



alterline

## Union Futures: Your results

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# Introduction to the project

## A Background to Union Futures

*Q26: “The Students’ Union (Association or Guild) effectively represents students’ academic interests.”*

Some of the biggest changes to the NSS questionnaire come in the form of a new group of nine questions on student engagement (learning community and student voice).

For unions, the change from Q23 to Q26 means a shift away from a broad measure of satisfaction to one which asks students specifically about the union’s impact on their academic experience.

With the publication of an amended NSS questionnaire the thoughts of many are turning to the impact:

- What new insights will we learn?
- What strengths and weaknesses will it expose?
- What opportunities will it present?
- And, of course, what impact will it have on the league tables?



# An overview of Union Futures

This project has brought together 18 unions as part of a joint research venture to enable a proactive response to the new NSS questions. The project explores:

- What are the types of experiences, perceptions and attitudes that will influence how students respond to Q26?
- What are the union characteristics that will differentiate positive responses to Q26?
- How will students respond to the new Q26 question, and what can unions do to prepare?



# The Union Futures method

## Online student survey



- An online survey was completed by undergraduate students at 18 institutions
- The survey was live between 14<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- In total, the survey received 17,085 responses
- You received a total of 903 responses
- **This PowerPoint presents your results from the survey and the benchmark of all results from all participating institutions.**



## Survey of union information

- Each union completed a survey giving specific information about their own organisation.



## Online focus groups

- Four online focus groups were conducted with students from across the 18 institutions
- A total of 29 students took part in the focus groups.

# The Union Futures method

## Analysis and reporting

### Workshop

A workshop with representatives from the 18 institutions was conducted to discuss the emerging findings

### Outputs

- ① **Institution's own results:** This PowerPoint. It reports on your own institution's results to the student survey
- ② **Datasets:** Each institution will receive their own dataset, including open-ended responses
- ③ **The report:** Alterline will author a report, available to all participating institutions, which identifies key findings and makes a series of strategic recommendations
- ④ **Public report:** Alterline will produce a short, public-facing summary report. This will include far less information than the main report but may be useful for the sector as a whole by raising awareness of key challenges and lessons learned.

## Note of caution



- The results of this study are intended to facilitate an exploration of the changes to the National Student Survey and what they mean for students and students' unions
- The results are not designed to be predictive of your institution's NSS score
- There was considerable variation in the sample sizes achieved across participating institutions. Small institutional sample sizes will be less representative than larger ones.

# Your union's results and the benchmark

Key:

Slides with orange titles contain your union's results.

Slides with green titles contain overall results for the benchmark.

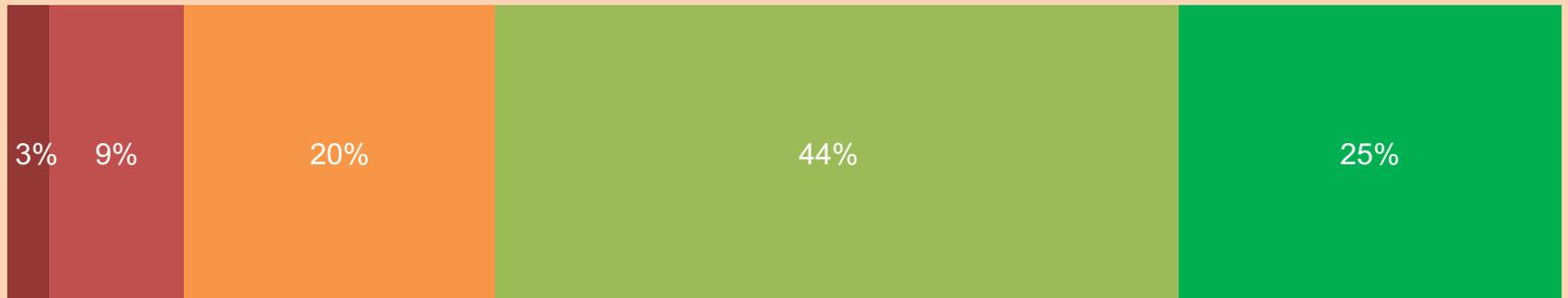
Please note that percentages in charts are rounded to the nearest integer and may therefore not add up to 100%.

# B1 – NSS Q26

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

“The Students' union/ Association/ Guild effectively represents students' academic interests”?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (898)



■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree

# B1 – NSS Q26 (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement:

“The Students' Union/ Association/ Guild effectively represents students' academic interests”?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (16998)

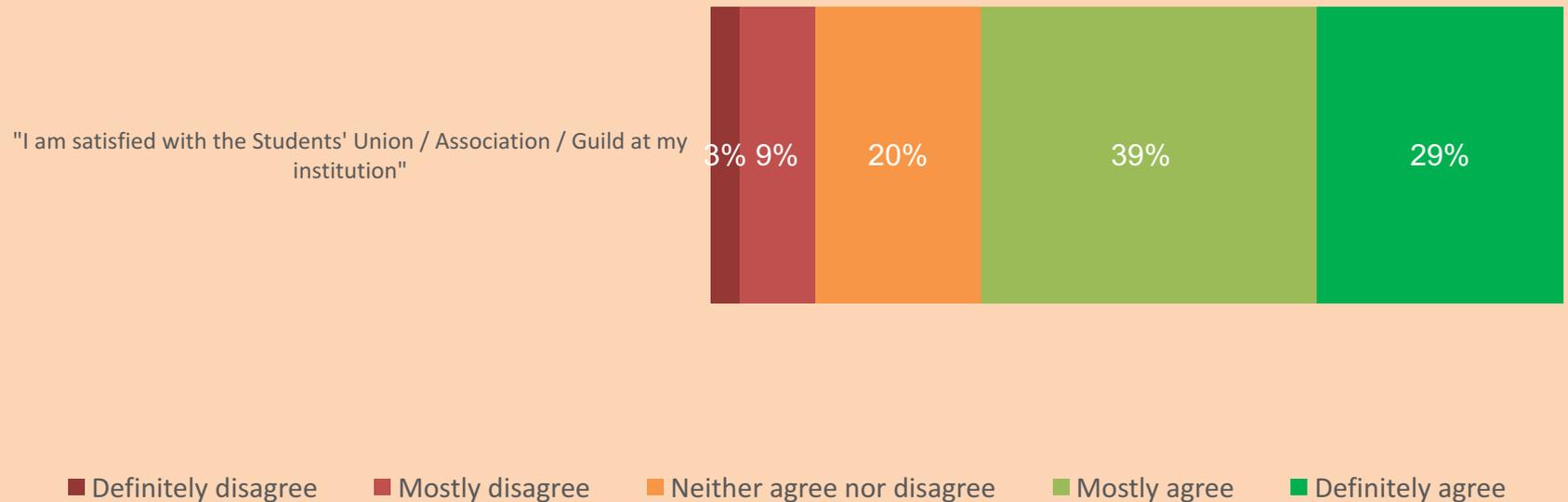


■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree

## B2 – NSS Q23

Thinking of all the services, including support, activities and academic representation provided by the Students' Union/ Association/ Guild at your institution, to what extent do you agree with the following statement:

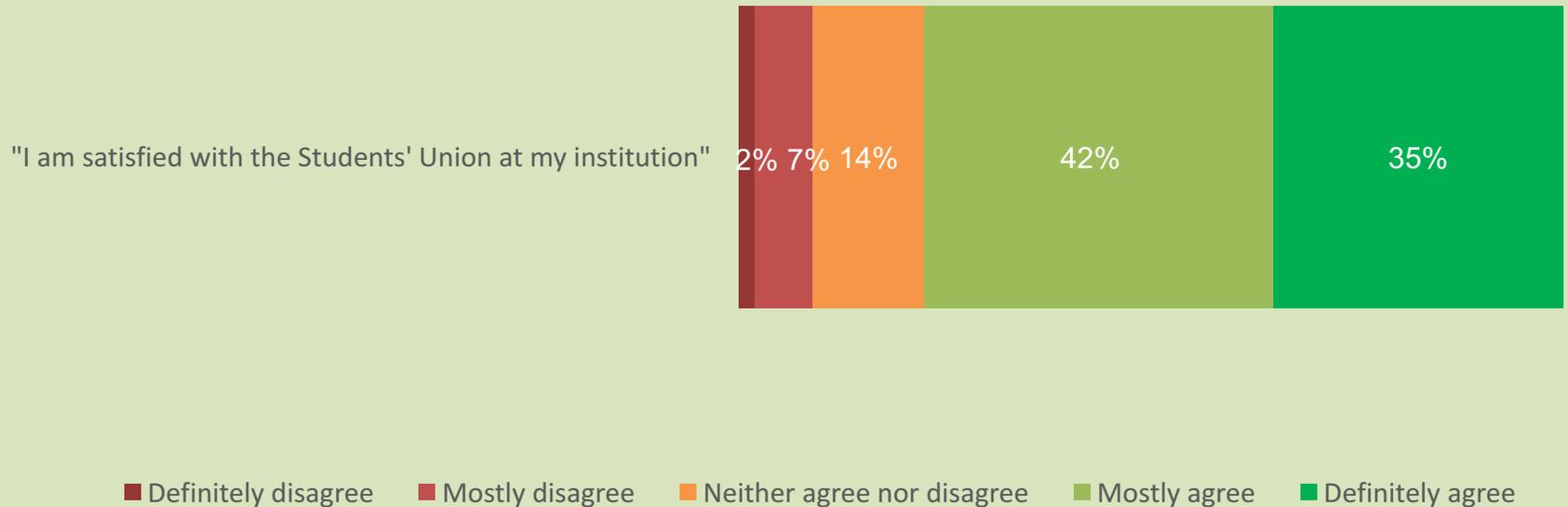
Base: All respondents not N/A (894)



## B2 – NSS Q23 (Benchmark)

Thinking of all the services including support, activities and academic representation provided by the Students' Union/Association/Guild at your institution, to what extent do you agree with the following statement:

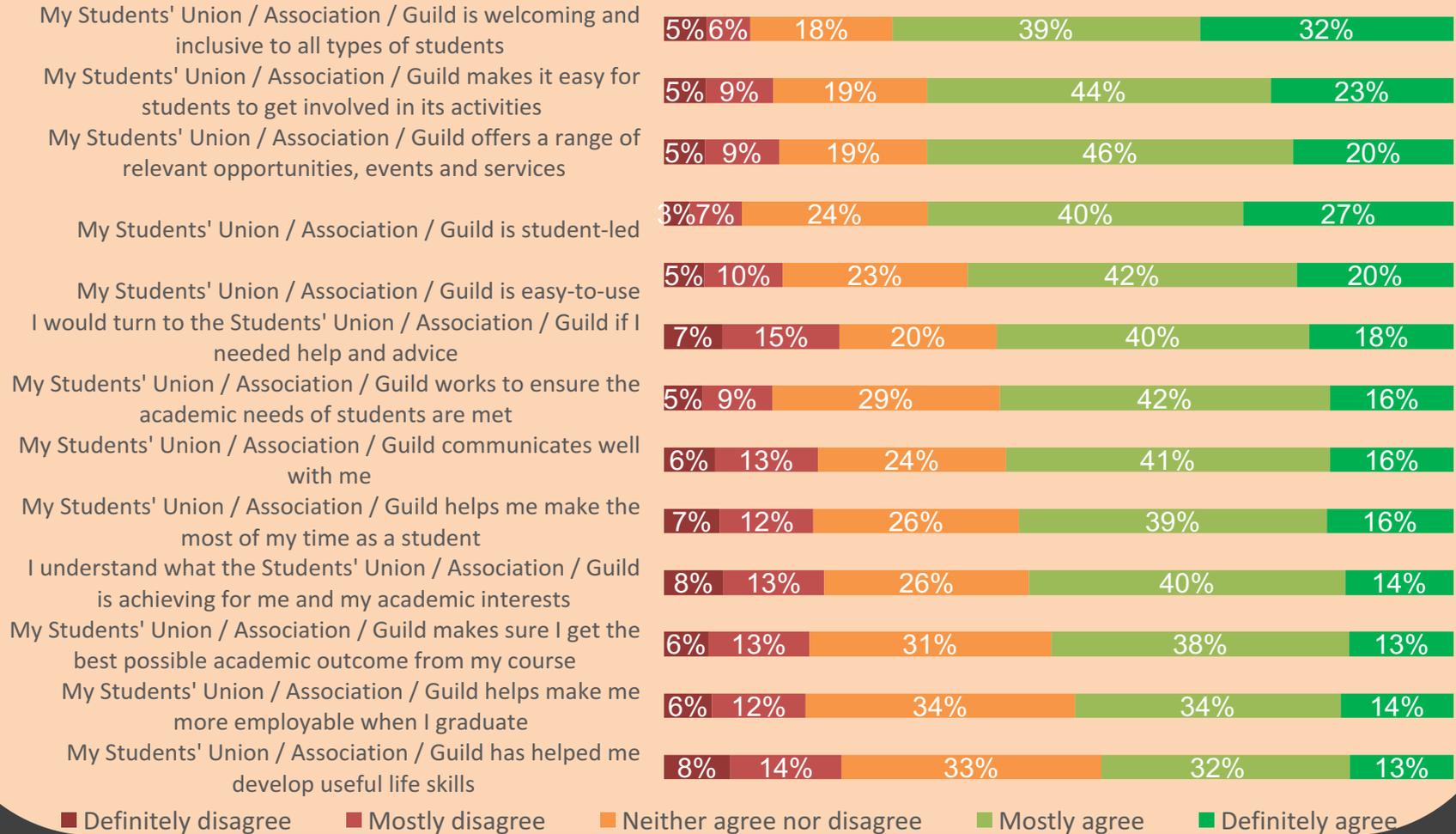
Base: All respondents not N/A (16998)



# B3 – Other perceptions

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

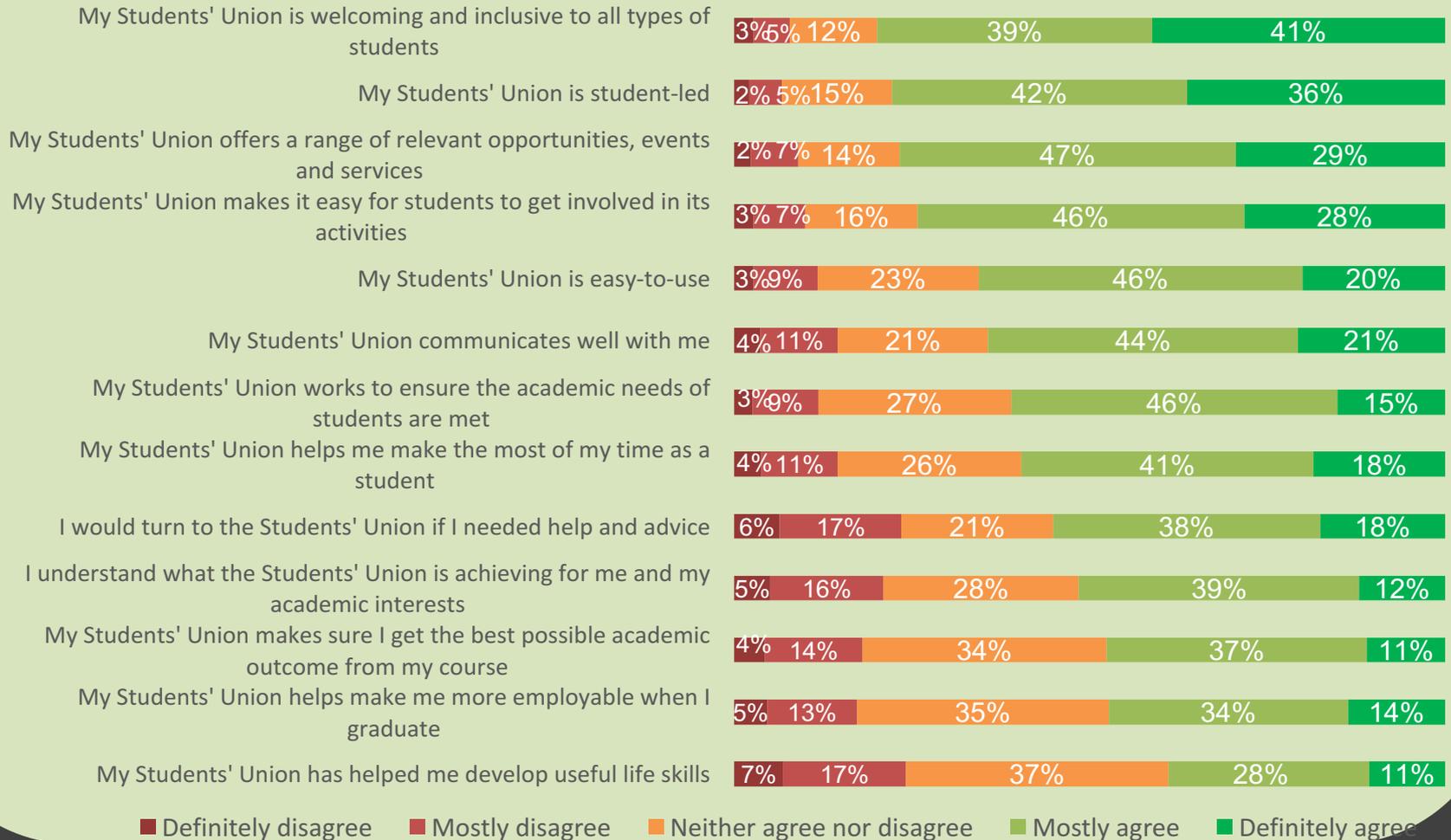
Base: All respondents to the survey (903)



# B3 – Other perceptions (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

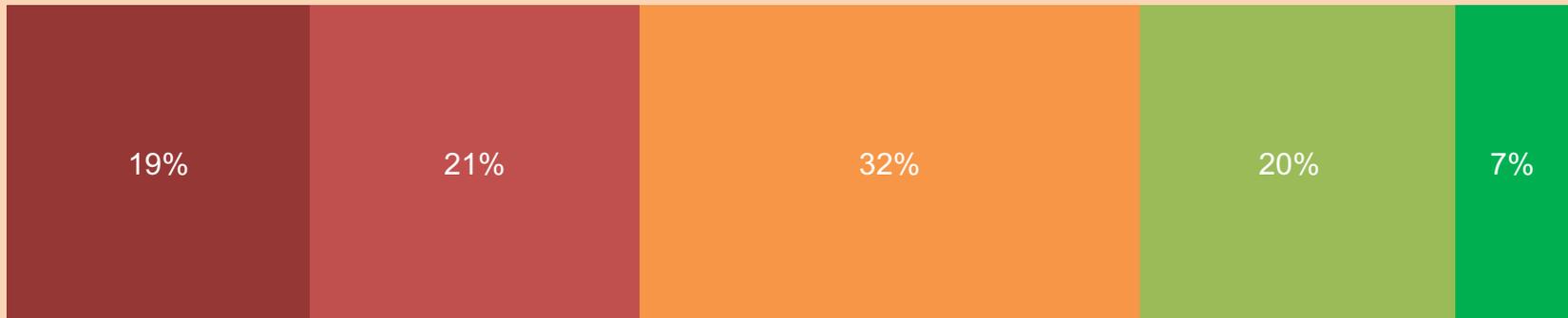
Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)



# C1 – Involvement

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
“I am involved with the Students' Union / Association / Guild.”

Base: All respondents to the survey (903)



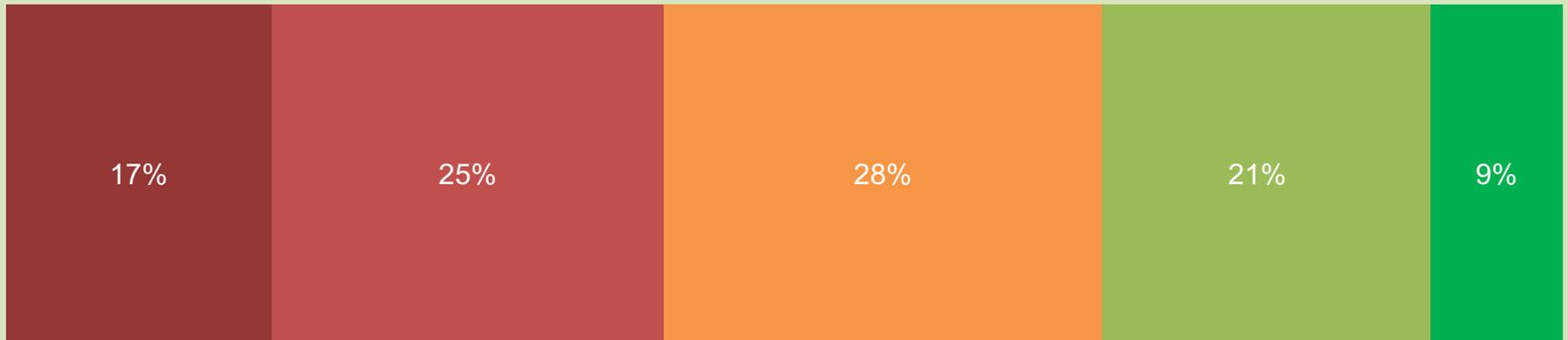
■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree

# C1 – Involvement (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“I am involved with the Students' Union / Association / Guild.”

Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)

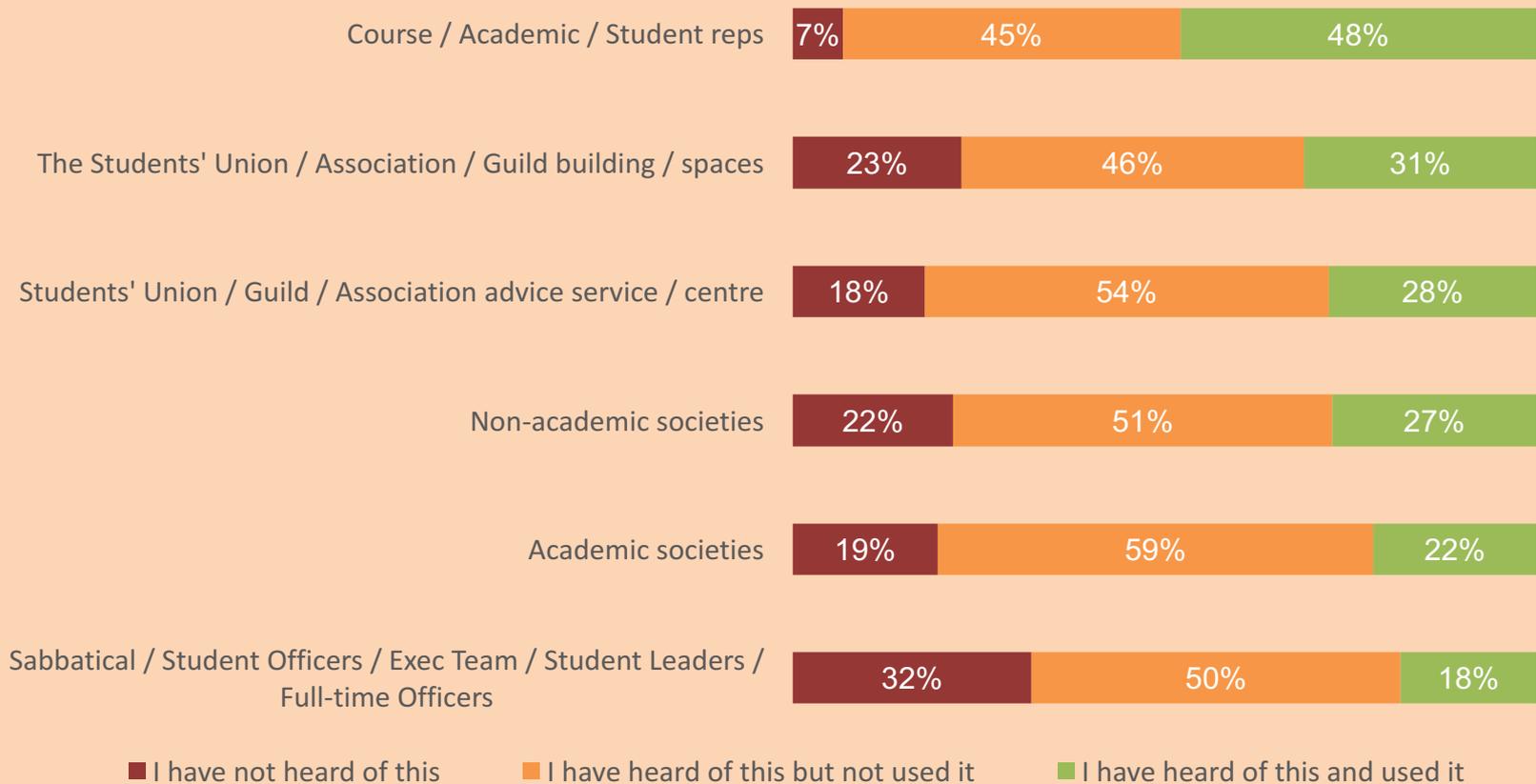


■ Definitely disagree ■ Mostly disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Mostly agree ■ Definitely agree

## C2 – Use and awareness of services

Which of the following have you heard of or used, visited or had contact with during your time at university?

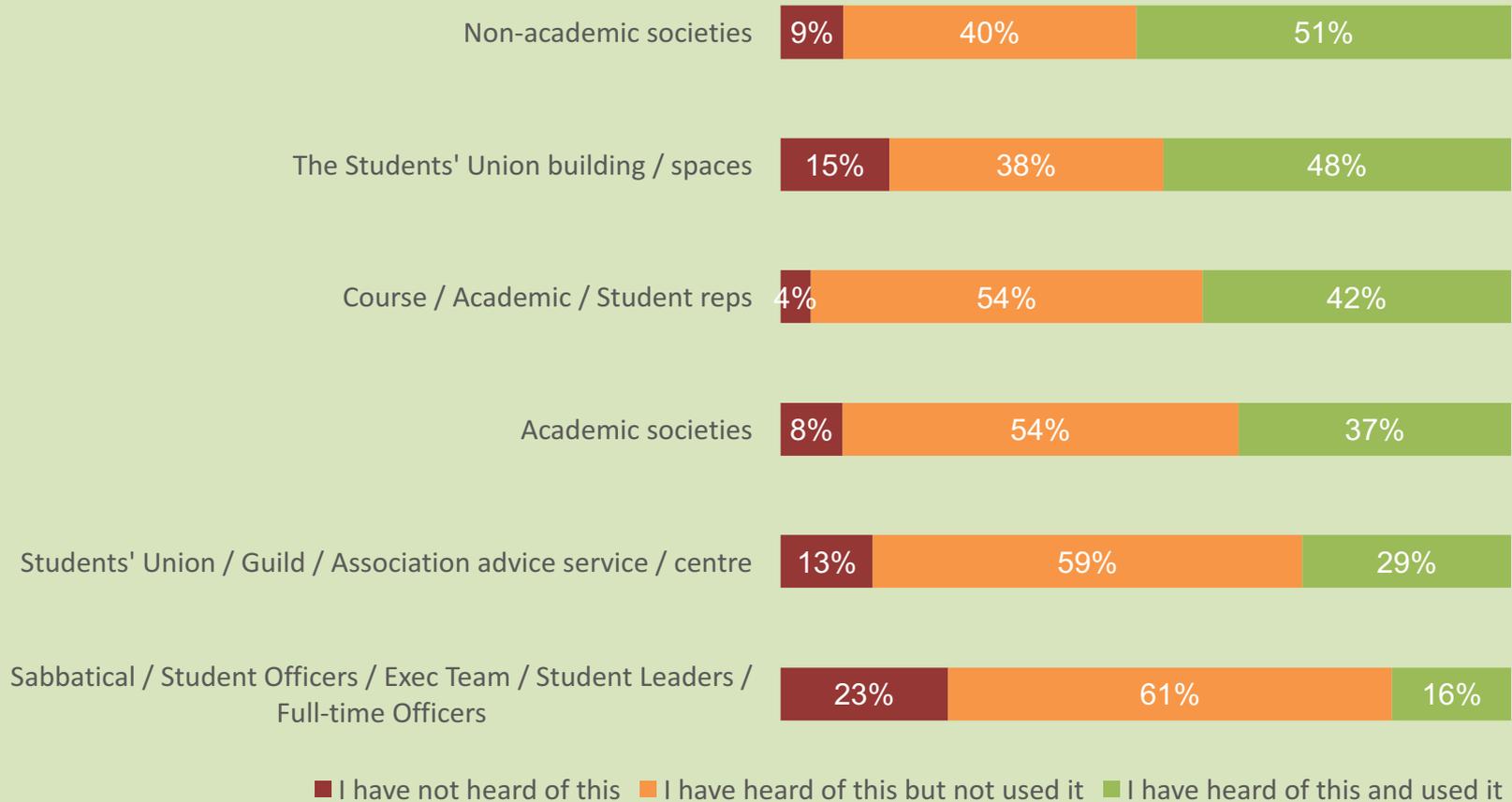
Base: All respondents to the survey (903)



## C2 – Use and awareness of services (Benchmark)

Which of the following have you heard of or used, visited or had contact with during your time at university?

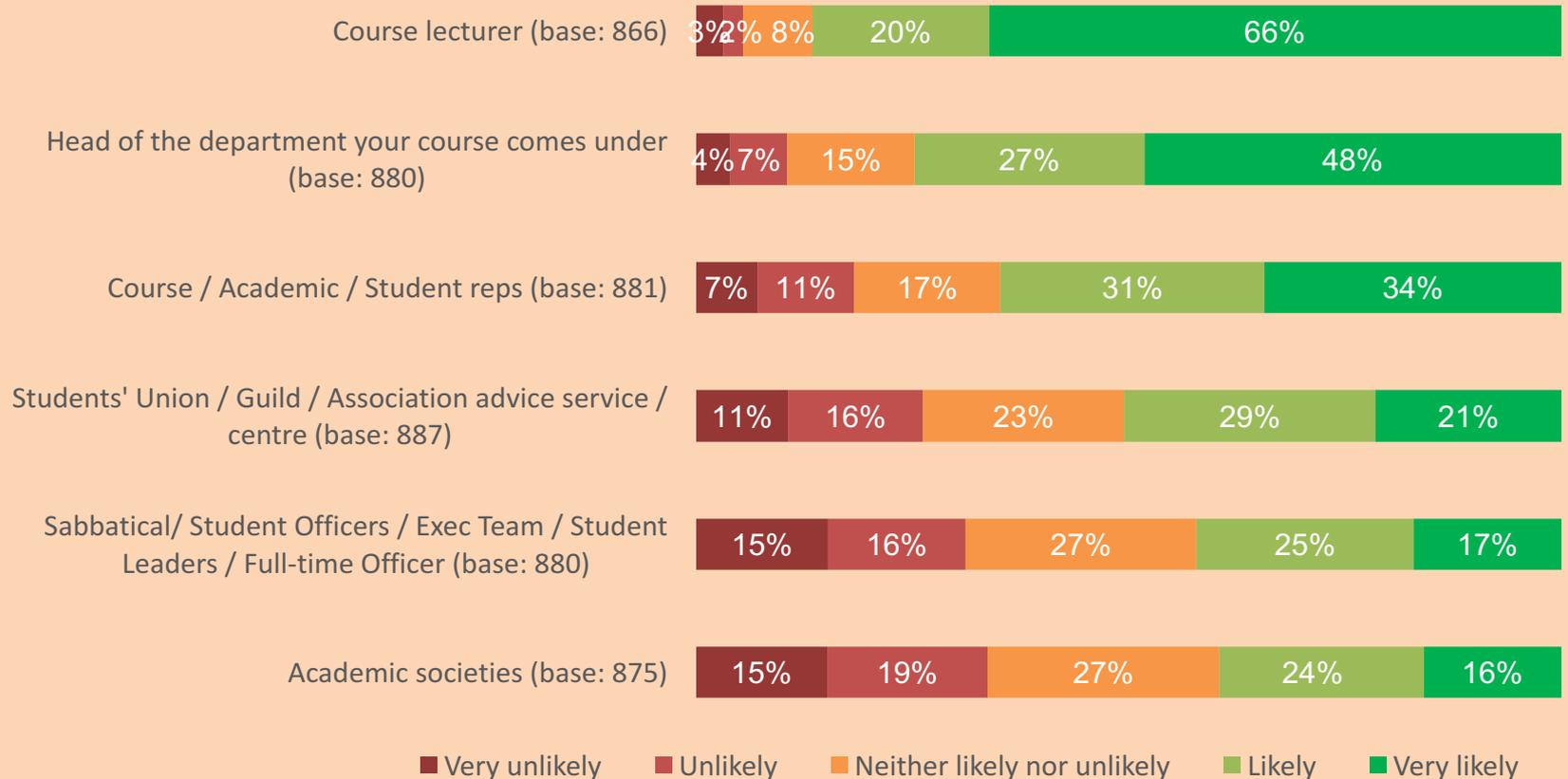
Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)



# C3 – Likelihood to use services

If you had a question, issue or problem surrounding your academic interests, how likely would you be to contact or use the following services?

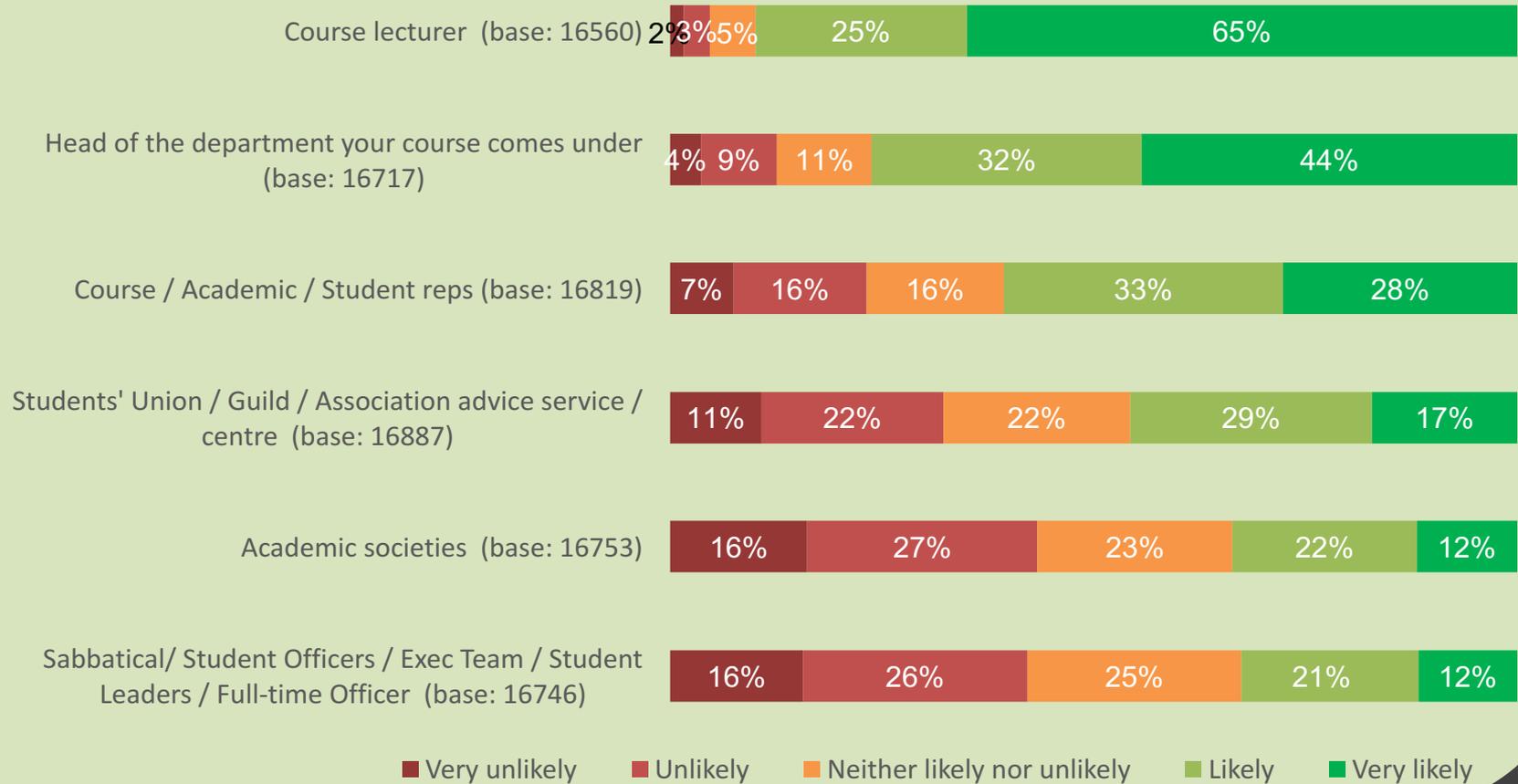
Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)



# C3 – Likelihood to use services (Benchmark)

If you had a question, issue or problem surrounding your academic interests, how likely would you be to contact or use the following services?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)



# C4 – Voting in elections and being a course rep

Please answer yes or no to the following:

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Have you ever voted in a Course / Academic / Student reps election?  
(base: 857)



Have you ever been an elected Course / Academic / Student rep?  
(base: 850)



Have you ever voted to elect Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time Officers to your Students' Union / Association / Guild?  
(base: 831)



■ No

■ Yes

# C4 – Voting in elections and being a course rep (Benchmark)

Please answer yes or no to the following:

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Have you ever voted in a Course / Academic / Student reps election?  
(base: 16483)



Have you ever voted to elect Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time Officers to your Students' Union?  
(base: 16218)



Have you ever been an elected Course / Academic / Student rep?  
(base: 16366)



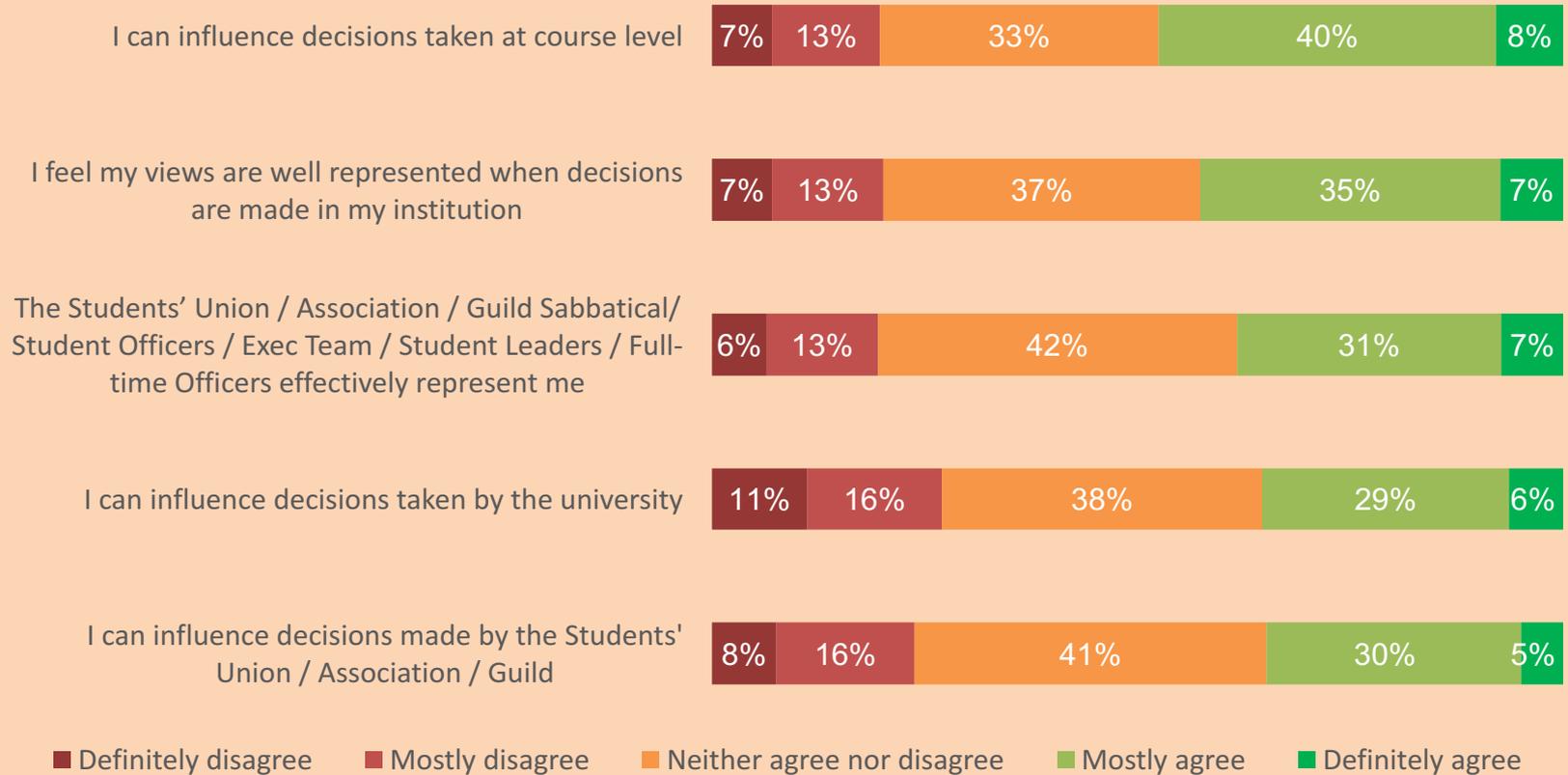
■ No

■ Yes

# D1 – Representation

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the influence you have on decisions about your institution?

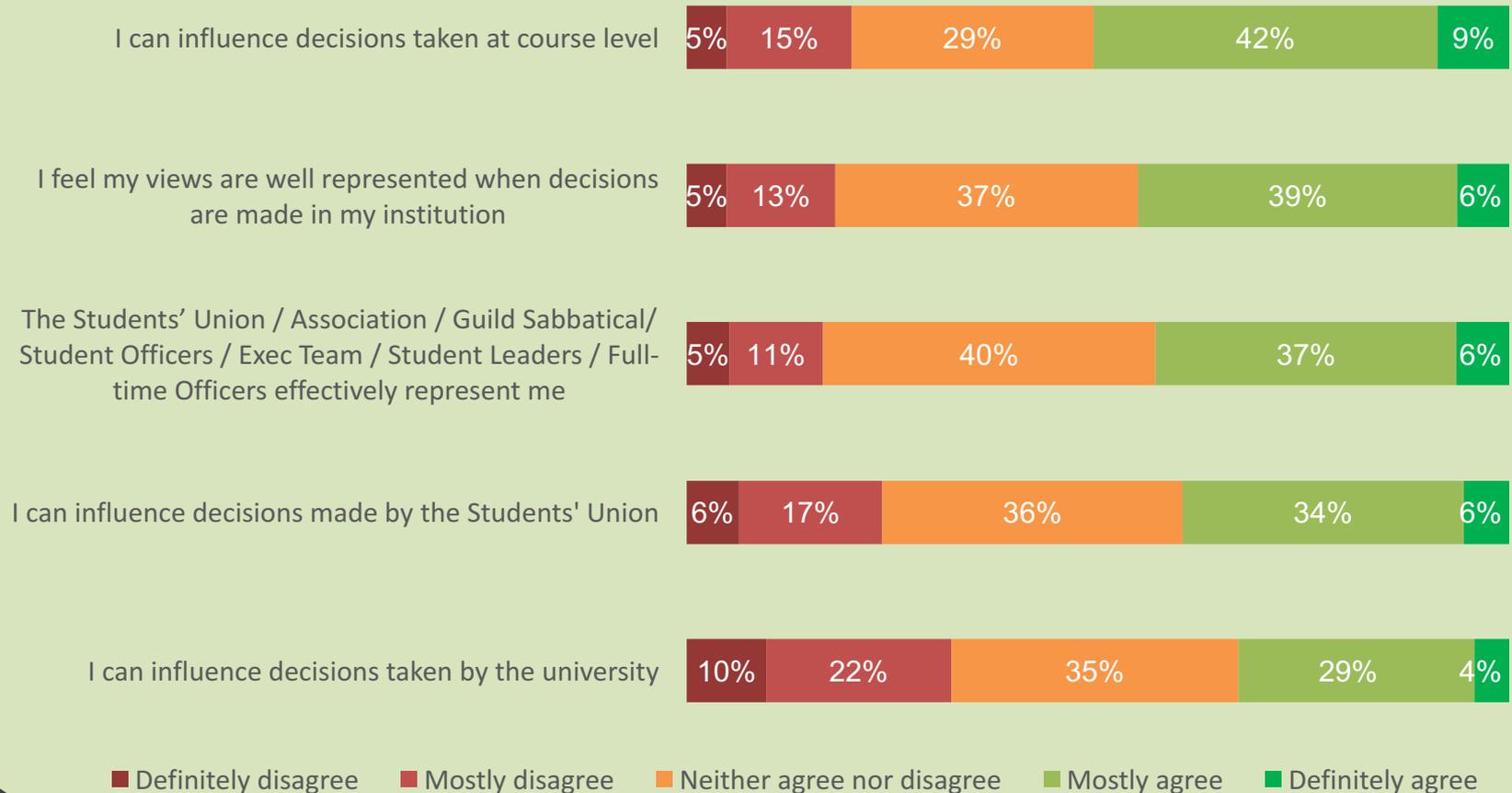
Base: All respondents to the survey (903)



# D1 – Representation (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the influence you have on decisions about your institution?

Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)

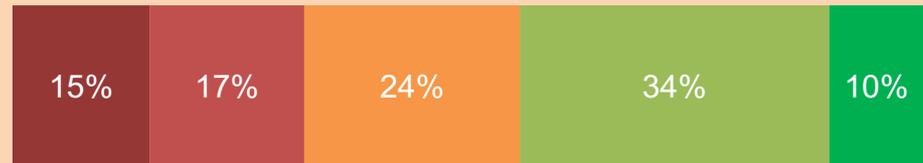


## D2 – Awareness of student officers

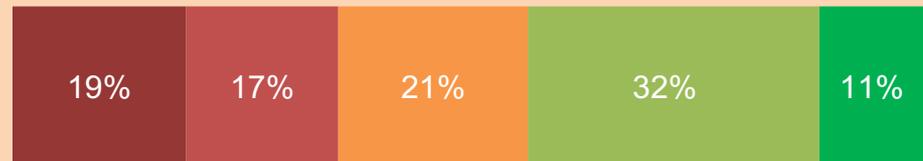
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents to the survey (903)

I understand what the Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers do



I know who the Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers are



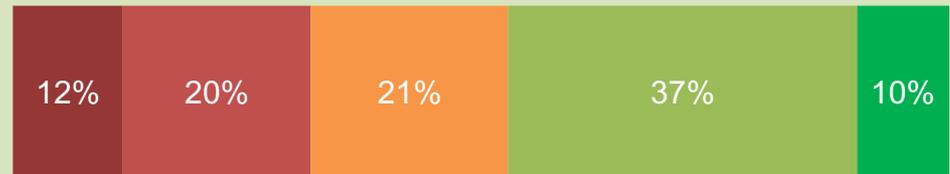
■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree

## D2 – Awareness of student officers (Benchmark)

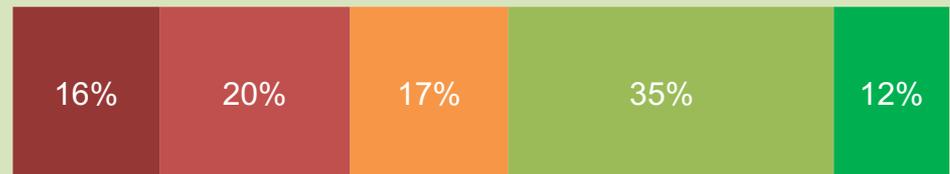
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)

I understand what the Students' Union Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers do



I know who the Students' Union Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers are

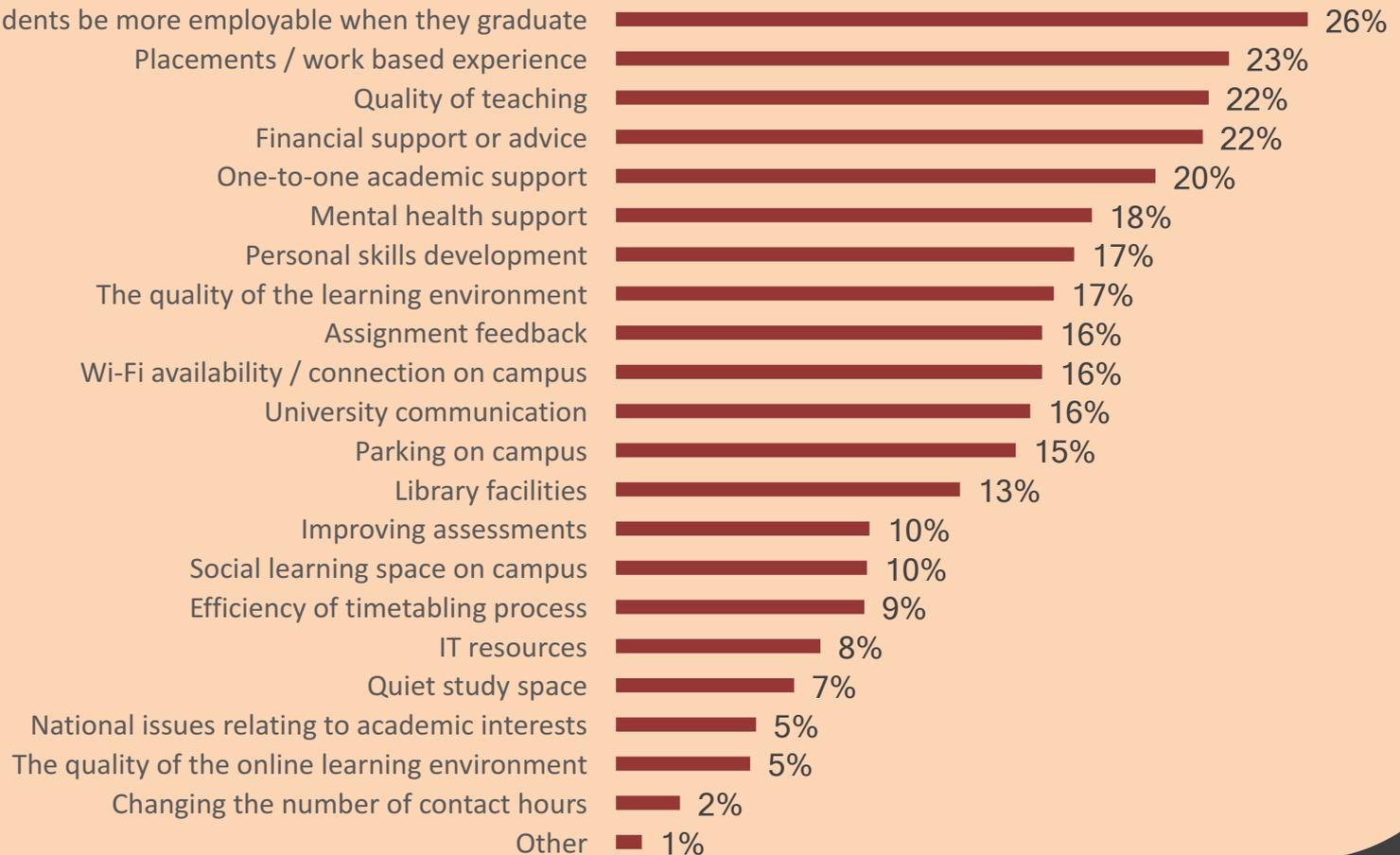


■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree

## E2 – Representing students' academic interests

Please choose three things from the following list which you think are most important for your Students' Union / Association / Guild to campaign for to represent your academic interests? Please select the three that apply.

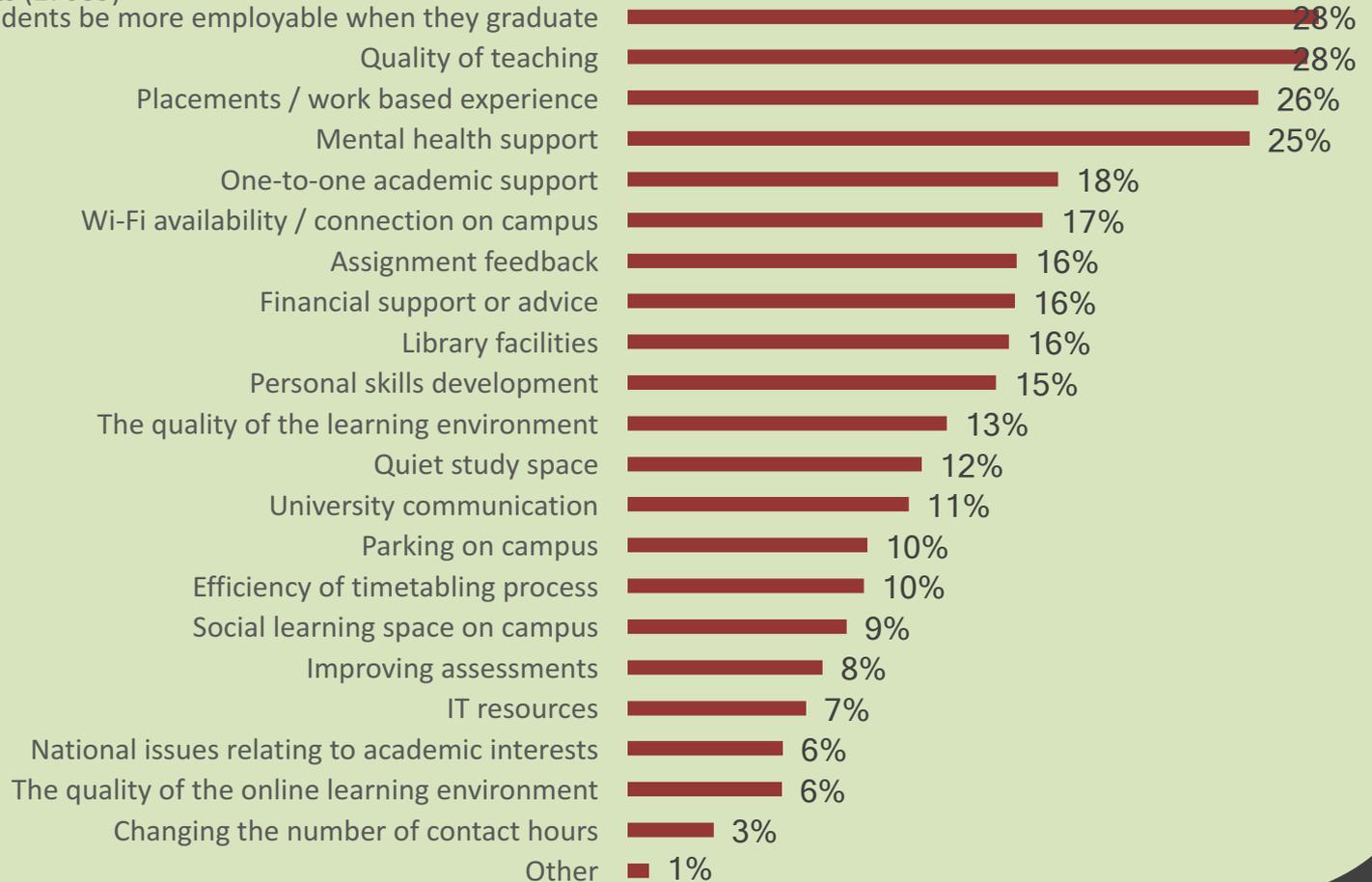
Base: All respondents (903)



## E2 – Representing students' academic interests (Benchmark)

Please choose three things from the following list which you think are most important for your Students' Union / Association / Guild to campaign for to represent your academic interests? Please select the three that apply.

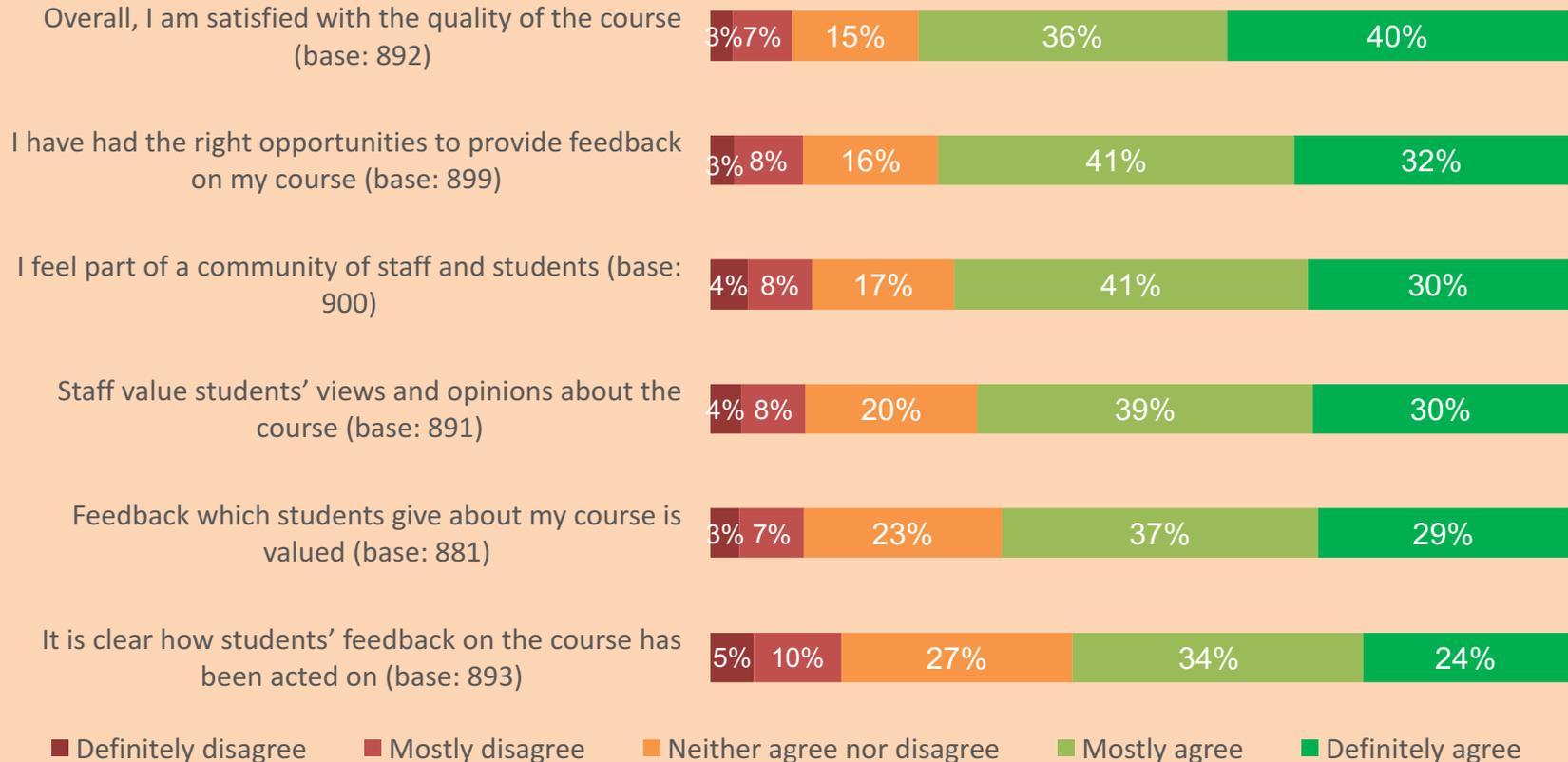
Base: All respondents (17085)



# F1 – Other NSS questions

Thinking about your course as a whole, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)



# F1 – Other NSS questions (Benchmark)

Thinking about your course as a whole, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course  
(base: 16870)



I have had the right opportunities to provide feedback  
on my course (base: 16974)



I feel part of a community of staff and students (base:  
17032)



Staff value students' views and opinions about the  
course (base: 16923)



Feedback which students give about my course is  
valued (base: 16810)



It is clear how students' feedback on the course has  
been acted on (base: 16874)



■ Definitely disagree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Definitely agree