

# STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON NATURE AND UNIVERSITY ACTION

August 2023



STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

# SUMMARY

In August 2023 we asked students about their relationship with, and access to, nature and their university/college's action on nature. 2925 students who are TOTUM cardholders participated in the survey with results weighted to be nationally representative of the UK higher education student population.

### Top reasons for visiting nature



Mental health and wellbeing

**56%**



To get fresh air

**43%**

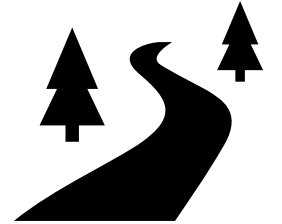


Exercise/physical health

**42%**

**88%**

of respondents feel they can have fun and enjoy themselves in nature



**19%**

of respondents don't have a way to get to places where they can experience nature near them

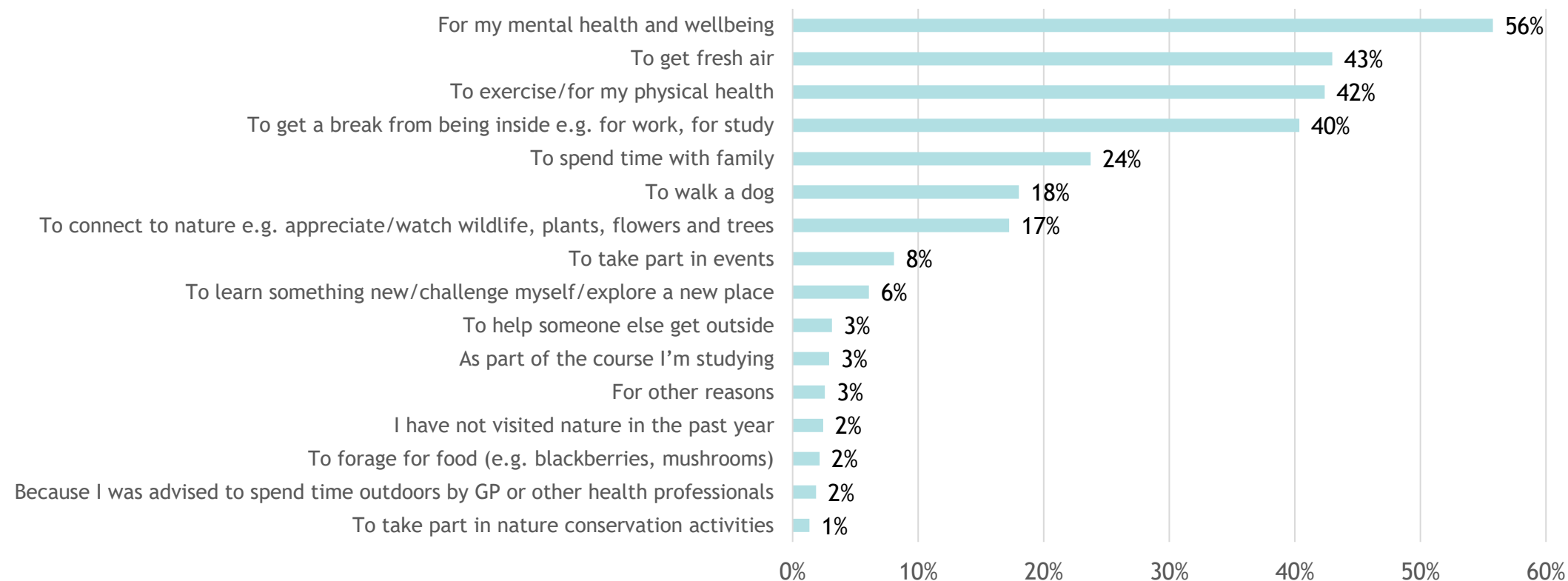


**86%** of respondents think that all universities/colleges should take action to protection and support nature on their grounds or on other land they own

**64%** of respondents think their university/college should provide opportunities for students to experience nature

# FINDINGS IN DETAIL

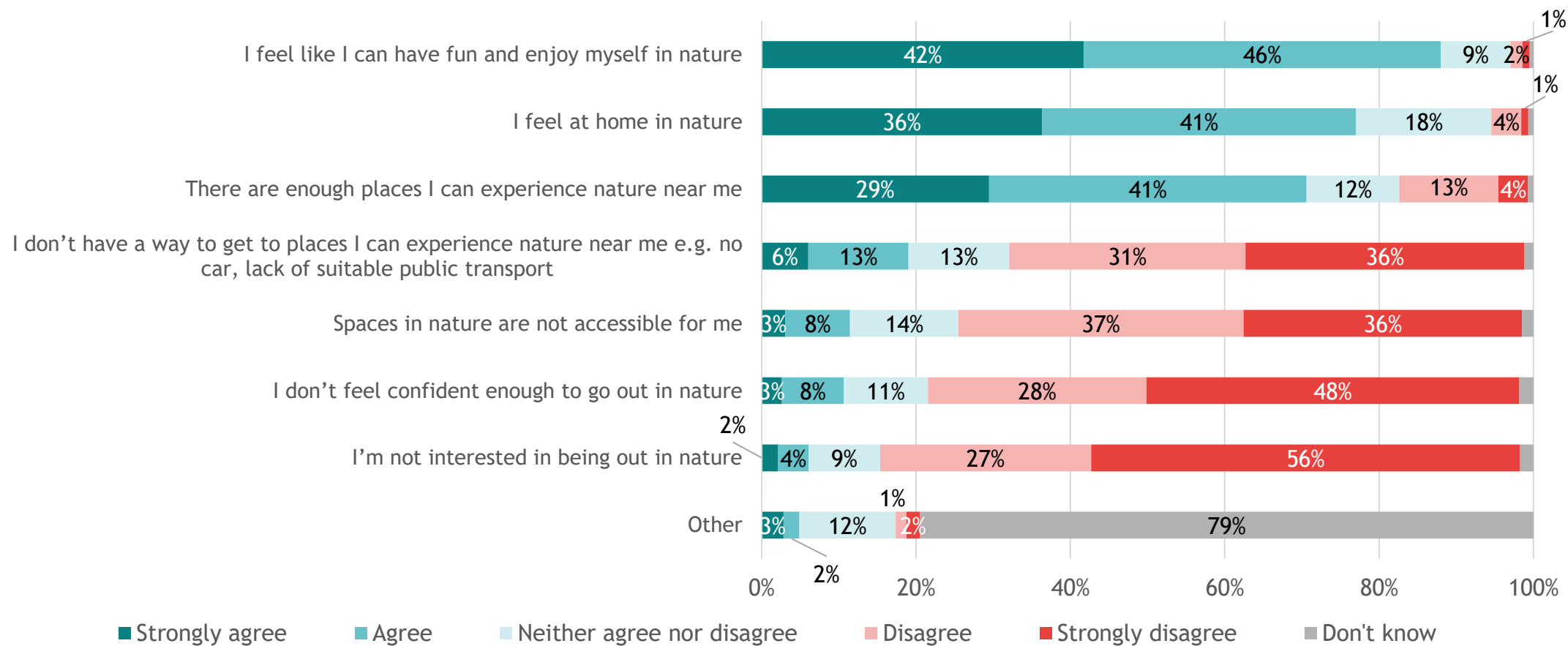
Over half of respondents (56%) said that they have visited nature in the past year for their mental health and wellbeing. Other reported reasons are to get fresh air (43%), to exercise/for their physical health (42%) and to get a break from being inside (40%).



Question: Which of the following are the main reasons you have visited nature in the past year?  
Weighted base: 2901; Balance: no response



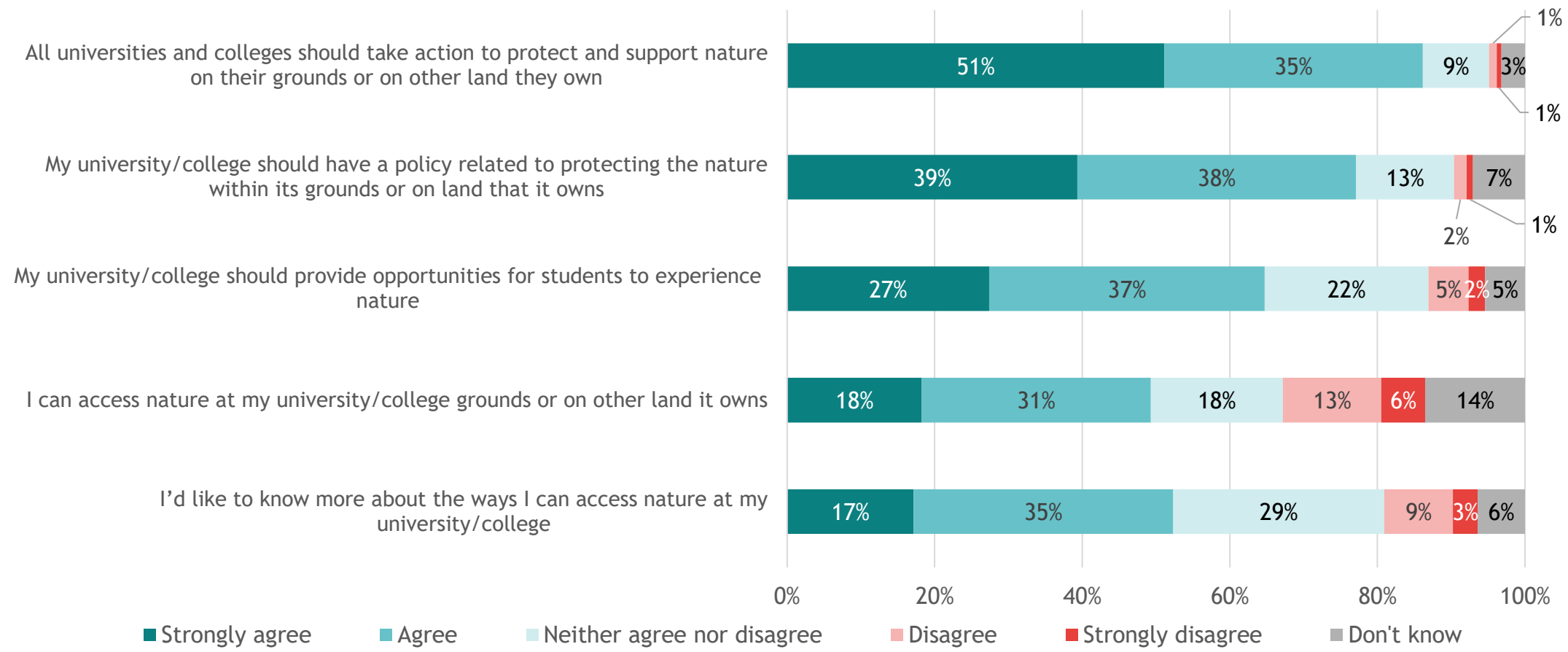
88% of respondents feel that they can have fun and enjoy themselves in nature and 77% feel at home in nature. While 70% agree that there are enough places where they can experience nature near them, 19% say they don't have a way to get to places where they can experience nature near them.



Question: Still using the same definition of nature, please think about your experiences and tell us to what extent you agree or disagree, if at all, with the following statements:  
Weighted base: 2812; Balance: no response



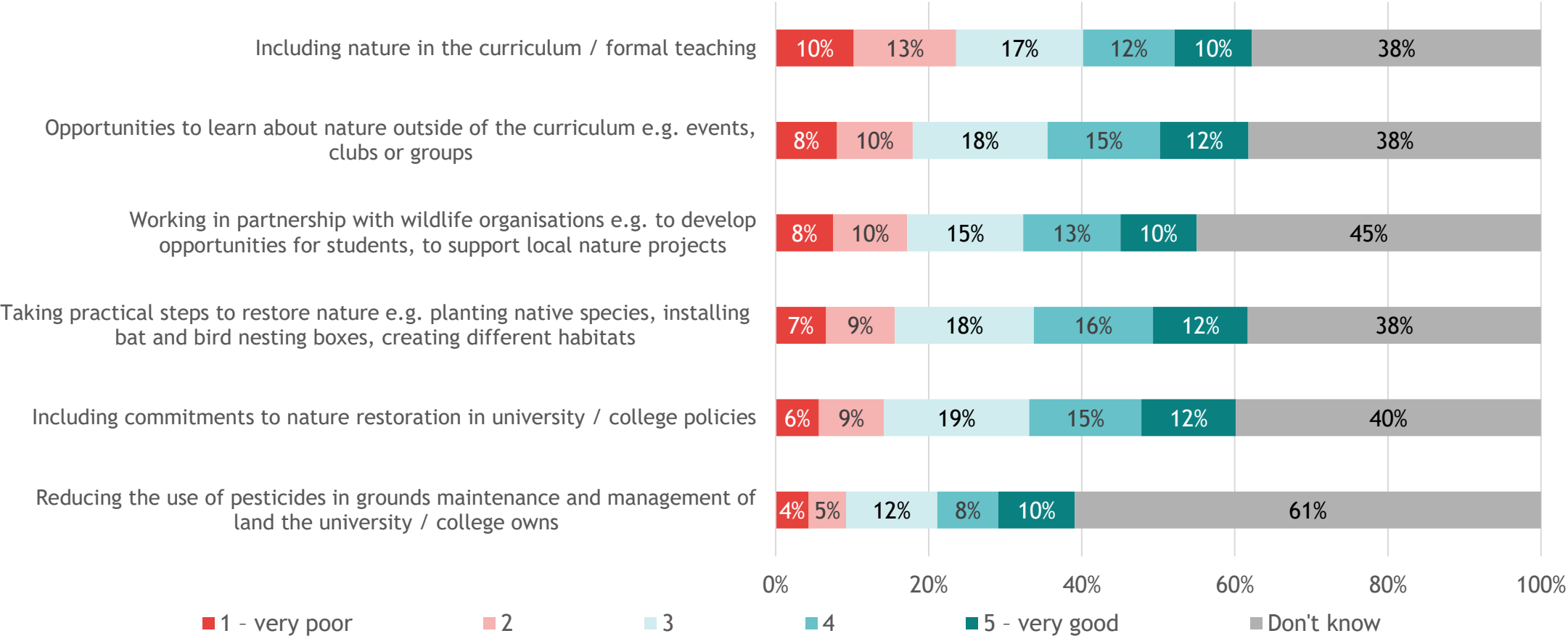
86% of respondents agree that all universities and colleges should take action to protect and support nature on their grounds or on other land they own. 64% of respondents think their university/college should provide opportunities for students to experience nature. 52% of respondents want to know more about how they can access nature at their university/college.



Question: Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
Weighted base: 2887; Balance: no response



Nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) think that their university/college has taken action poorly on including nature in the curriculum/formal teaching however 27% think that their university/college provides opportunities to learn about nature outside of the curriculum. The proportion of respondents saying they ‘don’t know’ for these statements indicates a general lack of awareness of what their institution is doing to support nature.



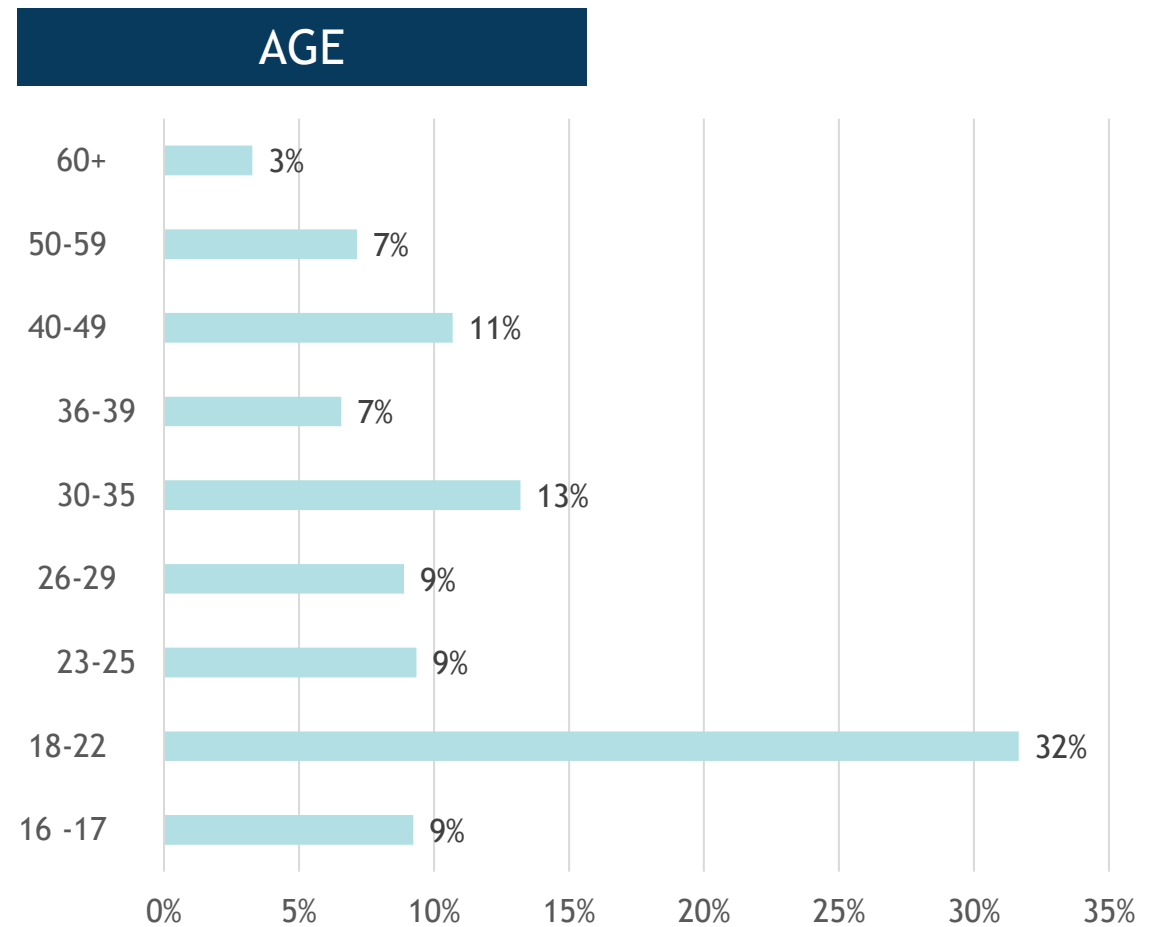
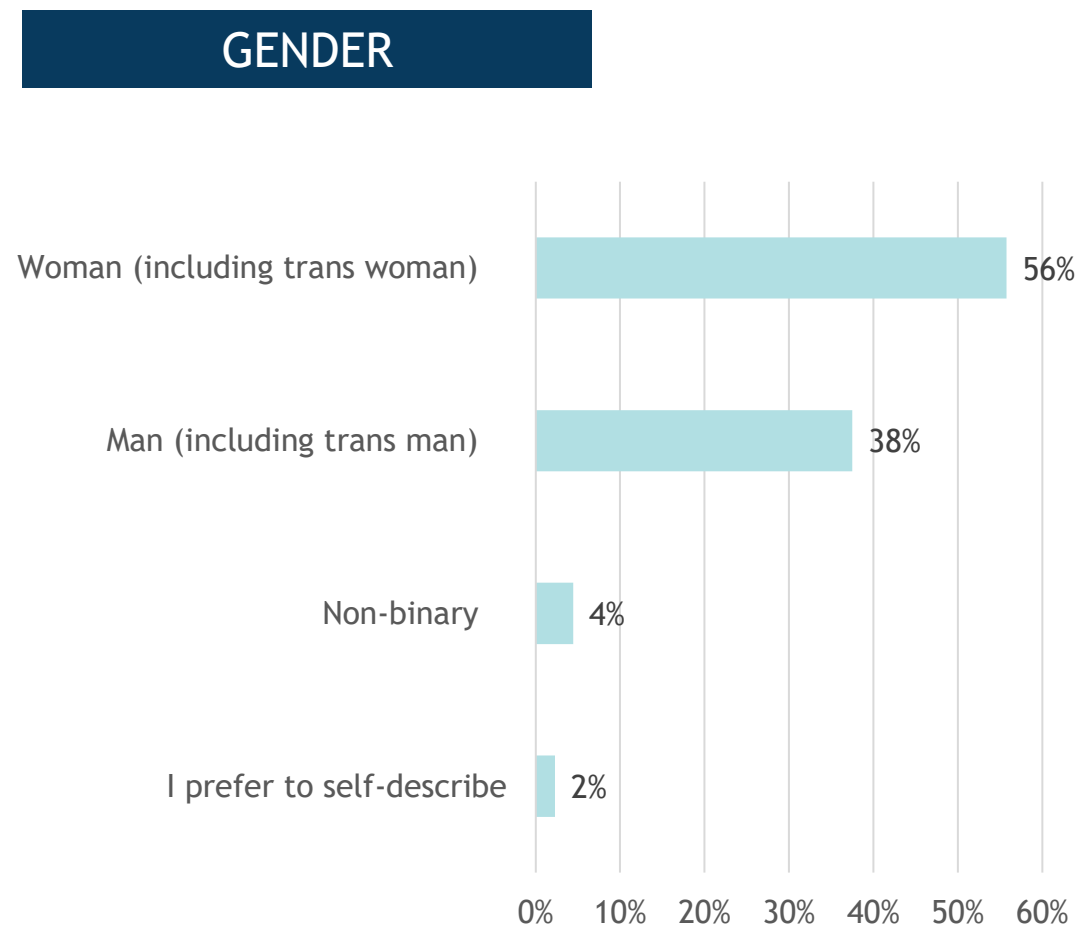
Question: How would you rate your university/college’s action on nature in the following areas?  
Weighted base: 2882; Balance: no response





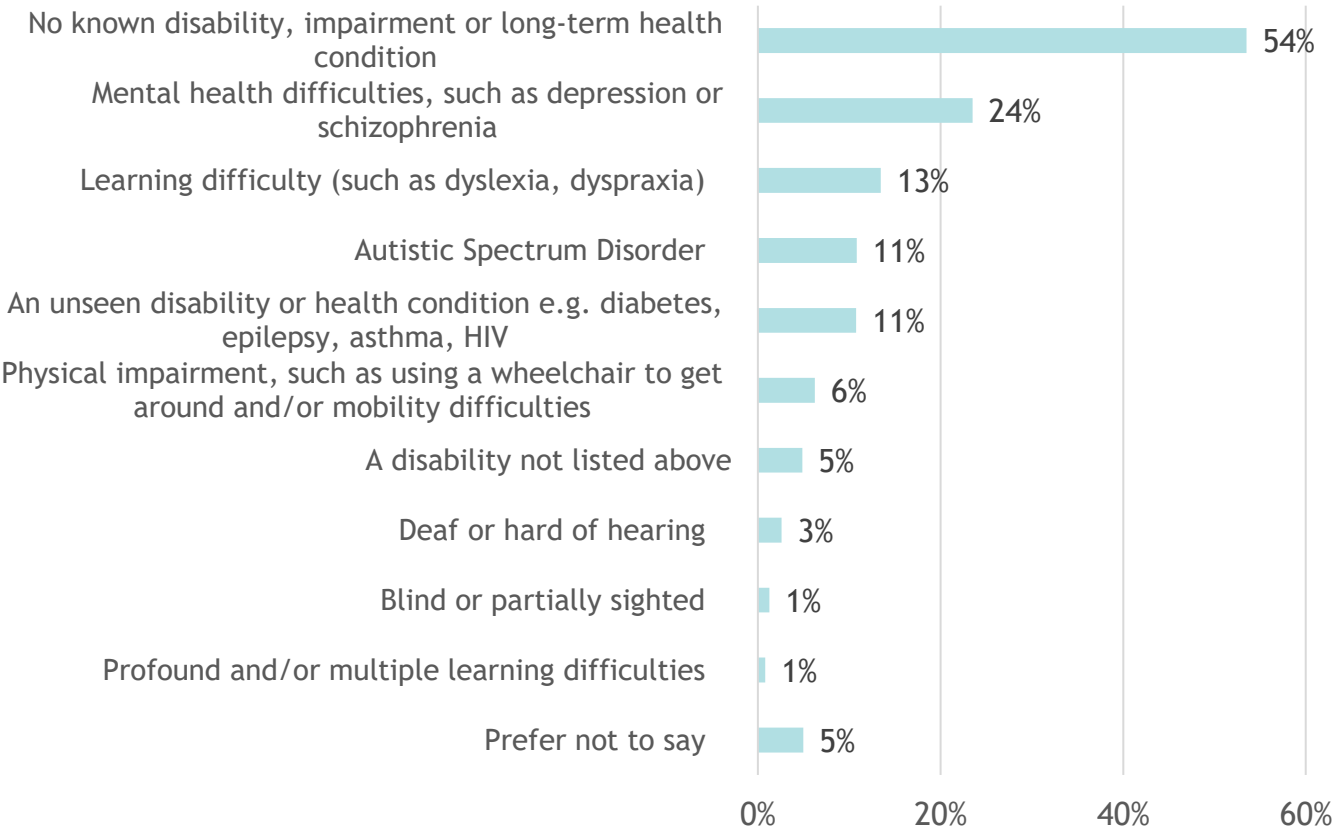
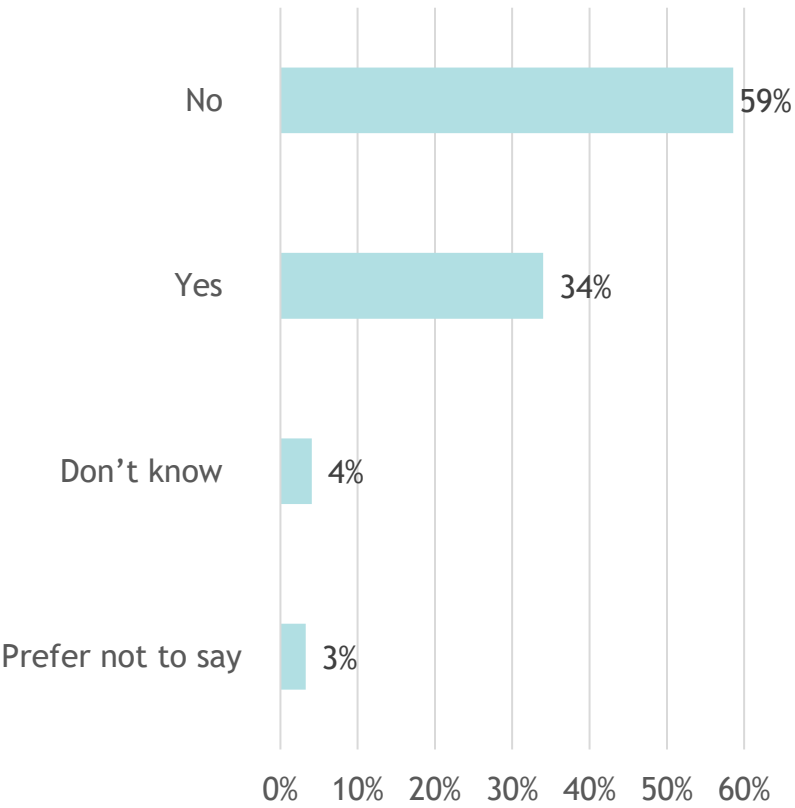
# DEMOGRAPHICS

Over half of respondents (56%) are women and over two fifths (41%) of respondents are 22 and under



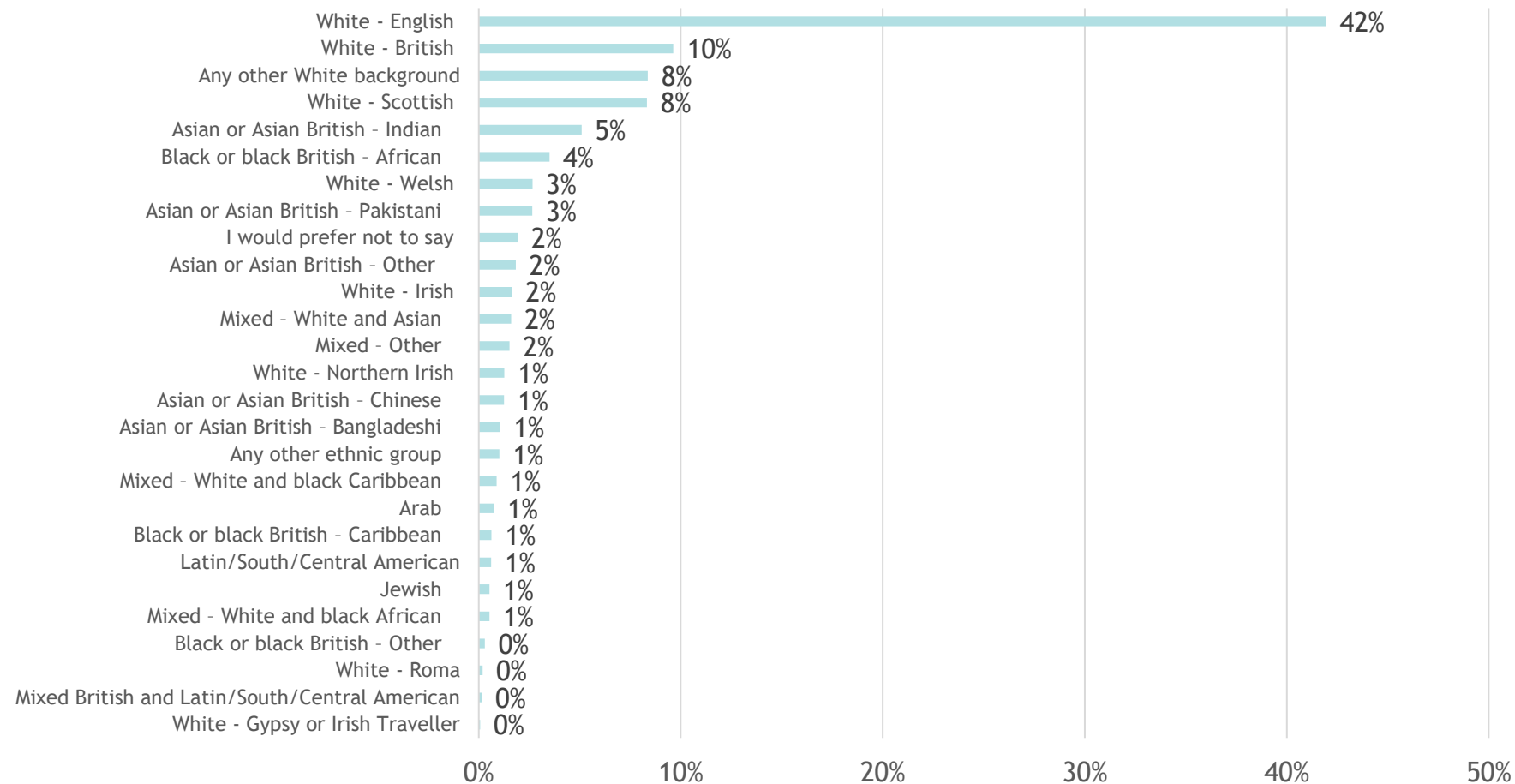
34% respondents consider themselves to have a specific learning, other disability, impairment or long-term health condition, 24% of whom experience mental health difficulties.

DISABILITY



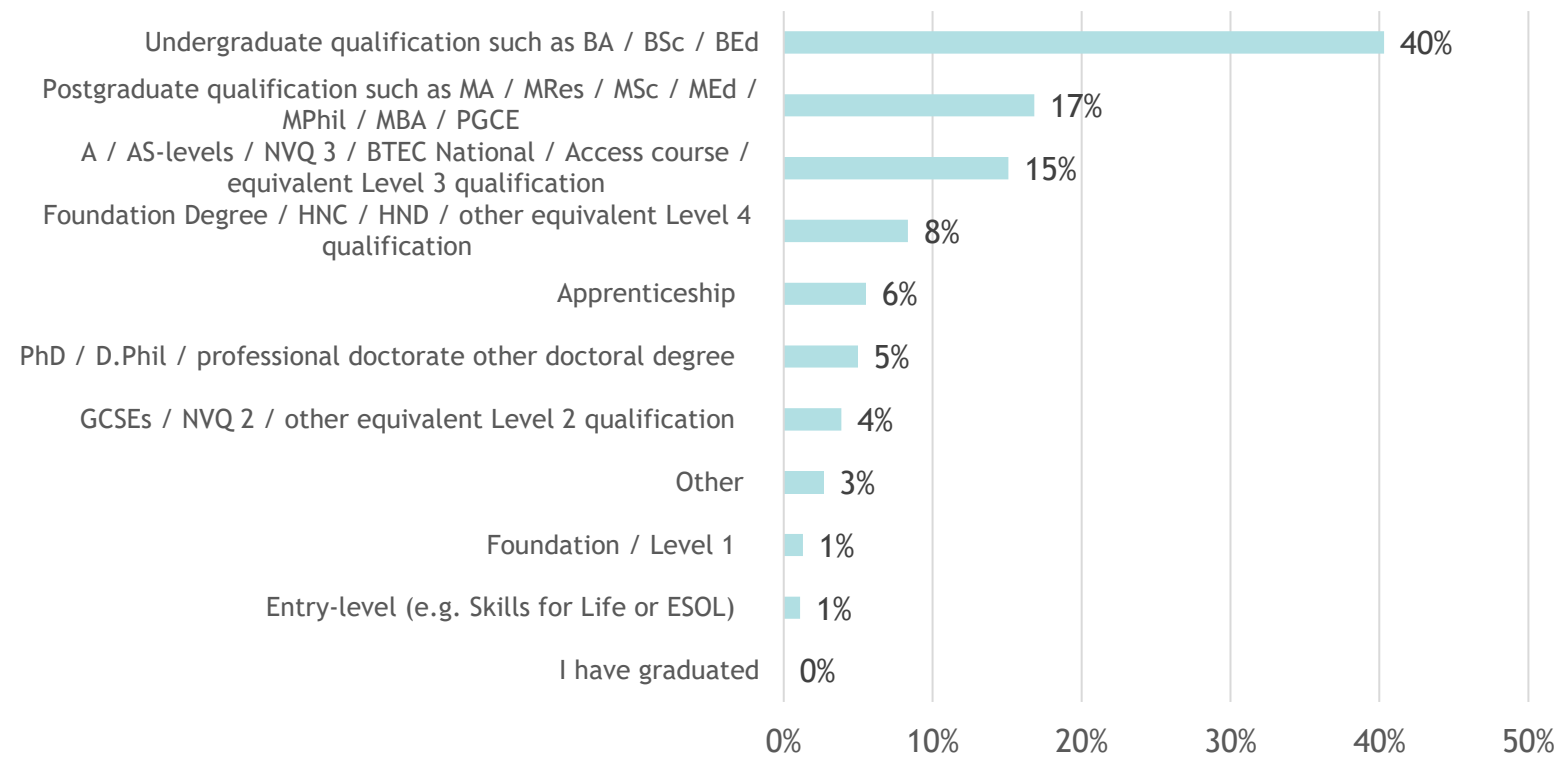
# 74% of respondents identify as white ethnicities

## RACE/ETHNICITY



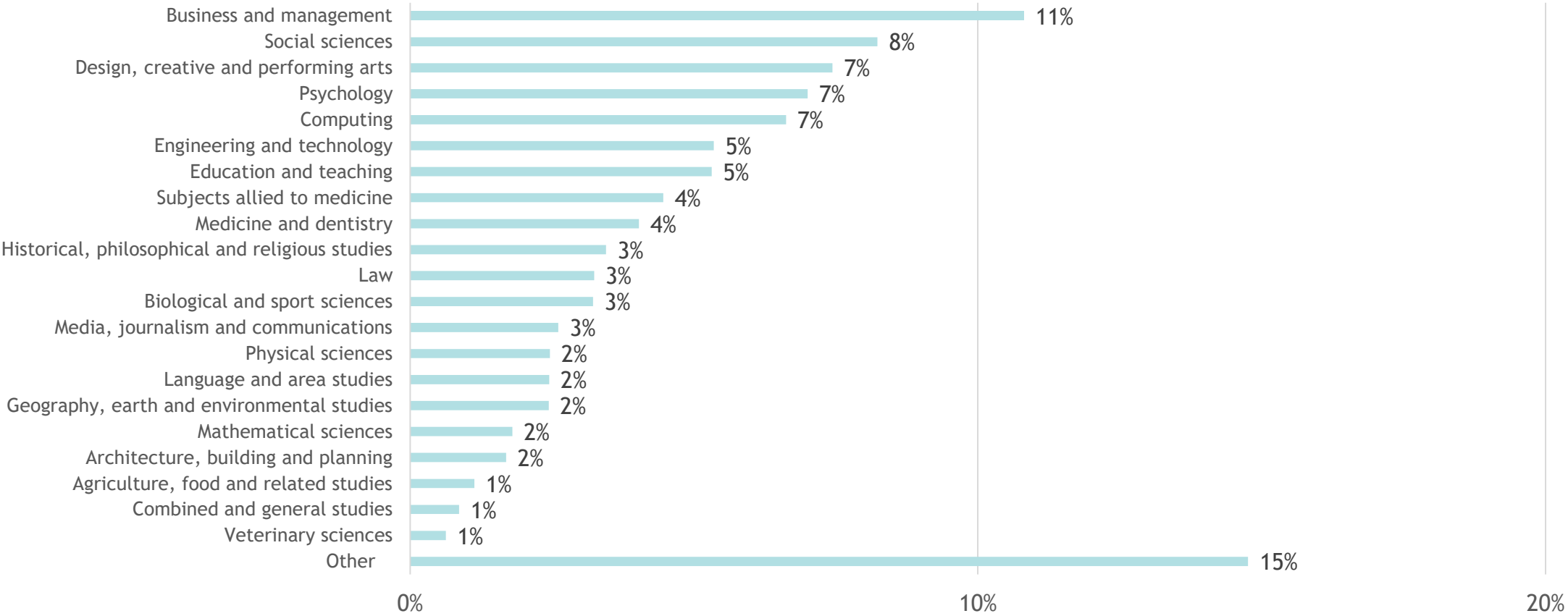
70% of respondents are Higher Education students, 40% of whom are undergraduate students.

STUDY LEVEL



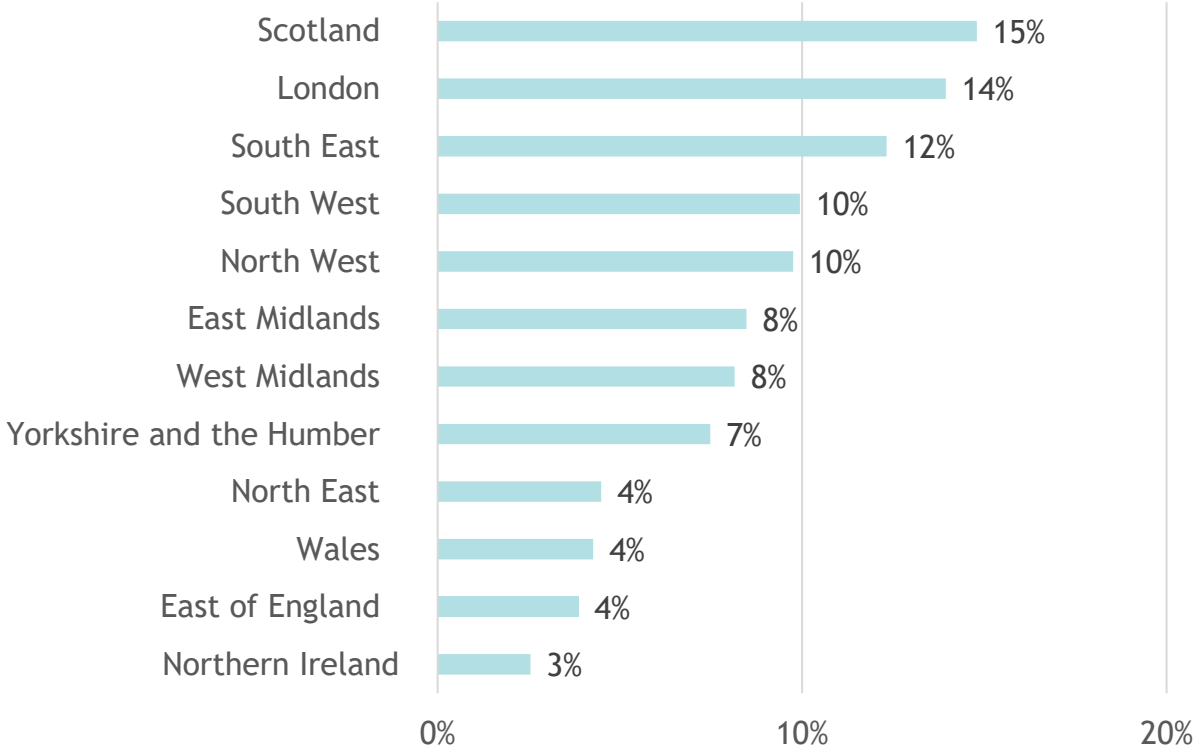
11% of students are studying a course related to business and management. 8% are studying a course related to social sciences.

COURSE

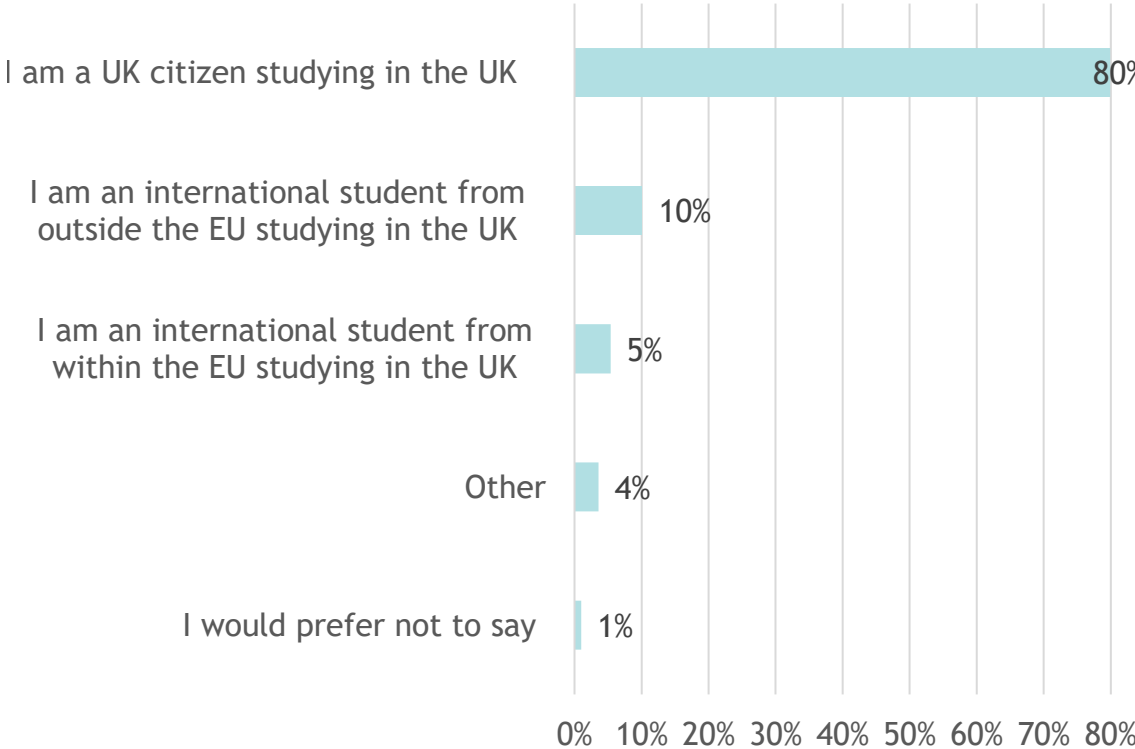


40% of respondents are studying in the South of England or London. 80% of respondents are UK citizens.

REGION



STUDY MODE



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