

Annual Climate Action Survey 2023/24 results

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For any queries, please contact
climateaction@bath.ac.uk



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Overview



- This is the third time we've run this all-student and all-staff survey
- The survey was different from two previous versions and covered the following:
 - Footprint contribution
 - Eco-anxiety
 - Empowerment
 - Awareness
 - Travel
 - Education
 - Partnerships
 - Sustainable food

Topics covered in the survey give just a snapshot of the areas we're working on. Exclusion from the survey is not necessarily an indication of lack of priority or work.

- The survey was developed and analysed in collaboration with Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, Dr Paul Haggard and Kaloyan Mitev

Survey aims



1. Track progress towards our net zero goals
2. Understand community views, opportunities and challenges to help inform decision-making
3. Increase Climate Action awareness and engagement across our community

Key findings



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1. In the context of 'survey fatigue' and other priorities, we continue to have a strong response from the community. This compares well with similar surveys undertaken across the sector.
2. There is an overwhelming sense of 'worry' about climate change from the survey respondents.
3. We need to focus some attention on raising awareness of the actions which the University is taking on climate change and the actions which individuals and groups can take.
4. This should be supported through training and education (formal and informal).
5. For a number of respondents, the effort made by the University to address climate change is a factor in their satisfaction with working or studying at Bath.

- Decreased participation:
 - 8.4% of students (14% in 22/23)
 - 30.2% of staff (41% in 22/23)
- Student responses provide good representation from all faculties, levels of study and demographics, with strongest representation from first year students
- Staff responses provide fair representation with stronger participation from professional and technical services staff, and slightly lower academics participating
- Participation beyond the typical keen 'green'
 - 60% staff do not consider climate change to be part of their role
 - 42% students do not consider climate change to be part of their course

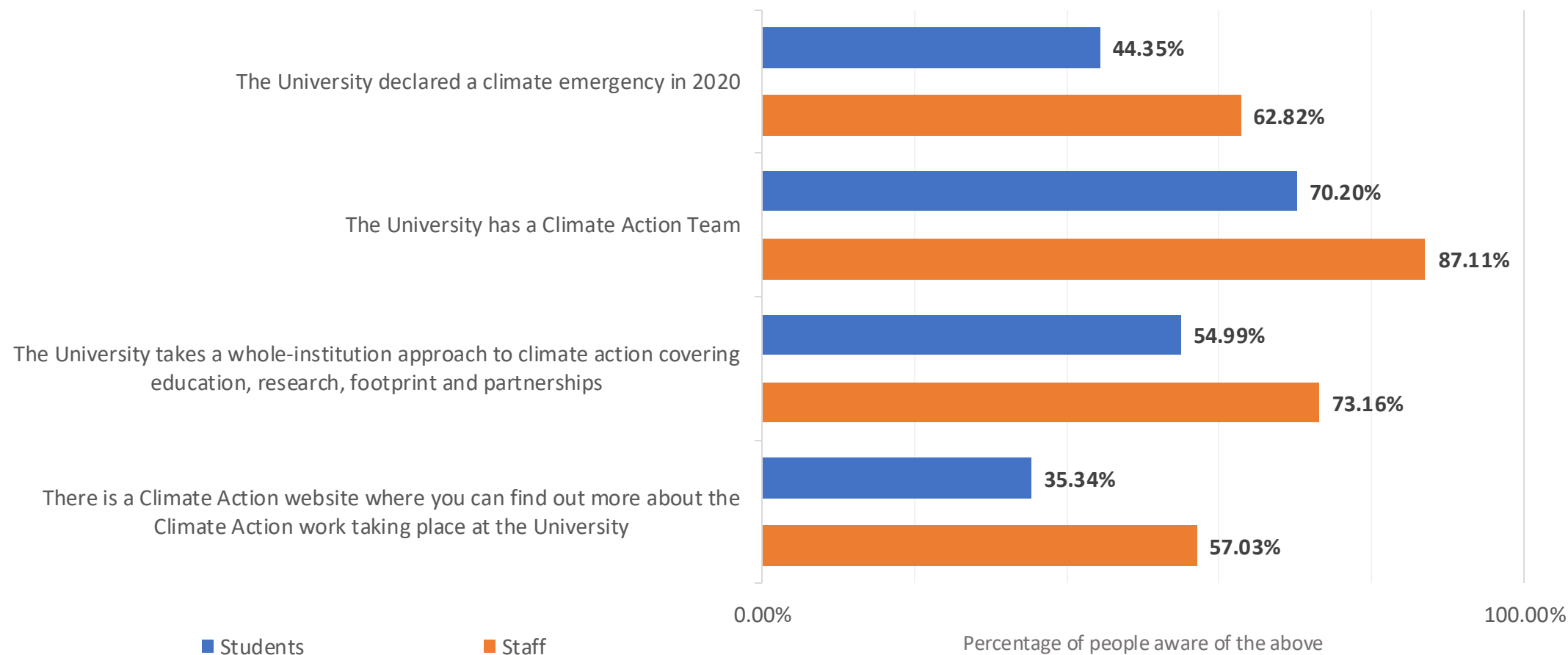
Organisational change



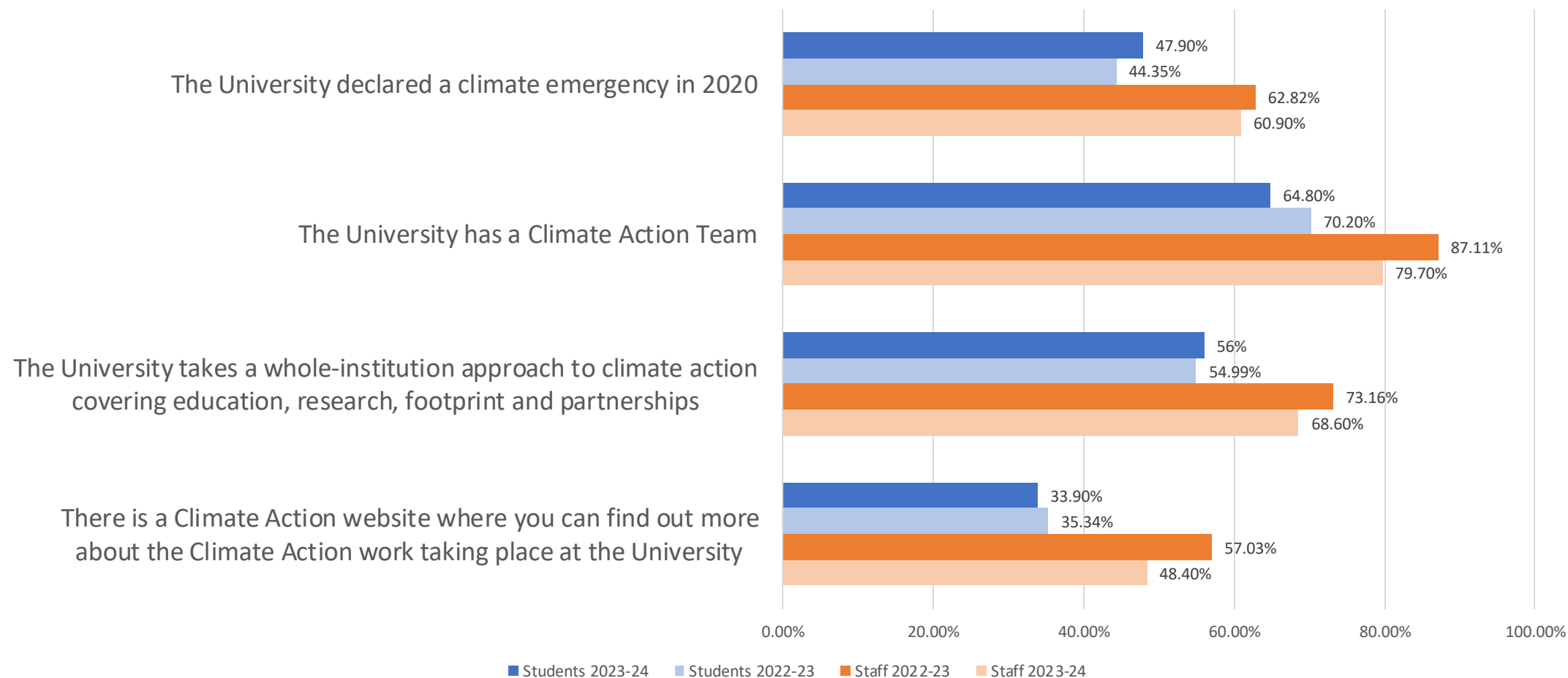
- Our community:
 - are worried about climate change
 - are actively engaged on the topic
 - want to take action but are not all empowered to do so
- Climate change poses a wellbeing challenge and opportunity
- Staff are more aware of CAF than students



Awareness levels



Awareness Levels



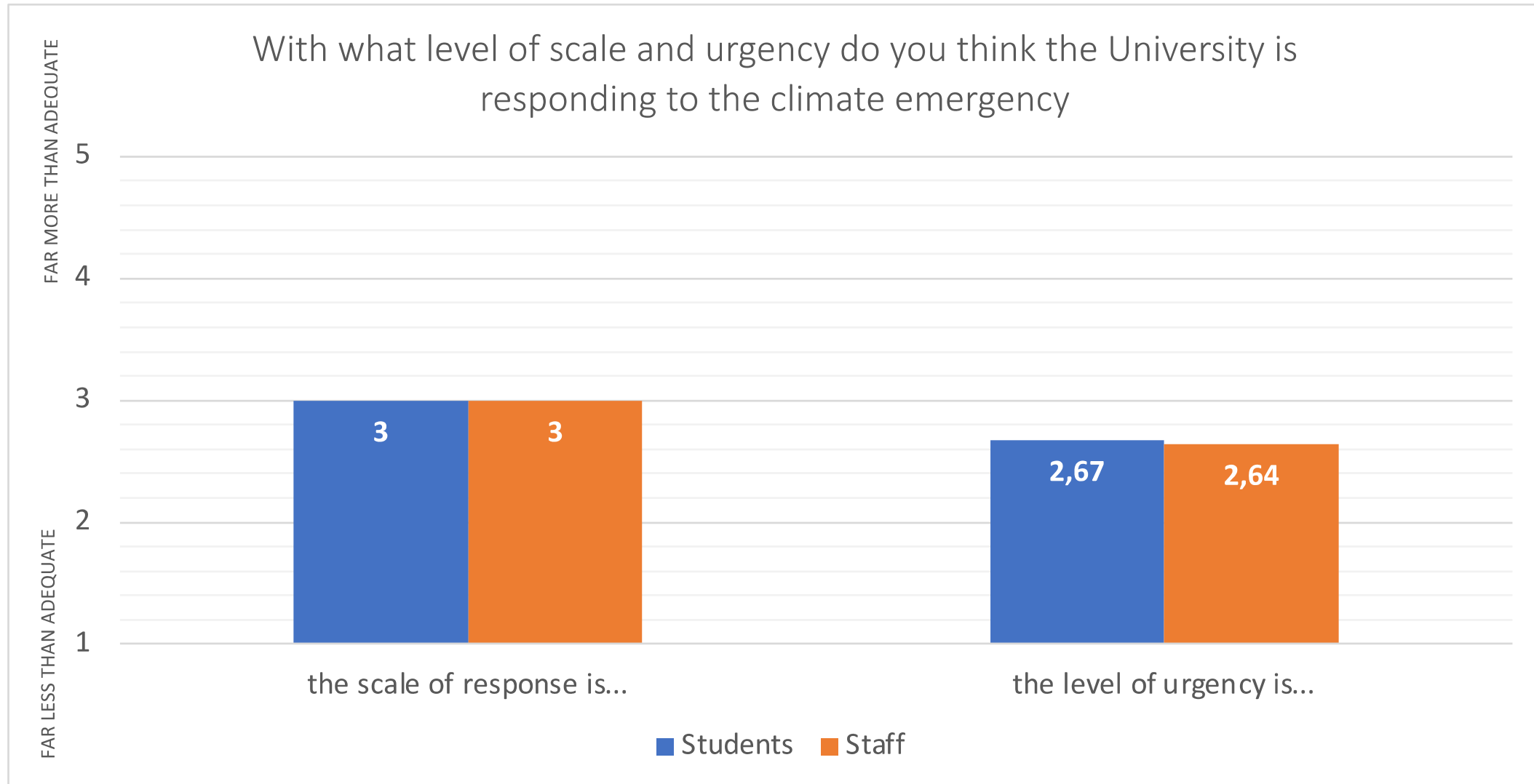
University response



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Student view of university response

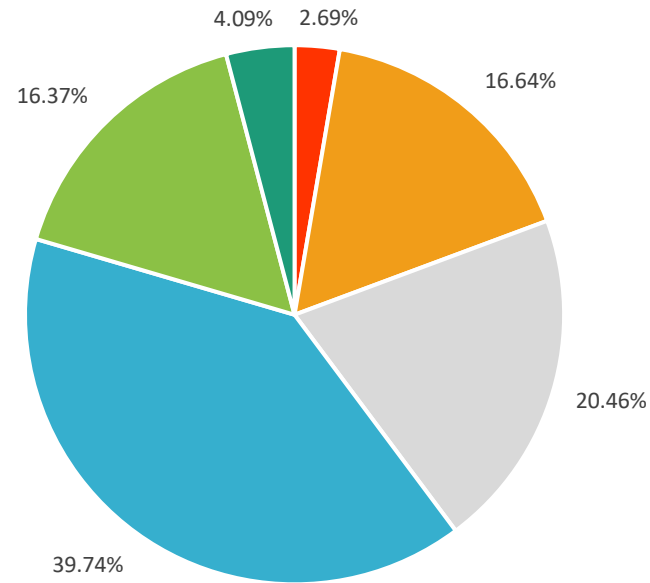


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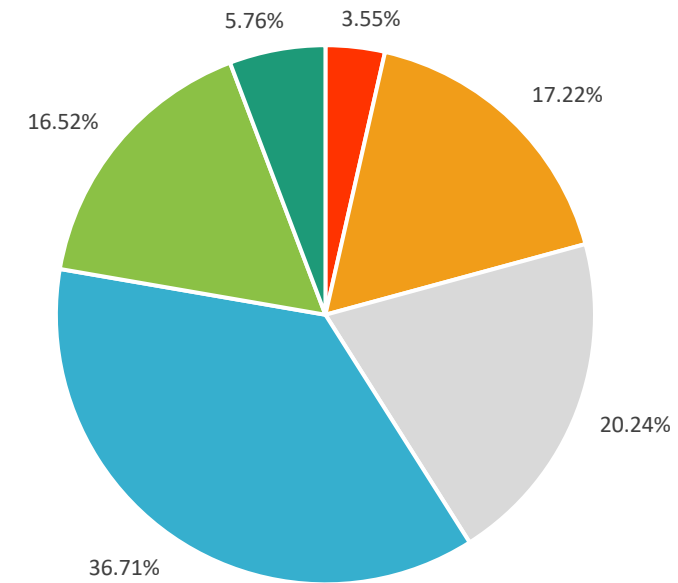
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The University's **scale of response** to the climate emergency is...



- Far less than adequate
- Less than adequate
- I don't have enough knowledge to answer this question
- Adequate
- More than adequate
- Far more than adequate

The University's **level of urgency** to respond to the climate emergency is...



- Far less than adequate
- Less than adequate
- I don't have enough knowledge to answer this question
- Adequate
- More than adequate
- Far more than adequate

Staff view of university response

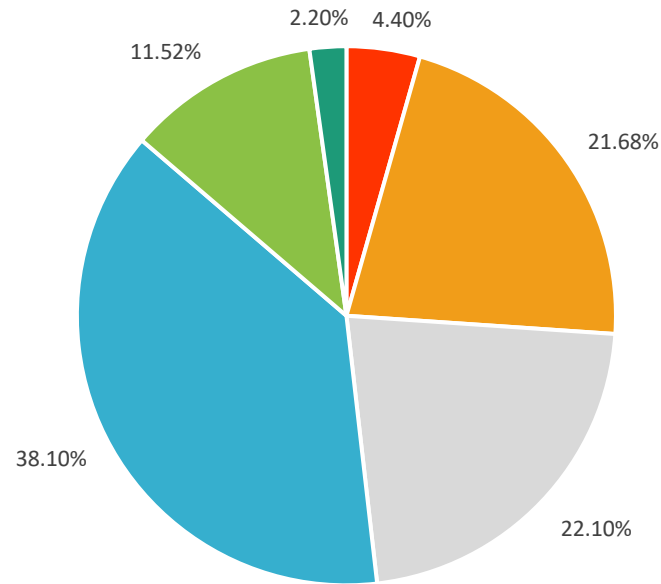


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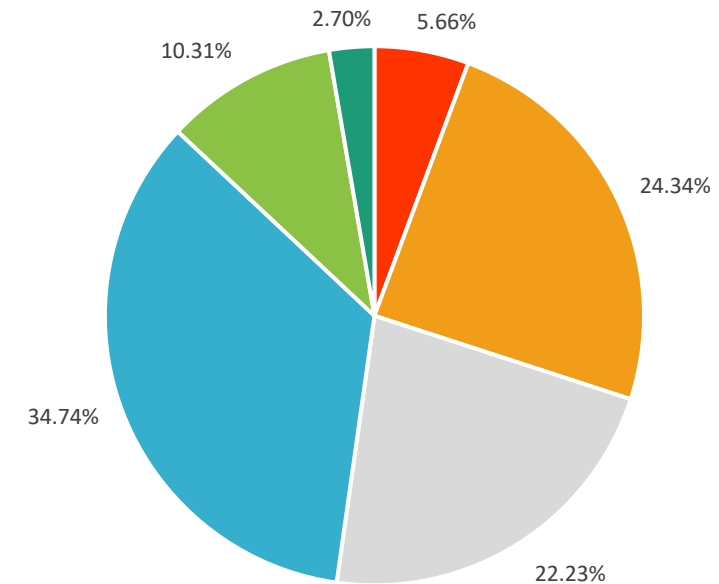
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The University's **level of urgency** to respond to the climate emergency is...



- Far less than adequate
- Less than adequate
- I don't have enough knowledge to answer this question
- Adequate
- More than adequate
- Far more than adequate

With what level of scale and urgency do you think the University is responding to the climate emergency? Details below provided to explain results on previous slide

1. The University is doing well
2. The University could do a lot more (eg, improving infrastructure)
3. The response is not urgent enough/2040 is not soon enough
4. There are good communications/awareness campaigns
5. More information/awareness is needed (eg, tracking progress)
6. There are a lot of words but less big/drastring actions
7. I know some of the things the University has done but lack details of the bigger picture
8. It is doing better than other universities/institutions
9. I am not aware of what the University is doing
10. The University has declared a climate emergency/2040 is a good target

Staff recruitment and retention

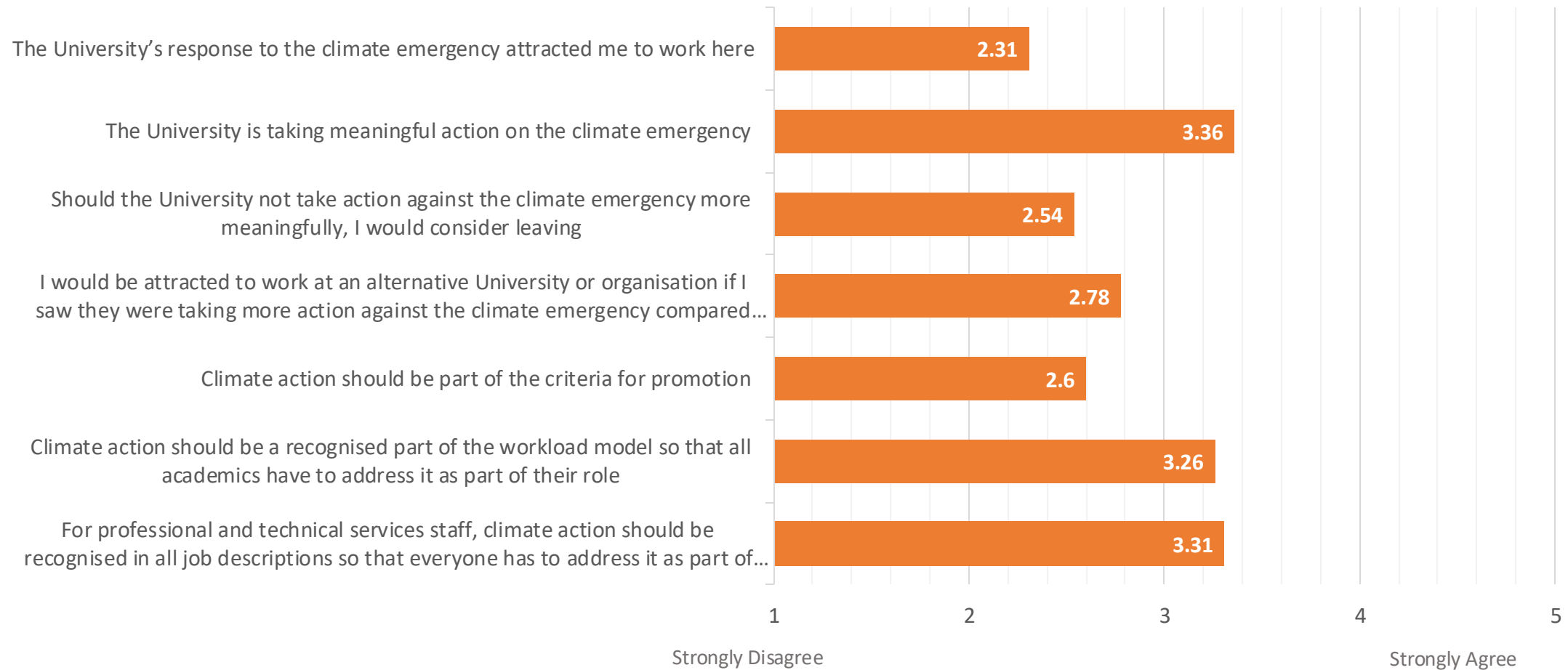


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Levels of agreeableness



Staff recruitment and retention

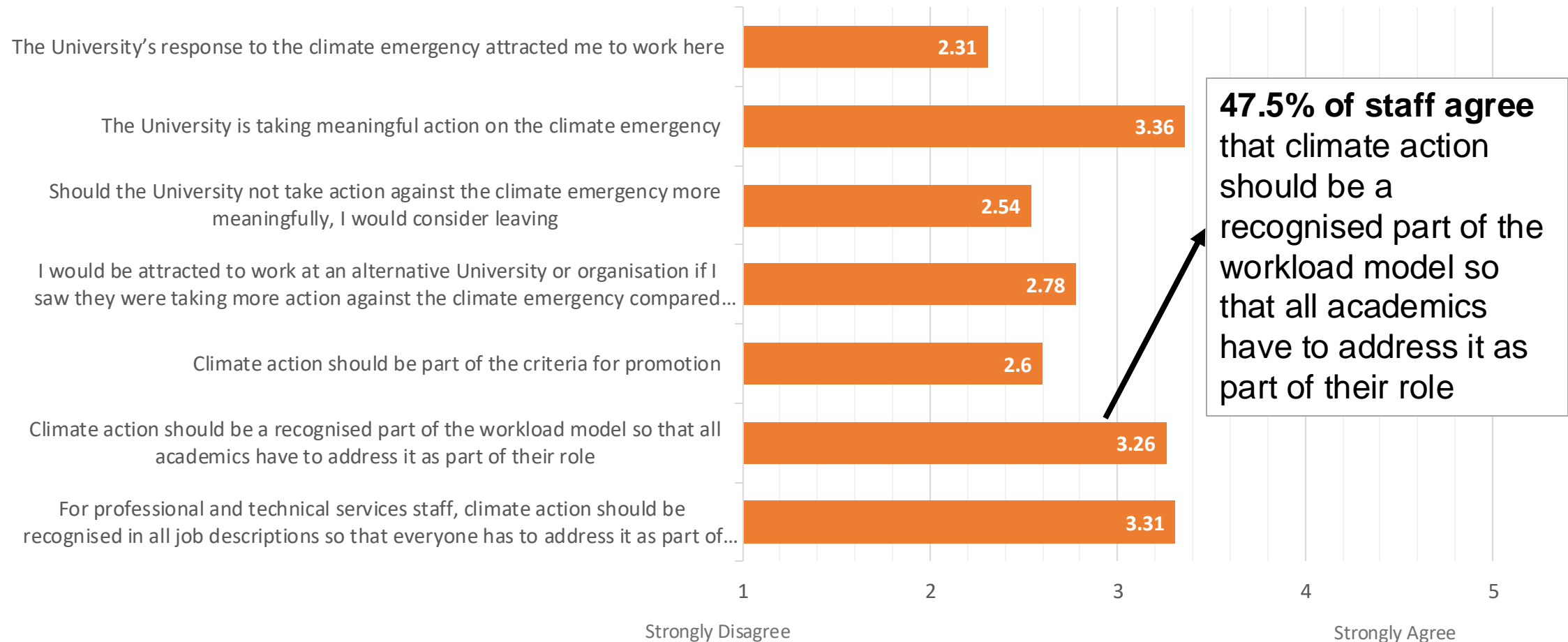


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Levels of agreeableness



Staff recruitment and retention

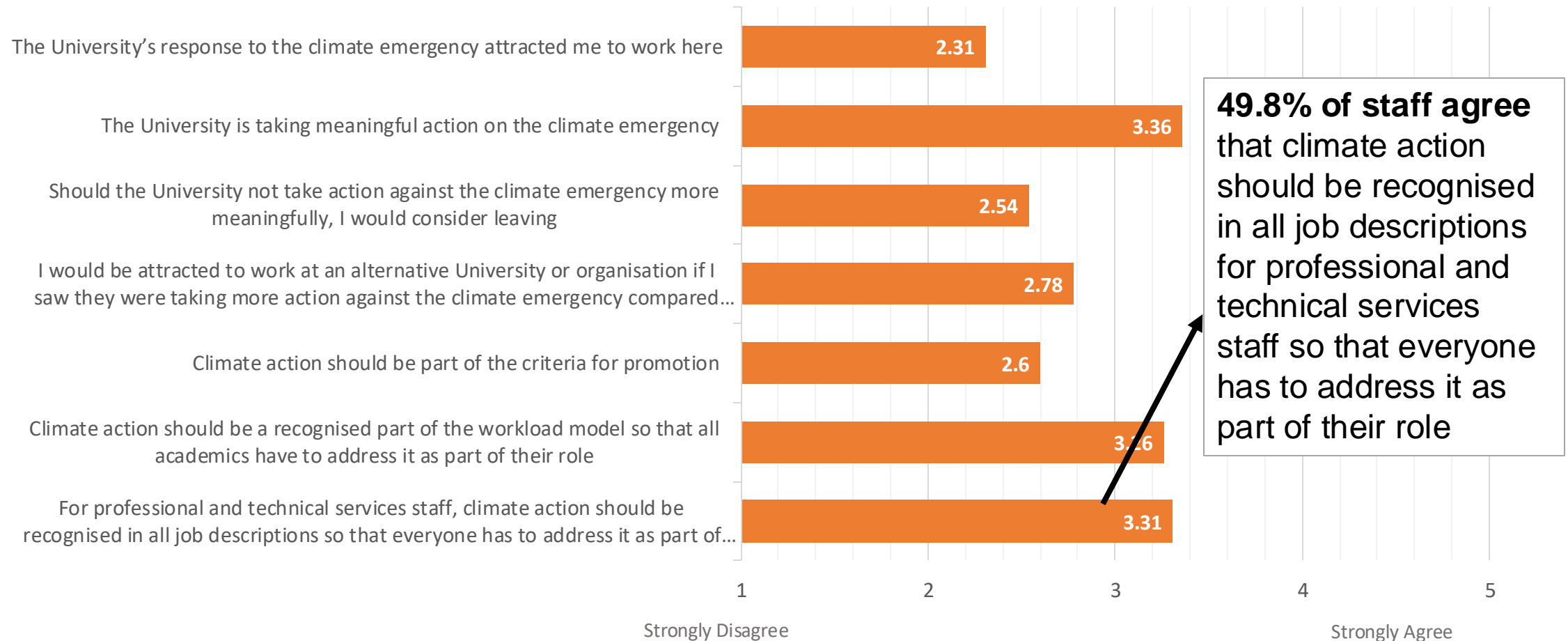


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Levels of agreeableness



Staff recruitment and retention



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The following percentages of staff **would be attracted to work at an alternative University or organisation** if they saw they were taking more action against the climate emergency compared to the University of Bath



34.8%

Early career
academics



25.3%

Senior
academics



23.1%

Professional
services staff



29.6%

Technical and
experimental
staff



26.7%

University
Executive
Board



27.8%

Students'
Union staff

The University's response to the climate emergency presents an opportunity and risk to student recruitment.

When asked about the importance of the following factors in their decision making before applying

- 26% students said the **University's response to the climate emergency** was important
- 31% students said **how well climate action is embedded into their course** was important
- 26% students said **the range and breadth of opportunities available at the University to get involved in climate action** was important

Student recruitment

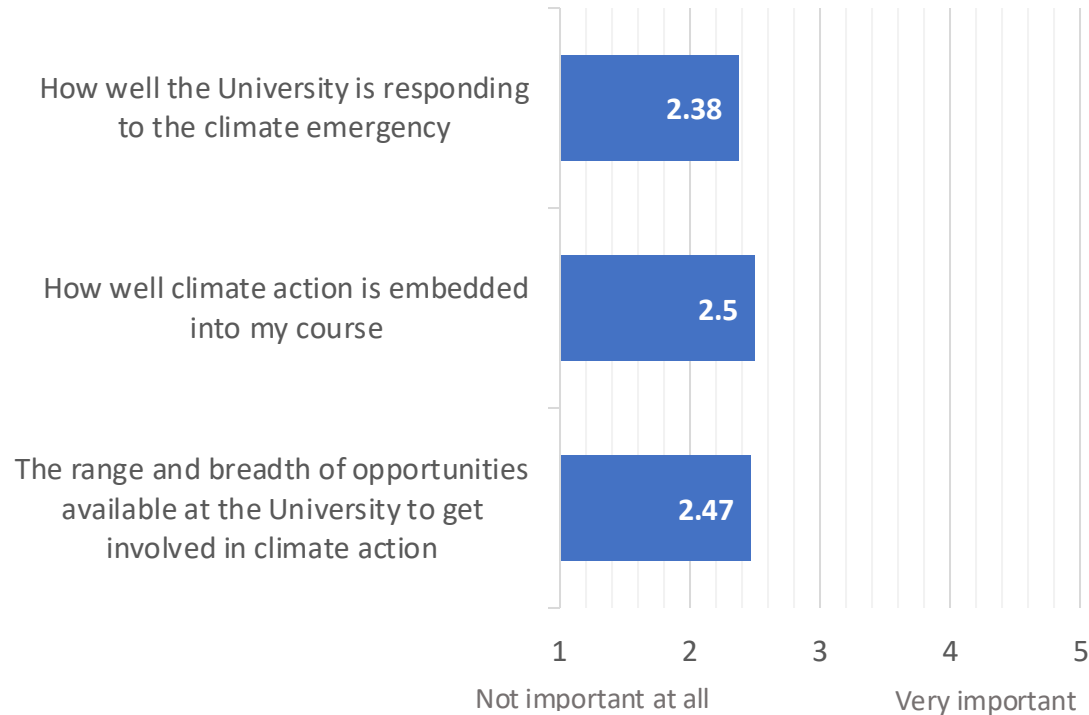


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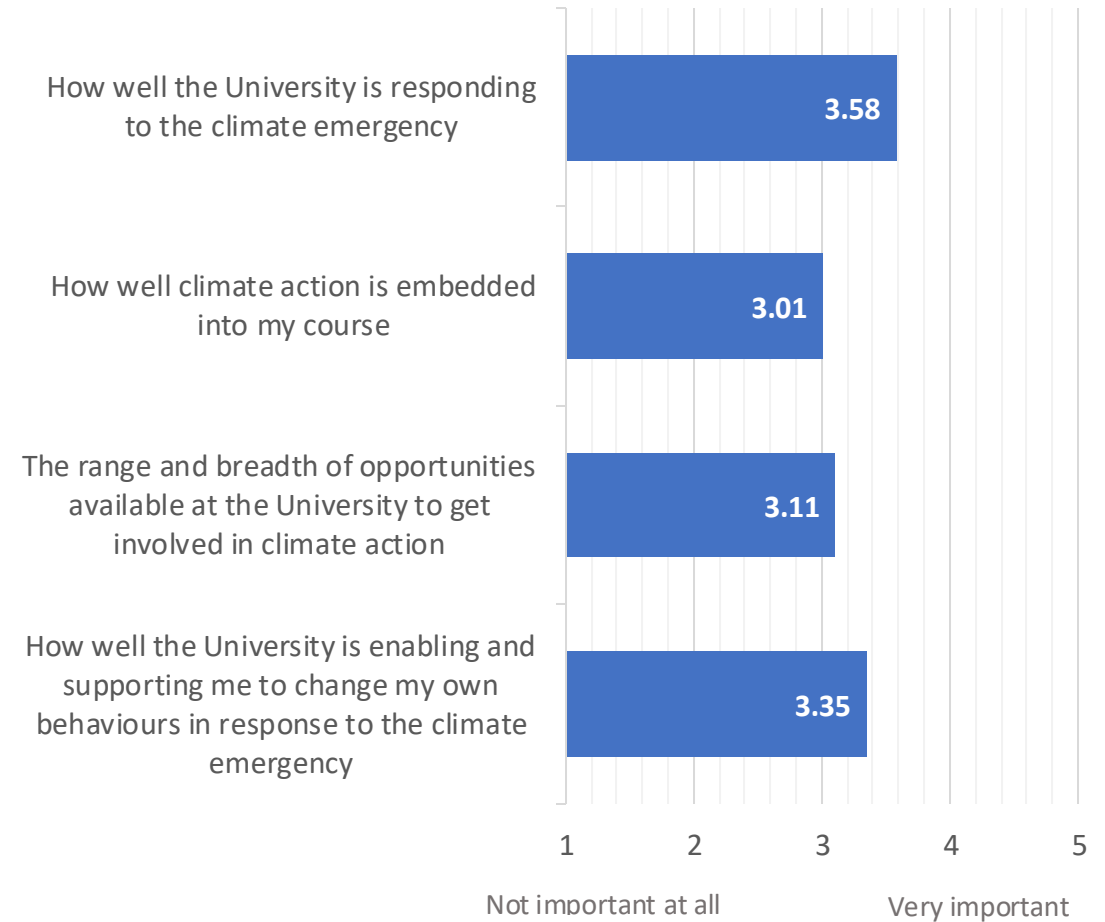


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Before you applied to Bath, how important were the following factors in your decision-making?



How important are the following factors to you now?



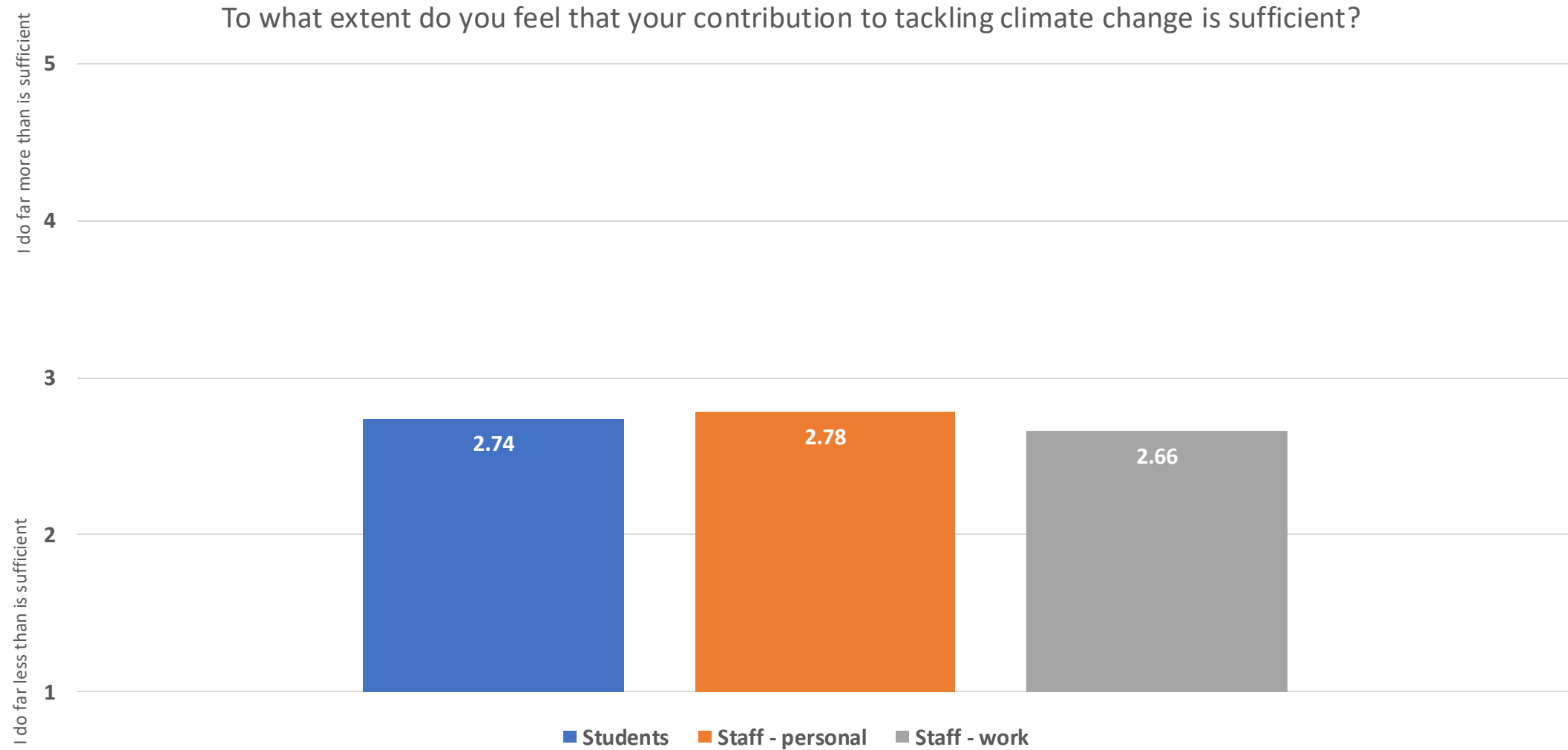
Staff empowerment



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Staff empowerment

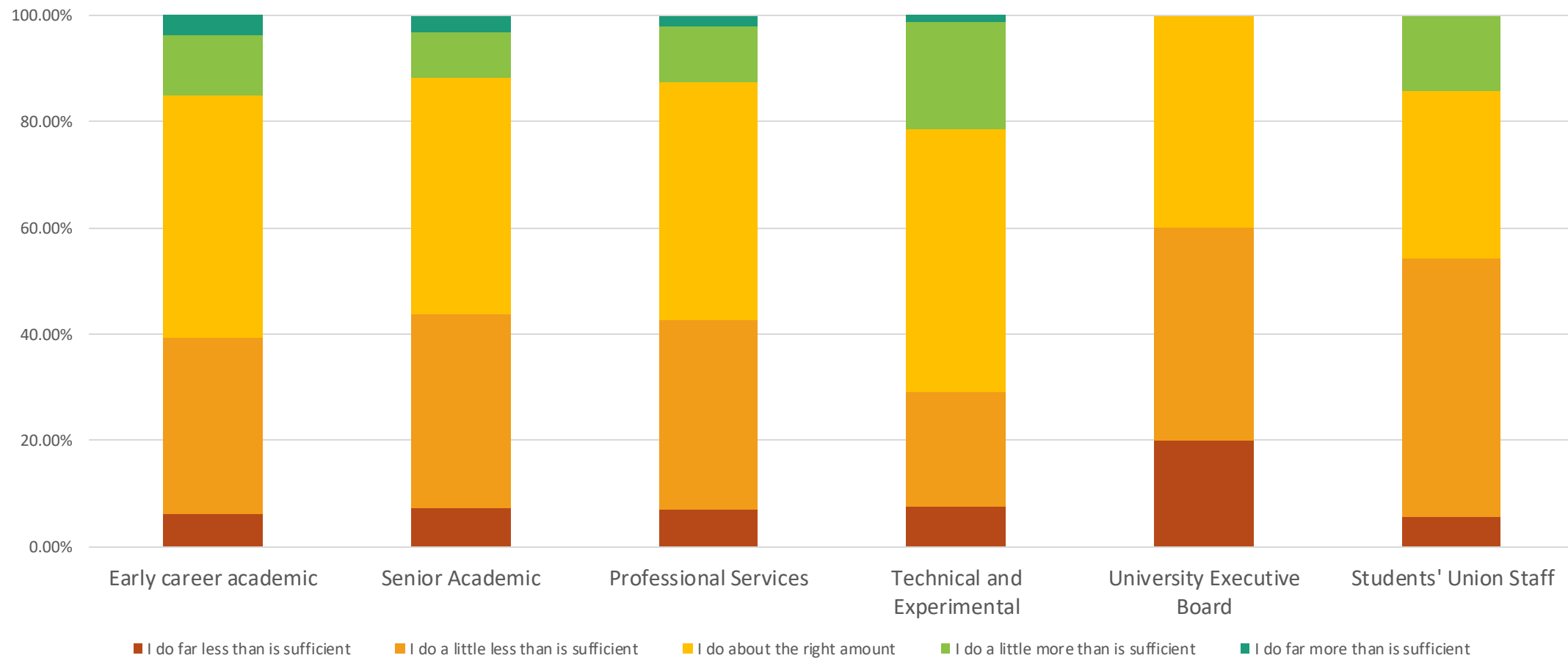


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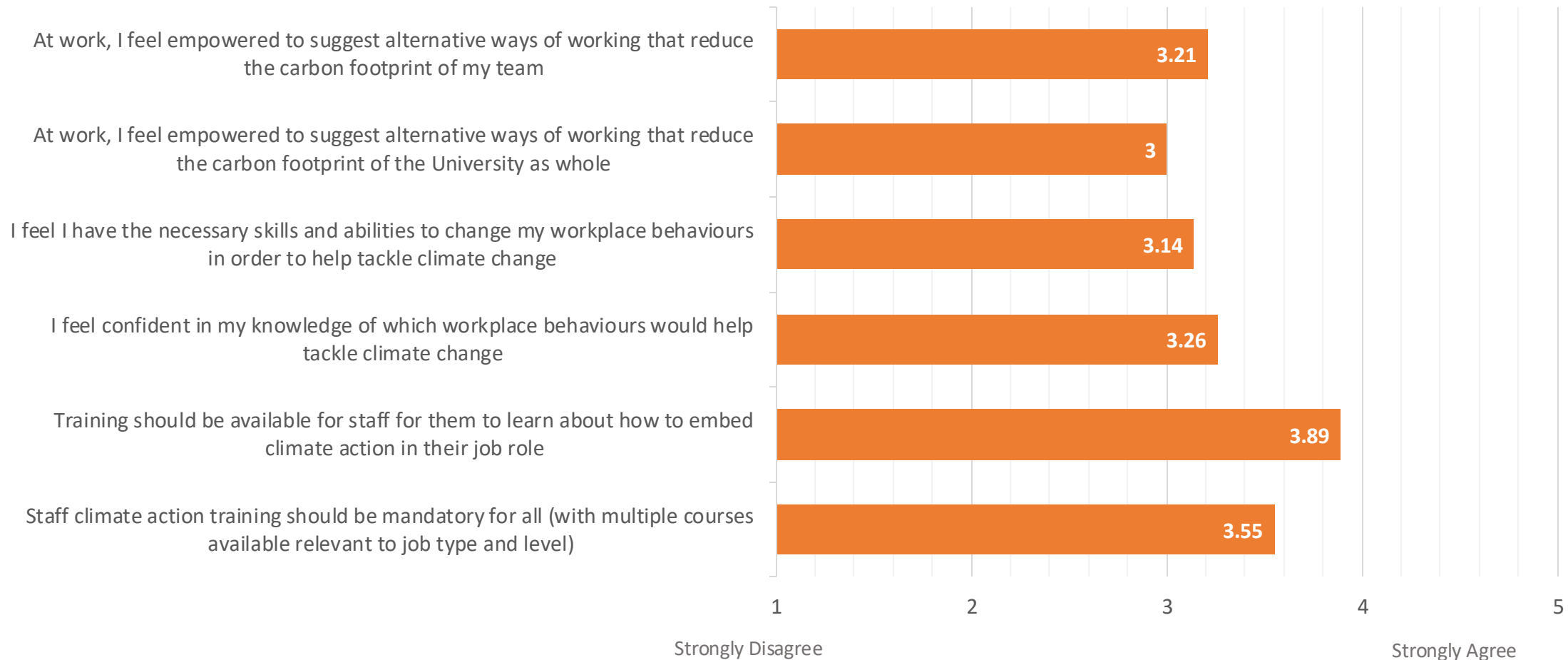
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To what extent do you feel that your workplace contribution to tackling climate change (within your role at the University) is sufficient?





Levels of agreeableness for Empowerment



Staff empowerment

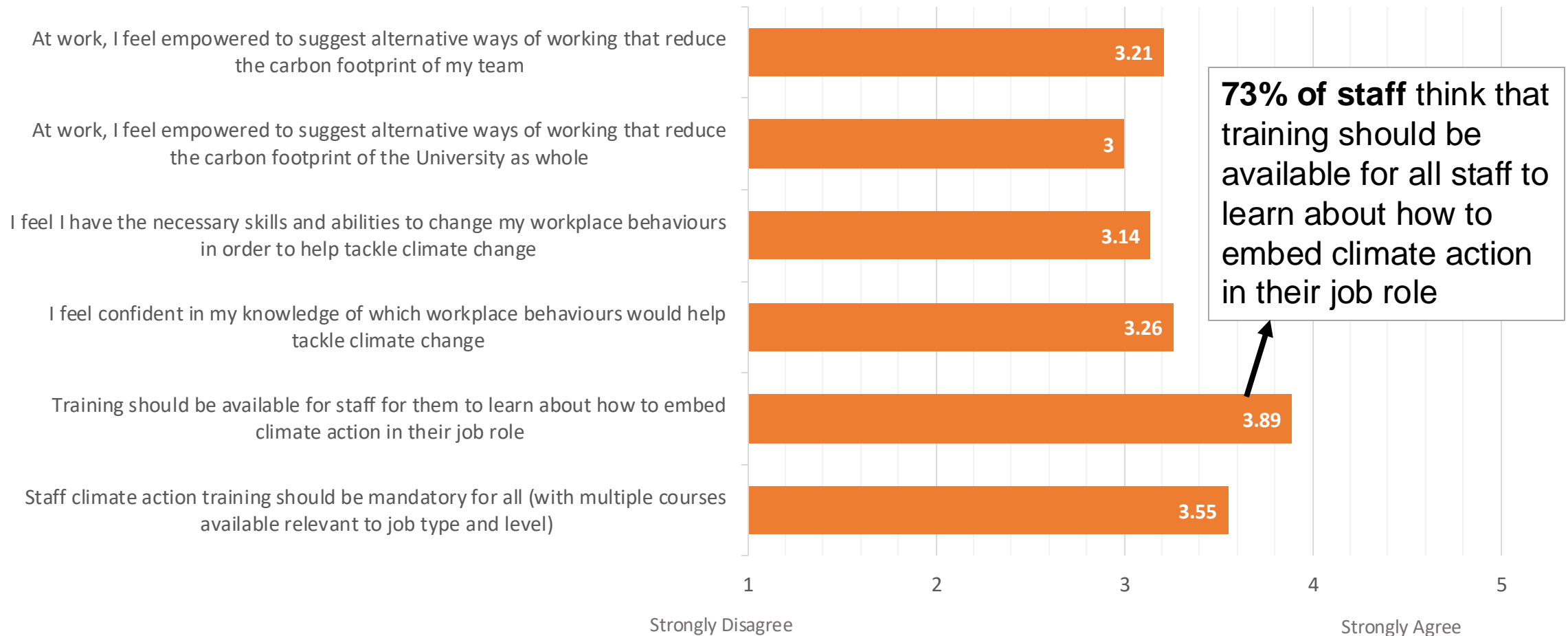


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Levels of agreeableness for Empowerment



Staff empowerment

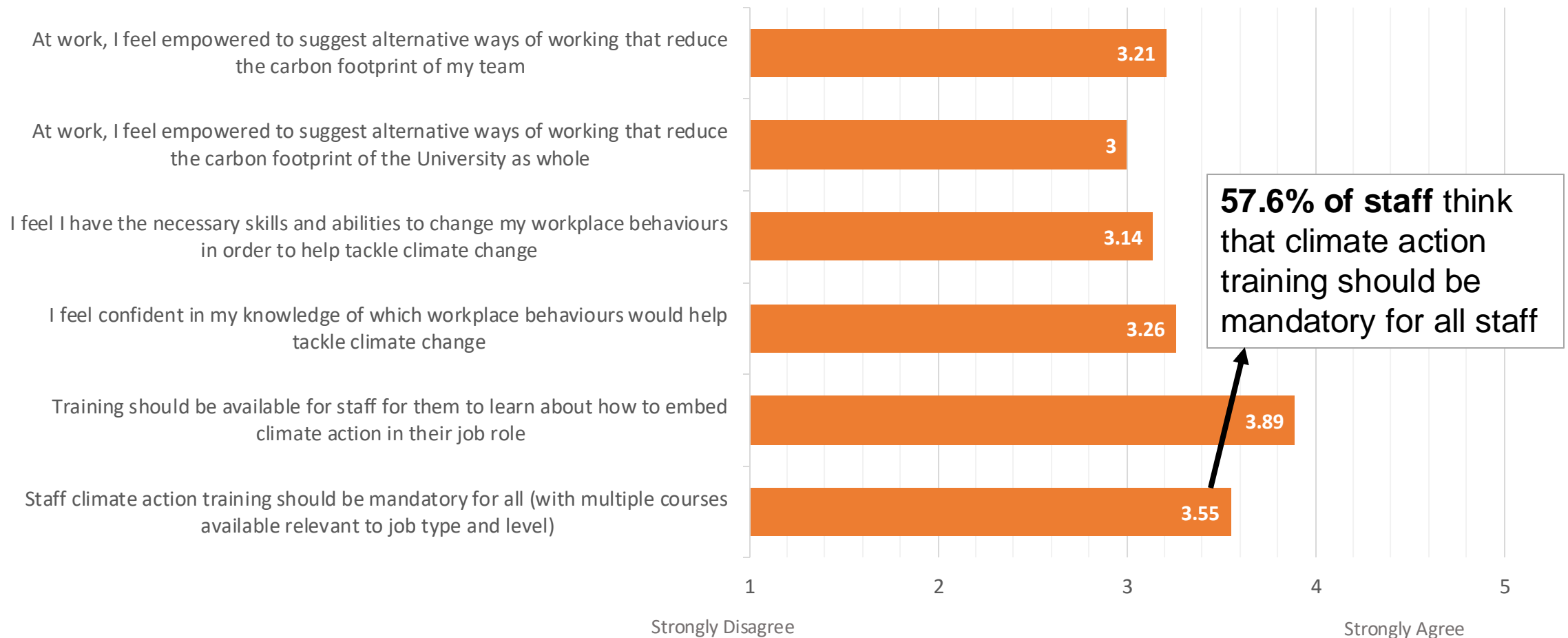


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Levels of agreeableness for Empowerment

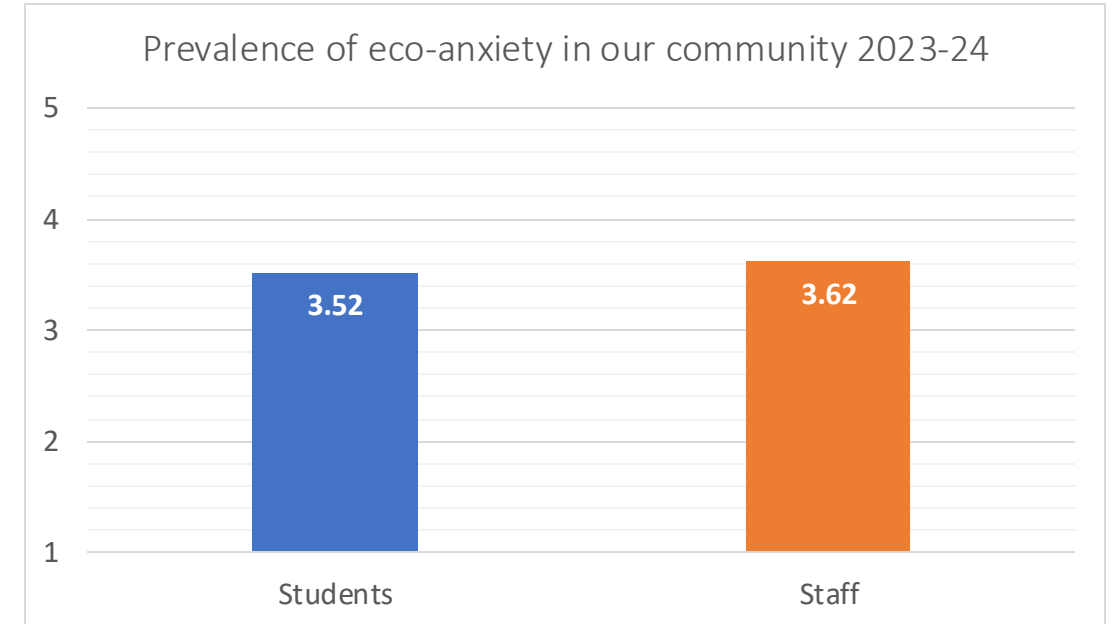
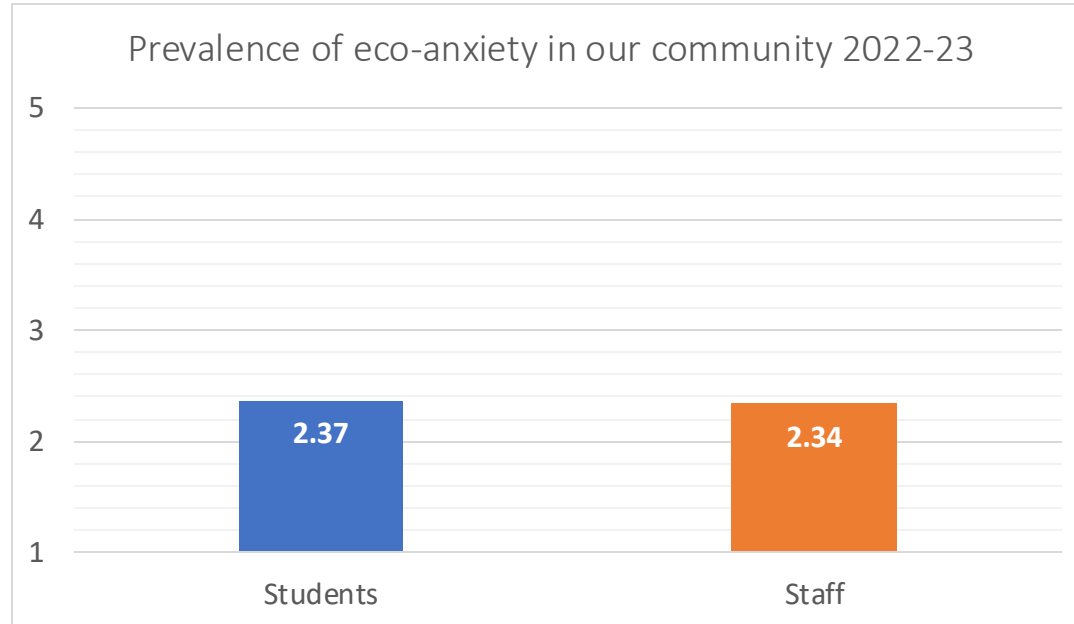




What actions, if any, do you think the University of Bath should be taking to support you to reduce your impact on climate change?

1. Better public transport
2. Improved campus infrastructure/facilities
3. Increased training provision
4. Provide financial incentive
5. Improved waste and recycling provision/support
6. Increase sustainability of campus food provision
7. Increased home working
8. Help to understand impact of actions
9. Increased information provision
10. Remove financial barrier

Climate change and wellbeing



Eco-anxiety is a term used to describe the feelings of intense worry, fear and helplessness that can arise in response to the current and projected environmental challenges we face. Eco-anxiety is a relatively new phenomenon that is gaining attention as the impact of climate change becomes more apparent and the urgency of addressing it increases.

Eco-anxiety and climate worry are related concepts, with distinct differences. Climate worry refers to a general feeling of concern or anxiety about the impacts of climate change on the environment, society and individuals. Eco-anxiety, on the other hand, is a more specific and intense form of anxiety or distress related to environmental issues, including but not limited to climate change.

Climate change and wellbeing

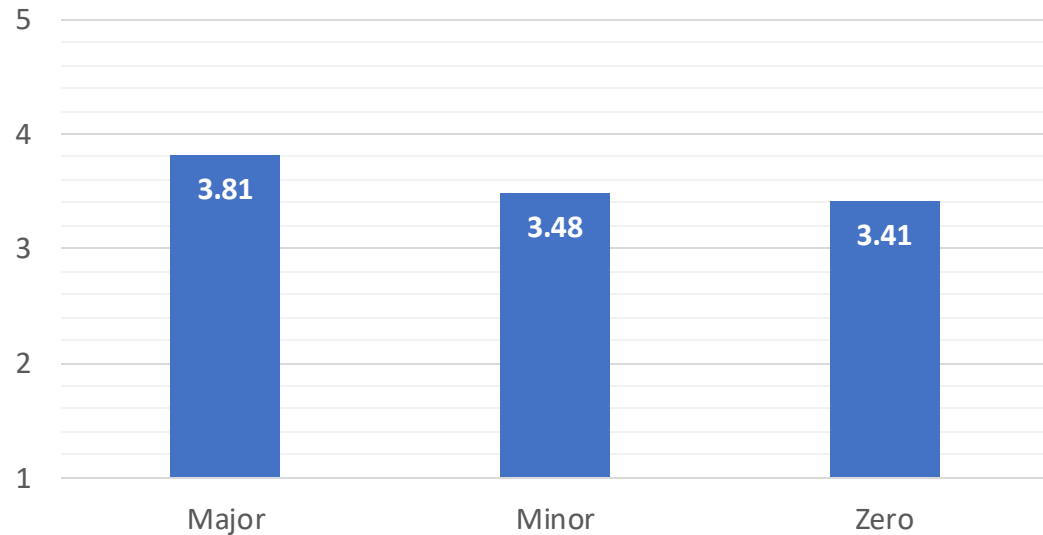


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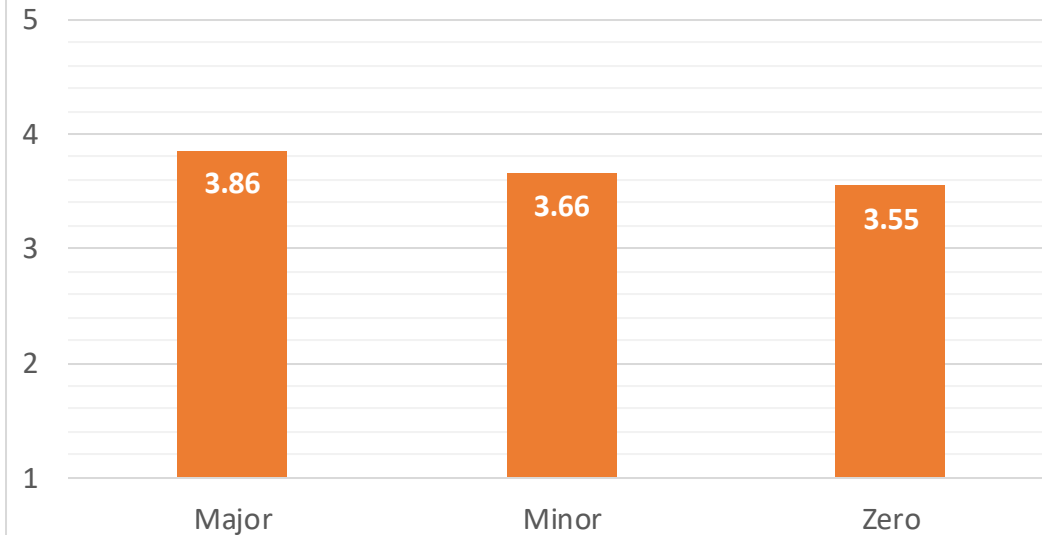


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Eco-anxiety for students according to how much climate change is part of their course/research



Eco-anxiety for staff according to how much climate change is part of their job role



■ Students ■ Staff

Climate change and wellbeing

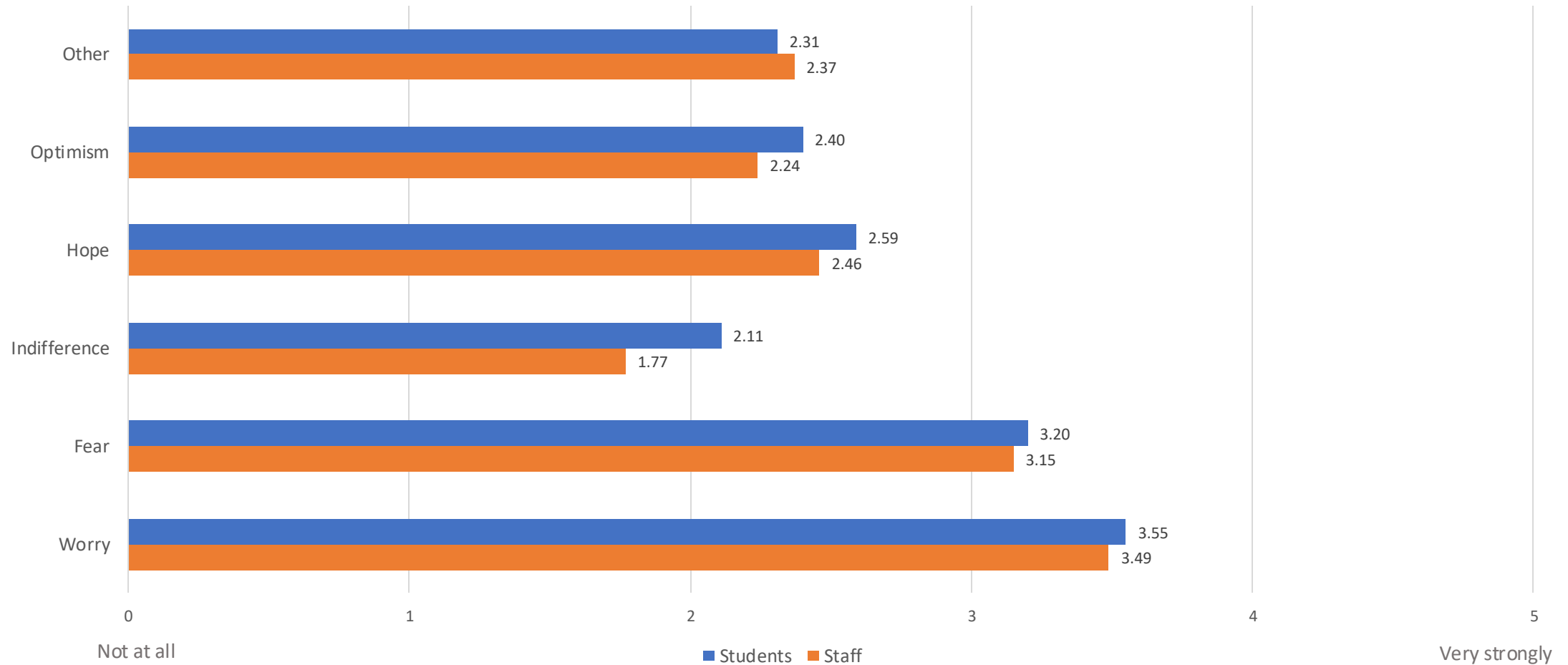


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When you think about climate change and all that you associate with it, how strongly do you feel each of the following emotions?



Climate change and wellbeing

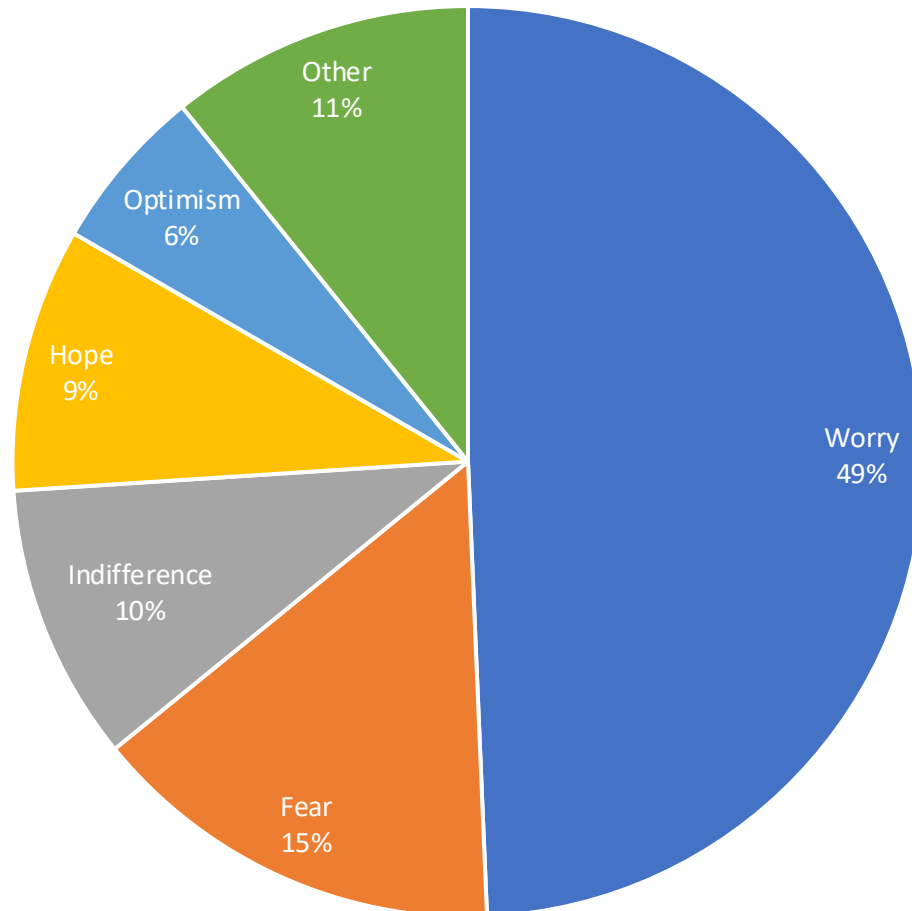


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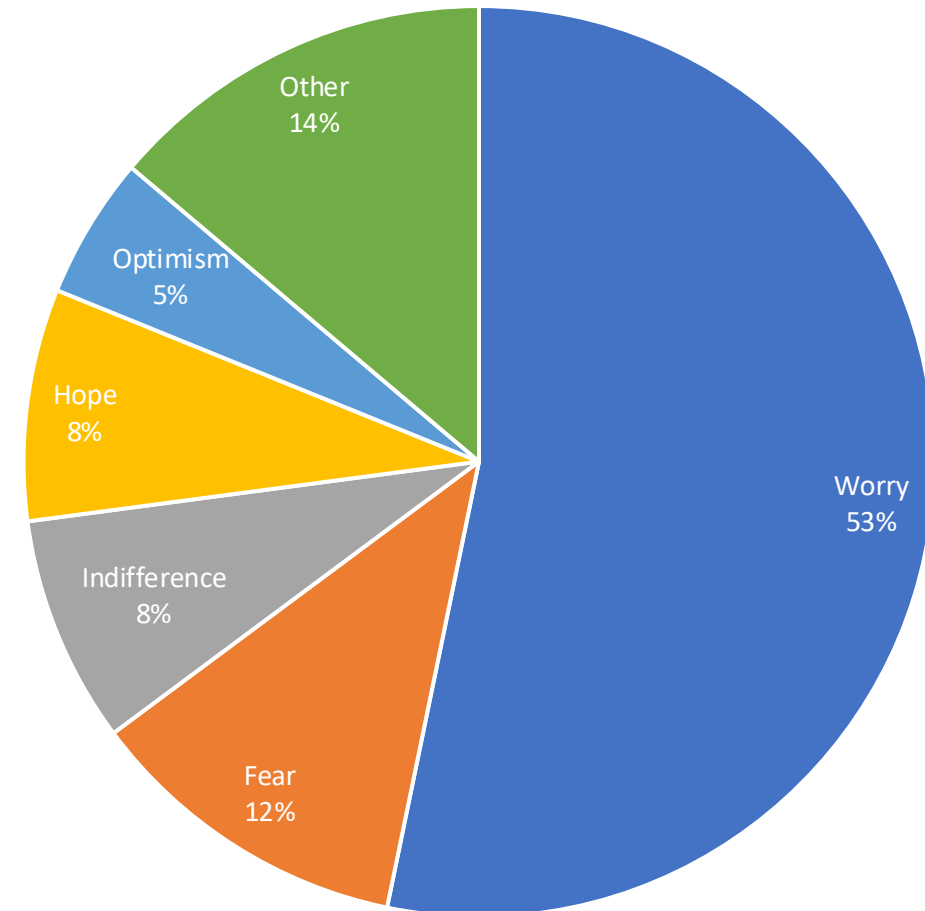


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Which emotion do **students** identify with most when thinking about climate change?



Which emotion do **staff** identify with most when thinking about climate change?



Suggestions for CAF priority actions



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What actions, if any, do you think the University should be taking on climate change?

1. Better electricity management/rely on renewable sources
2. Better public transport
3. Improved waste and recycling provision/support
4. Improved campus infrastructure/facilities
5. Increase sustainability of campus food provision
6. Increased training provision
7. Remove plastics
8. Increased information provision
9. Support for climate change research
10. Provide financial incentive



Education

48.7% of students experience climate or sustainability education through their course.

47.9% teaching staff are delivering climate or sustainability education in their practice.

Staff and students support recognition of student climate education.

Climate Literacy

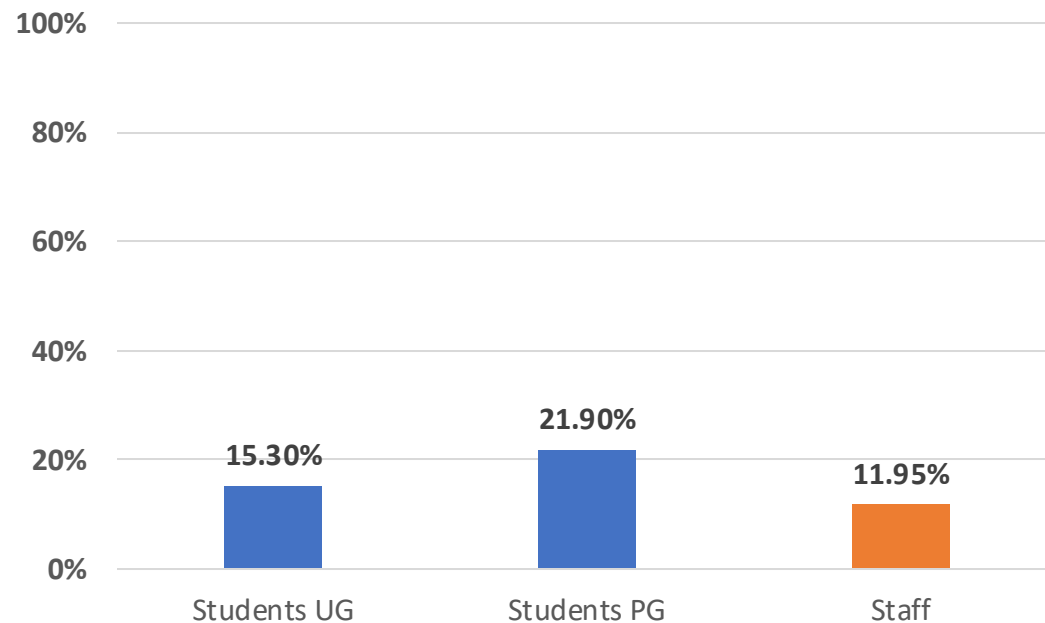


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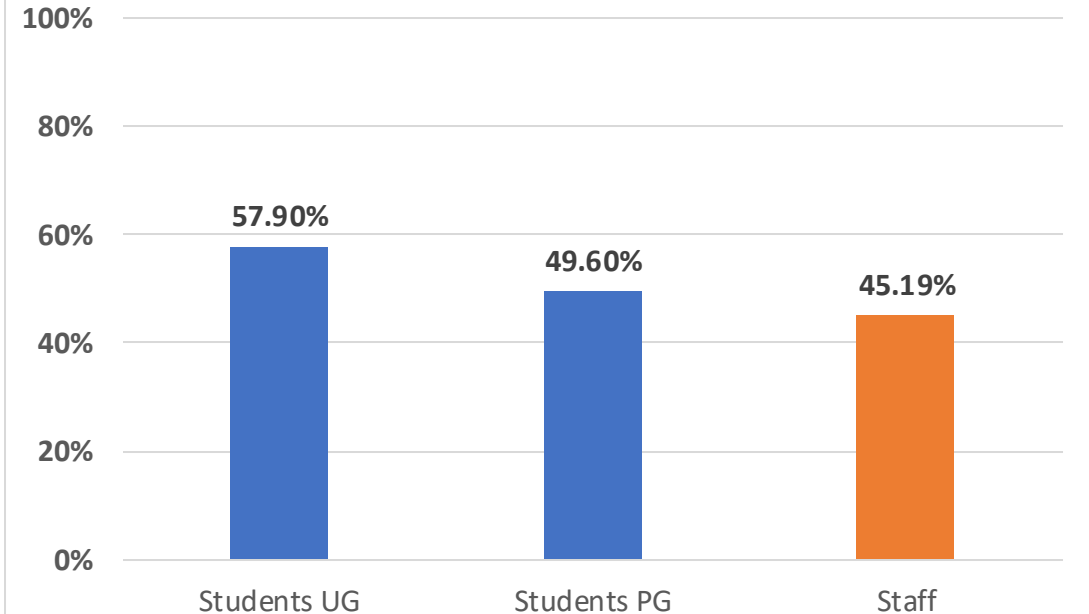


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Have you attended a climate literacy course?



Of those, how many completed it and achieved certification?



Education – student responses

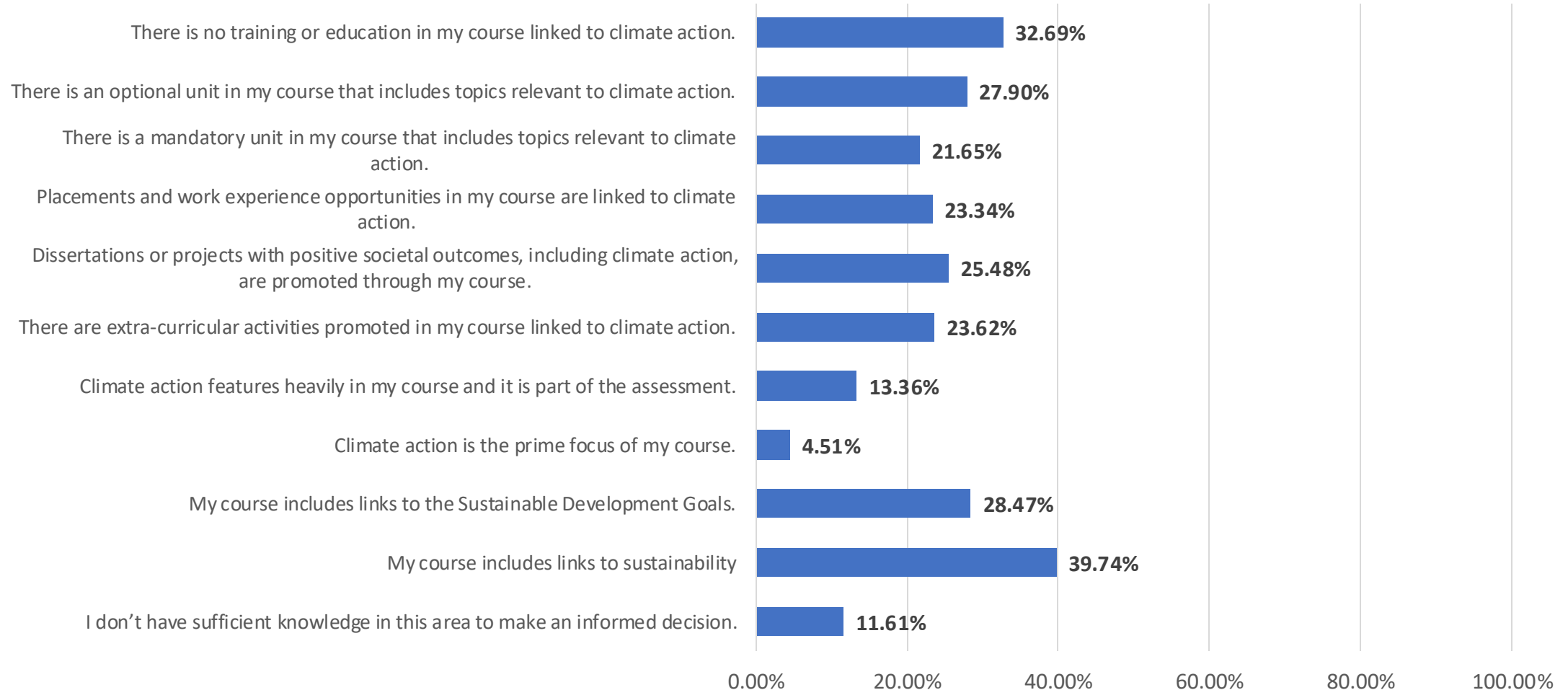


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To what extent do you think climate action is embedded into the course that you study?



Education – student responses

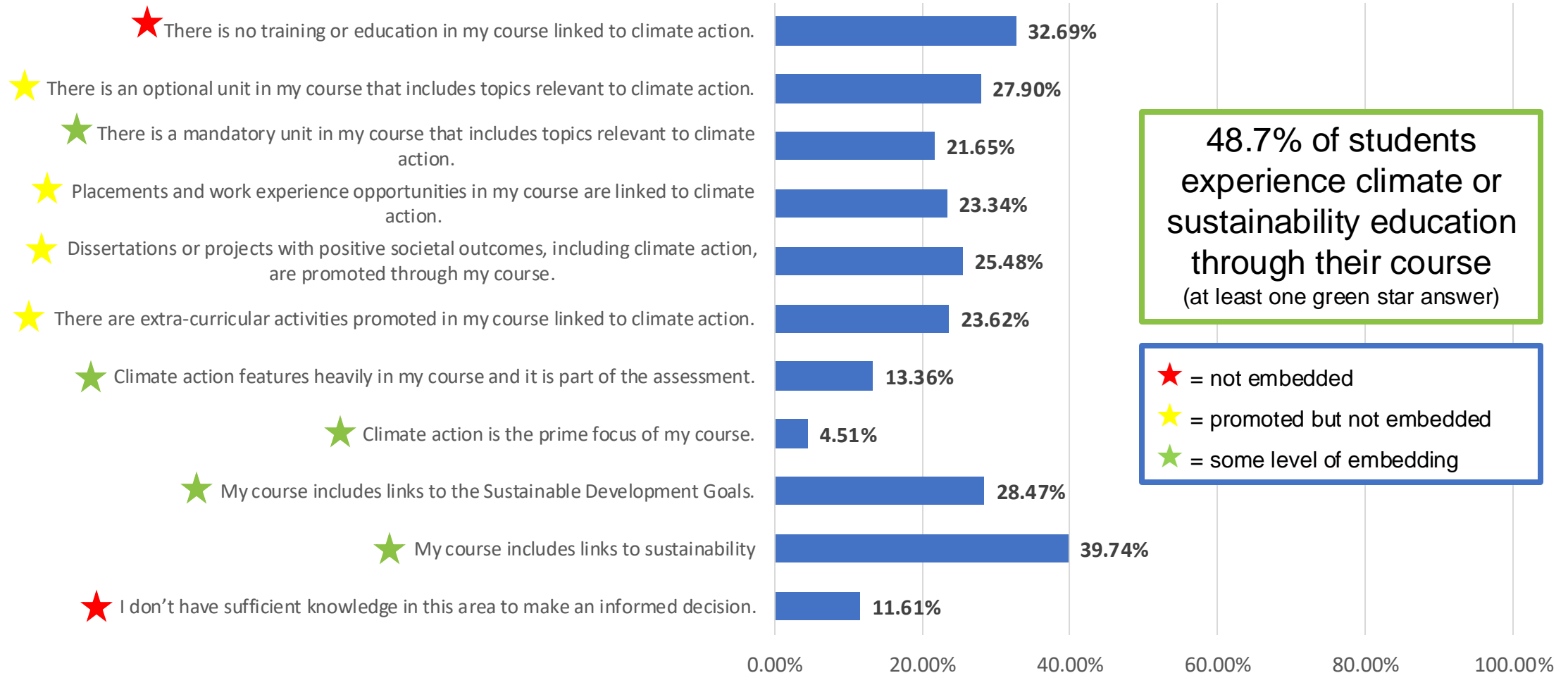


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To what extent do you think climate action is embedded into the course that you study?



Education – staff responses



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To what extent do you think climate action is embedded in your teaching?



Education – staff responses

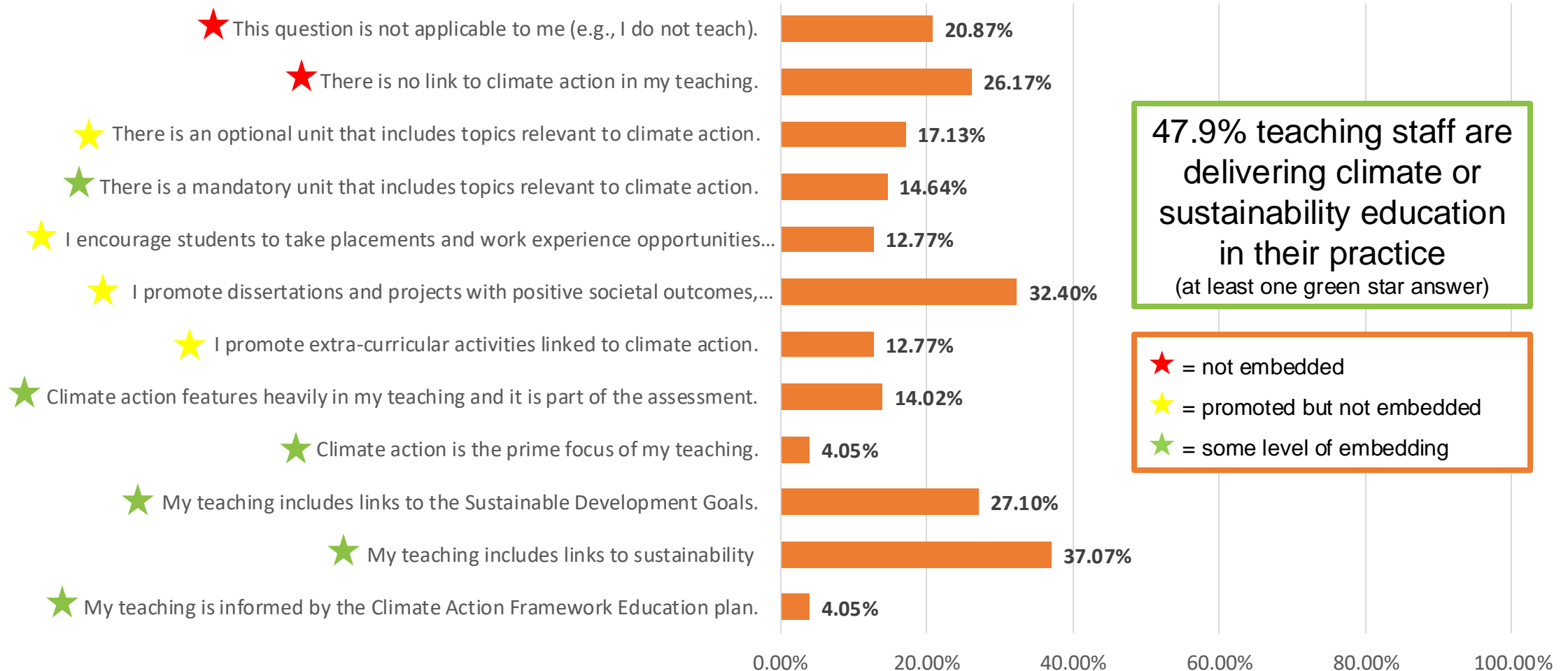


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To what extent do you think climate action is embedded in your teaching?



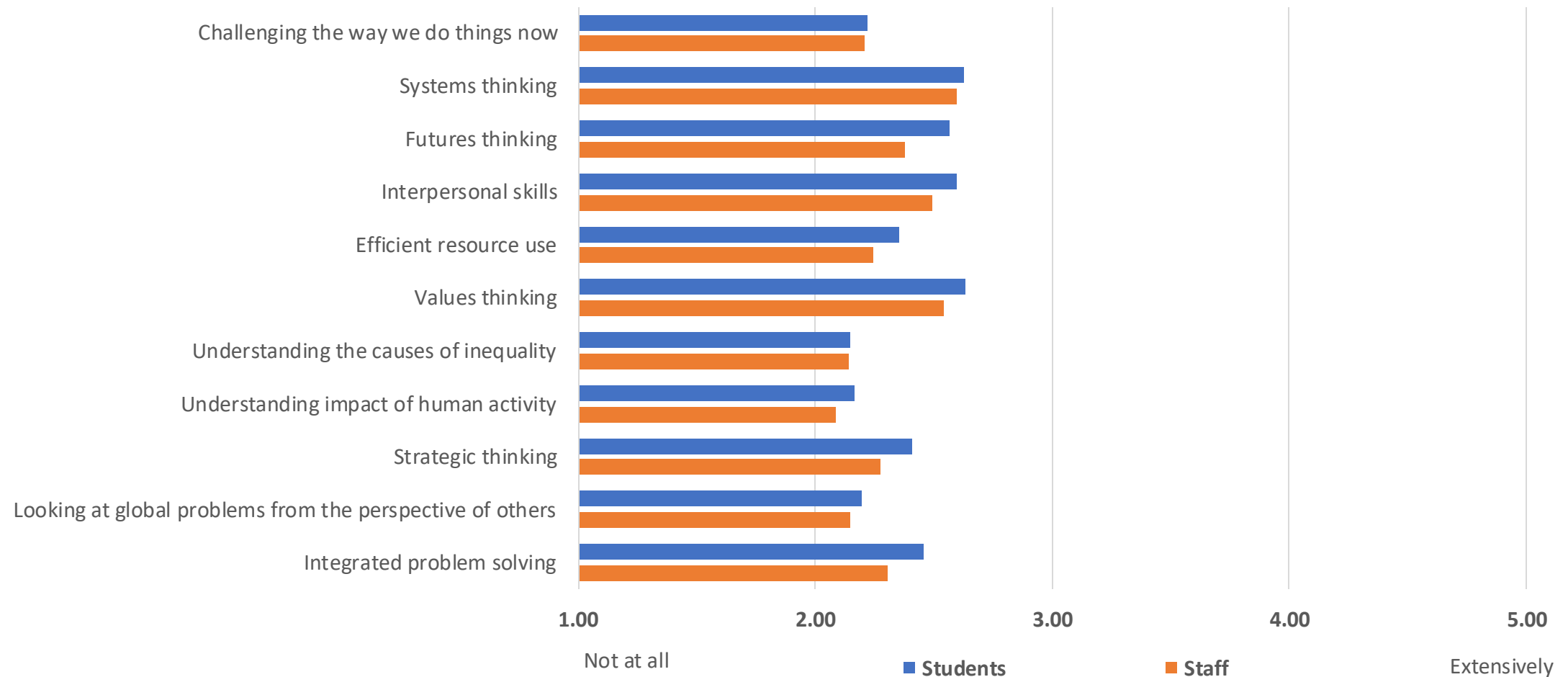


My course teaches sustainability skills and knowledge, including...



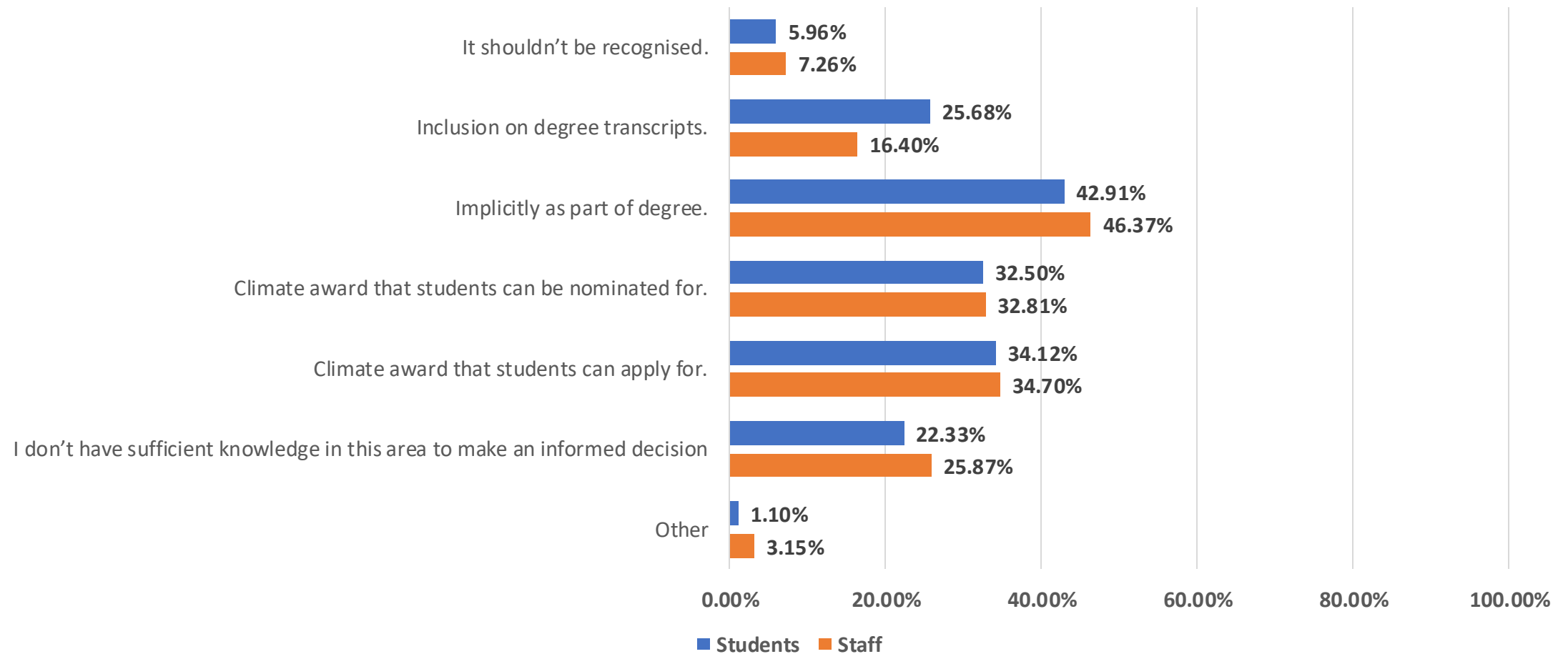


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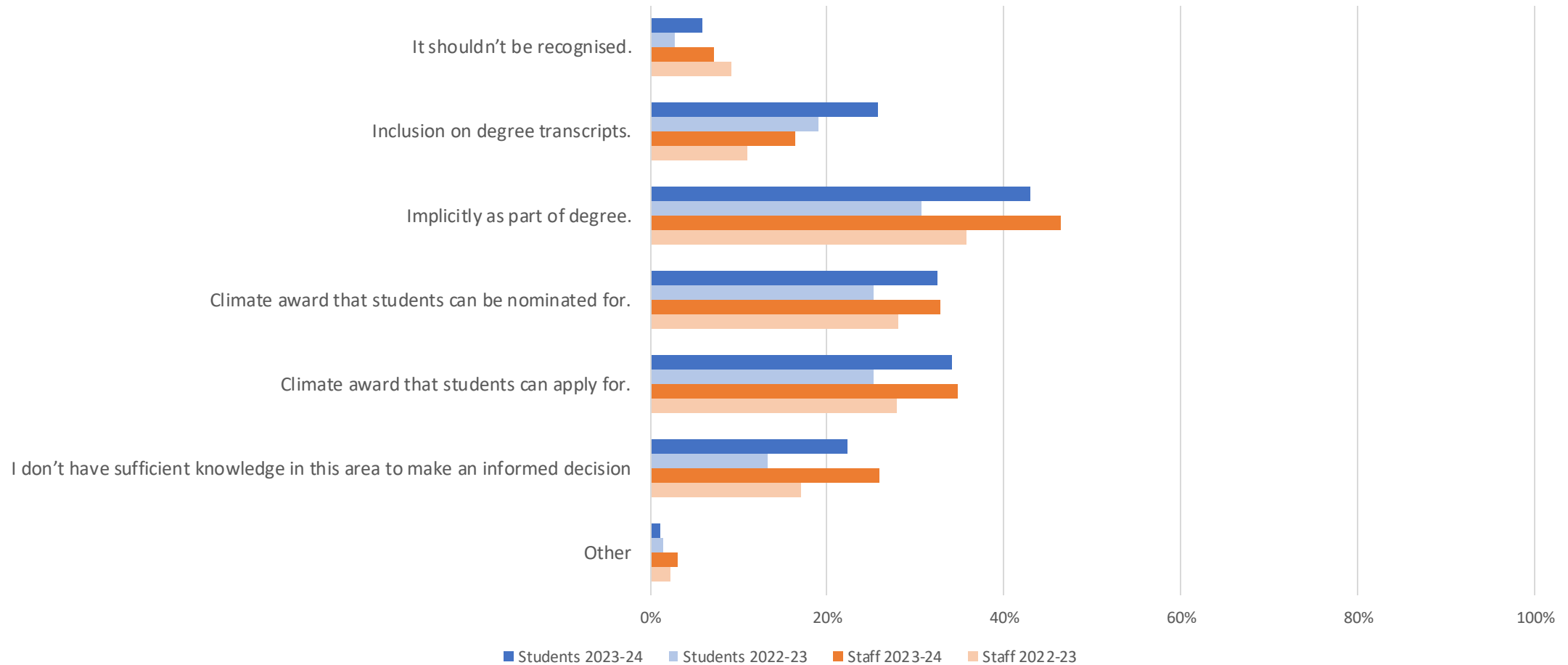


How should climate action education be recognised for students?





How should climate action education be recognised for students?



Education – staff responses

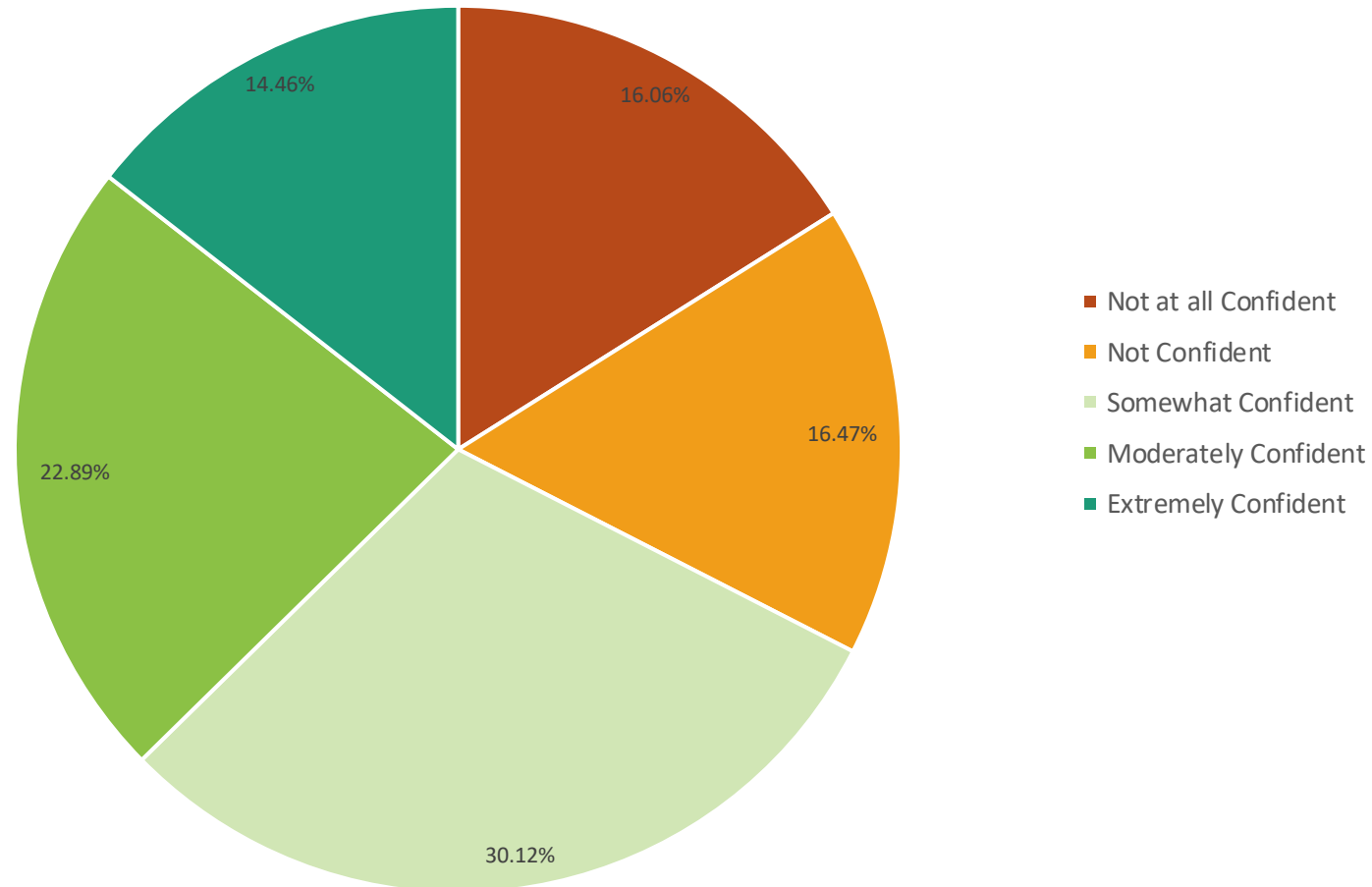


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How confident do you feel to embed climate action in your course?





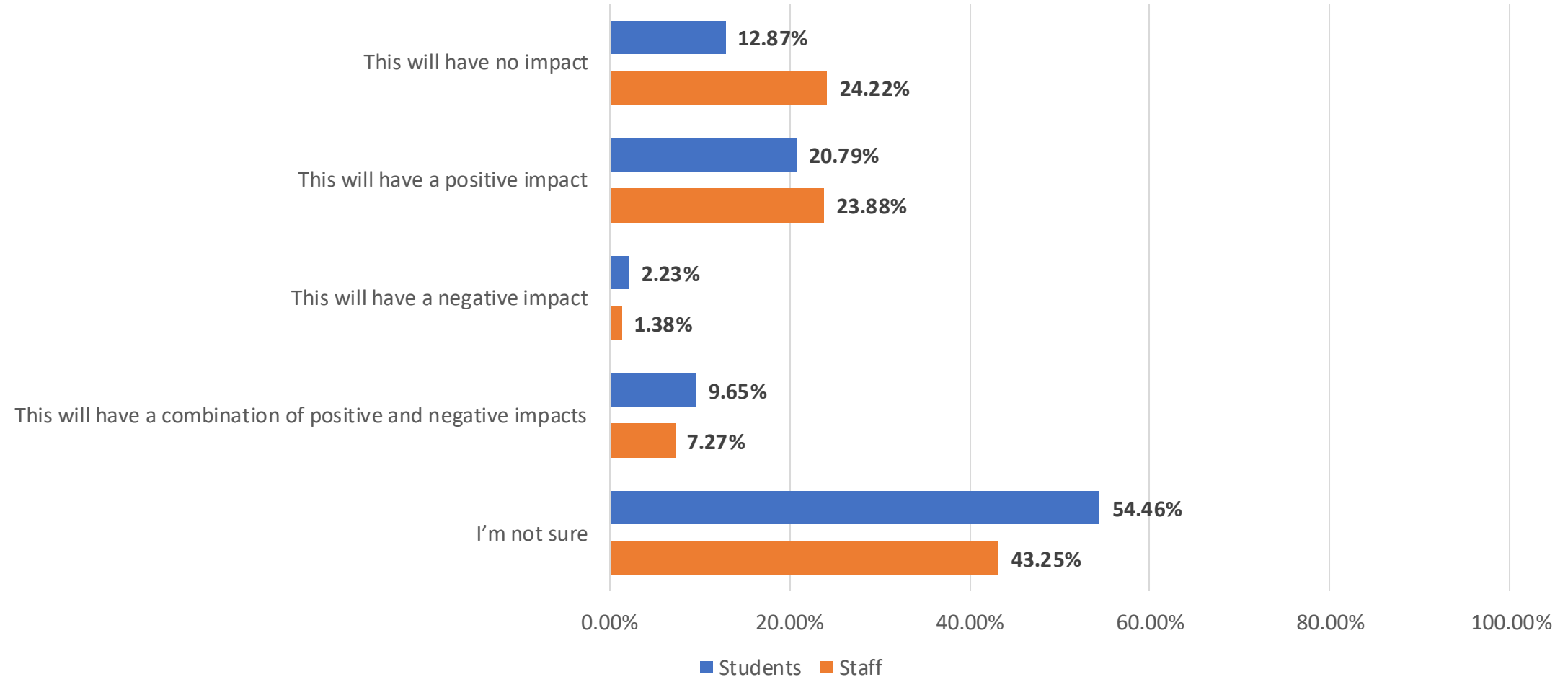
Research

We asked our community if they were aware of the UKRI's new Concordat on Environmental Sustainability

- 77.5% of research students were not aware prior to the survey
- 73.7% of academics were not aware prior to the survey



What are the implications of the concordat for your research/work?



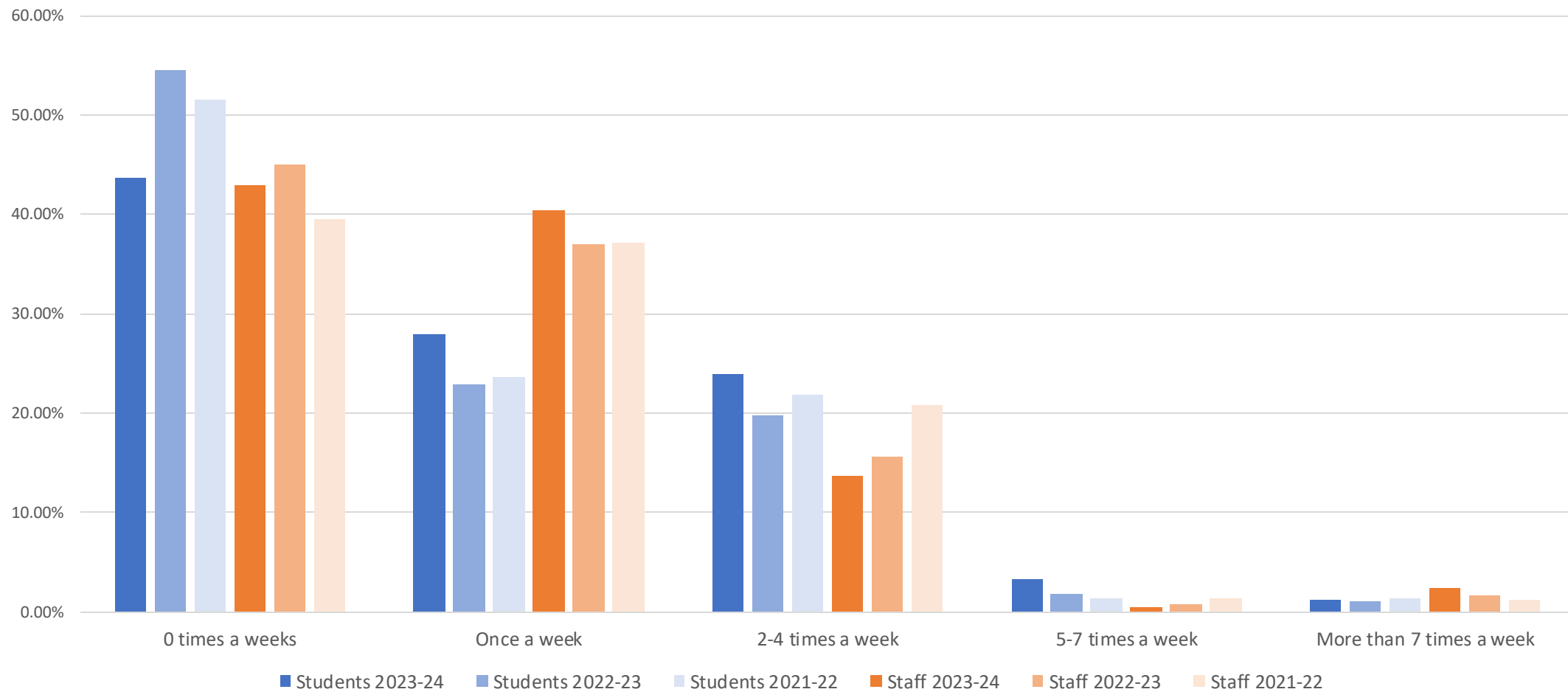


Footprint

- Diet and food waste habits to continue to be monitored as an indicator for personal behaviour change – no statistically significant findings this year
- Awareness of the Sustainable Food Commitment has fallen since its launch, but staff and students are reporting seeing impacts from it
- Students are carrying out more return trips per week to campus compared to 22/23, with mode of choice still by bus.
- Staff are commuting to campus more often than in 22/23, but still less than pre-Covid-19, with mode of choice still solo car travel.

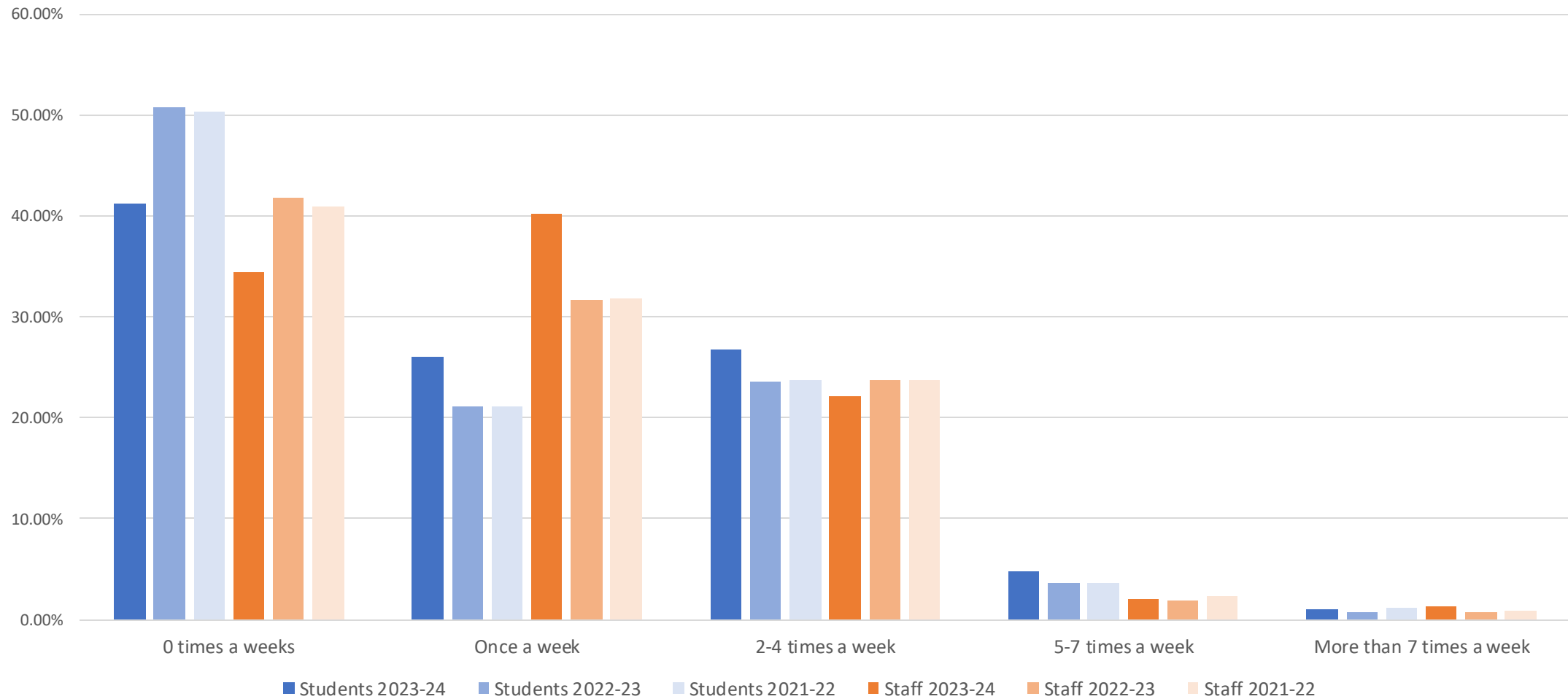


Weekly consumption of ruminant meat (eg beef, lamb)



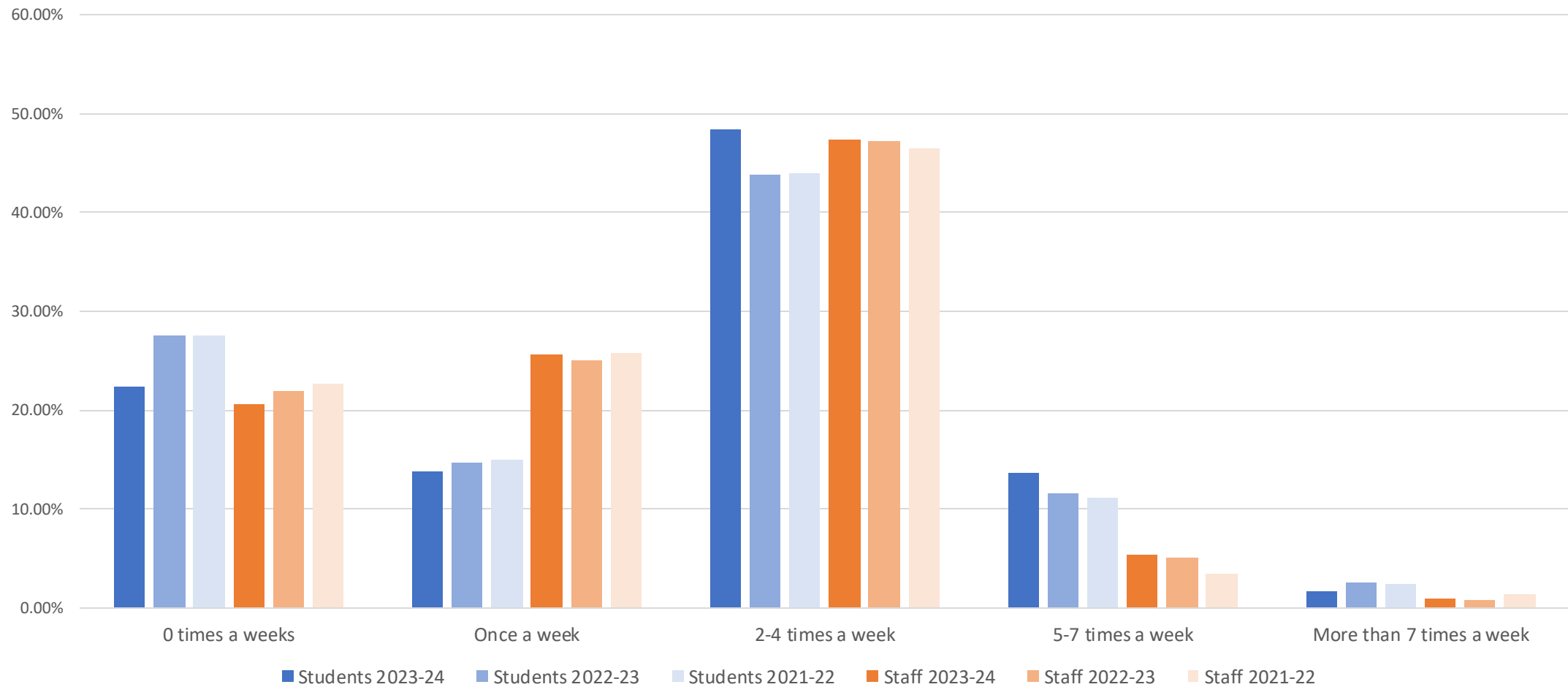


Weekly consumption of other red meat (eg pork)



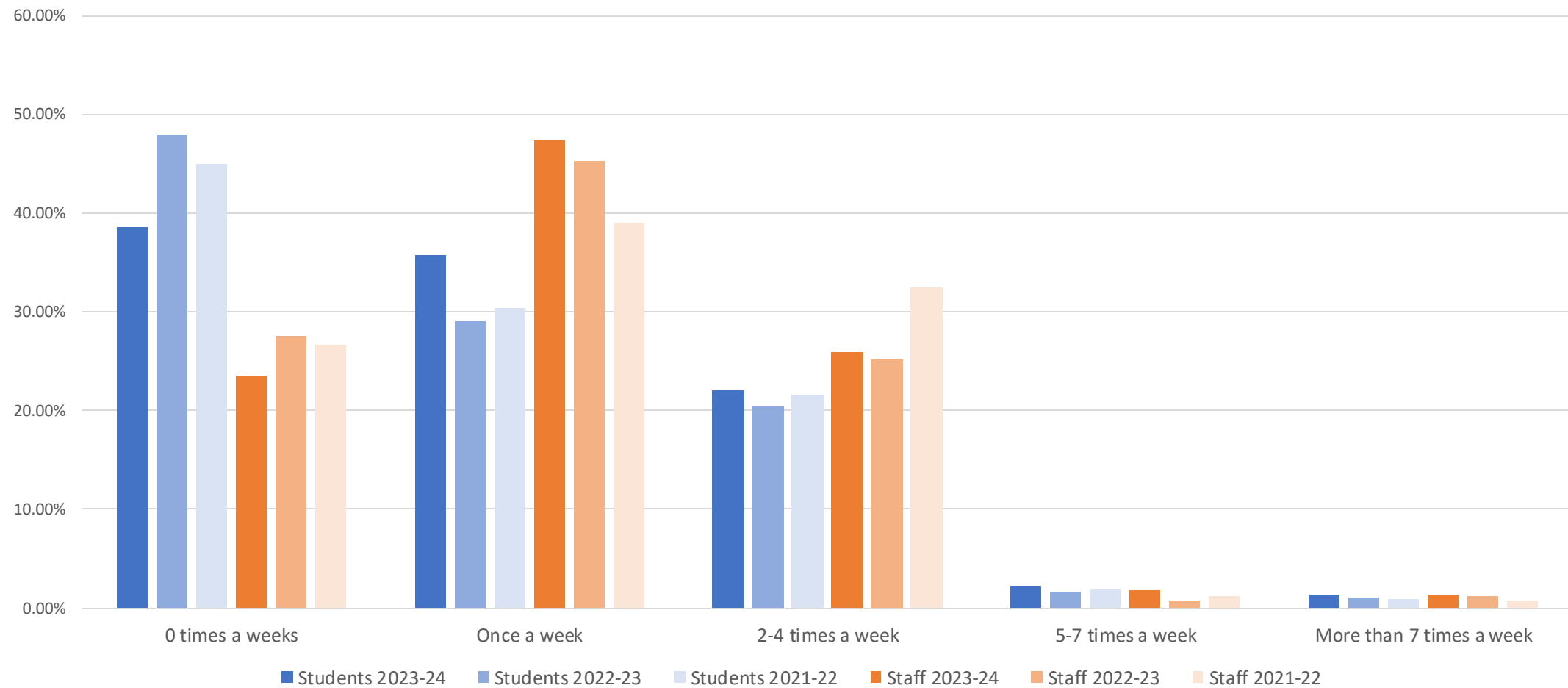


Weekly consumption of white meat (eg chicken)





Weekly consumption of fish



Diet

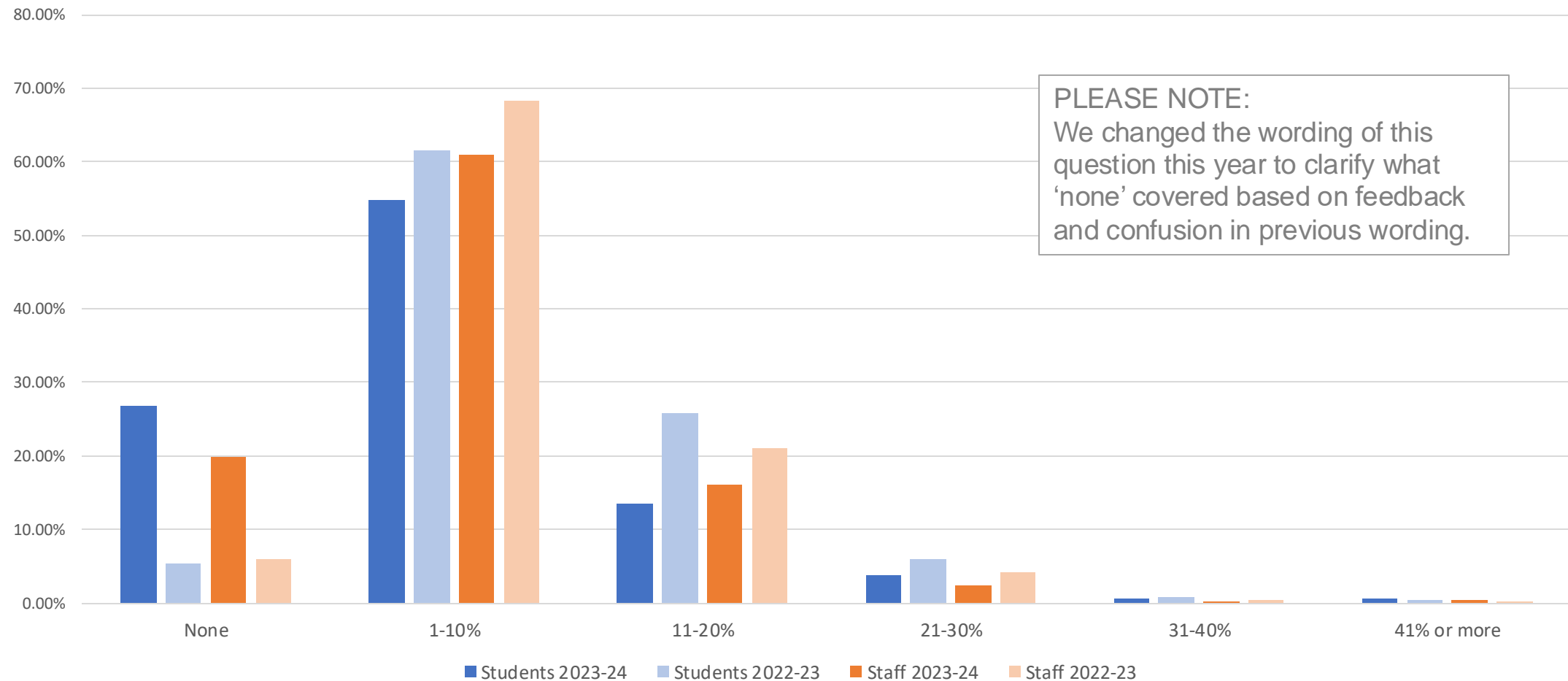


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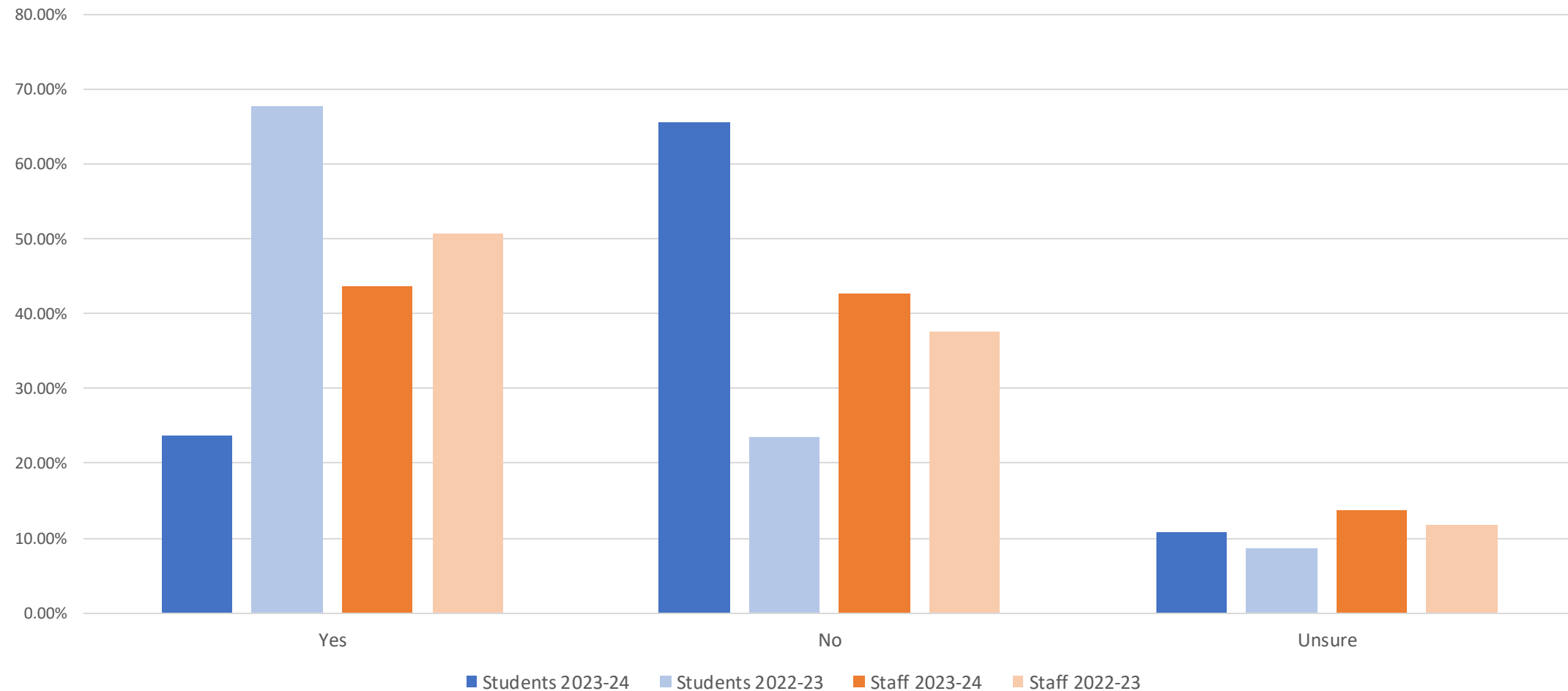
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Estimated percentage of food wasted per week





Before today, were you aware of the Sustainable Food Commitment at the University?



Diet

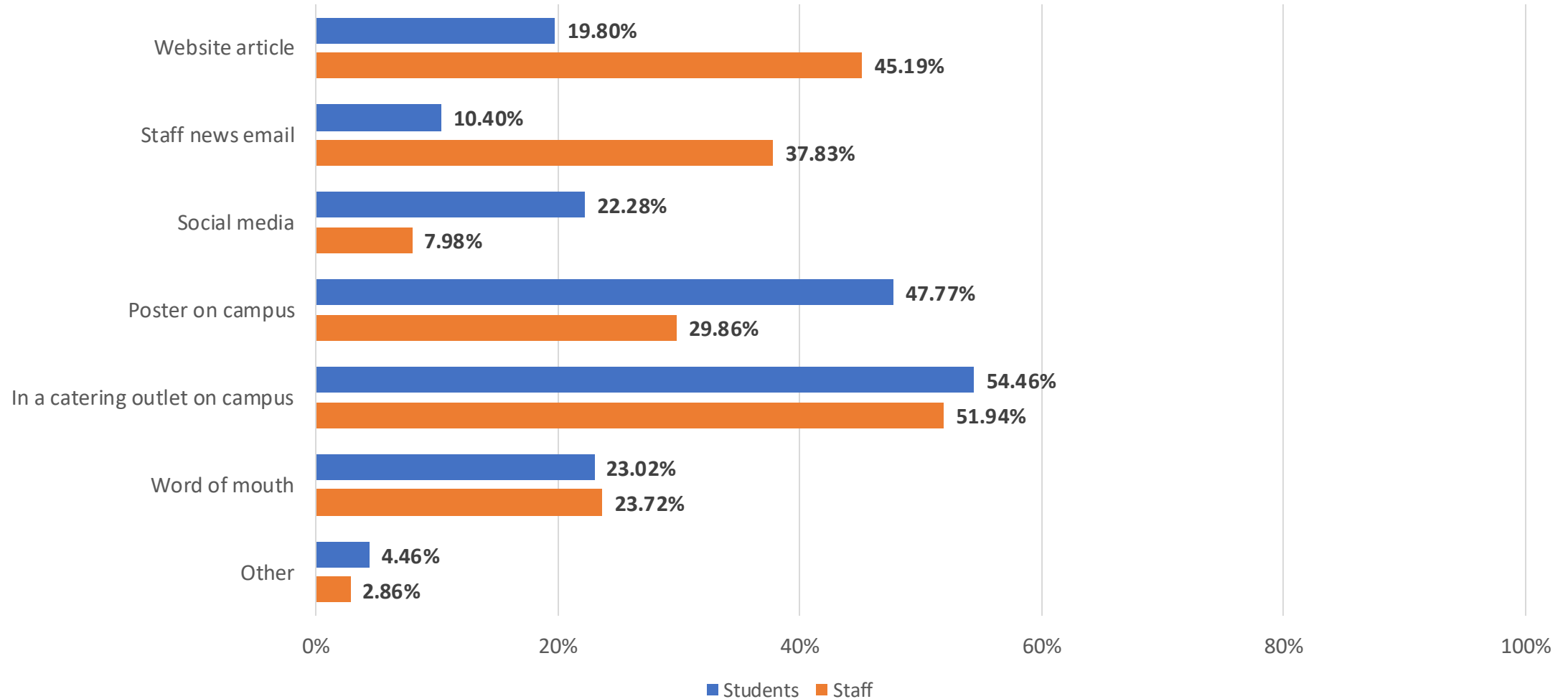


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Of those who are aware of the Sustainable Food Commitment, where have they seen information about it?



Sustainable Food Commitment



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Reducing packaging

57% students and 48% staff have noticed an impact in this area
(compared to 55% and 44% respectively in 2022-23)

24% students and 16% staff have chosen food/drink differently as a result of changes in this area
(compared to 23% and 16% respectively in 2022-23)



Food waste

52% students and 37% staff have noticed an impact in this area
(compared to 47% and 28% respectively in 2022-23)

21% students and 11% staff have chosen food/drink differently as a result of changes in this area
(compared to 19% and 8% respectively in 2022-23)



Reducing meat consumption

36% students and 40% staff have noticed an impact in this area
(compared to 38% and 32% respectively in 2022-23)

14% students and 12% staff have chosen food/drink differently as a result of changes in this area
(compared to 14% and 11% respectively in 2022-23)

Sustainable Food Commitment



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Seasonal and local food

30% students and 23% staff have noticed an impact in this area
(compared to 28% and 17% respectively last year)

9% students and 7% staff have chosen food/drink differently as a result of changes in this area
(compared to 10% and 6% respectively last year)



Sustainable fish

17% students and 10% staff have noticed an impact in this area
(compared to 16% and 9% respectively last year)

5% students and 3% staff have chosen food/drink differently as a result of changes in this area
(compared to 5% and 3% respectively last year)

Commuting

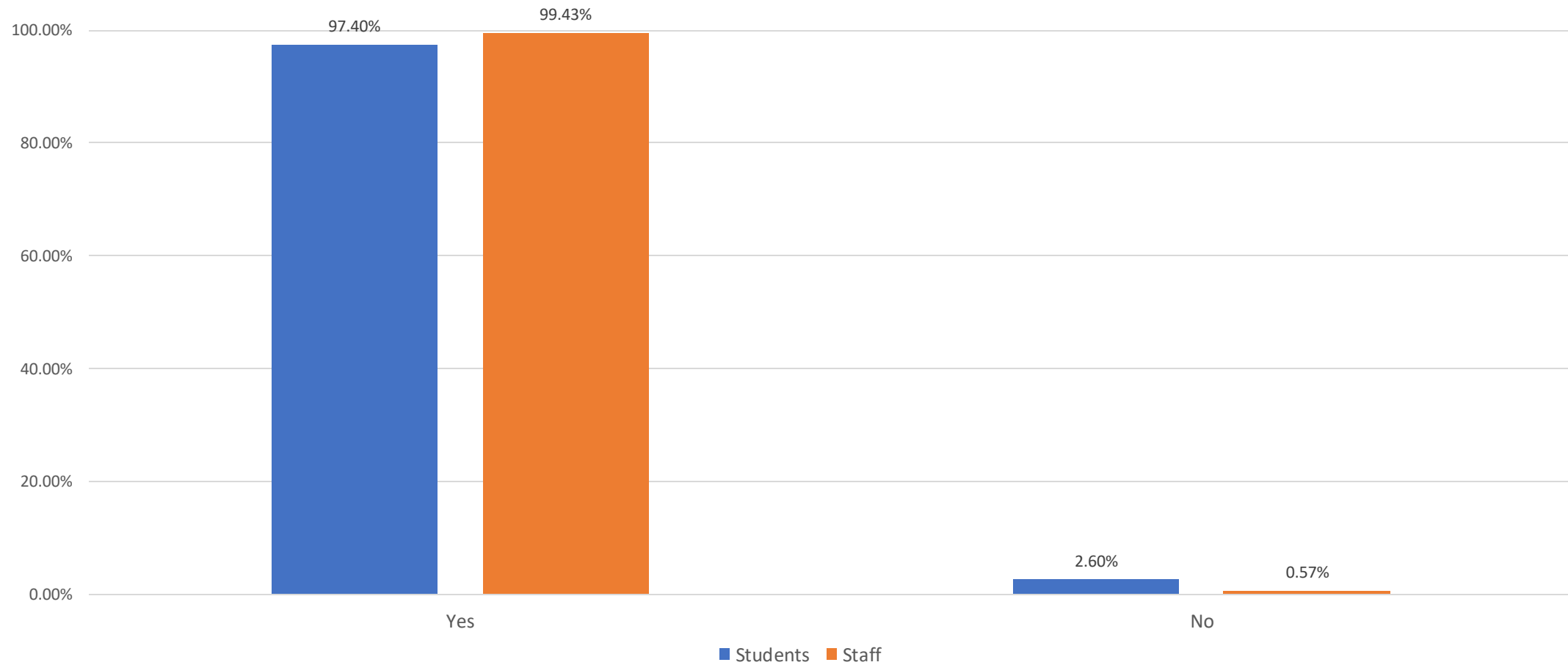


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Do you live in the UK during term time?



Commuting

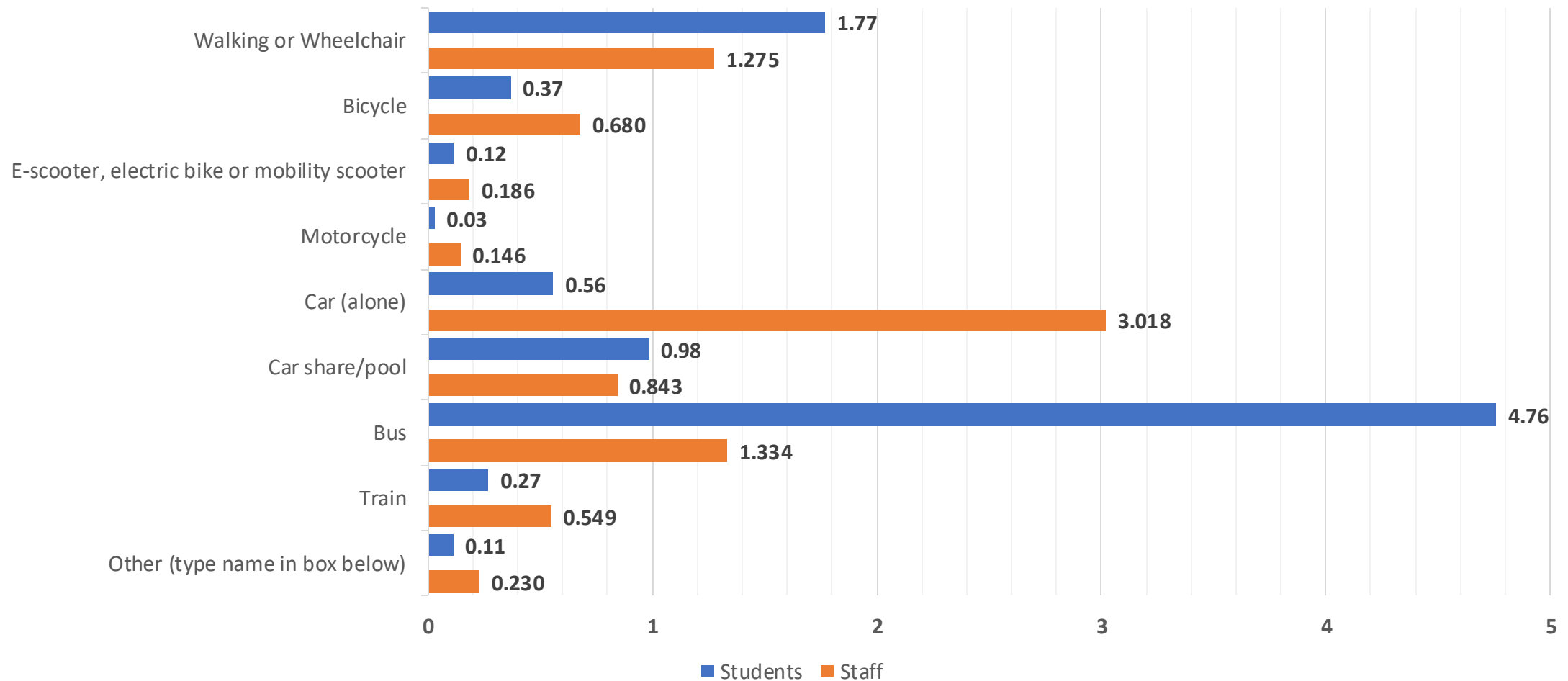


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Average return trips commuting to the University in a week



Commuting

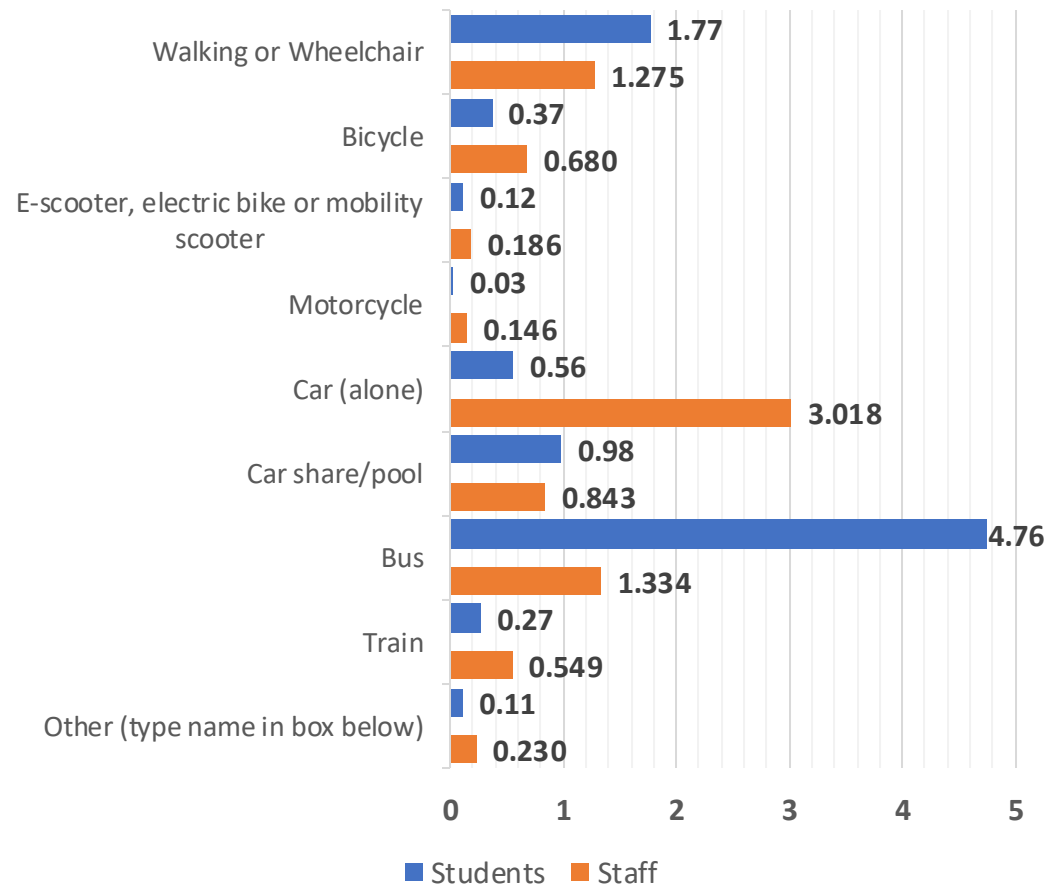


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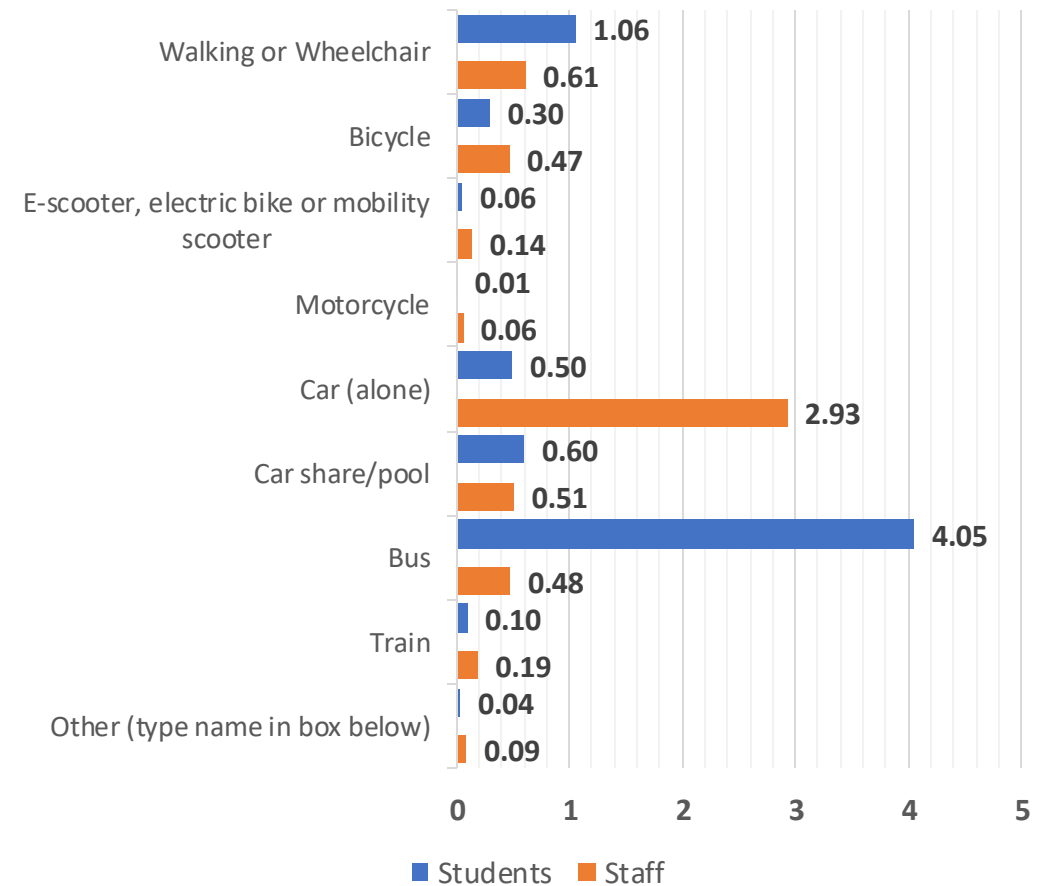


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Average return trips commuting to the University in a week – 2023-24

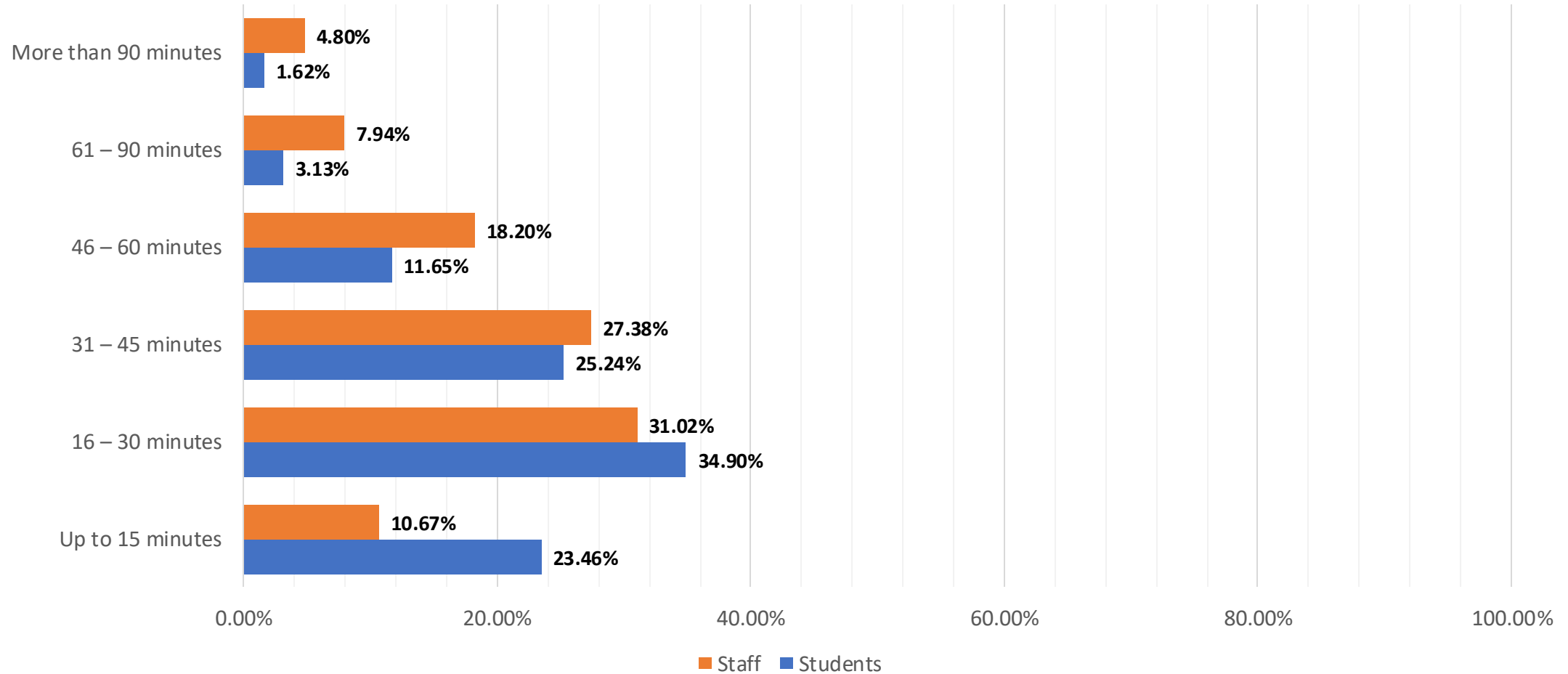


Average return trips commuting to the University in a week – 2022-23



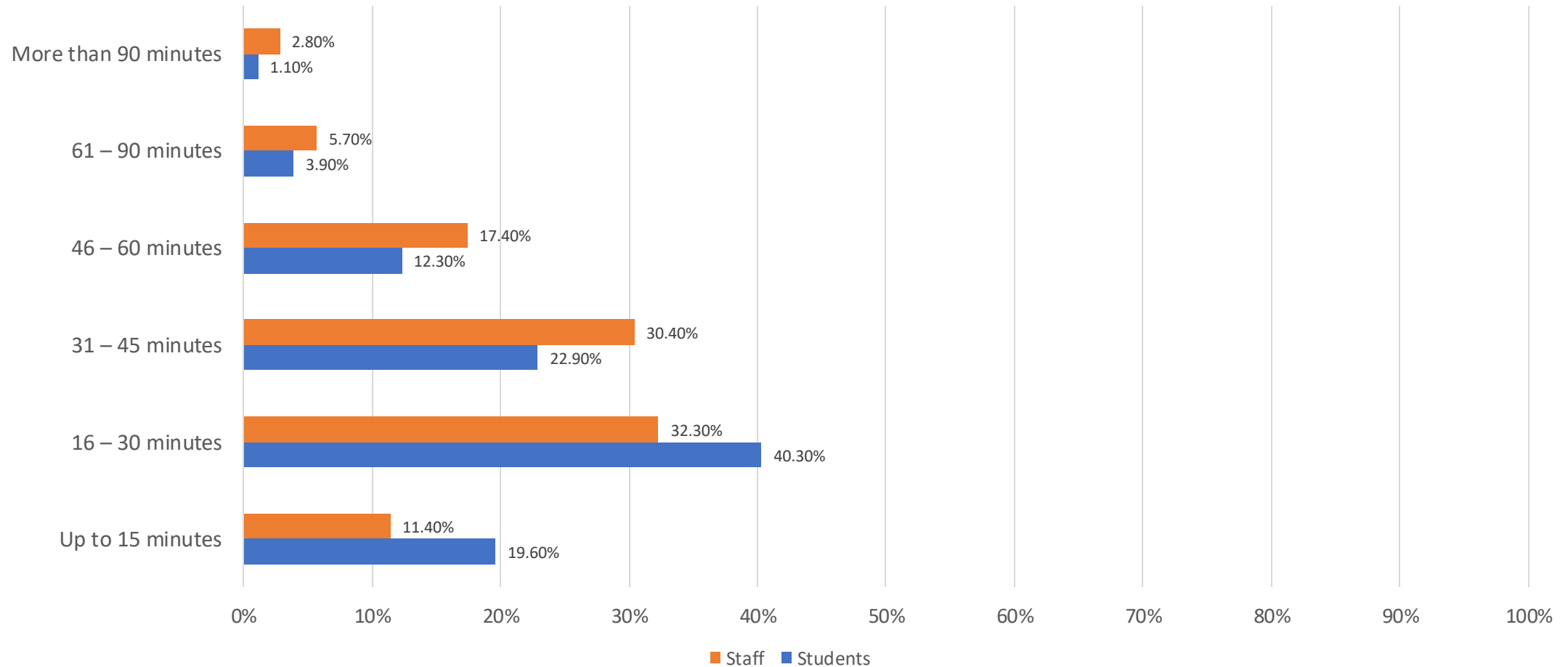


How long does your journey to work usually take?





Total journey time for those people that travel by car alone or car share



Travel

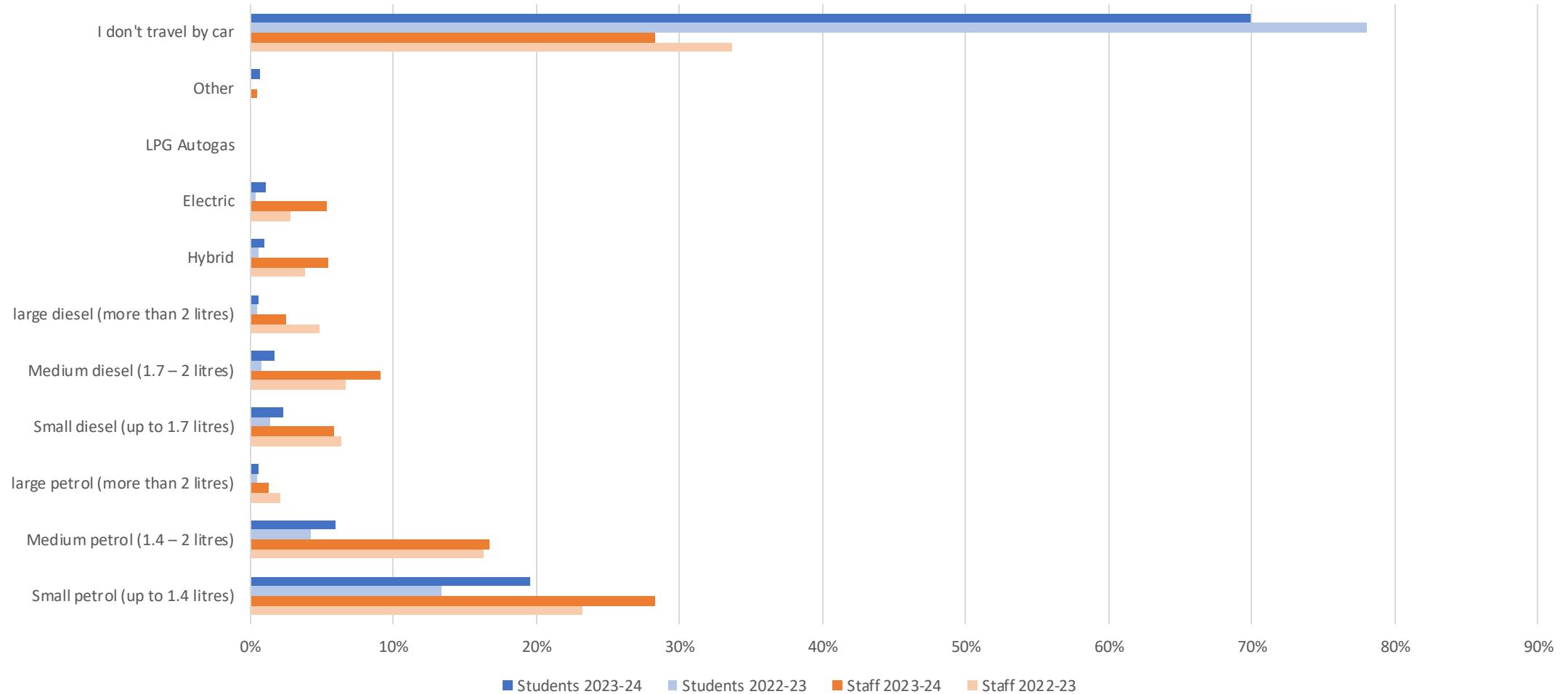


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If you travel by car, what kind of car (or cars) do you use regularly for your commuting to/from the University?





Partnerships

Our community are divided in opinion about how they think the University should respond to the **Fossil Free Careers Campaign**

Policy: Partnerships

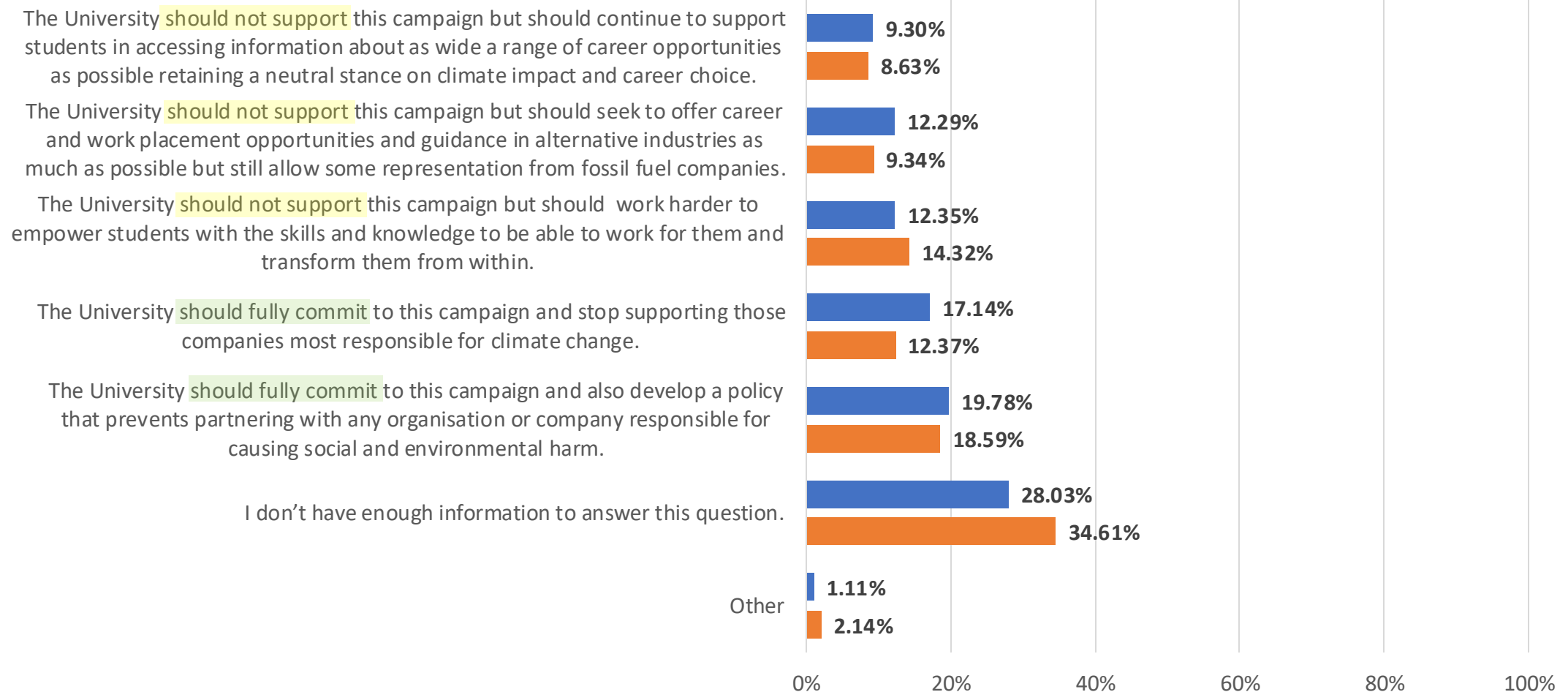


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How do you think the University of Bath should respond to the Fossil Free Careers campaign?



Policy: Partnerships



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How do you think the University of Bath should respond to the Fossil Free Careers campaign?

The University **should not support** this campaign but should continue to support students in accessing information about as wide a range of career opportunities as possible retaining a neutral stance on climate impact and career choice.

The University **should not support** this campaign but should seek to offer career and work placement opportunities and guidance in alternative industries as much as possible but still allow some representation from fossil fuel companies.

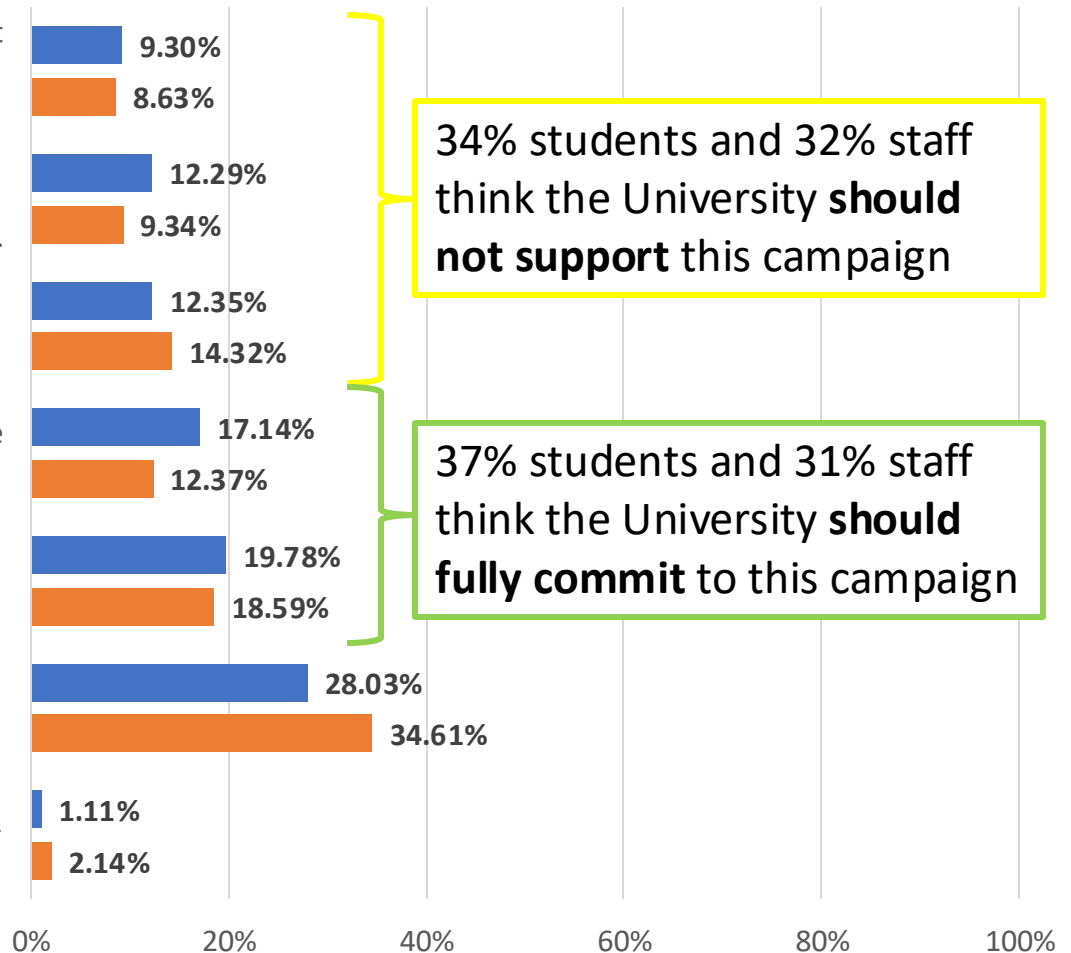
The University **should not support** this campaign but should work harder to empower students with the skills and knowledge to be able to work for them and transform them from within.

The University **should fully commit** to this campaign and stop supporting those companies most responsible for climate change.

The University **should fully commit** to this campaign and also develop a policy that prevents partnering with any organisation or company responsible for causing social and environmental harm.

I don't have enough information to answer this question.

Other



Policy: Partnerships



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Other

■ Students 2023-24 ■ Students 2022-23 ■ Staff 2023-24 ■ Staff 2022-23

0.0% 5.0% 10.0% 15.0% 20.0% 25.0% 30.0% 35.0% 40.0%

Policy: Partnerships

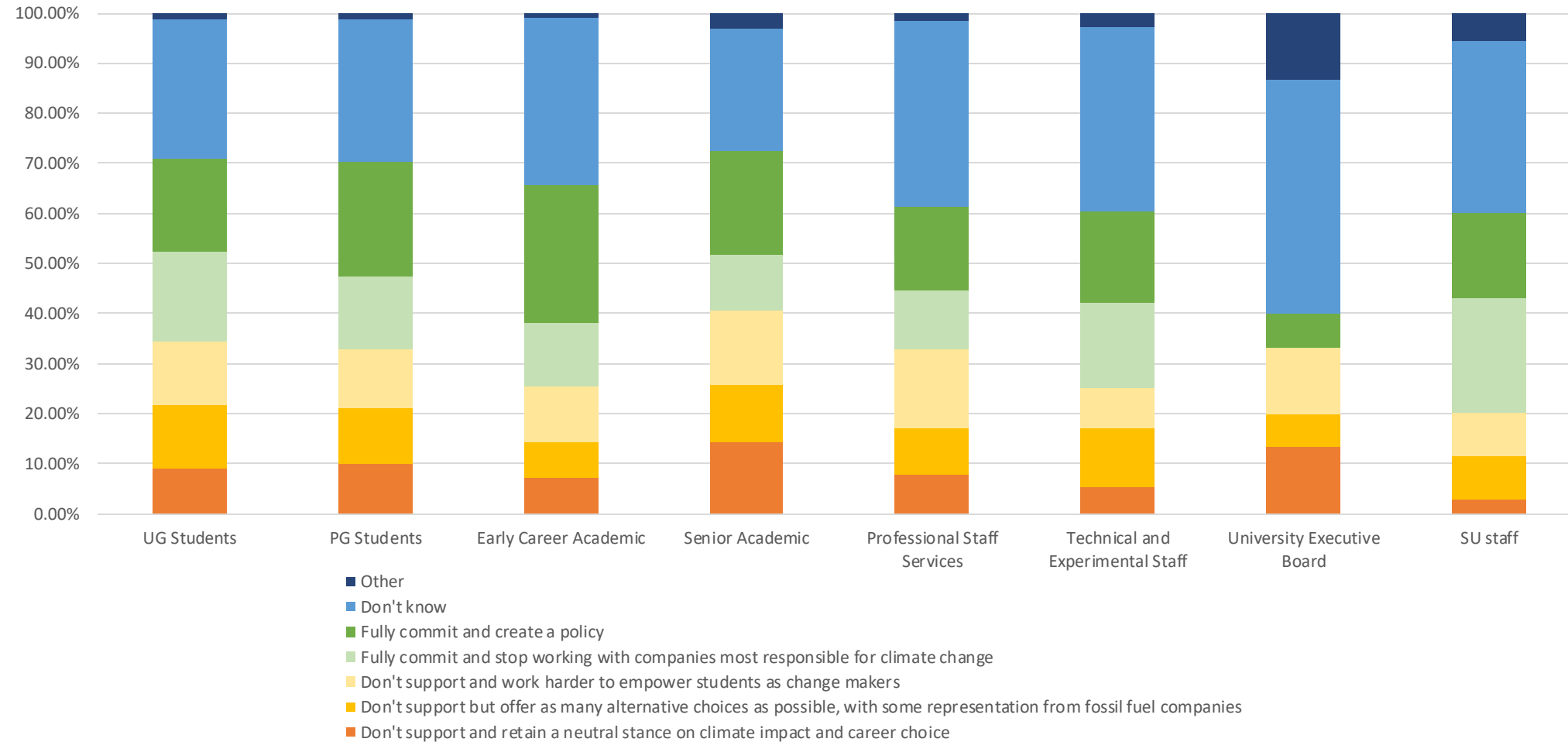


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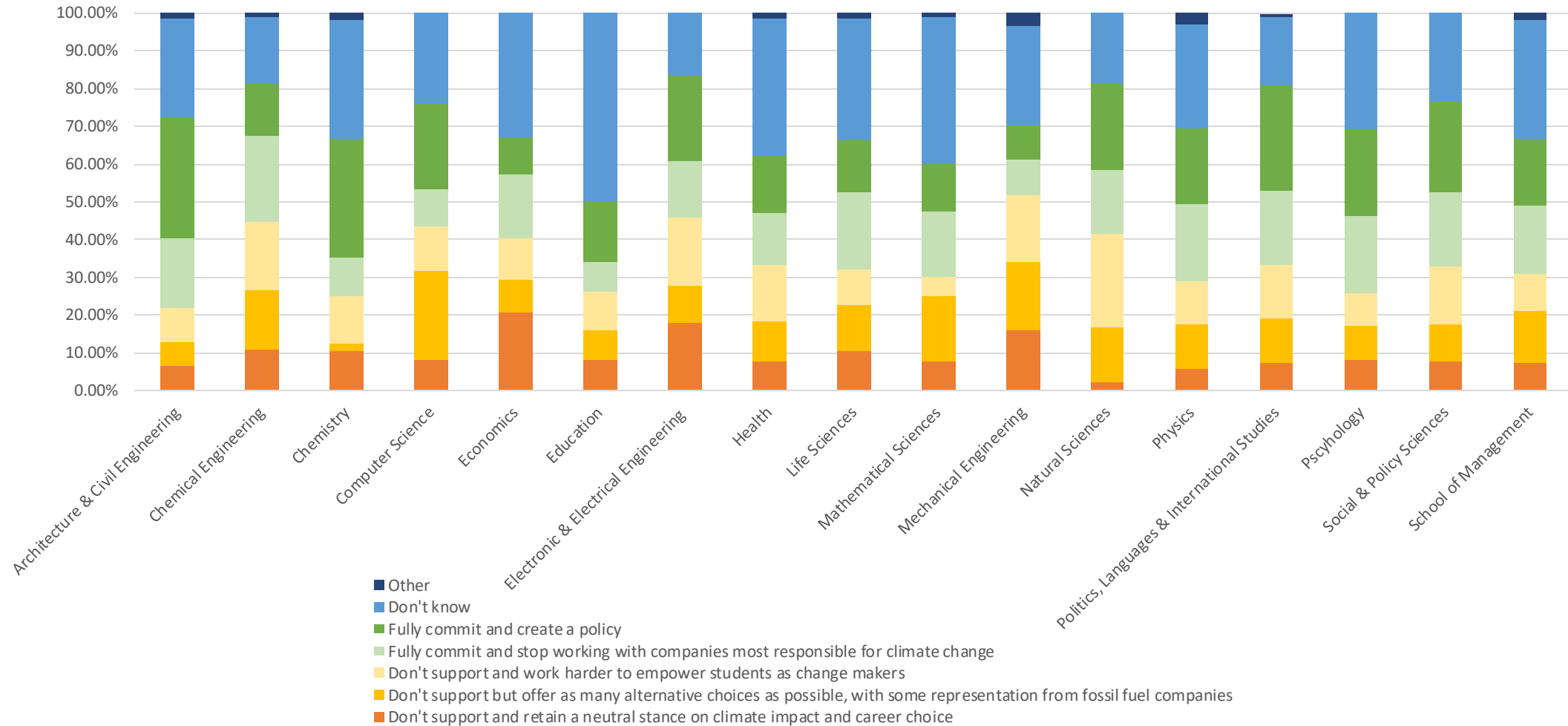
How do you think the University of Bath should respond to the Fossil Free Careers campaign?



Policy: Partnerships



How do you think the University of Bath should respond to the Fossil Free Careers campaign?



Find out more:
bath.ac.uk/topics/climate-change-and-the-university-of-bath/

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