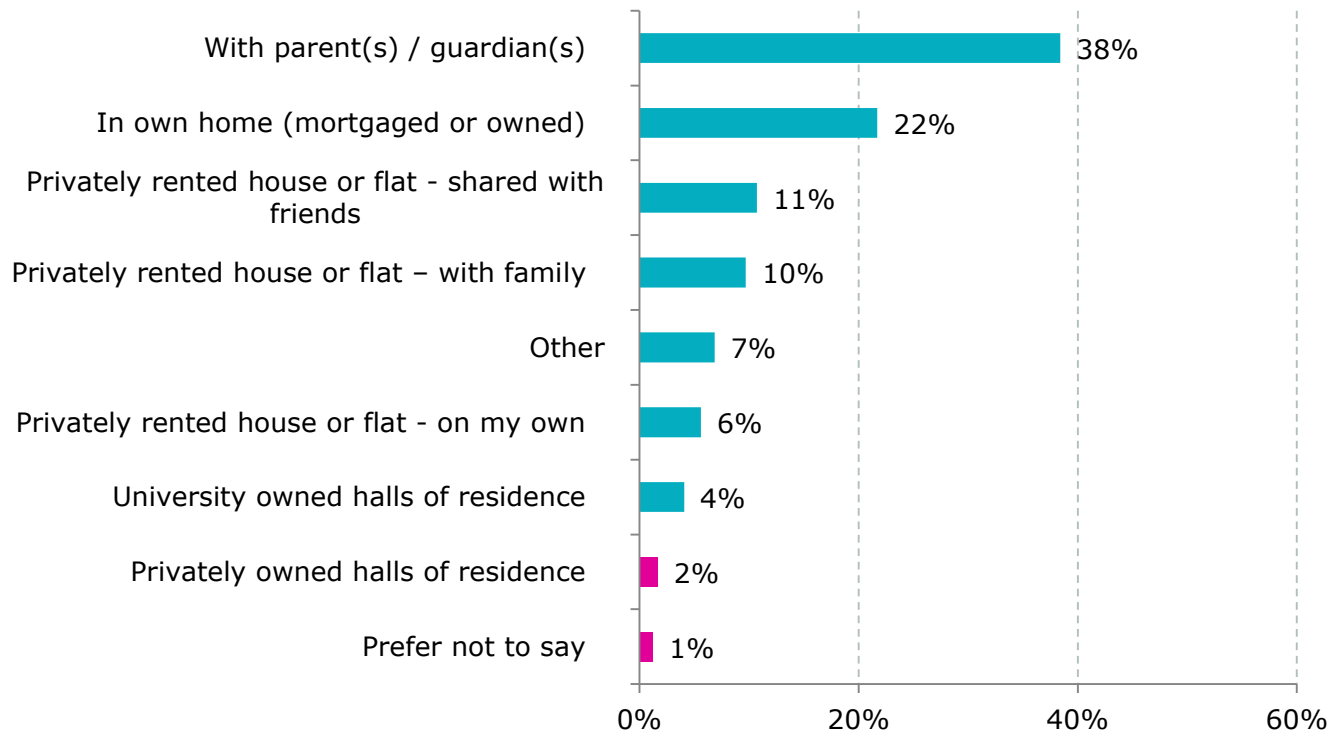


Weighted Base: 339 respondents

**A3. Which of the following statements best describes your usual term time living circumstances before the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak?**

# Demographics

## Current living circumstances

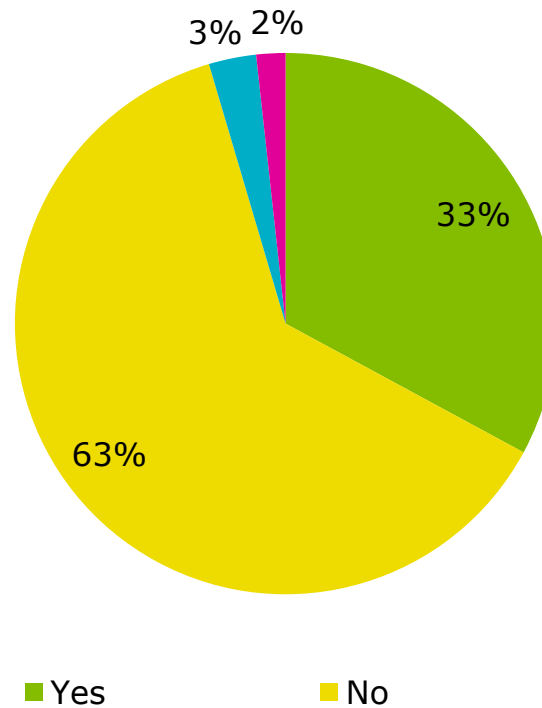


Weighted Base: 289 respondents Balance : circumstances not changed, no response

**A4. If your living circumstances have recently changed as a result of Coronavirus (Covid-19), please select the option which best reflects where you now are.**

# Demographics

## Disability, impairment or long term health condition

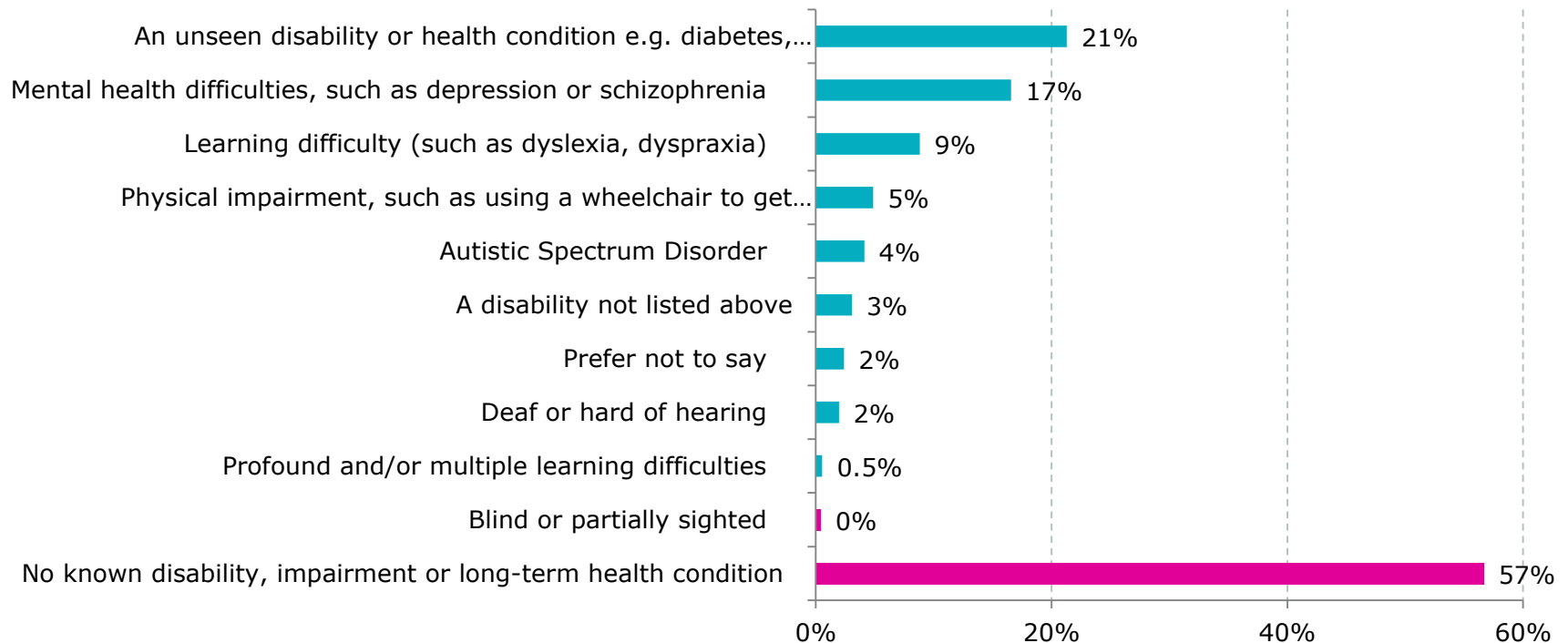


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**A6. Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment or long-term health condition?**

# Demographics

## Disability, impairment or long term health condition



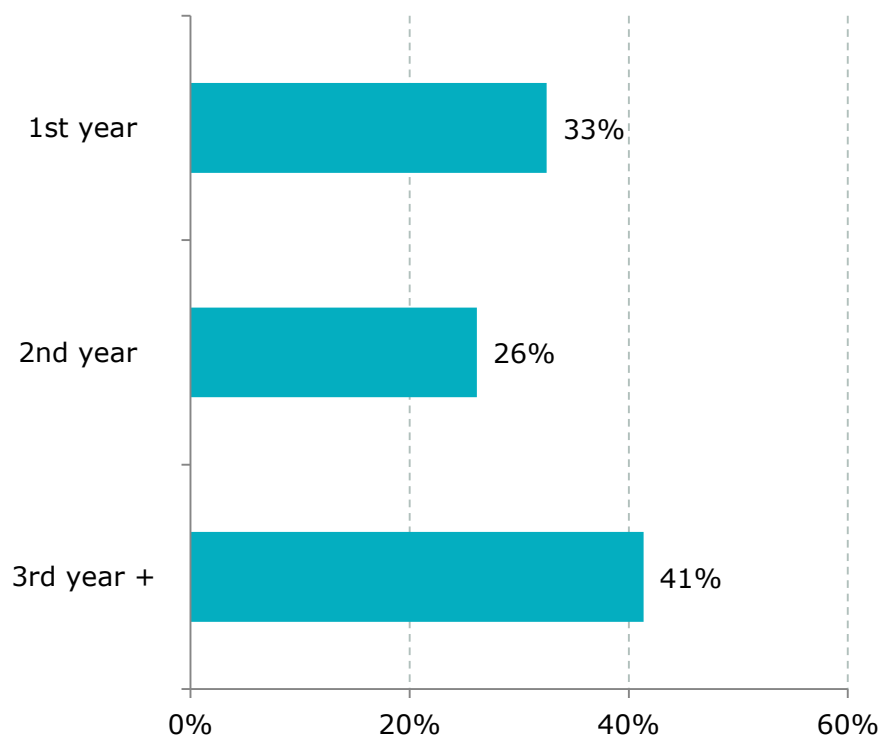
Weighted Base: 339 respondents

**A7. Please describe your disability, impairment or long-term health condition**



# Demographics

## HE Year of study

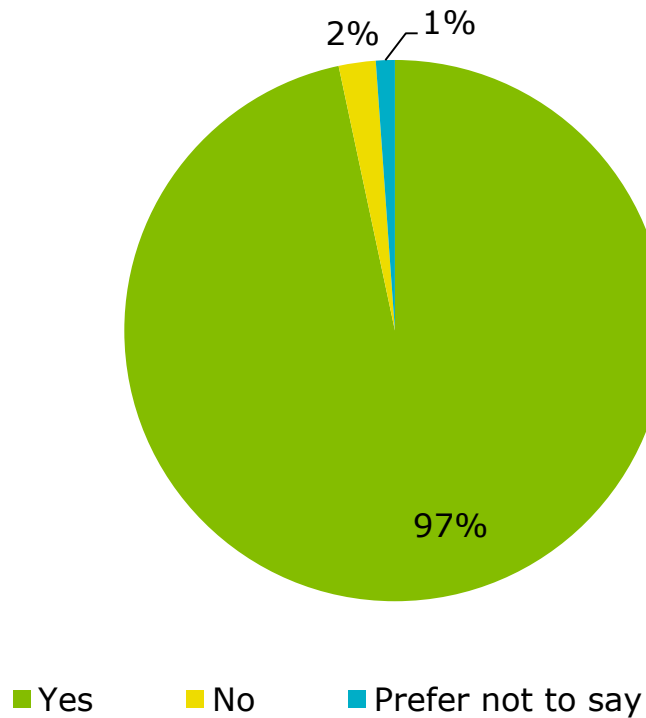


Weighted Base: 181 respondents Balance : FE students, no response

**L1. And what year of study are you in?**

# Demographics

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

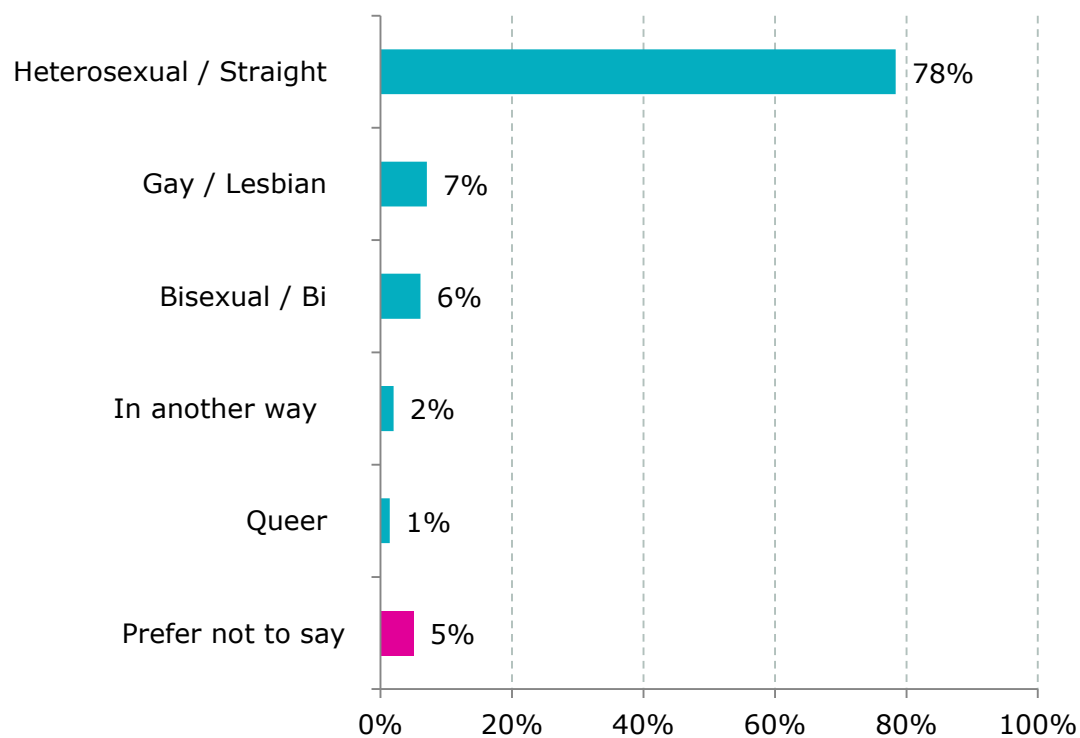


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**L5. Does your gender identity match the gender you were assigned at birth?**

# Demographics

## Sexual orientation/preference

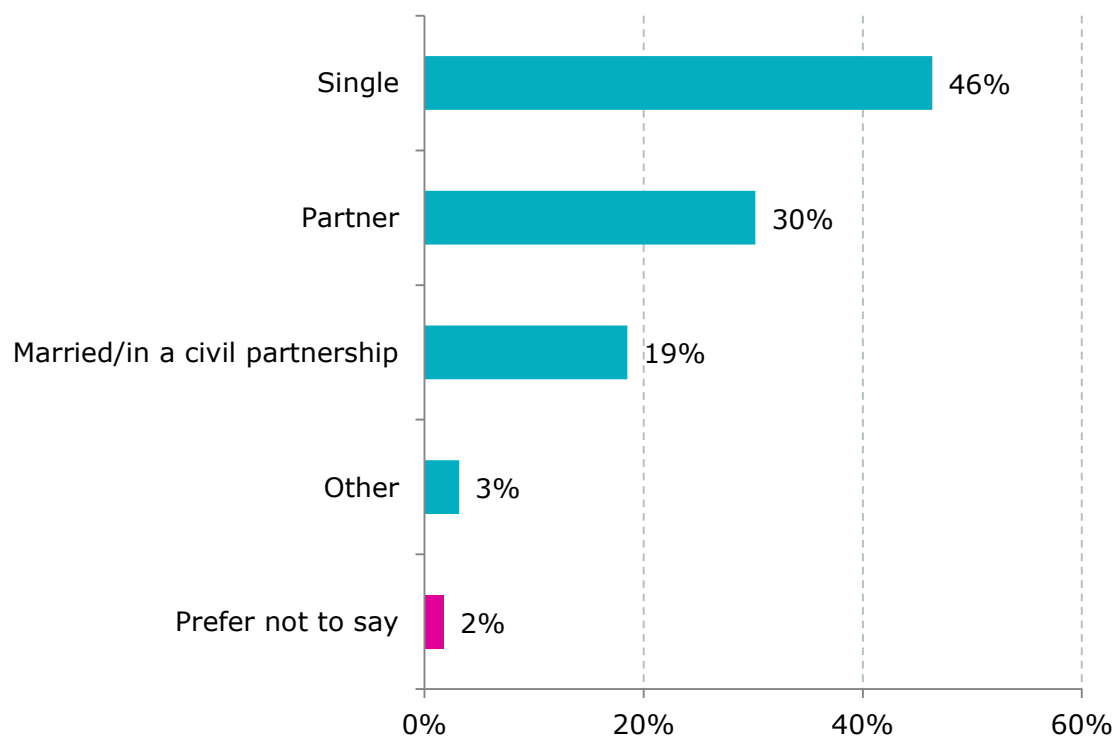


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**L6. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation/preference?**

# Demographics

## Marital status

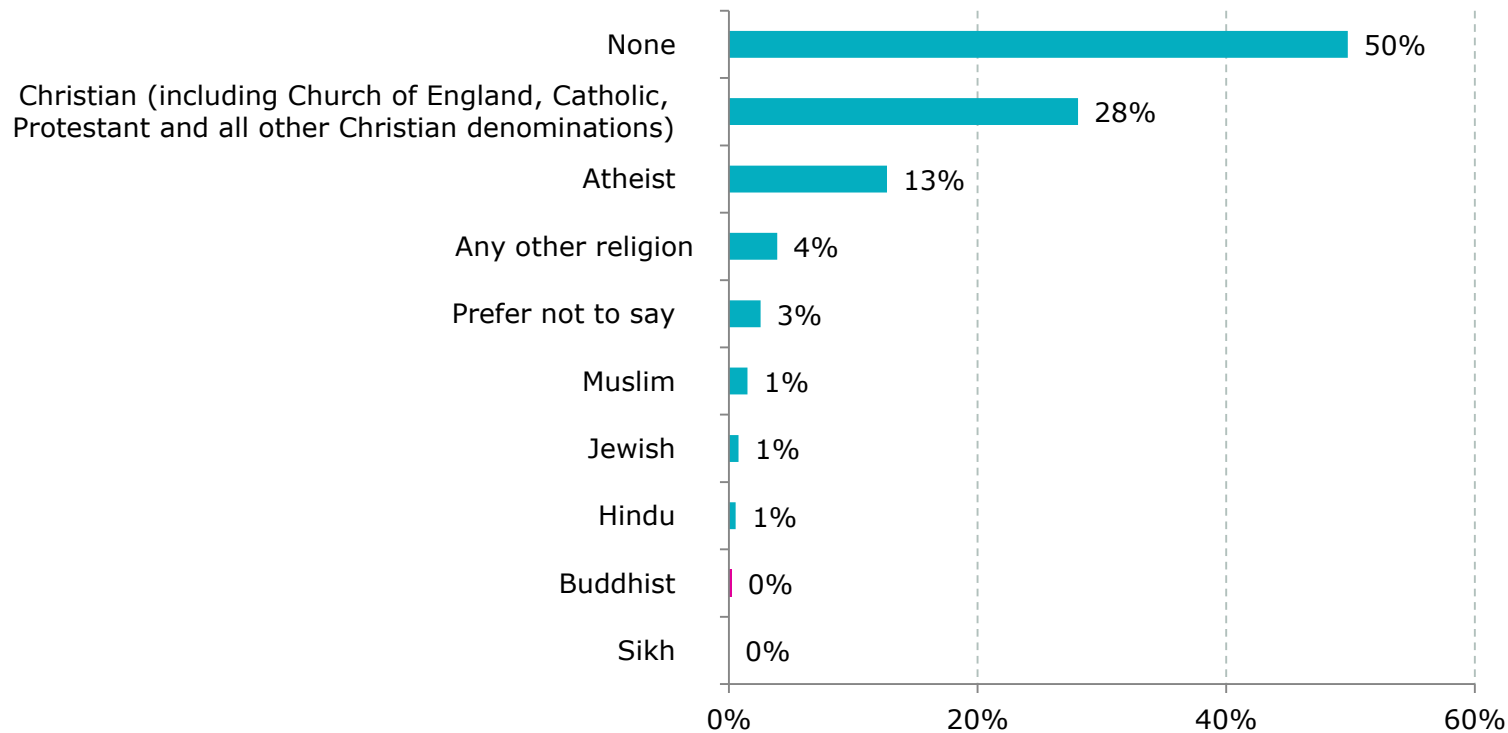


Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**L7. Which of the following best describe your marital status?**

# Demographics

## Religion, faith or belief



Weighted Base: 339 respondents.

**L9. What is your religion, faith or belief?**

# Coronavirus and Students Survey: Wales Results

**April 2020**

NUS Insight