

Student Opinion | Insurance companies, careers and the fossil fuel industry



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

Summary

In March 2025, we asked students their views on insurance companies, careers in these companies and its links with the fossil fuel industry.

1 Over two fifths said they would be very unlikely to consider a career in the insurance industry

4 in 10 (42%) of respondents reported that they would be very unlikely to consider a career in the insurance industry, regardless of their role in fossil fuel expansion.

When asked to describe their perception of insurance as a job or career, the most common response was 'boring'.

2 The majority did not know that insurance plays a role in fossil fuel expansion

70% of respondents did not know that insurance plays a role in fossil fuel expansion.

Over a quarter (26%) reported they knew a bit about the role of insurance in fossil fuel expansion.

3 Most respondents agreed that the insurance industry should not insure projects that negatively impact the environment

Three quarters (75%) of respondents agree that the insurance industry should concentrate on insuring projects that benefit the environment.

68% (strongly) agree that the insurance industry should not insure projects that negatively impact the environment.

4 Respondents were divided about under what conditions they would consider a job in an insurance company

15% would apply to any company, regardless of whether they currently insure fossil fuel projects and plan to continue to do so.

However, 13% would only apply if the company does not insure fossil fuel projects.

- Approximately 979 students took part from NUS' database.
- The results are weighted to be nationally representative of the UK student population.
- Respondents were incentivised to complete the survey with a cash prize draw.

40% consider themselves to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment or long-term health condition

27% of respondents are aged 17-20

55% identify as women

38% of respondents are undergraduates



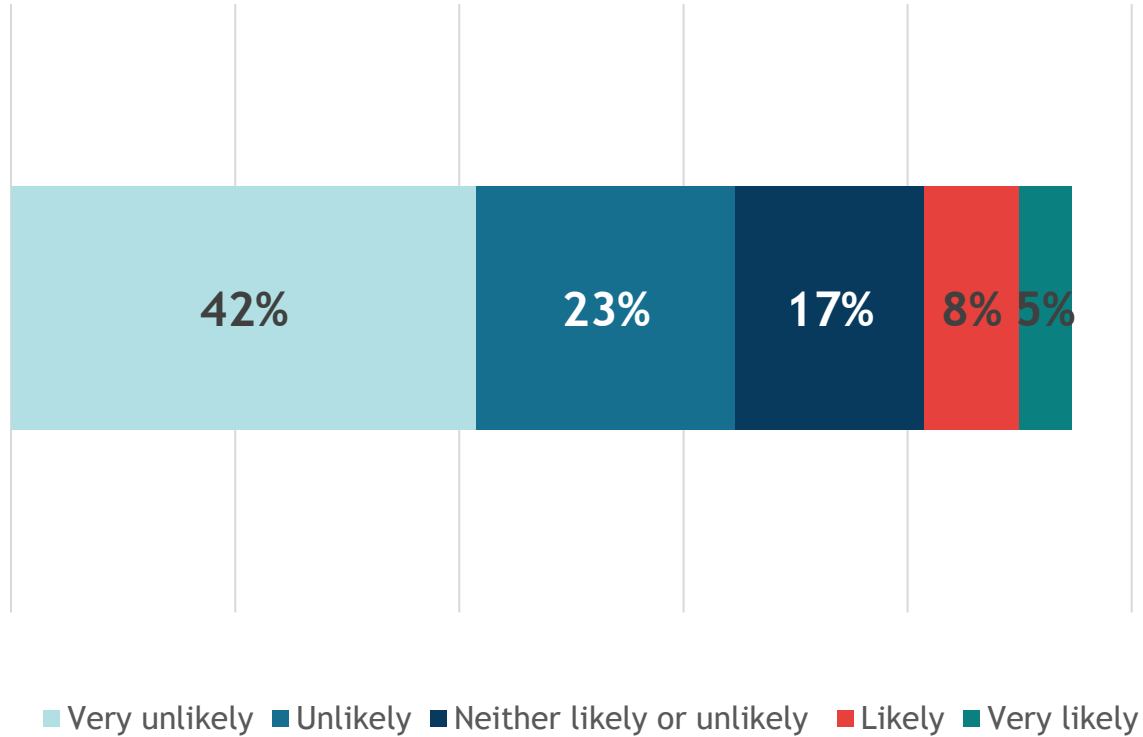
27% live with parent(s) / guardian(s)

39% identify as White - English

79% are UK citizens studying in the UK

Student perspectives on careers in insurance

Respondents were asked how likely it is that they would consider a job in an insurance company once they have left college or university. 4 in 10 (42%) said that it was 'very unlikely', while only 5% of respondents said it was 'very likely'.



Q. Once you have left your college or university, what is the likelihood that you would consider a job in an insurance company?

Base: 979 Balance: Not sure

The most common response when respondents were asked to describe their perception of insurance as a job or career was **'boring'**.



Sinister job that steals people's money

Other responses included...

An industry with opportunities for professional growth

Indifferent, it's a job like anything else

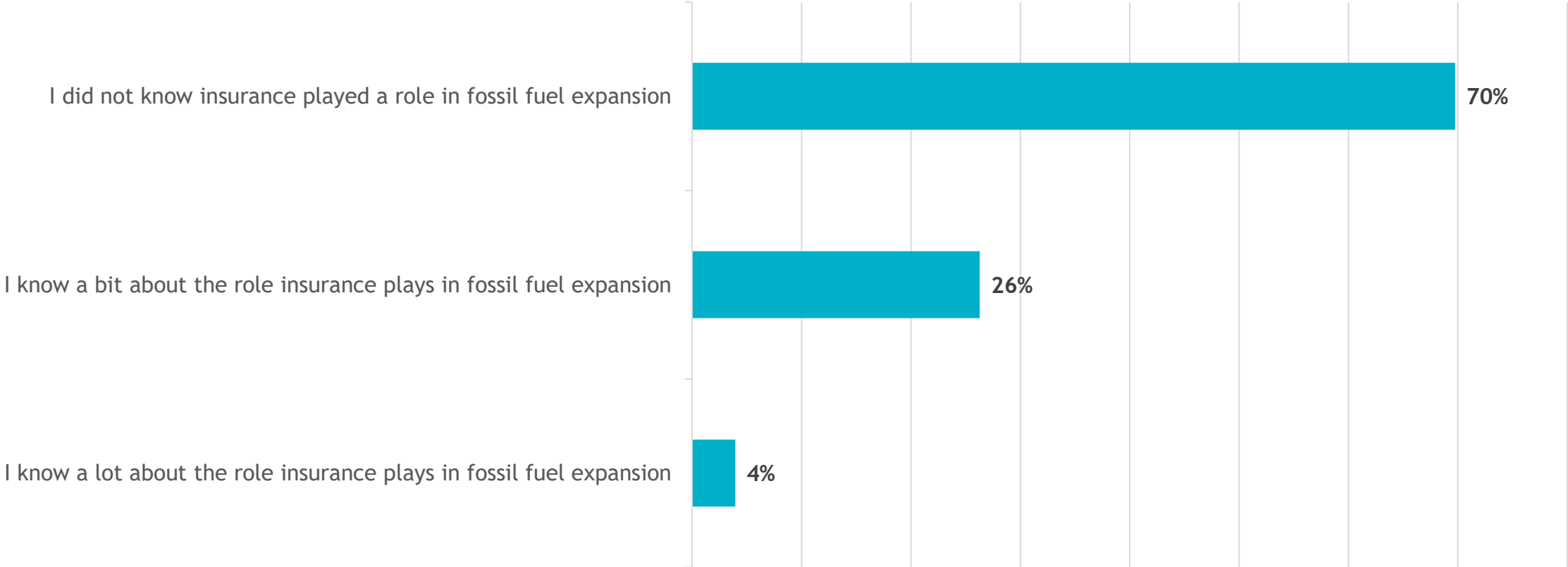
Repetitive and boring
without being able to
actually help people

Defenitely not for me
due to progression

Q: How would you describe your perception of insurance as a job or career?
Word cloud generated from first 100 responses

Insurance companies and fossil fuel expansion

7 in 10 (**70%**) student respondents reported that they did not know insurance played a role in fossil fuel expansion prior to our survey. Only **4%** said that they knew a lot about the role insurance plays.



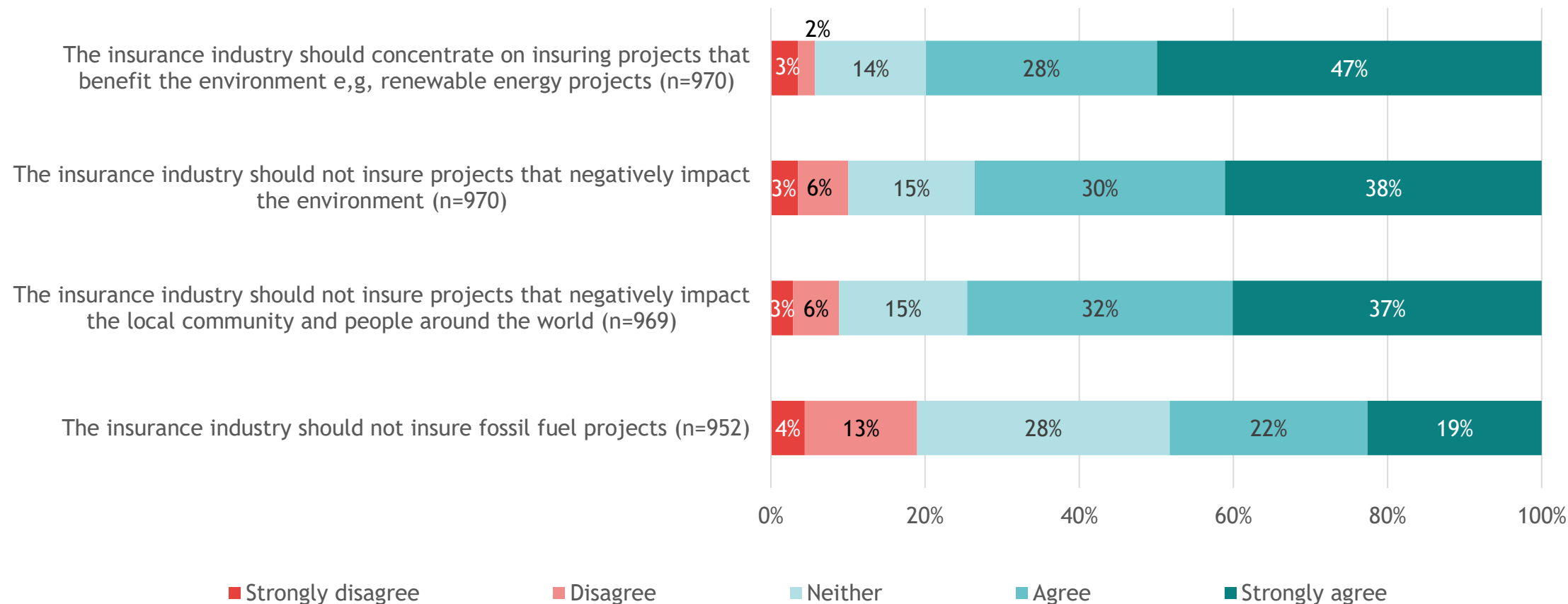
Q: Before answering this survey, how much did you know about the role insurance companies play in fossil fuel expansion?

Base: 978

We provided respondents with the following information: Some insurance companies insure projects to extract fossil fuels to manage significant risks associated with their operations, such as financial loss. Without insurance, the risks would be so high that it would be hard for fossil fuel companies to get the funding they need to carry out the project. Insurance companies therefore play a pivotal role in the expansion of fossil fuel extraction.



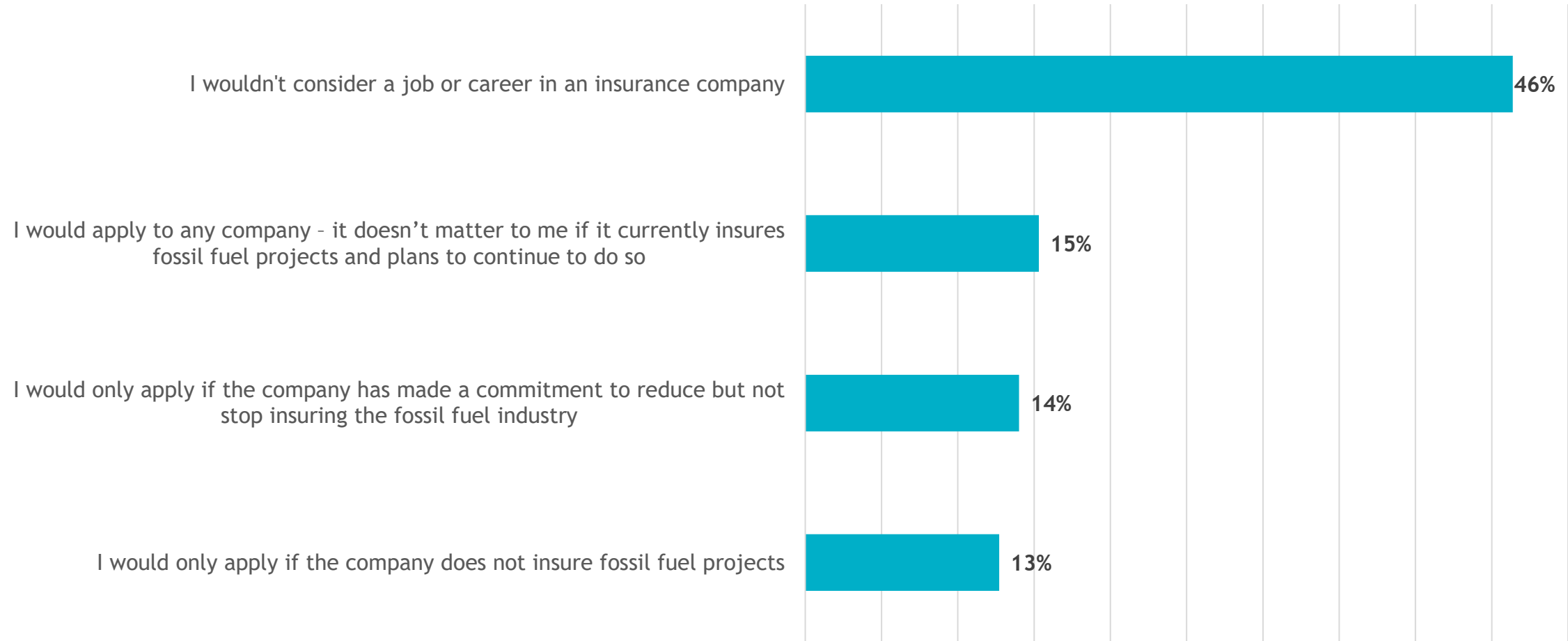
Three quarters (**75%**) of student respondents agree or strongly agree that the insurance industry should concentrate on insuring projects the benefit the environment. The majority (strongly) agree that the industry should not insure projects that negatively impact the environment (**68%**) or the local community and people around the world (**69%**).



Q. To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the following statements?
Base: in brackets Balance: 'I don't know'

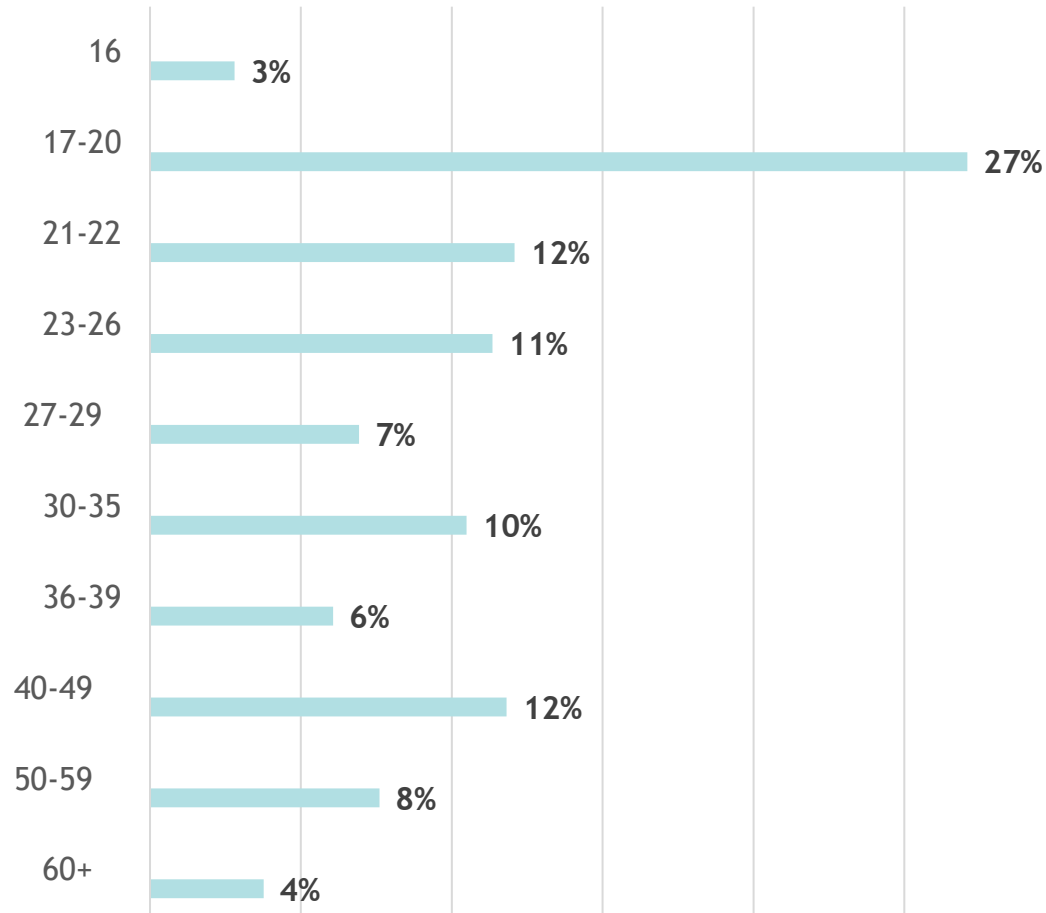


Nearly half (**46%**) of student respondents said that they would not consider a job or career in an insurance company. **15%** reported that they would apply to any company, regardless of whether it currently insures fossil fuel projects and plans to continue to do so, while **13%** would only apply if they do not insure fossil fuel projects.



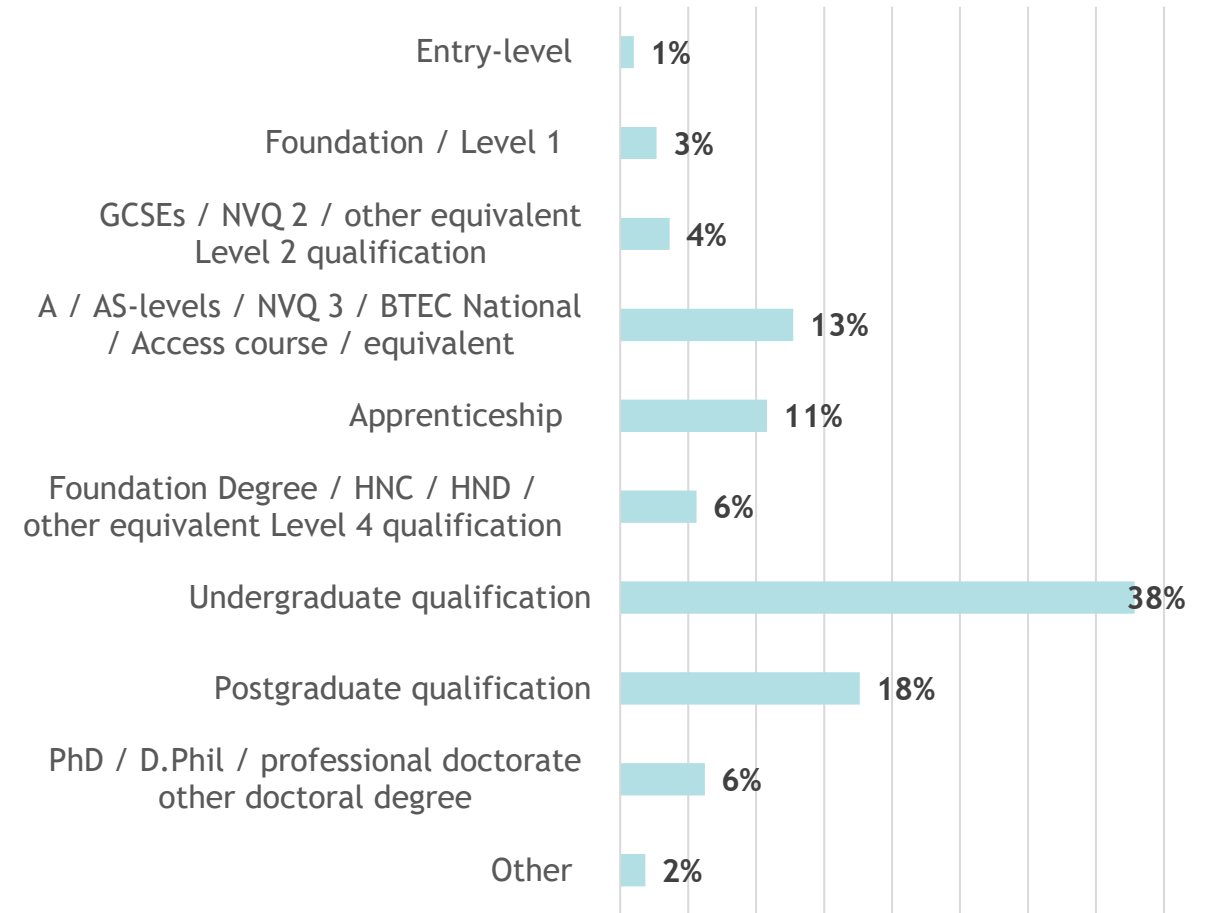
Demographics

AGE



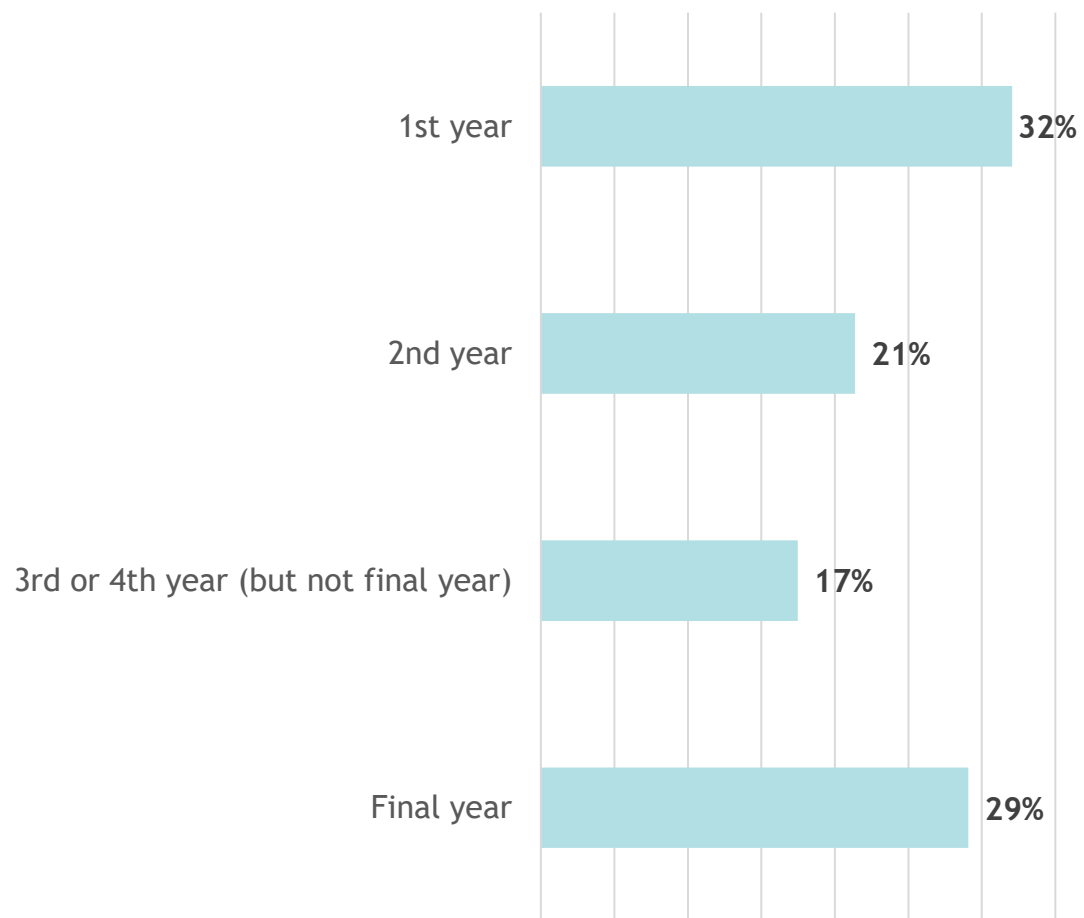
Q. What is your age band?
Base: 989 Balance: I would prefer not to say

LEVEL OF STUDY



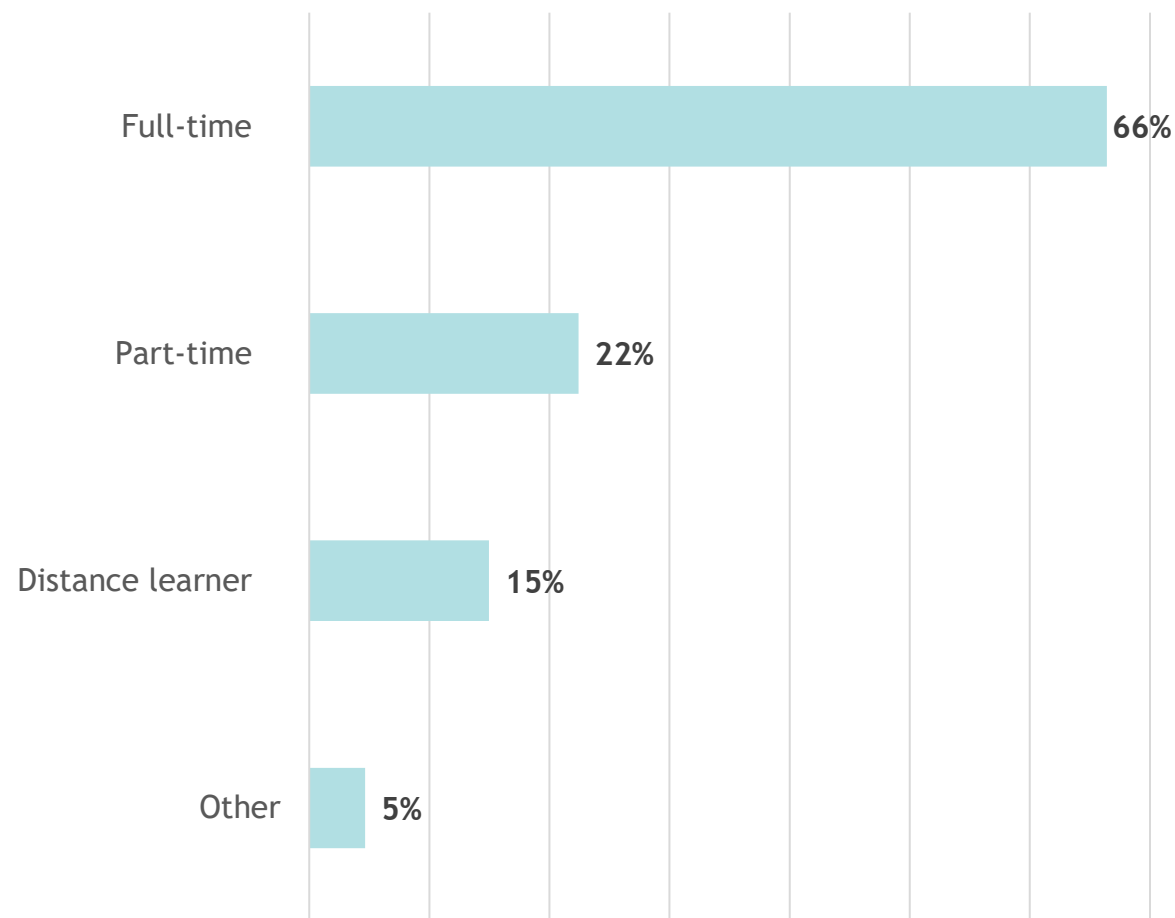
Q. Which of the following describes your current level of study?
Base: 989 Balance: I have graduated

YEAR OF STUDY (UG ONLY)



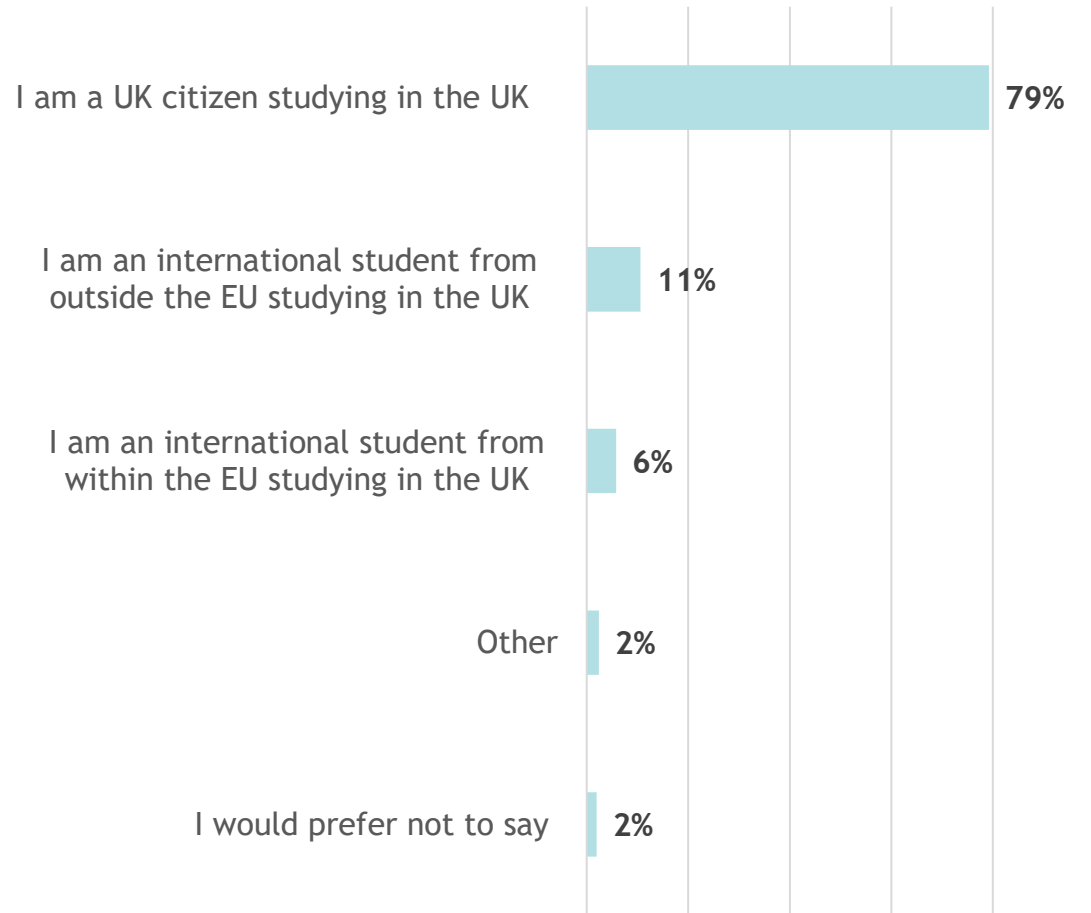
Q. UG year of study
Base: 371

MODE OF STUDY



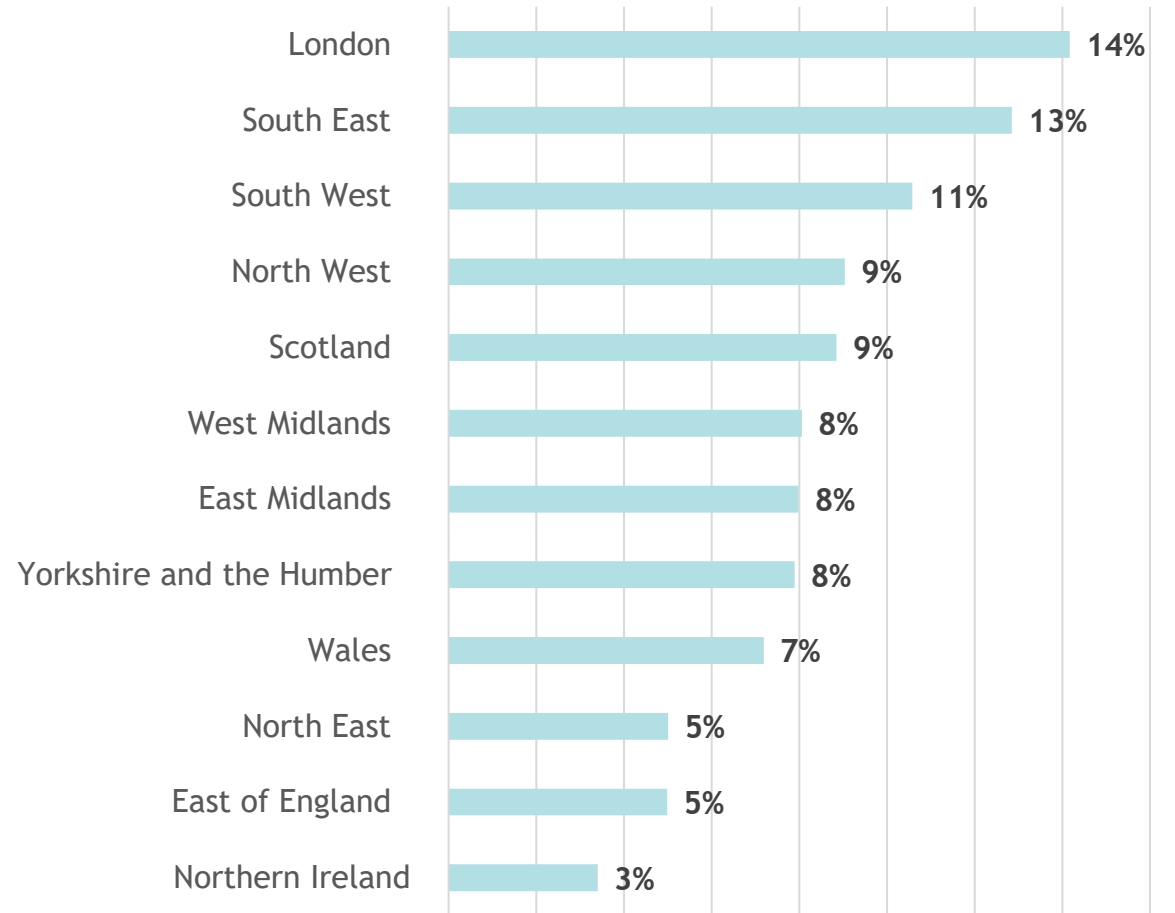
Q. What is your mode of study?
Base: 977

NATIONALITY



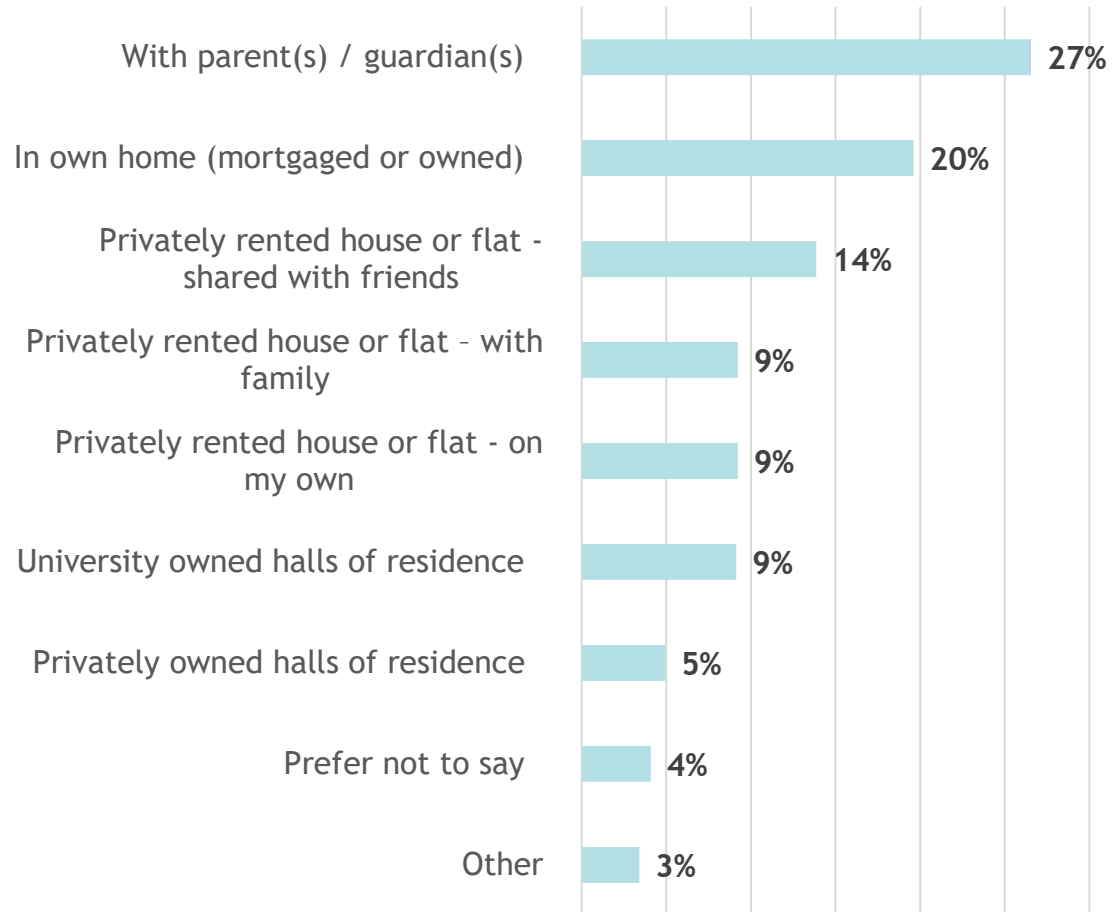
Q. Which of the following statements best describes you?
Base: 980

REGION



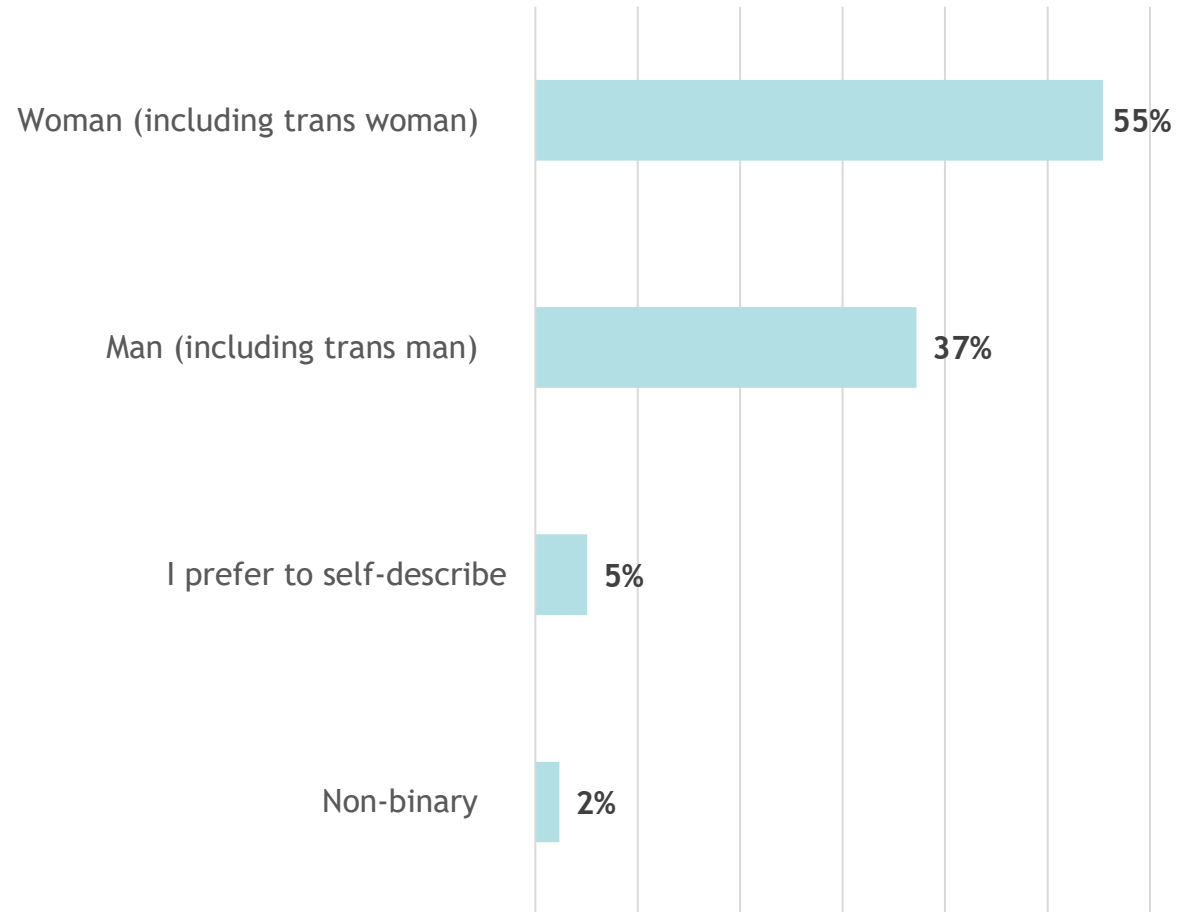
Q. Region
Base: 981

LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES



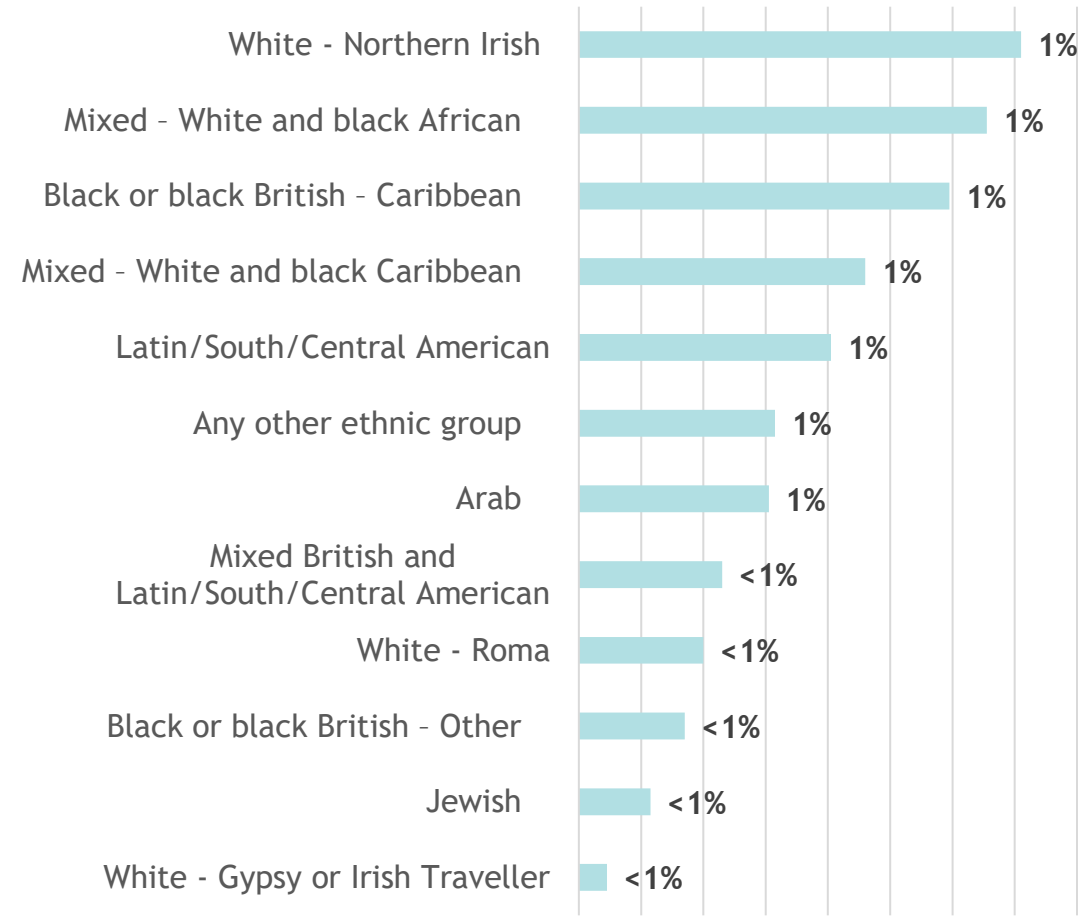
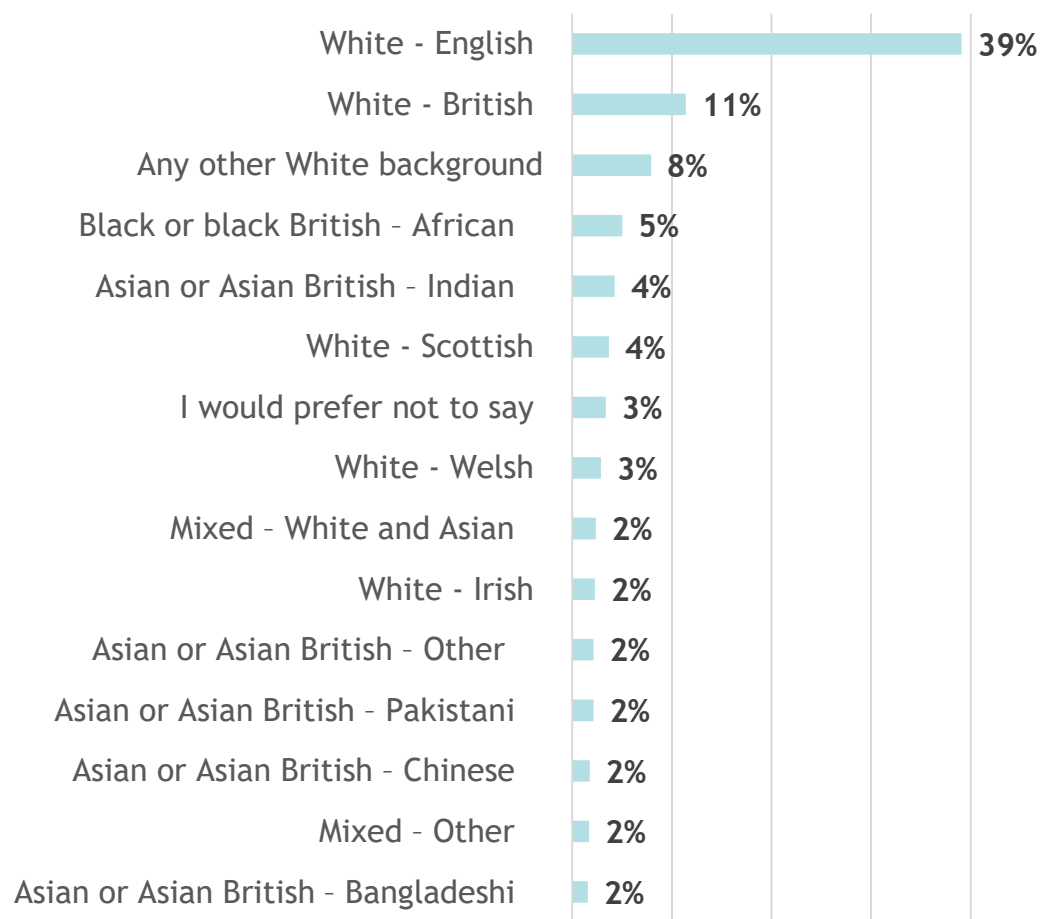
Q. Living circumstances
Base: 982

GENDER IDENTITY



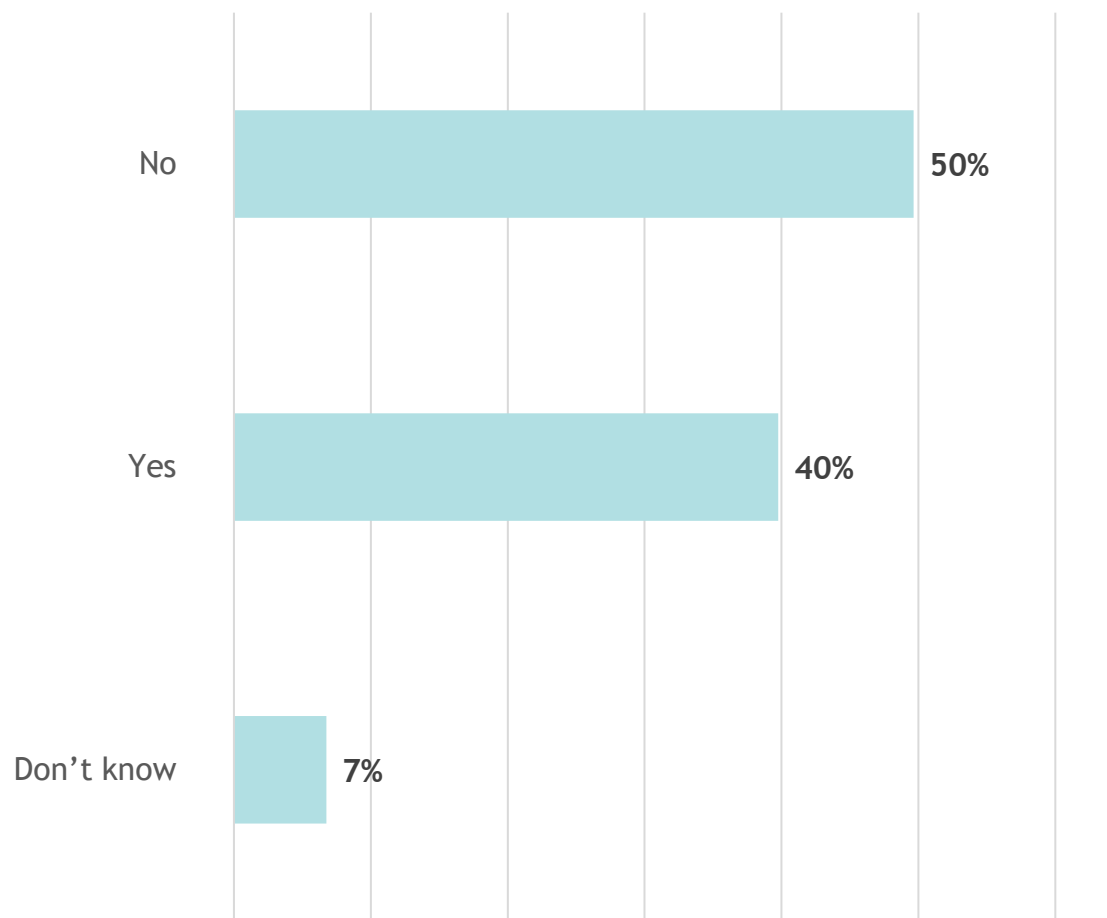
Q. Which of the following best describes your gender identity?
Base: 989

ETHNICITY



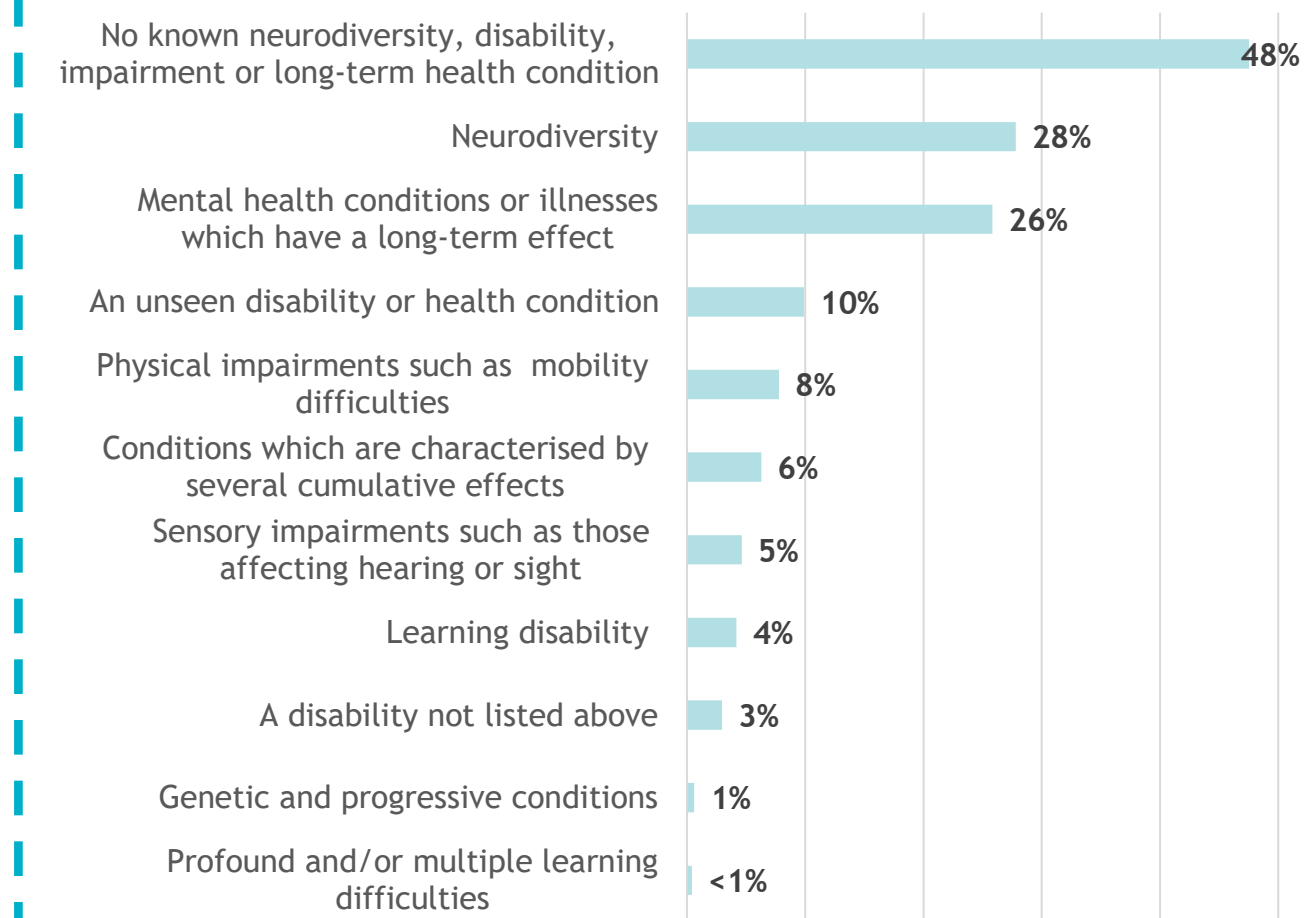
Q. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?
Base: 980

DISABILITY



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

Base: 978 Balance: Prefer not to say



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

Base: 911 Balance: Prefer not to say

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