

International Student Barometer
Survey in Finnish higher education institutions
Autumn 2014

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Contents

1 What is International Student Barometer?	2
2 Respondents in Finnish higher education institutions	3
3 Overall satisfaction	6
4 Before coming to Finland	9
5 Decision making	11
6 Application	17
6 Arrival	20
7 Learning	23
8 Living	32
9 Housing	38
10 Support services	39
11 Finland as a study destination	44
12 After studies	46

1 What is International Student Barometer?

International Student Barometer (ISB) is an online survey targeted to (international) students in higher education institutions. It aims to provide feedback from students (both international and domestic) on their study experience. The questionnaire contains questions about students' satisfaction on application process, arrival, learning experience, accommodation and living in the host city, and support services.

ISB is produced and run by I-graduate, an international benchmarking and research service specialized in education.

Autumn 2014, over 200 universities in 18 countries participated in the ISB survey and almost 165 000 international students responded the questionnaire. The majority of participating institutions are from Anglo-American countries. In Europe, the participating institutions are from UK (61 institutions), Finland (22), Netherlands (8), Estonia (7), Sweden (6), Ireland (3), Germany (2), Italy (2), and Denmark (1). The other participating institutions come from Australia (35), USA (30), Canada (13), Hong Kong (6), Malaysia (5), Singapore (4) and New Zealand (1). These form the global ISB benchmark for Finnish universities.

In Finland, 11 universities and 11 universities of applied sciences participated in the ISB survey in autumn 2014 and sent the questionnaire to their international students. A total of 6 339 international students responded from a Finnish university.

This paper summarises the responses given by the international students in Finnish institutions.

2 Respondents in Finnish higher education institutions

	Frequency	%
Full degree student	4401	69,4
Exchange student	1938	30,6
Total	6339	100,0

Study type

	Full degree students		Exchange students		All students	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Bachelor	1051	23,9	1121	57,8	2172	34,3
Master	2271	51,6	712	36,7	2983	47,1
Doctoral	1055	24,0	20	1,0	1075	17,0
Other	24	0,5	85	4,4	109	1,7
Total	4401	100,0	1938	100,0	6339	100,0

Level of study

	Full degree students		Exchange students		All students	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
EU	1006	22,9	1398	72,1	2404	37,9
Non EU	3395	77,1	540	27,9	3935	62,1
Total	4401	100,0	1938	100,0	6339	100,0

Nationality

All students		Full degree students		Exchange students	
China	583	China	480	Germany	381
Germany	537	Russian federation	458	France	211
Russian Federation	518	Vietnam	300	Spain	144
Vietnam	306	India	255	Italy	116
France	269	Nepal	214	China	103
India	265	Pakistan	181	Netherlands	91
Spain	250	Germany	156	Czech Republic	84
Iran	218	Bangladesh	116	Austria	65
Nepal	214	USA	111	Russian Federation	60
Italy	207	Nigeria	99	Poland	56

Top 10 nationalities

	Full degree students		Exchange students	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Under 18	8	0,2	1	0,1
18-20	220	6,3	261	16,2
21-24	904	25,9	1097	67,9
25-29	1390	39,8	222	13,7
30-39	847	24,2	30	1,9
40-49	104	3,0	4	0,2
50+	23	0,7	0	0,0
Total	3496	100,0	1615	100,0

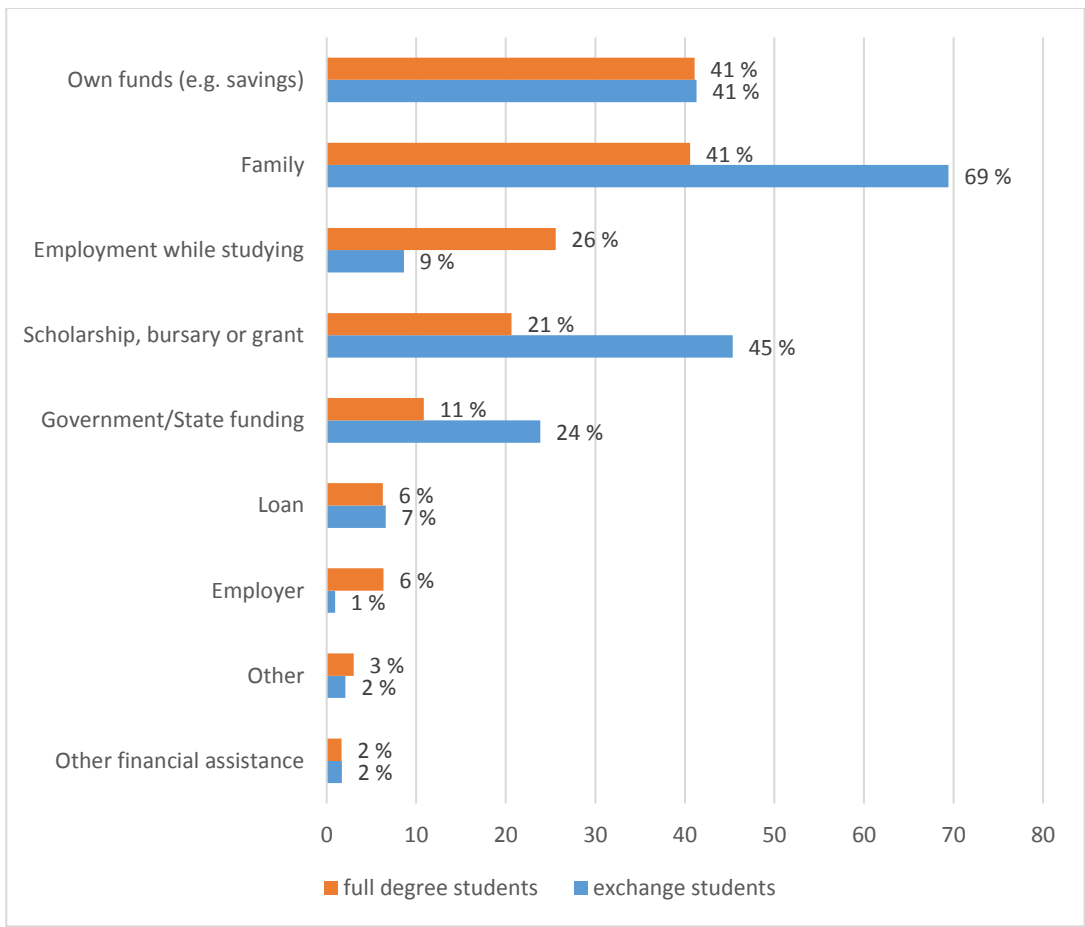
Age

	Full degree students		Exchange students	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Female	1539	43,4	924	57,0
Male	2009	56,6	698	43,0
Total	3548	100,0	1622	100,0

Gender

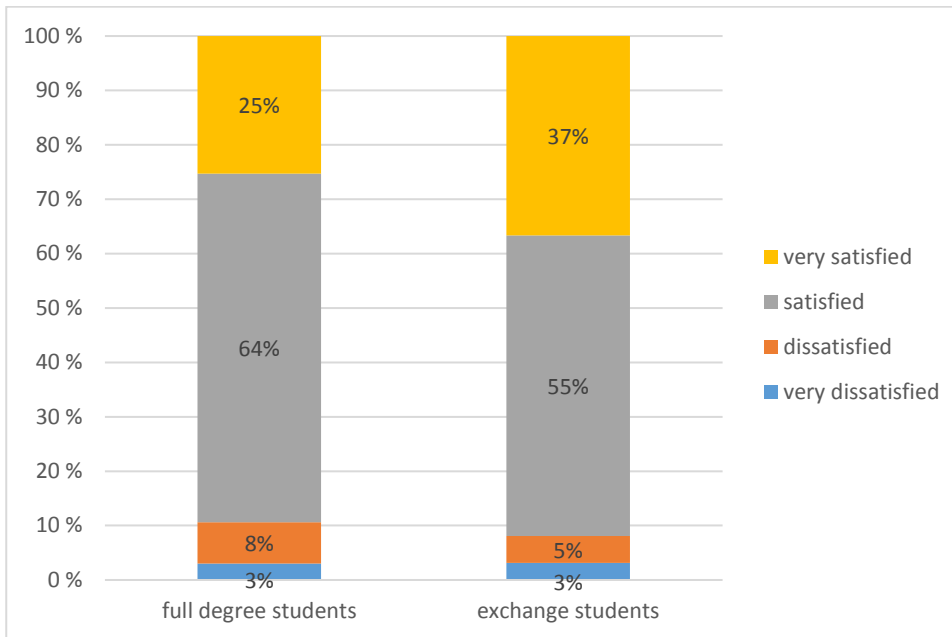
	Frequency
Business and Administrative Studies	1214
Engineering	1127
Other	608
Technologies	409
Biological Sciences (including Psychology, Sports Science)	404
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	403
Social Studies (including Economics, Politics)	333
Creative Arts and Design (including Performing Arts, Music)	305
Education	266
Physical Sciences (including Geography)	223
Subjects allied to medicine (includes Pharmacy, Nursing, Optometry)	188
Law	164
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	121
Medicine and Dentistry	119
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	84
Tourism and Hospitality	83
Mass Communications (including Media Studies, Journalism)	82
Architecture, Building and Planning	80
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects (including Latin Studies, Classical Greek Studies)	61
Historical and Philosophical Studies (including Archaeology, Theology)	39
Eastern, Asiatic, African, American and Australasian Languages, Literature and related subjects	16
Joint honours or multi - subject degree	10
Total	6339

Field of study

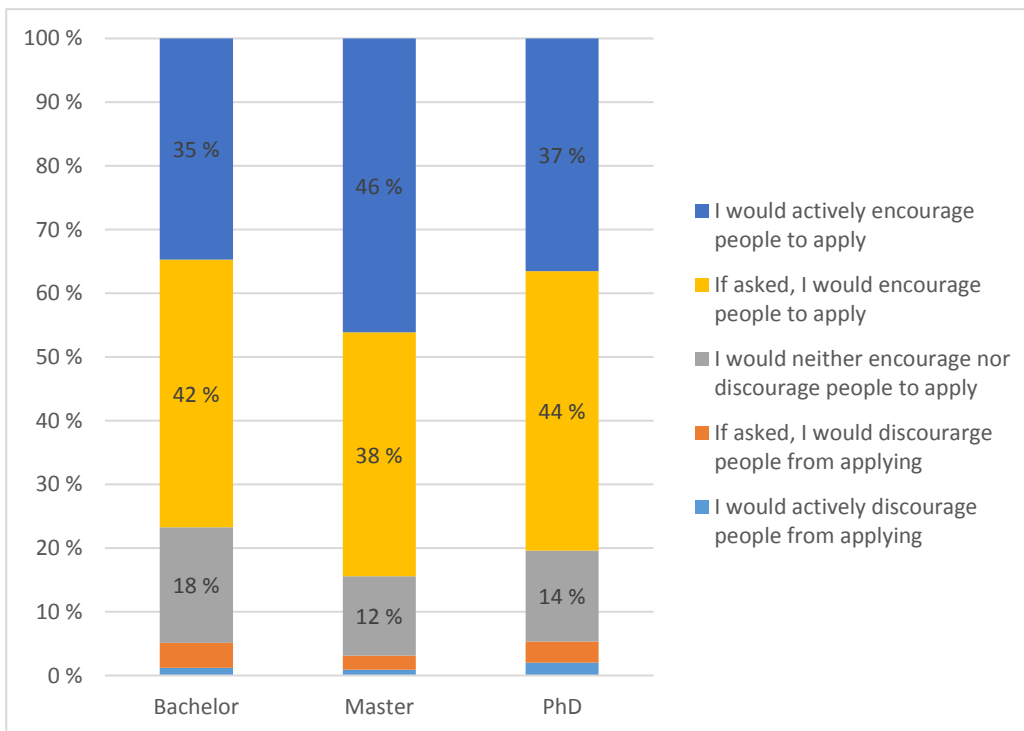


Funding of studies (All students, N=5157) % of students using the source of funding

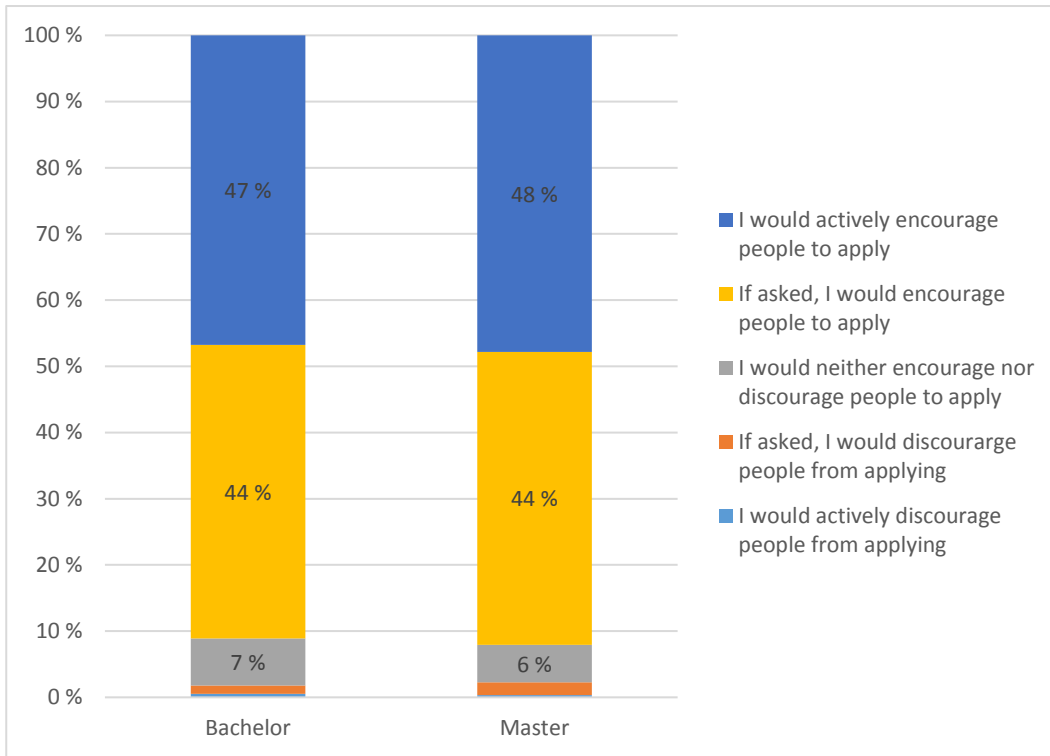
3 Overall satisfaction



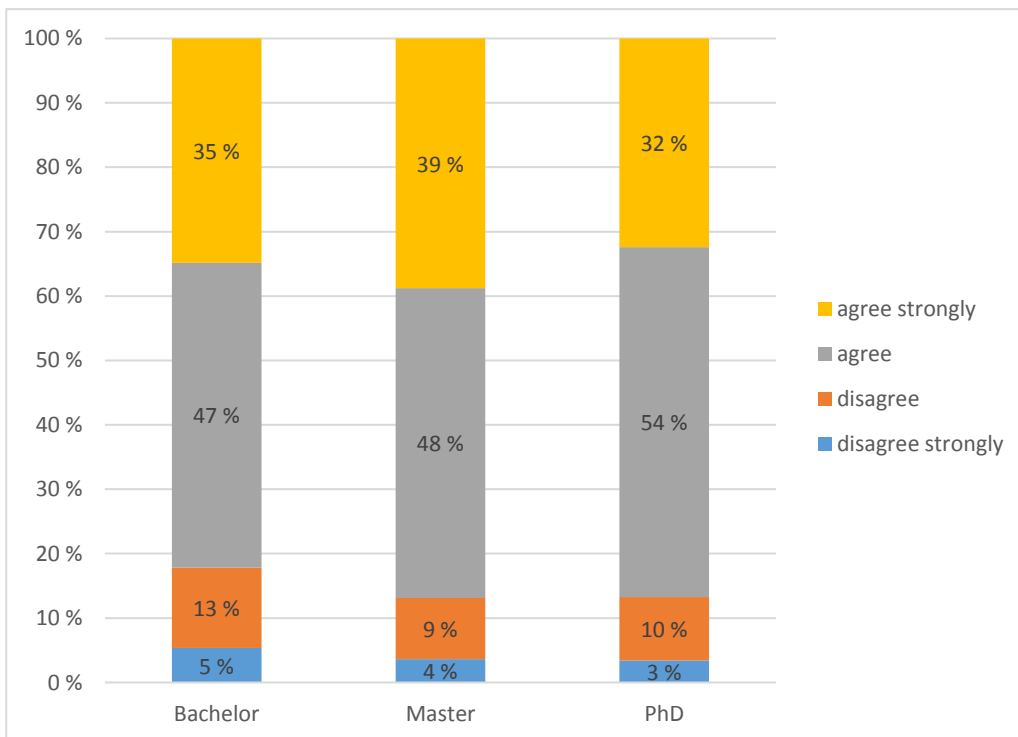
How satisfied are you with all aspects of your institution experience? (All students, N=6339) %



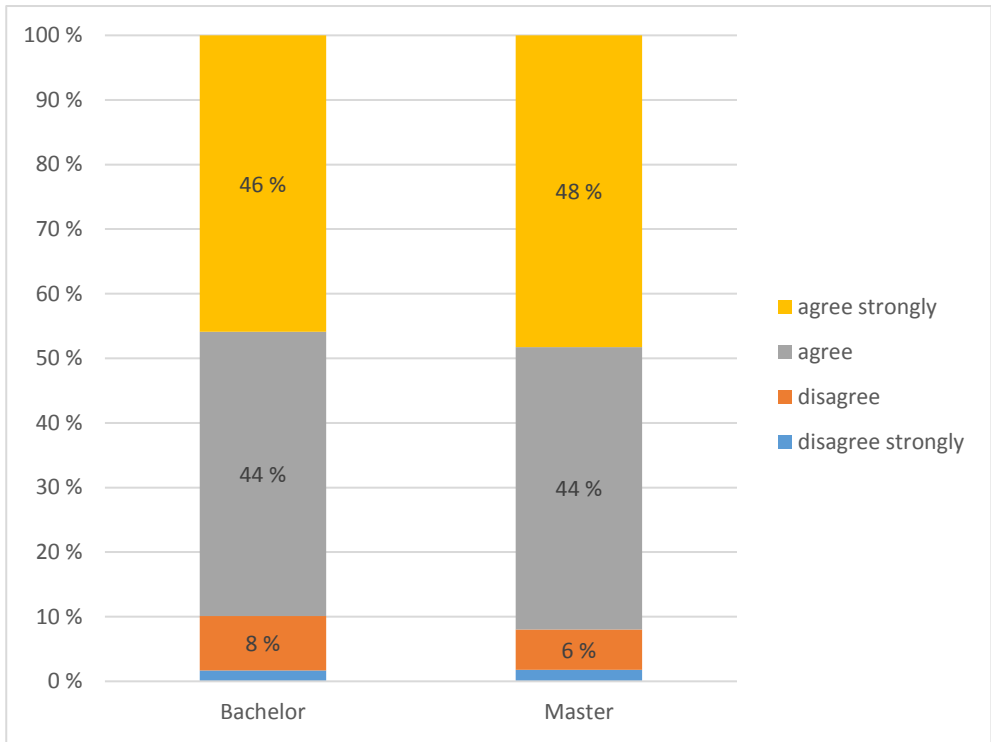
Would you recommend the institutions to other students thinking of applying here? (Full degree students, N=3656) %



Would you recommend the institutions to other students thinking of applying here? (Exchange students, N=1573) %



Would you now take the same decision regarding your study destination/choice of institution? (Full degree students, N=3603) %

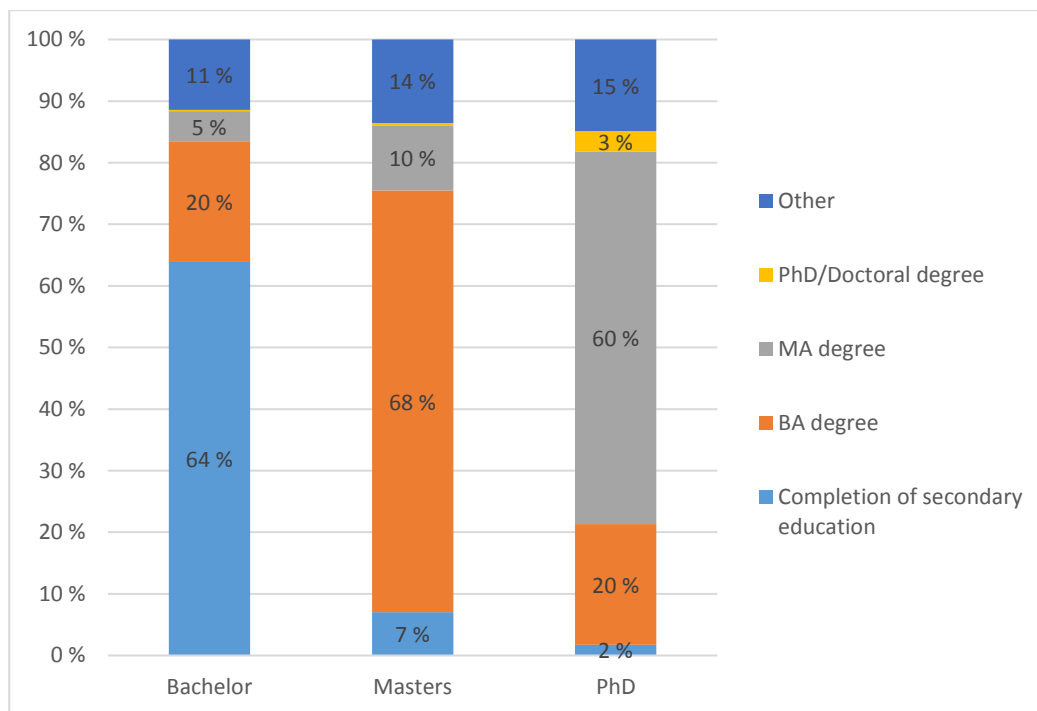


Would you now take the same decision regarding your study destination/choice of institution? (Exchange students, N=1557) %

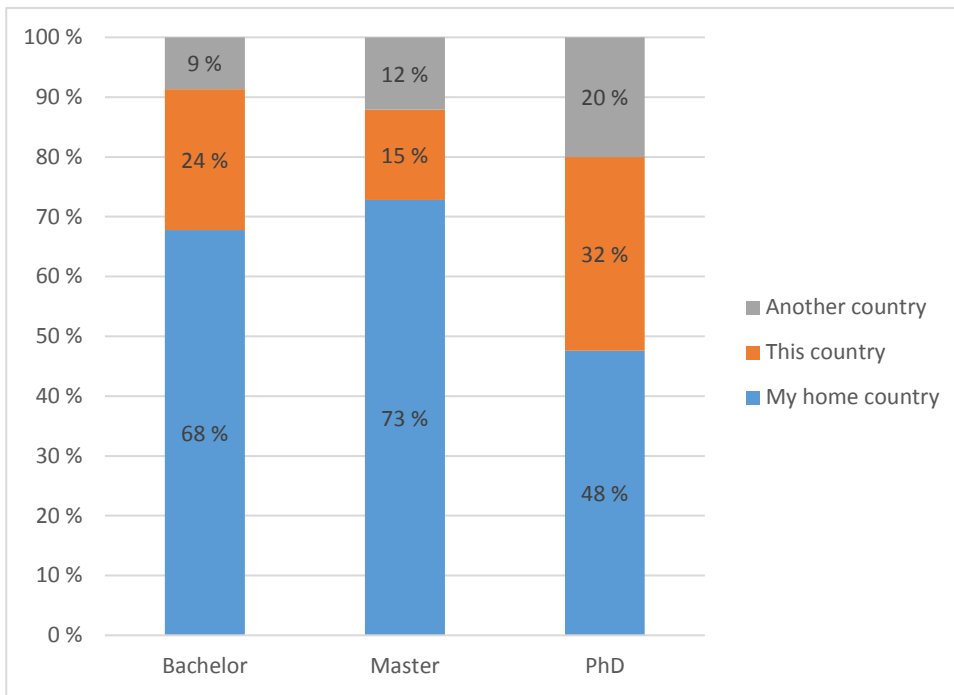
4 Before coming to Finland

	Full degree students		Exchange students	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Another university or college	2334	66,3	986	61,5
State-funded (non-fee paying) secondary education	407	11,6	397	24,8
Previous study at this institution	265	7,5	34	2,1
Private (fee-paying) secondary education	242	6,9	105	6,5
Other	155	4,4	44	2,7
International School	115	3,3	37	2,3
Foundation preparatory program	3	0,1	1	0,1
Total	3521	100,0	1604	100,0

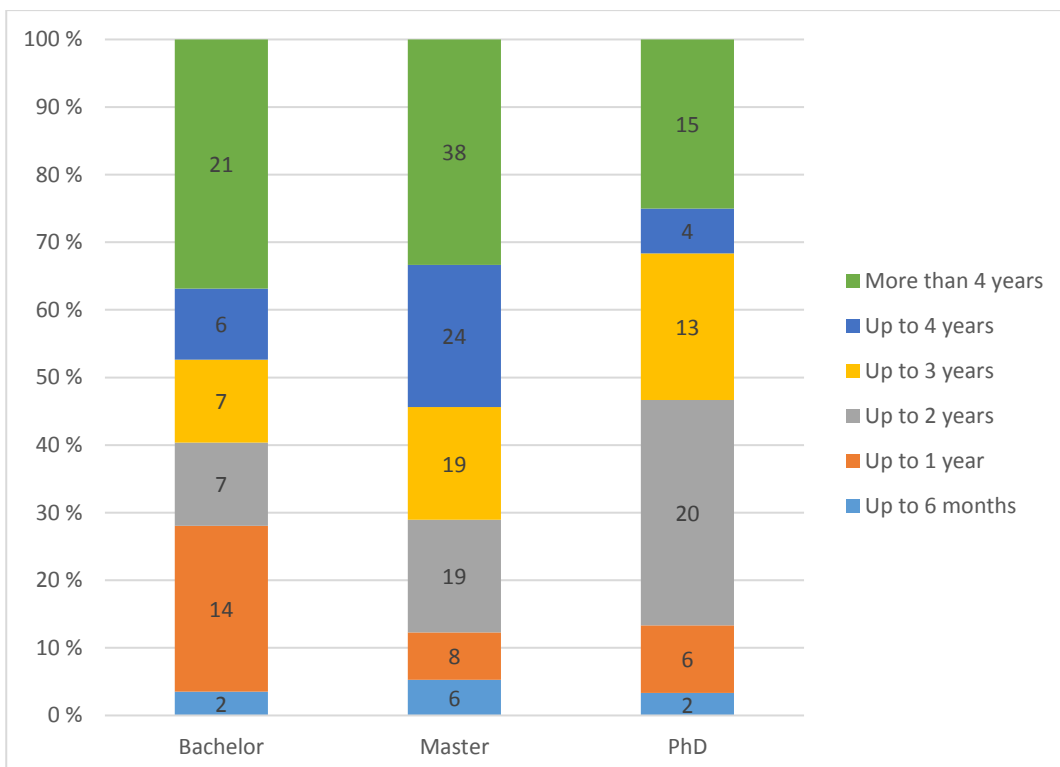
Before commencing your studies, where did you study previously (most recently)?



What is the highest educational/academic degree prior to your departure to Finland? (Full degree students, N=3527) %

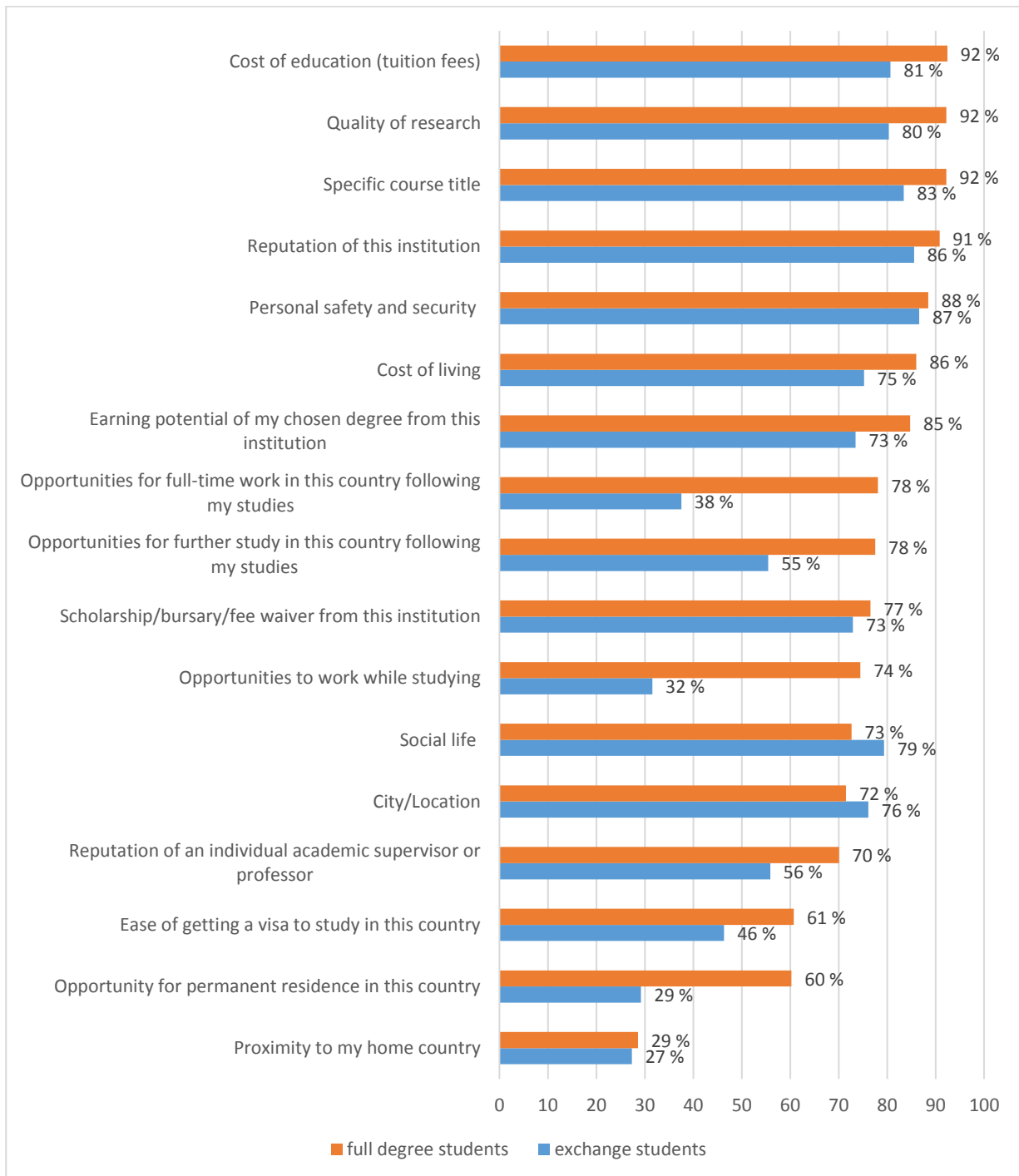


Where were you studying or working before you began this current course of study? (Full degree students, N=1188) %

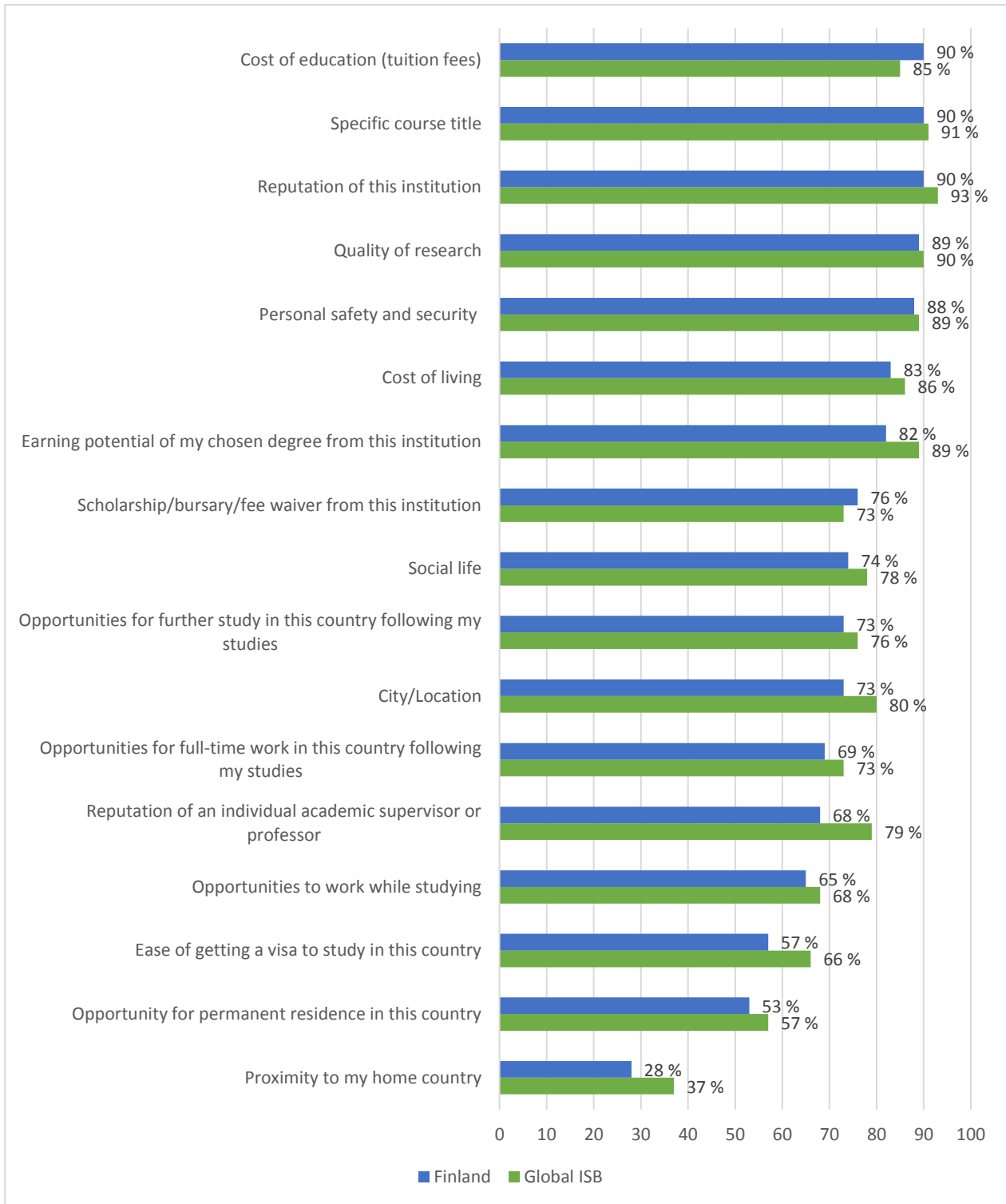


Before commencing your current course of study, how long were you in this country? (If "this country" selected before, N=231), number of students

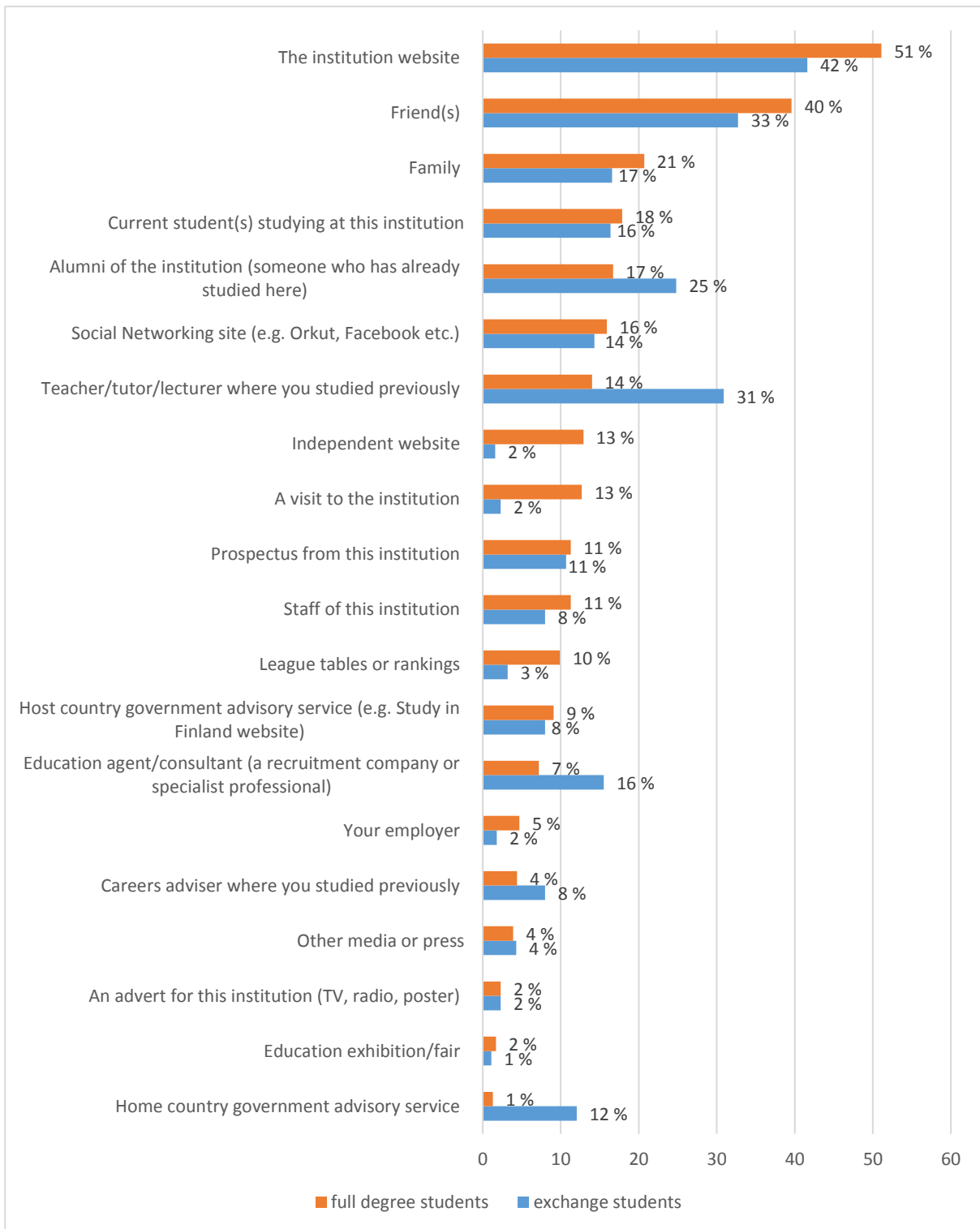
5 Decision making



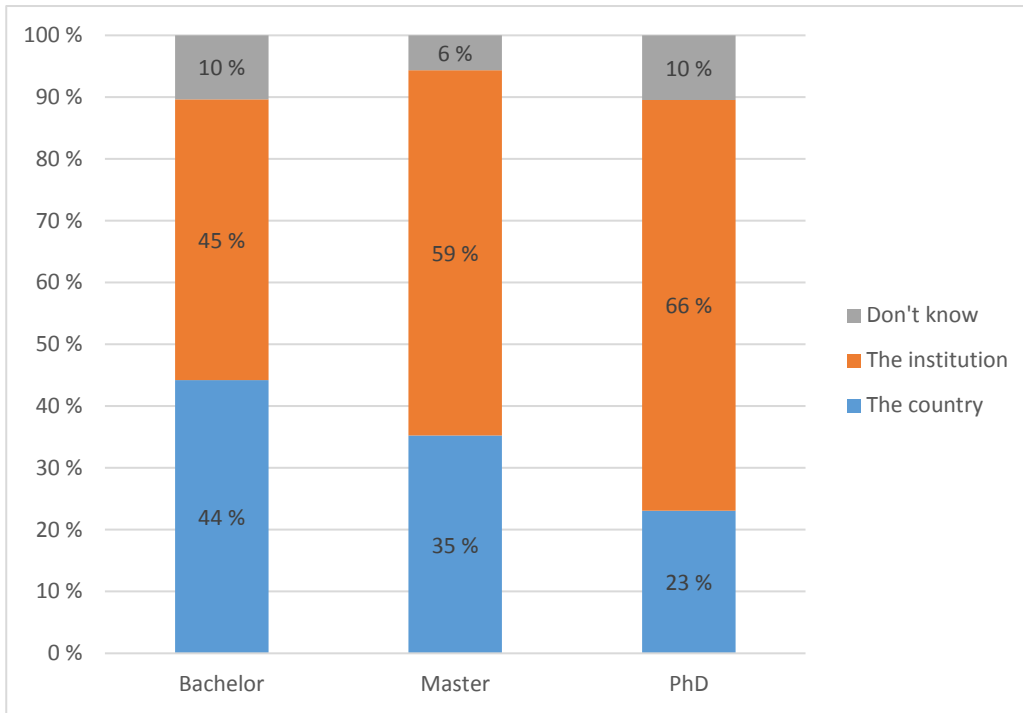
How important were the following factors when deciding where to study? (First year full degree and exchange students, N=1207-1437) % of respondents with the factor important or very important



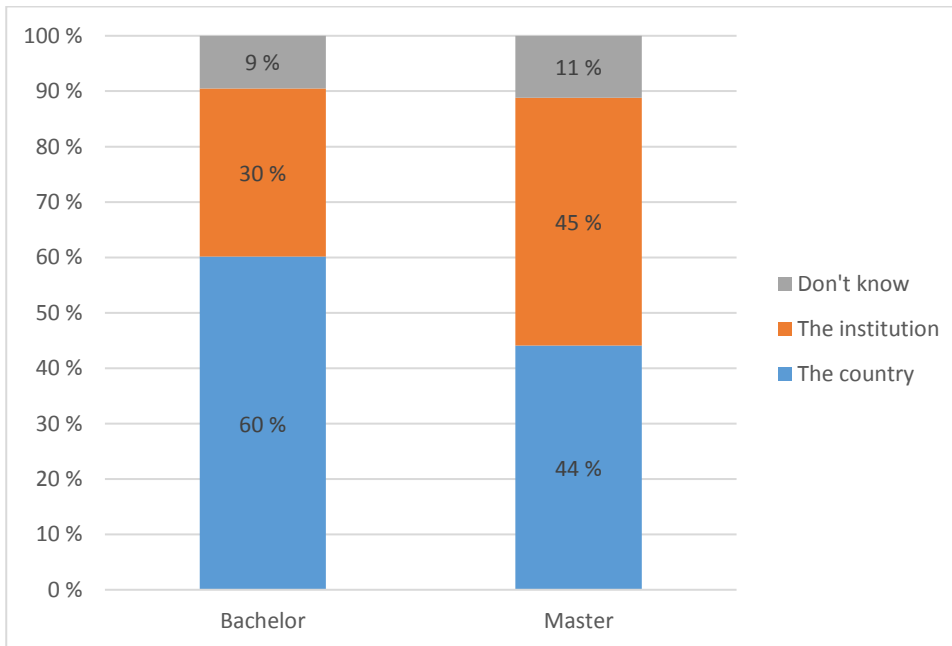
How important were the following factors when deciding where to study? (First year full degree and exchange students in Finland and students in the global survey) % of respondents with the factor important or very important



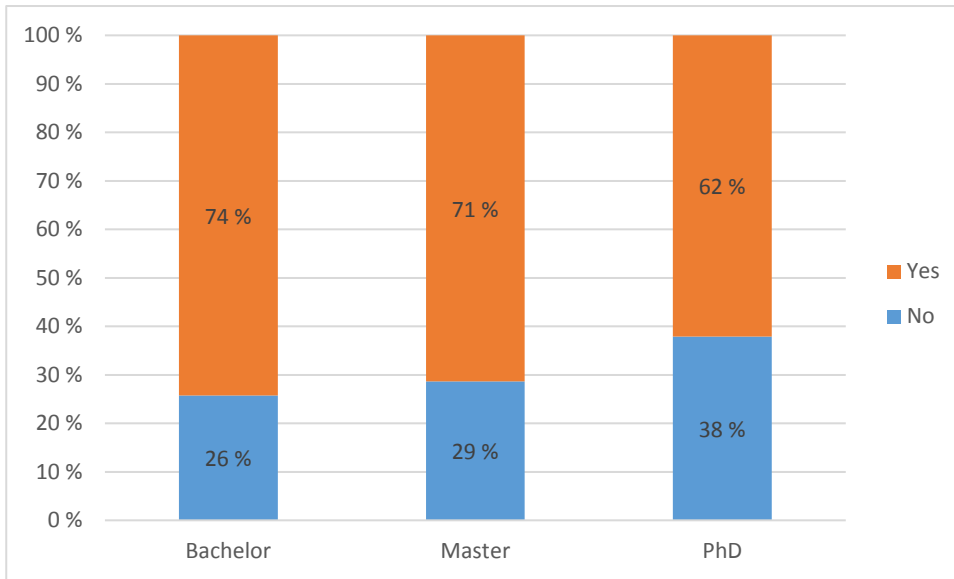
Which of the following helped you decision to choose this institution? (First year full degree and exchange students, N=1890) %



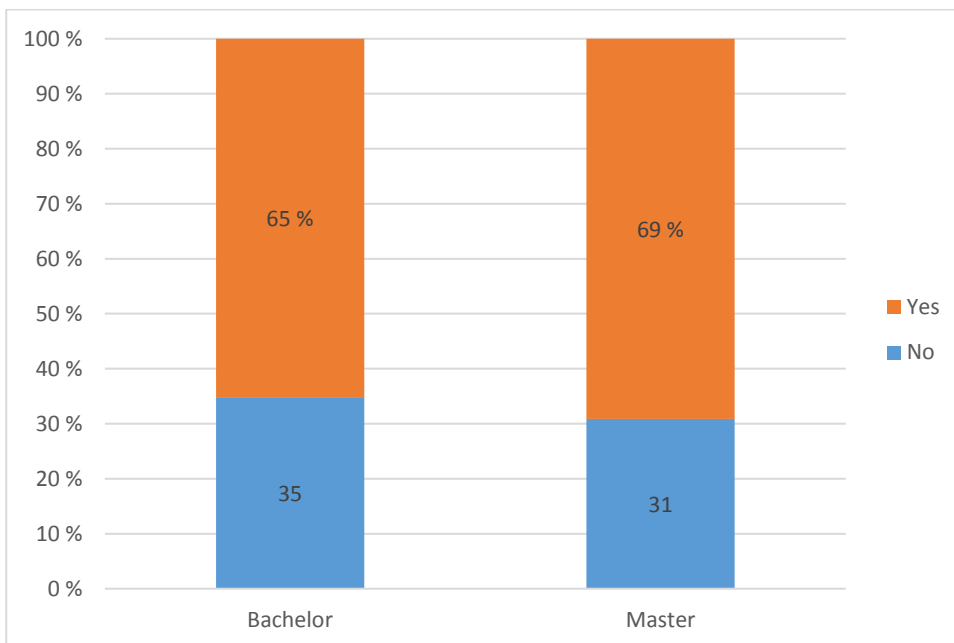
Which was more important in your decision of where to study? (First year full degree students, N=1184) %



Which was more important in your decision of where to study? (Exchange students, N=319) %



Was Finland your first choice for your international study? (First year full degree students, N=1181) %

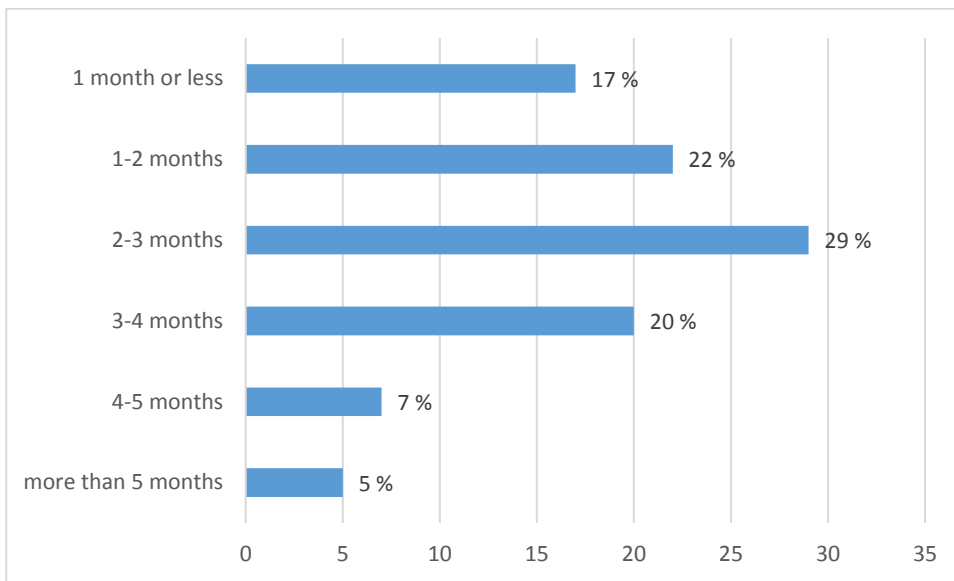


Was Finland your first choice for your international study? (Exchange students, N=320) %

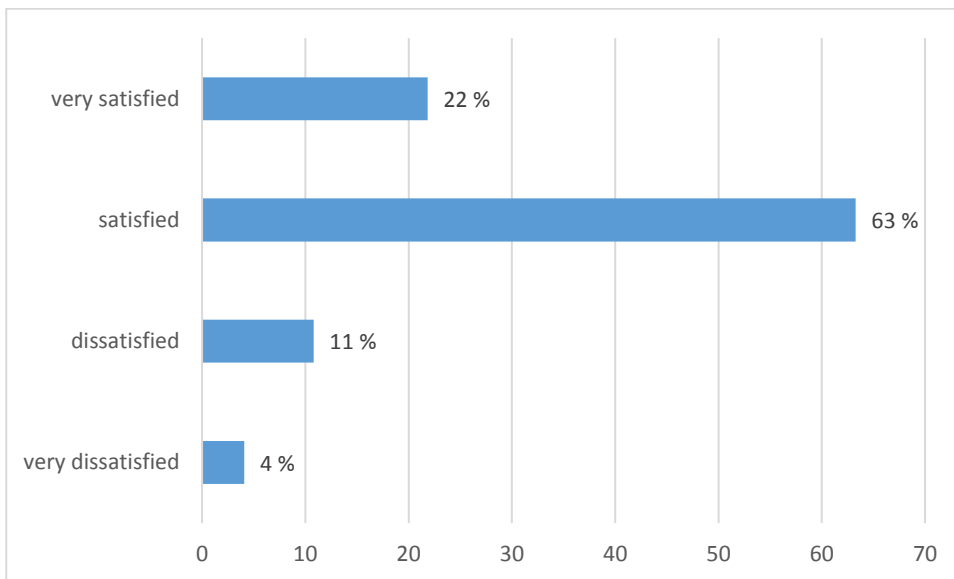
Full degree students	%	Exchange students	%
USA	40,4	USA	38,4
Germany	38,9	United Kingdom	38,2
United Kingdom	30,7	Sweden	37,0
Sweden	29,0	Norway	25,3
Canada	27,7	Canada	22,3
Australia	24,6	Germany	21,7
Norway	21,6	Australia	16,7
Denmark	16,5	Japan	11,4
Netherlands	16,4	Netherlands	11,4
Switzerland	13,5	New Zealand	11,4
No other countries considered	12,6	Switzerland	10
France	9,9	No other countries considered	9,7
New Zealand	9,8	Ireland	9,5
Japan	8,3	China	8,9
Austria	7,5	Denmark	8,9
Singapore	7,4	Spain	8,6
Belgium	6,7	Belgium	8,1
Spain	5,4	France	7,8
Ireland	4,9	Hong Kong	7,5
Italy	4,6	Italy	7,5
China	3,1	Austria	6,7
Hong Kong	3,1	Singapore	6,1
Other EU	2,3	Estonia	3,1
South Korea	2,2	Other EU	3,1
South Africa	1,9	South Africa	2,8
Estonia	1,7	South Korea	2,8
UAE (incl. Dubai)	1,5	UAE (incl. Dubai)	0,6

If you considered other countries, which countries did you consider? % of students considering the country

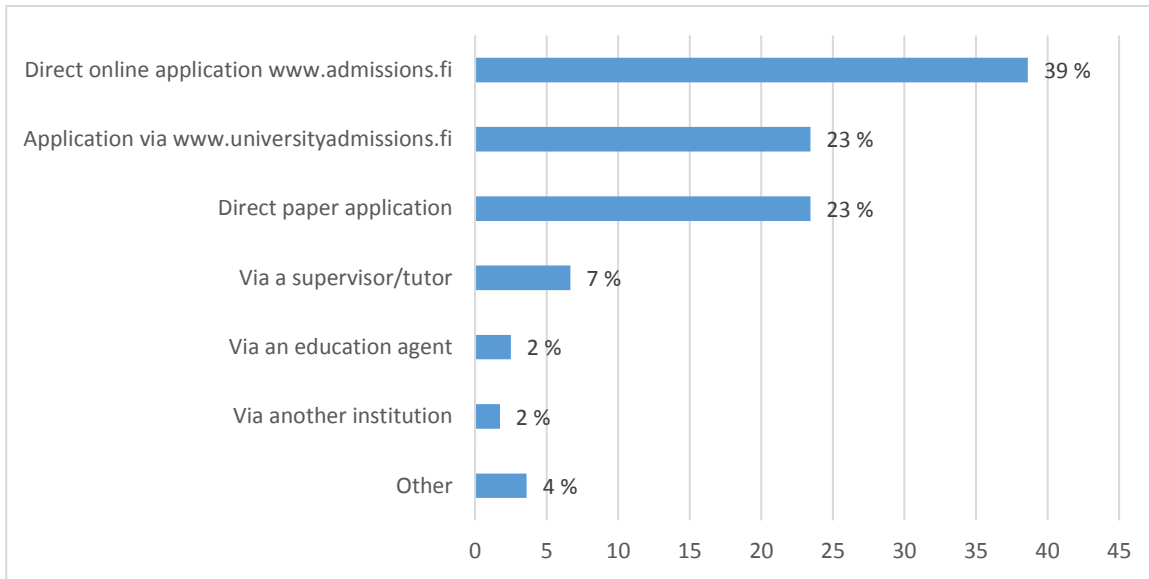
6 Application



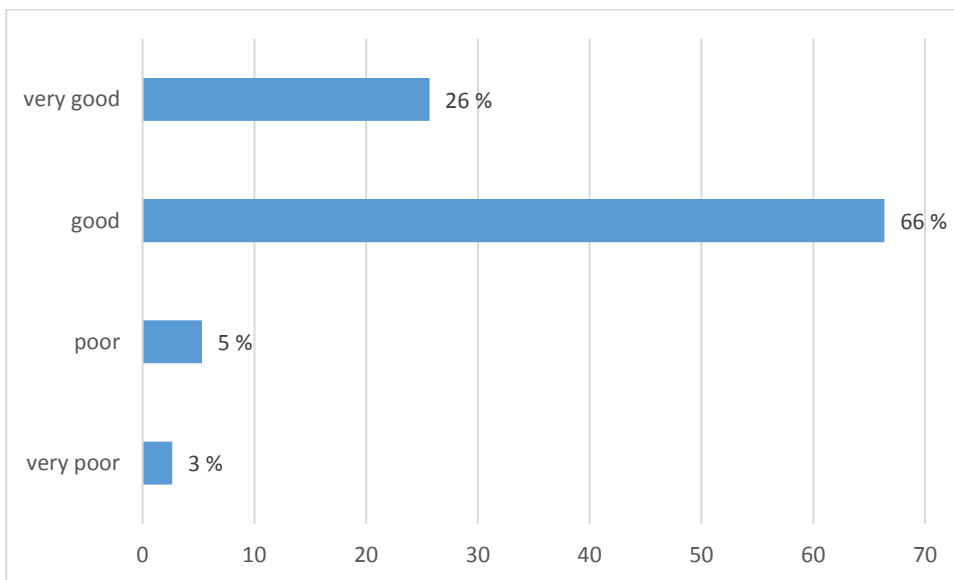
How long did you wait between applying and receiving your offer from this institution? (First year full degree students, N=1396) %



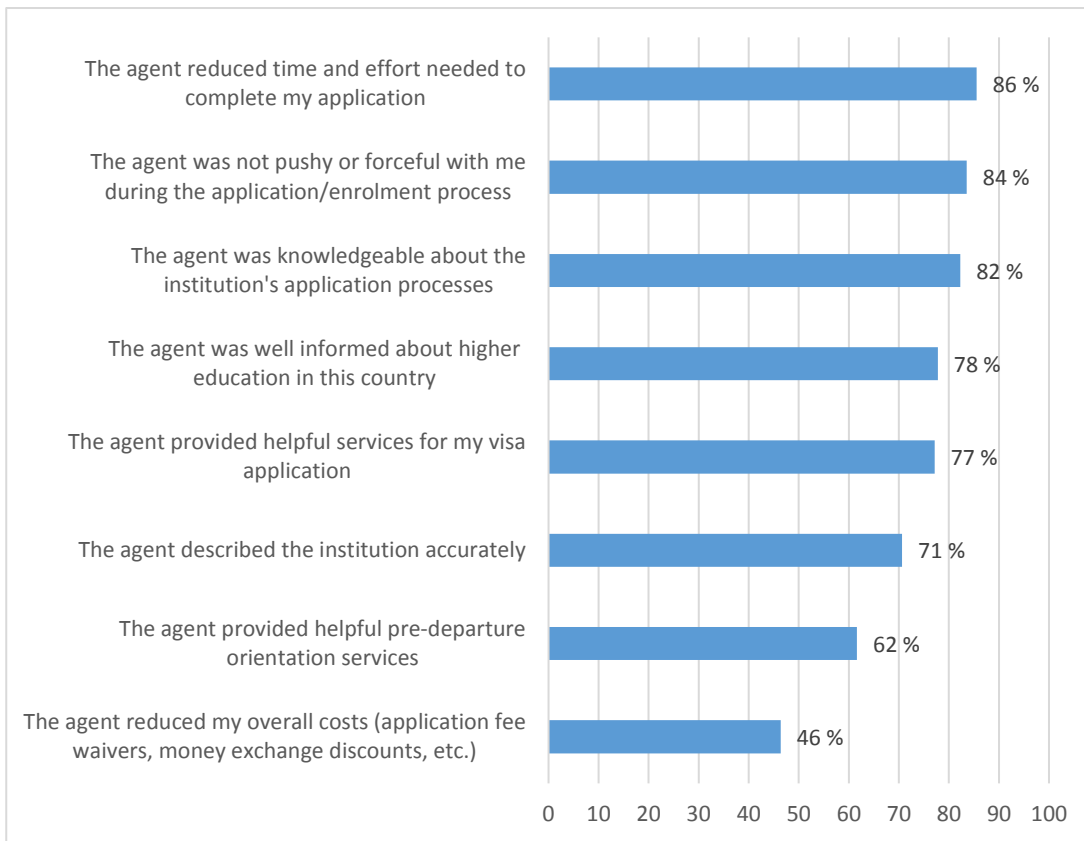
How satisfied were you with this response time? (First year full degree students, N=1443) %



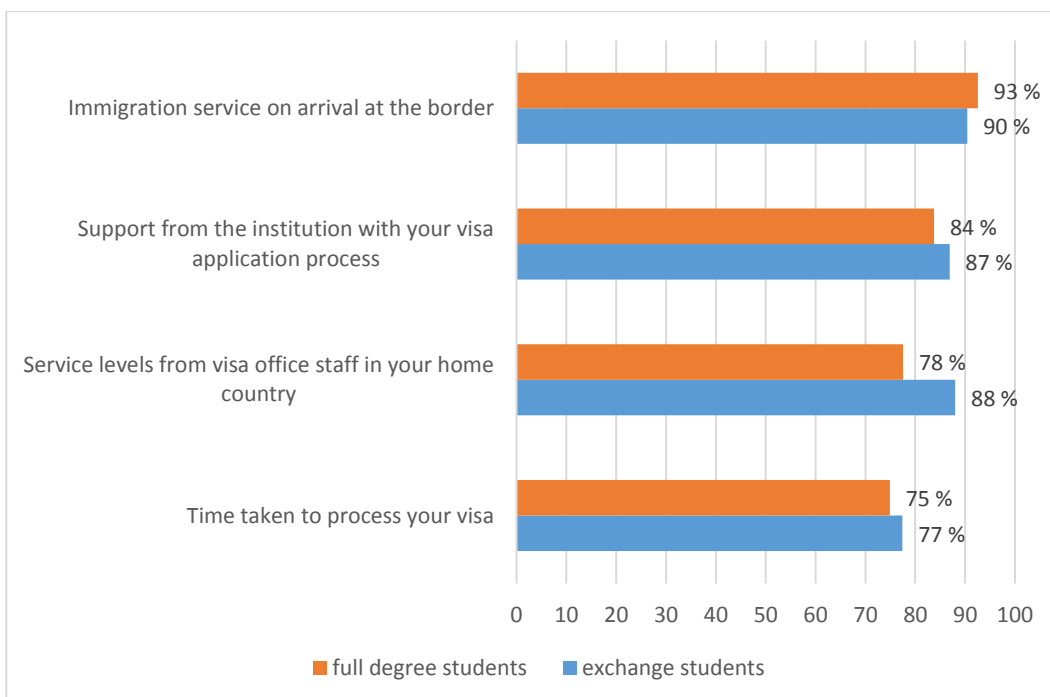
How did you apply to your current course at this institution? (First year full degree students, N=1442) %



Please rate the service you received from the education agent/consultant. (If applied via education agent OR if education agent/consultant helped to choose institution, N=113) %

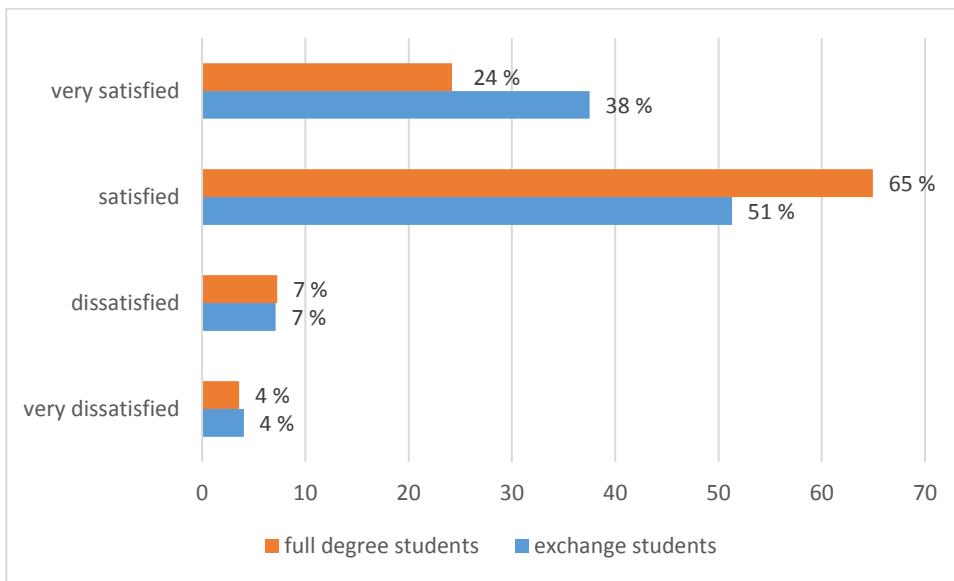


To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Full degree students who applied via education agent or agent helped, N=69-81) % of students agreeing or strongly agreeing

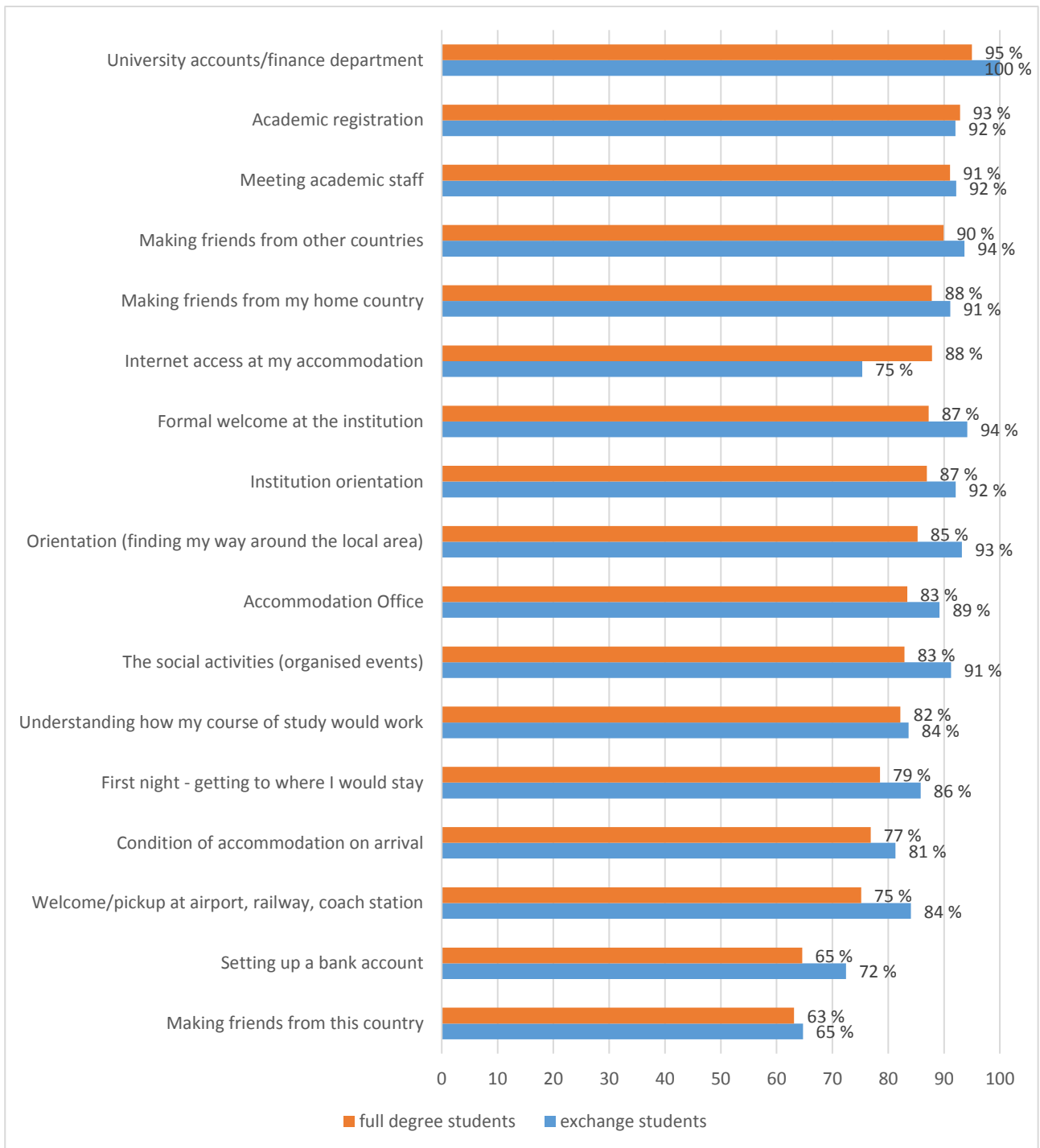


During the visa application process, how satisfied were you with the following? (First year full degree and exchange students, N=751-892) % of satisfied or very satisfied

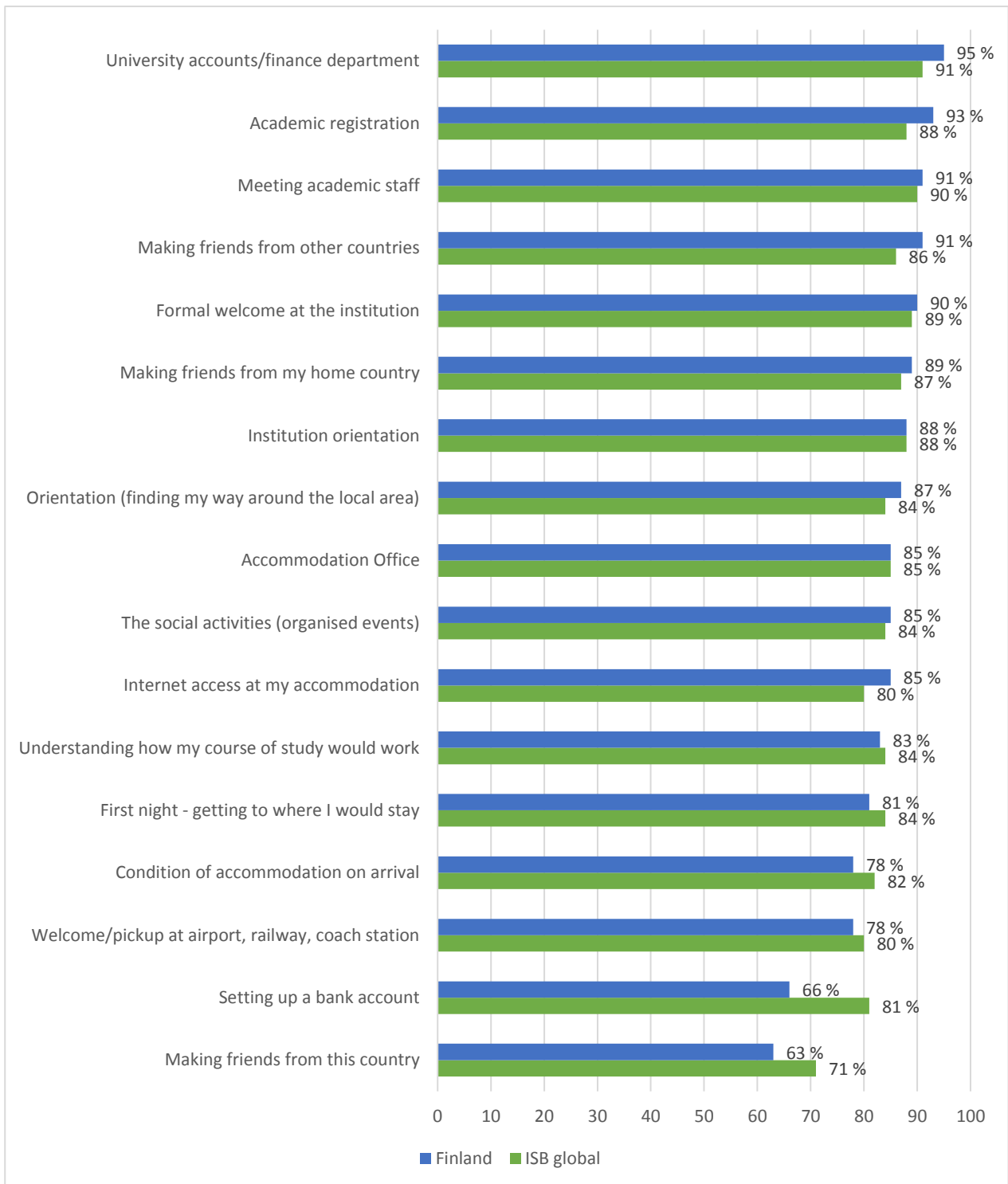
6 Arrival



How satisfied were you with the overall arrival experience? (First year full degree and exchange students, N=1810) %

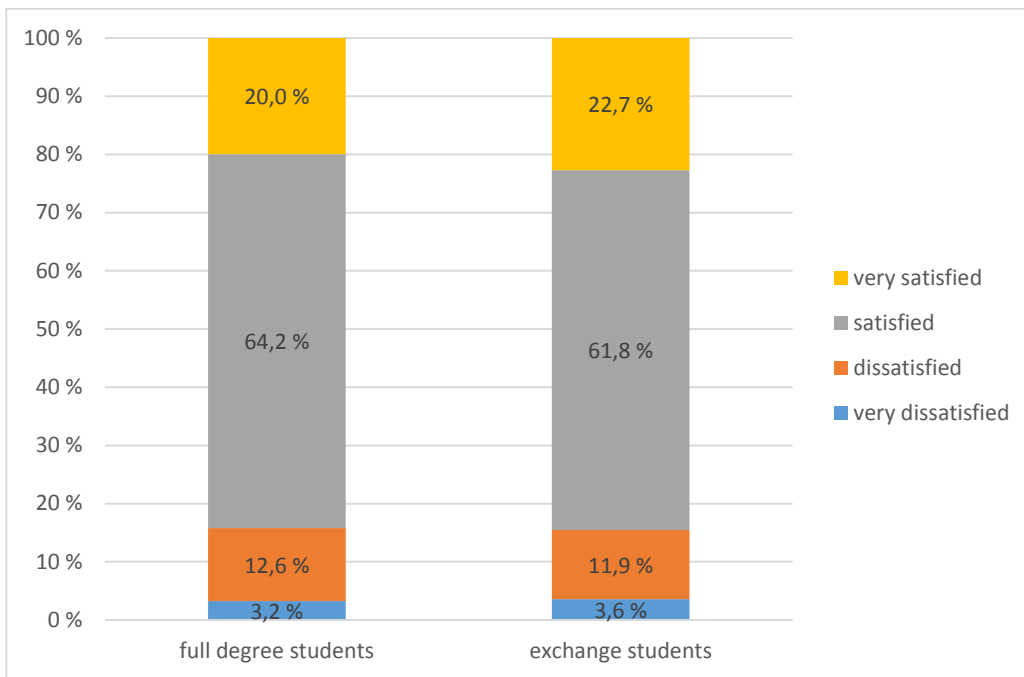


How satisfied were you with the following regarding when you first arrived at the institution. (First year full degree and exchange students, N=110-1760) % of satisfied or very satisfied

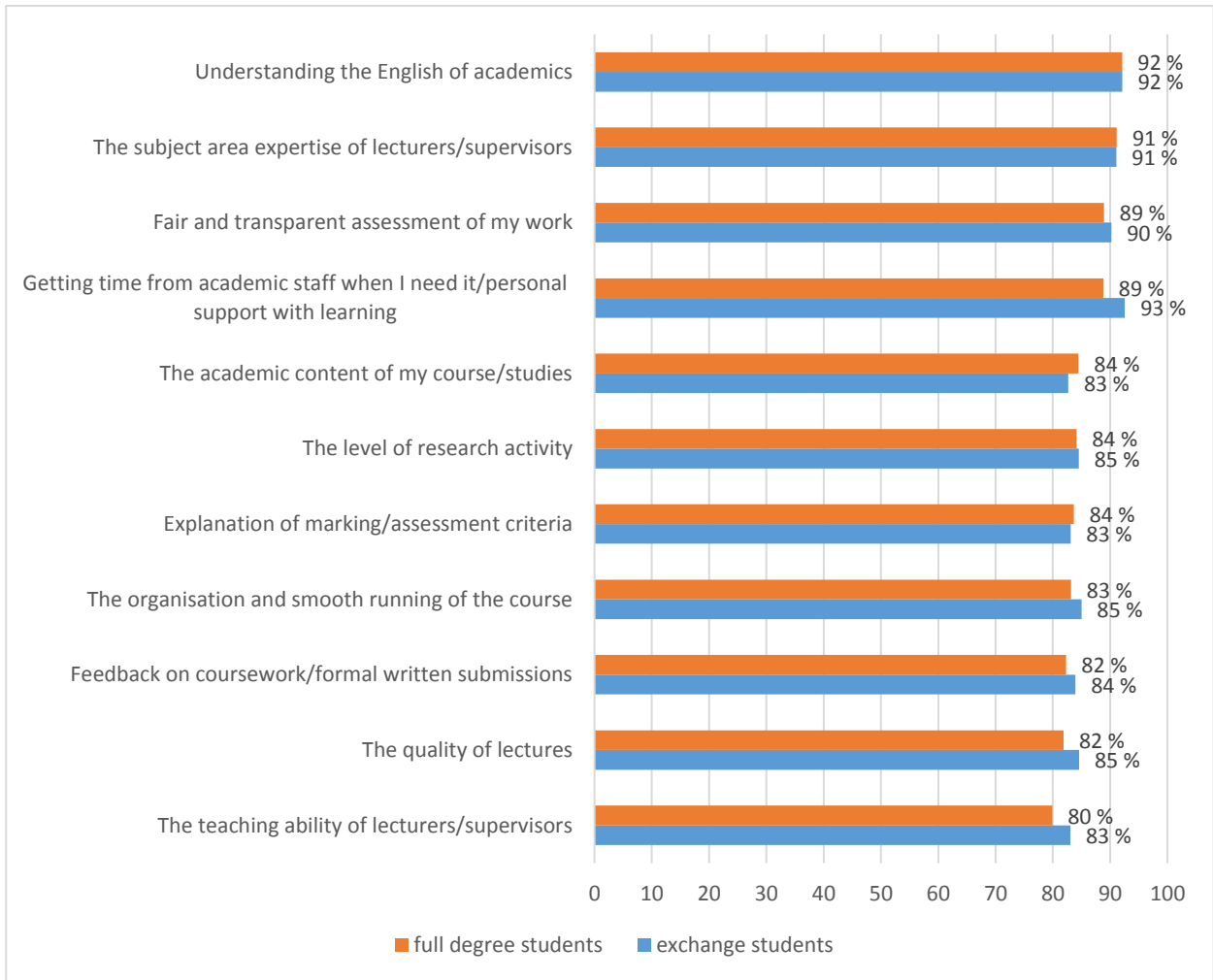


How satisfied were you with the following regarding when you first arrived at the institution. (First year full degree and exchange students, N=110-1760) % of satisfied or very satisfied

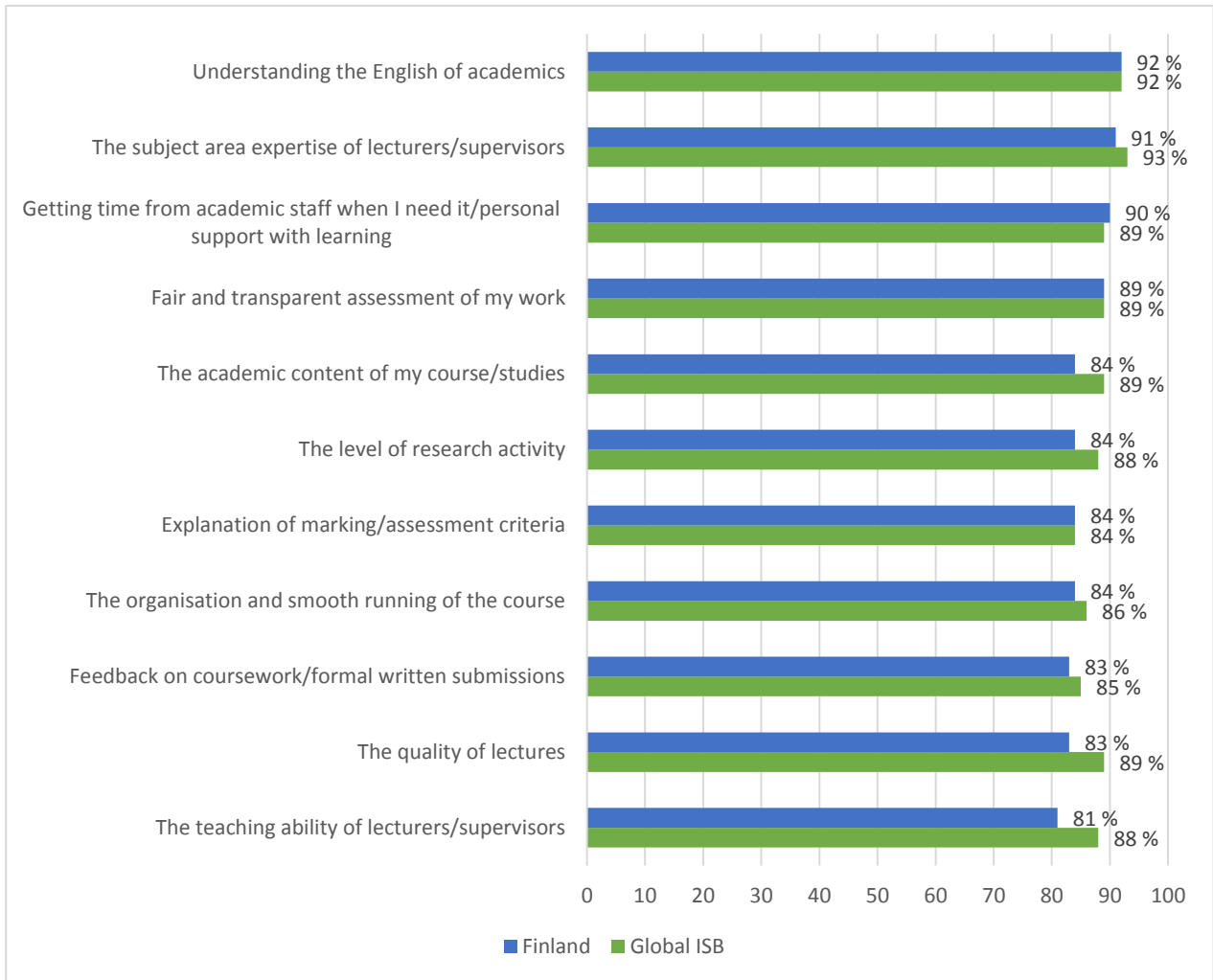
7 Learning



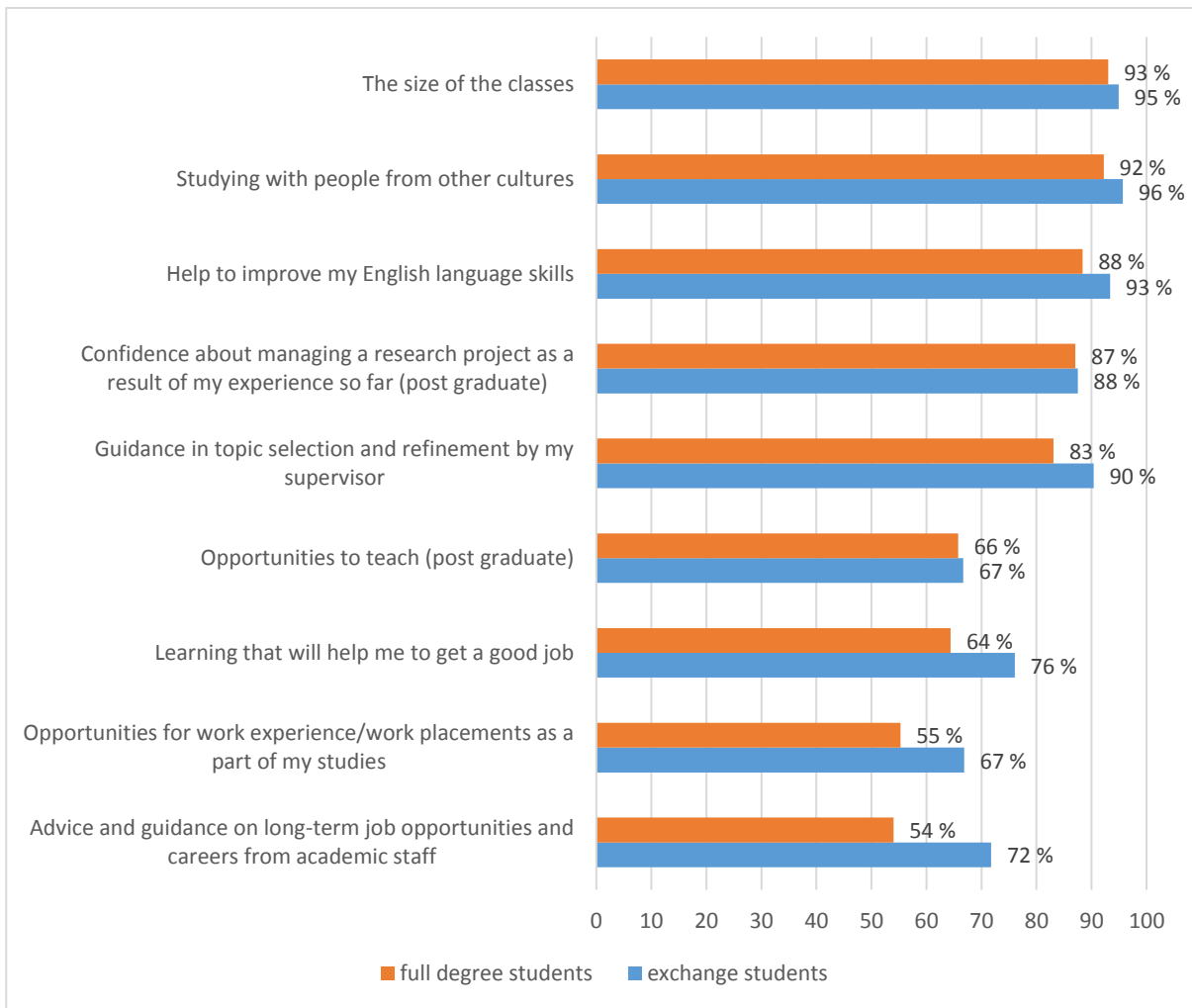
How satisfied are you with the learning experience at this stage of the year? (All students, N=6130) %



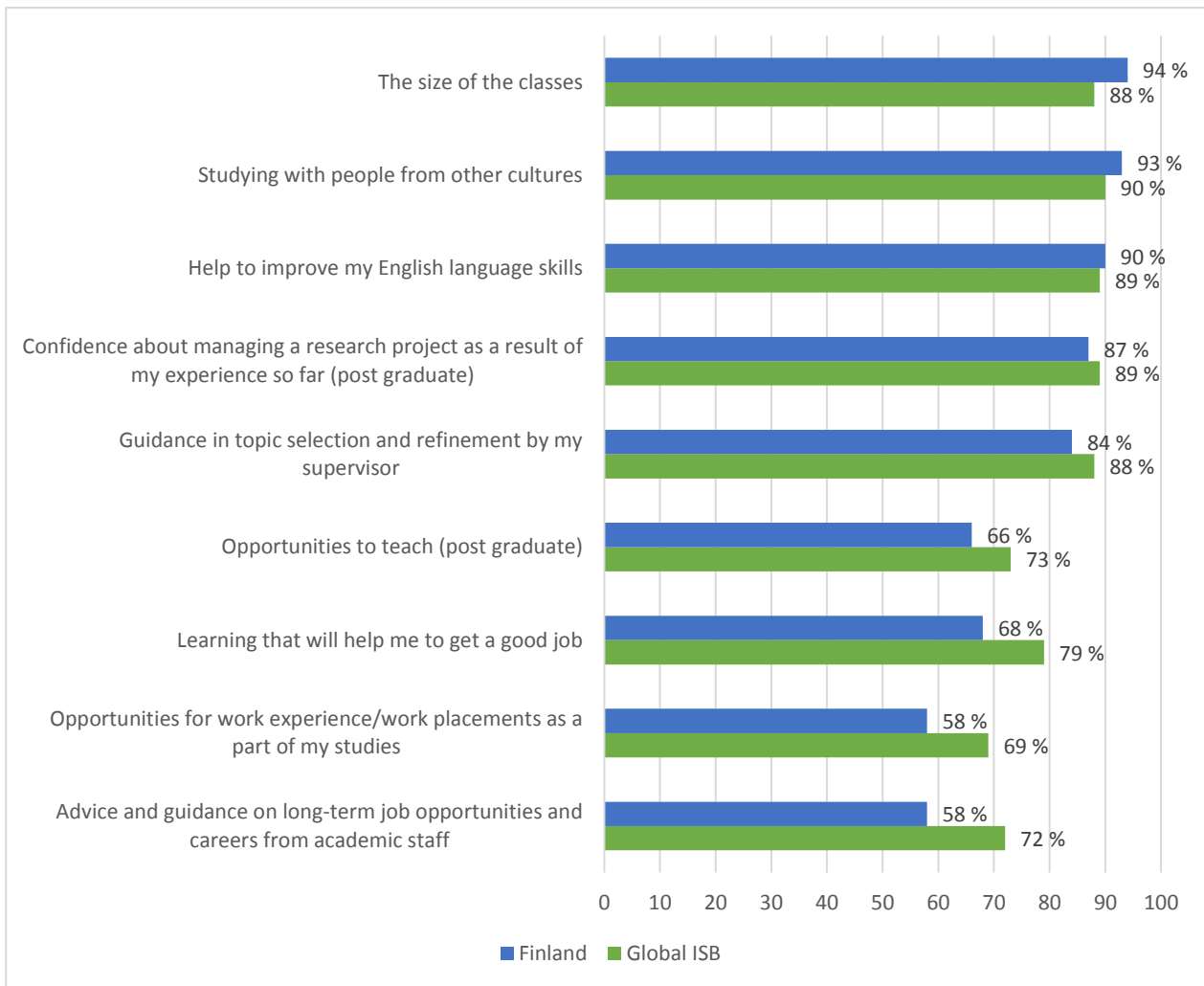
How satisfied are you with the following – teaching? (All students, N=4526-5475) % of satisfied or very satisfied



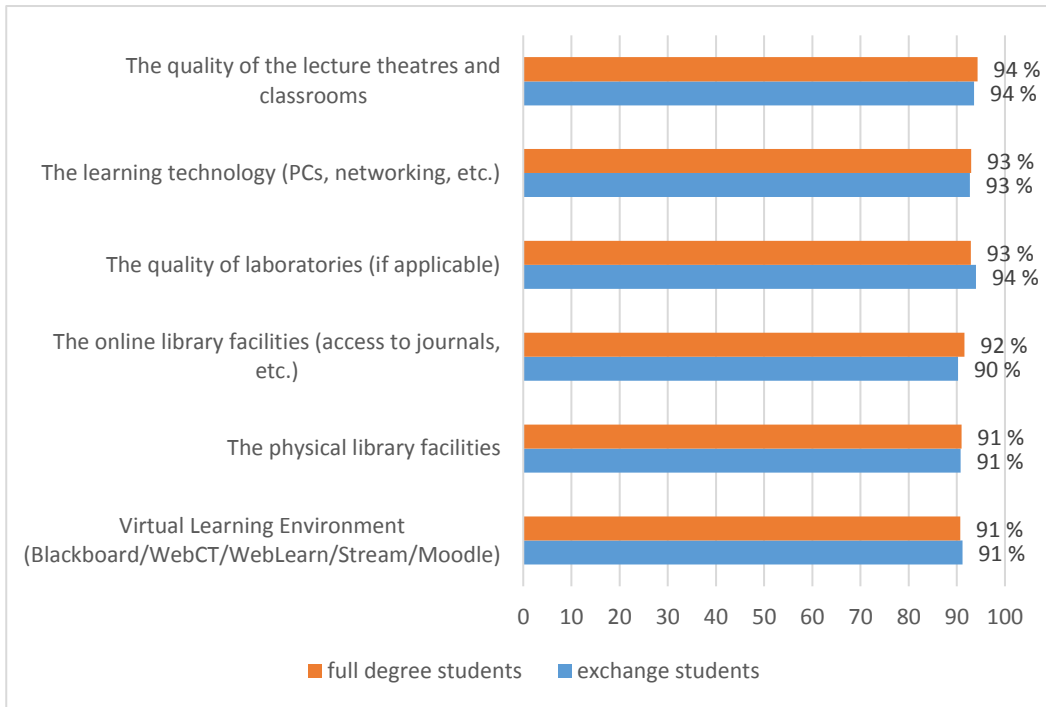
How satisfied are you with the following – teaching? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied



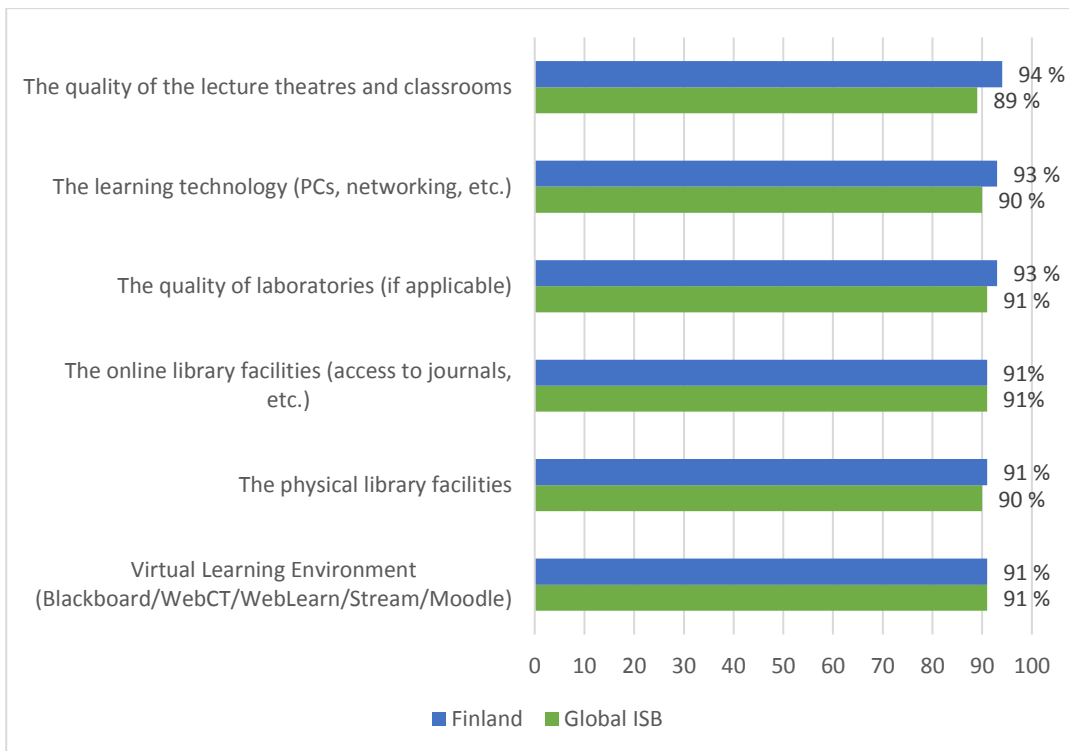
How satisfied are you with the following – studies? (All students, N=792-5396) % of satisfied or very satisfied



How satisfied are you with the following – studies? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied



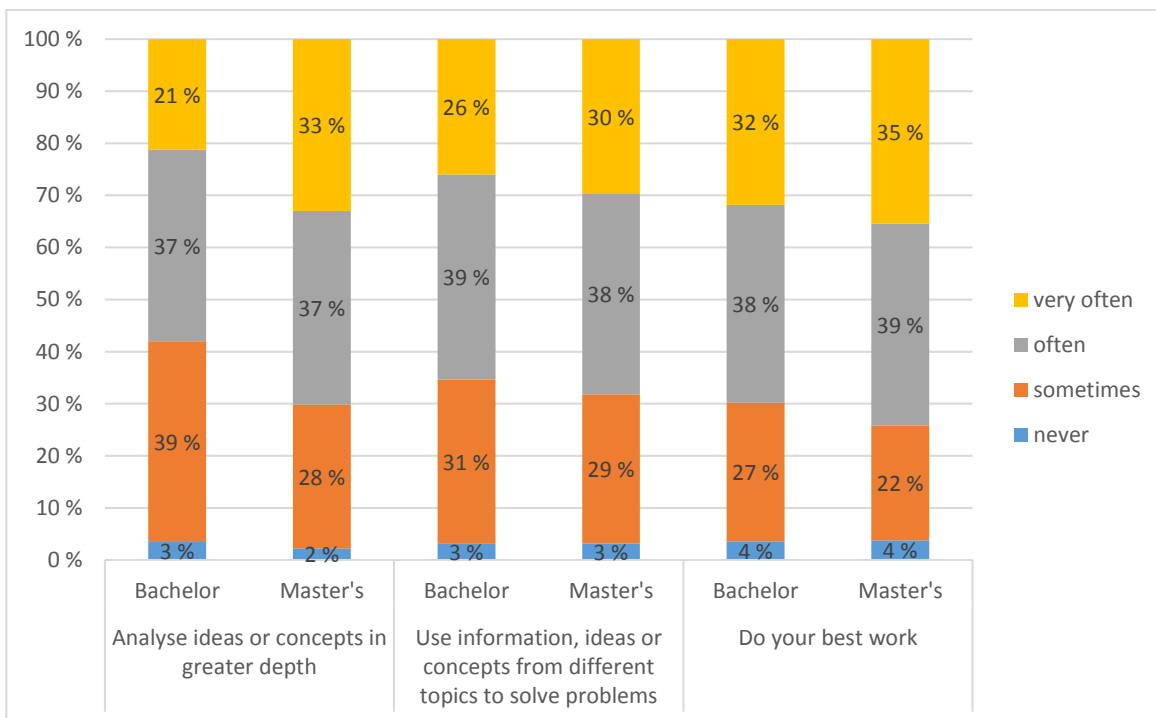
How satisfied are you with the following – facilities? (All students, N=3119-5446) % of satisfied or very satisfied



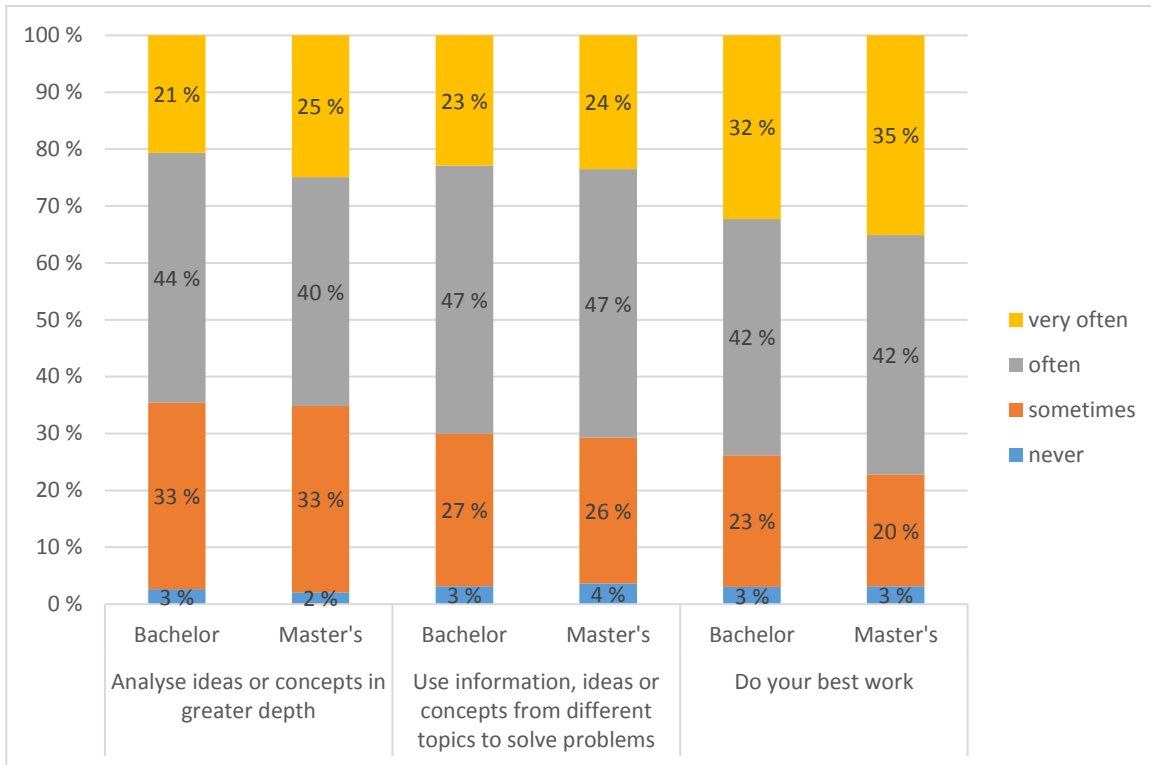
How satisfied you are with the following – facilities? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied

	Attending formal lectures or classroom teaching		Supervised small groups, practical work or tutorials		Individual time with a member of academic staff		Unsupervised / personal study alone or with friends / colleagues	
	Full degree	Exchange	Full degree	Exchange	Full degree	Exchange	Full degree	Exchange
0 hours	10,0	2,7	30,0	28,6	45,6	68,8	6,7	5,4
1-10 hours	45,1	48,7	61,7	64,2	50,8	28,1	31,3	45,6
11-20 hours	29,9	41,4	5,6	5,3	2,1	1,9	24,0	30,2
21-30 hours	11,7	6,0	1,6	1,1	0,7	0,5	19,0	12,9
31-40 hours	2,6	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,6	0,2	11,7	4,1
over 40 hours	0,8	0,4	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	7,1	1,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

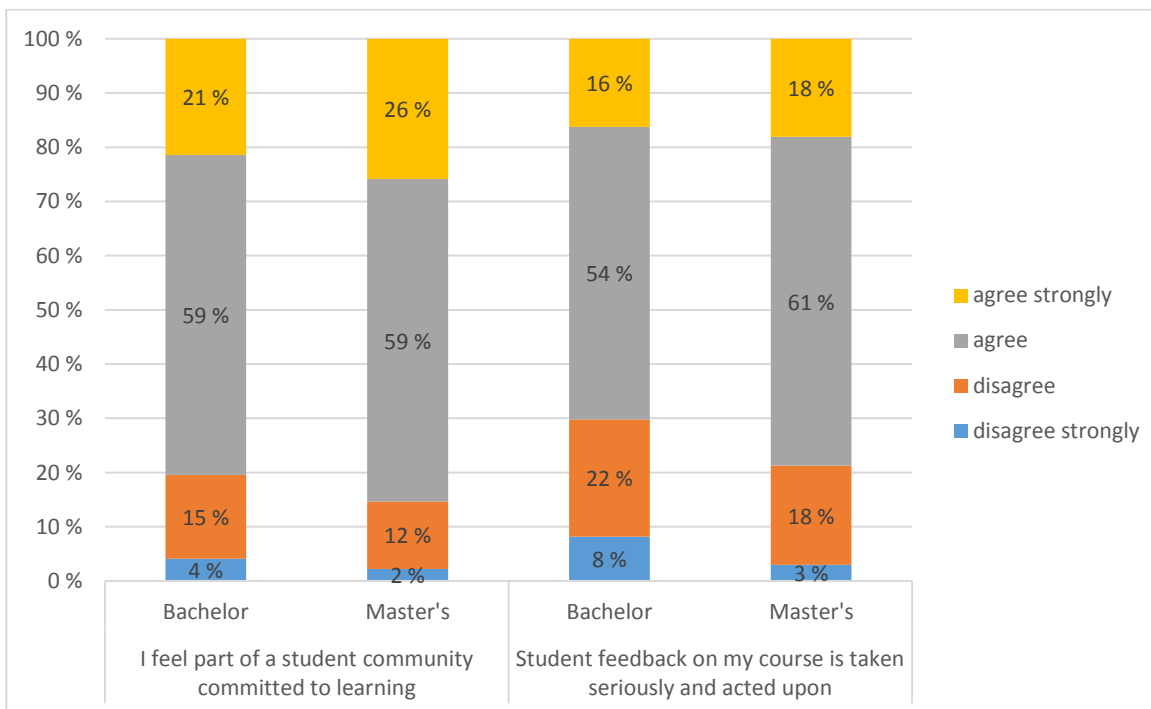
In a normal 7 day week, how many hours do you spend on the following? Please give an approximate estimate. (All students) %



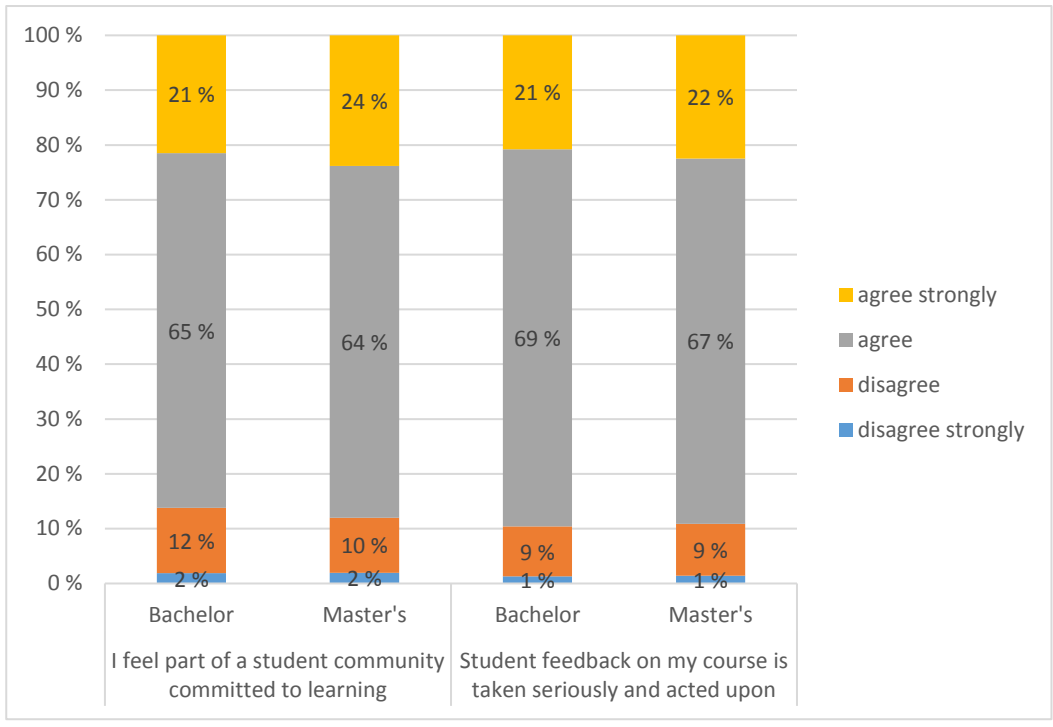
To what extent has your course challenged you to? (Full degree students, N=2822) %



To what extent has your course challenged you to? (Exchange students, N=1600) %

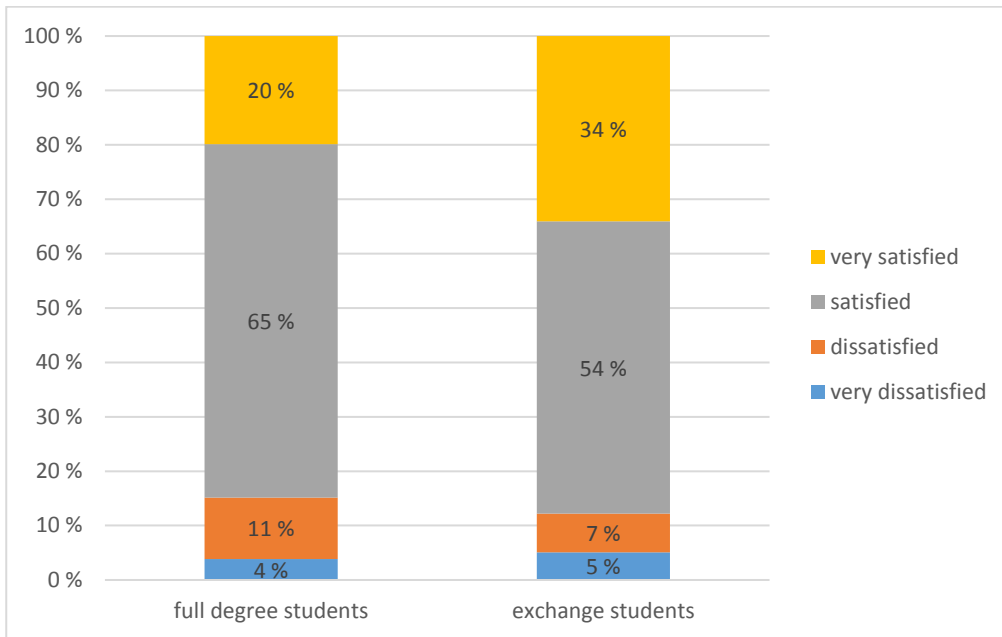


To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Full degree students, N=2780) %

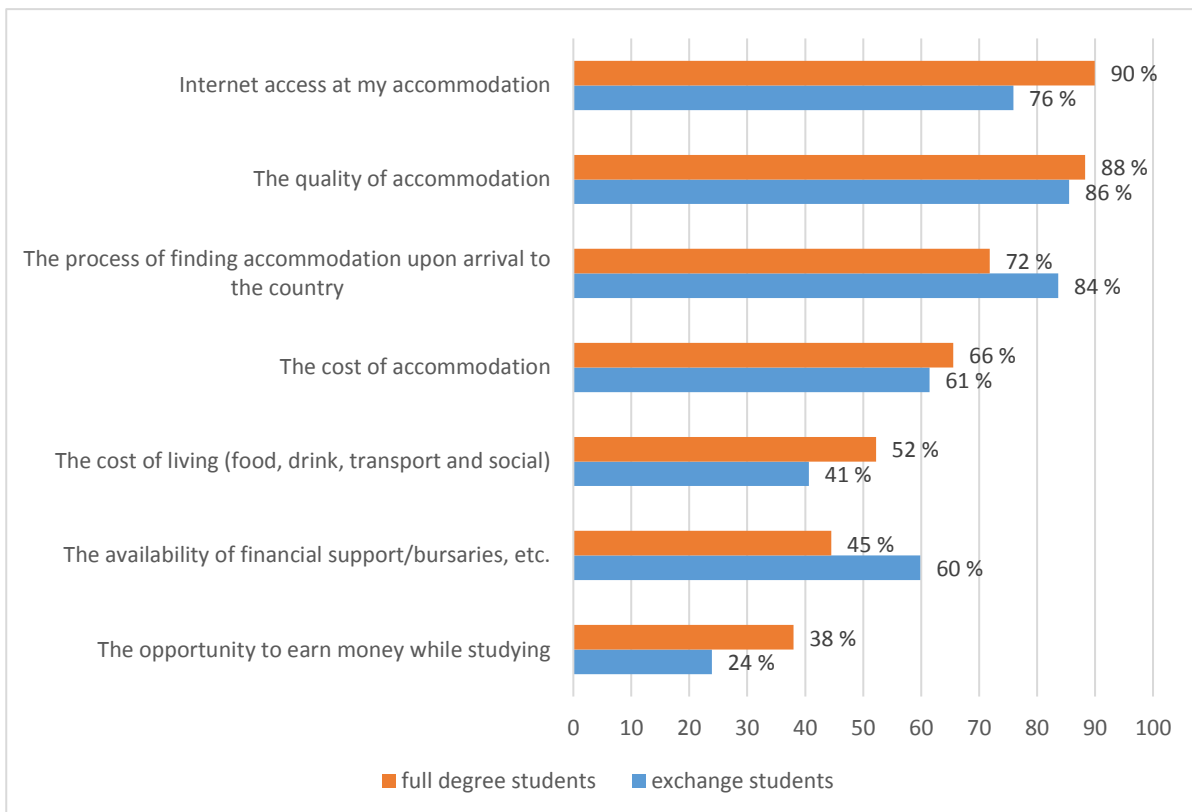


To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Exchange students, N=1588) %

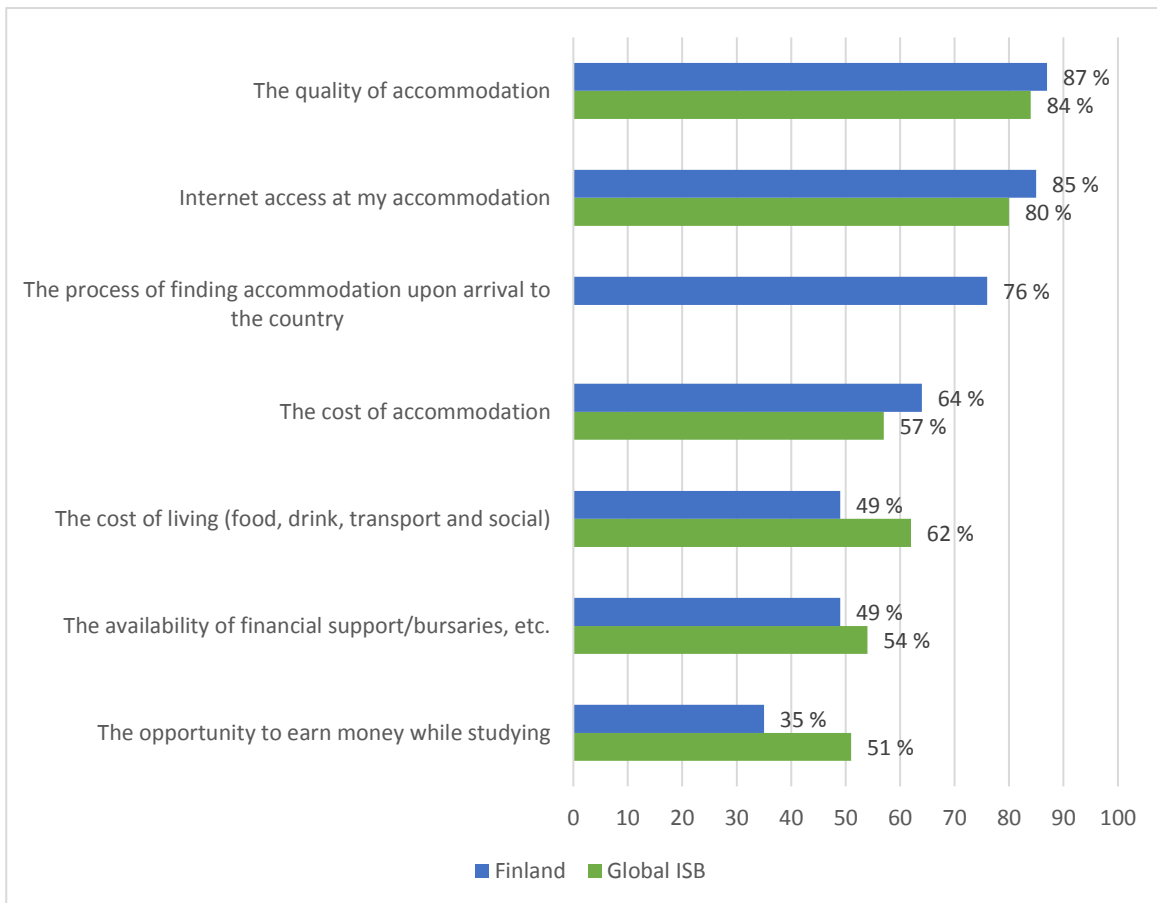
8 Living



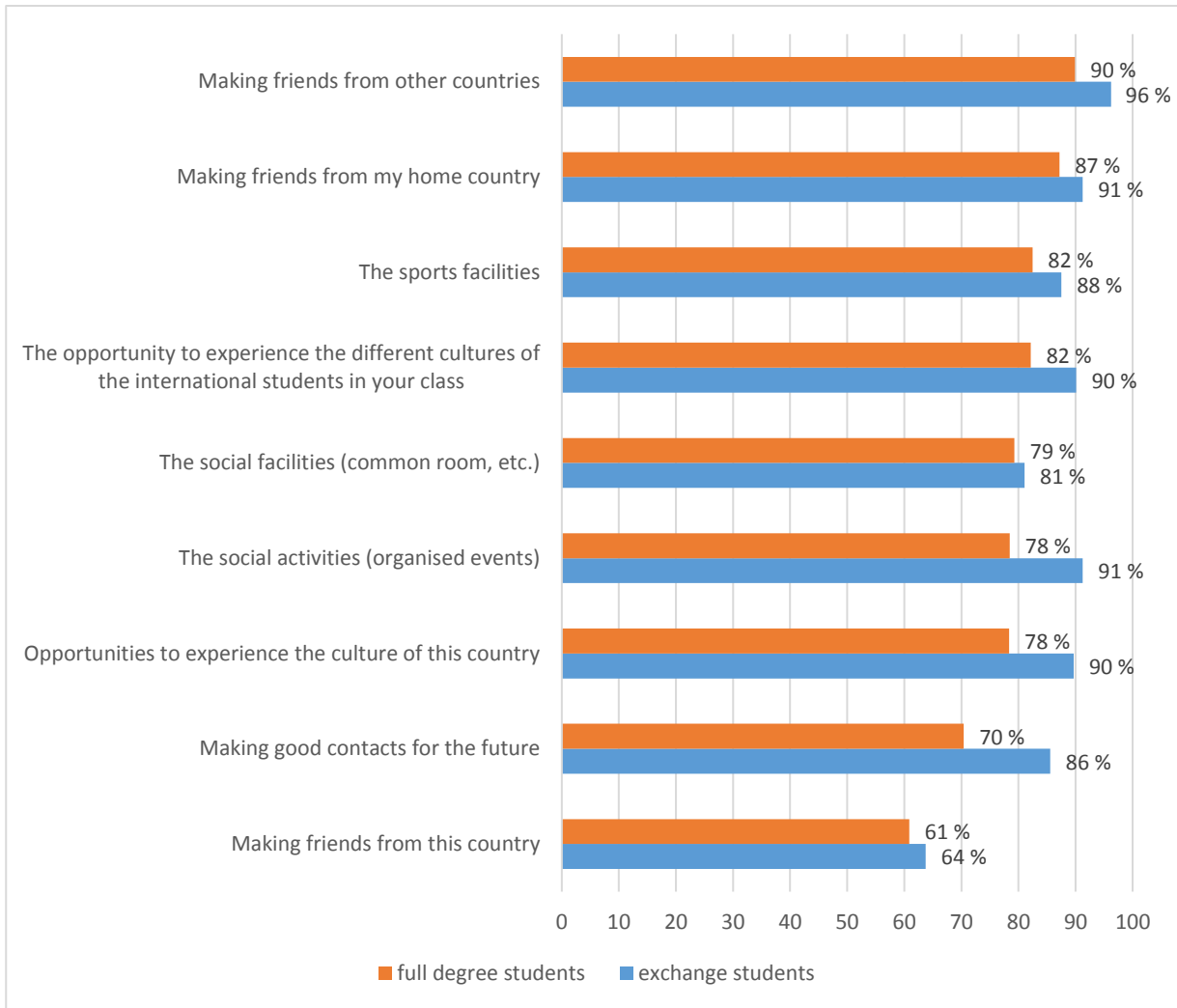
How satisfied are you with the living experience? (All students, N=5564) %



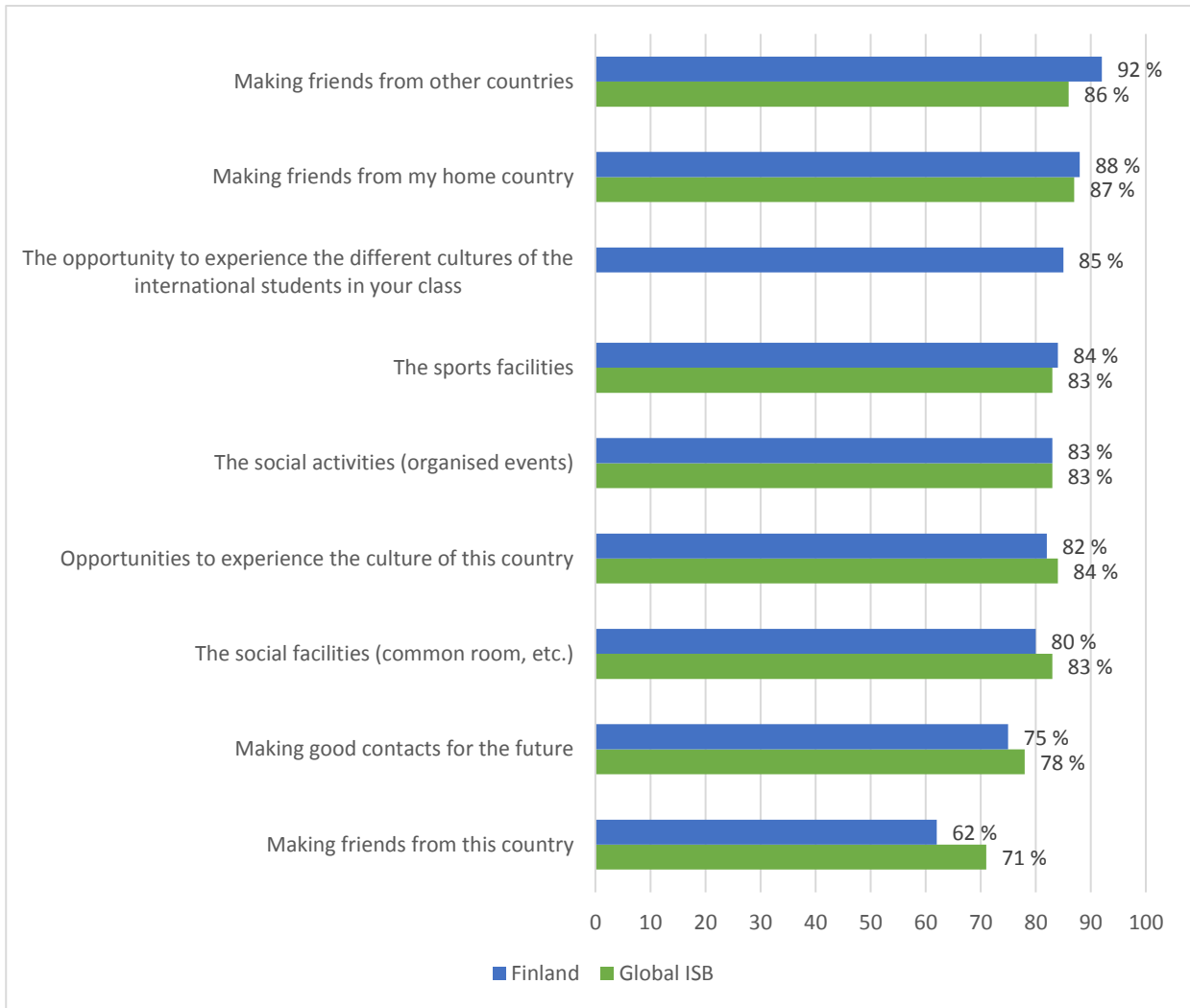
How satisfied are you with the following – accommodation and living costs? (All students, N=2327-5321) %
% of satisfied or very satisfied



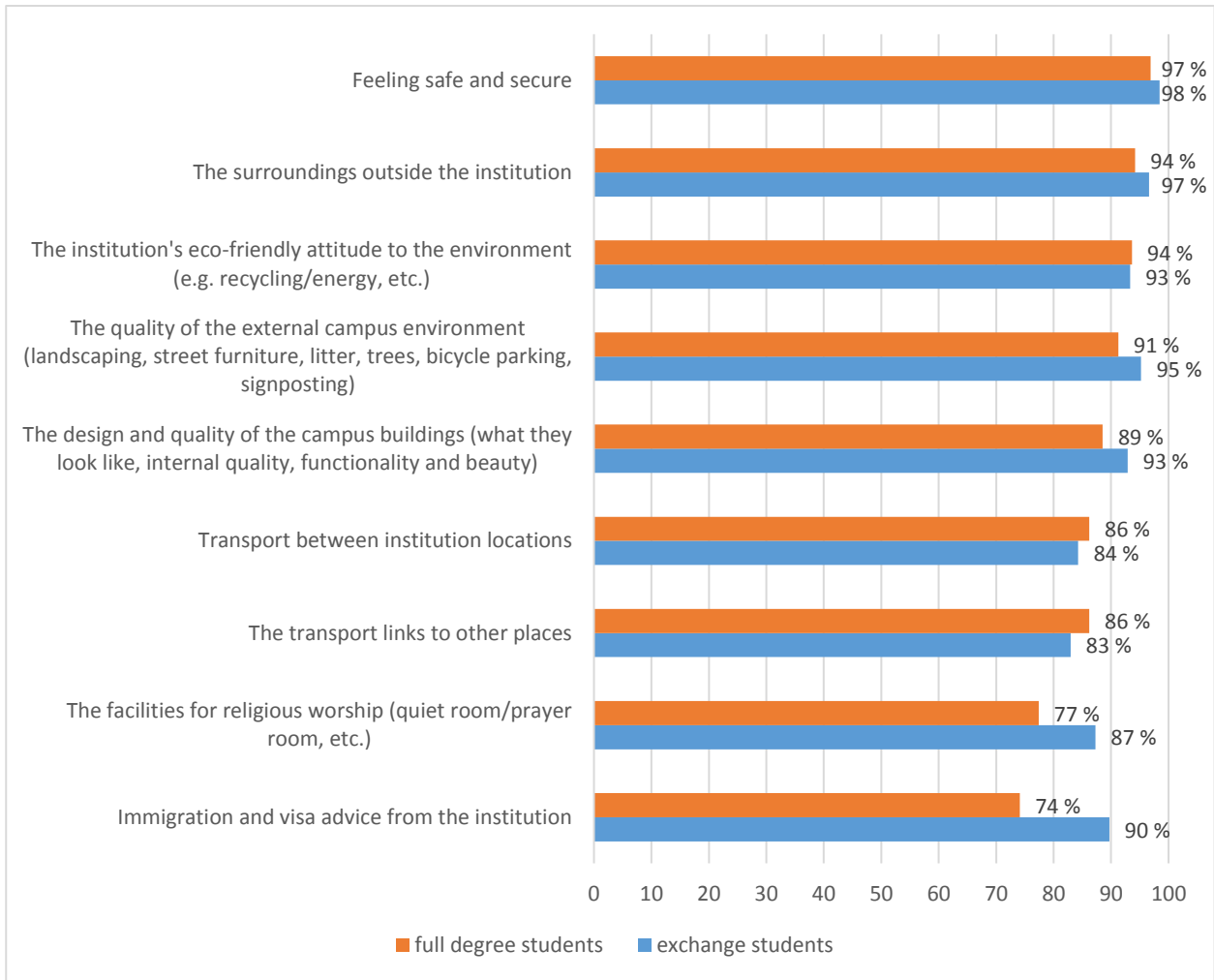
How satisfied are you with the following – accommodation and living costs? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied



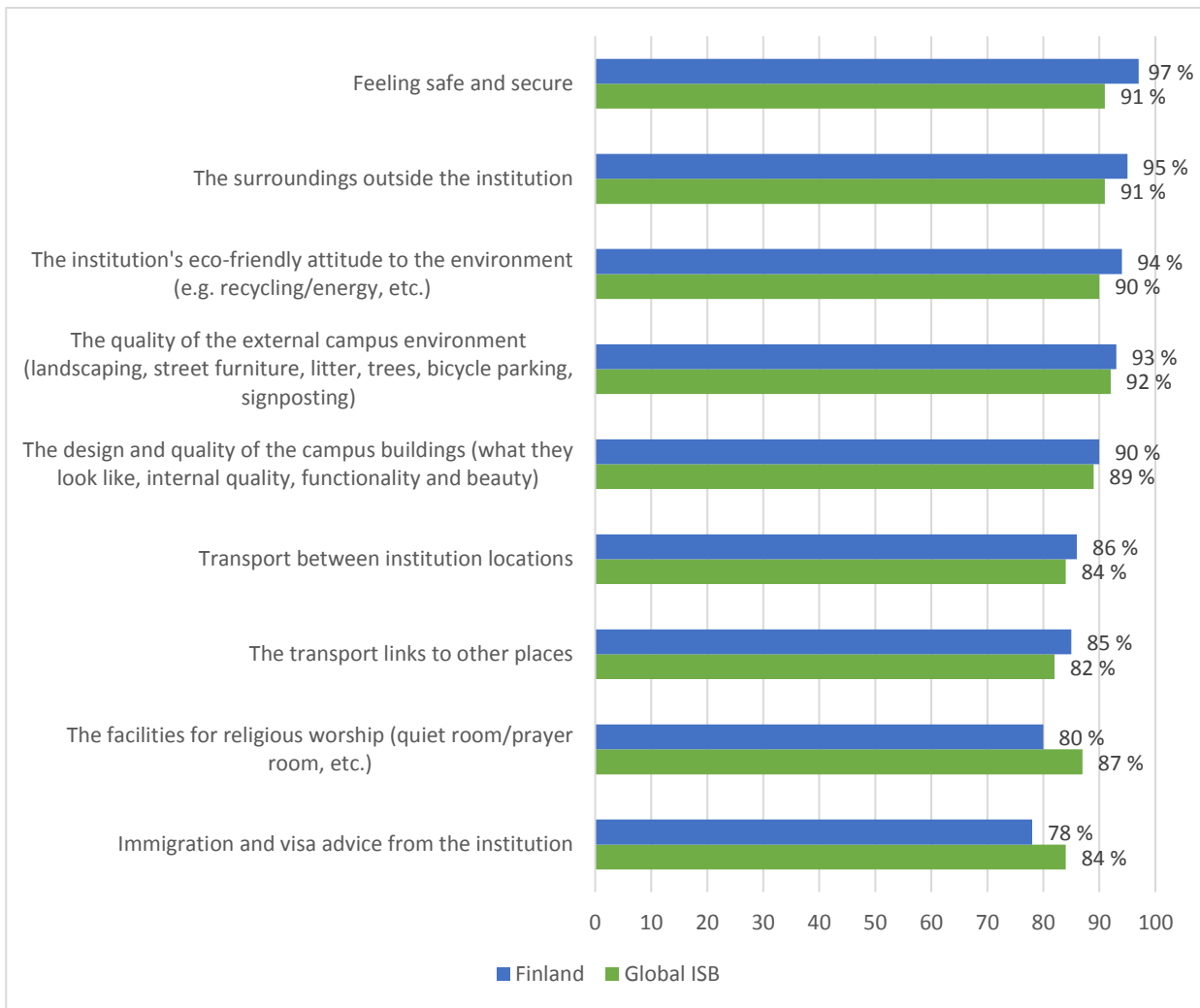
How satisfied are you with the following – social? (All students, N=4614-5278) % of satisfied or very satisfied



How satisfied are you with the following – social? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied



How satisfied are you with the following – day to day life? (All students, N=) % of satisfied or very satisfied



How satisfied are you with the following – day to day life? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied

9 Housing

Type of accommodation	Frequency	%
Student house rented from / controlled by the institution	388	6,1
Private housing	964	15,2
Other	4978	78,6
Total	6330	100,0

Where are you living now?

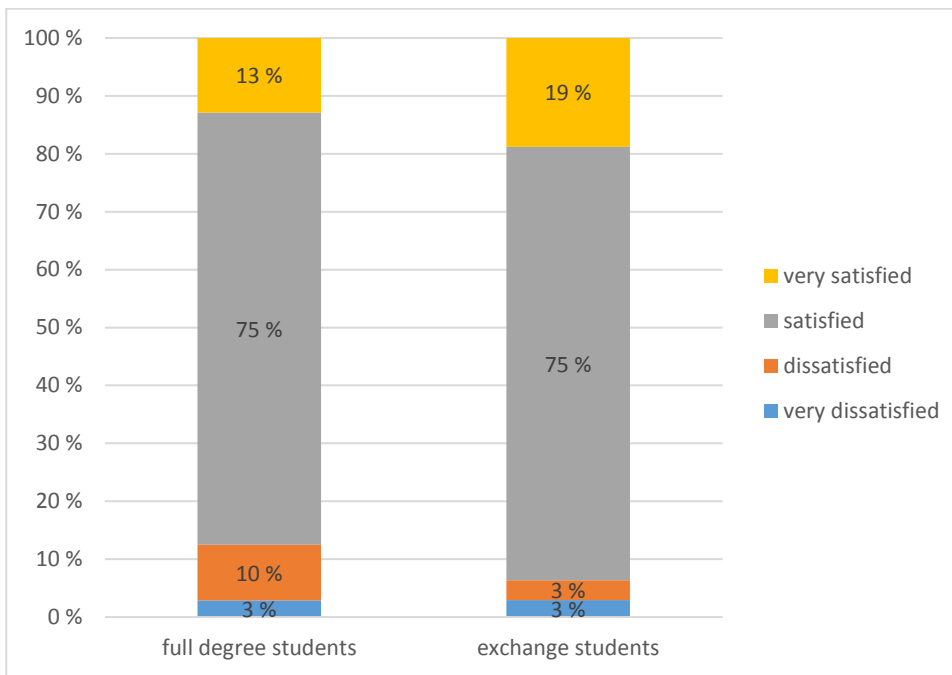
	Frequency	%
Shared flat	3583	57,2
Shared room	559	8,9
Studio	1022	16,3
Other	1102	17,6
Total	6266	100,0

What kind of apartment do you live in?

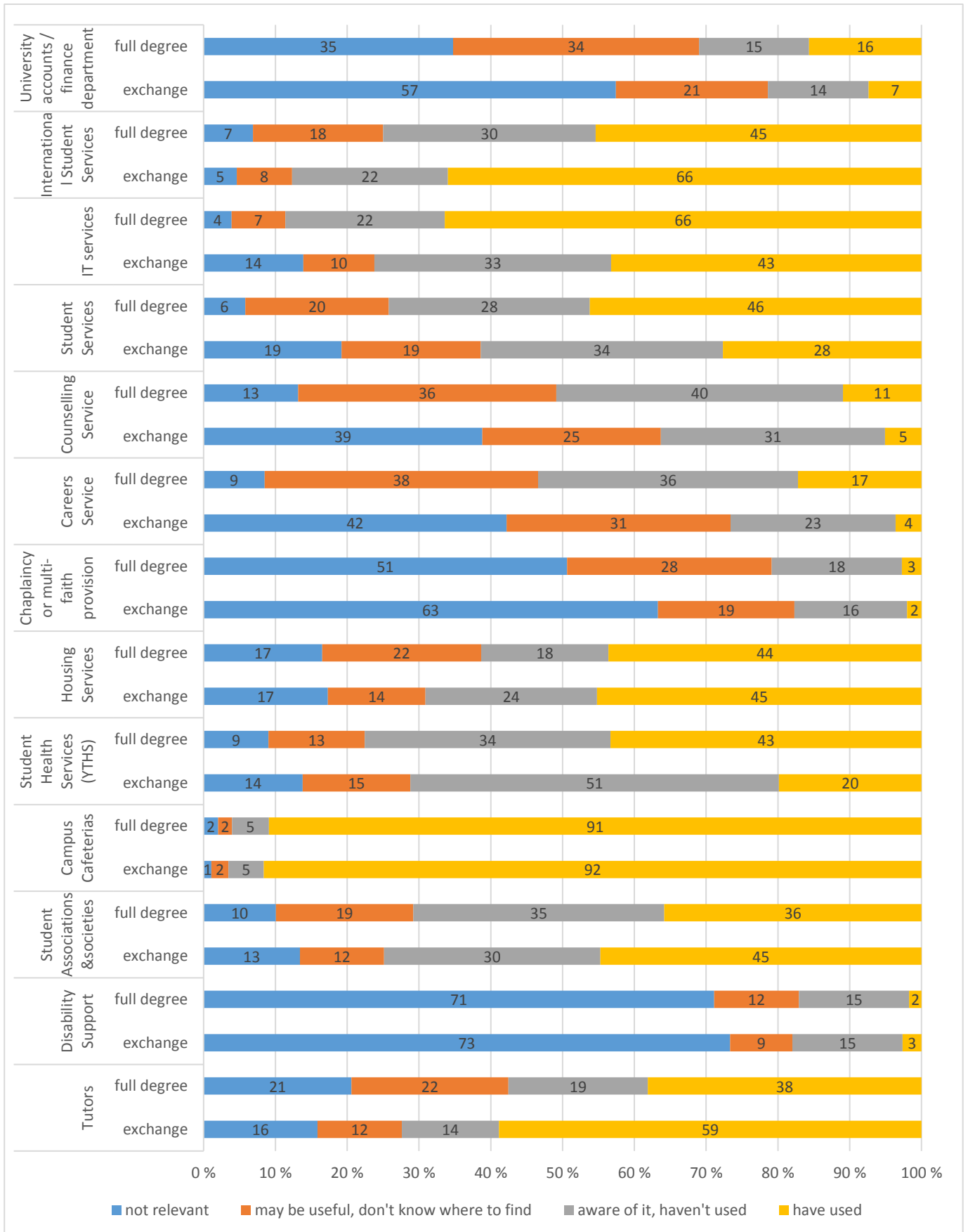
	Frequency	%
Under €200	411	7,0
€200-€299	2822	47,8
€300-€399	1096	18,6
€400-€499	643	10,9
Over €500	934	15,8
Total	5906	100,0

How much do you pay for your accommodation monthly?

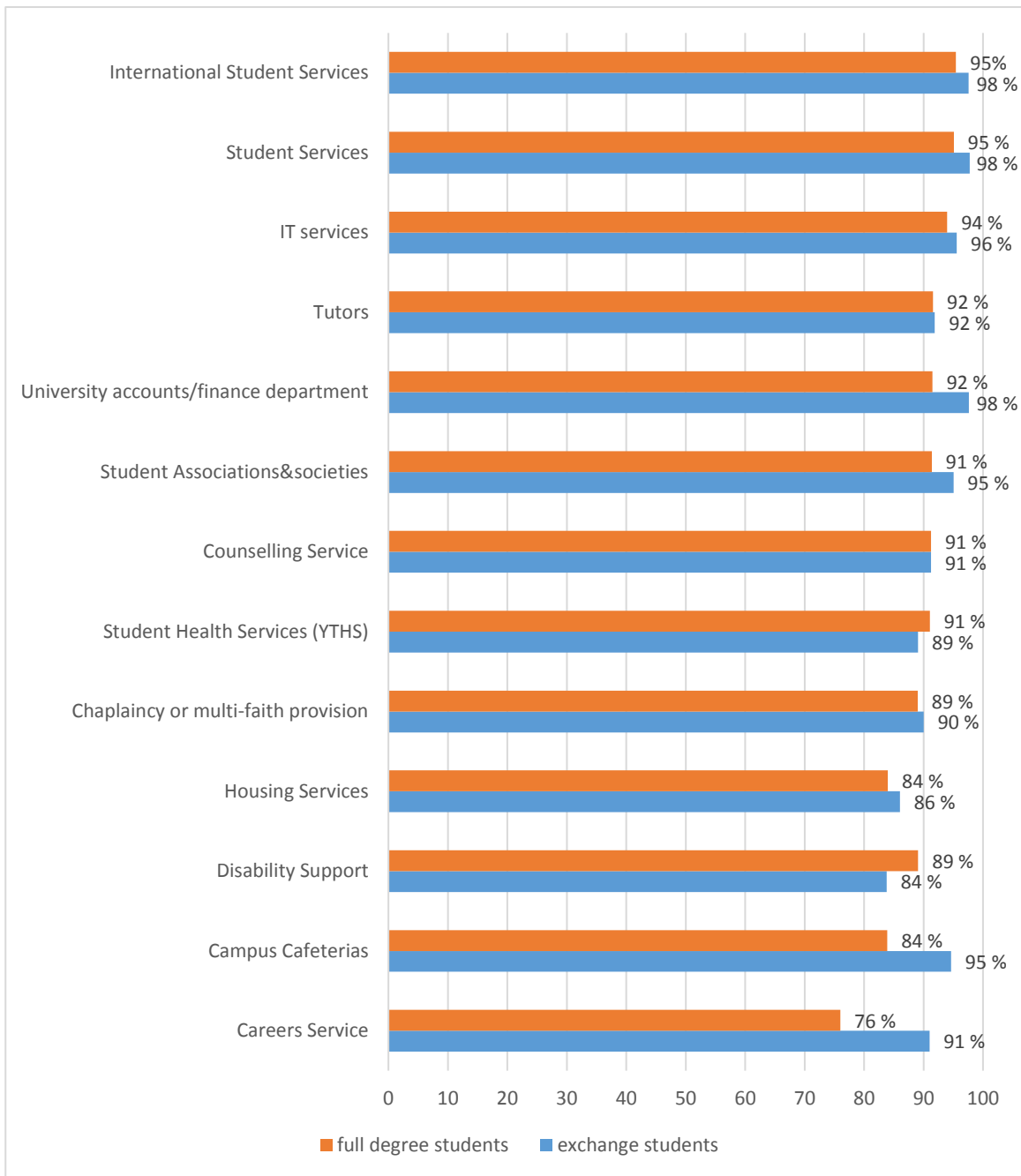
10 Support services



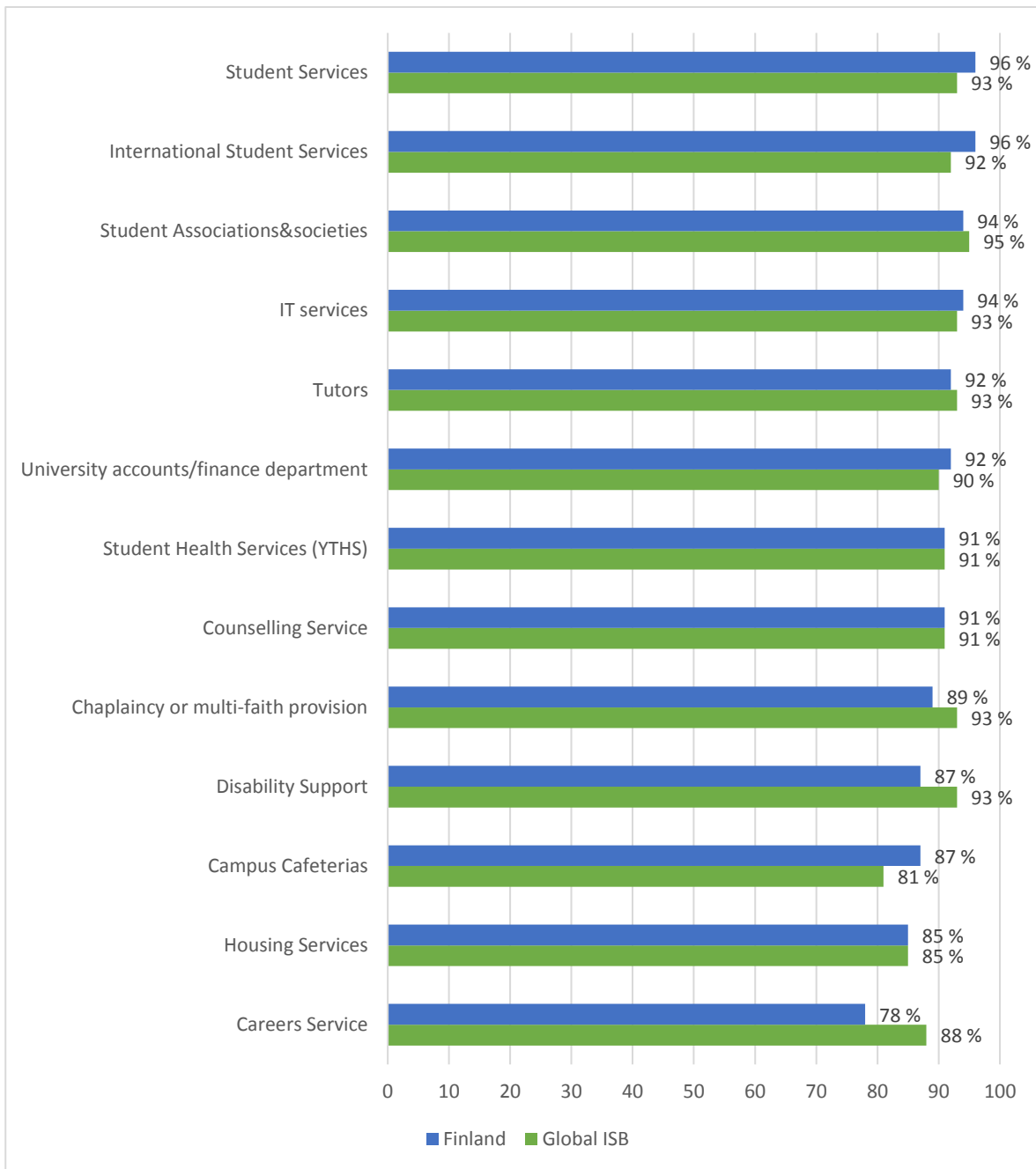
How satisfied are you with the support services? (All students, N=5151) %



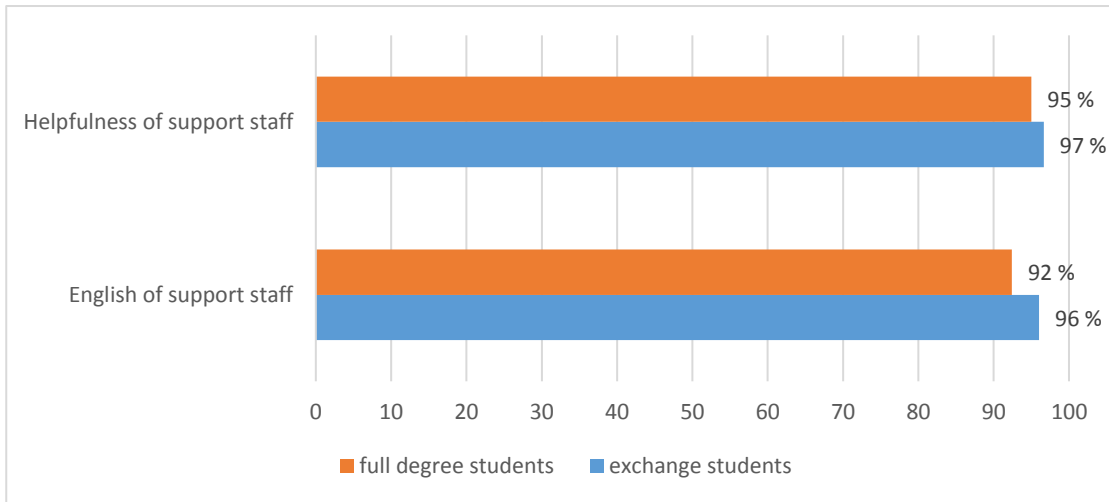
Please indicate your use/knowledge of the following. (All students, N=4809-5286) %



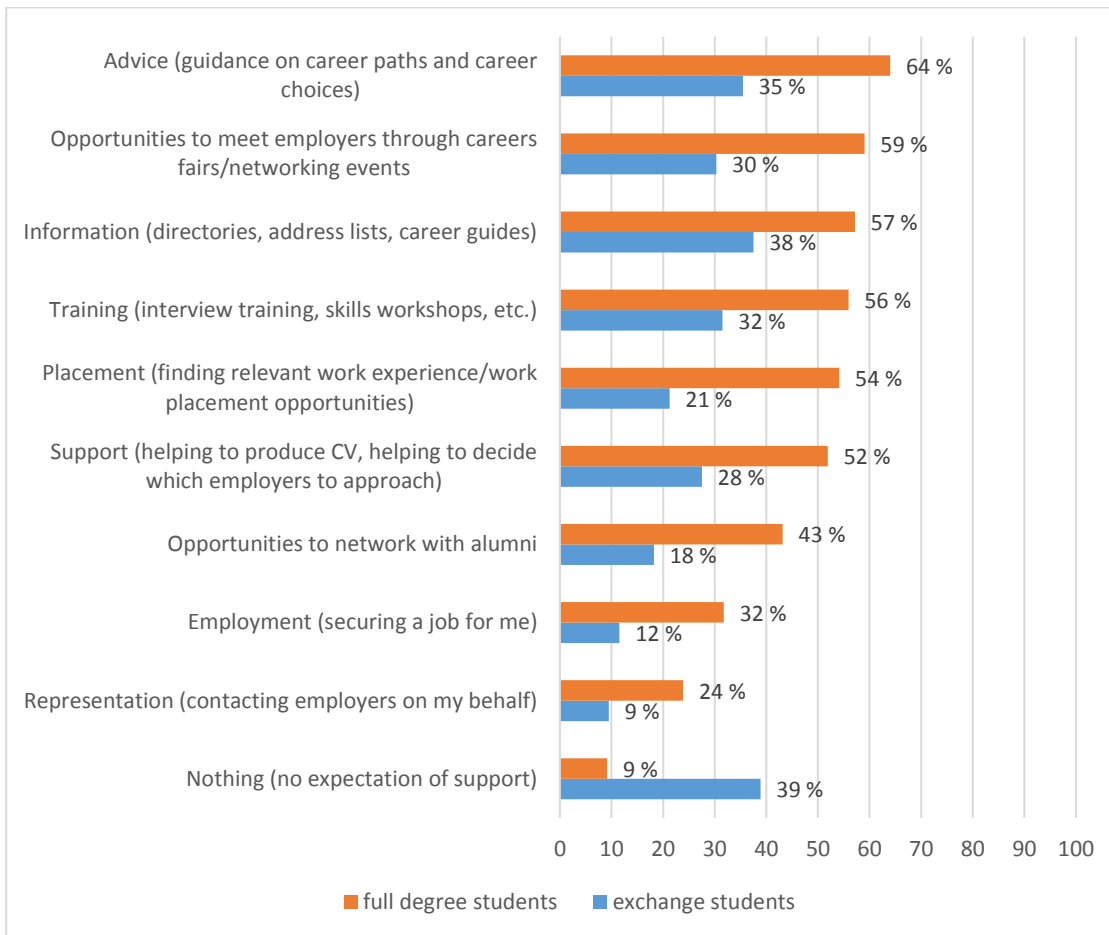
How satisfied are you with the following? (All students, N=92-4764) % of satisfied or very satisfied



How satisfied are you with the following? (All students) % of satisfied or very satisfied

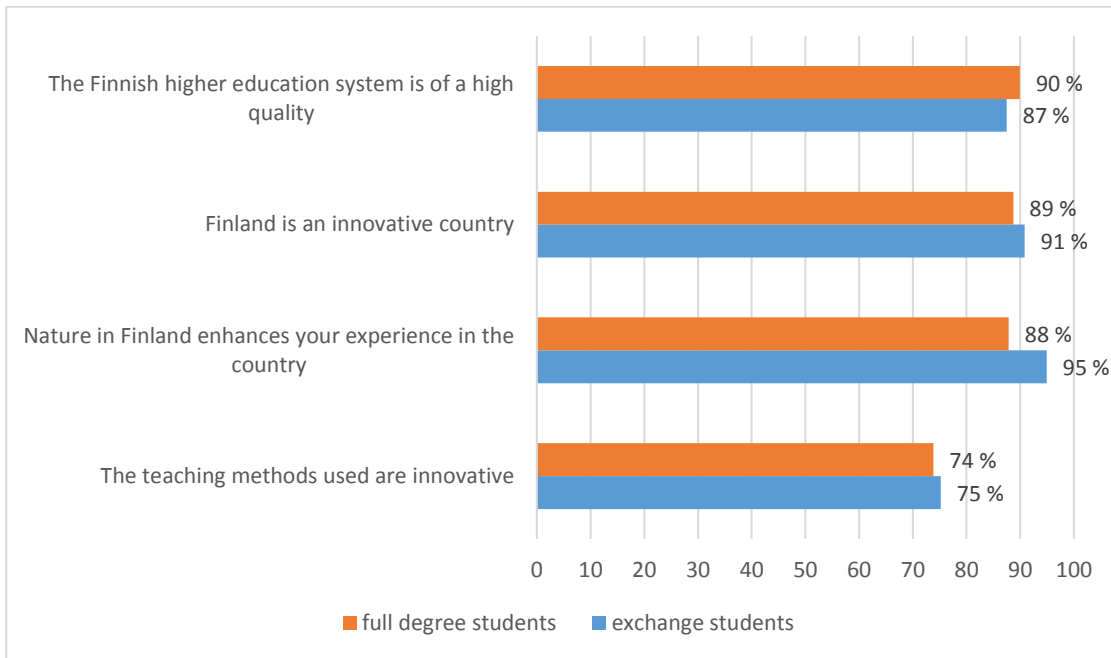


How satisfied you are with the following? (All students, N=5038-5139) % of satisfied or very satisfied

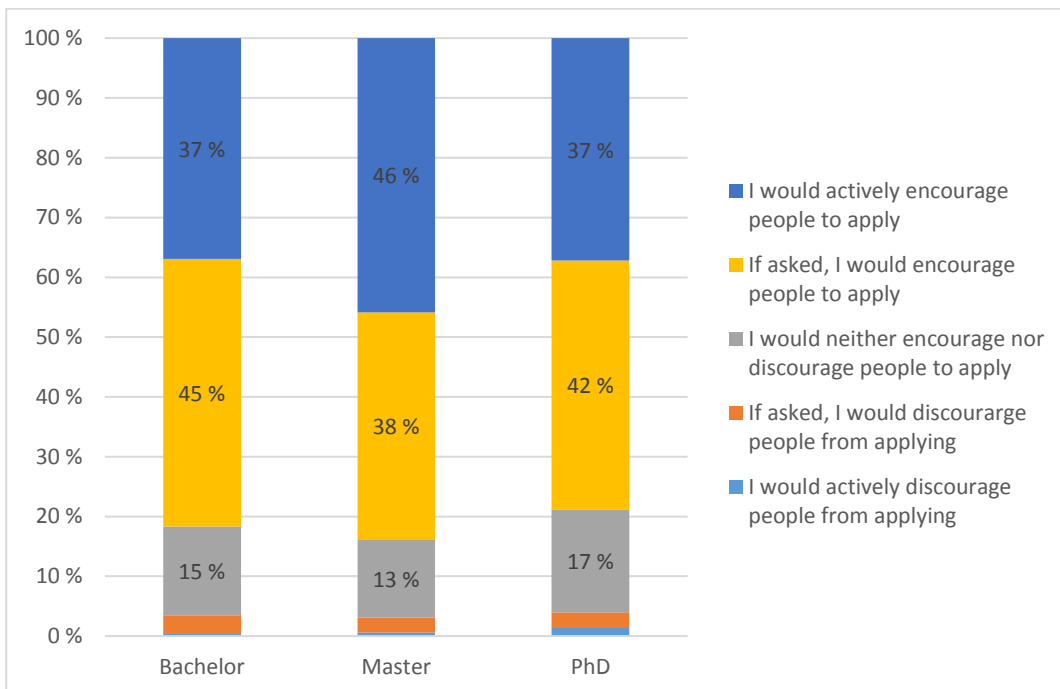


What employment/careers support do you expect from the institutions? (All students, N=5162) %

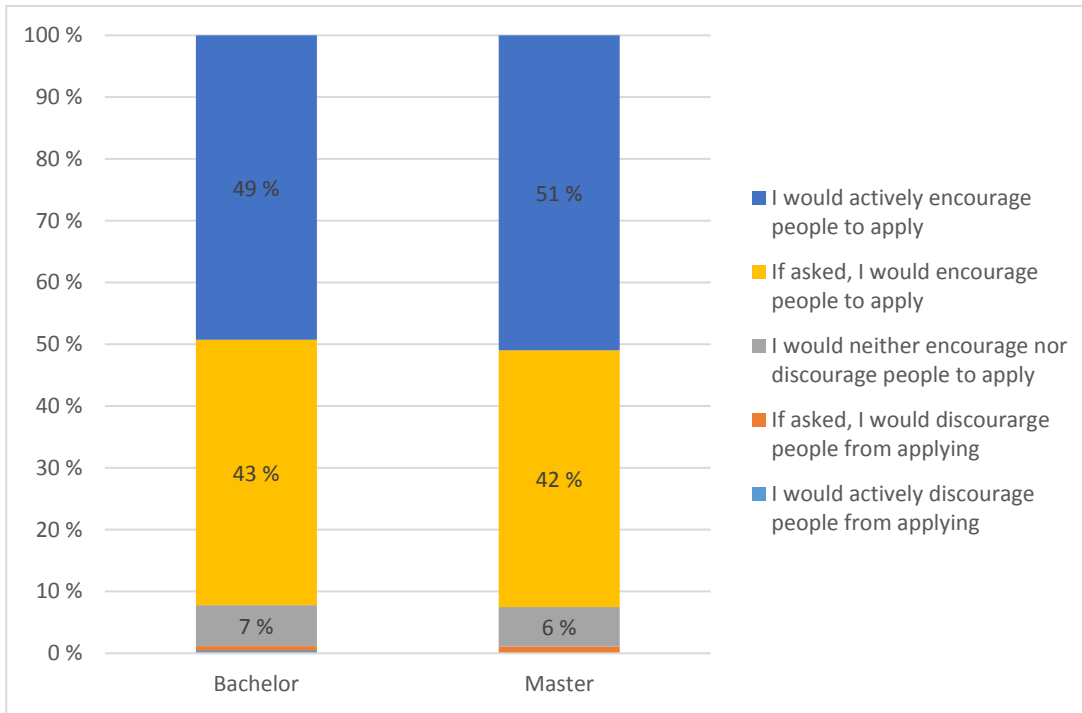
11 Finland as a study destination



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (All students, N=4940-5129) % of agreeing or agreeing strongly

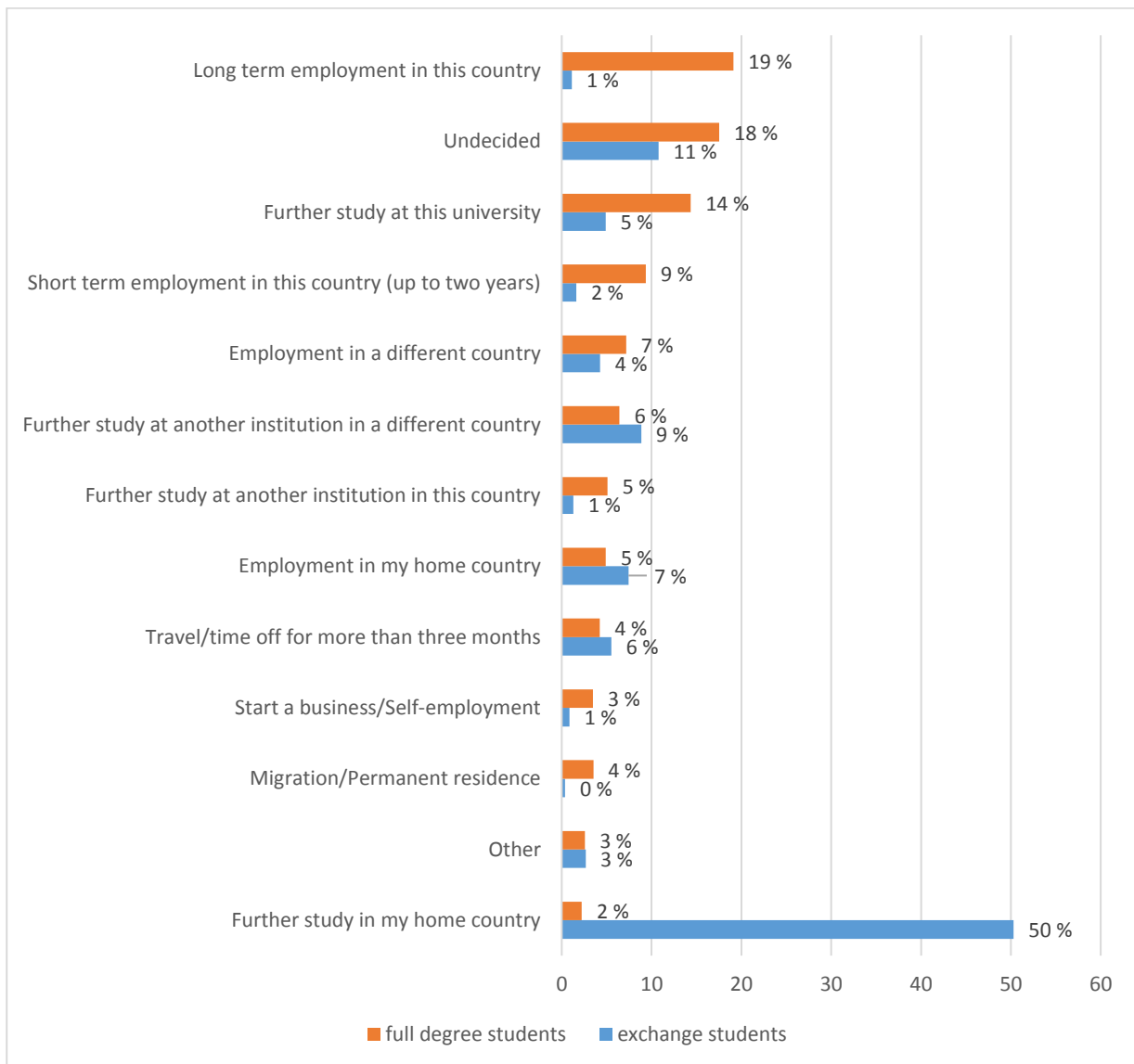


Would you recommend Finland to other students thinking of applying here? (Full degree students, N=3601) %

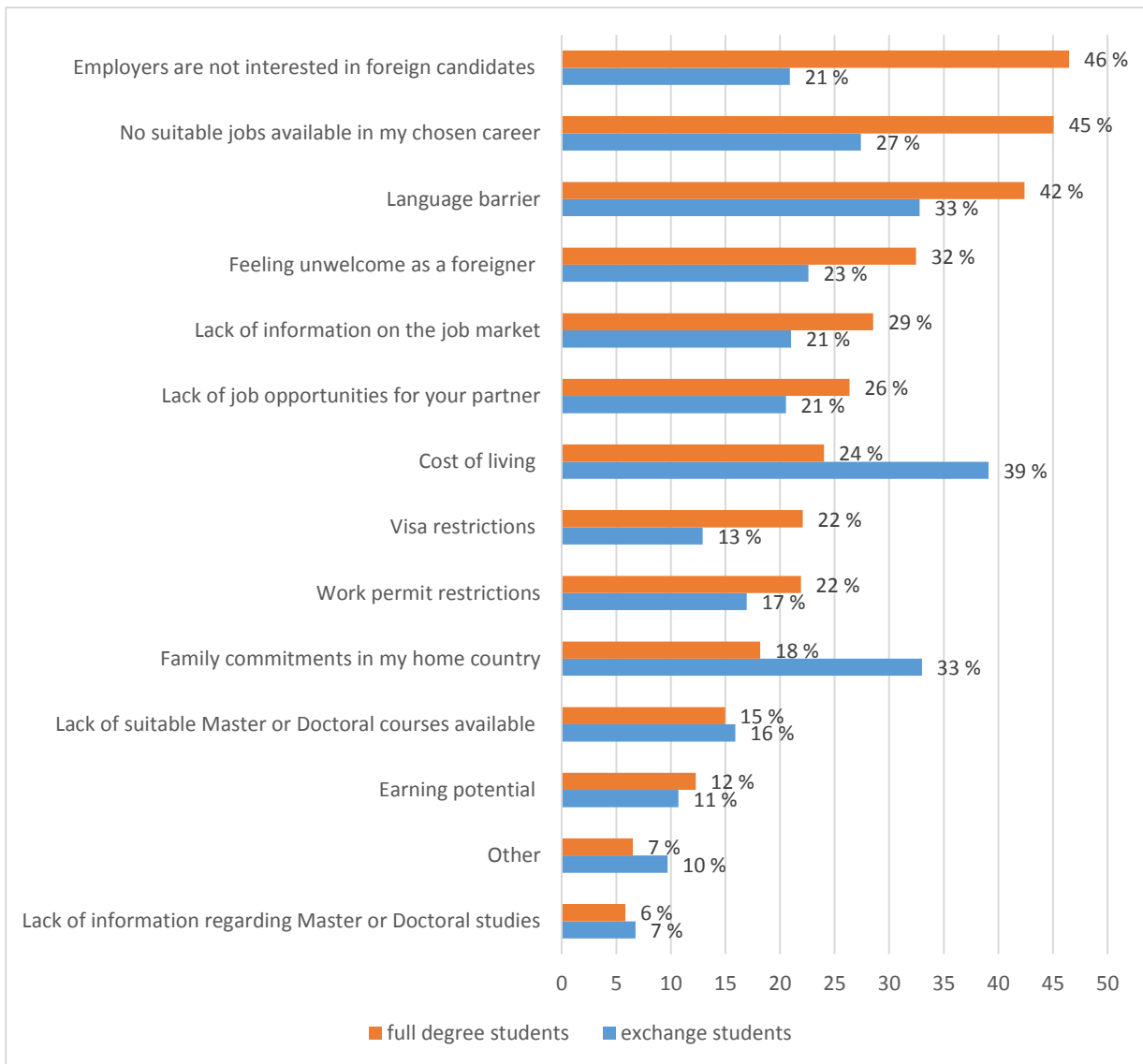


Would you recommend Finland to other students thinking of applying here? (Exchange students, N=1560)
%

12 After studies



What do you plan to do after your current course of study? (All students, N=5160) %



What would make you leave your host country after graduation? (Please select all that apply) (All students, N=5242) %