

Office for Students' value for money strategy

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Office for
Students



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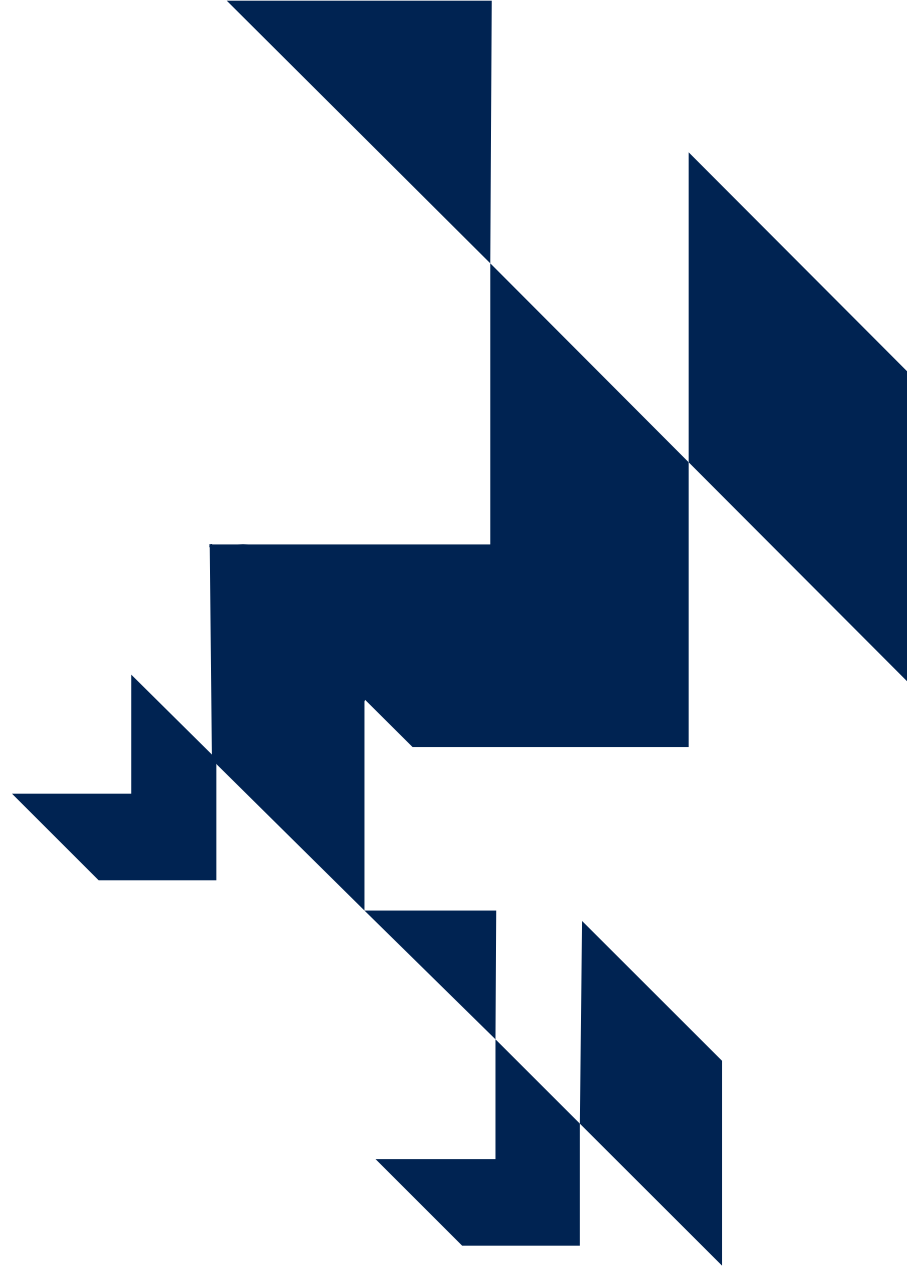
Higher Education Research Act 2017

“In performing its functions, the OfS must have regard to the need to promote value for money in the provision of higher education by English higher education providers”

OfS strategy 2018 to 2021

“All students, from all backgrounds, receive value for money”

**What does 'value
for money' mean?**



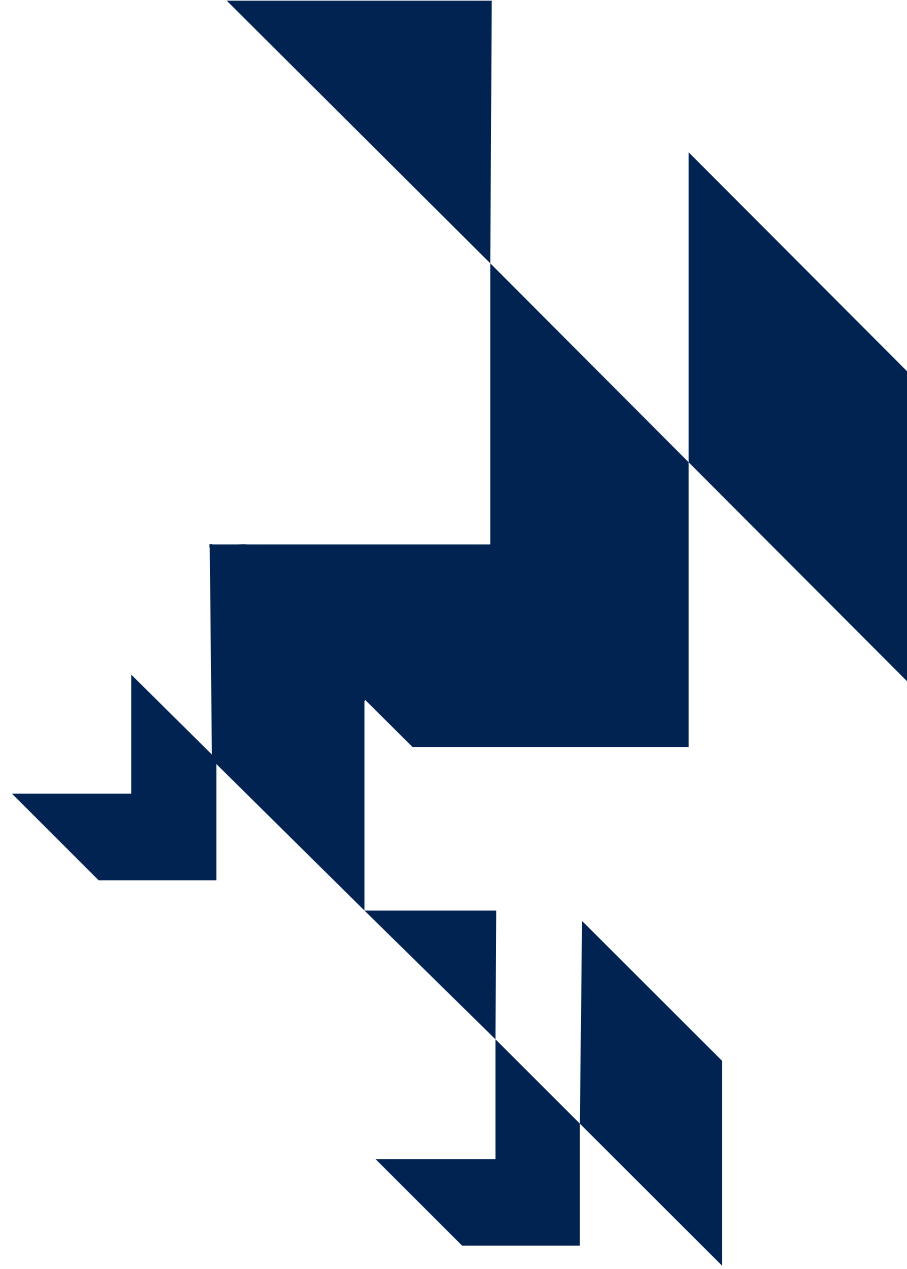
Value for money for students – definition

Students receive value for money when they experience the full benefits of higher education – both during their studies and afterwards – in exchange for the effort, time and money they invest.

Value for money for taxpayers – definition

Taxpayers receive value for money when higher education providers use public money and student fees efficiently and effectively to deliver graduates, from all backgrounds, who contribute to society and the economy.

**What affects value
for money?**





Value for money: the student perspective

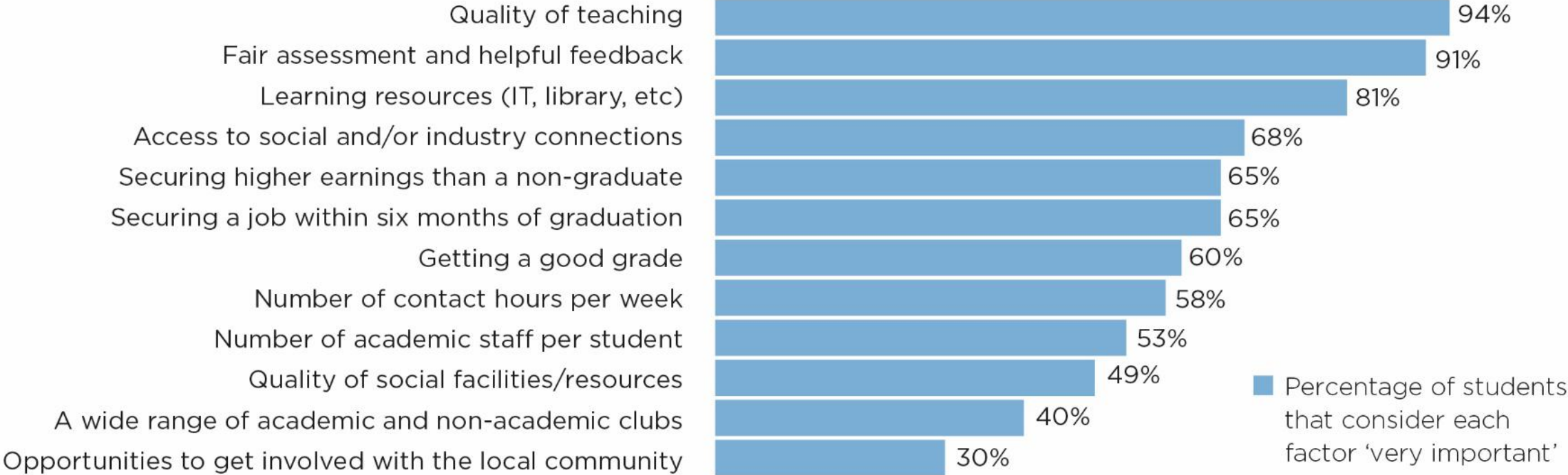
Research commissioned by the Office for Students.
Project led by a consortium of Students' Unions.

OfS-commissioned research on student perspectives

- 5,685 current higher education students in England
- January 2018

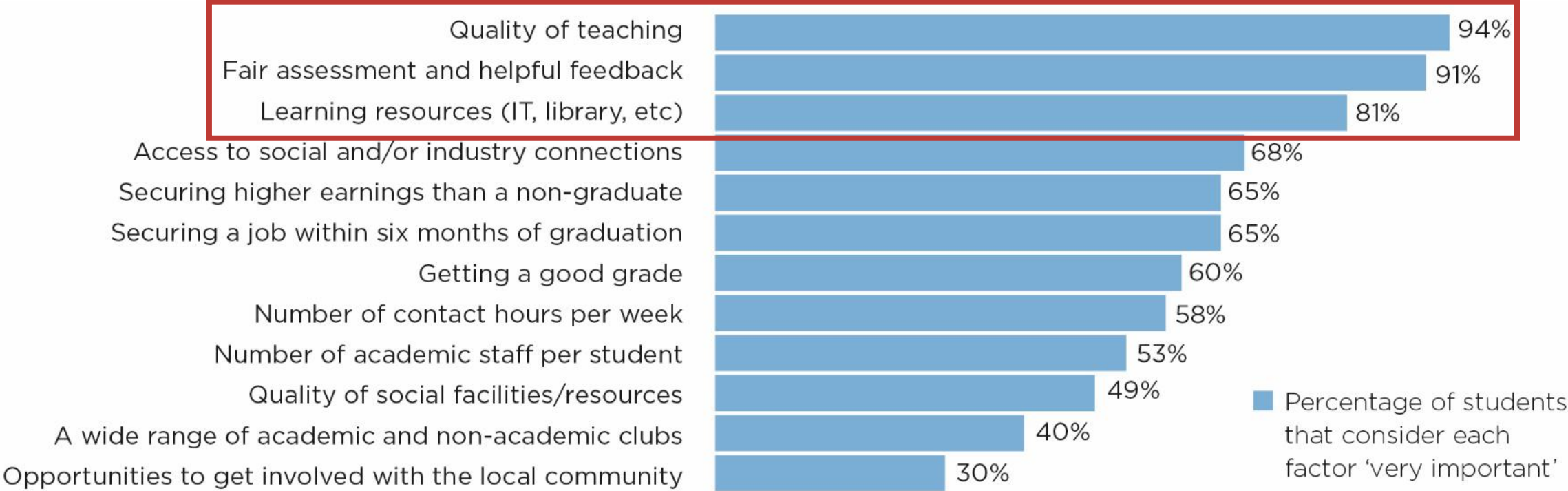
OfS value for money survey, 2018

Which factors demonstrate value for money?



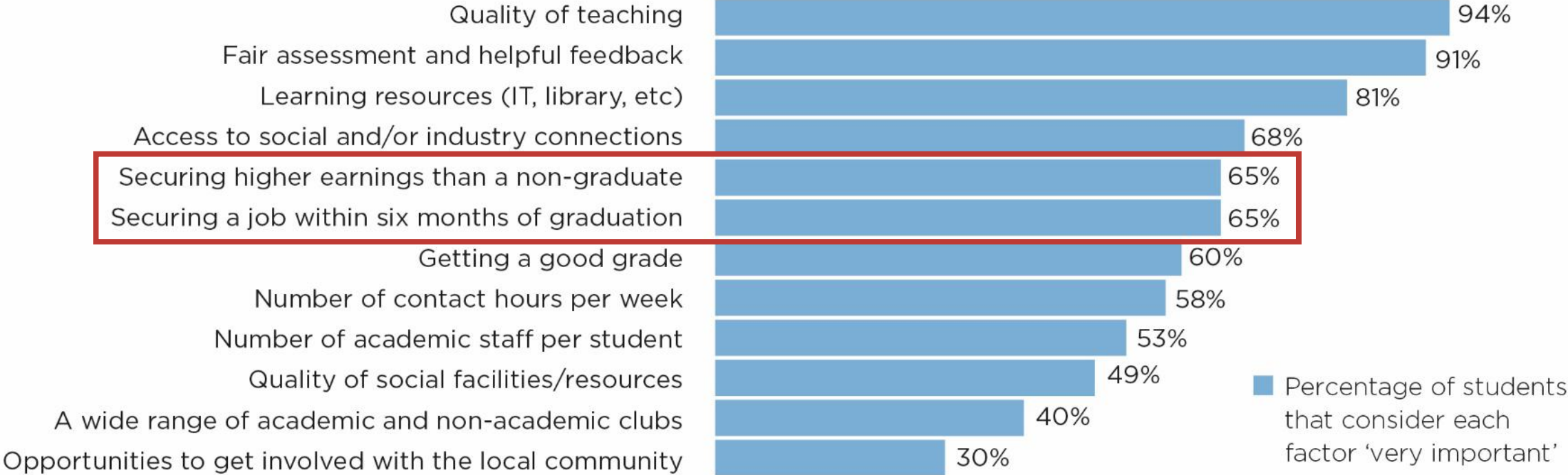
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Value for money: the student perspective

Research commissioned by the Office for Students.
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OfS-commissioned research on student perspectives

24% of respondents said that they were not informed or prepared for how much everything would cost as a student

Main themes from qualitative comments:

- lack of information on participation costs
- perception that costs levied by provider are unnecessary

PART OF UNITE
STUDENTS'
INSIGHT
SERIES
2017

REALITY CHECK

A report on university
applicants' attitudes
and perceptions

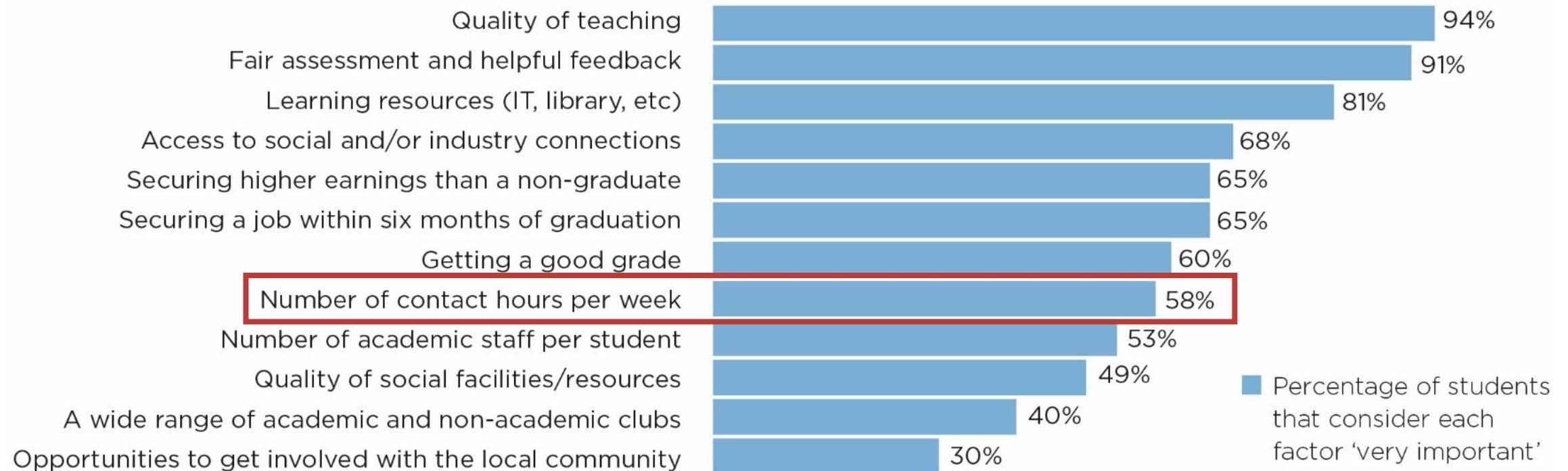
Unite Students/HEPI report on applicant perceptions

- 2,021 applicants to UK universities
- March/April 2017

“While six in ten (60%) applicants expect to spend more time in lectures than they do in school lessons, fewer than two in ten (19%) students find that this actually happens.”

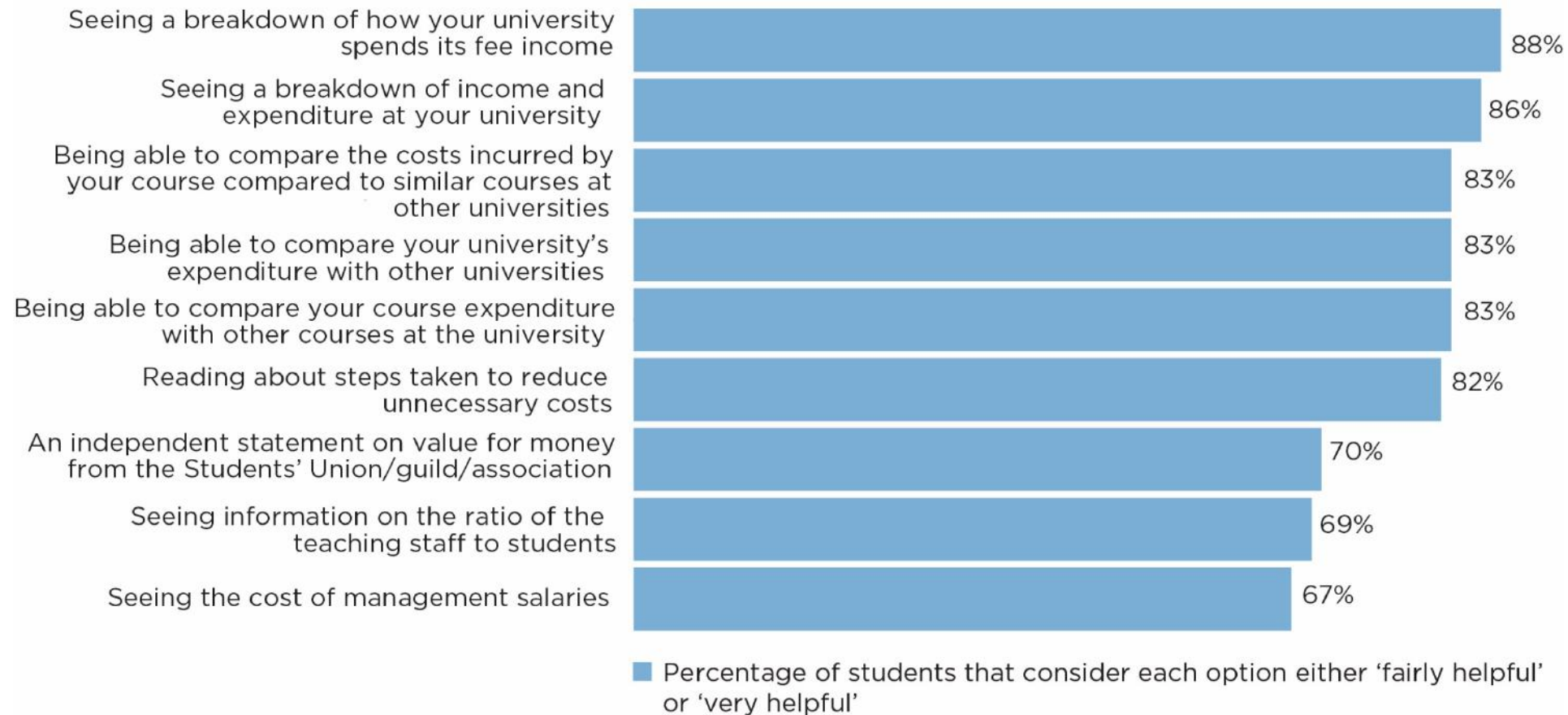
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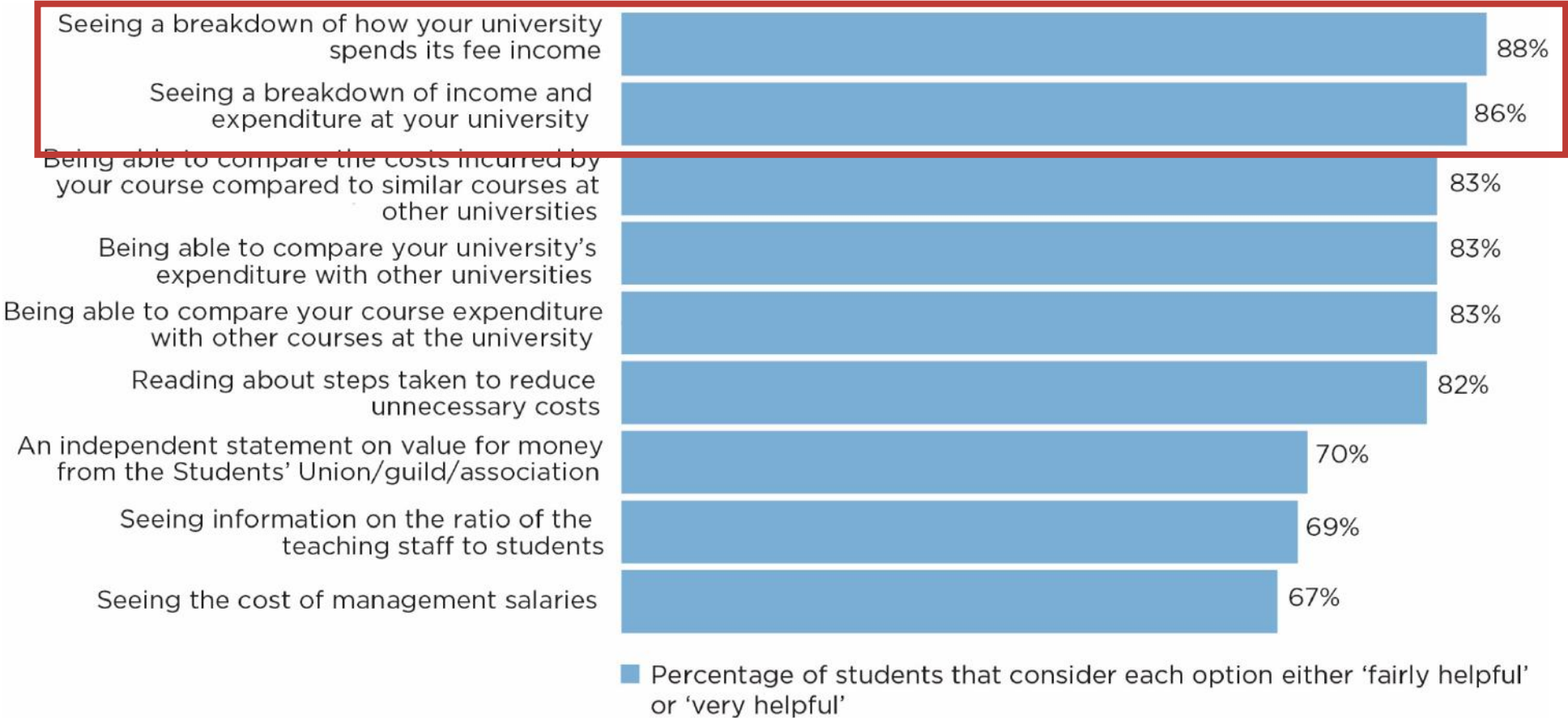
OfS value for money survey, 2018

How helpful would these factors be when assessing whether your university provides value for money?



OfS value for money survey, 2018

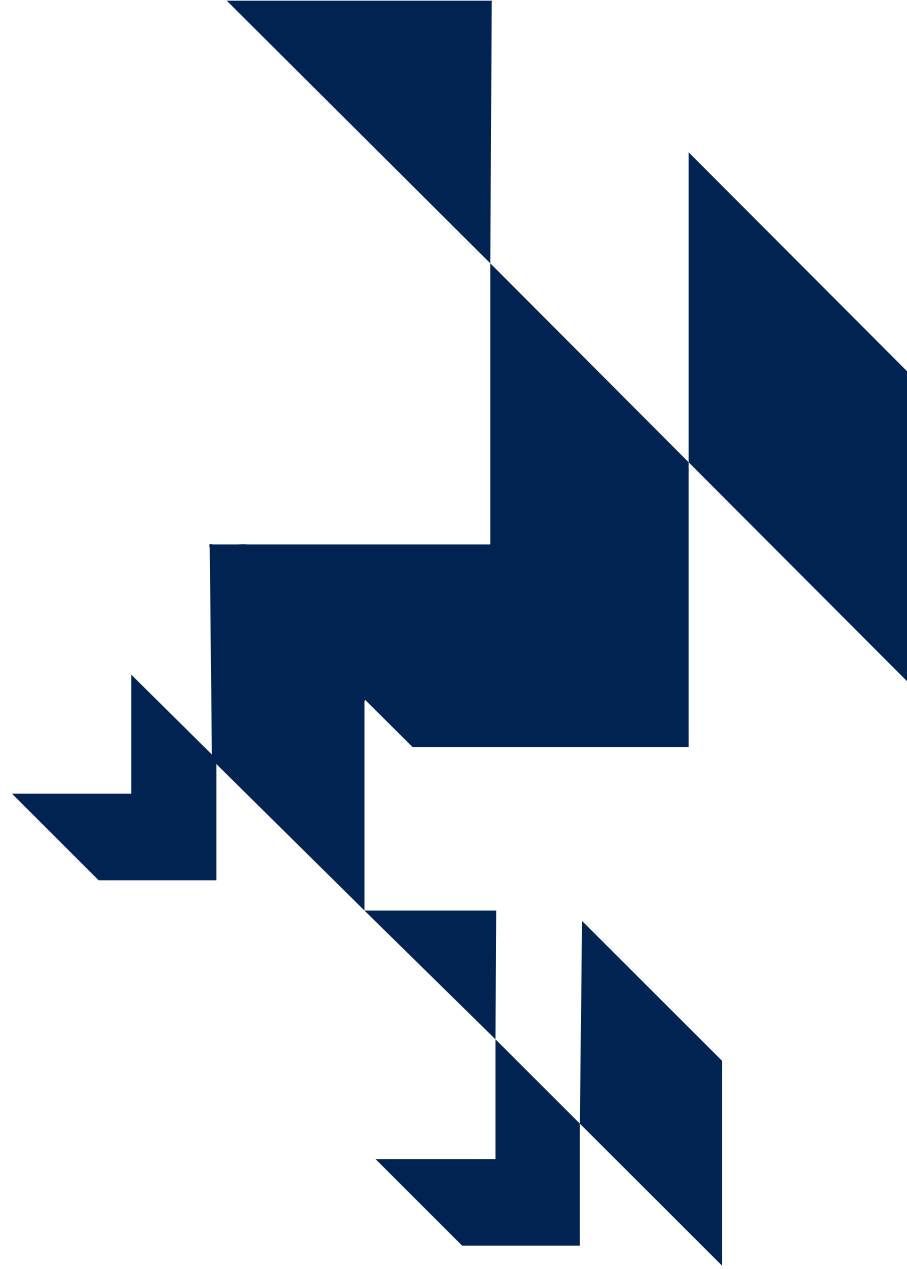
How helpful would these factors be when assessing whether your university providers value for money?



Value for money for taxpayers

- Overlap with student interests – regulation
 - Teaching quality
 - Employment outcomes
 - Transparency
- Other public benefits – funding
 - Support social and economic priorities
 - Manage public money appropriately

**What is the OfS
doing about value
for money?**



Our priorities for addressing value for money

- Improving teaching quality
- Protecting students as consumers
- Increasing transparency
- Securing positive employment outcomes

Teaching quality

- Condition B1: The provider must deliver well-designed courses that provide a high quality academic experience for all students and enable a student's achievement to be reliably assessed
- Condition B2: The provider must provide all students, from admission through to completion, with the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education
- Evidence from review by QAA
- TEF

Consumer information

- Condition C1: The provider must demonstrate that in developing and implementing its policies, procedures and terms and conditions it has given due regard to relevant guidance about how to comply with consumer protection law
- CMA guidance for providers
- Monitor OIA complaints

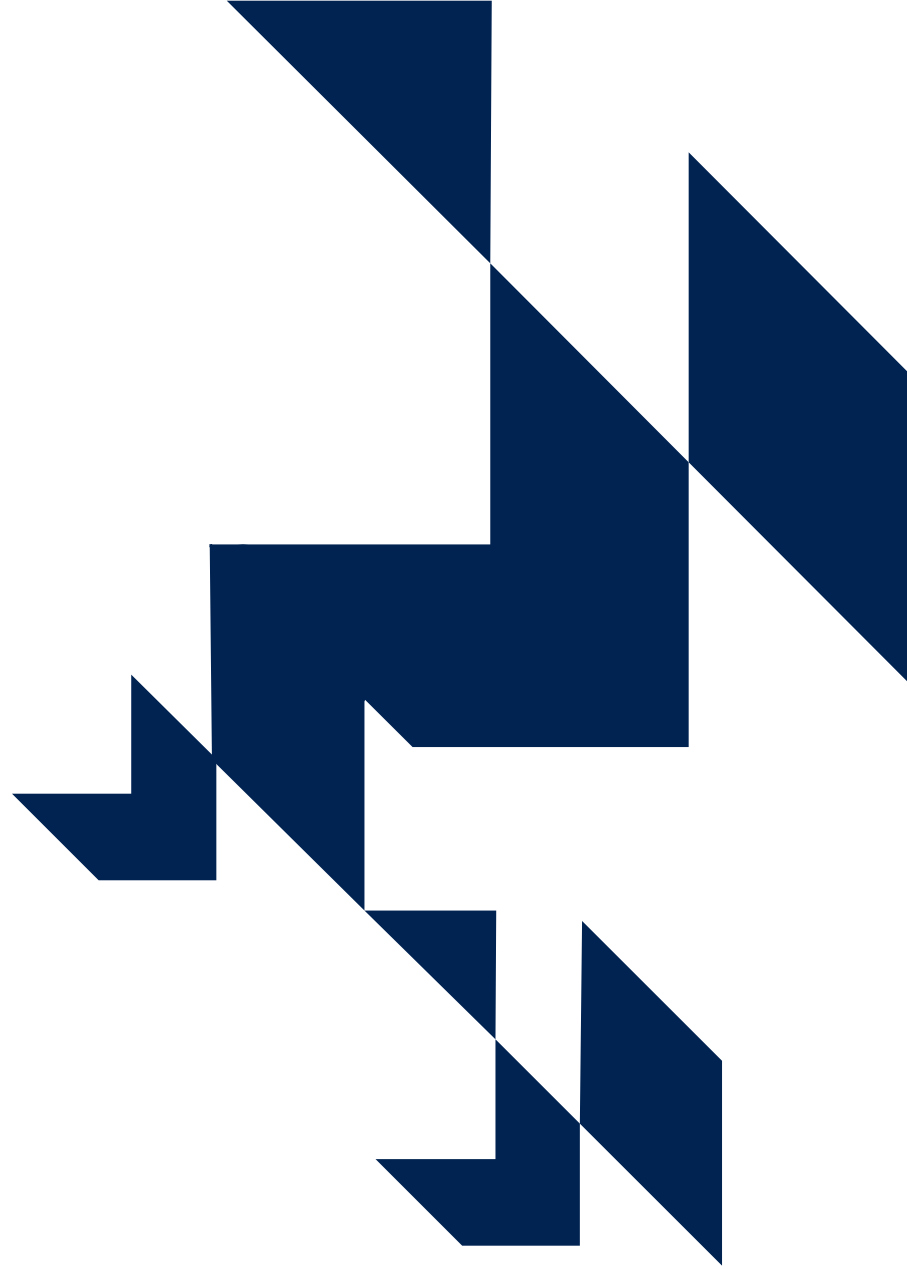
Fee and funding transparency

- Condition E2: The provider must have adequate and effective arrangements to deliver public interest governance principles:
 - All providers – adequate and effective arrangements to provide transparency about value for money for all students and taxpayers
- Additional transparency for higher fees

Employment outcomes

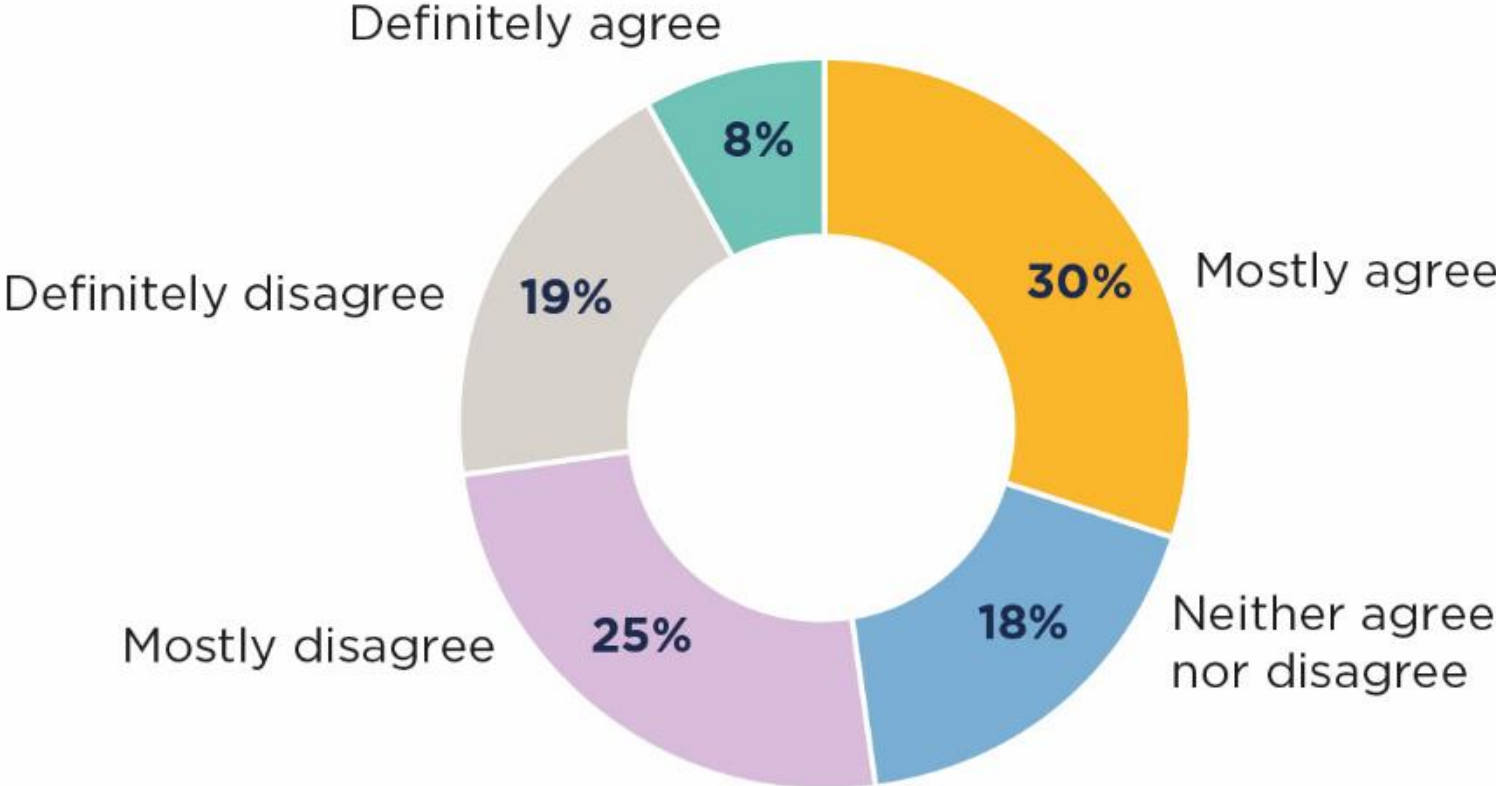
- Condition B3: The provider must deliver successful outcomes for all of its students, which are recognised and valued by employers and/or enable further study.
- Discover Uni
- Targeted funding
 - Institute of Coding
 - Challenge Competition

**How will the OfS
measure value for
money?**



OfS value for money survey, 2018

The tuition fees for my course represent/represented good value for money



Measuring value for money

- Student and graduate polling
- Measures of student experience and outcomes
 - NSS
 - New PGT survey
 - Graduate Outcomes Survey
- Sector analysis
 - Diversity of provision
 - Unit of resource

Office for
Students

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in white.

OfS

Thank you for listening

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