Advance HE

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STUDENT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE SURVEY

The Student Academic Experience Survey 2024

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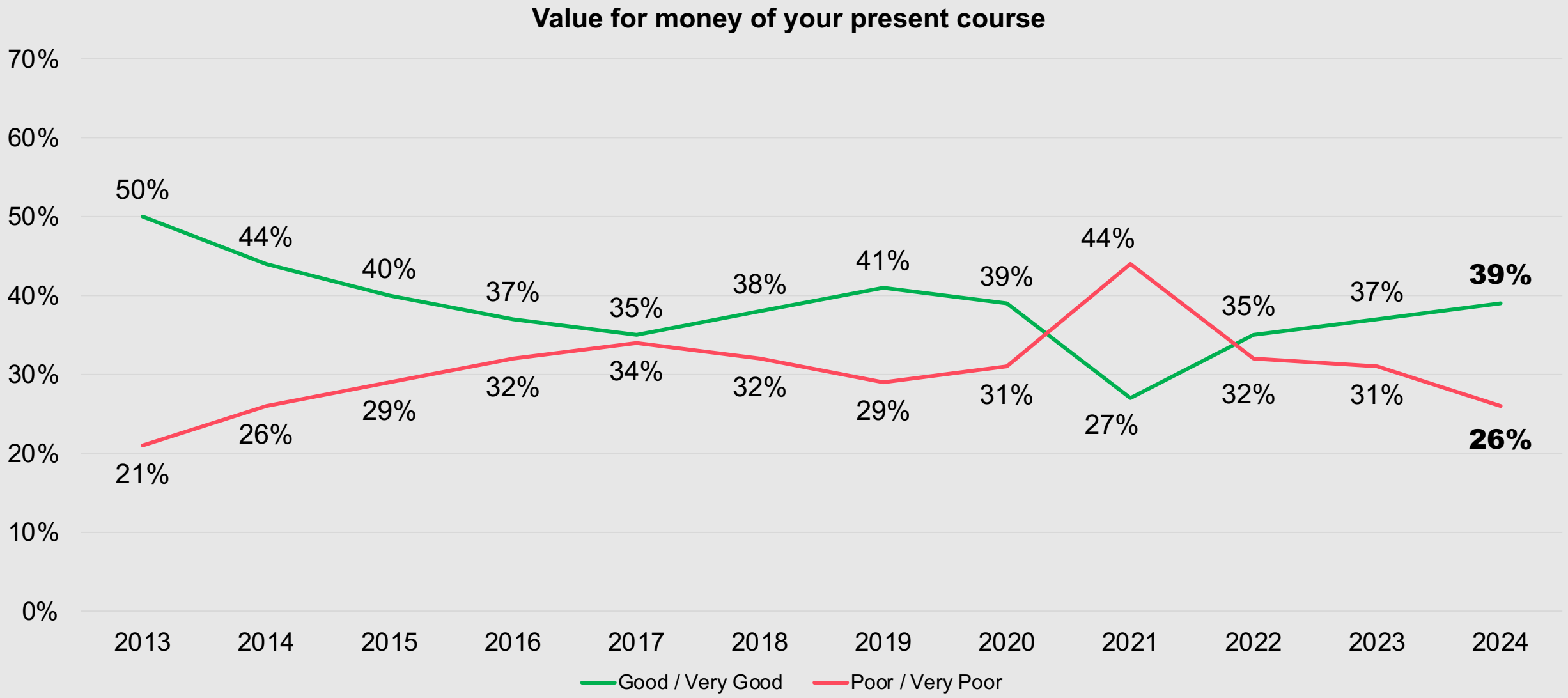
In one of several positive changes this year, perceptions of value for money have improved significantly

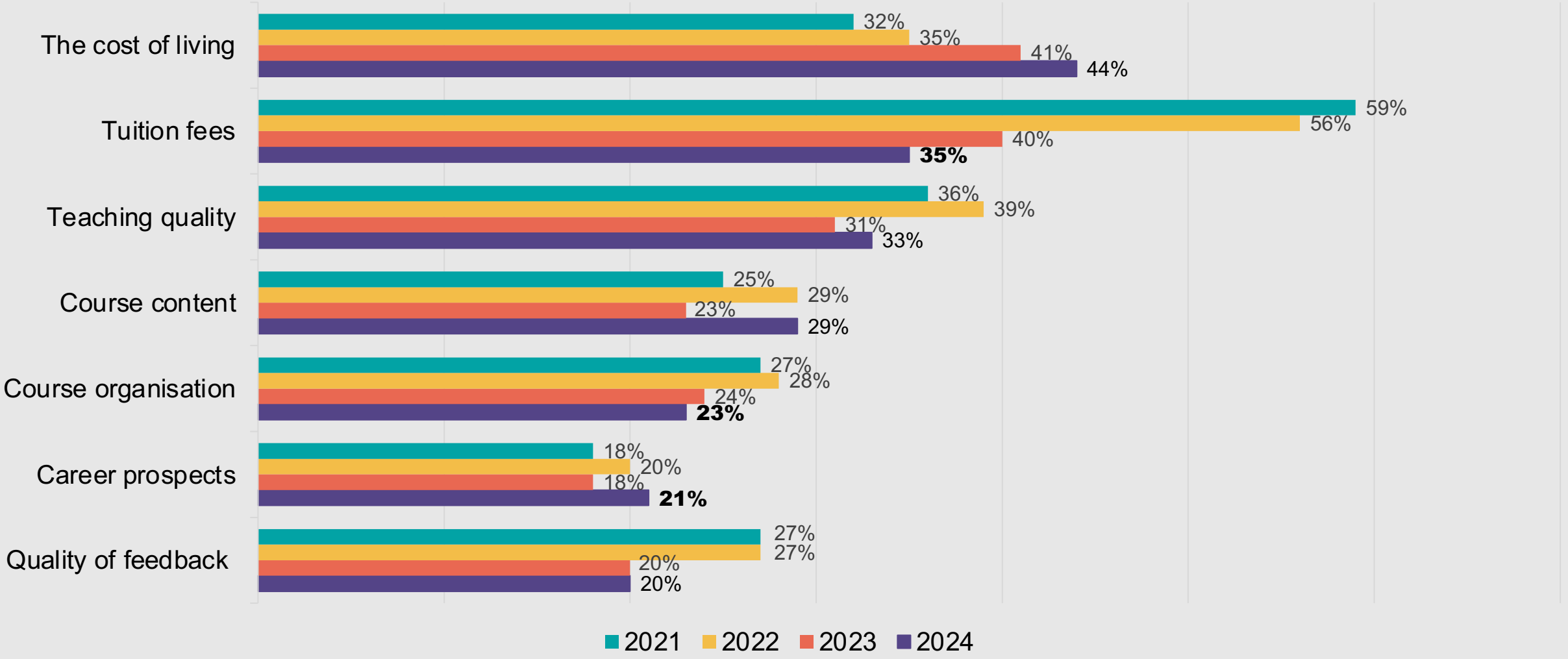


Digging deeper, this is driven by international students. Students from Scotland report lower perceptions compared to pre-pandemic, while there is little change among students from England

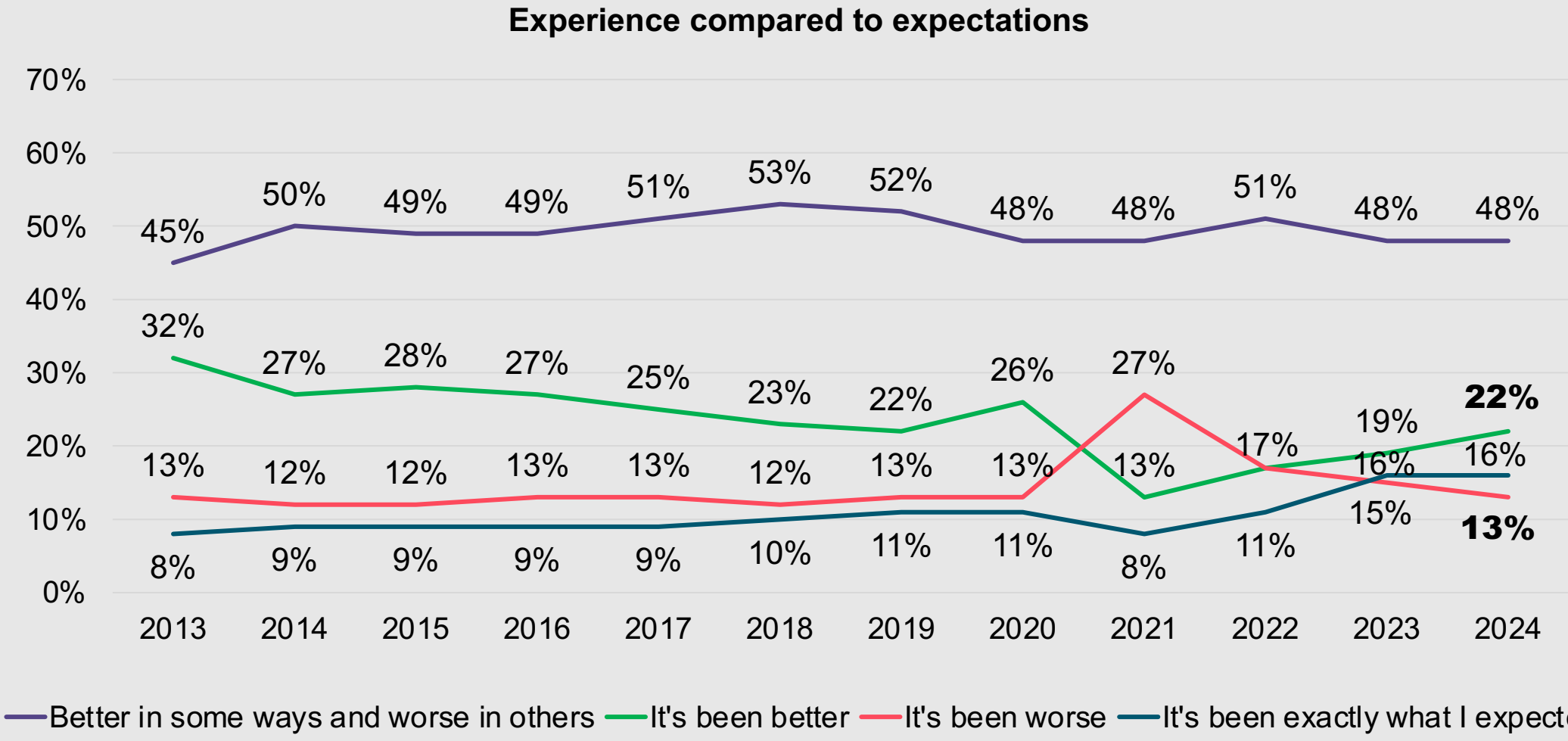
	Home region / domicile					
	Scotland	**Wales**	**EU**	**Rest of World**	**England**	**NI**
2020	57%	41%	46%	43%	37%	37%
2021	50%	29%	30%	33%	24%	27%
2022	48%	40%	36%	36%	34%	28%
2023	51%	37%	35%	38%	35%	31%
2024	48%	40%	**49%**	**45%**	36%	**41%**

Cost of living is still very much a top-of-mind concern for many students

When saying you received poor value / very poor value, what were you thinking about?



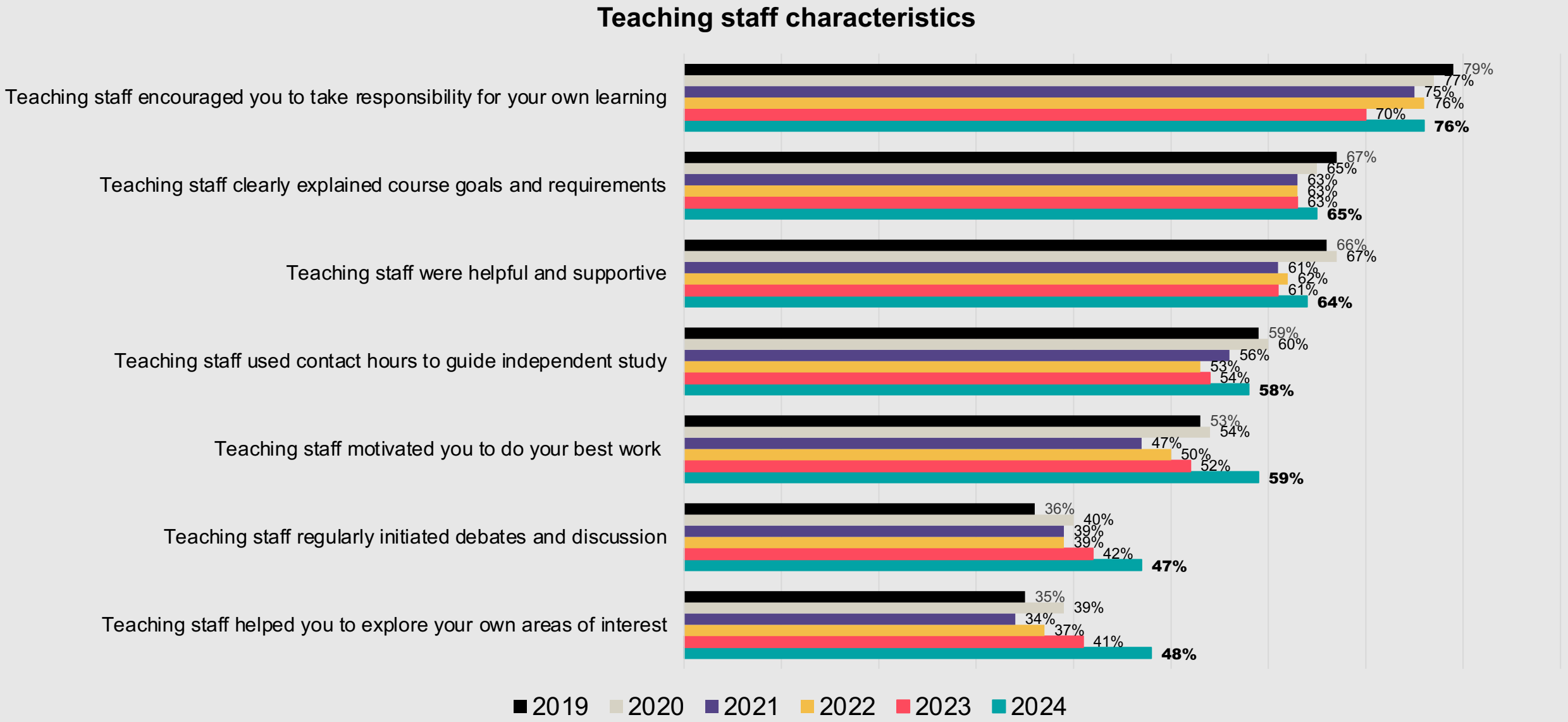
Another key increase this year is the quality of the experience compared to expectations – emphasising resilience across the sector in delivering a positive experience



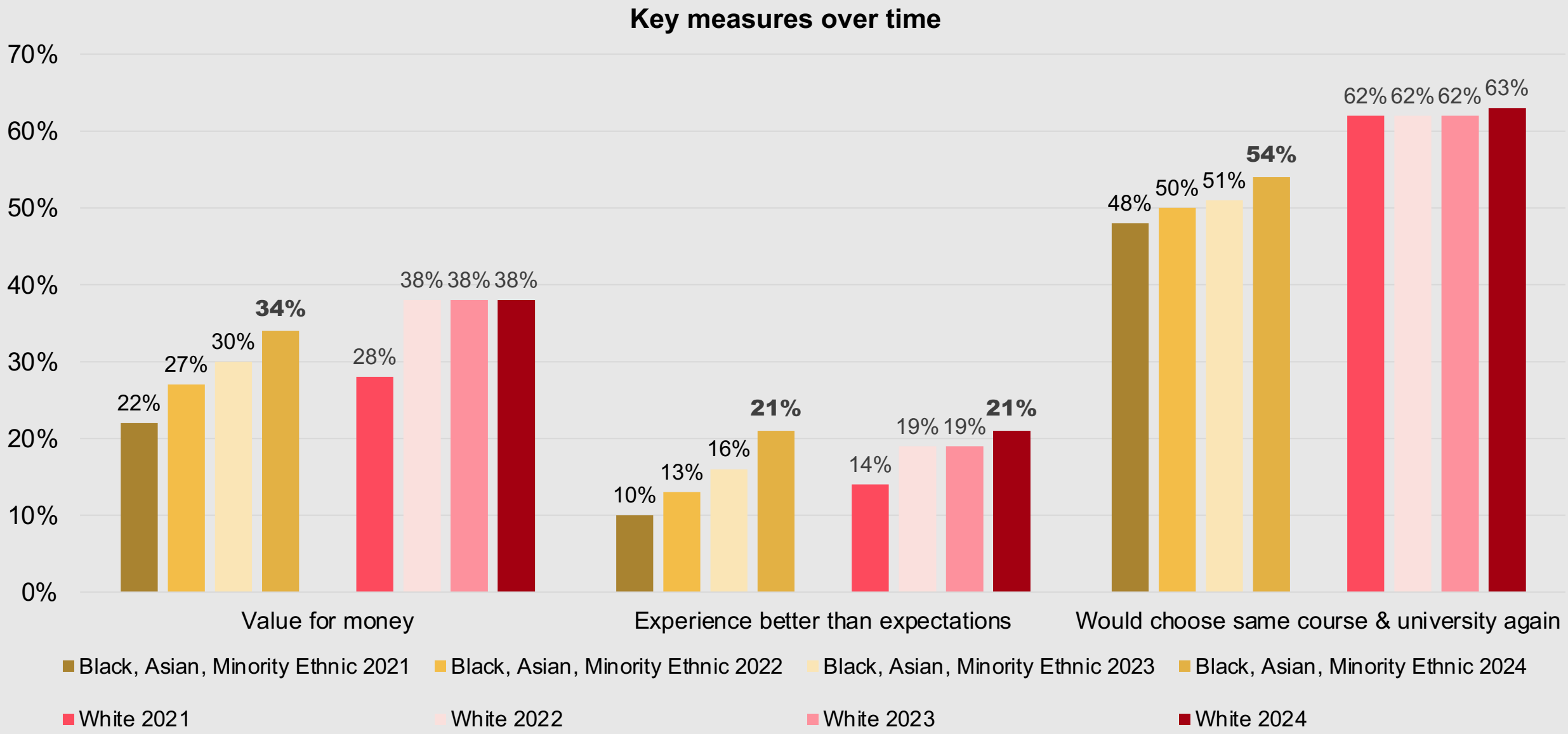
Key reasons for exceeding expectations include:

- Organisation
- Level of challenge
- Accessible teachers
- Teaching quality

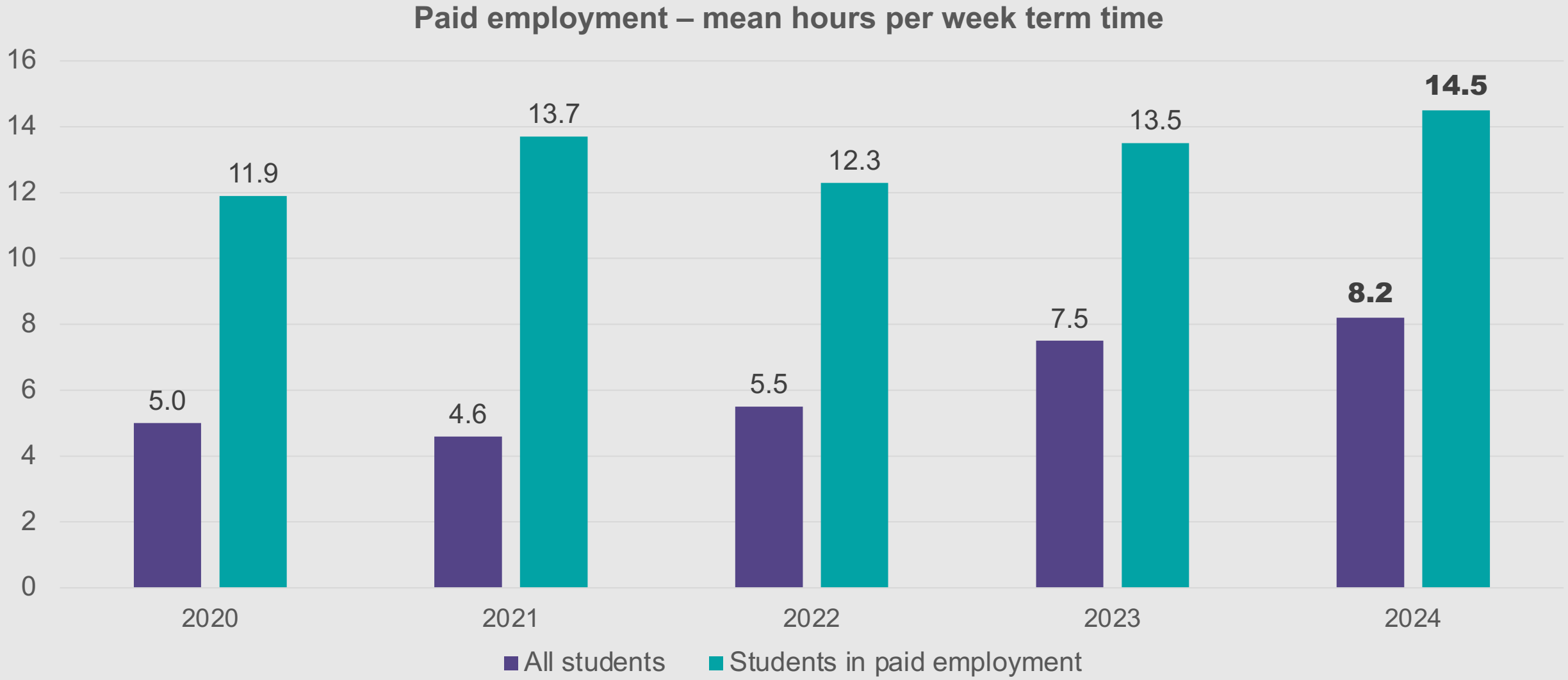
Perceptions of teaching quality are some of the highest we have seen



Encouragingly, we are moving closer towards parity of the experience by ethnicity

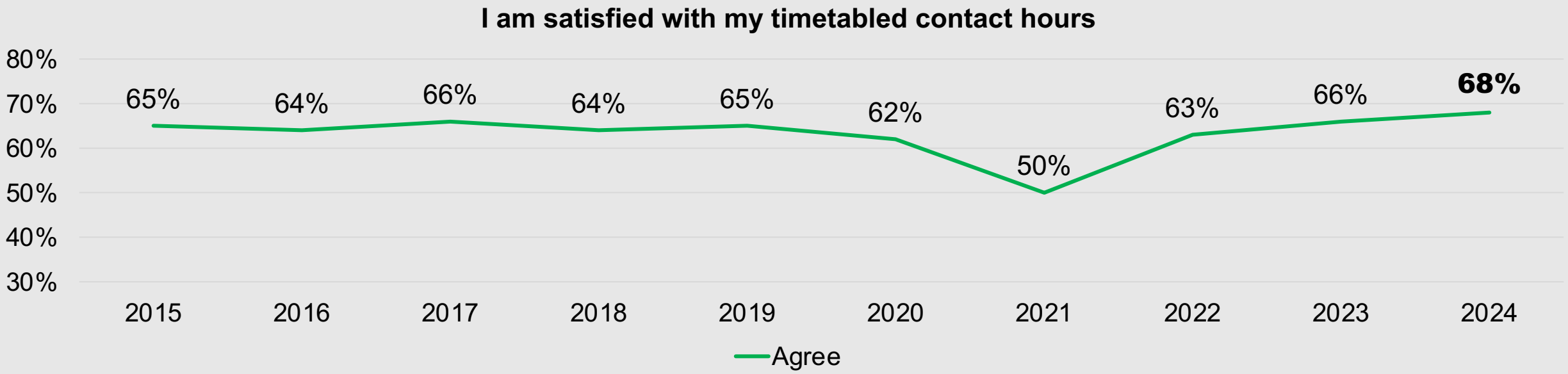


Continuing a theme from last year, although the proportion of students who work for pay has not materially changed, there has been a clear increase in the average number of hours worked

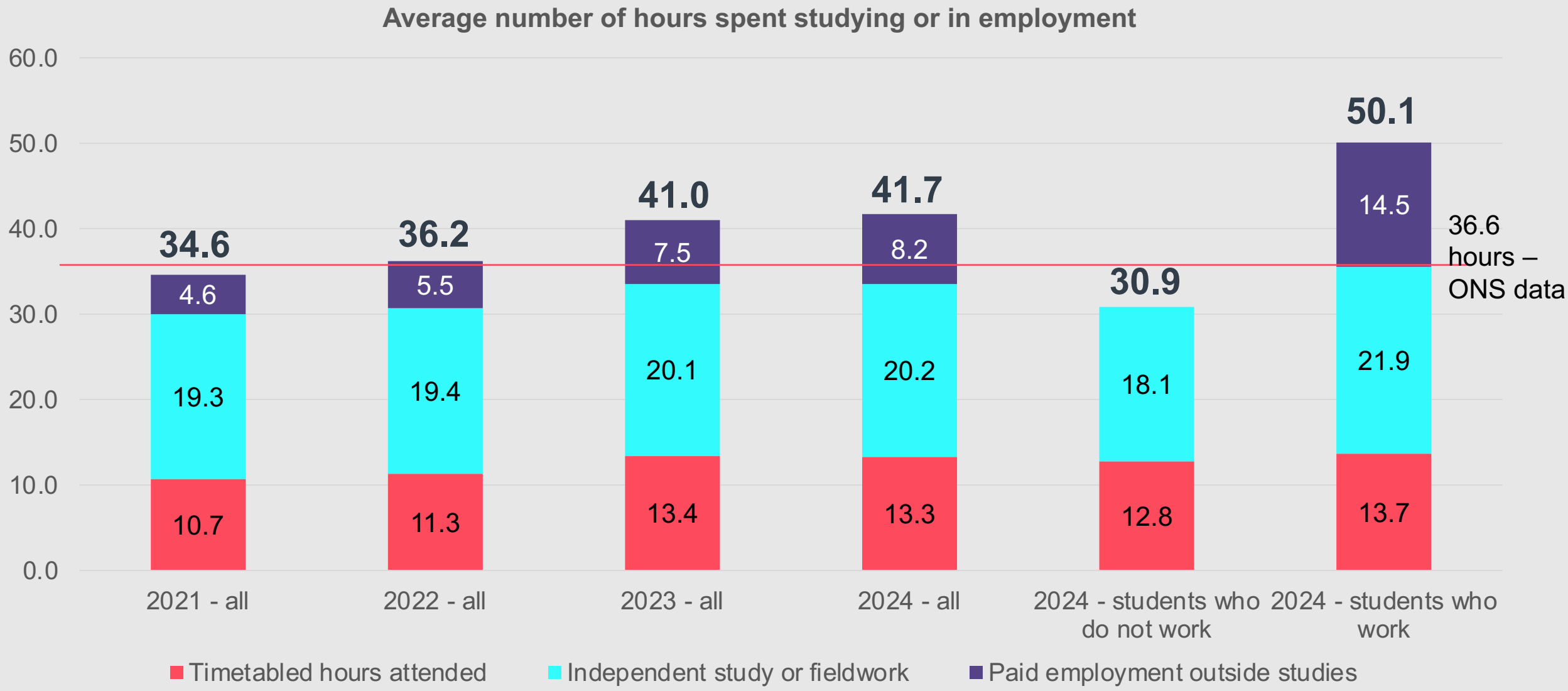


Levels of workload have not materially changed but are still high, although this is often seen as a positive point

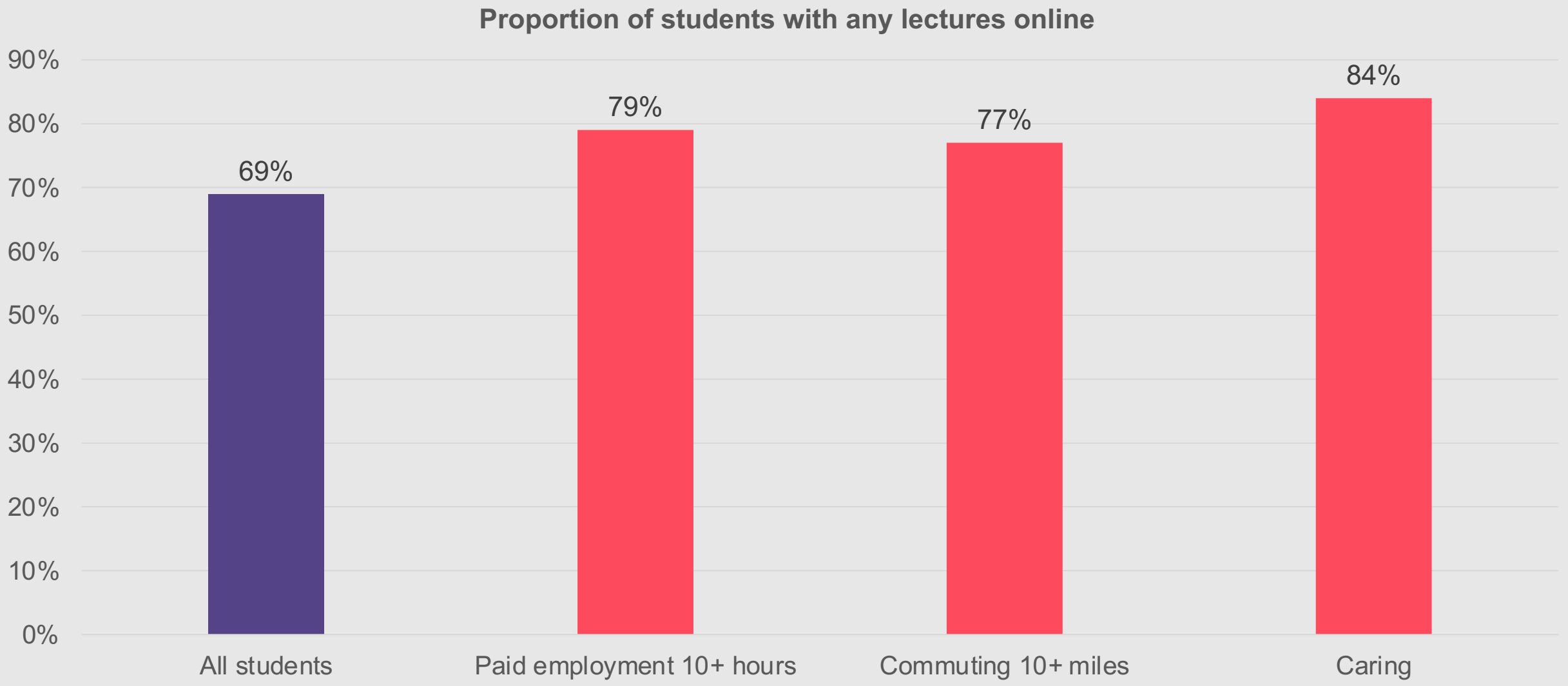
	Total hours (attended in average week)	Timetabled contact hours	Independent study hours	Contact hours attended	Placements or fieldwork
2020	31.6	14.6	14.1	12.6	4.9
2021	29.9	12.4	15.7	10.7	3.6
2022	30.7	13.4	14.8	11.3	4.6
2023	33.4	16.0	14.5	13.4	5.6
2024	33.5	16.1	**13.6**	13.3	**6.6**



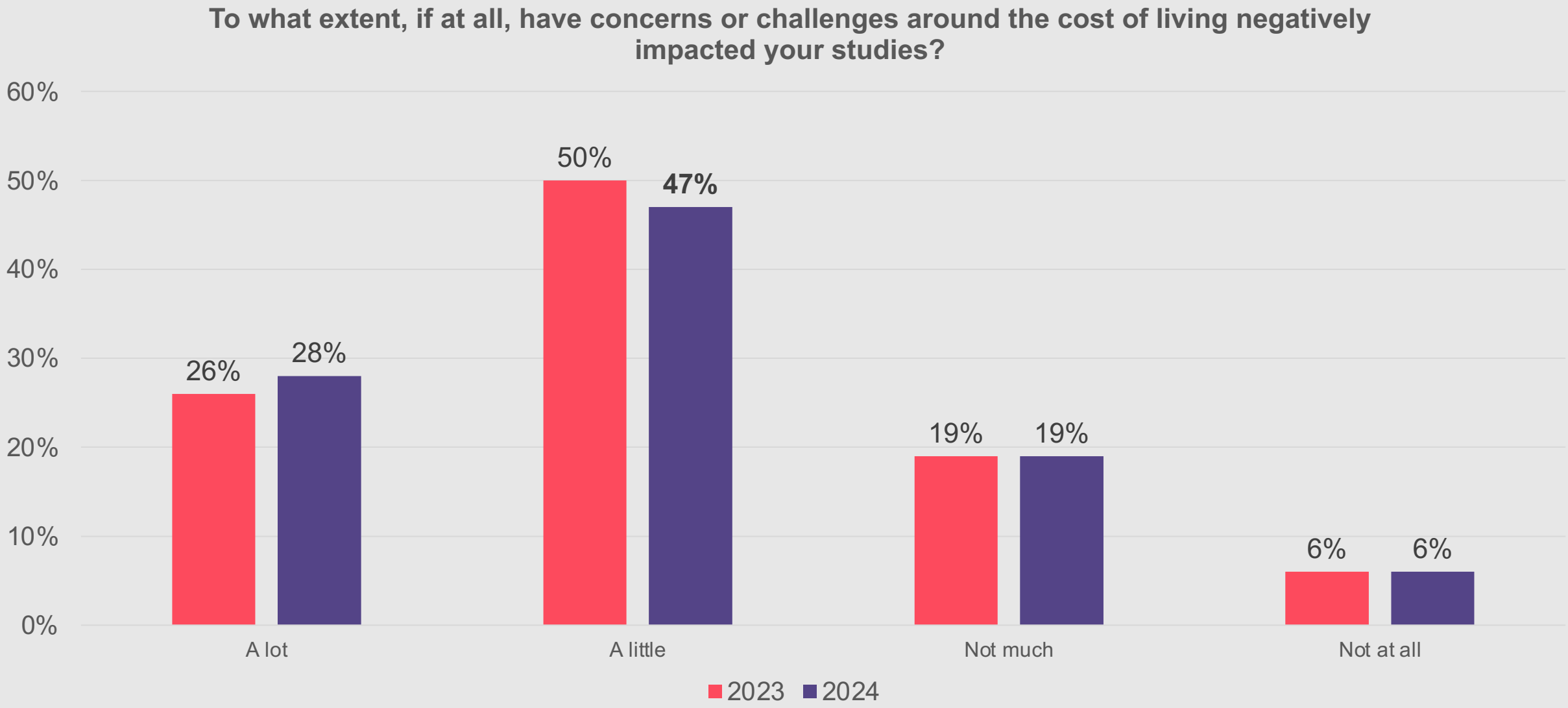
This equates to high volumes of time spent in study or employment – well above the national average of time spent in full time work



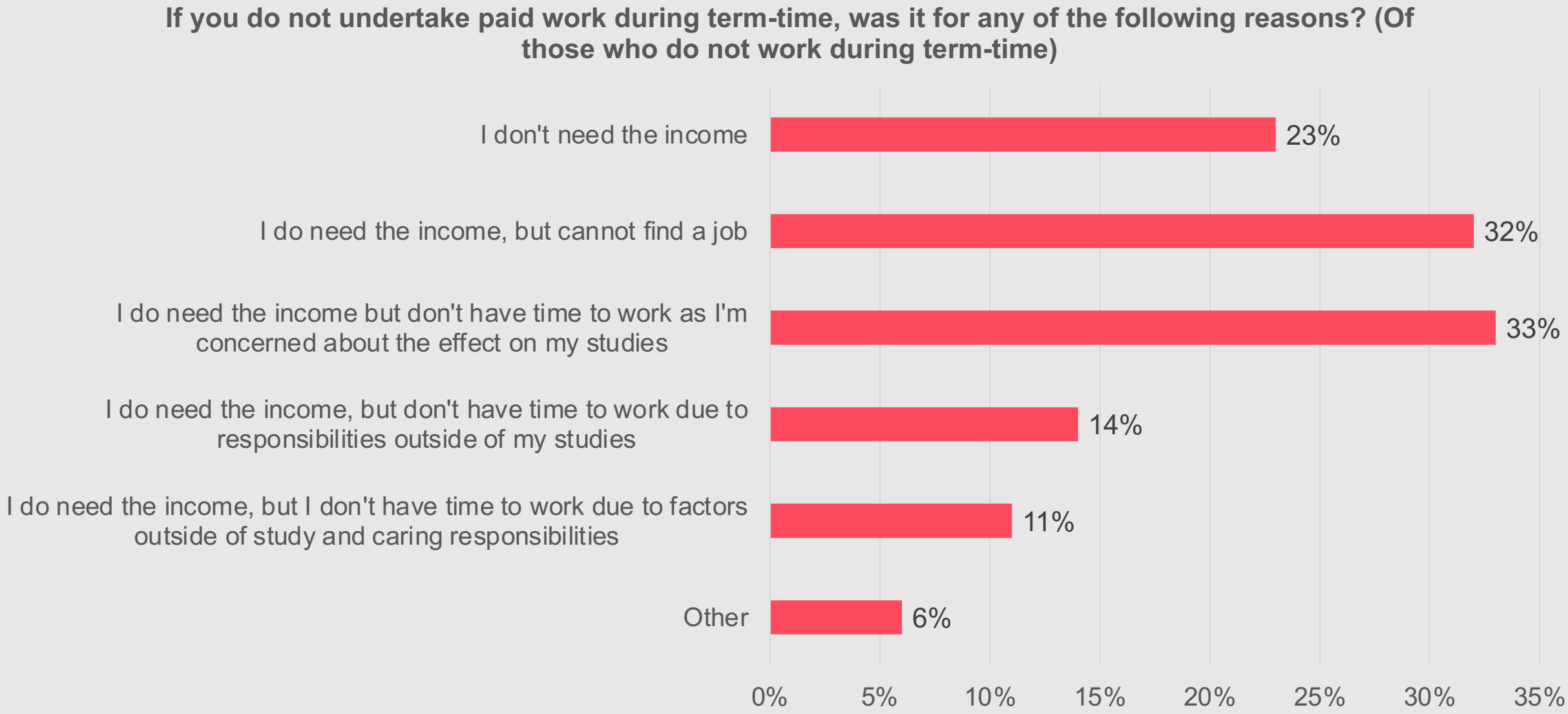
One of the ways to support students with pressures of employment and caring / commuting is to offer a range of delivery methods to suit differing needs



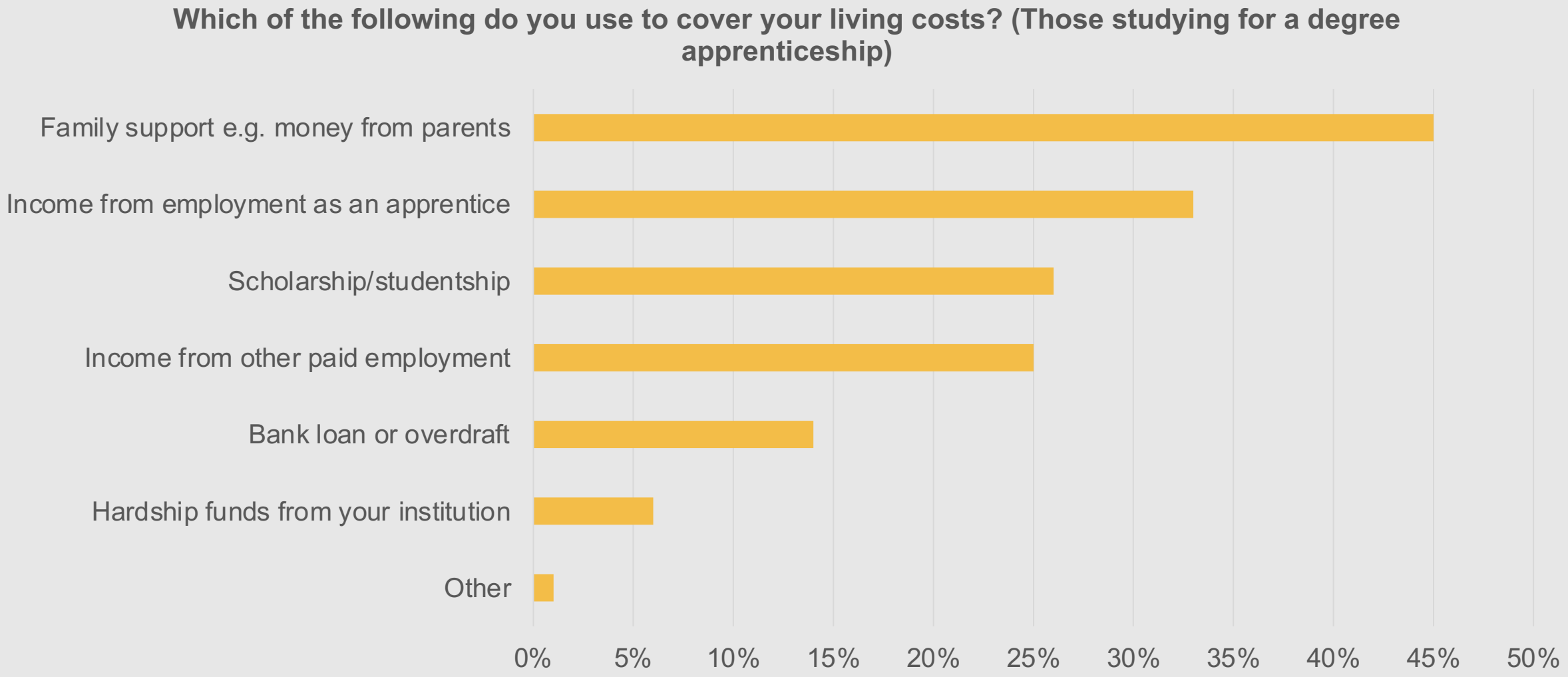
The effects of the cost-of-living crisis have worsened for some students, but they are similar to last year overall



Students want to work more hours, but are worried about the effect on their studies and other responsibilities

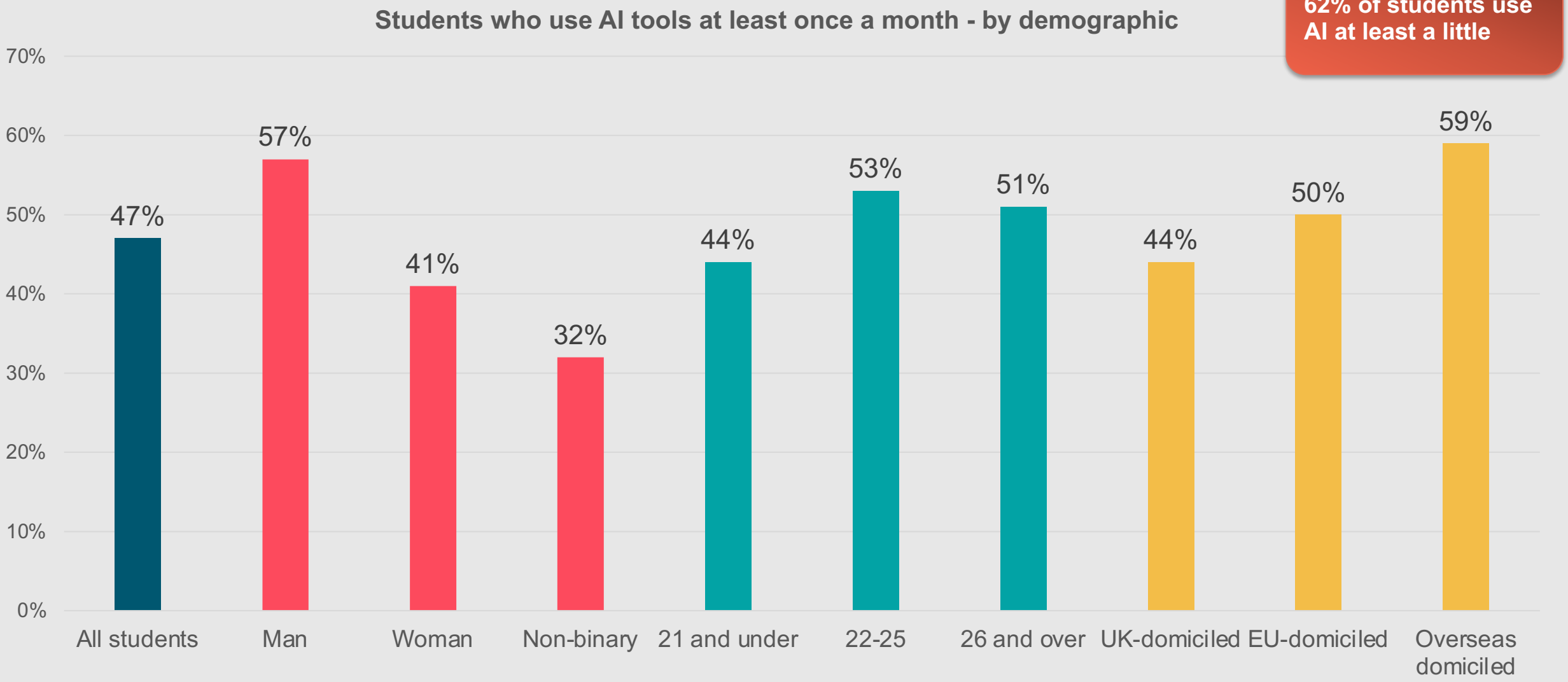


Despite the ‘earn while you learn’ tagline, degree apprentices also depend on other income sources, such as family support and paid work

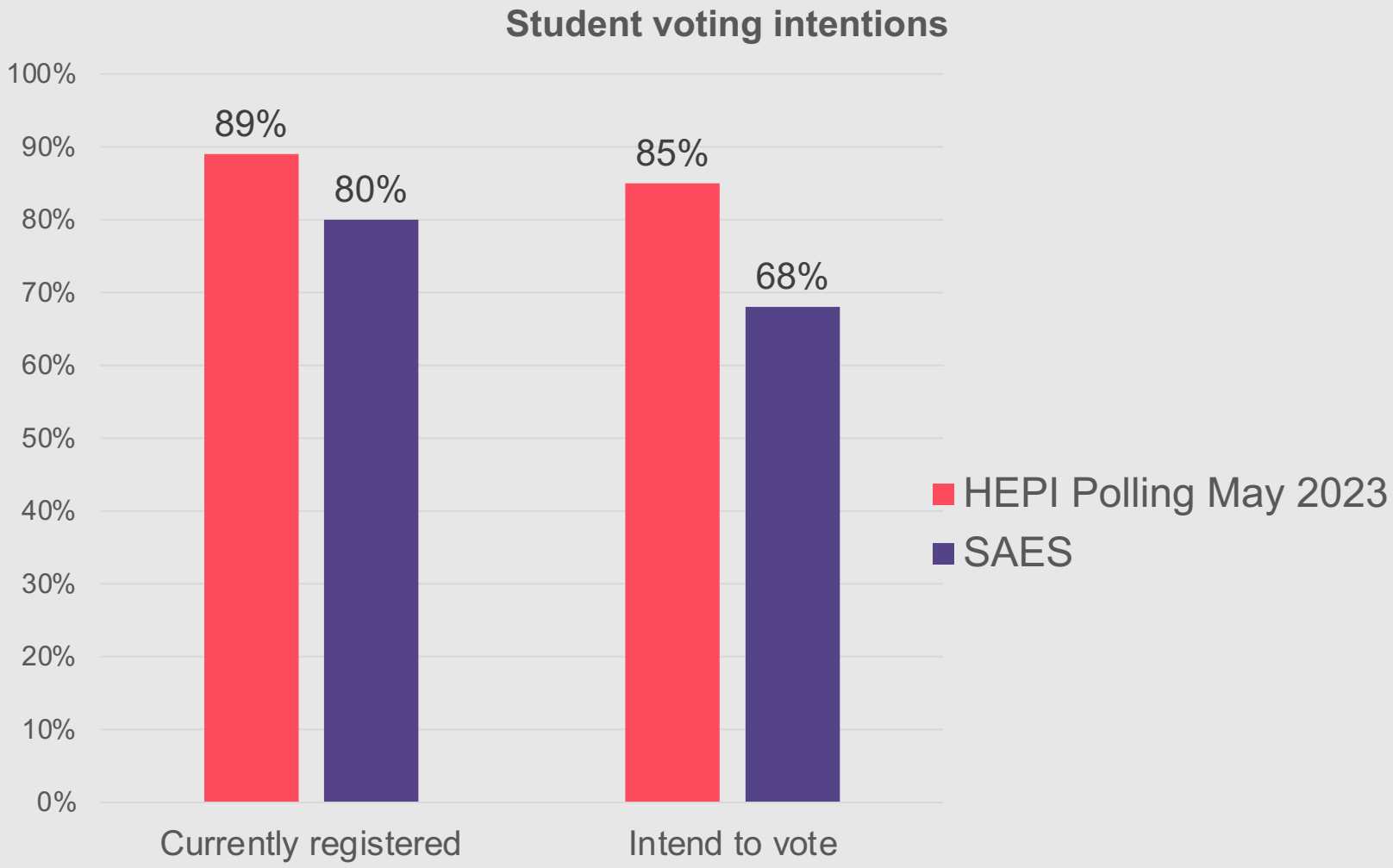


There is a growing AI digital divide by gender, age, and domicile

62% of students use AI at least a little



Most students are registered to vote, but the number intending to vote is significantly lower than in comparable polling last year



I am registered to vote at…	% students registered to vote
My main home address only	69%
A term-time address only	7%
Both (the addresses are different)	15%
Both (the addresses are the same)	6%
Don't know	4%

Review the maintenance support systems across all four nations

Facilitate high-quality part-time work on campus and local economies

Review the financial support offer for degree apprentices

Ask key welfare questions at registration points

Different institutional groups should share good practices in teaching approaches

Institutions should offer auto-enrolment to the electoral roll for students