

Student Lifestyle Survey

2017



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The home of student accommodation!

Over the last 12 months our students have experienced a level of change and upheaval that is unprecedented. On a global level the advent of Brexit and Trump have heralded an uncertain future, while closer to home further changes to tuition fees mean more for today's student to consider.

It is in this context that we have undertaken our latest student lifestyle research, which is part of www.accommodationforstudents.com's ongoing effort to understand student life. Now into our 17th year we have seen many changes in higher education and student accommodation requirements and we remain committed to staying **ahead of market trends**.

Our research into student lifestyles is the first of **three major research pieces we will undertake this year**, with further work on satisfaction and the clearing experience due in the spring.

We hope that you find value in this work and please do get in touch if you have any questions or comments on it.

Simon Thompson

Managing Director

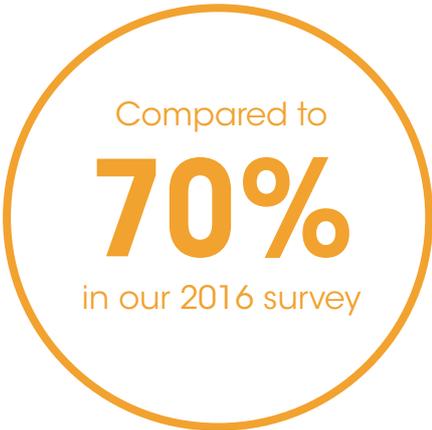
Executive summary

The 2017 www.accommodationforstudents.com student lifestyle survey analyses the day to day lifestyle of students across the UK and gains an insight into their satisfaction at University. Like previous surveys, topics such as student finances, term time employment and housing after graduation have been included. This year we have also sought to get feedback on current affairs issues including the potential rise in tuition fees, the impact of Brexit and the recent inauguration of president Trump. This survey also looks at students eating habits for the first time. This is the first survey whereby almost every student at UK universities will be paying £9000 per year for tuition. The impact of this can perhaps be seen in the rise of student employment as well as an increase in reliance upon student loans.

The student loan remains the most common source of income for students attending UK universities. Student's reliance on a student loan has increased from previous years. There now 77% of students with a

student loan in comparison to 70% in our 2016 survey. Financial support from parents and family members remains important for many students, with just under half of students citing it as a major source of income. The average student is now anticipating graduating with over £40,000 worth of accumulated debt from their studies. Financial concerns are clearly common amongst students as 73% of students worry about having enough money.

Part time employment plays an important role in many a student's life. 40% of students work during the academic term and 62% work during the holidays. On average, students are working between 6 and 10 hours a week and are paid £7-9 per hour. The number of students participating in an internship whilst at university has decreased from previous years, 14% of students surveyed this year have taken part in an internship.



Popular social activities for students include watching TV with friends, going for drinks with friends and going to the gym. Facebook remains the most popular social media site for students to use, with 82% using the site on a daily basis. Snapchat and Instagram have seen the biggest rise in the number of student users within the last year.

The most influential factor for students when choosing their university is the course quality, followed by the career prospects and academic facilities offered by the prospective university. There is a general satisfaction amongst students towards their universities academic and social facilities. An underlying dissatisfaction regarding the cost of university can be seen as over 40% of students are not satisfied with the value a degree represents given the current cost.

Over 93% of students cook for themselves whilst at university and the majority do so on a food budget of under £30 per week. Nationally Tesco is the most popular store for students; Sainsbury's and Aldi are the next most popular stores. Healthy eating is considerably important for many students, with over 77% making a conscious effort to buy healthy food products.

The recent referendum decision to leave the European Union is one that has not been welcomed by the majority of students. 68% of students believe the UK will be worse off having decided to leave the EU and 48% believe it will have a negative impact on their life at university. The students surveyed have an equally negative view of America's new president, Donald Trump, with just 5% expecting him to make any positive impact on the world.

Students are looking to get onto the housing ladder once graduating through buying their own property. 86% of students see owning a property at some point as an important aspect in their future life. The majority of students are of the belief that they will spend between £100,000 – 130,000 on their first property. Difficulties in securing a graduate job alongside saving for a deposit are serious concerns for students however with over 73% believing both will delay the purchase of their first property.



Facebook remains the most popular social media site for students to use, with

82%

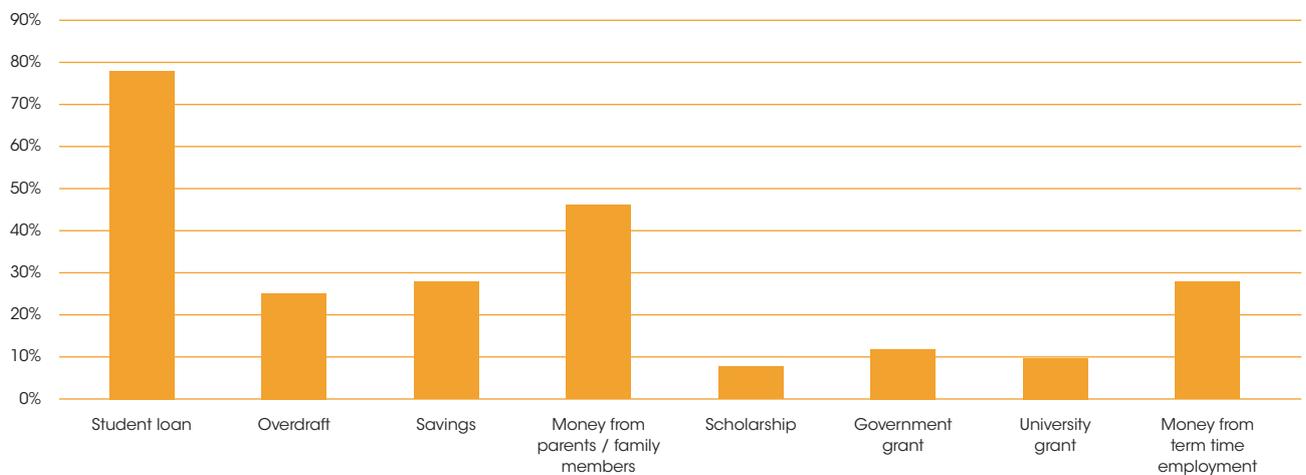
using the site on a daily basis.



Student finances

The most common source of income for students remains the student loan. 77% of students cite this as a major income source, a 7% increase compared to last year. This indicates that perhaps students are becoming more reliant on student loans as the cost of university rises. There is a stark difference in how international and UK students fund their university experience. Over 67% of international students have income from their parents as a main financial source in comparison to just 41% of UK students. International students are also much more likely to be reliant on a scholarship with almost 1 in 4 receiving one compared to just 4% of UK students.

Main sources of income for students



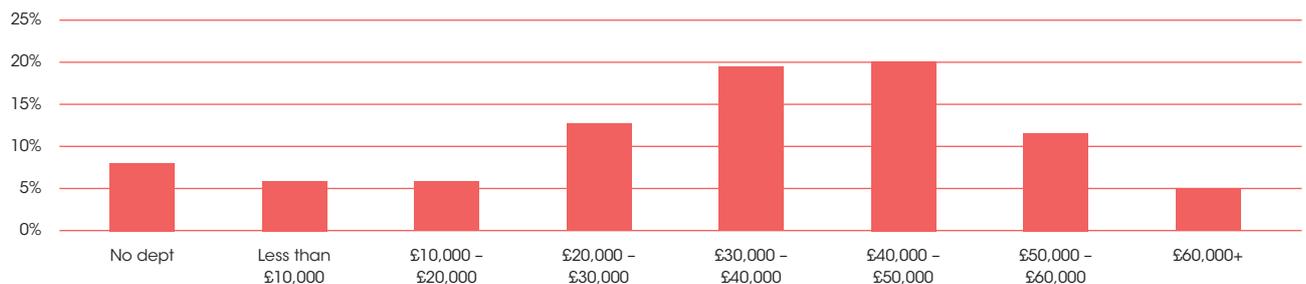
Students in London are more likely to have parental income as a main financial source. 60% of London based students receive money from parents or other family members in comparison to the national figure of 45%. This is likely to be related to the higher cost of living in London and the larger number of

international students that are based there, as 4 in 10 London students surveyed are international.

The average student anticipates graduating with between £40,000 to £50,000 worth of debt, a further 20% of students expect to have amassed a financial debt of over £50,000

whilst at university. This high level of debt is expected by the majority of students to impact their life after leaving university as 65% of students believe it will delay the purchase of their first home.

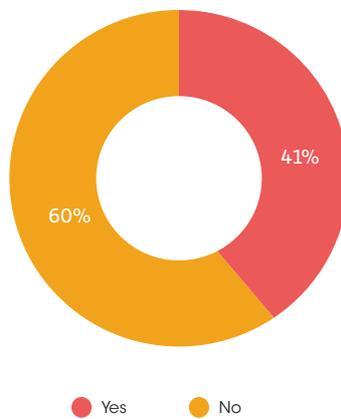
Expected level of debt upon graduation



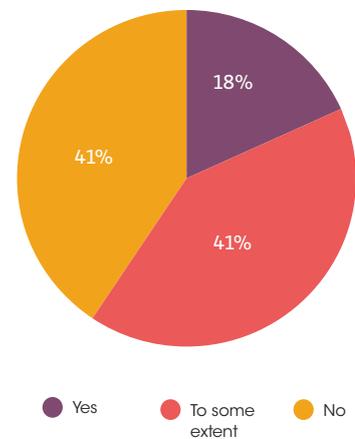
Student employment

Part time employment is a central aspect of many a student's life, with 41% of students working alongside their studies and 62% of students undertaking part time work during the university holiday periods. Students who work part time during the academic year are 8% more likely to be dependent on their overdraft as a major source of income and are 11% less likely to have financial support from their family. This goes to suggest that the majority of part time work is driven by necessity, with 78% of part time workers still citing having enough money as a cause of stress in their life and 59% believing the part time work negatively affects their studies to at least some extent.

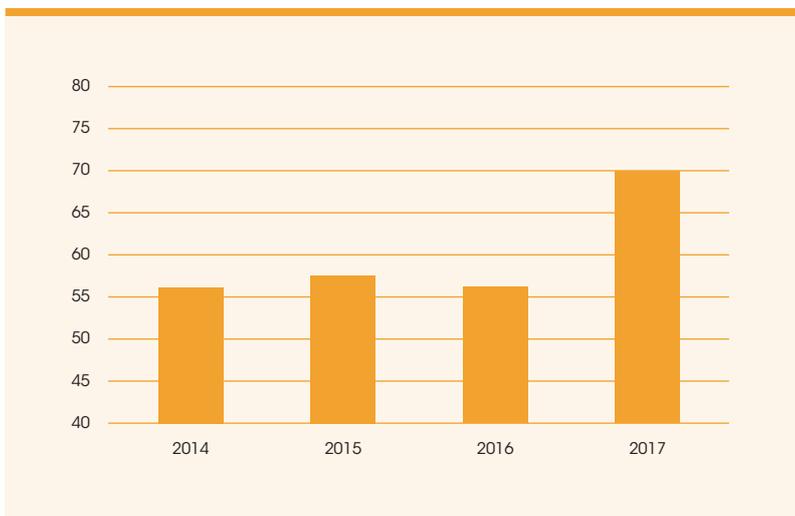
Students with part time jobs during the academic term



If you have a part time job do you feel this negatively affects your studies?



Percentage of students working during the term or in holiday periods.

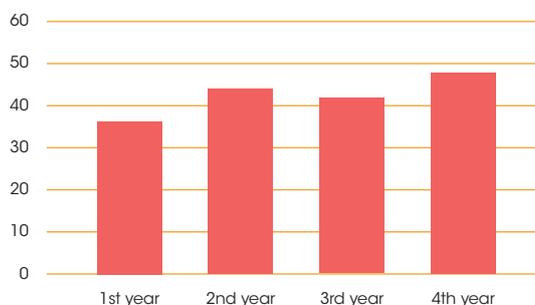


The percentage of students that work either during the academic term or the holiday periods has risen from 57% in 2015 to 69% at the time of this survey. The increasing number of students working part time can perhaps be linked to the rising costs of universities and the financial impact this has upon students.

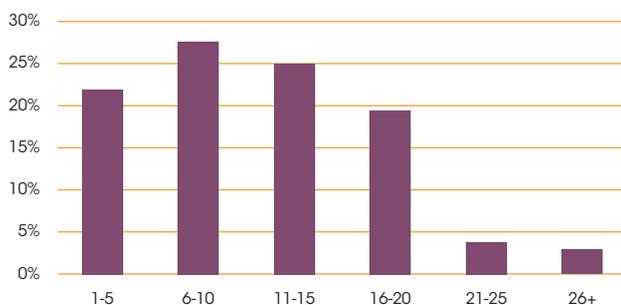
First year university students were the least likely to work during the term with 37% having part time work. Female students were more likely to have a part time job with 43% of them working during the term compared to just 33% of male students. 43% of UK students have a part time job in comparison to just fewer than 28% of international students. On average students are working between 6 and 10 hours a week and are paid £7-9 per hour.

Only
37%
 of students had a part time job in their first year of university

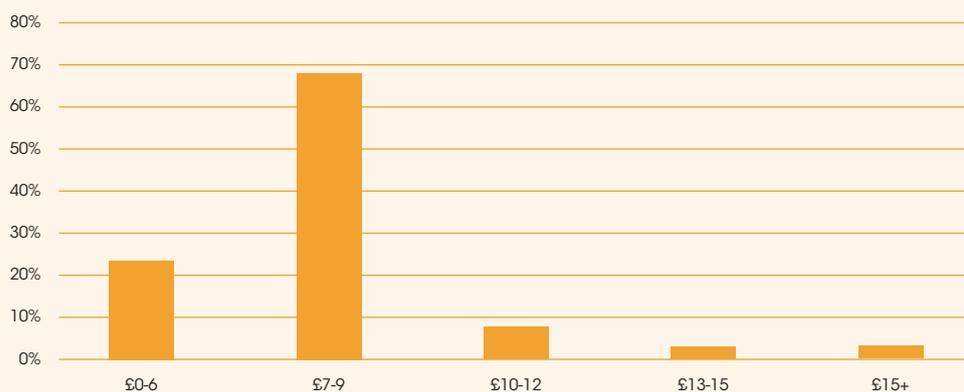
Percentage of student with part time jobs



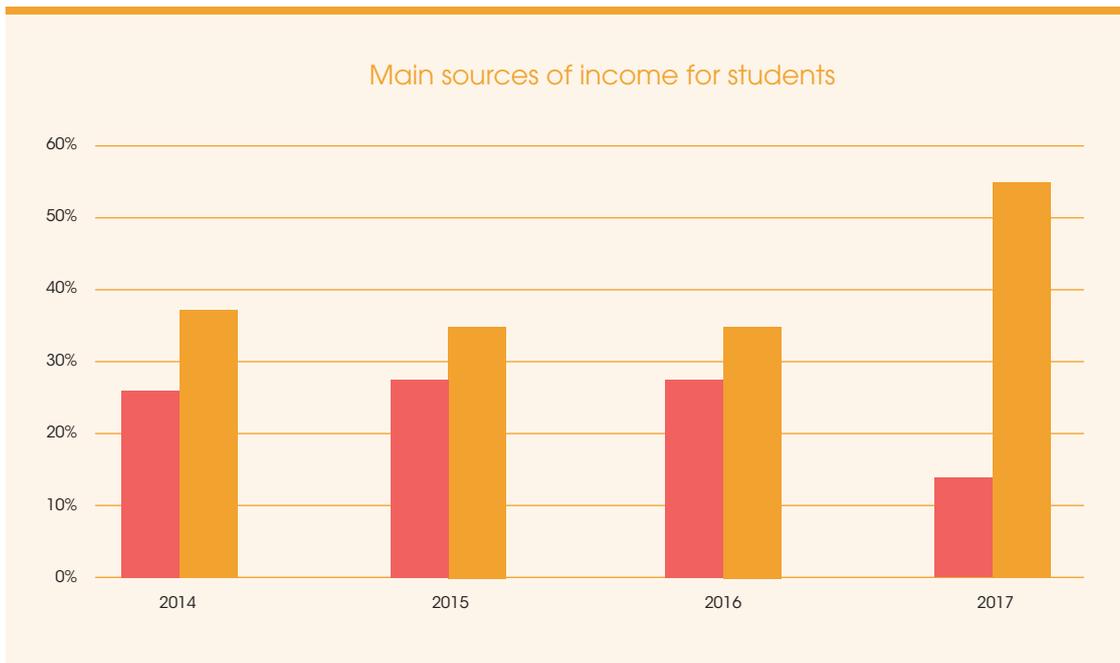
Hours worked per week during the term time



Student wages



The number of students taking an internship whilst at university appears to be on the decline with only 14% of students surveyed having participated in one in comparison to 26% in both 2015 and 2016. However there has been an increase in the proportion of internships that pay a salary. Of those students who undertook an internship, 55% of them were paid. This is a steep increase from previous results from previous surveys in 2014 which indicated just 37% of student internships were paid. 86% of students who completed an internship believe it will aid them getting a job after graduating thus suggesting an internship is a valuable part of a student's time at university.



- Students with internship
- % of students paid

Of those students who undertook an internship,

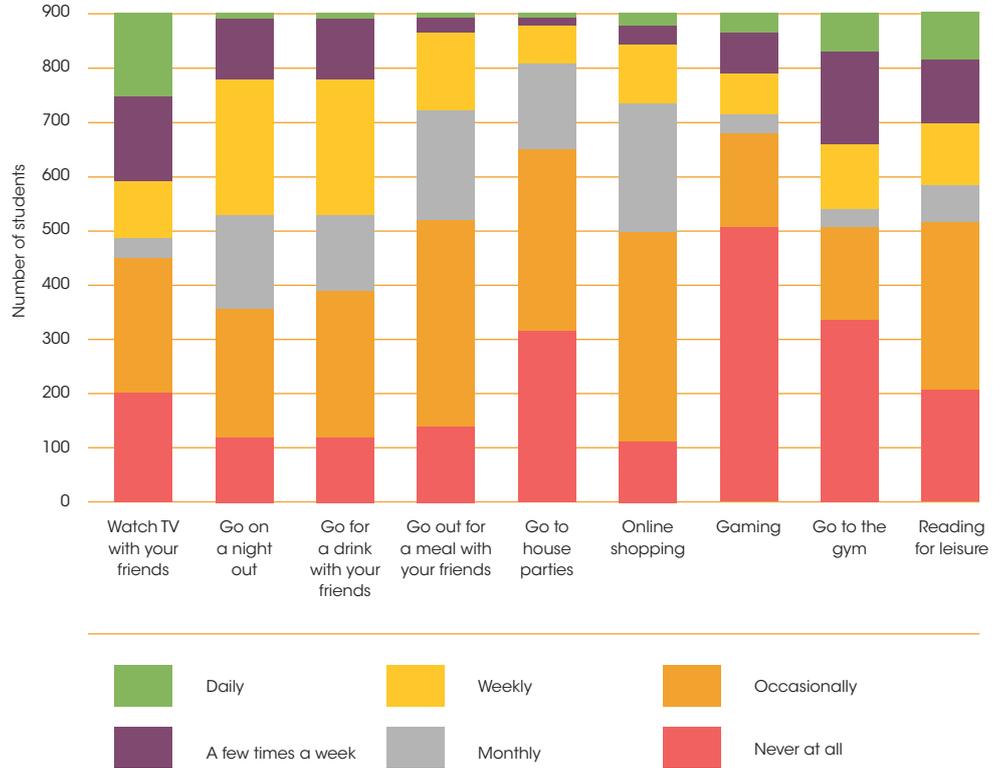
55%

of them were paid.

Social life

The most common student social activities include; watching TV with friends, going on a night out, drinking with friends and going to the gym. All four activities are carried out by over 40% of students on at least a weekly basis. Over half of students have joined university societies or sports teams, with 55% of male students joining compared to 50% of female students. Students are much less likely to join any societies / teams outside the university with only 12% of those surveyed doing so.

Frequency of social activities



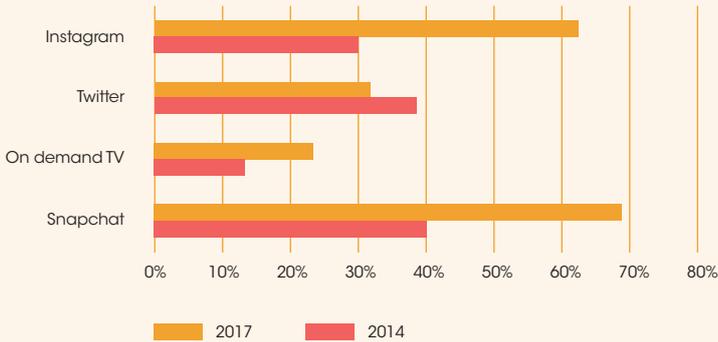
The average student budgets between £10 and £20 each week for socialising and 29% spend under £10.

Social budget



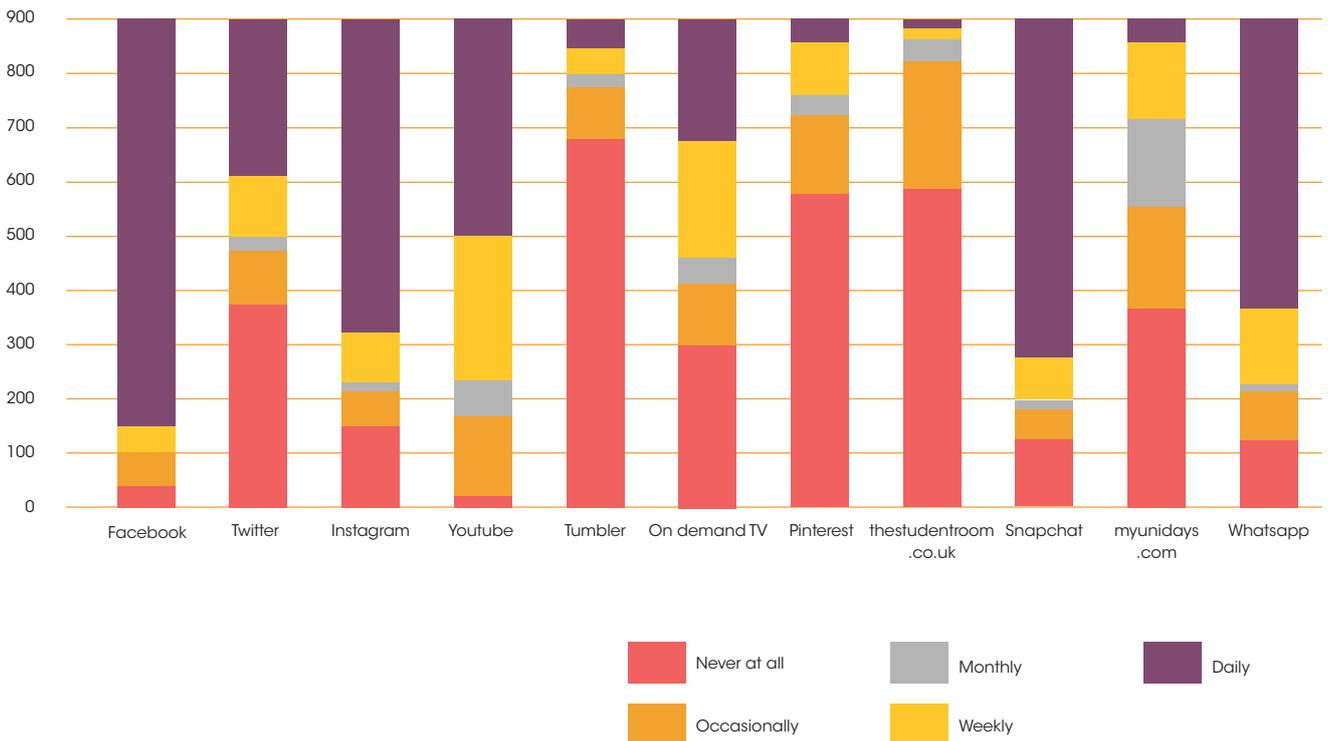
Social life

Social media trends



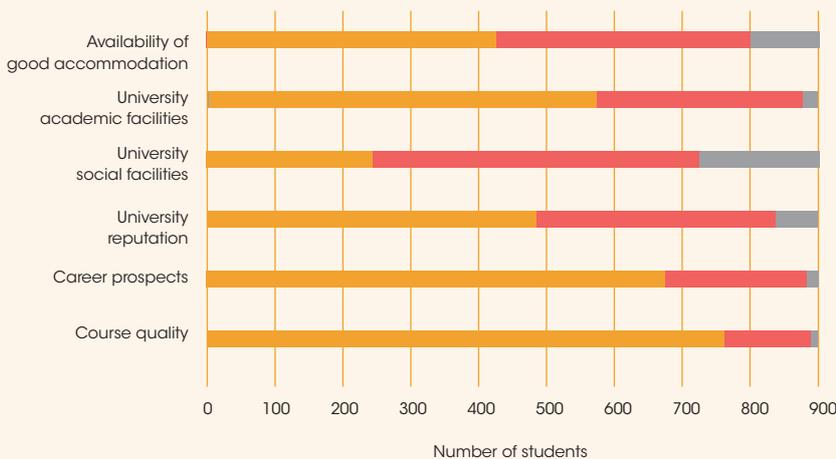
Facebook remains the most popular social media amongst students with 82% using the site on a daily basis. Only 5% of students do not use Facebook at all. The second and third most frequently used social media technologies are Snapchat and Instagram with 69% and 63% of students using the site each day. Both sites are more popular with younger students, over 74% of first year students use snapchat and Instagram daily. Male students are less likely to use both snapchat and Instagram with the percentage of daily users at 54% and 48% respectively. Over the last three years the number of students who use Snapchat and Instagram daily has almost doubled. The third largest increase from 2014 is seen in the use of on demand TV, where there is now 24% of daily users compared to just 13% three years ago. Twitter has seen the largest drop in users, there has been an 8% decrease in the number of students who use the site in the last 3 years.

Use of social media

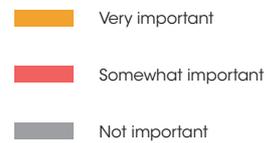


Satisfaction and stress at university

Factors affecting choice of university

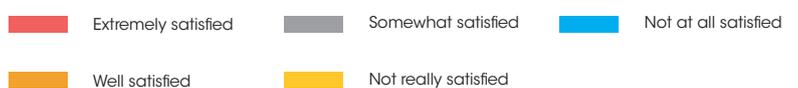
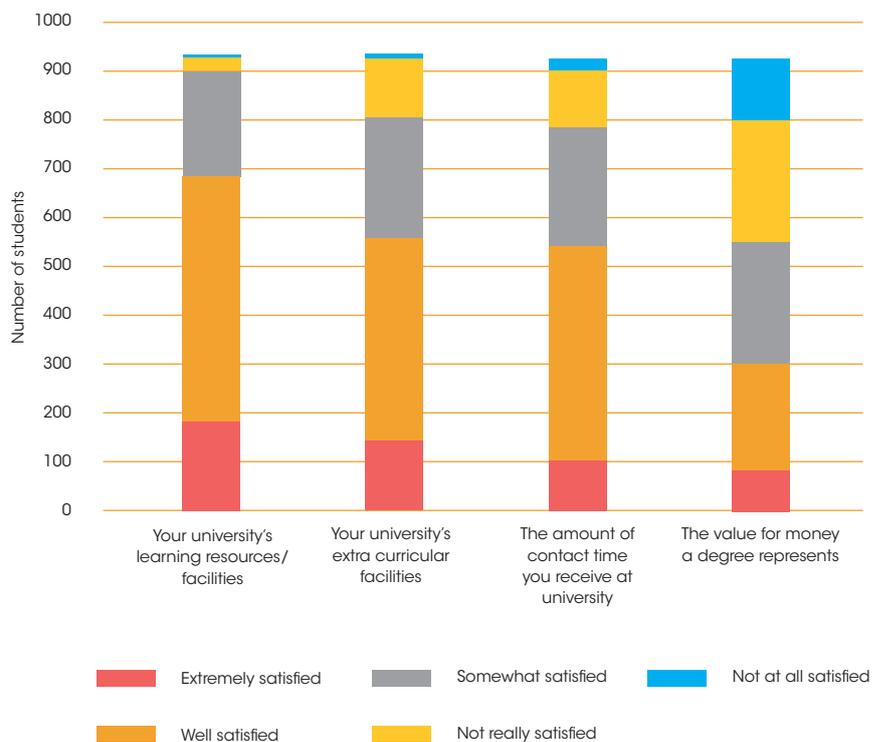


The most influential factor for students when choosing their university is the course quality with over 86% citing this as very important. Equally significant are the career prospects and academic facilities, with over 96% of students seeing these as important factors when deciding upon which university to attend.

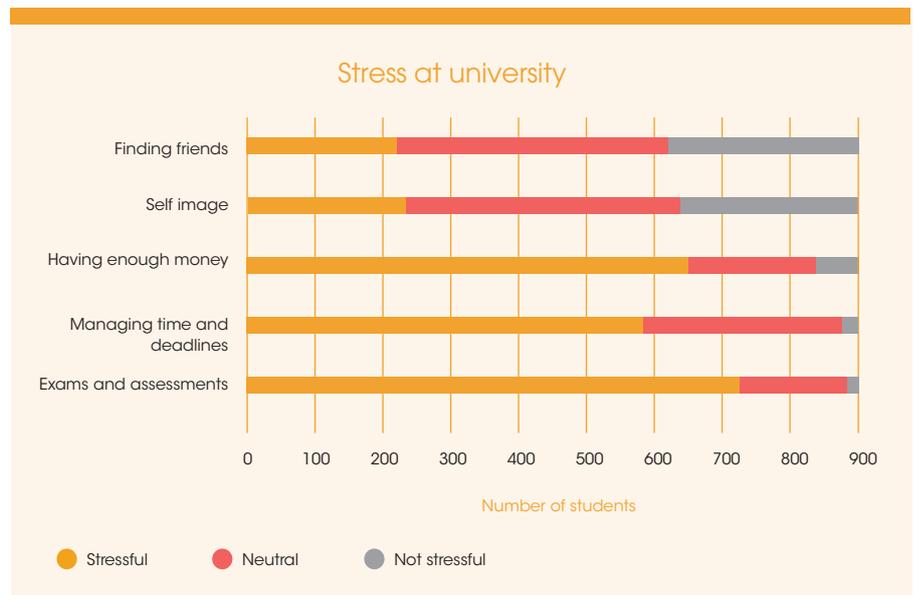
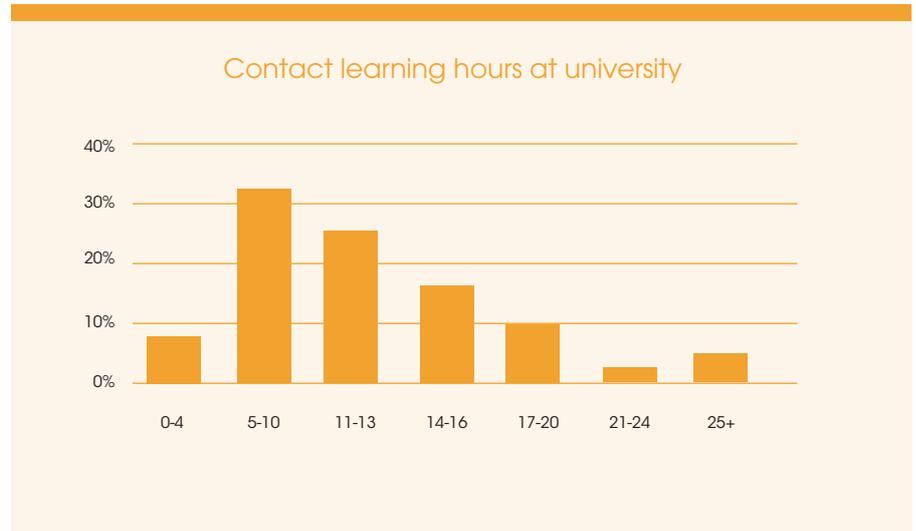


There is a general satisfaction amongst students regarding their universities learning resources, 72% deemed themselves to be well satisfied. The cause of least satisfaction is the cost of university. 40% students of students are either not really or not all satisfied with how much they are spending on their degree.

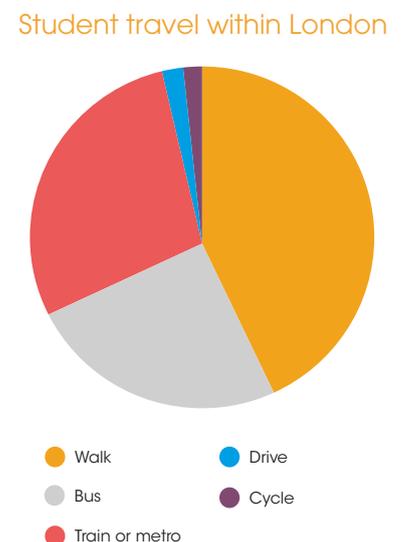
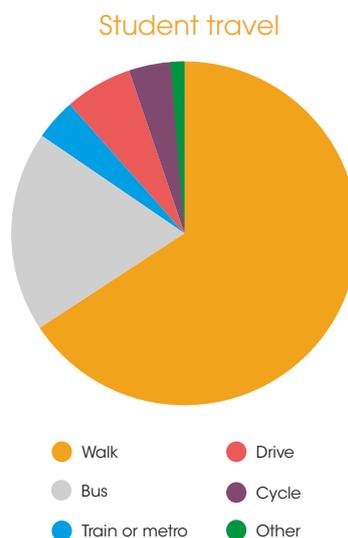
Student satisfaction at university



The main cause of stress at university is examinations and assessments, 80% of students rated them as stressful. Another large cause of stress at university is time management and deadlines with 66% of survey respondents stating this causes them stress. 27% of students find worrying about their self-image at university stressful. Female students are more likely to find aspects of student life stressful. For example there are 14% more female students who find exams, assessments and deadlines stressful compared to their male counterparts.

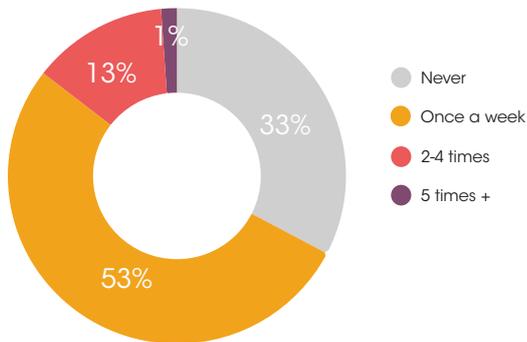


Students are most likely to travel to university on foot, 66% of students commute by walking. 23% of students rely on public transport and just 6% drive. Students based in London are the most reliant on public transport with 53% of them taking either a bus or train to university each day.



Eating habits

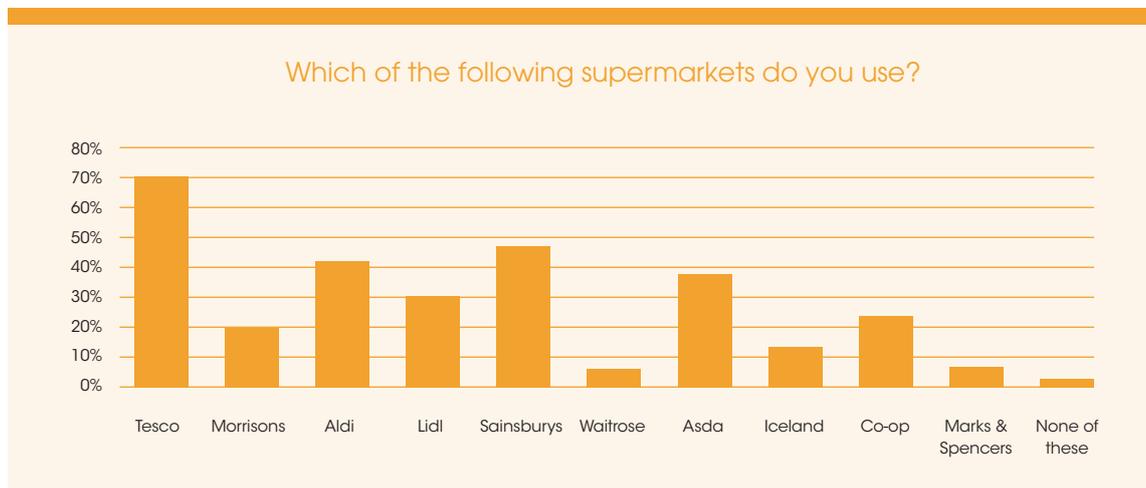
How often do you eat fast food? (%)



Healthy eating amongst students appears to be popular with over 77% of students questioned in the survey stating they make a conscious effort to eat healthily. This is backed up 43% of students not eating any ready meals, 33% not eating any fast food and 53% only eating fast food once a week.

93% of students cook for themselves at university and over two-thirds have a weekly food budget of under £30. Eating healthily appears to reduce the overall weekly spend on food as of those students who make an effort to eat well, 33% budget less than £20 a week compared to just 24% of students that don't make an effort to eat healthily.

Tesco is the most popular store for student food shopping with 70% of all students shopping there. Tesco was the most frequently used store for students in every area across the United Kingdom. The second and third most popular stores were Sainsbury's and Aldi with 48% and 44% of students shopping there. Some regional variations were observed, for example students studying in the North West of England were three times more likely to shop in Aldi than students located in London and the South East of England.



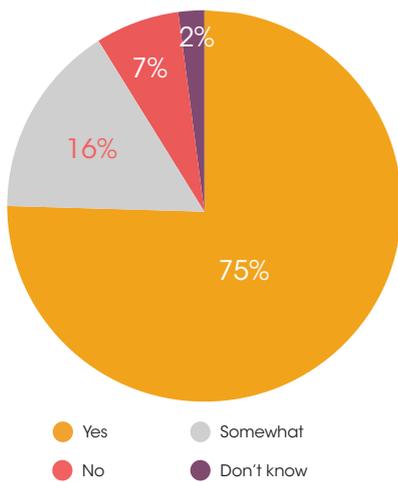
Current affairs

There has been much media attention surrounding the potential increase of student tuition fees in September 2017 by a further £250 to £9250 for each academic year. This resulted in the National Union of Students running a campaign to get final year students to boycott the National Student Survey. Only 26% of students were aware of the NUS campaign and of those students 46% fully supported the survey boycott and a further 22% somewhat supported it.

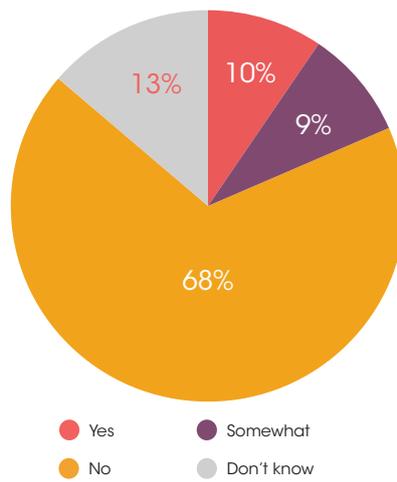
Out of the 1015 amount of students surveyed 94% were against the rise in fees, furthermore 3 in 4 students believed that an increase of fees would impact the number of people wanting to attend university. 68% of students believe the UK will be worse off having decided to leave the EU and 48% believe it will have a negative impact on their life at university. Students had an overwhelmingly unfavourable view of the new president of the United

States, Donald Trump. 83% of those surveyed were of the opinion that Donald Trump would have a somewhat negative / negative impact on the world. There were just 5% of students who believed he would make a somewhat positive / positive impact. UK students have a worse view on the potential impact of President Trump with just 4% anticipating a somewhat positive / positive impact compared to 9% of international students.

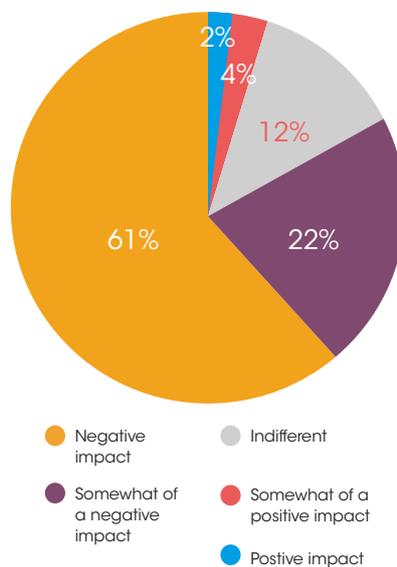
Do you feel a fee increase will impact the number of students who want to go to university?



Do you think the UK will be better off having decided to leave the European Union

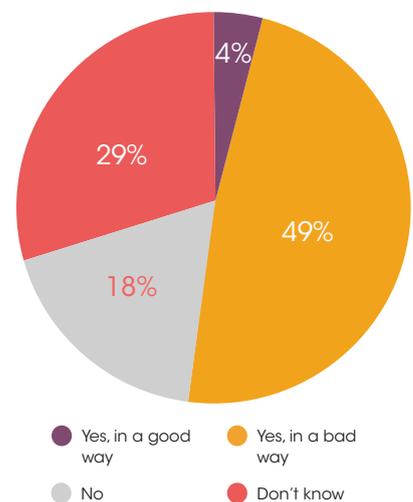


To what extent do you think Donald Trump will have a positive impact on the world as president of the USA?

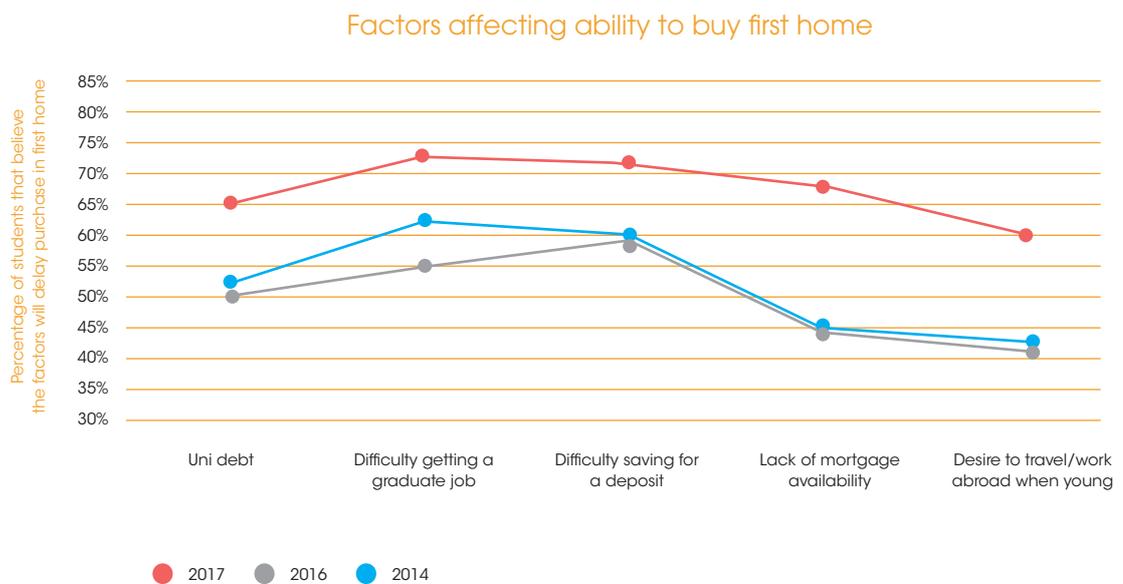
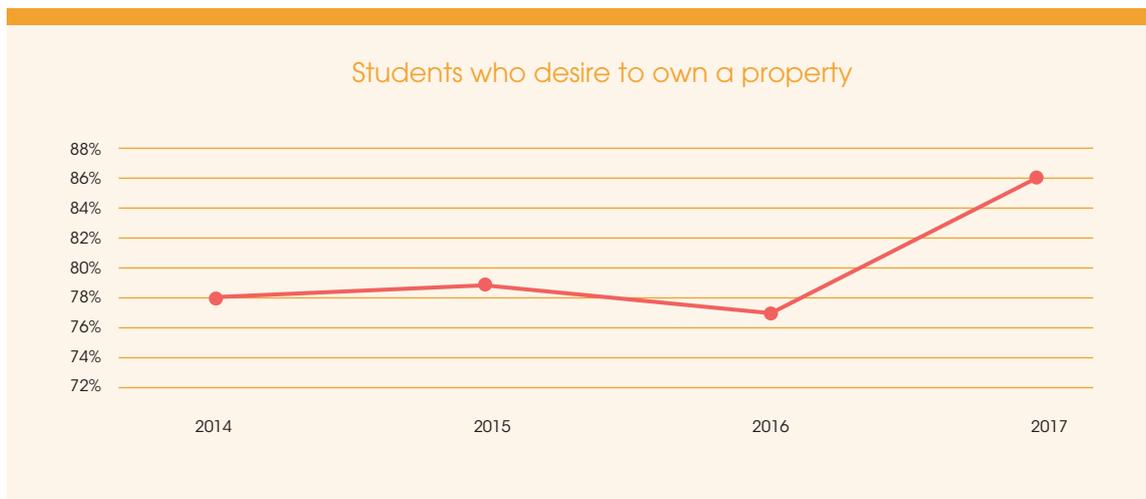


Housing after graduation

Do you think Brexit will impact your life at university?

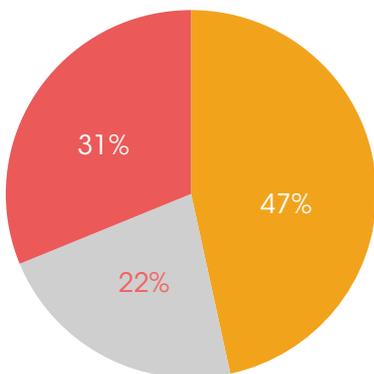


The proportion of students who desire to own their own house at some point in the future has risen to 86% from 76% of those that answered the AFS 2016 student lifestyle survey. Only 4% of students believe owning their own home will not be important. Despite an increase in the desire to purchase their own home students now seem to have more concerns about factors that will delay the purchase of it. For example, the number of students who believe the lack of mortgage availability will affect purchasing property has risen from 42% in 2014 and 2016 to 68% this year.



London students are least sure of the owning property in the future with 75% of them seeing owning a property as important, 11% less than the national response. Likewise international students are less sure about owning property as 74% see this as an important issue to them. Female students appear to be more concerned about factors affecting their first property purchase. 74% of female students specify that a difficulty in getting a graduate job will impact their ability to purchase compared to 69% of male students. Female students are also more likely to go travelling whilst they are young with over 61% believing this will affect their ability to purchase a house in comparison to just more than 1 in 2 male students.

Students tend to expect their first home to cost between £100,000 – 130,000 with 24% expecting to pay this. 15% of students expect to pay over £200,000 and 1 in 5 students are unsure as to how much their first house will cost. International students are expecting to spend less on their first property with 17% thinking that they will spend under £100,000 whereas just 10% of UK students believe they will pay this much.



Do you believe Brexit will impact your ability to buy your first property?

● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Survey demographics

1,015 students participated in the www.accommodationforstudents.com 2017 Student Lifestyle survey. Students aged between 18 and 21 made up the majority of the respondents with 3 in 4 of the students' surveyed being in this age category. 18% of survey respondents were aged 22-24 and a further 7% were aged 25 or older.

36.4% of students were in their first year of university, 28.2% were second years, 15.1% were third years, 5.8% were undergraduates in at least their 4th year and 7.4% were postgraduate students.

77% of survey respondents were female and 23% were male. This represents the increasingly large gender gap being seen at UK universities. There are now 66,840 more women than men on degree courses and women are 35% more likely to attend university.

84% of the students surveyed identified as being UK students, with the other 16% being international students. Students from all areas of Great Britain participated in the survey. The survey was answered by students from over 120 different UK universities.

45% of students were currently living in a privately rented house or flat, 27% were living in university halls, 19% were living in private halls and 5% were living with their parents or other family members.



1,015

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www.accommodationforstudents.com
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