

TCDSU Health Sciences Survey

Report 2023/2024

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School of Dental Science specific question: 19

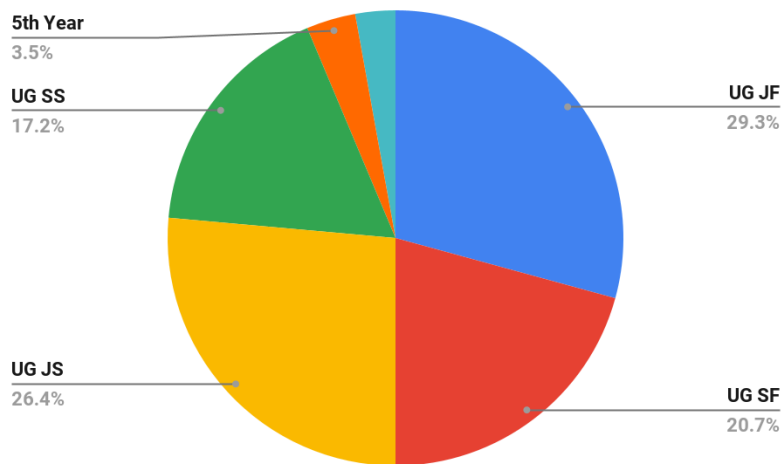
Do you feel your timetable allows enough time to complete all necessary dental tasks given? (patient management, labwork, PBL, projects, etc.) 19

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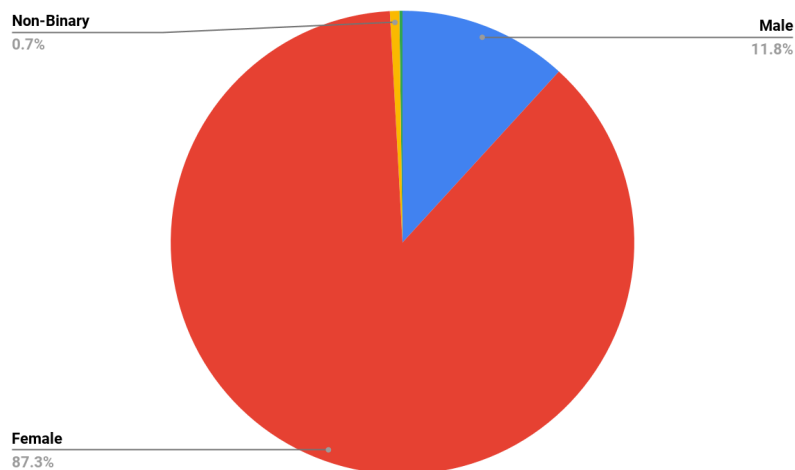
Do you feel that your course is often overlooked due to the School's focus on Dental Science education? 19

General Demographics of Respondents

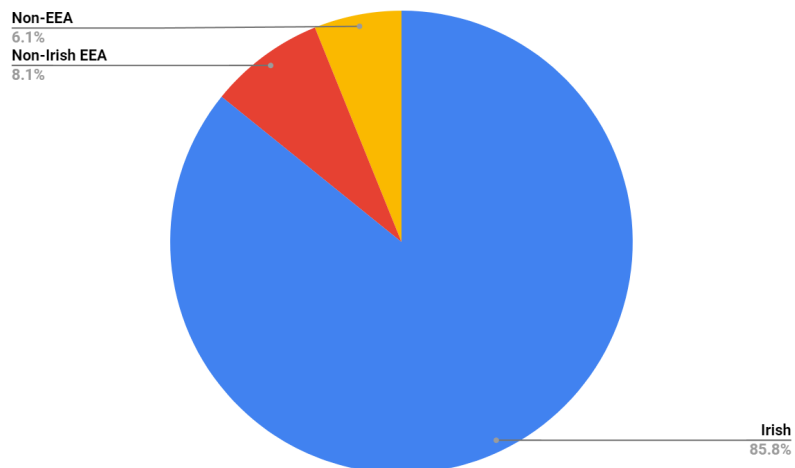
Year of Study



Gender



Nationality



This survey was completed by 458 Health Sciences students.

Some key breakdowns are:

445 Undergraduates and 13 Postgraduates

400 of the respondents (87.3%) identify as female.

393 respondents (85.8%) are Irish.

22 respondents (29.3%) are Mature Students.

8 respondents (10.7%) identified as being a 'Student with a Disability'.

The breakdown by school is:

259 respondents were from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, studying General Nursing, Children's & General Nursing, Midwifery, Mental Health Nursing, or Intellectual Disability Nursing.

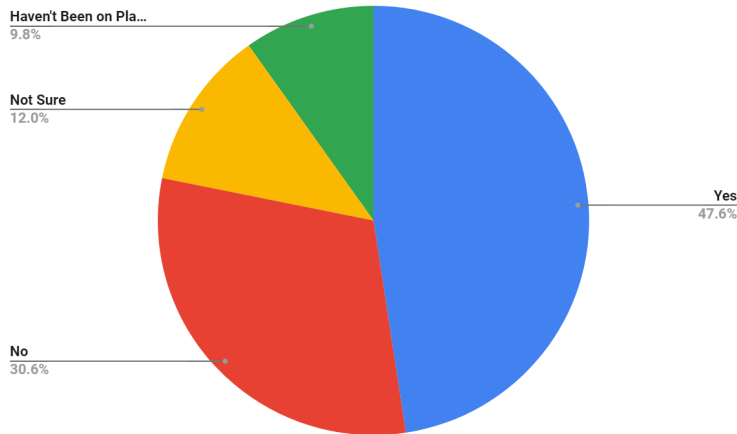
109 respondents were from the School of Medicine, studying Medicine, Human Health & Disease, Physiotherapy, Radiation Therapy, or Occupational Therapy.

67 School of Dental Science, studying Dental Science, Dental Nursing, Dental Hygiene, or Dental Technology.

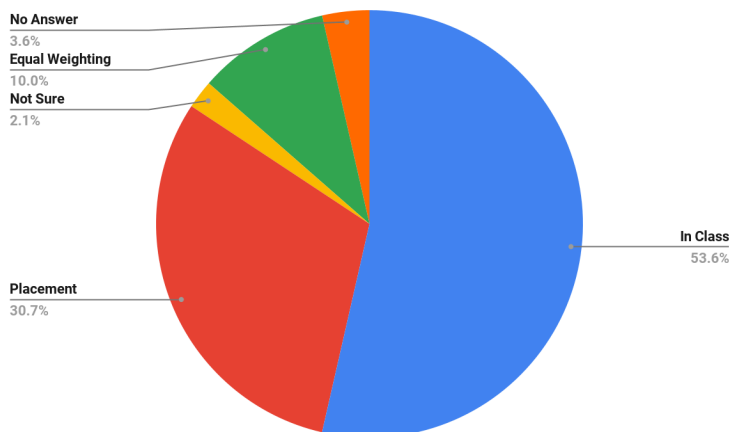
23 respondents were from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Academic Experience

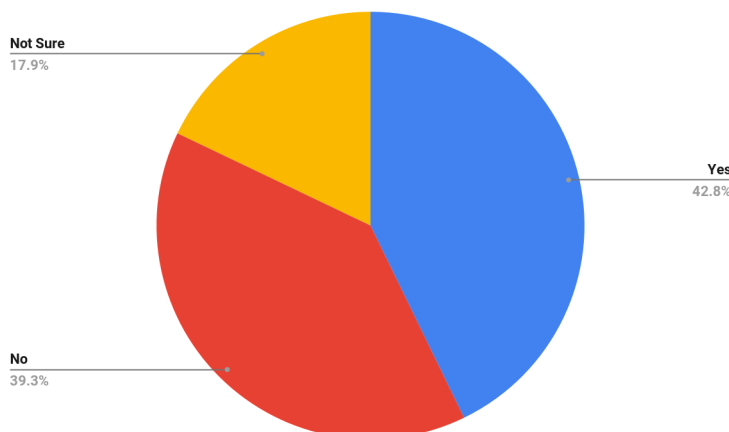
Do you feel that the combination of course work and practical work have provided you with a balanced and rounded level of education and training?



If no, do you feel that your education to date has been too heavily focused on academic in-class learning, or on the practical elements (placements)?



Do you feel that assessment of your overall work is fair and transparent?



This section covers respondents' feelings about the faculty's academic and training processes.

Just under half of respondents feel that they have been provided with a balanced and rounded level of education and training.

When broken out by school, this figure roughly holds for most schools, except for the School of Pharmacy which stands at 57%.

Those who advised that they did not feel that their education was balanced (30.6% or 140 respondents) were asked to clarify in what way their education was unbalanced.

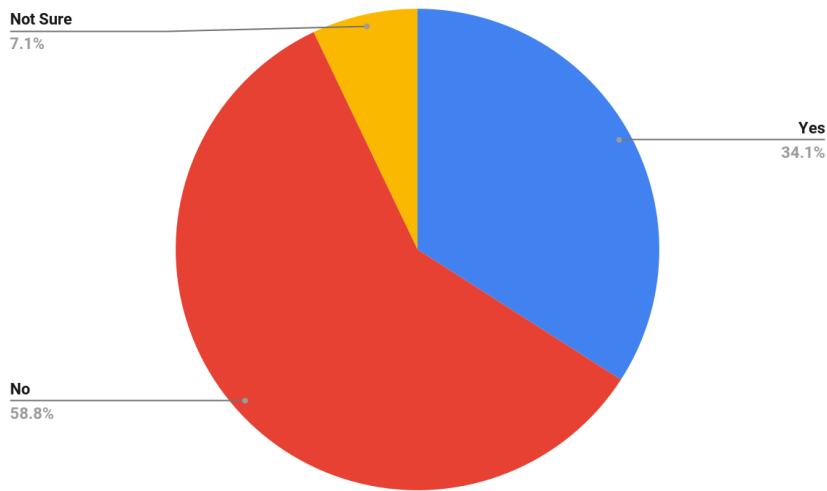
A little over half of those respondents (75 of the 140) felt that there was too much emphasis on in-class training in their course. Of those from the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy who advised that there was an imbalance, all but one respondent advised that the balance was too weighted towards in-class education.

Just under 40% of all respondents advised feeling that the assessment of their work is not fair and transparent.

The major outliers here were the School of Dental Science, where 59.7% of all respondents felt that the assessment of their work was not transparent and the School of Medicine, where only 27.5% of respondents felt that way.

Personal Challenges

Have you ever felt discriminated against while on placement?



In this section, where experience on placement is necessary to answer, the 62 respondents who advised that they had not been on a placement yet have been removed from the answers.

Of those who had been on placement, over one-third (34.1%) felt they had been discriminated against while on placement.

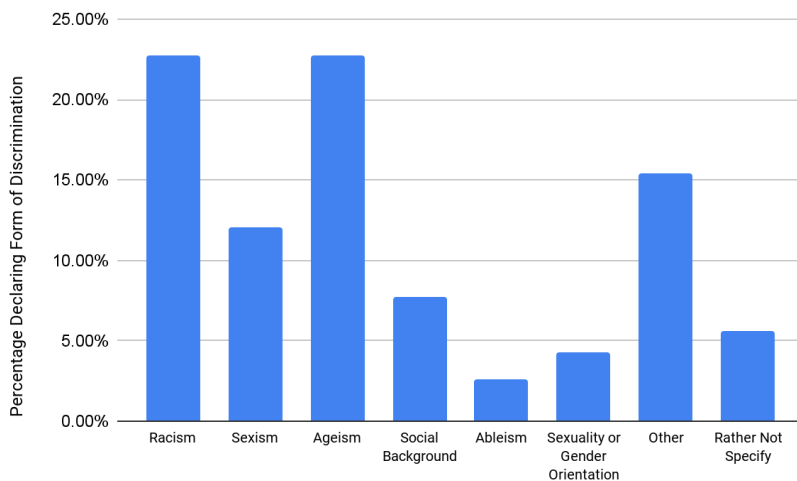
We asked those respondents in what way(s) they felt they had been discriminated against.

Of particular note was that almost a quarter felt that they had been discriminated against due to ageism and a similar amount felt that they had been victims of racism.

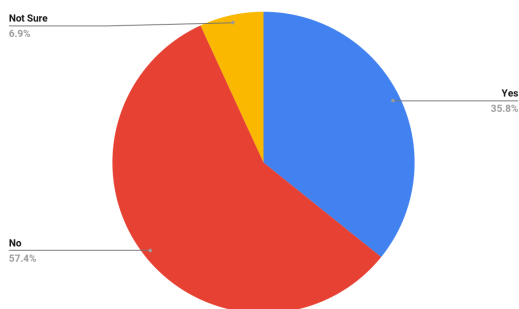
Over a third (35.8%) felt that they had been victimised or bullied while on placement.

Just over two-fifths of all respondents advised that they would not feel that they could approach staff about problems, without fear of repercussions.

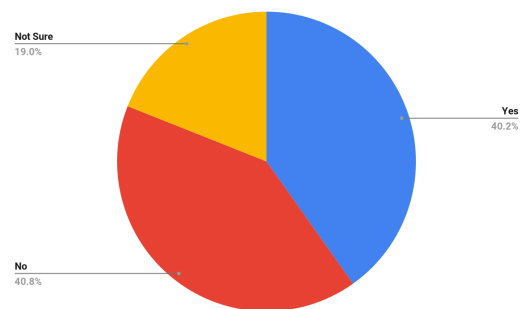
If yes, what kind of discrimination have you felt you have experienced? Feel free to tick multiple boxes if necessary.



Have you ever felt victimised or bullied while on placement?

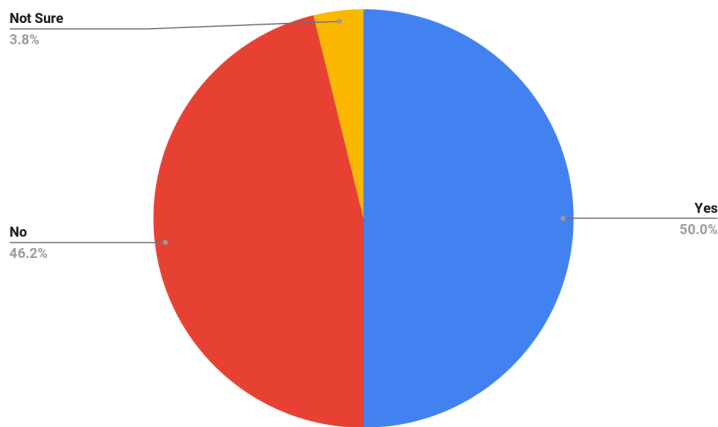


Do you feel comfortable approaching academic and administrative staff with problems or complaints, without fear of repercussion?

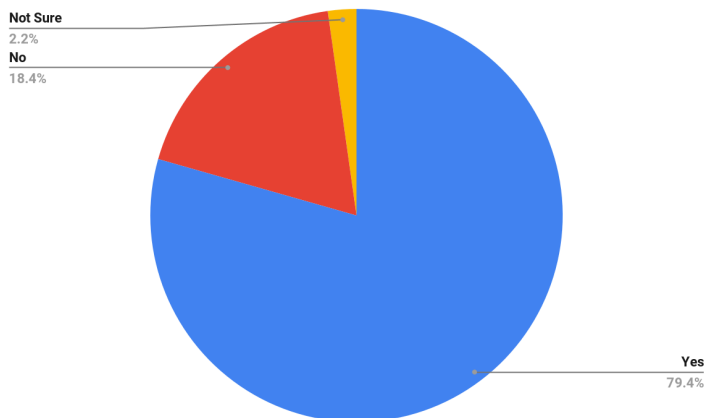


Experiences on Placement

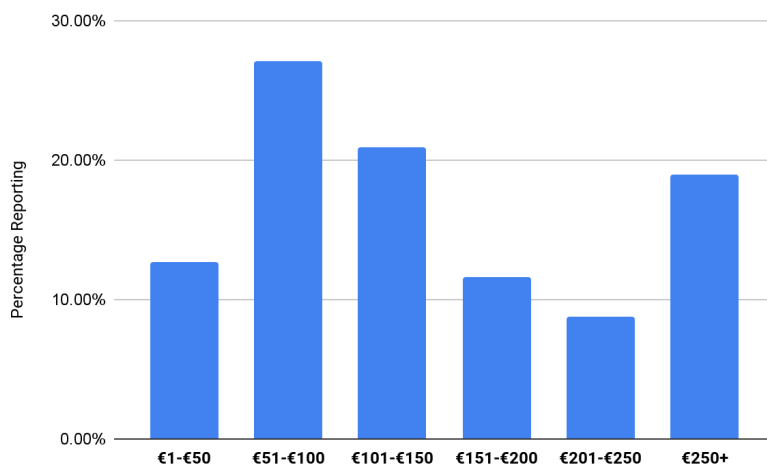
Have you had negative experiences on a placement which have led to you wanting to reconsider this path of study?



Have you experienced significant expenses due to practical elements of your placements? (eg. Needing to buy materials, needing to rent accommodation, needing to travel long distances?)



In addition to your fees (your registration fee or tuition fees), please state the average financial costs directly associated with your course on a monthly basis.



Of those who have been on placement, just under half (46.2%) advised having experiences on placement which have led to them reconsidering their path of study.

This is largely driven by respondents from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, 61% of whom answered 'Yes' to this question.

In contrast, only one respondent from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences answered 'Yes' to that question.

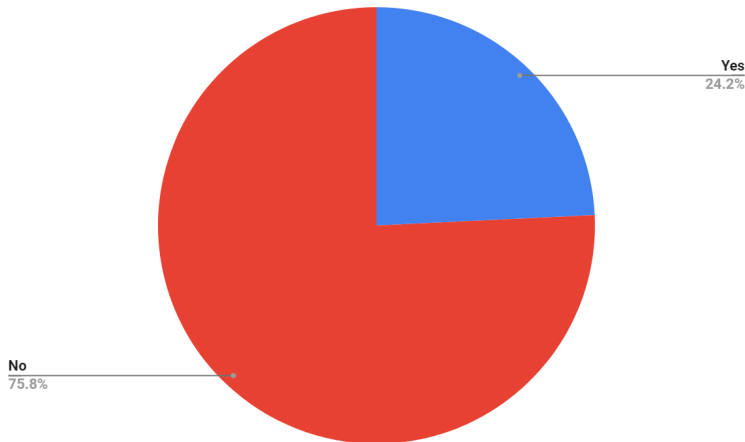
Almost four-fifths (79.4%) of respondents who have been on placement reported having paid out significant expenses due to the practical elements of being on placement.

Over a quarter (27.7%) of all respondents (including those who had not been on placement) reported that they spend over €200 per month (in addition to course fees) in order to take part in their course.

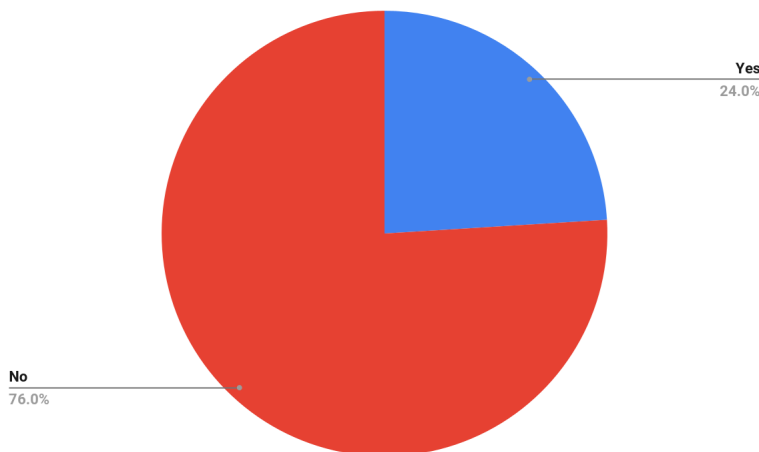
There is a slight weighting towards students in the School of Nursing and Midwifery when it comes to higher levels of course-related expenses. 61.4% of those who spend more than €200 per month on course-related expenses are students in the School of Nursing and Midwifery (compared to 57% of all respondents being in the school).

Life Outside of Studies

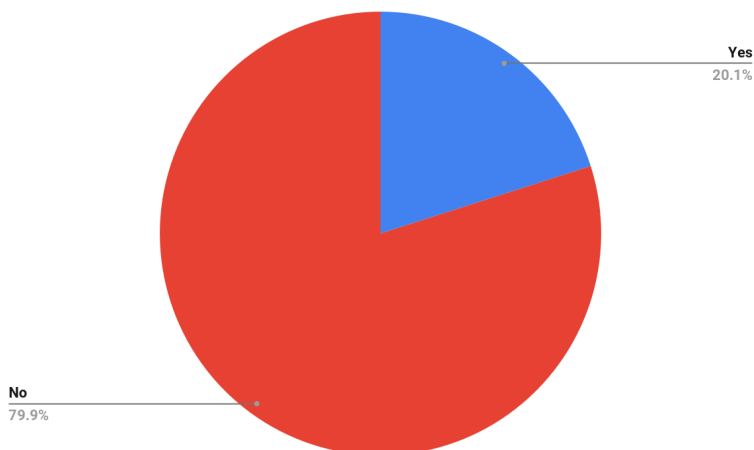
Are you involved on a regular basis with any co-curricular activities in College (e.g. sports club, society, Students' Union)?



Do you feel that you have time to have a healthy social life or pursue hobbies alongside your studies?



Do you feel included in the student activities that take place on the main Trinity campus?



This section looks at the nature of Health Science students' experiences outside of their studies.

Just over three-quarters (75.8) of all respondents reported that they are not involved in any co-curricular college activities.

The main drivers of this figure were 84% of respondents from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and 81% of respondents from the School of Dental Science.

A similar number (76%) reported not having a healthy social life alongside their studies.

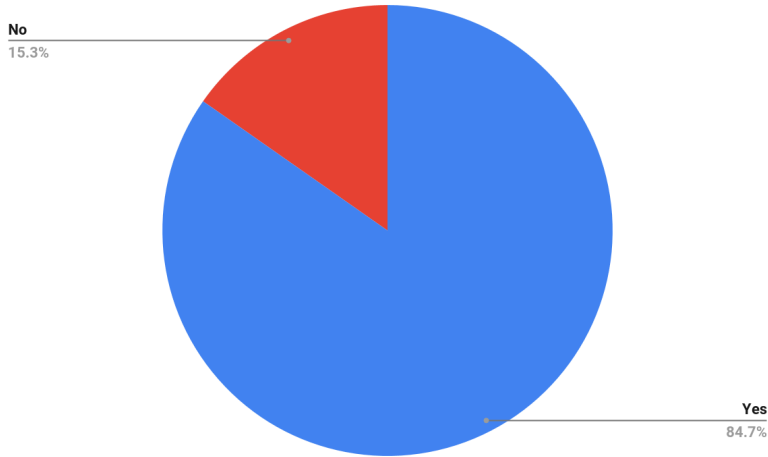
Again, the main drivers of this figure were 80% of respondents from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and 88% of respondents from the School of Dental Science.

Almost four-fifths (79.9%) of respondents reported that the demands of the course were adversely affecting their mental health.

The students who are most affected by this lack of feeling included are those respondents from the School of Dental Science. 94% of these respondents advised not feeling included in student activities.

Life Outside of Studies

At times, have the demands of your course adversely affected your mental health?

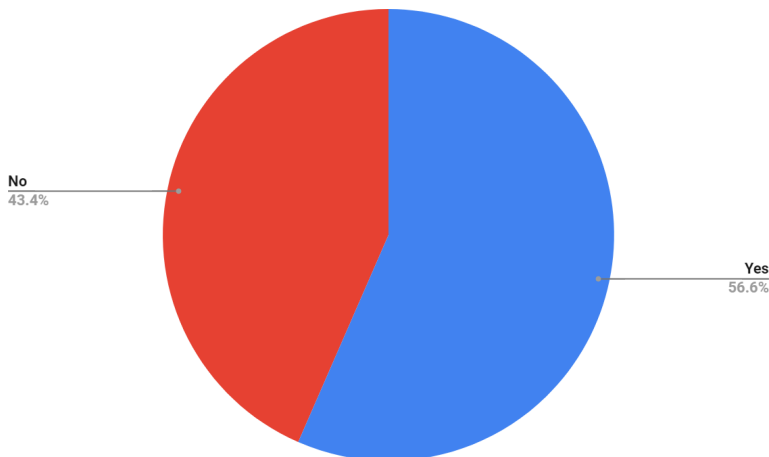


This section looks at the nature of Health Science students experiences outside of their studies.

Over four-fifths (84.7%) of respondents reported that course demands were adversely affecting their mental health.

Additionally worrying is that 100% of respondents from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and 97% of respondents from the School of Dental Science advised that the demands of their course were adversely affecting their mental health.

At times, have the demands of your course led to you wanting to drop out?

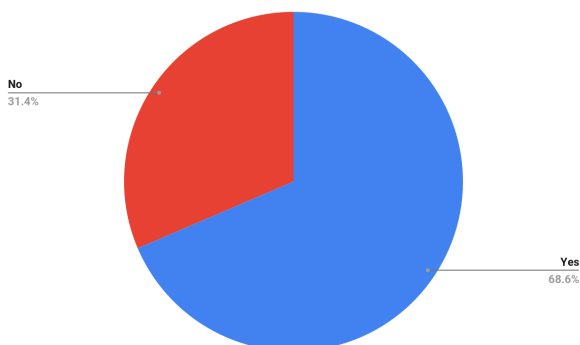


Over half of respondents (56.6%) reported that the demands of the course had led to them wanting to drop out.

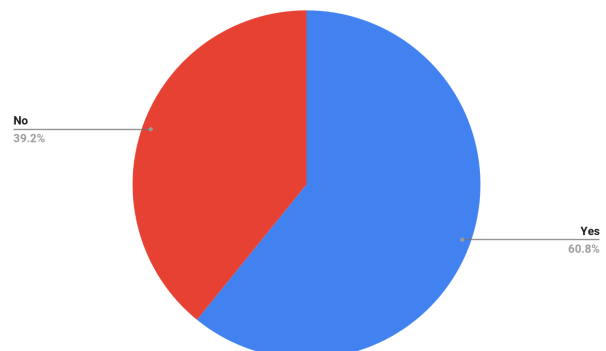
Just over two-thirds (68.6%) of respondents reported that they also work, on top of their studies.

Of those who don't work, just over two-thirds (60.8%) reported that they did not think it would be possible for them to work on top of their studies.

Do you work in any kind of paid job on top of your placements and/or studies?

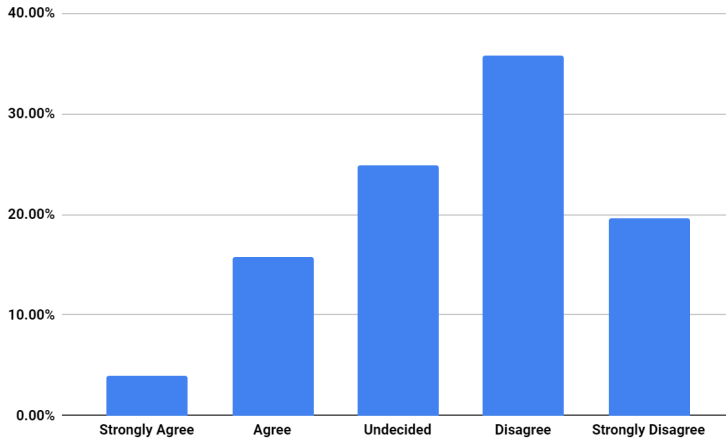


If not, do you feel like it would **not be possible** for you to work an additional job on top of your placements and/or studies?

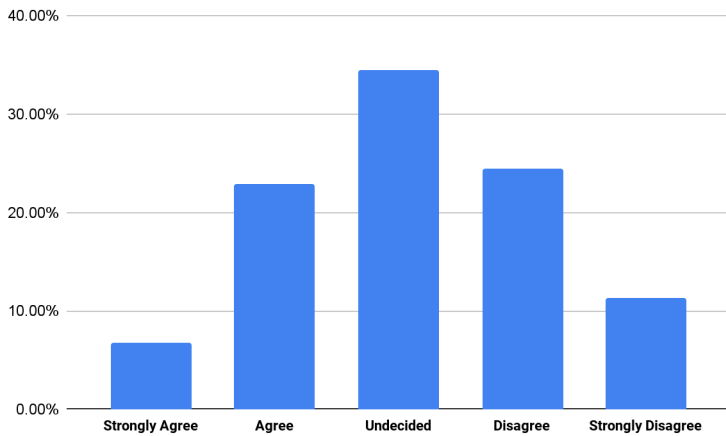


Sentiment Analysis

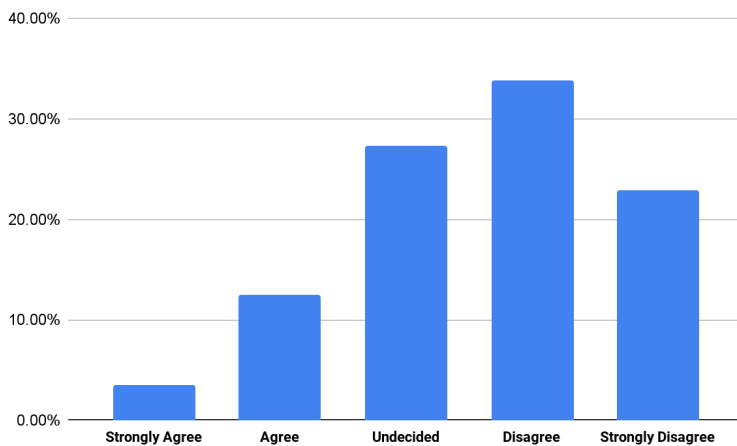
I feel like the college understands and supports my needs as a student, a professional, and a person with interests and responsibilities outside of college



I feel like the Students' Union understands and represents my needs as a student in a professional course.



I feel like college clubs and societies make an effort to cater for students on my course.



In this section, respondents were asked to rank their agreement with a number of statements on a 5-axis 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree' axis.

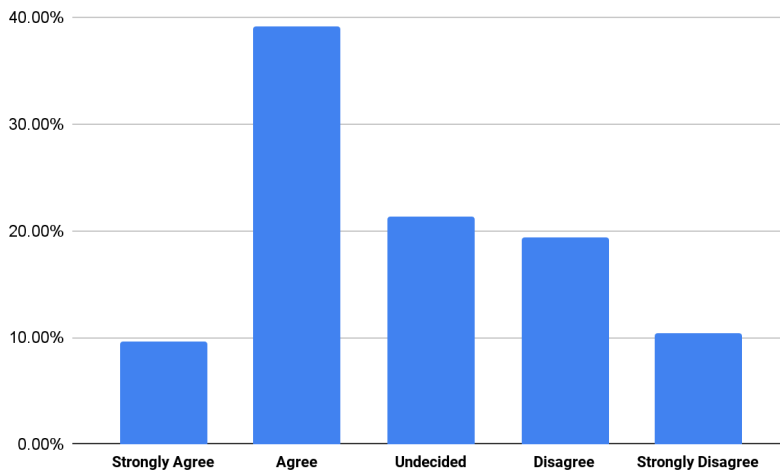
55.5% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the college understood and supported their broad needs.

Over a third (35.8%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Students' Union represented their needs as a student in a professional course.

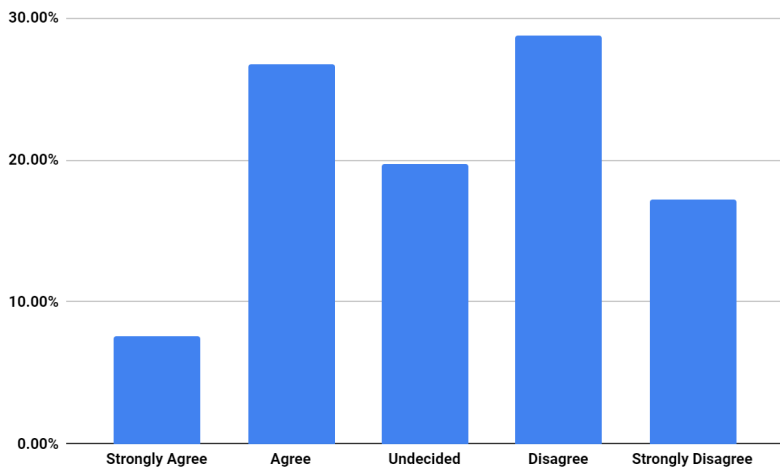
Just over half (56.8%) of all respondents felt that college clubs and societies do not make an effort to cater for students on their course.

Sentiment Analysis

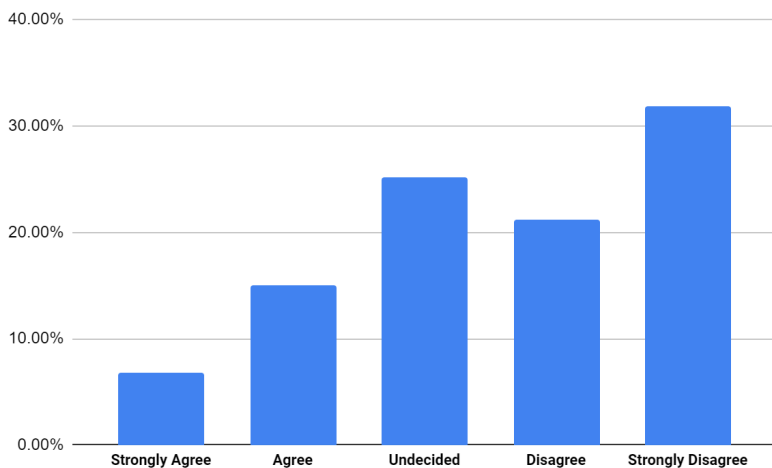
I have generally felt well-supported during my time on placements



I feel like placements are well-planned



I feel like when being assigned a location for placement, adequate consideration is made regarding the distance of the centre from my home base/accommodation



In this section, respondents were asked to rank their agreement with a number of statements on a 5-axis 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree' axis.

Just under half (48.9%) of respondents who have been on placement agreed with the statement that they had felt well-supported during their placements.

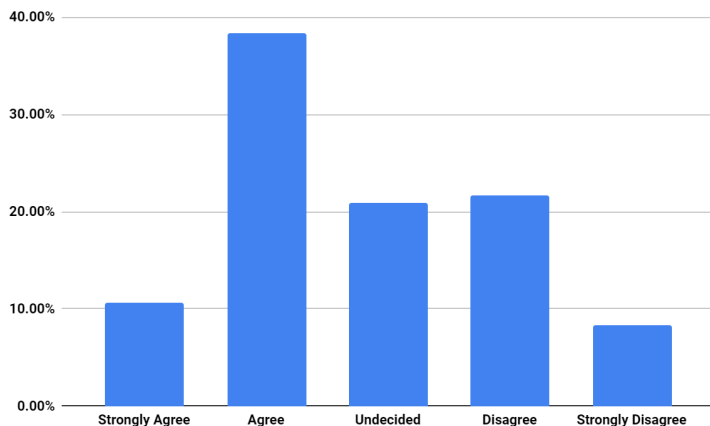
Almost one-third (29.7%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they were, in fact, well supported.

Almost half of respondents (46%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that placements are well planned.

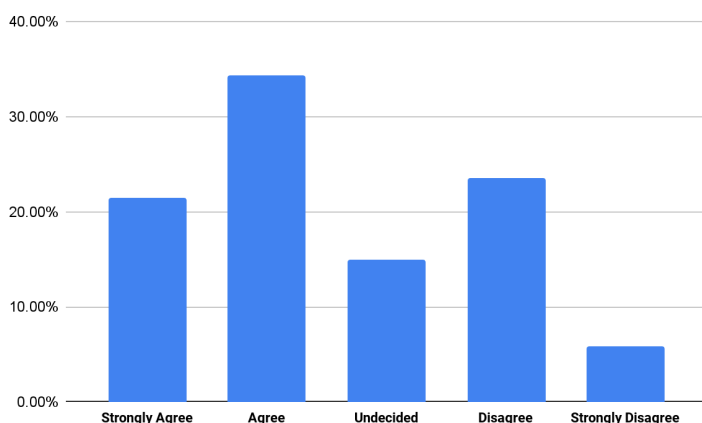
In the lower graph, we see if respondents agree that adequate consideration is given to the distance of a placement to the student's home, or where they study. Over half of all respondents (53.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Sentiment Analysis

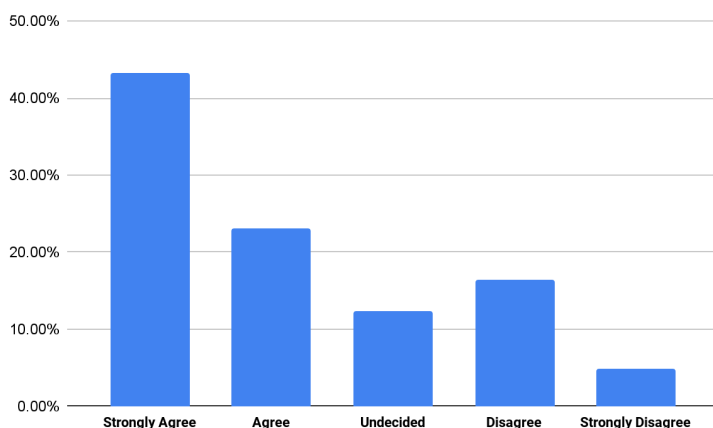
I feel like I have been capable and well-prepared to do all elements of work which have been asked of me while on placement



I feel like I have, on at least one occasion, been given responsibility above and beyond that which is appropriate to my level of qualification while on a placement



I feel like a number of elements of my placements have involved me providing free labour which is not key to helping me learn and develop in my profession



In this section, respondents were asked to rank their agreement with a number of statements on a 5-axis 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree' axis.

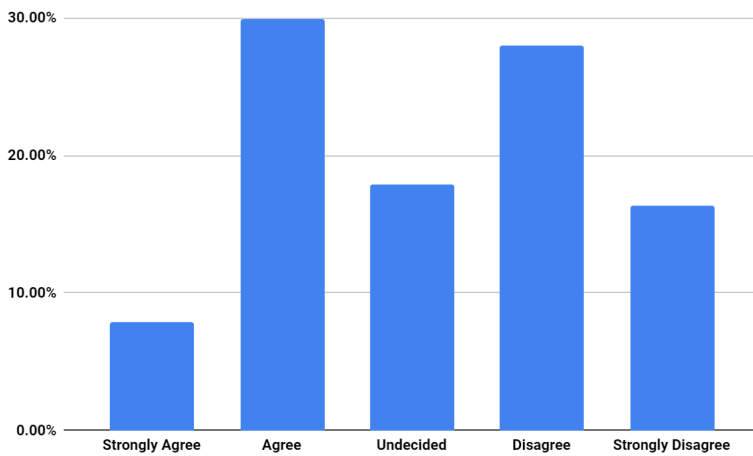
Just under a third (30%) of all respondents who have been on a placement (396 respondents) disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have felt capable and well-prepared to do all elements of work which were asked of them while on placement.

55.8% of respondents who have been on placement agreed that they felt that they had, on at least one occasion been given responsibility above and beyond that which was appropriate for their level of qualification.

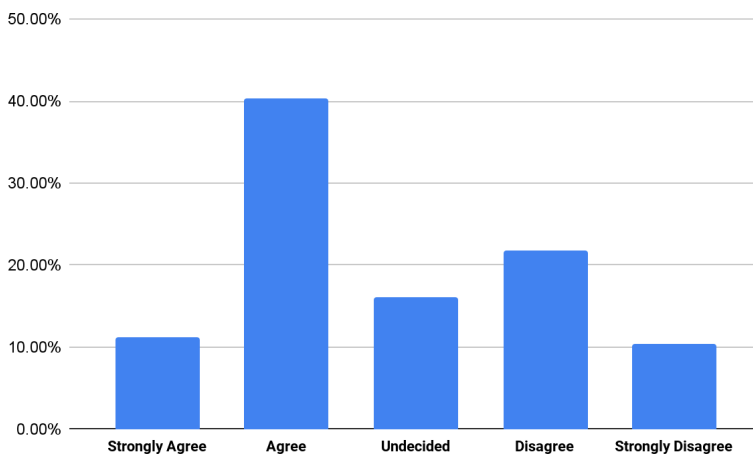
Just under two-thirds of respondents who have been on a placement (66.3%) agreed that they felt that elements of their placements involved them providing free labour which was not key to helping their education.

Sentiment Analysis

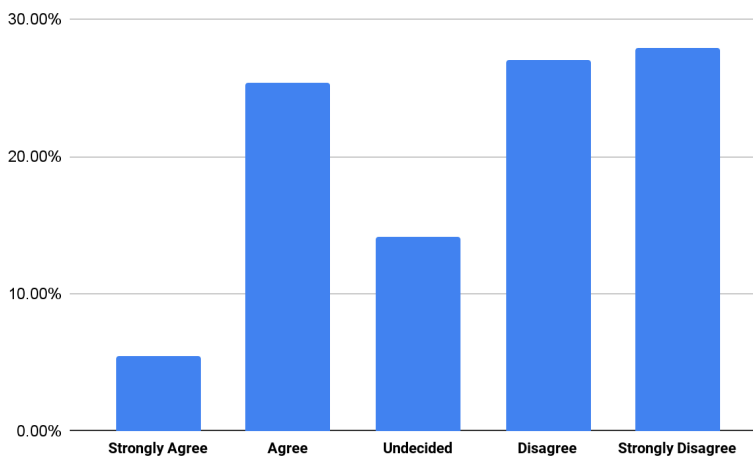
I feel like the locations where I study are well-resourced in terms of social space for students.



I feel like the locations where I study are well-resourced in terms of study space for students.



I feel like the locations where I study are well-resourced in terms of food options for students.



In this section, respondents were asked to rank their agreement with a number of statements on a 5-axis 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree' axis.

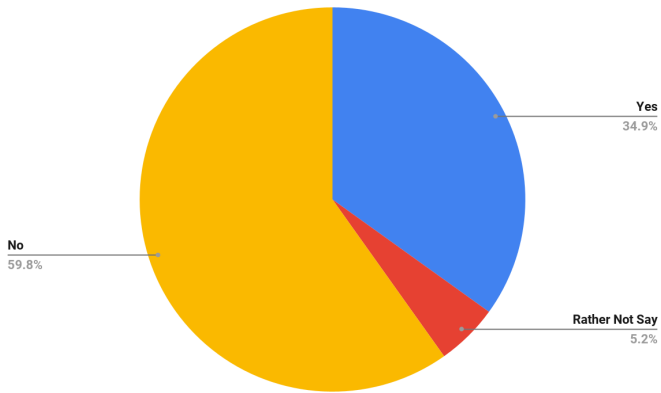
Just over two-fifths (44.3%) of respondents disagreed that the locations in which they study are well-resourced, in terms of social space.

Just over half (51.5%) of respondents agreed that the locations in which they study are well-resourced, in terms of study space.

Just over two-fifths (55%) disagreed that the locations in which they study are well-resourced, in terms of food options..

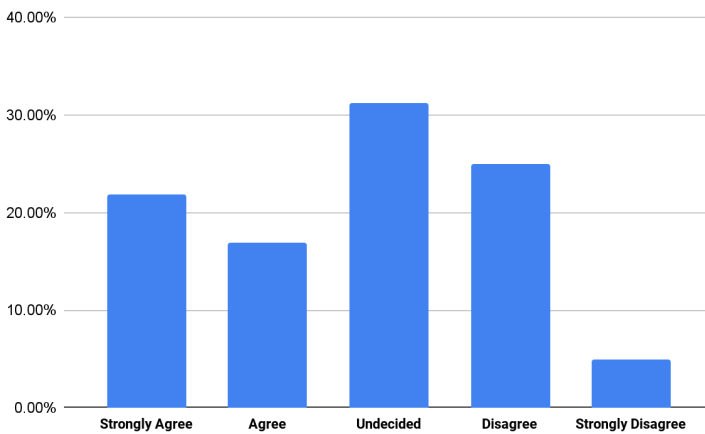
Union Representation

Are you a member of the relevant union for your area of professional training?

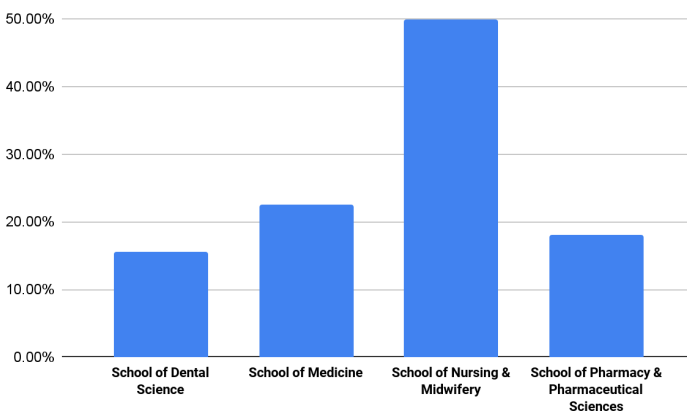


If you are in a professional union, then rate this statement.

"If I was in difficulty with my course, I would rather seek advice from my professional union representative rather than the Students' Union or my college tutor."



Proportion of membership of Professional Unions within schools



This section looks at membership of the professional unions which many students in the Faculty of Health Sciences will be entitled to join and be represented by.

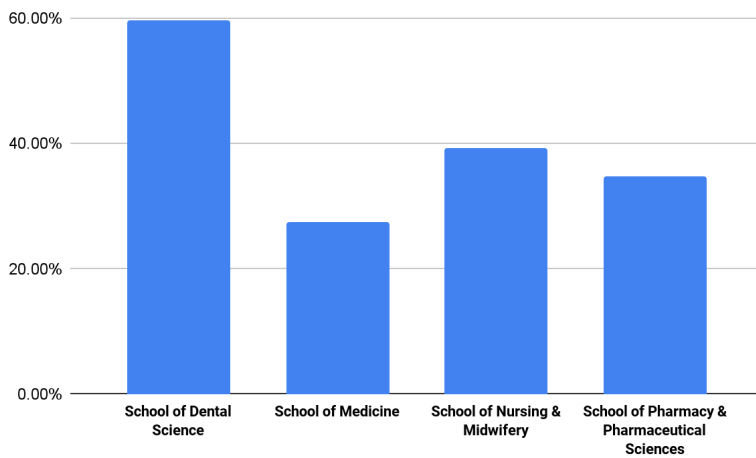
Just under three-fifths (59.8%) of respondents reported that they are not members of the relevant professional union. Just over a third (34.9%) advised that they were members of their professional union.

However, of the portion of respondents who are members of their union, 38.8% reported that they would rather get advice from their professional union than from the Students' Union or their College Tutor than the portion who advised. 30% disagreed with this statement.

In the bottom graph, we look at those respondents who were comfortable advising as to whether or not they are members of professional unions. In the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the level of reported membership is at 50%, significantly higher than that in any other school.

Specific Questions and Outliers

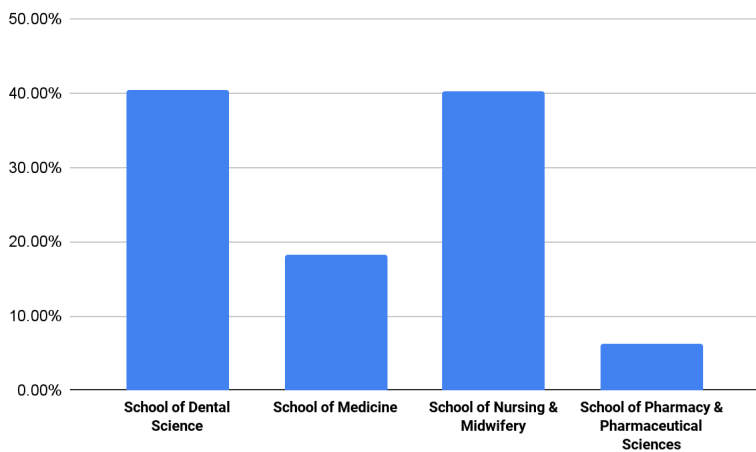
Respondents who answered 'No' to the question 'Do you feel that assessment of your overall work is fair and transparent?'



This section looks at cases where specific questions had broadly different answers, depending on the school of the respondents. It may highlight school-specific issues which impact certain areas of education or student life.

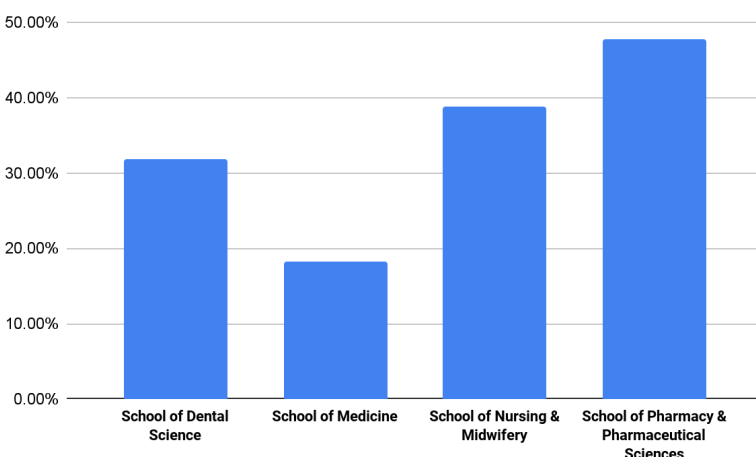
When looking at those who felt that the assessment of their work was not fair and transparent, this issue is most present in the School of Dental Science, where 59.7% of respondents reported this. The issue was least prevalent in the School of Medicine.

Respondents who answered 'Yes' to the question 'Have you ever felt discriminated against while on placement?'



There is a wide variance in those who advised that they had felt discriminated against while on placement. 40.4% of respondents from the School of Dental Science and 40.2% of respondents from the School of Nursing and Midwifery advised that they had felt discriminated against.

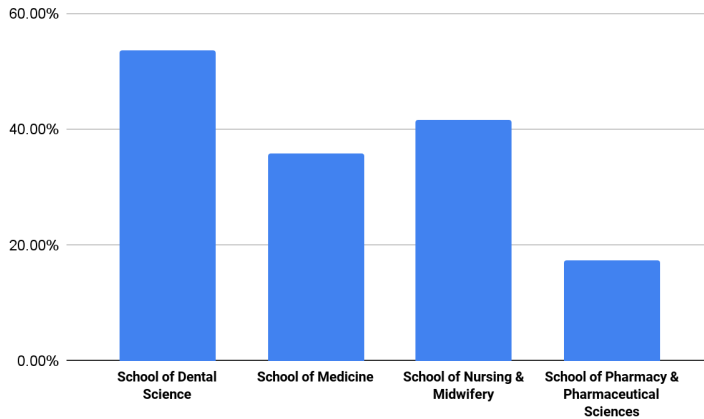
Respondents who answered 'Yes' to the question 'Have you ever felt victimised or bullied while on placement?'



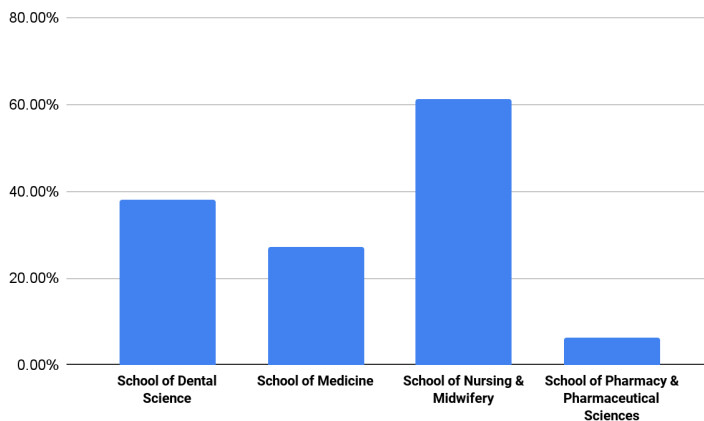
While respondents in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences were the lowest 'Yes' respondents in the previous question, they reported the highest proportional incidence of feeling victimised or bullied. 47.8% of respondents from this school responded 'Yes' to this question.

Specific Questions and Outliers

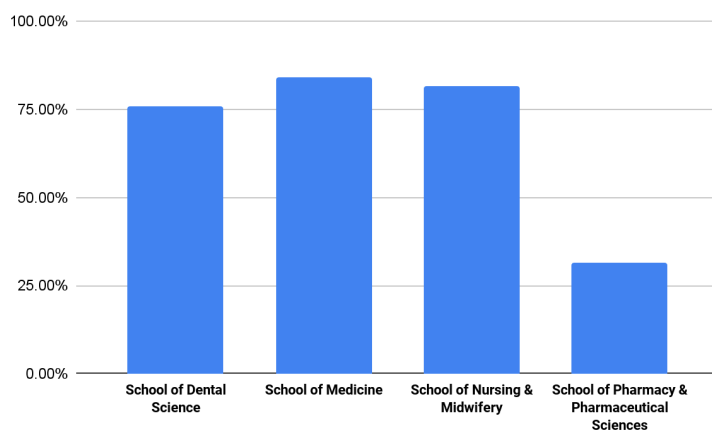
Respondents who answered ‘No’ to the question ‘Do you feel comfortable approaching academic and administrative staff with problems or complaints, without fear of repercussion?’



Respondents who answered ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Have you had negative experiences on a placement which have led to you wanting to reconsider this path of study?’



Respondents who answered ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Have you experienced significant expenses due to practical elements of your placements?’



This section looks at cases where specific questions had broadly different answers, depending on the school of the respondents. It may highlight school-specific issues which impact certain areas of education or student life.

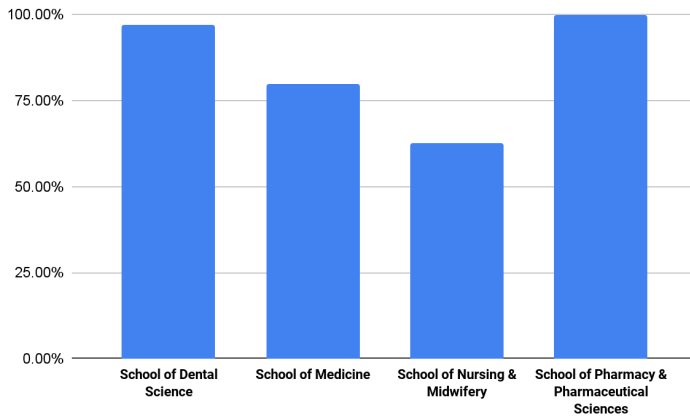
For the question ‘Do you feel comfortable approaching academic and administrative staff with problems or complaints, without fear of repercussion?’, the School of Dental Science was a notable outlier. 53.7% of respondents from this school advised that they would not feel comfortable approaching staff about issues, without fear of repercussion.

In terms of students who advised that they had had negative experience on placement which have led to them wanting to reconsider their path of study, the highest incidence of this was in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. 61.3% of respondents from this school advised this.

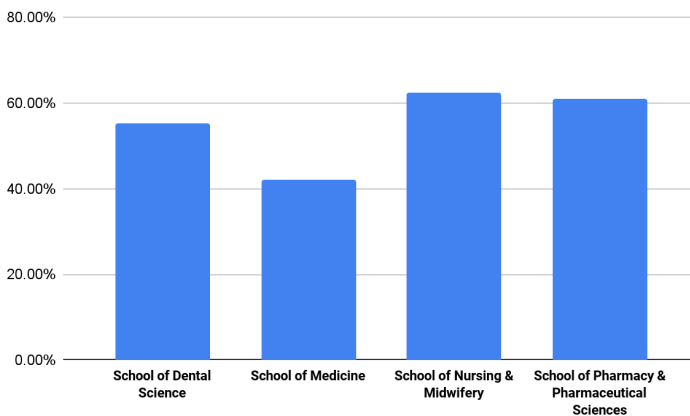
For three of the four schools, over 75% of respondents advised that they had experienced significant expenses due to practical elements of their placements. The exception to this was the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where the figure was only 31.3%.

Specific Questions and Outliers

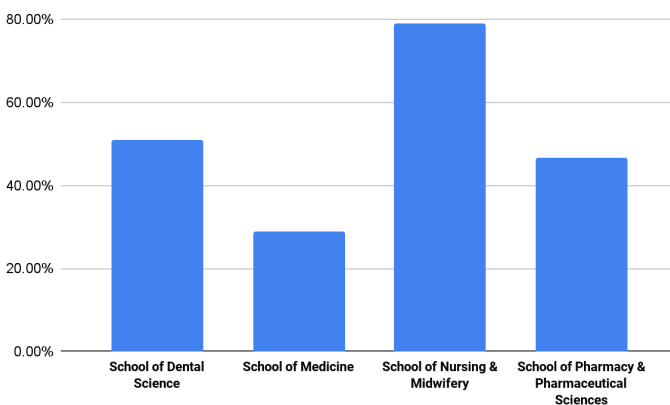
Respondents who answered 'Yes' to the question 'At times, have the demands of your course adversely affected your mental health?'



Respondents who answered 'Yes' to the question 'At times, have the demands of your course led to you wanting to drop out?'



Respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I feel like I have, on at least one occasion, been given responsibility above and beyond that which is appropriate to my level of qualification while on a placement.'



This section looks at cases where specific questions had broadly different answers, depending on the school of the respondents. It may highlight school-specific issues which impact certain areas of education or student life.

The highest incidences of respondents advising that the demands of their course had adversely affected their mental health were in the School of Dental Science and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. 97% of Dental Science respondents and every single Pharmacy respondent reported this.

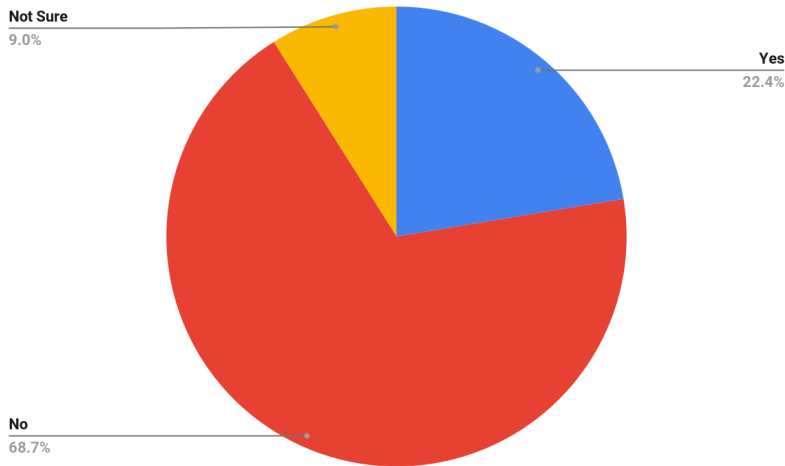
For those who answered that, at times, the demands of their course had led to them wanting to drop out, the variance between schools is less extreme than in other examples presented here. However, it is notable that over 60% of respondents from each of the School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences reported this issue.

79% of respondents from the School of Nursing and Midwifery either agreed or strongly agreed that they had, on at least one occasion, been given responsibility above and beyond that which they felt was appropriate to their level of qualification while on a placement.

Specific Questions and Outliers

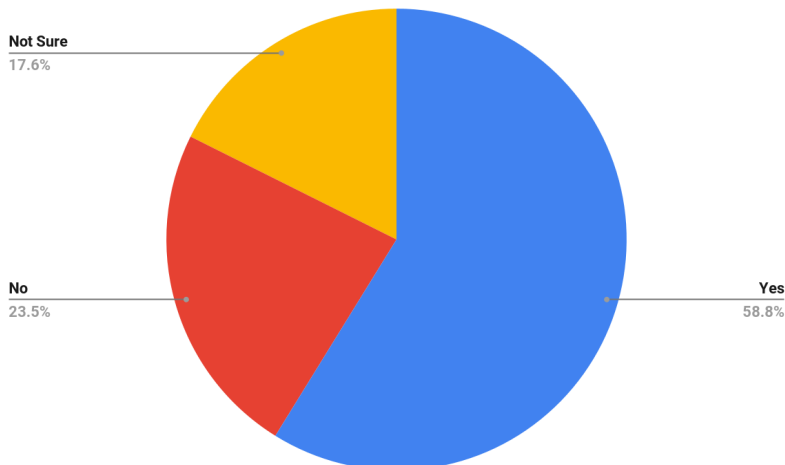
School of Dental Science specific question:

Do you feel your timetable allows enough time to complete all necessary dental tasks given? (patient management, labwork, PBL, projects, etc.)



Dental Nursing / Hygiene / Technology specific question:

Do you feel that your course is often overlooked due to the School's focus on Dental Science education?



This section looks at two questions which were only asked to students in the School of Dental Science.

Over two-thirds (68.7%) of respondents from the school advised that they did not feel that their timetable allows for enough time to complete the necessary dental tasks given to them.

Students in Dental Nursing, Dental Technology and Dental Hygiene were specifically asked if they felt that their course is often overlooked due to the focus in the School on Dental Science. Almost two-thirds (58.8%) of respondents agreed that this was the case.