

TSR Asks: How do students feel post application and what support can universities offer?

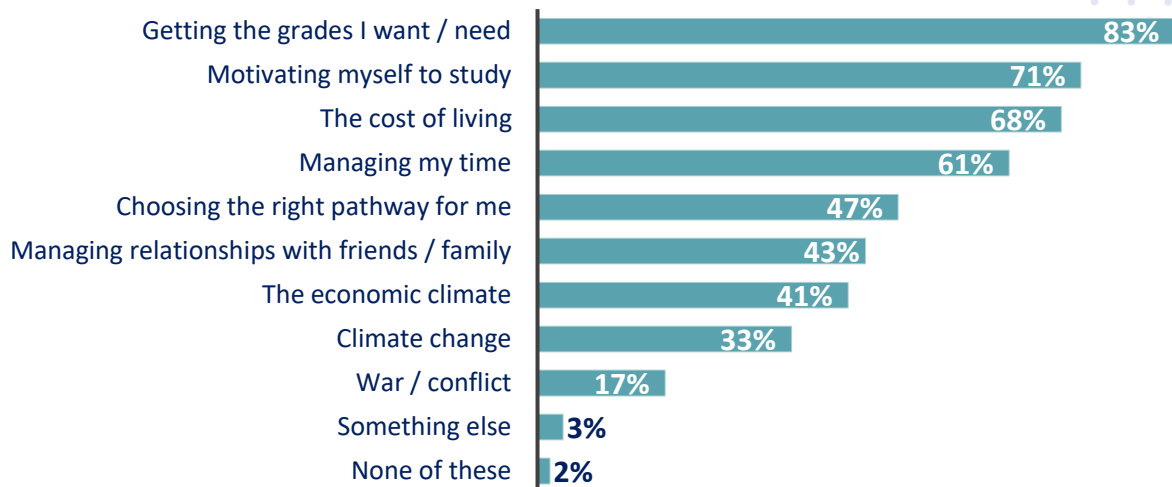
Methodology: TSR Asks monthly omnibus survey of prospective 2023 entry undergraduates, aged 16+

Base: 353 responses (4th – 6th February 2023)

Current worries

In our research, shortly after the January UCAS deadline, almost all 2023 entry respondents (98%) had some worries. Concerns were most likely to focus closer to home, in areas such as getting the grades they needed (83%) and motivating themselves to study (71%), than they were about broader global issues such as climate change (33%) or war and conflict (17%). However, the cost of living was a concern to two-thirds (68%).

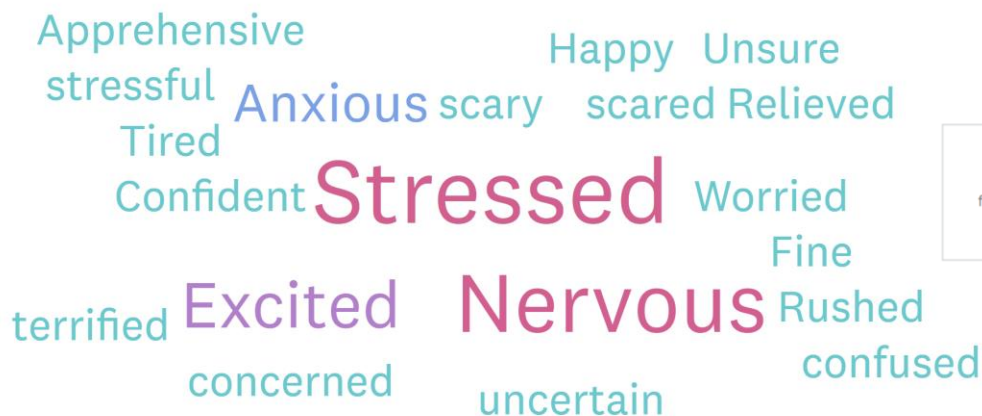
Q: Which, if any, of the following are you worrying about at the moment? (Multiple choice)



Feelings about university applications

When asked how they felt about making their university application, the most common words used were 'stressed' and 'nervous'. However, it's encouraging to note that 'excited' also featured.

Q: What one word would you use to describe how you feel / felt about making your university application? (Open)



Feelings about starting university

Respondents had mixed feelings about starting university - More than half (57%) were equally excited and nervous about this.

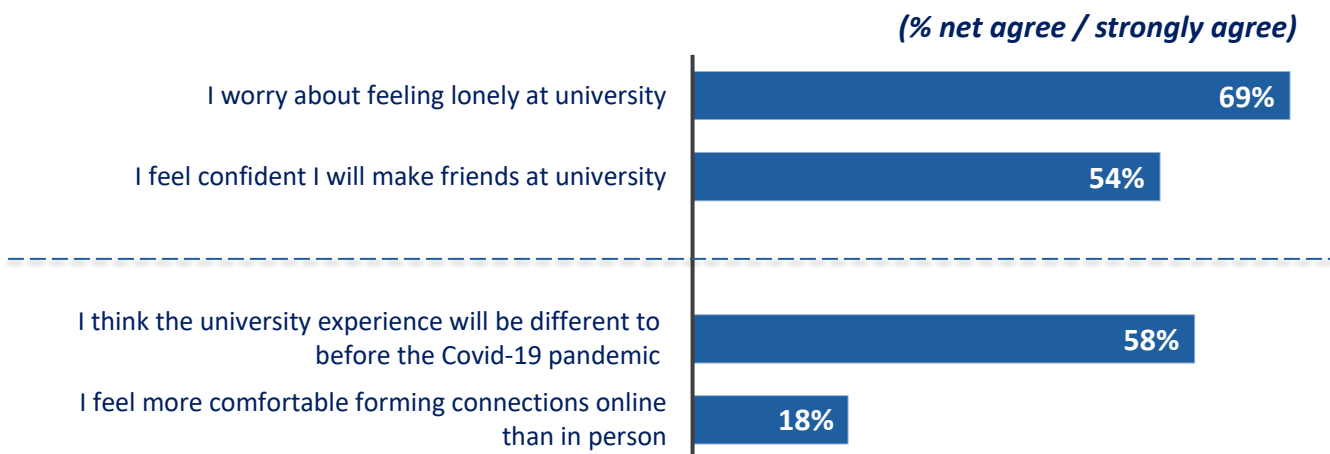
Q: Which of the following best describes how you feel about starting university this year?



In terms of making connections, there were also mixed feelings. While over half (54%) agreed that they were confident about making friends at uni, more than two thirds (69%) agreed they worried about being lonely.

Despite a move away from Covid-19 regulations, almost three fifths (58%) agreed their experience would be different to before the pandemic. However, fewer than one in five (18%) felt more comfortable forming connections online than in person, suggesting that face-to-face is still desirable for the majority.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Grid question)



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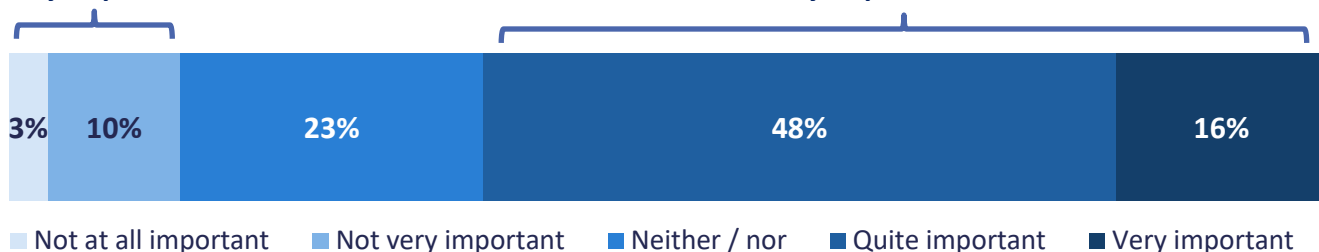
University support

Almost two thirds (64%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were confident they could get support at university if they needed it. Indeed, the same proportion (64%) felt the support services a university offers to its student was a quite or very important factor in deciding which universities to apply to

Q: How important or unimportant is / were the support services a university offers to its students when deciding which universities to apply to?

Net: not at all + not very important: 13%

Net: quite important + very important: 64%



When asked what support they thought would be useful to students starting university, this included support with budgeting / planning finances (79%), getting a part-time job (71%), and planning time / managing workload (71%). Each participant selected an average of around five different areas, suggested a wide range of support would be useful.

Q: Thinking ahead to starting university, what do you think would be useful? (Multiple response)



Budgeting /
planning finances
79%



Getting a
part-time job
71%



Planning time /
managing
workload **71%**



Connecting me
with other
students **62%**



Advice on
staying
motivated **60%**



Learning to do
things on my
own **58%**



Developing
independent
study skills **52%**



Mental health
support **51%**



None of the
above **1%**

<0.5% something else

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