



student

living report 2002

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Foreword

by Diana Warwick



I am delighted to have been invited to write the foreword to UNITE's 2002 Student Living Report. As with last year's report it provides an invaluable snapshot of how students are living and learning in this early part of the 21st century.

There are now some 1.8 million students in higher education across the UK. Each and every one of these is an important, valued and increasingly discerning customer. Gaining a fuller understanding of their expectations, experiences and needs is crucial to the continued success and improvement of UK universities. The UNITE Student Living Report is one of the few annual national surveys that provides a regular and comprehensive measurement of students' motivations, expectations, experiences, finance and plans for the future.

It is particularly pleasing that in this second survey students continue to rate their university experience very highly. It shows expectations are being met and in some cases exceeded, students feel intellectually stretched, standards in teaching, relevance of course content and levels of academic support are all rated as good. The fact that the vast majority of students believe the money they are spending on their education is a good investment and that going to university is a worthwhile experience is testament to the achievements of universities across the UK.

The findings that relate to student finance are particularly welcome and timely. They add to the growing body of evidence and consensus that has prompted, and will influence, the Government's current review of student support.

The contribution that the UNITE Student Living Reports make to the understanding of the student experience is invaluable to all of us who are dedicated to maintaining and improving all aspects of university life in the UK. The 2001 edition has already provided Universities UK with a useful resource which has complemented much of our own research. We look forward to using the findings of this new report throughout 2002. I commend it to a wide readership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Diana Warwick'.

Diana Warwick
Chief Executive, Universities UK

Key findings



- Students generally remain favourable to their universities and the vast majority (96%) continue to believe that going to university is worthwhile experience.
- League tables are increasingly important in deciding where to go to university.
- More students are working or obtaining work experience while at university.
- Student debt is increasing, with a widening gap between those from a higher and lower social class background.
- A significant proportion of students would welcome more guidance on how to manage their finances, either from classes at school, banks or the universities.
- Students are increasingly viewing their time at university, as an investment, and as a consequence, are becoming more demanding about the quality they receive from their money.
- When asked about the system of student funding and whether they would prefer to keep the current system of student loans or adopt a system of maintenance grants and higher taxes for graduates that the Government is considering, over two-fifths want to keep the current system, while a third would prefer the alternative system
- Students still tend to enjoy a certain lifestyle, rather than just get by. An increasing proportion own mobile phones and computers, while most would still prefer to spend money on socialising rather than on their accommodation.
- Over half of students agree that since being at university they feel under a lot more stress.
- One quarter of students have been a victim of crime while at university.
- Labour remains the most popular political party among students, however, support for the Liberal Democrats has increased dramatically, mainly at the expense of the Conservatives.
- If there was a referendum in Britain, at the time of this survey, on the introduction of the Single European Currency students, by a small margin, would vote in favour of its introduction.

Overall attitudes to university

Today's students continue to regard their universities favourably. Indeed, the proportion of students who hold very or fairly favourable opinions of their university have remained constant in the last year. Students studying at 'old' universities tend to hold a more favourable opinion than those at 'new' universities.

However, just under a fifth of university students agree that if they had their time again they would go to a different university, underlining that some students are dissatisfied with their university experience.

Choice of university

The course on offer is still overwhelmingly the most important factor in students' choice of university, with significantly more students this year citing this as a reason for their selection. A third of students also consider a university's location in a town or city to be a critical selection criteria.

The relative importance of university league tables has grown in the last year, with over a fifth of students viewing them as an important consideration. However, those from an AB social class background place greater emphasis on their importance, than those who are from C1 or C2DE backgrounds. Undergraduates expecting to obtain a first class or upper second class degree are also more likely to be influenced by league tables.

Students at 'old' universities place greater importance on the reputation of universities, their departments and courses, and league tables when choosing their course. Those studying at 'new' universities are more likely to be influenced by the particular subjects covered by a course, modular course structures, flexibility and IT facilities.

Aspects of academic university life

Just under a fifth of students say their current course exceeds their expectations, while the majority say it is about what they expected. However, a sixth of students feel their course falls short of their expectations.

Students' ratings of the availability and accessibility of IT facilities have shown significant improvement over the last year. Male students and those in their first and second year are particularly complimentary.

Best and worst aspects of university life

The best aspect of university life is still considered to be the opportunity to improve career prospects, closely followed by meeting new friends, the social life and the chance to learn more about their chosen subject.

The proportion highlighting 'gaining independence or greater freedom' as one of the best aspects has fallen significantly in the last 12 months, perhaps reflecting the greater financial ties today's students have with their families due to the increasing cost of attending university.

Despite this, just over two-thirds of students agree that the freedom to live how they want is one of the best parts of the student experience.

Issues related to finance and balancing academic and work commitments are once again highlighted as the worst aspects of university life. While having little money is still the most frequently mentioned issue, the proportion citing being in debt has increased significantly.

Students from all social classes are increasingly citing debt as one of the worst aspects of university. Although students from middle class backgrounds tend to build up less debts than those from lower classes; many are still leaving university owing considerable amounts of money.

Work experience

The proportion of students who are working part-time during university term time has increased significantly in the last twelve months, reflecting the growing need for students to work to supplement their incomes. Overall, there has been an increase in students undertaking all forms of work, both paid and unpaid. Indeed, this year almost three-quarters claim to have conducted some form of work while at university, compared with little more than a half last year.

Students educated at state school are more likely to be working part-time during term time, than their private school educated counterparts, leaving the former with less time to concentrate on their academic studies.

Paid employment at university

To help relieve the financial burden on students, many universities are offering students employment at their university, with either the university itself, the student union, or subcontractors. The universities can then monitor the hours students are working and ensure they receive fair remuneration.

Just over a tenth of students are currently working or have worked in the past at their university. A further quarter would be interested in working at their university, but have so far not had the opportunity to do so, representing an untapped source of willing and knowledgeable workers.

Bar work is by far the most popular choice of employment offered at universities. In addition, between a fifth and a quarter are also interested in shop work, administration, student services (such as the welfare office or the NUS) and café or restaurant work. Although students from all ethnic backgrounds showed interest in all types of part-time work, the white students surveyed are more likely to prefer work in student bars, shops and cafes or restaurants.

Their non-white counterparts showed a stronger preference for office based work such as administration, student services and library work.

Student debts

At the start of the academic year 2001/02, university students say they currently owe and must repay on average £4,203, an increase of £877 since last year. The amount they anticipate owing at the end of their courses has increased by £1,107 to £8,133.

The disparity between middle class and working class students has grown considerably in the last year. On average, students from a C2DE background have seen the amount they currently owe increase by £1,483 to £4,640.



since last year's survey, over three times the increase experienced by AB students (£440), who currently owe £3,621.

The full introduction of tuition fees and increasing student loans means the majority of students have seen quite considerable increases in the amount they anticipate owing at the end of their course. Students from a C2DE background predict the greatest increase and now expect to owe on average £9,376.

Three-fifths of students have a Government student loan, rising to 69 per cent among those in their third or subsequent year. On average, those with a Government loan owe £5,188, however, almost a fifth of third or subsequent year students owe over £10,000. Students from a C2DE background are more likely to have taken out this form of loan.

Just under a third of students have an overdraft from their bank. On average, those who have become overdrawn owe £1,134, but almost half of third and subsequent year students who have this type of debt owe over £1,000. A further one in ten owe money to credit card companies or their parents.

Two-fifths of students who currently owe money are seriously worried about the debts they are incurring as a result of going to university, compared with only 16 per cent who are currently debt free. On the whole however, three-fifths of students say they are putting off worrying about their loans at the moment, as they can pay them off when they start work.

Managing finances and budgeting

The growing disparity in the size of middle class and working class students' debt is impacting on how well they manage financially. Two-fifths of students say they are keeping up with their bills and credit card commitments

without difficulties; these students are more likely to be from an AB or C1 social background. Twice as many students from a C2DE than an AB background are keeping up with their financial commitments but are finding it a constant struggle.

As a partial result of this situation, over two-fifths of students, and particularly those from a C2DE background and younger students, would welcome more guidance on managing their finances. The most popular suggestions for receiving financial guidance are being taught how to budget at school, advice from banks on how to manage money, university courses and help from banks on how accounts and overdrafts work.

Financial preparation

The majority of students made some form of financial preparations before starting their courses. Just under two-thirds worked to earn money in preparation, so only 15 per cent arrived at university without some form of savings.

The most common ways of raising finance prior to starting at university were to work full-time in the holidays, get a loan from somewhere other than their parents or work part-time in the holidays.

The vast majority of students continue to receive some form of financial support from their parents, guardians, partner or other family. The most common means of support are help with food expenses, tuition fees and rent. Since last year, there has been a significant increase in students receiving help with their tuition fees. Significantly, more students from an AB background are helped with their tuition fees, rent and books and materials than those from other social class backgrounds.

Over two-fifths agree that borrowing money to finance higher education causes friction between students and their parents.

Attitudes to the cost of university and student funding

University students today view their education as an investment and are therefore becoming more demanding about the quality they receive for their money. An increasingly large majority agree that the money they are spending on their education is a good investment in their future.

When asked about the system of student funding and whether they would prefer to keep the current system of student loans or adopt a system of maintenance grants and higher taxes for graduates that the Government is considering, over two-fifths want to keep the current system, while a third would prefer the alternative system. A fifth don't know. Inevitably as details are confirmed, opinions may change on the subject.

Among those who currently have a student loan, the proportion in favour of a proposed new system of maintenance grants and graduate tax increases to just under two-fifths, although the majority still opt for the current system.

Student expenditure

It is generally acknowledged by students and universities alike that many students are working to finance a lifestyle, rather than just getting by. The vast majority own a mobile phone and two-thirds have their own computers and/or laptops. Ownership of both has risen significantly in the last 12 months.

Students' financial priorities are often different from the population as a whole. Over two-fifths say they would rather spend their money socialising than on their accommodation, this is particularly true of male students and those under 25 years old.



Traditionally, university students have been perceived as heavy drinkers, spending much of their meagre incomes on socialising and drinking. This perception is still true today, with a quarter of all students saying they spend between £21-£50 on alcohol in a typical week in term time, and one in twenty spending between £51 and £100 per week.

However, today's student body is now more diversified in terms of age, social class and ethnicity and a significant minority of students (20%) do not spend anything on alcohol in a typical week.

Students who drink spend on average £25 a week, however two-fifths say they spend between £21 and £100.

Undergraduates who are aiming for a first class degree spend significantly less on alcohol than those who predict they will get a third class degree.

On average, students spend £26 on food in a typical week. Expenditure increases as students get older and progress through university.

Accommodation

A third of students live in shared houses rented from a private landlord, a fifth live at home with their parents, guardians or other family, while a further fifth live in halls of residence and one in ten live in their own house or flat. This profile has changed little in the last year.

Overall, there has been a fall in the proportion of students in rented accommodation who have experienced problems with where they live. This is due to fewer complaints about halls of residence, rather than private rented accommodation. In particular, problems with a lack of cleanliness and noise levels in halls of residence have declined.

Living at home

A fifth of students currently live at home with their parents, guardians or other relatives during university term time. These students tend to be younger, from a C1 or C2DE background and studying for an HND/HNC or degree at a new university. The majority of those who are either currently living or have lived at home are happy with this situation, with almost half saying they are 'very happy' and a third 'fairly happy'.

Among those who live with their parents and those who live in their own homes, almost a third agree that they could not afford to go to university if they did not live at home.

Crime

Only a third of those living away from home feel their personal belongings are 'very safe' where they live, compared to four-fifths of those living with parents or in their own homes. Students living in halls of residence, which are often much closer to the university, feel notably safer from crimes such as mugging in the area where they live, than those living in private rented accommodation, which is more likely to be in run down areas. Significantly more students living with their parents or in their own home feel 'very safe' from this threat.

A quarter of students have personally been a victim of crime during their time at university, increasing to a third among students in their third or subsequent years, and almost two-fifths of postgraduates. The main crimes students are victims of continue to be car theft or vandalism, theft from their house or flat and having their purse or bag stolen.

Pastoral care

The vast majority of students agree that they are happy with their lives and optimistic about their futures.

Many students say they are suffering from stress. Over half agree that since being at university they feel under a lot more stress than before, suggesting there is a need for universities to help students deal with this issue. Life at university is particularly stressful for female students, those from a C2DE background and those studying at new universities in particular.

Students are increasingly finding their Student Unions useful for advice and guidance, but are placing less importance on its role organising social events.

Political attitudes

Despite the controversy over the Government's plans for higher education, if there was a General Election tomorrow students would vote Labour back into power. However, support for the Liberal Democrats has grown considerably in the last year, mainly at the expense of the Conservative Party. Students' support for the Liberal Democrats is much higher than among the General Public as a whole.

Students, by a very small margin, would vote in favour of the introduction of the Single European Currency in Britain if there were a referendum at the time of this survey. This is in contrast to the General Public as a whole, which would vote resoundingly against the introduction of the Euro.

overall attitudes towards university



1.1 Overall attitudes towards university

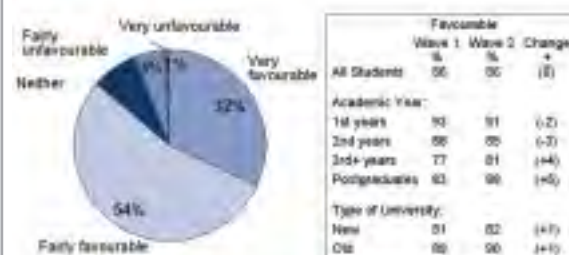
Students continue to regard their university favourably. Indeed, overall levels of favourability have remained constant, with 86% holding a favourable impression across both waves of the study. The first wave of the Student Living Survey revealed that third and subsequent year students, and postgraduates, tend to be less favourable towards their university than newer students in their first and second year. However, the latest survey shows an increase in favourability among third and subsequent year students and those taking a postgraduate qualification.

Only a small minority express an unfavourable view of their university (5% in wave 1 and 6% in wave 2).

While students continue to be favourable towards university, one Vice Chancellor highlighted that few students have anything else with which to compare their experience and wondered how this may change in the future.

Overall attitudes towards university

Q How favourable or unfavourable are your opinions and impressions of your university?



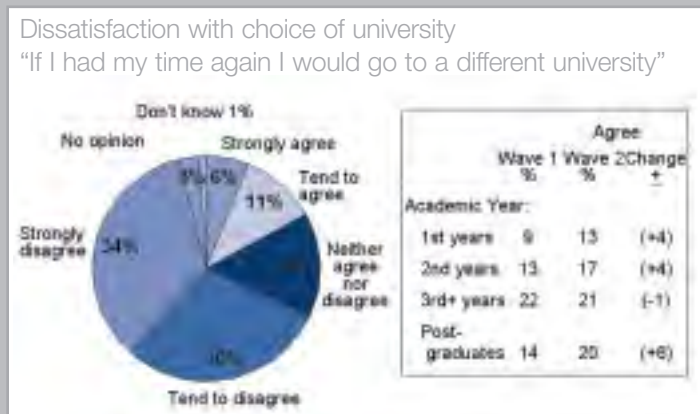
Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

1.2 Dissatisfaction with university

Just under a fifth (17%) of university students agree that if they had their time over again they would go to a different university, underlining that some students are dissatisfied with certain aspects of the university experience.

Students appear to become more negative about their choice of university as they progress through the university system. Those in their third and subsequent year remain the most likely to say they would choose a different university if they had their time again.



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

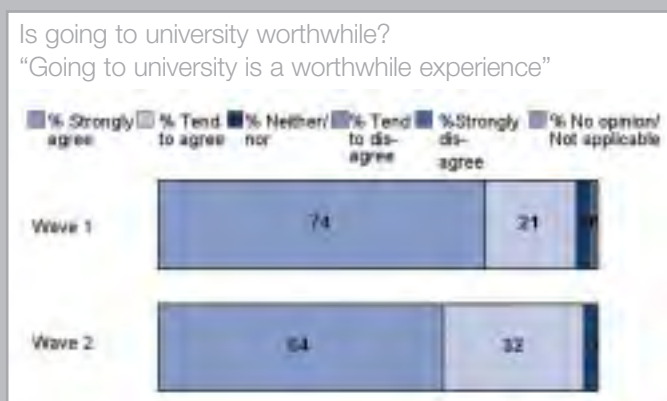
Source: MORI

“One wonders about the student experience in five or ten years time. It will probably be different, whether it is better or not, I don’t know, and who makes the judgement?”

Vice Chancellor

1.3 Is going to university worthwhile?

Encouragingly, the vast majority of students (96%) continue to believe that going to university is a worthwhile experience. Although the strength of agreement is not as strong in wave 2 (64% strongly agree) as in wave 1 (74% strongly agree).



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

choice of university

and aspects of academic university life



"We get reactions from our students who actually go into industry. They say, 'Look, I spent all this time (at university) actually working on equipment that doesn't exist in industry because it has moved on'. It is very difficult for universities to keep-up to speed and maintain industry standard provision."

Vice Chancellor

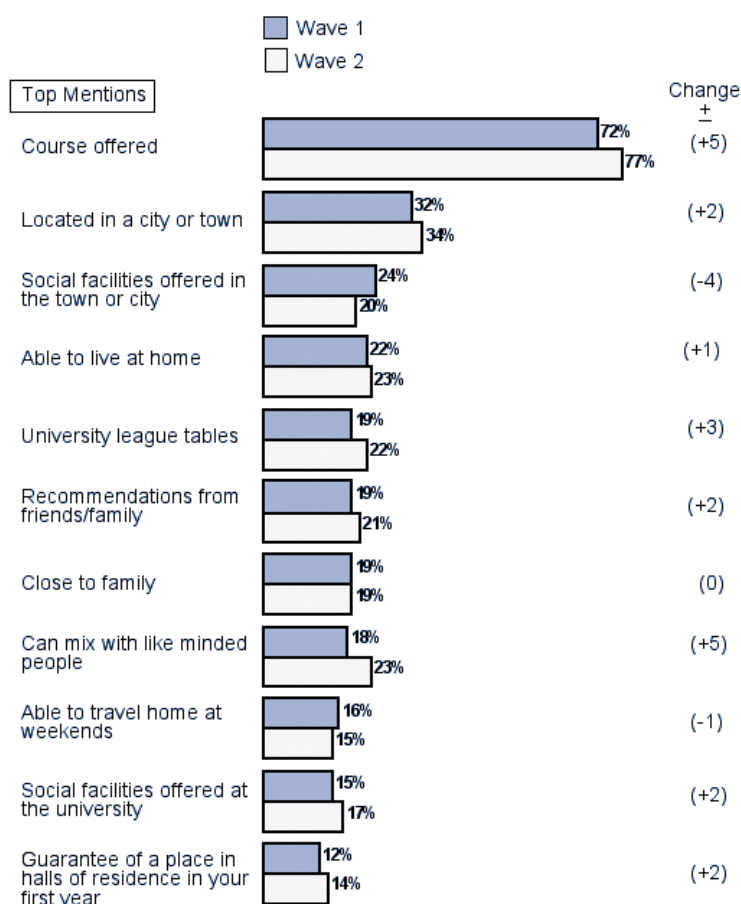
2.1 Factors important in the students' choice of university

The course on offer continues to be the most important factor in students' choice of university, with significantly more students in wave 2 than in wave 1 citing this as a factor. A university's location in a city or town continues to be important and mentioned by around a third of students.

University league tables have increased in relative importance, reflecting the increasing influence they are having on students' decisions.

Factors important in the students' choice of university

Q Which, if any, of the following were important to you in your choice of university, for your current course?



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

2.2 The importance of university league tables

Over a fifth of students (22%) now cite university league tables as an important factor in their choice of university, although those in some sub-sample groups place greater emphasis on their importance than others.

Among those from an AB social class background, 29 per cent use league tables to help them choose their university, significantly more than those from a C1 (18%) or C2DE (17%) social class backgrounds.

Undergraduates aiming for a first class or upper second class degree are also more conscious of where universities are ranked in the league table and are more likely to take this into consideration. Those contemplating a lower second class degree or below are less likely to cite league tables as an important factor.

Importance of university league tables

		Importance (%)
All students		22
Social Class:	AB	29
	C1	18
	C2DE	17
Class of Degree	First	23
	2:1	27
	2:2	10
	Third or below	8
Age:	Up to 22 years	24
	23-25 years	21
	26+ years	12

Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

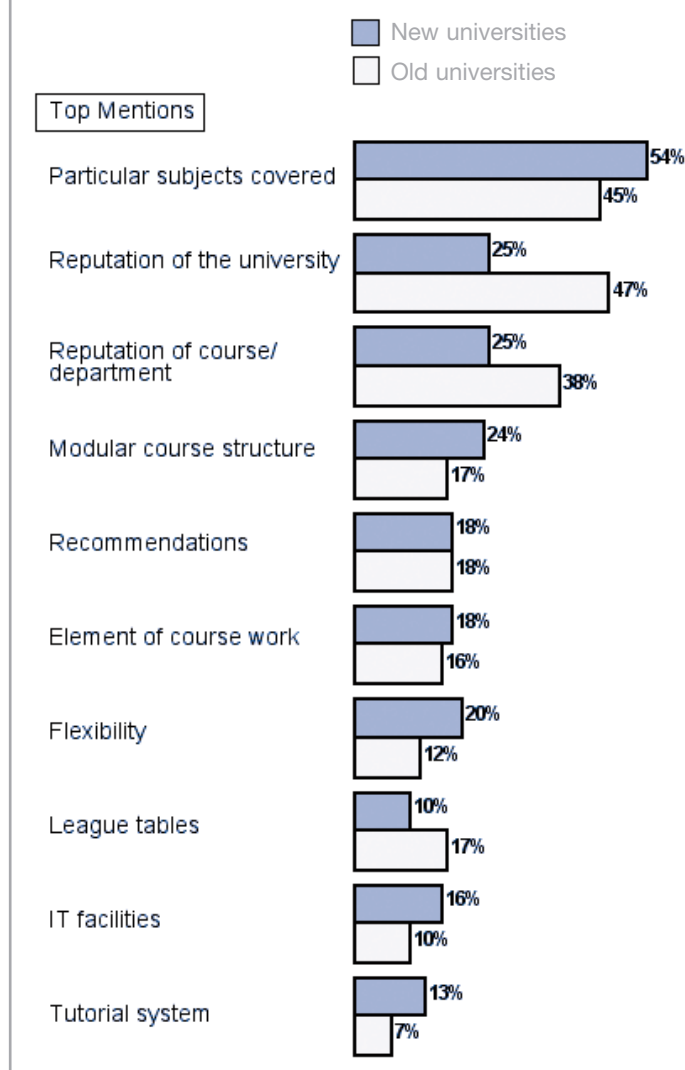
Source: MORI

2.3 Important factors in choice of course by type of university

Students studying at 'new' and 'old' universities appear to use different sets of criteria to choose their course. Those in the former group place greater emphasis on the particular subjects covered, having a modular course structure, elements of coursework, flexibility, the IT and tutorial facilities offered.

Those at 'old' universities place greater importance on the reputation of the university, the reputation of the department/course and the university's position in the league table. Both groups place equal importance on recommendations from others.

Important factors in choice of course by type of university
Q Which, if any, of the following were important to you in your choice of your current university course?



Base: New universities (530), Old universities (538)

Source: MORI



2.4 Standard of academic facilities

The Student Living Survey incorporates numerous measures on students' perceived standards of academic facilities and teaching. Students' views of the quality of each of these aspects has remained, on the whole, constant between wave 1 and wave 2. The results are given below:

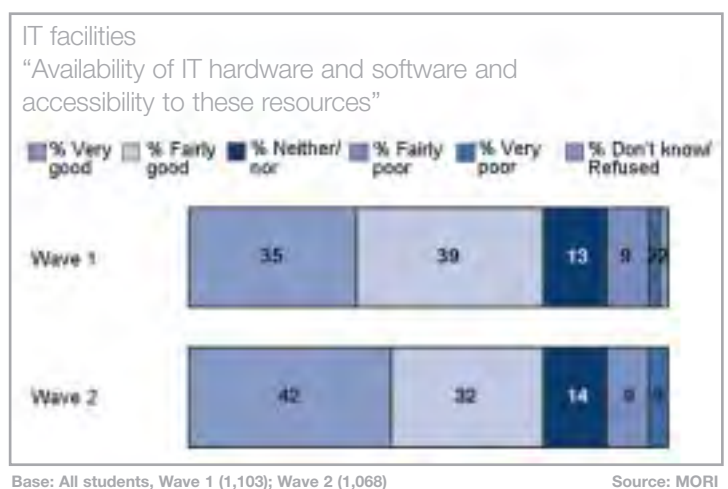
Q To what extent do you consider each of the following I am about to read out to be good or poor at your university?						
	Very good %	Fairly good %	Neither good nor poor %	Fairly poor %	Very poor %	Don't know/not applicable/not stated %
Academic tutor system						
Wave 1	22	51	14	8	2	6
Wave 2	22	52	13	7	2	5
Frequency of lectures/classes/ seminars						
Wave 1	25	54	13	4	1	2
Wave 2	28	51	13	6	1	1
Standard of teaching or lecturing						
Wave 1	34	47	13	4	1	1
Wave 2	33	49	13	3	1	1
Content of your course						
Wave 1	38	46	10	3	1	2
Wave 2	38	45	10	4	1	1
How up-to-date the content of your course is						
Wave 1	50	38	7	2	*	2
Wave 2	52	35	9	2	*	3
Ability for you to further your knowledge of the subject you are studying						
Wave 1	41	47	9	2	*	1
Wave 2	45	43	9	2	1	0
Availability of course books in the library						
Wave 1	19	35	19	17	6	4
Wave 2	19	36	18	15	8	3
Availability of periodicals/journals in the library						
Wave 1	24	38	16	8	4	10
Wave 2	24	37	16	8	3	12
Examination system						
Wave 1	9	45	16	3	2	26
Wave 2	12	41	18	4	1	23
Course assessment methods (non-examination)						
Wave 1	15	51	18	5	1	11
Wave 2	18	51	17	4	1	8

Base: Wave 1: (1,103); Base: Wave 2: (1,068)

Source: MORI

2.5 IT facilities

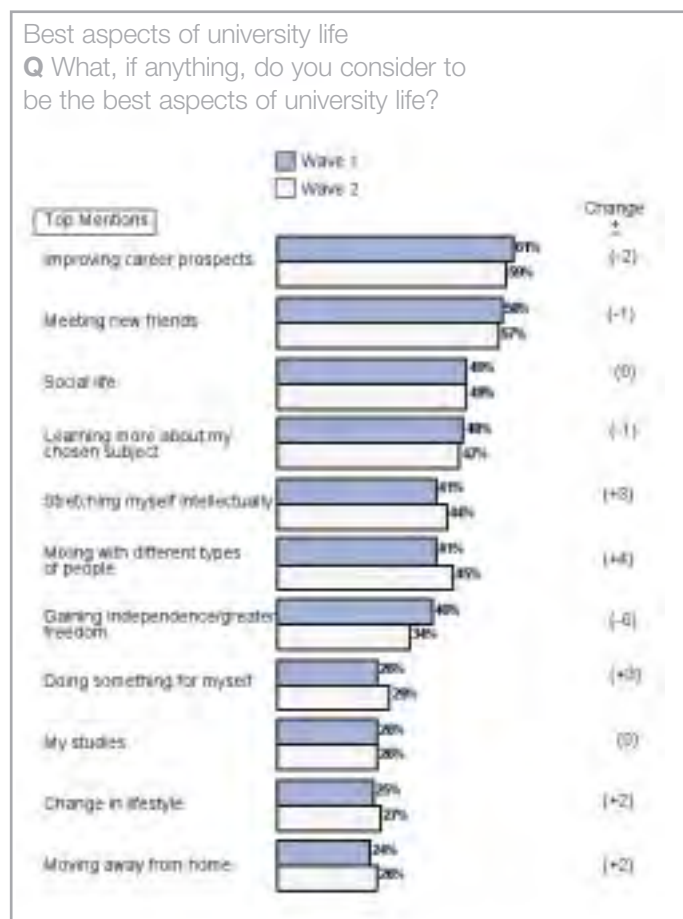
One facility in which we have seen a significant improvement over the last year is the availability of IT hardware and software and accessibility to these resources. Overall, there has been a seven percentage point increase in students saying this aspect is 'very good', (35% – wave 1; 42% – wave 2). However, just over one in ten (12%) consider these facilities poor (fairly or very poor).



03 Best and worst aspects of university life

3.1 Best aspects of university life

The opportunity to improve career prospects continues to be seen as the best aspect of university life, closely followed by meeting new friends. Social life and the chance to learn more about their chosen subject also continue to be important.



3.2 Best aspect: Gaining independence or greater freedom

Although the main aspects remain largely unchanged between wave 1 and 2, the proportion who say gaining independence or greater freedom is the best aspect has fallen significantly by six percentage points to 34 per cent during the current wave. This perhaps reflects the greater financial ties students now feel they have to their family and others, due to the increasing cost of attending university and their increased financial dependence.

During wave 2, both male and female students alike are less likely to have said that gaining independence or greater freedom is the best aspect of university life.

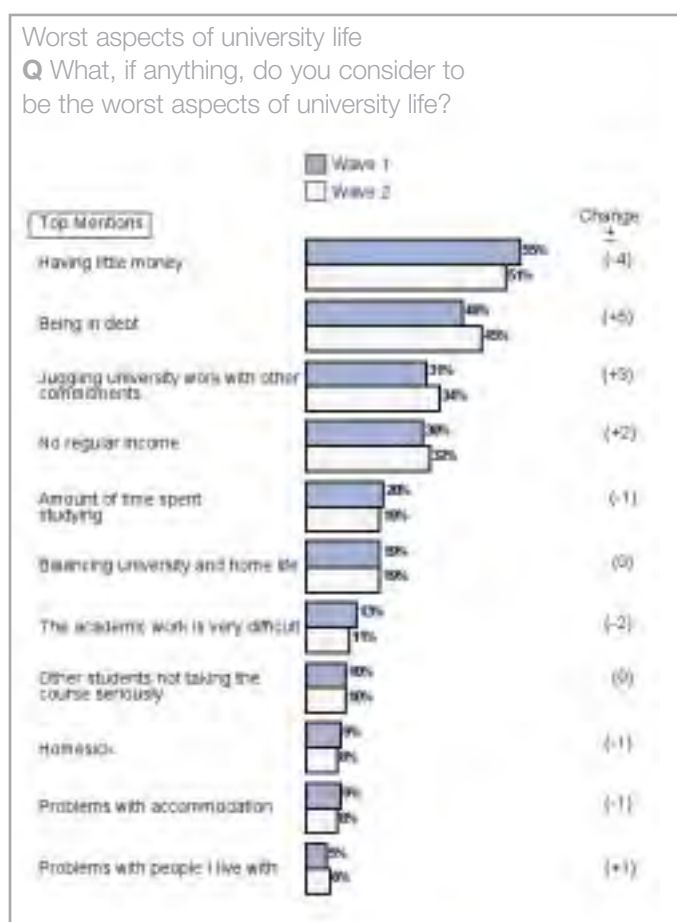
Younger students, in particular, are increasingly less likely to have chosen this aspect than those who are older. There has been an eight percentage point drop among those aged under 23 years, compared with only a two point drop among 23-25 year olds and a one point increase among those students aged 26 years or over.

3.3 Freedom to choose how to live

Over two thirds of students (68%) agree that 'having the freedom to live how they want is the best part of the students experience'. This is particularly true for younger students who have most recently left home (73%).

3.4 Worst aspects of university life

Issues related to finance, debt and balancing academic and work commitments are once again highlighted as the worst aspects of university life. While having little money is still the most frequently mentioned issue, the proportion highlighting their predicament of being in debt has increased significantly (up five percentage points to 45%).



best and worst

aspects of university life

3.5 Worse aspect: Being in debt

In the last year, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of students who cite being in debt as one of the worst aspects of university life.

Although those who have had a state education and those from social group C2DE continue to be the most likely to mention debt, ABs and those who have been privately educated have seen the largest increase in the proportion mentioning this issue (8 percentage point increases respectively).

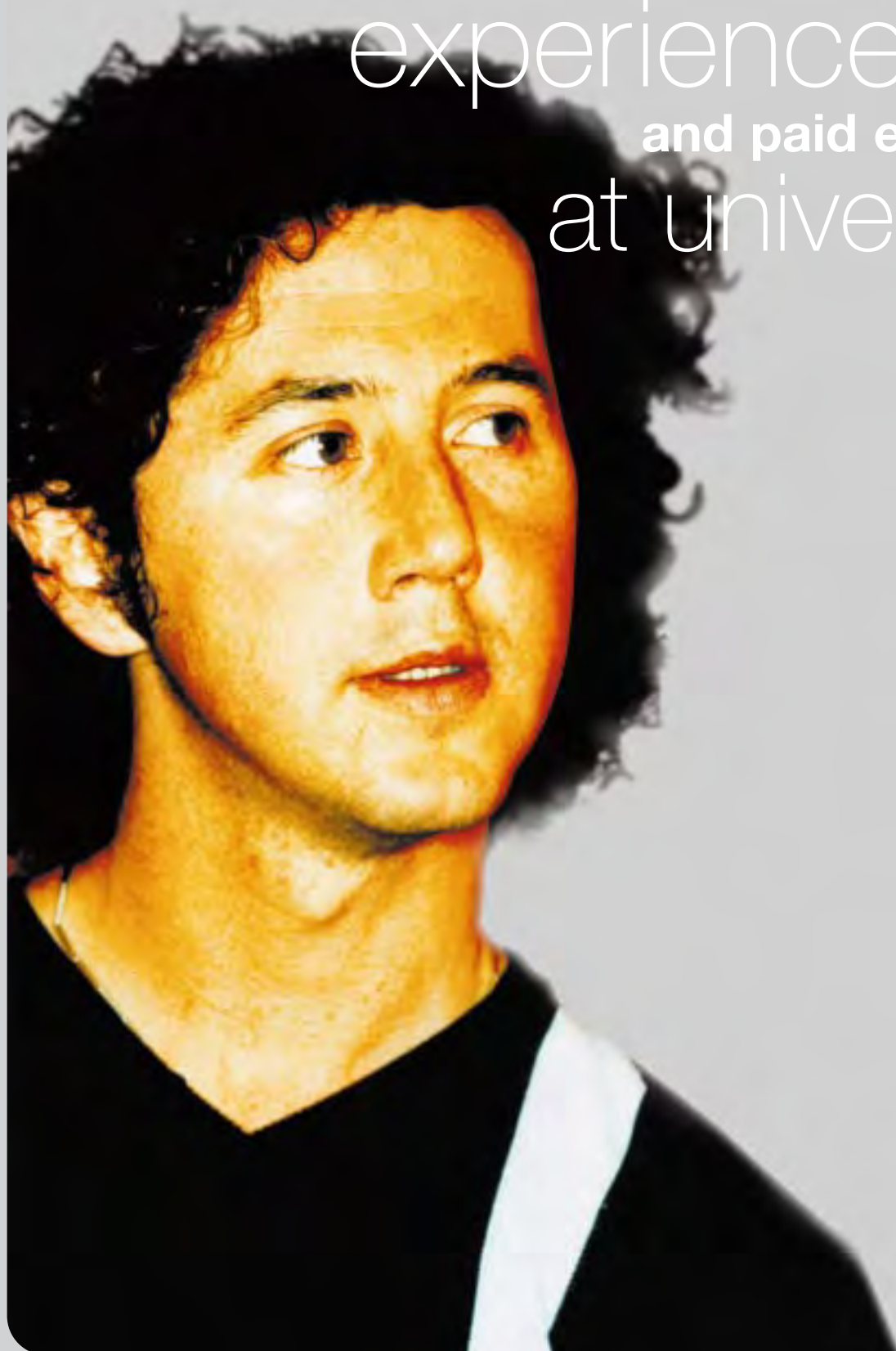
This indicates that students who have traditionally been considered privileged are finding the cost of university an increasing burden. The survey's findings on the amount of money students owe indicates that although students from the more privileged backgrounds tend to owe less; they still amass a considerable amount of debt as a result of attending university.

Being in debt	Worst aspect		
	Wave 1 %	Wave 2 %	Change +/-
All students	40	45	(+5)
Social class			
AB	35	43	(+8)
C1	41	45	(+4)
C2DE	48	51	(+3)
Education prior to university			
State/FE College	43	48	(+5)
Private	30	38	(+8)

Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103);
Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

work experience and paid employment at university



4.1 Work experience at university

The proportion of students who are working part-time during university term time has increased significantly over the last year from three in ten during wave 1 (30%) to over two-fifths (43%) in wave 2, reflecting the growing need for students to work to help finance their time at university.

The current survey went into greater detail about students’ work experiences during the holiday period, revealing that approximately a quarter work part-time (26%) or full-time (23%).

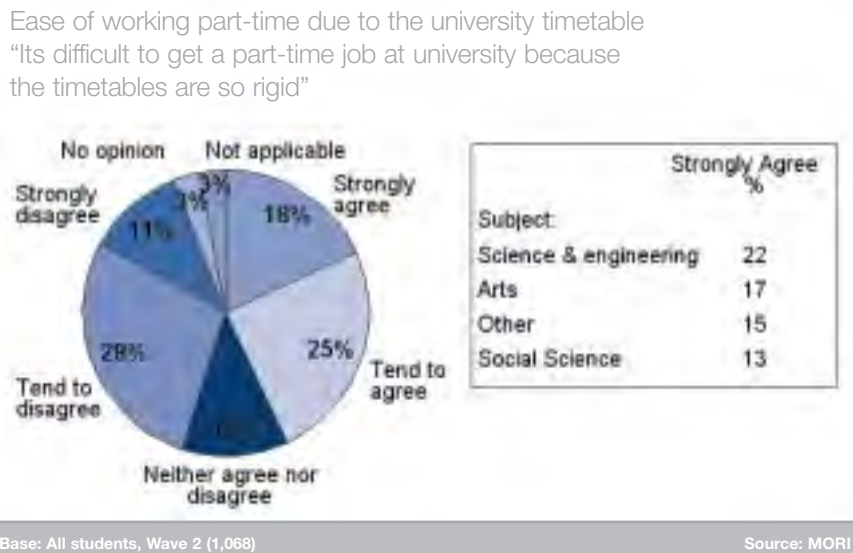
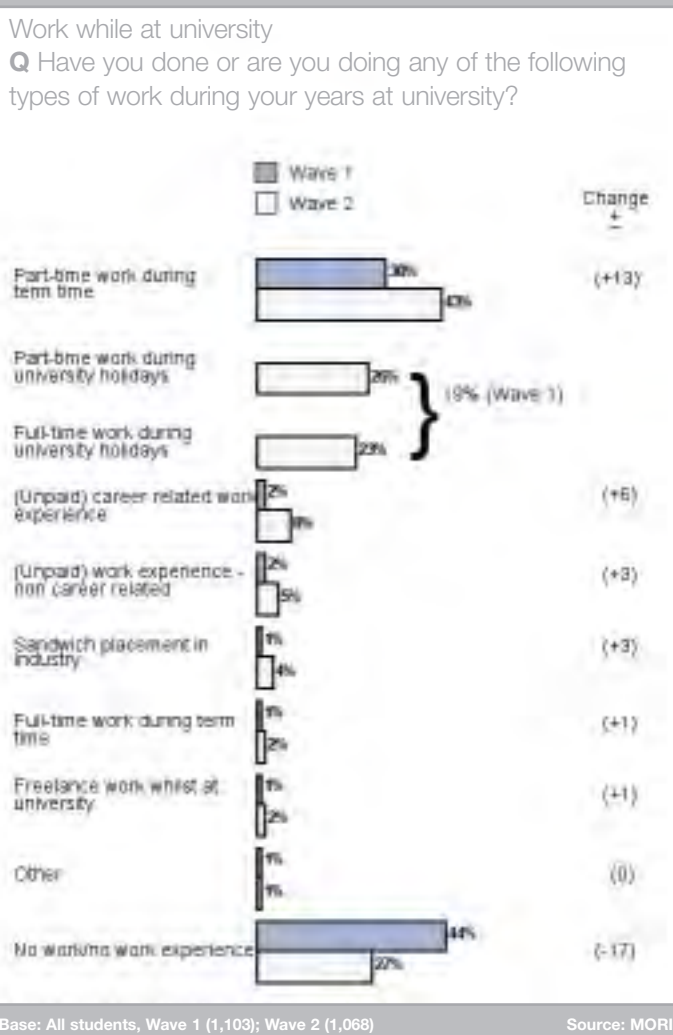
Over the last year there has been an increase in the proportion of students undertaking all forms of work experience monitored and, during the current wave, only 27 per cent claim not to have worked at all compared with 44 per cent a year ago.

4.2 Part-time work during term time

The proportion of male and female students who are working part-time during the university term time are not significantly different (41% male vs. 44% female).

However, there is a notable difference between those who attended public school and those who attended a state school. Over two-fifths of state school pupils (44%) are working part-time while at university, compared with only one third of those who had private schooling (34%) – potentially providing privately educated students more time to concentrate on their academic studies.

Also, fewer students studying on science and engineering courses have part-time jobs (39%) than those in the other faculties, (particularly those studying a social science course (47%)) – perhaps due to fuller academic timetables.



4.3 Ease of working part-time due to the university timetable

Overall, more than two-fifths (43%) agree that they have difficulties finding part-time work due to the rigid nature of their university timetable, however a further two-fifths (39%) do not agree that this is a problem and claim they are able to find work should they so wish.

The potential difficulties students in science and engineering courses have in accommodating part-time work into their full schedule is further borne out by the findings. Over a fifth of science and engineering students (22%) ‘strongly agree’ that it is difficult to get a part-time job at university because their timetable is so rigid. The strength of agreement from students in other faculties is not as strong (arts 17%, other subject areas 15% and social science 13%).

“When you actually start at uni, everyone is after a part-time job, so they are very hard to get”

Student

4.4 Attitudes to working part-time at university

Universities are increasingly aware of the financial burden students are under, and that many are having to seek paid work to help support themselves. More and more universities are assisting students to take on part-time employment within their university, with either the university itself, the student union or subcontractors.

During wave 2, students were asked about their current attitudes towards part-time paid work at their university. Around one in twelve (8%) are currently working at their university and a further four per cent have worked at their university in the past but no longer do so.

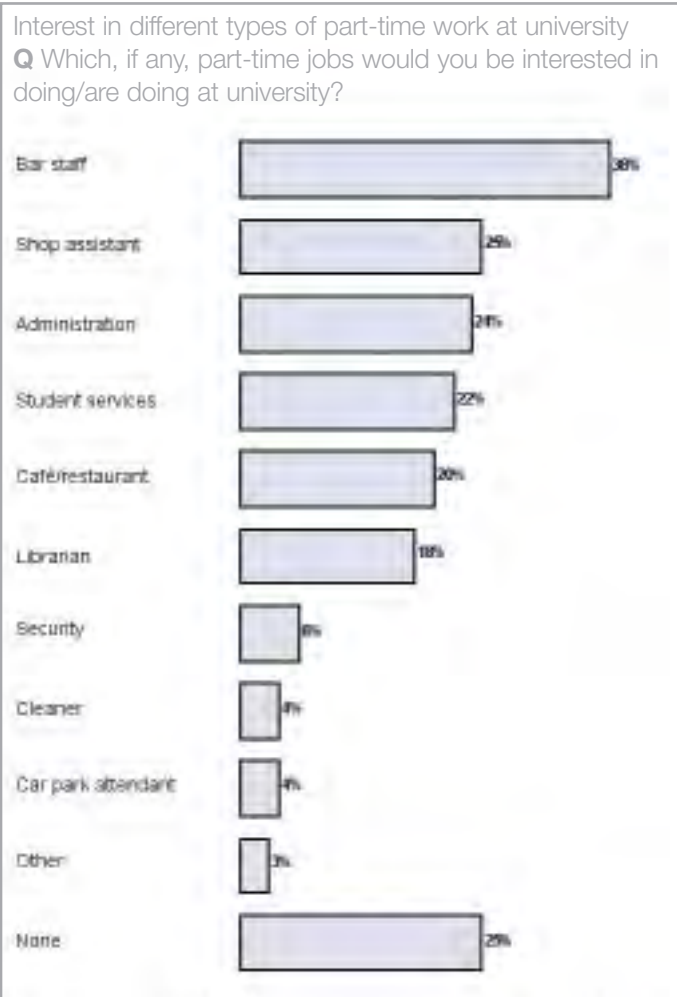
However, there is an additional three per cent who have applied for work but have not yet been employed, and a further quarter (24%) who would be interested in working at their university but have, so far, not had the opportunity to do so. Therefore, in total, two-fifths of university students currently work or would welcome the opportunity to work at their university, providing a large pool of willing, potential employees.



4.5 Interest in different types of part-time work at university

Students were asked what type of part-time work, if any, would they be interested in doing at their university. The most popular choice by far was bar work. Between a fifth and a quarter were also interested in working in shops, administration, student services (such as the welfare office or the NUS) or cafés or restaurants.

Students are less interested in being employed as security staff, cleaners or car park attendants. Male students, however, are much more willing to be employed as security staff, or car park assistants, than their female counterparts.

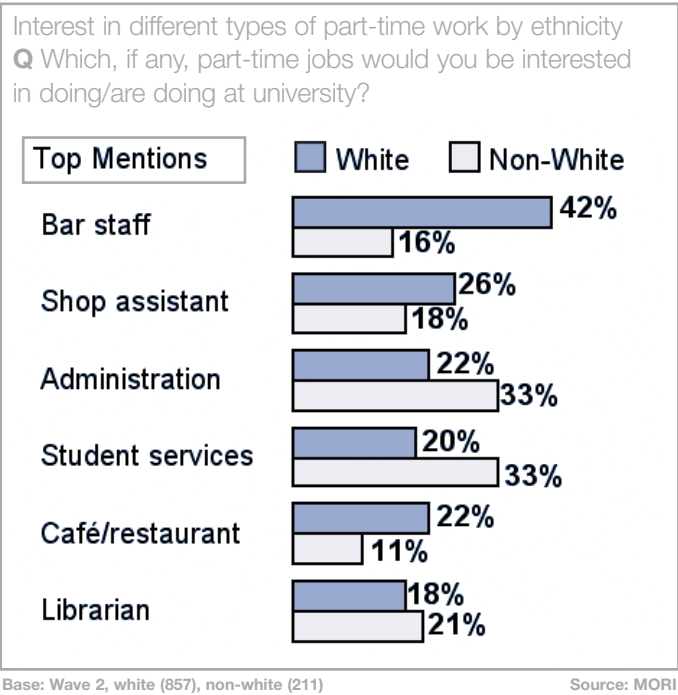


Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068) Source: MORI

4.6 Interest in different types of part-time work by ethnicity

There are notable differences between the preferences of white and non-white students with regard to the type of part-time work in which they would be interested – a factor universities could perhaps consider when recruiting students for part-time work.

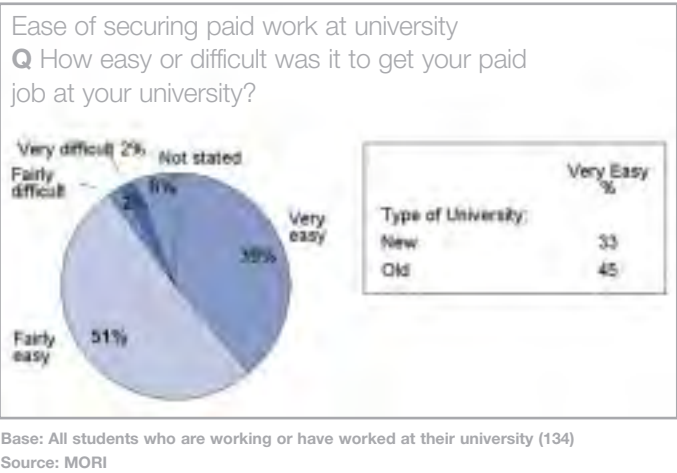
White students are more likely to be interested in working in bars, shops, cafés and restaurants. Those from the ethnic minorities show a stronger preference for office based work, particularly in administration, student services and libraries.



4.7 Ease of securing paid work at university

Students who are currently working for their university or have done so in the past (12% of the total) were asked the extent to which they found it easy or difficult to get their job. On the whole, this task was considered easy (90%), although it was found to be easier at old, rather than new universities.

Despite this, as highlighted earlier, over a quarter of students who have applied or are interested in applying for paid work at the university have not yet had the opportunity to do so.



“We use them (students) an awful lot, especially research kids, they are brilliant, to do things that previously would have been done by outside workers in the university. That is what American universities do and it works very well.” **Vice Chancellor**

student debt



5.1 Current and anticipated debt

At the start of the academic year 2001/02, the average amount students say they currently owe and have to repay as a direct result of being at university is £4,203, an increase of £877 since last year. The amount they anticipate owing at the end of their university studies has also increased by £1,107 to £8,133.

Owing money – Currently and anticipated as a result of going to university

Q How much money overall, if any, do you (a) currently owe, and (b) anticipate owing at the end of your course, and have to repay as a direct result of being at university?

All Students	Currently	Anticipated
Wave 1	£3,326	£7,026
Wave 2	£4,203	£8,133
Change ±	+£877	+£1,107

Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

5.2 Currently owe money as a result of going to university

The current survey reveals increasing disparity between the social classes in terms of the debt incurred as a direct result of going to university. During wave 1 there was no significant difference between the amount currently owed by students across the different social class groupings. During the current wave, students from a blue-collar (C2DE) background claim to owe £1,019 more than those from an AB background.

Students from a C2DE background have seen the amount they owe increase by an average of £1,483 over the last year, over three times the increase experienced by students from an AB background (£440).

As would be expected, the size of current debt increases during each successive year of undergraduate study. Whilst students in their first and second year have seen their current debt increase by less than £150 over the past year, those in the third and subsequent year have seen their debt increase by £2,291 since wave 1, reflecting the introduction of tuition fees. Debts among postgraduates have also increased significantly from £3,404 in wave 1 to £4,832 in wave 2.

Student debt has also increased among those living at home (either their own or their parents' home) from £3,069 in wave 1 to £3,913 in wave 2.

Currently owe money as a result of going to university
Q How much money overall, if any, do you currently owe and have to repay as a direct result of being at university?

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Change +
Social Class:			
AB	£3,181	£3,621	(+£440)
C1	£3,575	£4,179	(+£604)
C2DE	£3,157	£4,640	(+£1,483)
Academic Year:			
1st years	£1,447	£1,581	(+£144)
2nd years	£4,047	£3,902	(-£145)
3rd+ years	£4,611	£6,902	(+£2,291)
Postgraduates	£3,404	£4,832	(+£1,428)
Experience of Accommodation:			
Lived in halls	£3,654	£4,729	(+£1,075)
Lived in private rented	£4,087	£5,182	(+£1,095)
Lived in home	£3,069	£3,913	(+£844)

Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

5.3 Anticipate owing money as a result of going to university

On average, students anticipate owing £8,133 once they have completed their university studies – an increase of £1,107 over the past year. Once again, this masks vast differences, particularly between students from different social class backgrounds.

Students from a C2DE background predict that they will owe the greatest amount – £9,376.

The amount of debt third and subsequent year students predict they will have increased by £2,591 since last year – rising from £6,164 to £8,755, bringing them more in line with the predictions of those in their second year.

Postgraduate student debt is also increasing at a dramatic rate – rising from £5,152 during wave 1 to £6,849 during the current Wave.

Anticipate owing money as a result of going to university
Q How much money, if any, do you anticipate owing at the end of your course, and have to repay as a direct result of being at university?

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Change +
Social Class:			
AB	£8,304	£7,947	(-£357)
C1	£7,430	£8,327	(+£897)
C2DE	£7,652	£9,376	(+£1,724)
Academic Year:			
1st years	£7,524	£7,465	(-£59)
2nd years	£8,356	£8,080	(-£276)
3rd+ years	£6,164	£8,755	(+£2,591)
Postgraduates	£5,152	£6,849	(+£1,697)
Experience of Accommodation:			
Lived in halls	£7,552	£8,988	(+£1,436)
Lived in private rented	£7,520	£8,722	(+£1,202)
Lived in home	£7,652	£7,175	(-£477)

Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

5.4 Type of student debt

Having ascertained how much students currently owe, and anticipate owing, as a result of going to university, they were then asked to provide more detail about the type of debt they have incurred and asked to whom they owed money.

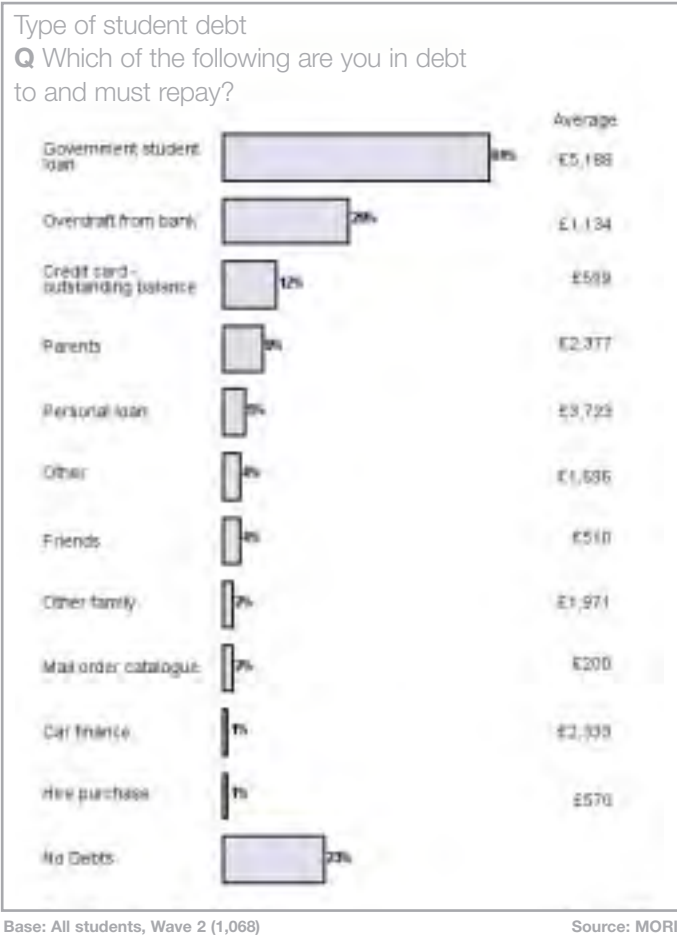
A substantial part of student debt is accounted for by Government loans. On average, students owe £5,188 in Government loans. Three-fifths of students (61%) have this type of loan, rising to 69% among third and subsequent year students, but declining to only 48% of postgraduates.

Bank overdrafts are also common, with just under a third taking up this facility and owing an average of £1,134. Not surprisingly, the proportion of students who are overdrawn increases as they progress through university (1st years 18%, 2nd years 31% and 3rd+ years 38%).

Over one in ten students (12%) have an outstanding balance on their credit cards and are paying interest on an outstanding amount. The proportion with an outstanding balance increases as students progress through university (1st years 8%, 2nd years 14% and 3rd+ years 18%).

Around one in ten students borrow money from their parents. Students who have received a private school education are significantly more likely (15%) than the state school educated students (10%) to borrow from this source. They also borrow more (£3,260 vs £1,760).

Overseas students are the least likely to have incurred any debt at all, only half have done so.



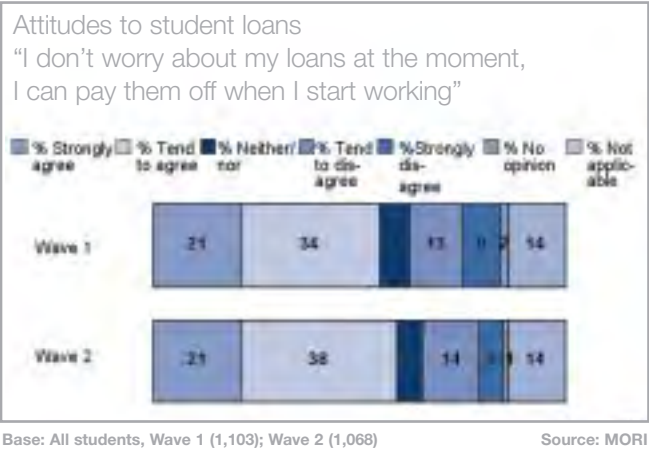
5.5 Concerns about student debt

During the current wave of the study just over one third of students (35%) agree that they are “seriously worried about the debts they are incurring as a result of going to university” – identical to wave 1. Two-fifths of students (41%) who currently owe money agree with this statement, compared with only 16 per cent who are currently debt free.



5.6 Attitudes to student loans

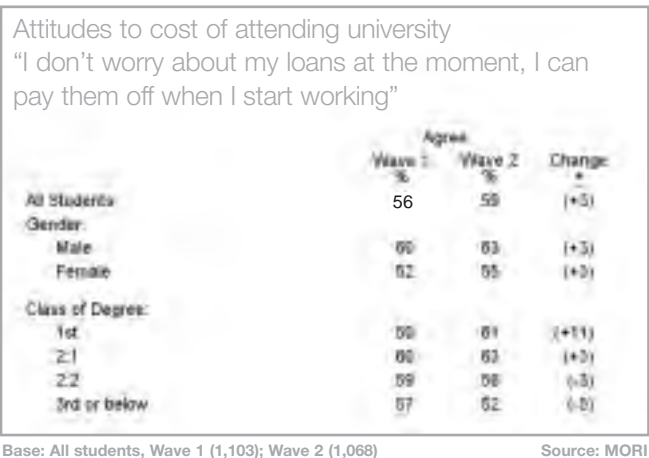
The majority of students (59%) continue to agree that they ‘do not worry about their student loans at the moment’, as they can pay them off when they start working.



This is particularly true of those who hope to get a first class or upper second class degree and may therefore be more optimistic about their future (anticipate a 1st class degree 61%, 2:1 63%, 2:2 56%, 3rd or below 52% agree with this statement).

Significantly more male students appear carefree about the debt they are amassing than their female counterparts.

However, a fifth of students are currently worrying about their debts, particularly those with a state school education (State education 21% vs. private education 14%).



managing finances

and budgeting advice

6.1 Managing finances

Given the level of student debt, there is an increasing demand from students for help with budgeting and managing their finances.

Two-fifths of students (39%) say they are 'keeping up with all of their bills and credit card commitments without difficulties'. These students are more likely to be from an AB (41%) or C1 (42%) social class background, be attending an old university (43%), and be in their first year of undergraduate study (45%).

Just under a quarter of students however, are having real problems coping financially. One sixth (18%) are 'managing to keep up but find it a constant struggle', while a further four per cent claim to have fallen seriously behind with some bills and two per cent have fallen behind with all of their bills. The extent to which students struggle becomes gradually worse during each subsequent year of undergraduate study.

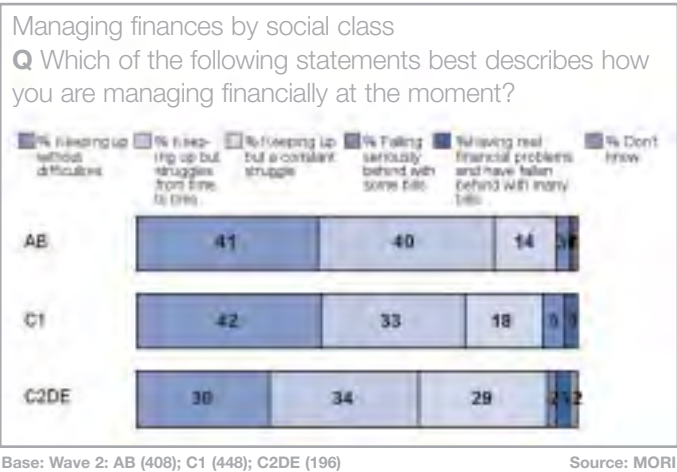
Managing finances

Q Which of the following statements best describes how you are at managing financially at the moment with bills and credit commitments?



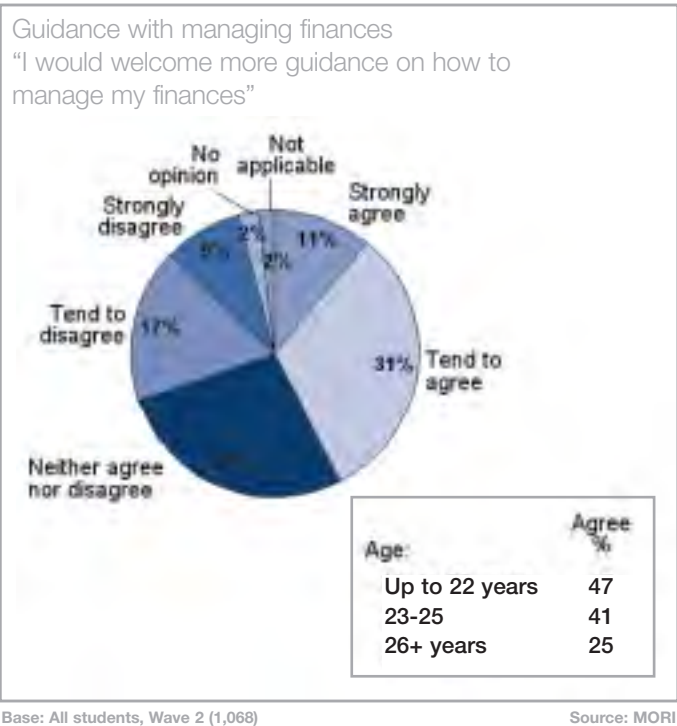
6.2 Managing finances by social class

Once again, social class appears to be a discriminator in terms of the students' financial situation. Twice as many students from a C2DE background find it a constant struggle to keep up with their bills and credit commitments than those from an AB background. The amount of debt C2DE students are taking on appears to be increasing at a faster rate than among ABC1s – therefore, this situation is likely to deteriorate further.



6.3 Guidance with managing finances

Over two-fifths of students (43%) would welcome more guidance on how to manage their finances. This is particularly true for younger students and those from a C2DE background.

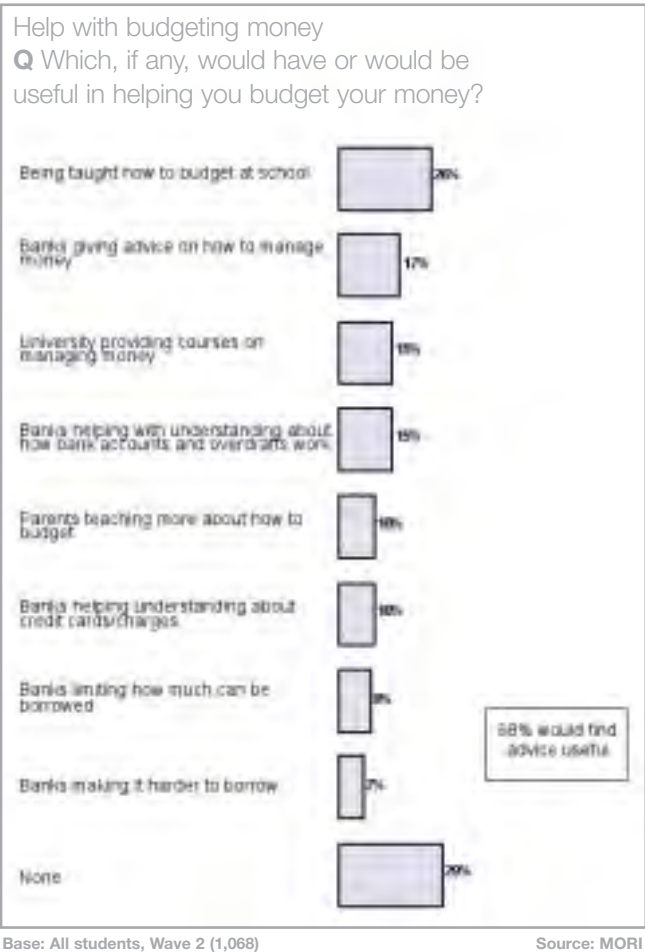


6.4 Help with budgeting money

More than two-thirds of students (68%) say they would find some form of financial advice and help with budgeting useful.

A quarter of students (26%) believe it would have been helpful to have been taught how to budget at school. Advice from banks (17%) and the availability of university courses on how to manage money (15%) would also be welcome.

Only one in ten feel it would have been useful for their parents to teach them more about how to budget. Restricting the amount students can borrow (9%) or making it harder to borrow (7%) are only considered a useful measure by a small minority.



financial preparations

for university and help from parents

7.1 Financial preparations for university

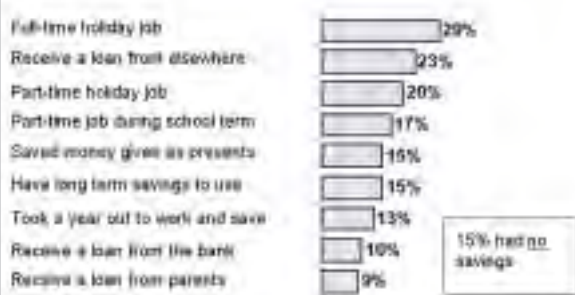
The vast majority of students (85%) had made some form of financial provision before starting university – only 15 per cent arrived at university without some sort of savings.

The most common means of financial preparation for university was to work full-time during the holidays before starting university (29%), receiving a loan from somewhere other than parents (23%) or to work part-time during the holidays before starting university (20%). Those studying for a postgraduate qualification are more likely than undergraduates to have used their long-term savings to help finance their studies.

Students from a C1 background (17%) are more likely than other social class groups to have taken a year or more out to work and save in preparation for university (AB – 10% and C2DE – 13%).

Financial preparations for university

Q In terms of finances, what preparations, if any, did you make before starting university to save money for university?



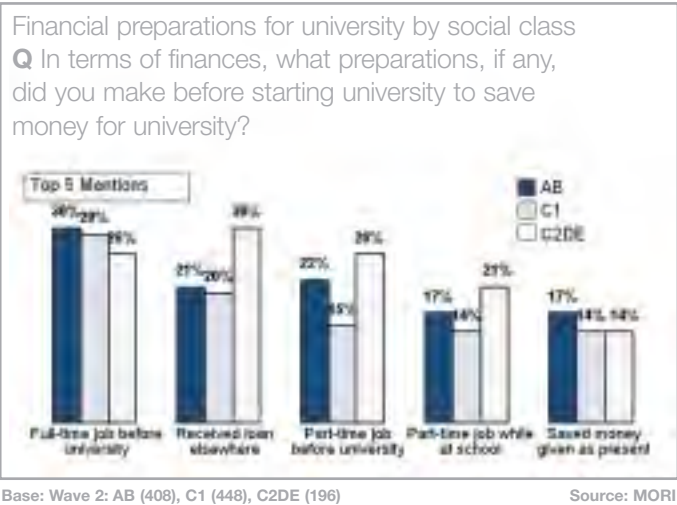
Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI



7.2 Financial preparations for university by social class

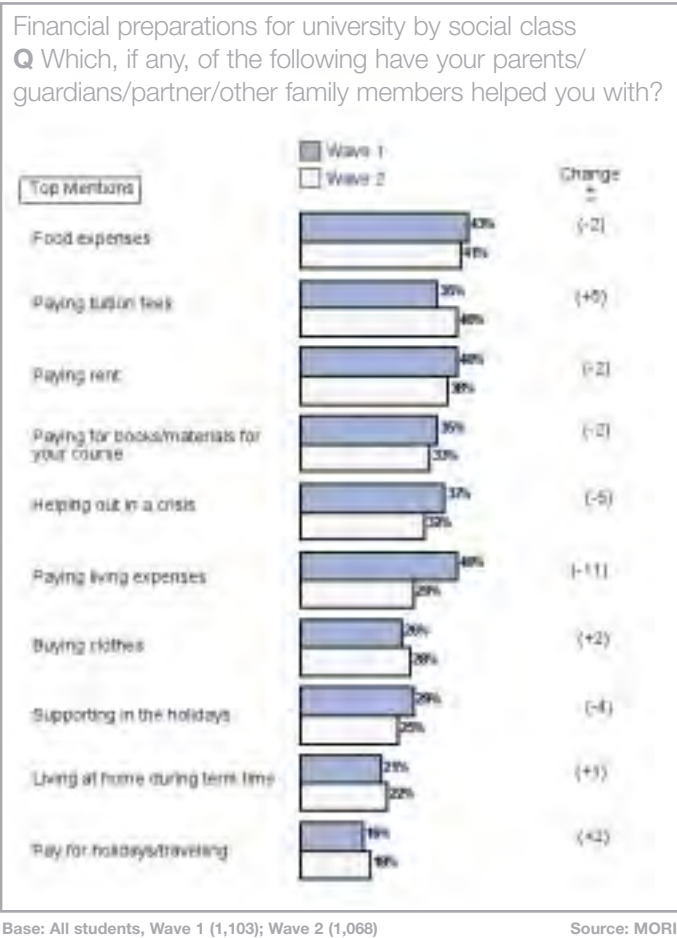
On average, working full-time before starting university to save money is the most common means of preparation for students. However, this disguises the fact that students from a C2DE background are likely to have prepared financially and, in particular, are most likely to have taken out a loan from somewhere other than their parents (30%), worked part-time in the holidays before university (26%) or worked part-time whilst at school (21%).



7.3 Help from parents

The vast majority of students (87%) receive some form of help from their parents, guardian, partner or other family members – once again, helping to pay for food, tuition fees and rent emerge as the most common forms of assistance.

Most notably, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of students who receive help with their tuition fees, rising by five percentage points to 40% in the most recent wave.

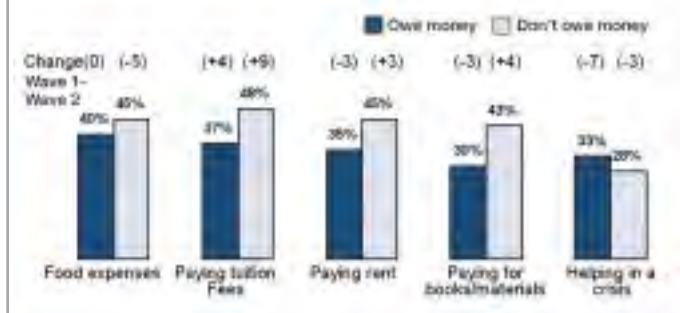


“Over the summer I’ve been working to pay my parents off” Student



7.4 Help from parents

Q Which, if any, of the following have your parents/guardians/partner/other family members helped you with?



Base: Wave 2, Owe money (814), Don't owe money (254)

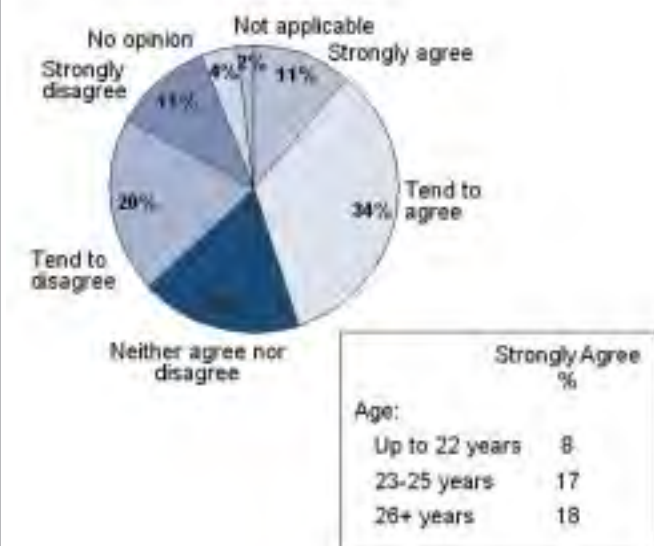
Source: MORI

7.5 Borrowing money and its effect on relationships with parents

Over two-fifths of students (44%) agree that 'borrowing money to finance higher education causes friction between students and their parents' – this is a particular issue among older students.

Borrowing money and its effect on relationships with parents

"Borrowing money to finance higher education causes friction between students and their parents"



Base: All students; Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI



attitudes to the

“I think its unfair, education
is not a privilege, is it?”

Student

cost of university and student funding

8.1 An investment in the future

During wave 2, an even larger majority of students (90%), agree that the money they are spending on their education is a good investment in their future.

The cost of education as an investment
“The money I am spending on my education is a good investment for my future”



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

8.2 Student funding

The Government is considering replacing the current system of student loans. A potential new system is being discussed whereby maintenance grants will be reintroduced and university students will be taxed at a higher level once they graduate and start work. Students were asked which of the two systems they prefer.

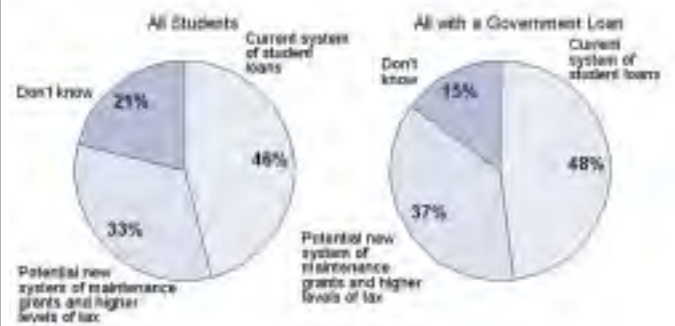
Given the choice, students prefer the current system of student loans (46%) in preference to a potential new system of maintenance grants and a graduate tax (33%).

Among students who currently have a student loan, the proportion in favour of the new system of maintenance grants and increased taxation is only 37 per cent, with the majority still preferring the current system (48%).

Older students, who are perhaps closer to the realities of paying back a loan, tend to favour the new system. University Vice Chancellors are also concerned about the proposed changes. A switch to the potential new system could result in deferring fee payment to the universities.

Student funding

Q Which of the two funding systems would you prefer?



Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068), All with a Government loan (641)

Source: MORI

student expenditure

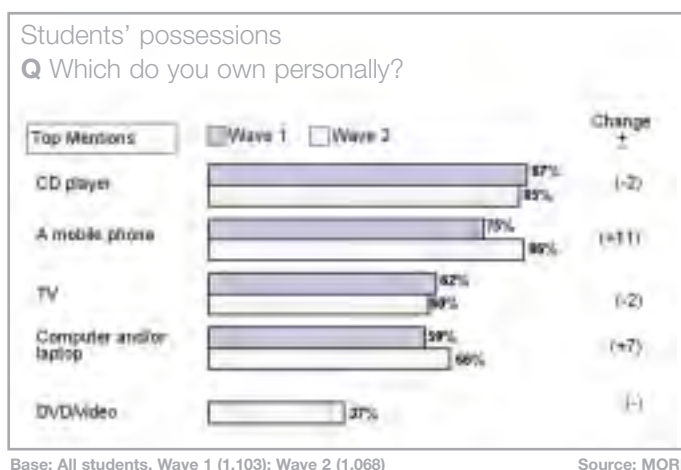


“Students are working for quality of life.
They are not necessarily working for
what we would call essentials.”
Vice Chancellor

9.1 Students' possessions

There is acknowledgement among students and Vice Chancellors that many students are working to finance a lifestyle.

Despite the level of debt, students own a wide variety of possessions. The vast majority have mobile phones, CD players, TVs, computers and/or laptops.

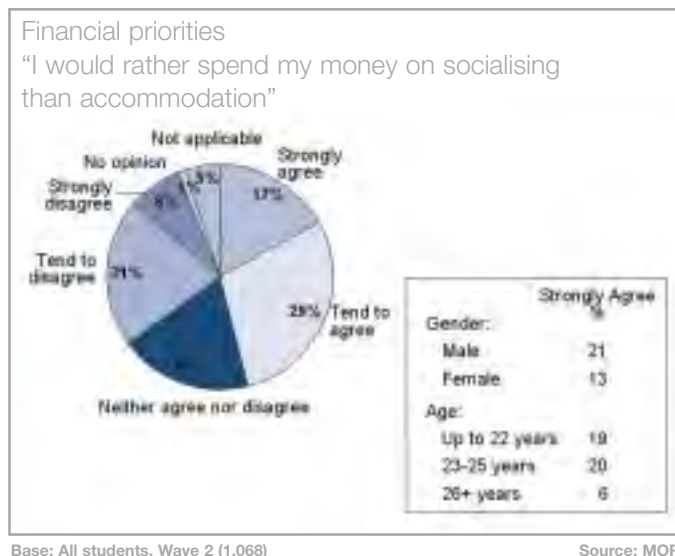


Student ownership of mobile phones has increased by 11 percentage points in the last year to 86 per cent. This is higher than mobile phone ownership among the general public as a whole (71%), however in line with ownership among 18-25 year olds nationwide (89%) (Source: MORI Omnibus 2001).

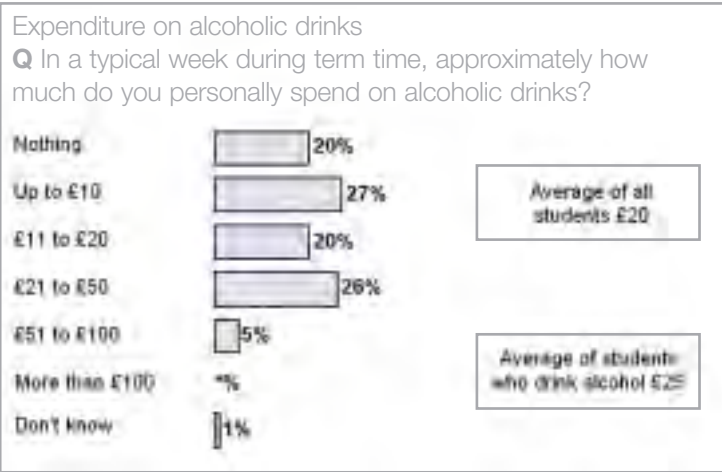
Two-thirds now own their own computer and/or laptop, up seven percentage points since wave 1 (66%) – reflecting the ever increasing importance of IT in higher education. Home ownership of computers among the general public stands at 38% (Source: MORI Omnibus 2001).

9.2 Financial priorities

Socialising is an important student activity and over two-fifths of students (46%) say they would rather spend their money on socialising than on their accommodation. This is particularly true of male students and those under 25 years old.



9.3 Expenditure on alcoholic drinks



Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068) Source: MORI

The current survey identifies weekly expenditure on alcoholic drinks and food.

Students spend an average of £20 on alcoholic drinks per week, with almost a third (31%) spending over £21 in a typical week.

Despite the popularity of drinking among students, a significant minority (20%) do not spend anything on alcohol in a typical week. These students are more likely to be:

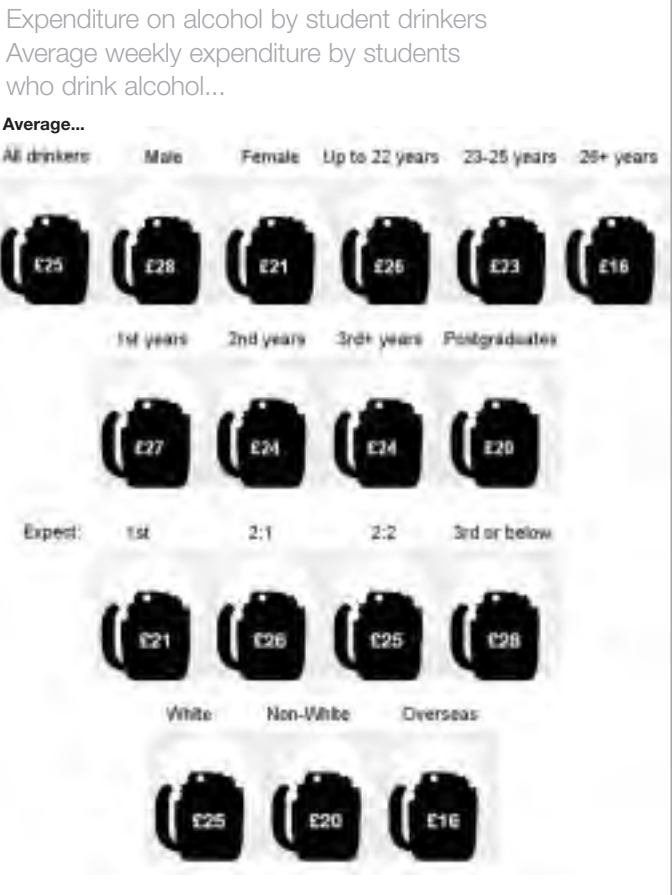
- Female (23%)
- Over 26 years old (35%)
- Postgraduate (30%)
- Hope to get a first class degree, if an undergraduate (25%)
- Unfavourable view of their university (27%)
- Currently live in their own home or with parents/guardian (30%)
- Non-white (53%)
- Overseas student (40%)
- Don't owe money (28%)



9.4 Expenditure on alcohol by student drinkers

Among students who do spend money on alcohol, the average expenditure in a typical week rises to £25. Male students spend £7 more per week than their female counterparts.

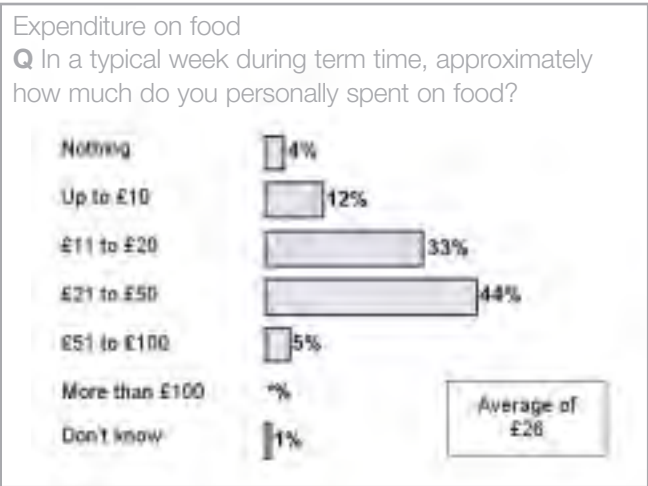
As one might expect, students tend to spend less on alcohol as they progress through the university system year-by-year. Those undergraduates who hope to get a first class degree spend significantly less on alcohol than those who believe they will get a lower class of degree. Ethnicity and culture also influence students' drinking habits.



Base: All students who buy alcohol (823) Source: MORI

9.5 Expenditure on food

On average, during term time, students spend £26 a week on food – this includes eating out and home cooking. Those spending little or nothing tend to be living at home with parents. Students living in their own home spend £35 a week on average.



Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI



Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

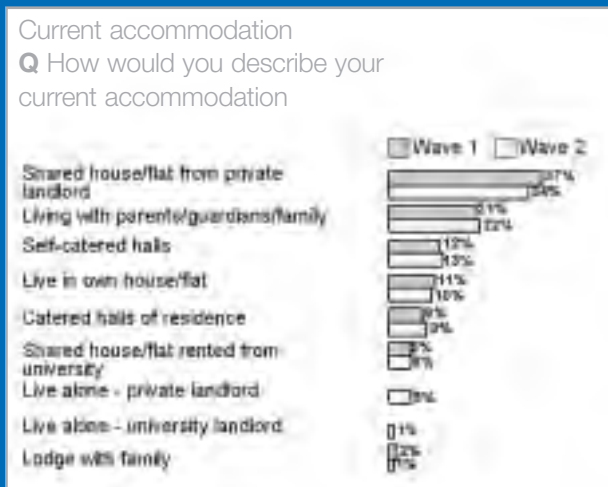


A close-up portrait of a young Black man with short, dark dreadlocks. He is smiling broadly, showing his teeth, and looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a bright yellow, long-sleeved shirt. The background is a solid, vibrant blue. The word "accommo" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font across the lower right portion of the image, partially overlapping the man's shirt.

accommo

10.1 Current accommodation

As regards accommodation, little has changed since last year. Just under half of university students (46%) live in private rented accommodation, a fifth live in halls of residence (22%), an equal proportion with their parents or guardian (22%) and one in ten (10%) in their own home.



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

10.2 Problems with rented accommodation

A large proportion of those currently living in rented accommodation continue to have problems.

Although less of a problem than a year ago, repairs are the most commonly cited issue, mentioned by a quarter of students in wave 2, (32% during wave 1). Lack of cleanliness, expensive accommodation and the distance the accommodation is from the university all continue to be the most likely problems.

The proportion who have no problems at all has fallen by four percentage points to 25% in wave 2.

Problems with current rented accommodation

Q Which, if any, of the following problems do you have with rented accommodation?



Base: All who currently live in rented accommodation Wave 1 (717); Wave 2 (723)
Source: MORI

modation



10.3 Problems with halls of residence versus private rented accommodation

Since the last wave of the study, those who live in private rented accommodation are much more likely to complain about the distance the accommodation is from the university and less likely to complain about the repairs that are required and the poor security.

During the current wave, students living in halls of residence are less likely to have experienced problems. In particular, there appears to be an improvement, not only in the level of cleanliness of the halls, but also the noise levels.

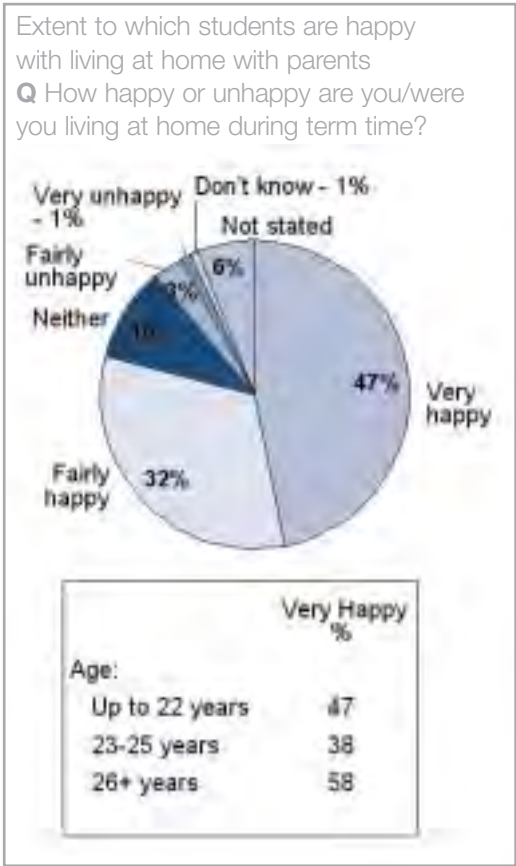
Halls vs private rented accommodation

Top Mentions	Halls			Private rented		
	Wave 1 %	Wave 2 %	Change ±	Wave 1 %	Wave 2 %	Change ±
Repairs required	17	14	(-3)	38	32	(-6)
Lack of cleanliness	14	7	(-7)	20	20	(0)
Too expensive	13	10	(-3)	19	19	(0)
Too far out from university	11	9	(-2)	11	15	(+4)
Too noisy	21	15	(-6)	11	10	(-1)
Difficult landlord/landlady	2	2	(0)	13	13	(0)
Poor security	8	6	(-2)	15	10	(-5)
Rough/undesirable area	2	3	(+1)	10	12	(+2)
Any problems	55	43	(-12)	70	59	(-11)

Base: All who currently live in halls of residence (W1 219, W2 241); Private rented (W1 498, W2 482)
Source: MORI

10.4 Living at home with parents during term time

One fifth of students currently live at home with their parents, guardian or other relatives during university term time. These students tend to be younger, from a C1 and C2DE background, studying for an HND/HNC or degree, and at a new university. The majority of those who have had experience of living at home are happy with this situation, with almost half saying they are ‘very happy’ (47%).



Base: All who live at home with their parents/relatives/guardian while at university (273) Source: MORI

10.5 Safety in current accommodation and area

More than four-fifths of students feel that their belongings are safe in their current accommodation and that they are personally safe from assault or muggings in their residential area.

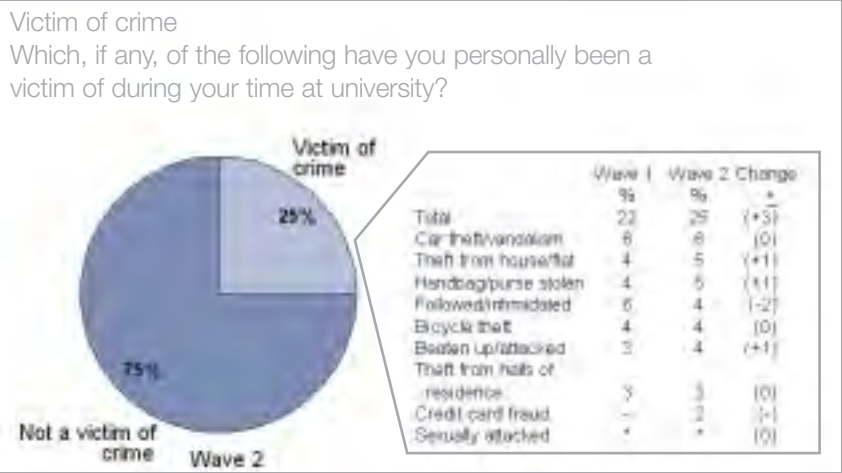
Across the three types of accommodation, living at home is perceived to be the safest and living in privately rented accommodation the least safe type of accommodation.



Base: Wave 2; Halls of residence (241), Rented accommodation (482), With parent/own home (343) Source: MORI

10.6 Victim of crime

During wave 2, a quarter of students (25%) have personally been a victim of crime during their time at university, a three percentage point increase since wave 1. The crimes students are most likely to become a victim of are car theft or vandalism (6%), theft from their house or flat (5%) and having their handbag or purse stolen (5%).



Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068) Source: MORI

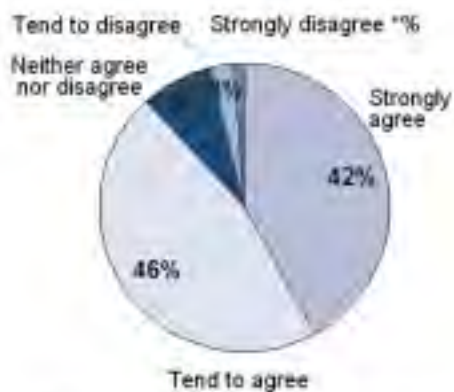
pastoral care

11.1 Extent to which students are happy with their life

The level and quality of pastoral care is an increasingly important issue for universities today.

During the current wave, students are equally likely to have a positive outlook, with the vast majority agreeing that they are happy with their life (88%) and optimistic about their future (86%).

Extent to which students are happy
"I am happy with my life"



Strongly Agree			
	Wave 1 %	Wave 2 %	Change ±
All Students	39	42	(+3)
Social Class:			
AB	40	45	(+5)
C1	40	41	(+1)
C2DE	38	38	(+2)

Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

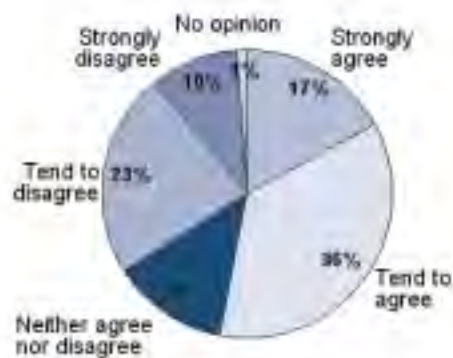
Source: MORI

11.2 Stress resulting from university life

Over half of students (53%) agree that since being at university they feel under a lot more stress than before – perhaps indicating the increased need for pastoral care.

Females, those from a C2DE background and those studying at a new university are more likely to feel under stress.

Stress resulting from university life
"Since being a university student I feel under a lot more stress than before"



	Agree %
Gender:	
Male	46
Female	59
Social Class:	
AB	47
C1	54
C2DE	56
Type of University:	
New	58
Old	49

Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

The growing need for pastoral was mentioned by a Vice Chancellor in the focus group:

“More than half of our students are aged over 21. In some respects maybe that means they are less prone to some of the difficulties 18 to 21 year olds experience. On the other hand, they have a whole range of other complications to do with child care, mid-life crisis, you name it! I think this increasingly diverse student body actually increases the demands for pastoral care, it means you have to be that much more flexible in what you are offering and how you offer it.”

Vice Chancellor



11.3 The Student Union

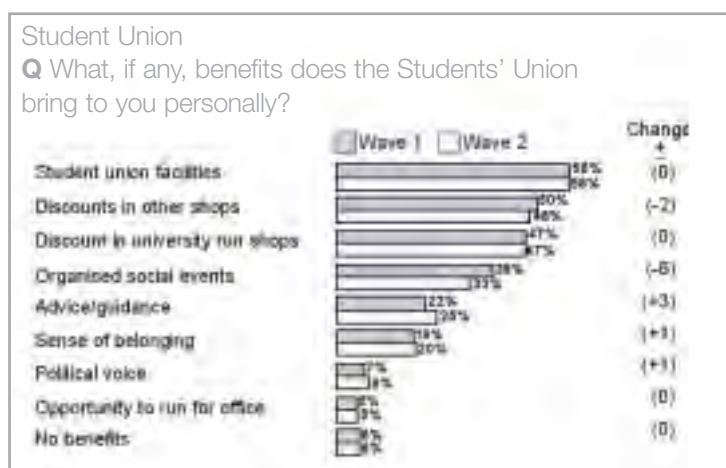
The facilities and discounts offered by the student union continue to be the main benefits of this body. However, students are increasingly likely to turn to their student union for advice and guidance.

One Vice Chancellor recognised the provision of financial advice by the Student Union, particularly given the complexity of current student funding and the increasing burden of student debt:

“I think there are something like twenty-five different systems of financial support for students, none of which are universal. It is a nightmare. So the Student Union help to make sense of it for students.”

Vice Chancellor

During wave 2, significantly fewer students consider the Student Union's organised social events to be beneficial (33% in wave 2), reflecting students greater use of alternative venues.

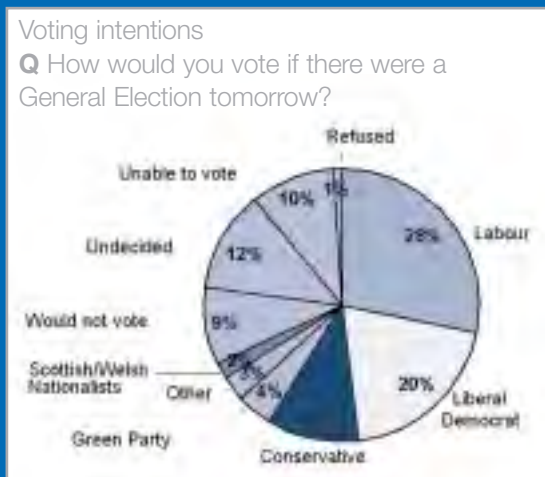


Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103); Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

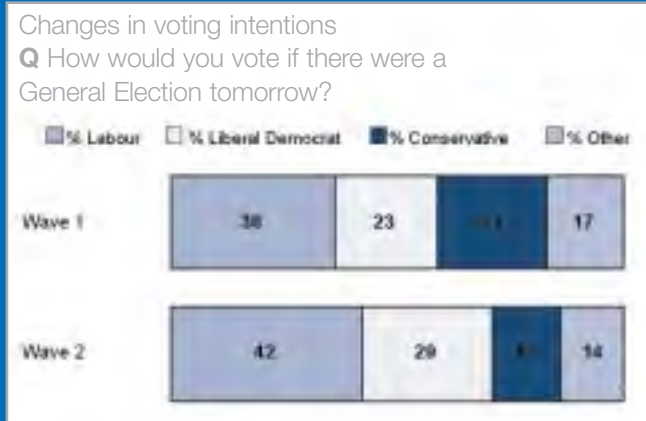
12.1 Voting intentions

Despite the controversy over the Government loan scheme and the funding of higher education, if there were a General Election tomorrow, the largest portion of the student vote would go to Labour (28%). However, support for the Liberal Democrats is growing at the expense of the Conservatives, who are now in third place.



Base: All students, Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

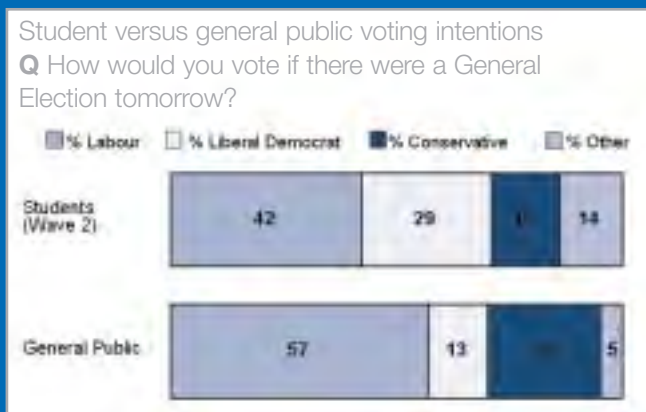


Base: All students, Wave 1 (1,103), Wave 2 (1,068)

Source: MORI

12.2 Student v General Public Voting Intentions

Although Labour are still the most popular political party among university students, there is far greater support for the Liberal Democrats and 'other' political parties than among the General Public as a whole.



Base: Wave 2 (1,068), Face to face interviews 22 Oct-16 Nov 2001; General public (approx. 2000) Face to face interviews 18-22 Oct 2001

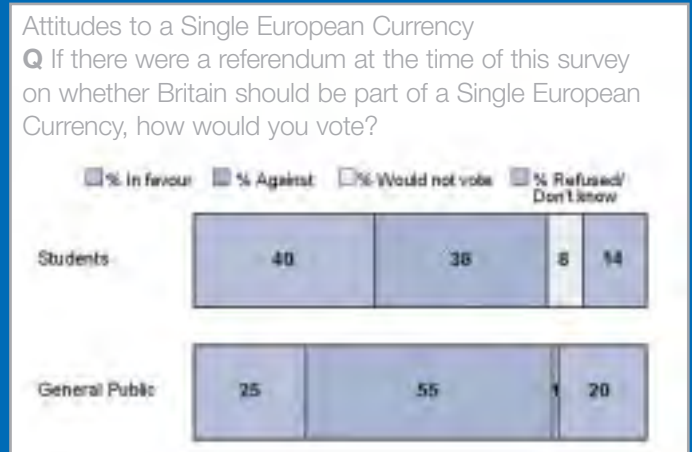
Source: MORI

political attitudes

12.3 Attitudes to a Single European Currency

If there were a referendum on whether Britain should be part of a Single European Currency, at the time of this survey, students would vote in favour of its introduction, although the result would be very close.

Students are far more likely to be in support of a Single European Currency than the General Public, who are more likely to vote against its introduction (55%).



Base: All students (1,068) 22 Oct-16 November 2001; General Public GB Adults aged 16 and over (1,983) July 2001

Source: MORI

UNITE is the UK's leading specialist provider of accommodation services for students

A partnership approach

UNITE is the UK's leading specialist provider of accommodation services for students. The reason behind this growth is simple. Instead of imposing standard answers, we work in partnership with universities and colleges to deliver total solutions to their individual needs.

The complete range of services

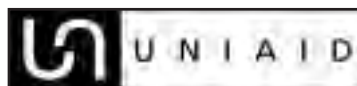
Each of our solutions is unique to that particular institution. We offer an unrivalled range of accommodation services and facilities management support. Further solutions for your accommodation problems may include purchase and leaseback or design and build, backed by a choice of financial options.

Our vision

The aim is always the same: to release academic institutions so they can focus on their primary mission, and to provide the highest standard and best value accommodation for students. We remain highly focused on our specialist area of expertise, and committed to delivering the most innovative and comprehensive solutions.

Wired for the future

UNITE has invested in effective IT and eBusiness solutions. With our web portal bunk.com, we have developed the UK's most comprehensive accommodation search and on line booking service for university students. Furthermore, UNITE's on-line accommodation service enables universities and colleges throughout the UK to offer the complete on line accommodation booking and management facility for their students.



UNIAID

UNITE is proud to introduce an exciting new charity to benefit students – UNIAID. The vision behind UNIAID is to enable students of all financial and ethnic backgrounds to study at higher or further education. Its aim is to challenge financial, access and welfare issues facing students who want to pursue studies in higher and further education, by removing the barriers they face and helping to provide relevant support.

The remit is ambitious, but also very relevant and UNIAID is looking for support from across the higher education sector to develop and meet its exciting objectives:

- On-going programme of fundraising events for the student community
 - Awareness programme for UNIAID Foundation
 - Sustainable funding and in-kind support services programme
 - Information provision on sources of funding, welfare and financial education
 - Policy-maker lobbying to ensure issues of student funding, inclusion and welfare are addressed to offer useful, relevant, accessible and timely advice and information
- If you feel you can contribute time, effort or expertise, please contact:

Tabitha Aldrich-Smith
UNIAID
The Tower Building
Fifteenth Floor
11 York Road
London SE1 7NX

T 020 7902 5050

The survey was carried out among a representative sample of full-time students at UK universities. Part-time students were excluded.

Whilst non-UK nationals who were completing an entire course in the UK were included in the study, those who were in the UK on an exchange programme were excluded.

The following tables provide an overview of the sample profile.

gender	wave one		wave two	
Base: All students	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
Male	46	47	46	46
Female	54	55	54	54
age	wave one		wave two	
Base: All students	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
17 or younger	1	1	1	1
18	12	13	13	12
19	18	19	22	21
20	17	18	18	19
21	15	16	12	13
22	9	10	9	9
23 or older	27	25	24	24
social class	wave one		wave two	
Base: All students	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
A	6	7	9	9
B	31	33	29	29
C1	41	39	42	42
C2	11	11	9	9
D	7	6	6	6
E	3	3	3	3
Refused	1	*	142	2
ethnic minority	wave one		wave two	
Base: All students	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
White	83	87	80	84
Black (African)	2	2	3	3
Indian	3	2	5	4
Chinese	2	2	2	1
Other Asian	3	2	2	2
Black (Caribbean)	1	1	1	1
Black (other)	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	2	1	2	2
Bangladeshi	1	*	1	1
Other	2	1	3	2
Refused/Not stated	1	*	-	-
Total ethnic	17	13	20	16

wave one

wave two

What qualifications are you currently studying for?

	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
Base: All students				
<i>Undergraduate</i>				
HND/HNC/Other sub-degree qualification	5	4	3	3
Honours Degree	72	71	74	73
Ordinary Degree	10	11	12	12
<i>Postgraduate</i>				
Post Graduate	2	2	2	2
Diploma – Taught				
Post Graduate	1	1	1	1
Diploma – Research				
Masters Degree	7	7	7	7
PhD/doctorate	3	3	2	2
Other	1	1	–	–

In which academic year of your degree course are you currently studying?

	Unweighted (959) %	Weighted (959) %	Unweighted (953) %	Weighted (953) %
Base: All undergraduates				
First year	35	35	37	34
Second year	32	33	33	33
Third year	24	23	24	26
Fourth year	7	8	7	7
Fifth year and above	1	*	*	*

What course/degree are you currently studying?

	Unweighted (1,103) %	Weighted (1,103) %	Unweighted (1,068) %	Weighted (1,068) %
Base: All students				
Languages/Humanities	11	13	10	9
Medicine and Dentistry, Subjects allied to medicine AND Veterinary sciences	11	12	10	12
Biological sciences, Physical sciences	12	12	12	12
Business and Administration, Librarianship and Information science	13	12	17	14
Combined (Study more than one main subject)	10	10	9	10
Engineering and Technology subjects	9	9	7	8
Social, economic and politics	9	9	8	8
Mathematical sciences, Statistics, Computer sciences	8	8	8	7
Creative arts and design	6	6	6	7
Education	4	5	6	6
Law	4	4	4	4
Architecture building and planning	2	2	3	2
Agriculture and Related	*	1	1	1