

AAERI : Student Survey Highlights



**ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION
REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA**

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI 1860
Registration No. S-31213 of 1997

1018 Hemkunt Chambers
89 Nehru Place
New Delhi 110019
Tel : 011 4161 9596, 91 98 11 505 494
Web : www.aaeri.in
Email : aaeri@aaeri.in

Introduction

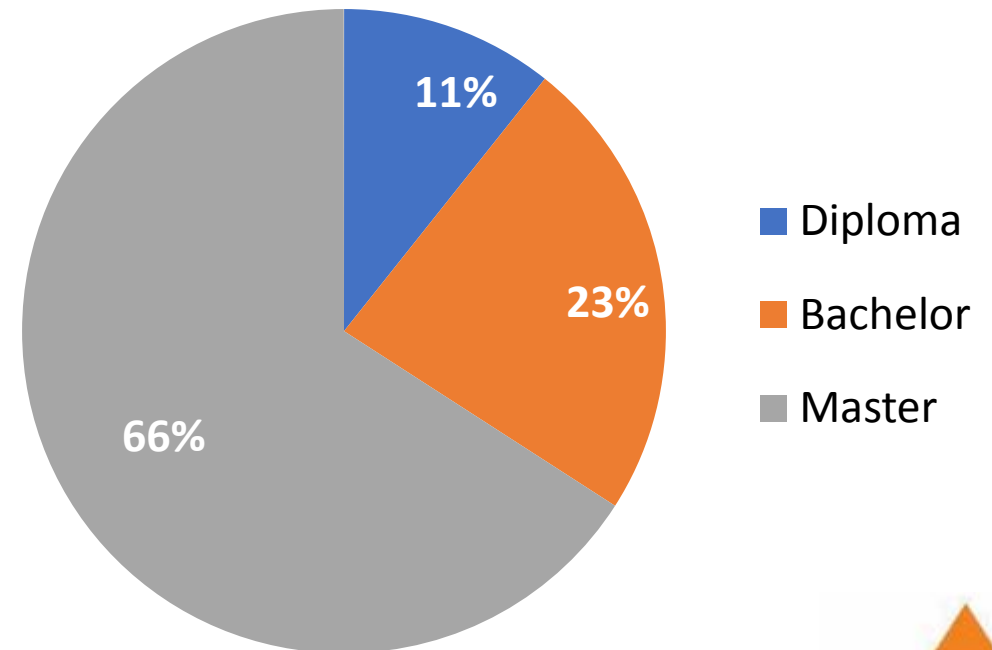
- The survey was floated from **3rd August 2020** for **15 days** among prospective international students from India and Nepal with help of AAERI Members.
- The global higher education sector is adapting to the **new normal** and governments across are also making **rapid changes** in regulations and recommendations for international students, thus to understand the “**mood of students**” this survey was conducted
- Our survey take the pulse of prospective international students, detailing how COVID has impacted their study abroad plans; what are their concerns regarding remote learning and their expectations from the Universities in present time and after travel restrictions are lifted.
- We understand, in this complex climate, **flexibility and innovation** will be the pivotal pillars for many universities.



Respondent Profile

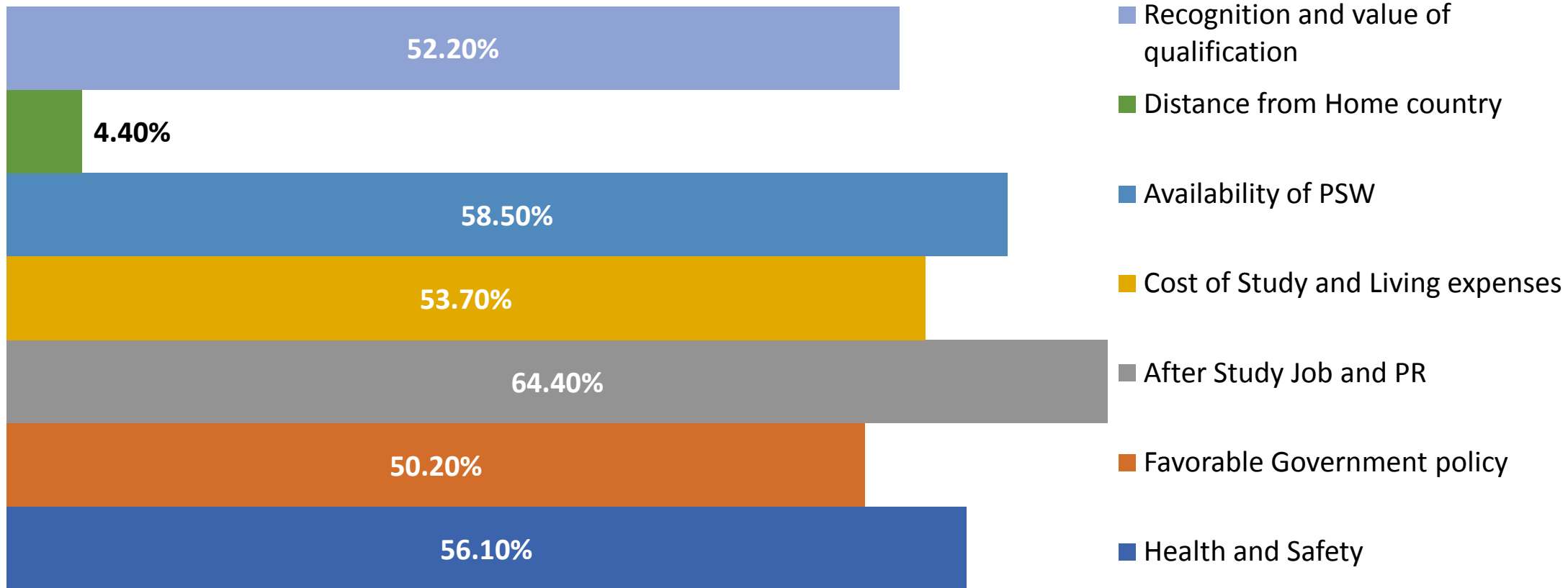
- 615 respondents, from India and Nepal
- Approx. 50% of the respondents from North India and West India; 11% from Nepal
- Majority of the respondents are interested in studying at Australia (67.8%) followed by Canada (17.1%), UK (9.3%), NZ (3.9%) and USA (2%)

Respondents Intent of study



Factors – Deciding study abroad destination

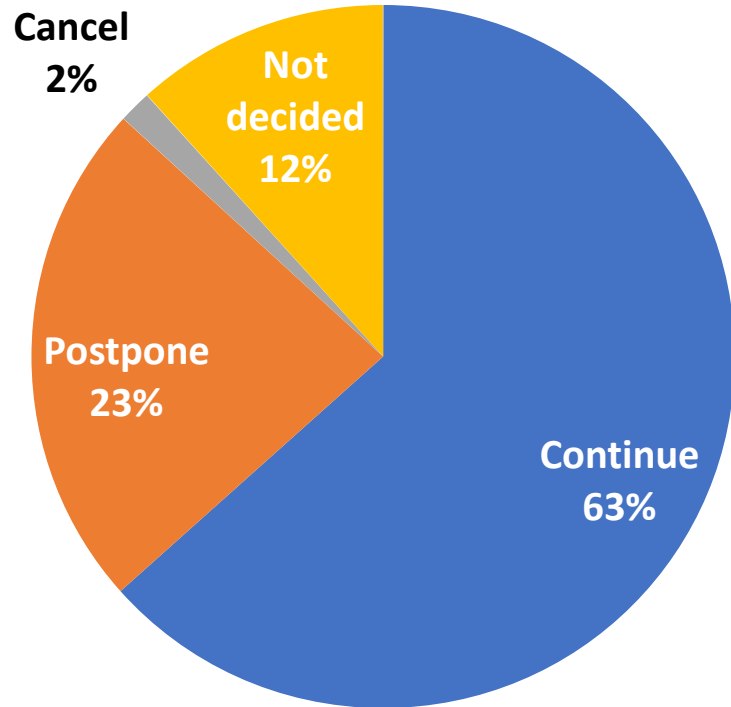
Majority of the students consider availability of Job/ PR after study and Post Study Work rules as major factors while selecting study abroad destination followed by Health & safety and Recognition of qualification, while least are concerned about distance from home country.



Note: Respondents could choose multiple options

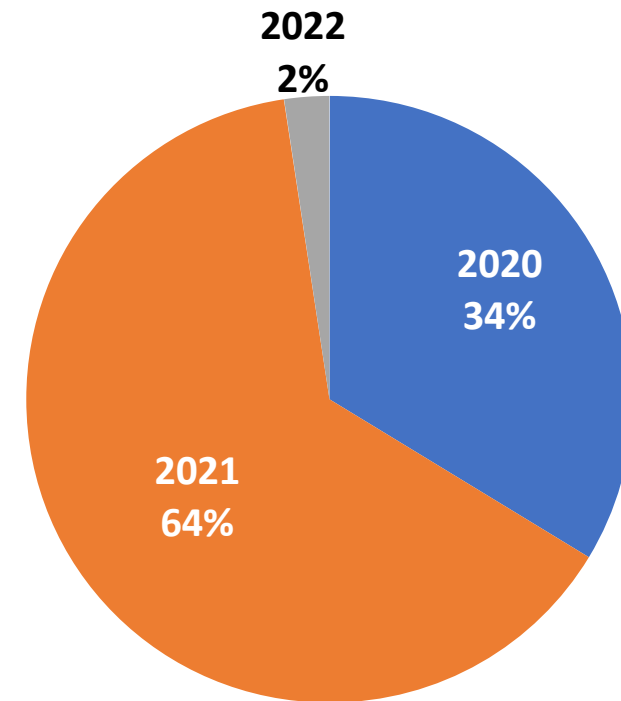
COVID-19 effect on study abroad decision

- **82%** respondents indicated COVID-19 has affected their study abroad plan
- **63%** to continue with study abroad plan while waiting for travel restriction to be lifted
- Approx. **98%** students intend to start studies in **2020 -2021**; with nearly 2/3rd starting in 2021



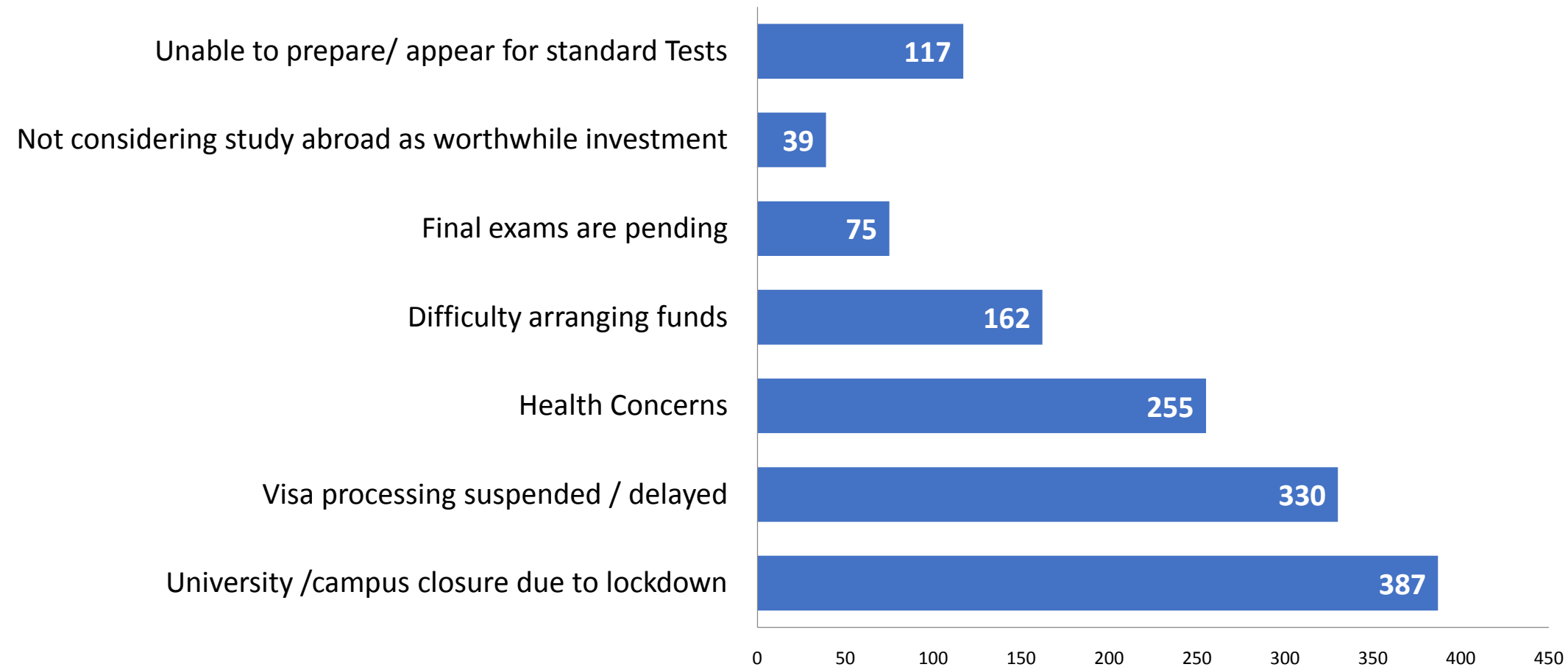
Current study abroad plans of students

Year in which they are planning to commence studies



Major factors affecting study abroad plans

University /Campus closure due to lockdown and Visa processing delays/ suspension were the major reasons affecting study plans whereas arranging funds or unable to appear for standard test were not among the major reasons.

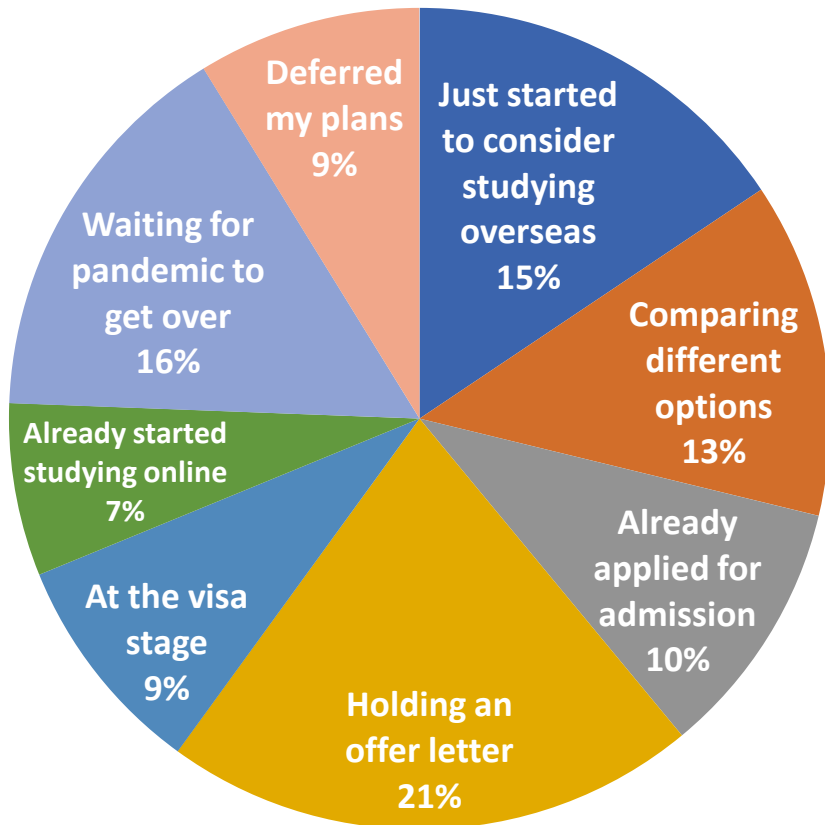


Note: Respondents could choose multiple options

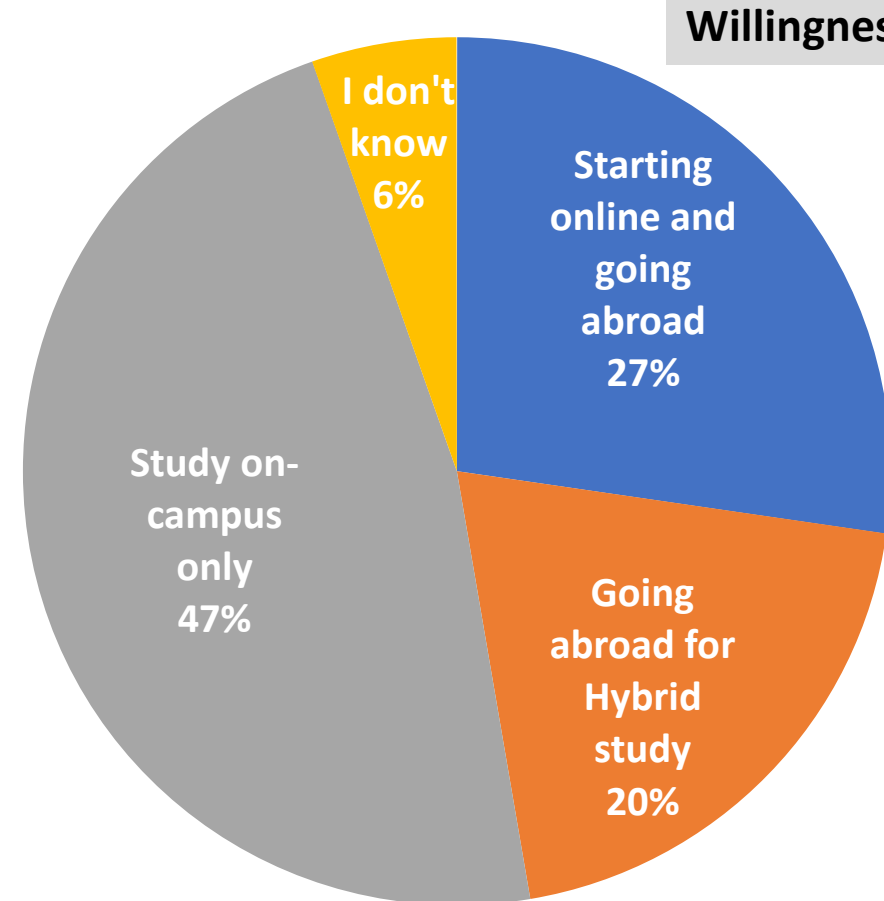


Current status

- **7%** have already started studying online; **9%** are at Visa Stage; **21%** are holding offer letter; only **9%** deferring
- **27%** are considering to start studying online and **20%** have opted for hybrid studies



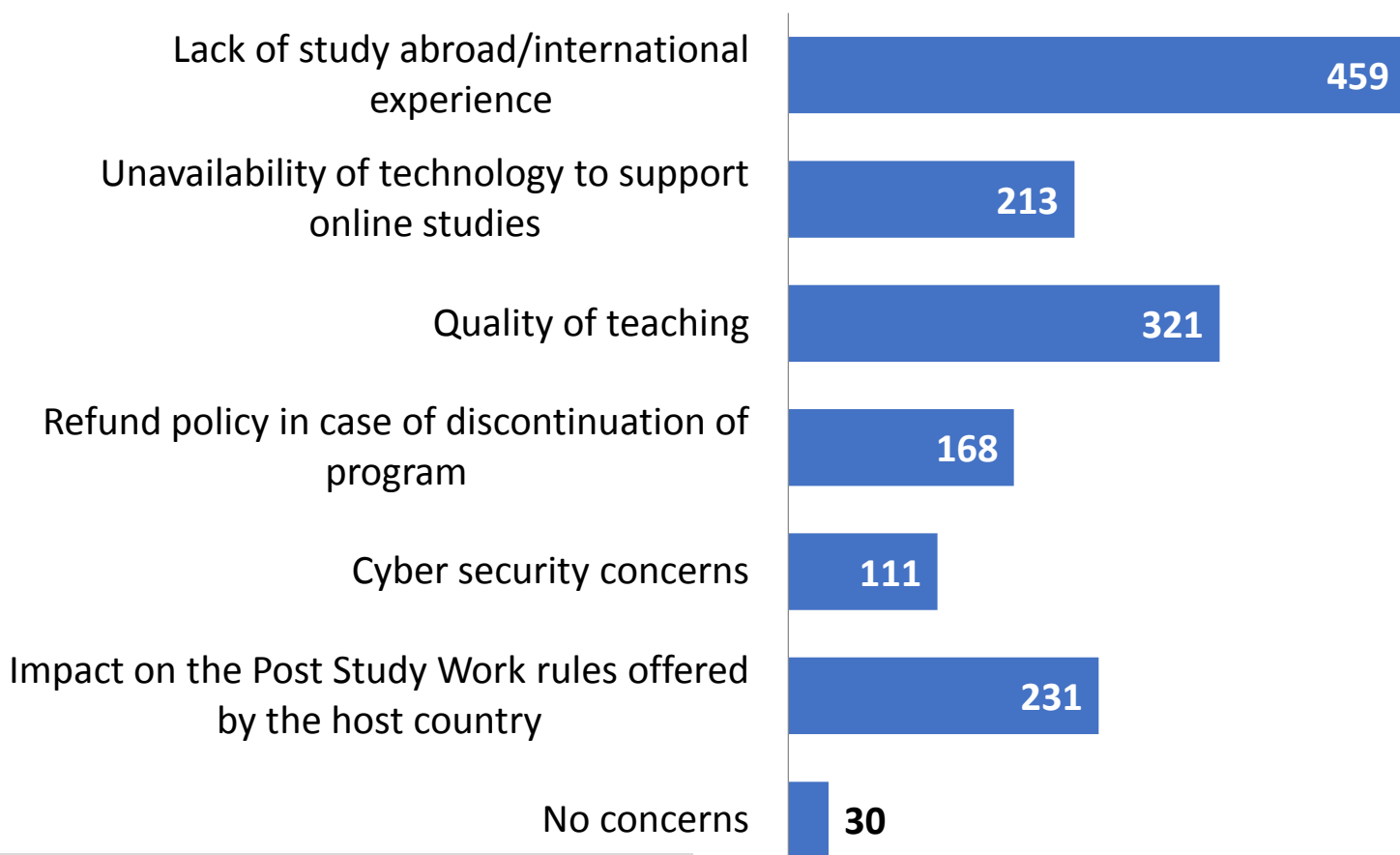
Application status of respondents



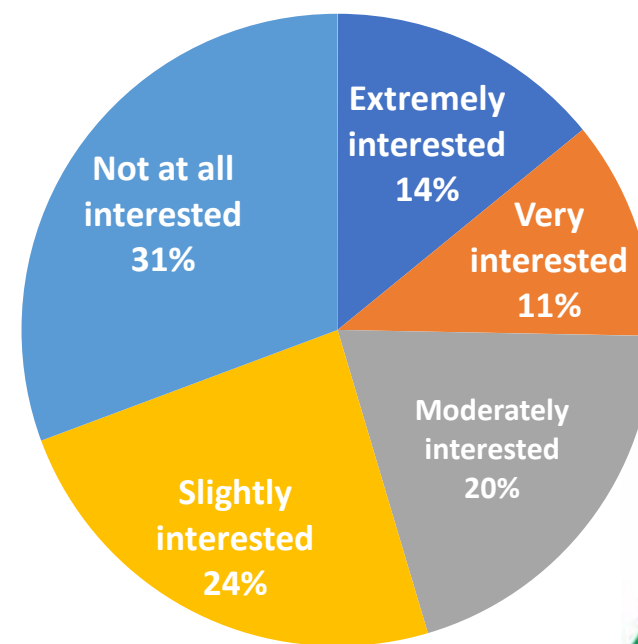
Willingness to study online

Online studies

- Only 31% students were not at all interested in online studies
- Lack of international exposure/ experience and quality of teaching were the major concerns of students while opting to study online



Students interest in online studies

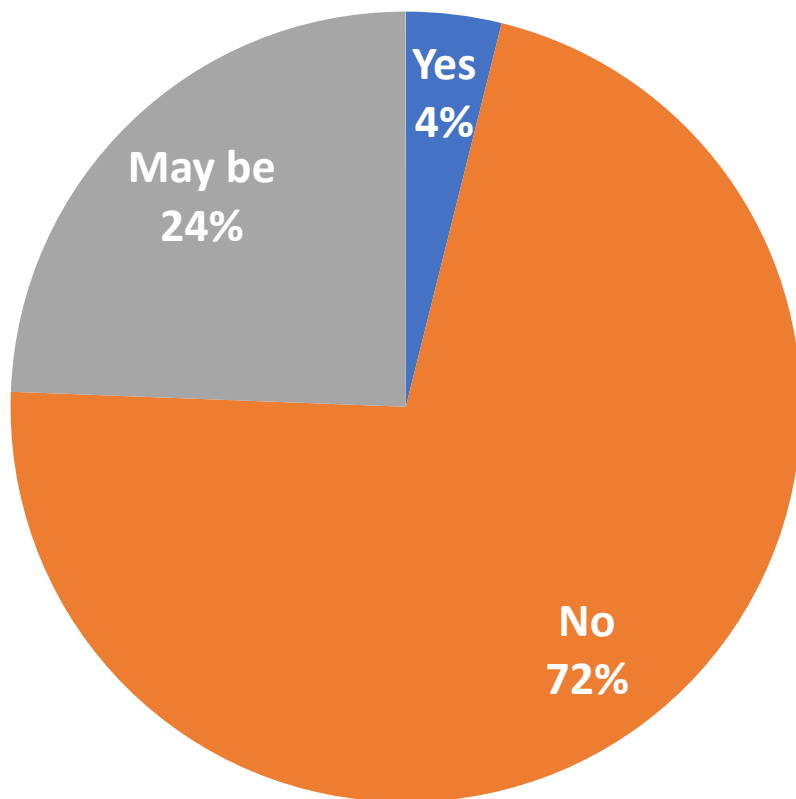


Students concerns for online studies

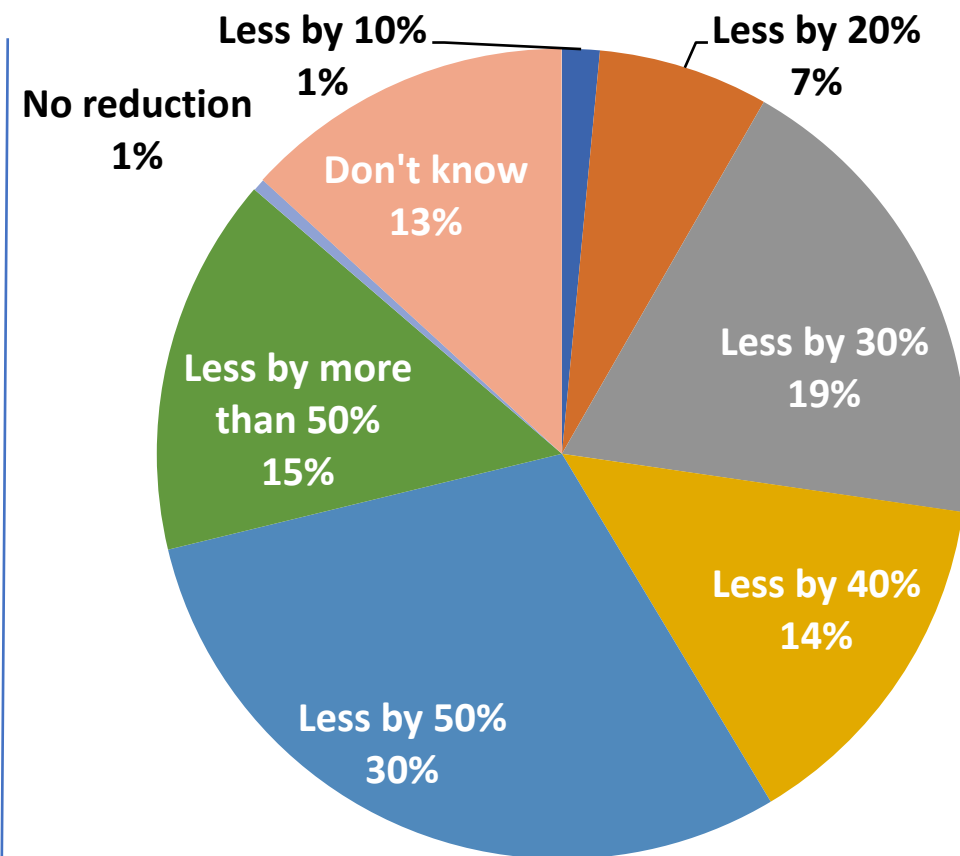
Note: Respondents could choose multiple options

Online studies: Fees reduction

- 72% of students are seeking reduction in the tuition fees in the event of not having a wholesome in-class learning
- 45% of the students are asking for 50% or more than 50% reduction in fees



Willingness to pay the same fees for online studies

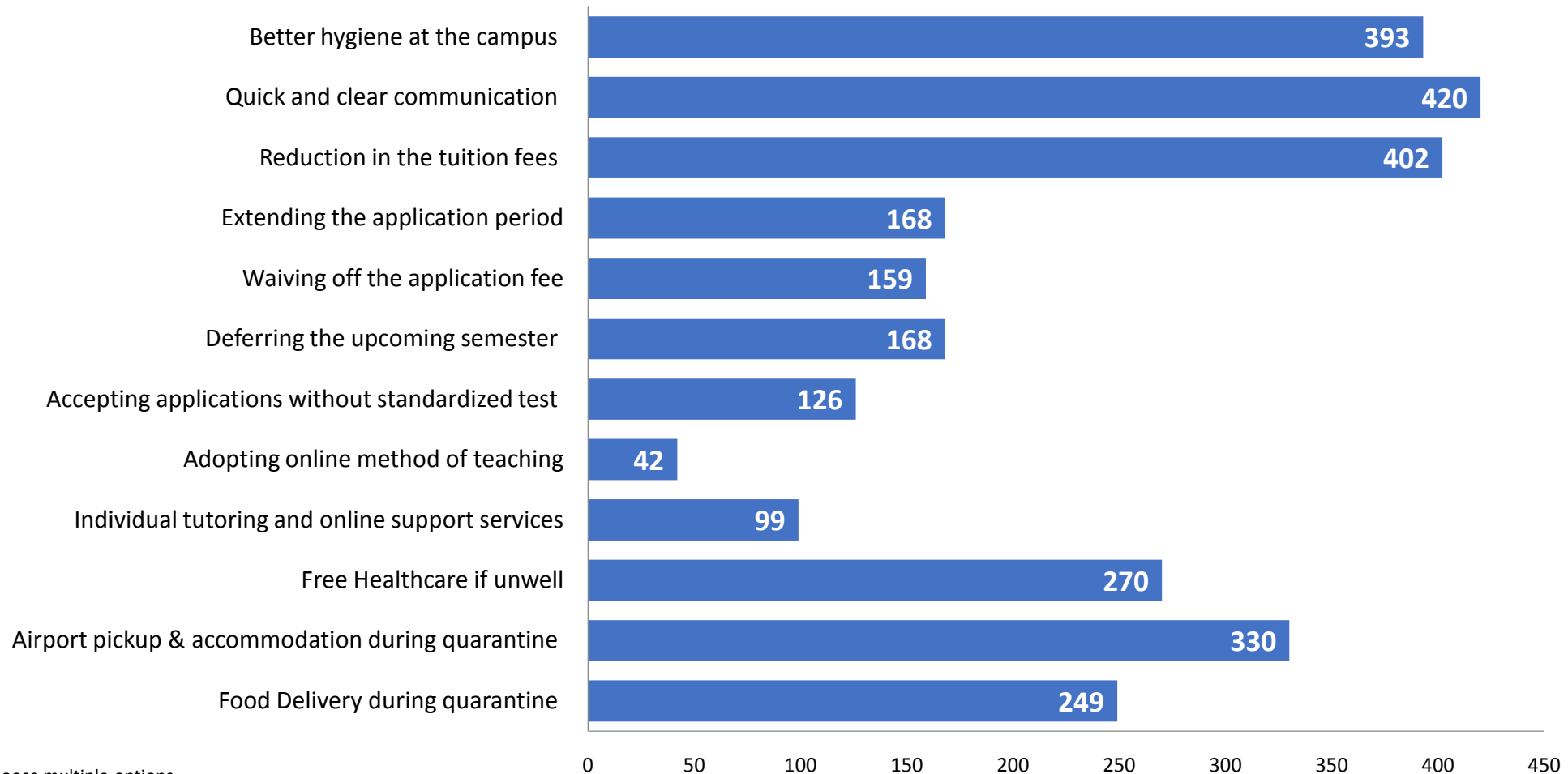


Fees reduction, if studying online

University Communication and support

- **Quick and clear communication** from the University outweigh fees reduction and better hygiene needs for students
- **Approx. 54%** would like to hear once a week & about new updates affecting international students during Pandemic from Uni.

Expected support from University

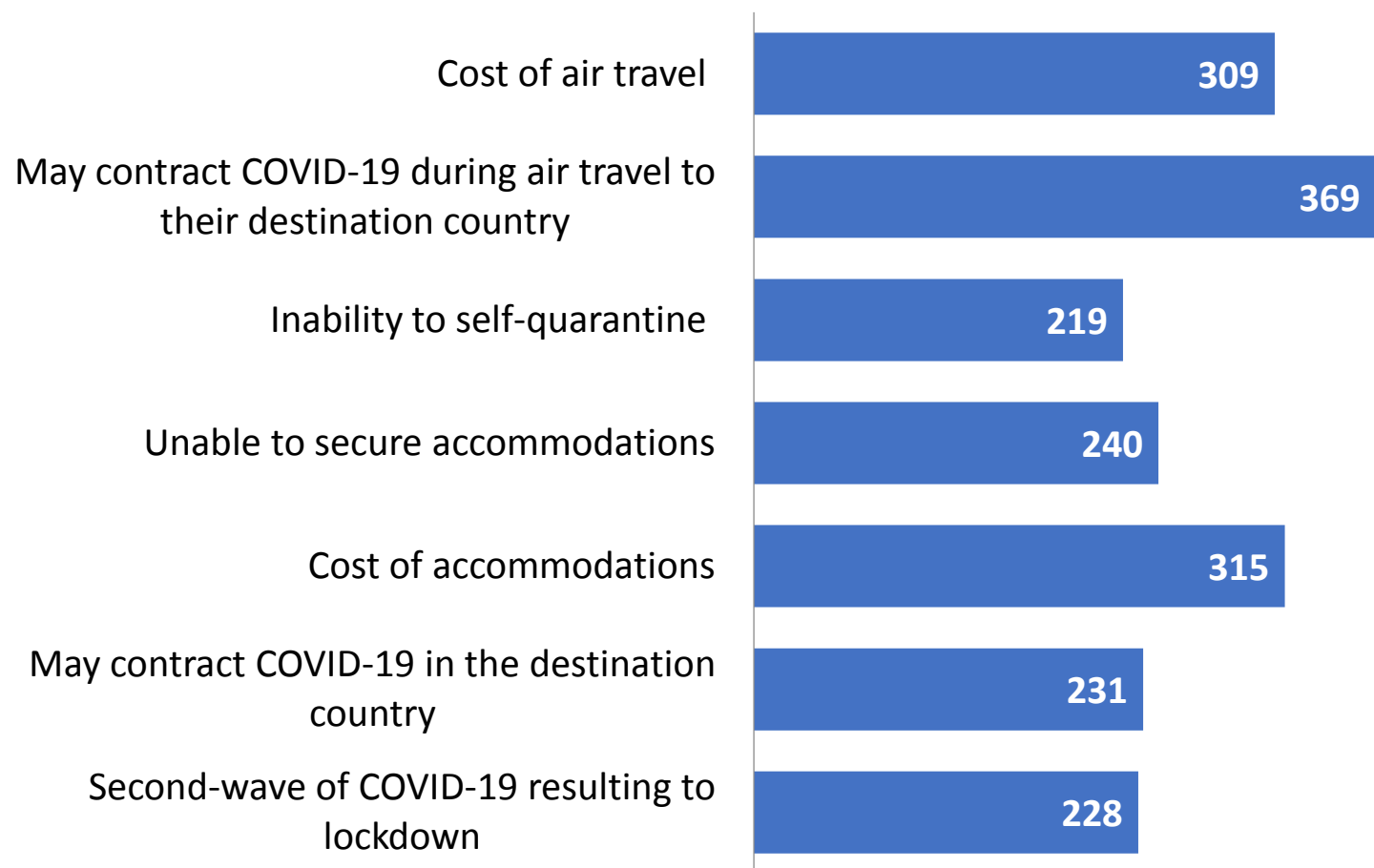


Note: Respondents could choose multiple options

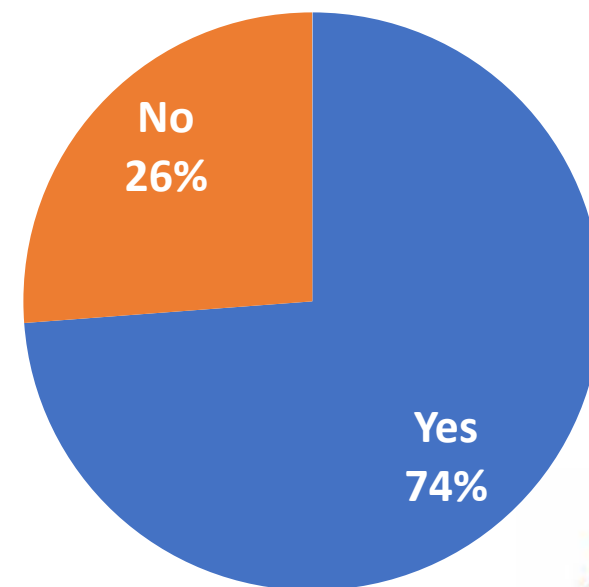
Future travel plans and concerns

Nearly three quarter students are ready to quarantine in destination country; contracting COVID-19 during air travel is their major concern

Concerns once travel restrictions are lifted



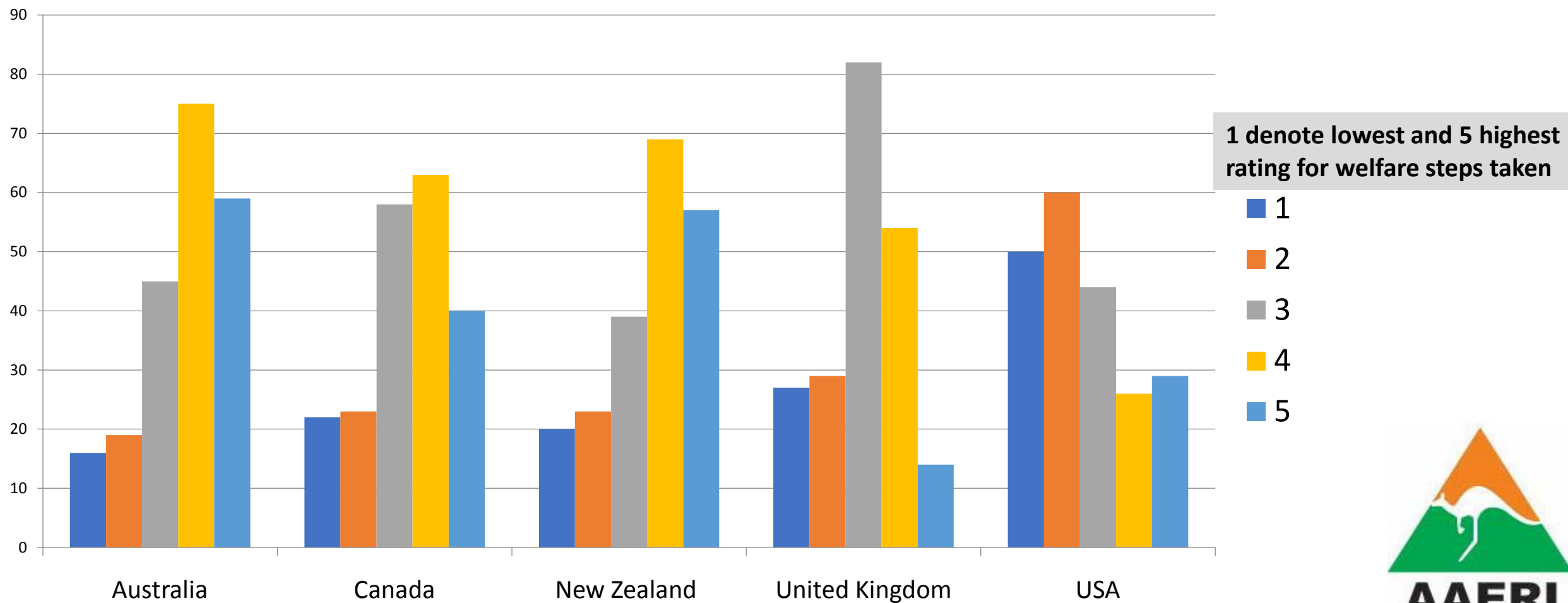
Planning to quarantine



Note: Respondents could choose multiple options

Students perception

Based on the information students have related to the steps taken for welfare of International students during COVID, Australia leads followed by New Zealand and then Canada



Prime learning's

- **Student's interest intact with studying overseas:** 63% of the students are interested to continue with their current study plans while 16% students want to wait till the pandemic is over
- **Deferment but not cancellation:** Only 9% are interested to defer to a later time while 16% have started studying online or are a Visa stage
- **University /Campus closures due to lockdown constitute as a major hurdle:** University /Campus closure due to lockdown pose as major obstacles followed by visa application suspension and travel restrictions to embark on study abroad journey
- **Warming up to the online delivery of program:** 69% of the students open to online option with assurance to move to face-to-face soon and are concerned about lack of international exposure/ experience and quality of teaching
- **Expectations from universities:** Real-time communication from universities on campus updates and options of in-person mobility in future semesters and considering fees reduction.



Recommendations

1. As students seek clarity, educational institutes are needed to offer quick and clear communication on campus safety and a well thought out plan for the upcoming semester. While most are aware that these factors remain uncertain, students' desire for more information and clear directives was evident
2. Offer monetary incentives such as application fee waivers, tuition fee discounts for online delivery and non-monetary supports such as standardized test requirement waiver, LOR or financial document waivers for applications made during COVID-19
3. Assurance of quality control for online delivery and clarity on refund policies due to visa denials will put many minds at ease
4. Student support systems should be enhanced to offer mental health counseling, financial assistance in the form of rent reductions, reduced meal plan pricing, and social connection support.



Questions...

Thank you for your valuable time

Prasanna Acharya
9376102450

Nirmal Chawala
9872566799

Kishore Beengi
9866171534