

Briefing: NUS Covid-19 Research Phases 3 & 4

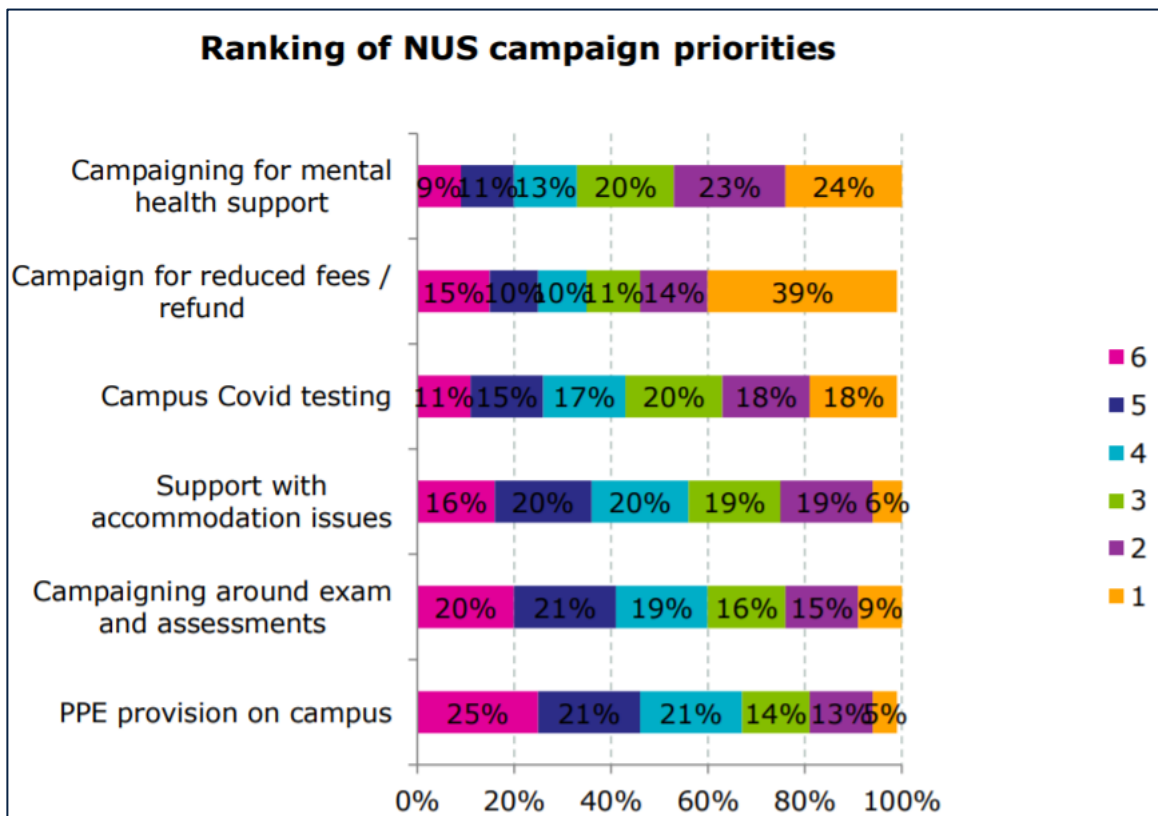
September 2021

Phase 3

The NUS conducted this phase of research in November 2020, achieving a sample of over 4,000 students across the country. The survey covered the following areas:

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- » When asked to rank what the NUS campaign priorities should be, a campaign for reduced fees or a refund was the most popular choice, however over two thirds of students rated NUS campaigning for mental health support as priority 1, 2 or 3 (results below).

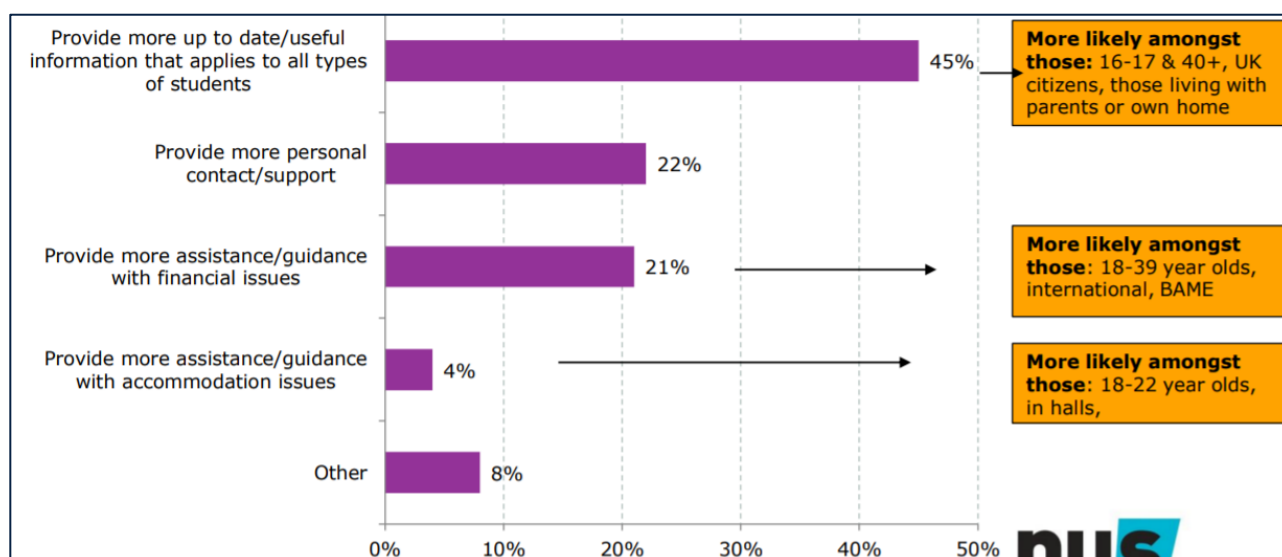


Support from SUs and Institutions

- » Almost half (45%) of students suggested that they had a meaningful relationship with their institution. Of the remaining 55%, 35% said they would like to develop one, and 20% they were not bothered about developing one.
- » In contrast, only 17% of respondents felt that they had a meaningful relationship with their Students' Union, with 39% saying that they would like to develop one and 45% stating that they were not bothered about developing one. Of the students who did not have a relationship with their Students'

Union but would like to develop one, respondents were more likely to be; 18-22, HE, international students, commuters, those in halls and BAME students.

- » Half of students have no opinion on whether their SU represents their interest, with 38% agreeing and 11% disagreeing.
- » Almost 4 in 5 students (79%) intended to continue their studies as usual the following year.
- » Respondents most commonly said that they would like their SU to support them better by providing up to date/useful information that applies to all types of students (results below).



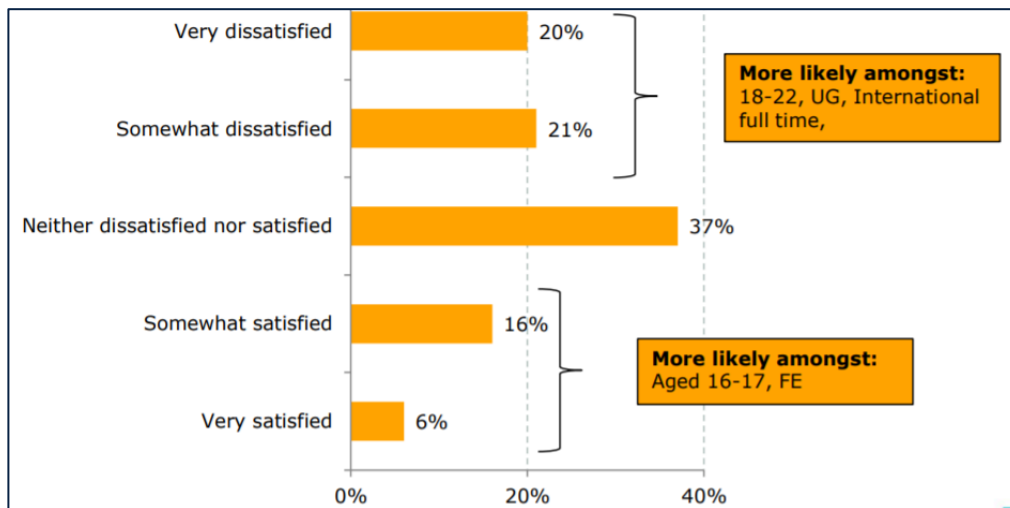
Finance

- » Just over 60% of respondents stated their Coronavirus had some degree of impact on their income, with 1 in 4 stating that the pandemic had a major impact.
- » Over two thirds of renters who responded to the survey (69%) stated that they had some level of concern about being able to pay their rent in the coming year, particularly international students, those from a BAME background and those who commute on public transport.
- » Three-quarters of respondents suggested that they were concerned about their ability to manage financially beyond the pandemic, with almost one-quarter of students (23%) stating that they were extremely concerns or very concerned.

Phase 4

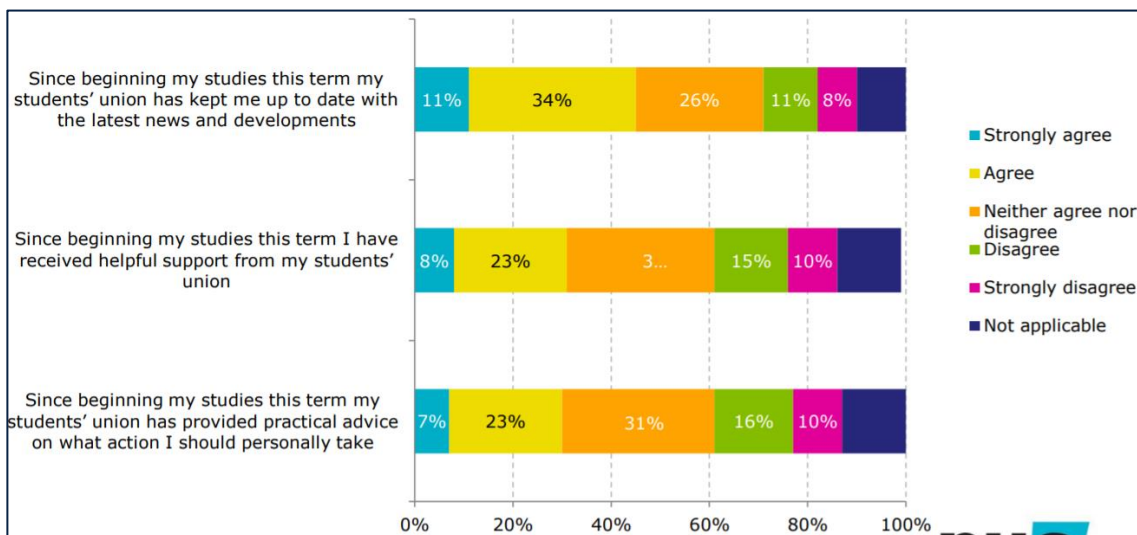
The NUS conducted this phase of research in March 2021. The survey covered the following areas:

- » Over half of students, (56%) felt that their mental health was worse than it was before the coronavirus pandemic, up from 52% in November 2020.
- » Of these students who felt that their mental health was worse, only 33% had sought mental health support (up from 29% in November 2020).
- » Of these students, 57% were satisfied with the support they received, with only 23% dissatisfied.
- » Two in five students reported that they were not satisfied with the opportunities they have had to interact socially since the start of their course in Autumn 2020 (results below).



Support from SUs and Institutions

- » Just under half of students (45%) agree that their SU has kept them up to date with the latest news, compared to 19% who disagree.
- » Under a third of respondents believe they have received helpful support (31%) or practical advice from their SU (30%) since the beginning of term in January 2021 (results below).

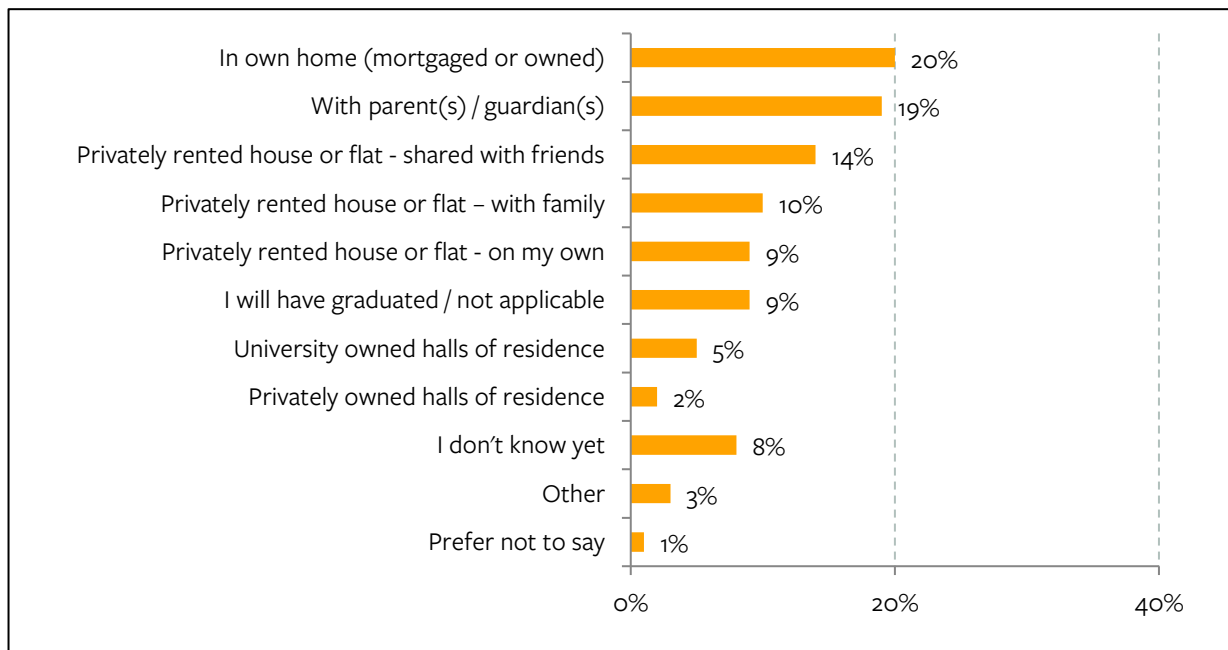


Learning Experiences

- » Only 30% of respondents felt that their expectations for the current term had been met, with 28% feeling that they had not been met. These figures are less favourable than in November 2020 (36% vs 22%).
- » When asked what they missed most from previous day to day learning experiences, the most common answers given were the social interaction with coursemates and the face-to-face teaching/ learning environment, each selected by 73% of respondents.
- » On the issue of what support could be provided by their institution, the most common response was to ask for regular check-ins and contact with course staff (44%).
- » Just under half (47%) of students reported being satisfied with the treatment of students and learners by their institution throughout the pandemic, compared to 27% who reported being dissatisfied.

Accommodation

- » Thinking ahead to the 2021-22 academic year, three in five respondents planned to be living on their own or with their parent(s)/guardian(s) or family. Around a fifth plan to live with friends in a flat or in halls of residence (results below).



The future

- » Over a third of respondents (37%) claim they have had to reassess their future career aspirations as a result of the pandemic, compared to just 26% who disagreed.