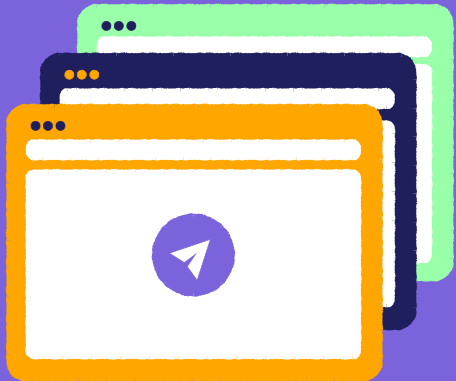


# Student Sentiment

November 2023

As the UK's largest online student community, we witness daily the valuable exchange of support and advice among young people. Learning from their experiences guides us in providing meaningful support.

We have the opportunity and responsibility to amplify students' voices, sharing their perspectives with those like you who aim to support them. By listening to students and collaborating across sectors, we strive to make a genuine impact on their lives.



November ushered in longer nights and cooler temperatures and marked the beginning of winter celebrations. Following the October deadline, our online community has been buzzing with student conversations, delving into their current positions in the application process and utilising The Student Room to navigate the complexities of submissions.

With Year 12 students contemplating their future steps, others who are more advanced in their academic journey have been generously sharing their accommodation experiences.

Our Insight summaries have delved into students' perceptions of how schools and colleges have supported decision-making for 2024 entry, as well as exploring prospective postgraduates' thoughts towards further study.



## Highlights in this update .....

- Varying experiences with students' university accommodation searches.
- Mix of students' application statuses, some having already submitted their applications for the 2024 entry, while others are still in the process of researching their options.
- A growing interest in Degree Apprenticeships among Year 12 students; however, the majority still prioritising pursuing a university education as their primary choice.
- Student to student experiences and discussions highly valued during the application process.

## How easy was it to find accommodation once you'd confirmed your place?

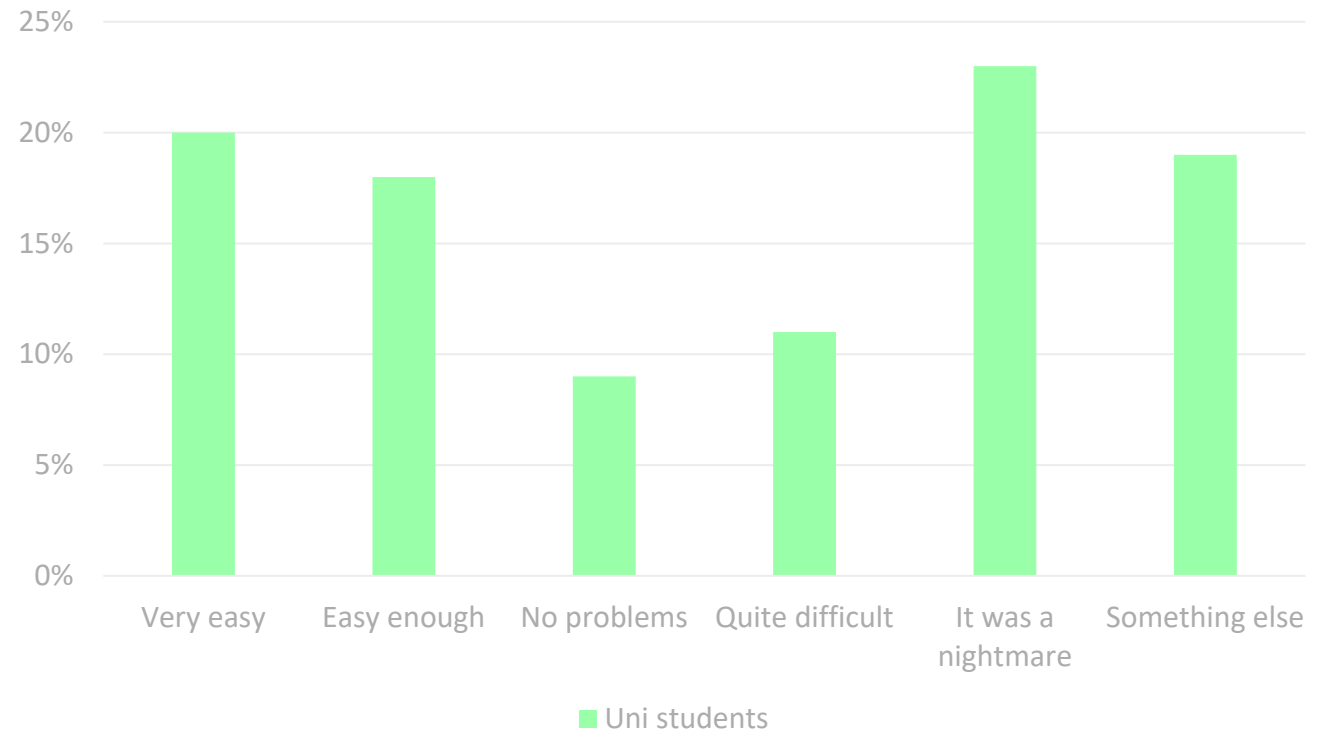
The poll results reveal diverse experiences among students securing accommodation for university.

While **23%** found it challenging, **20%** reported it as very easy, and **18%** found it easy enough. Notably, **19%** selected 'something else' without specifying their experience.

For **11%**, it was quite difficult, and **9%** encountered no problems.

The varied responses underscore the uniqueness of each student's experience, with individual circumstances contributing to the differing perspectives.

"I found it pretty easy to get student accommodation once I had accepted my course as I decided to live in the university halls, which confirmed my accommodation very quickly after I'd gotten an unconditional offer."



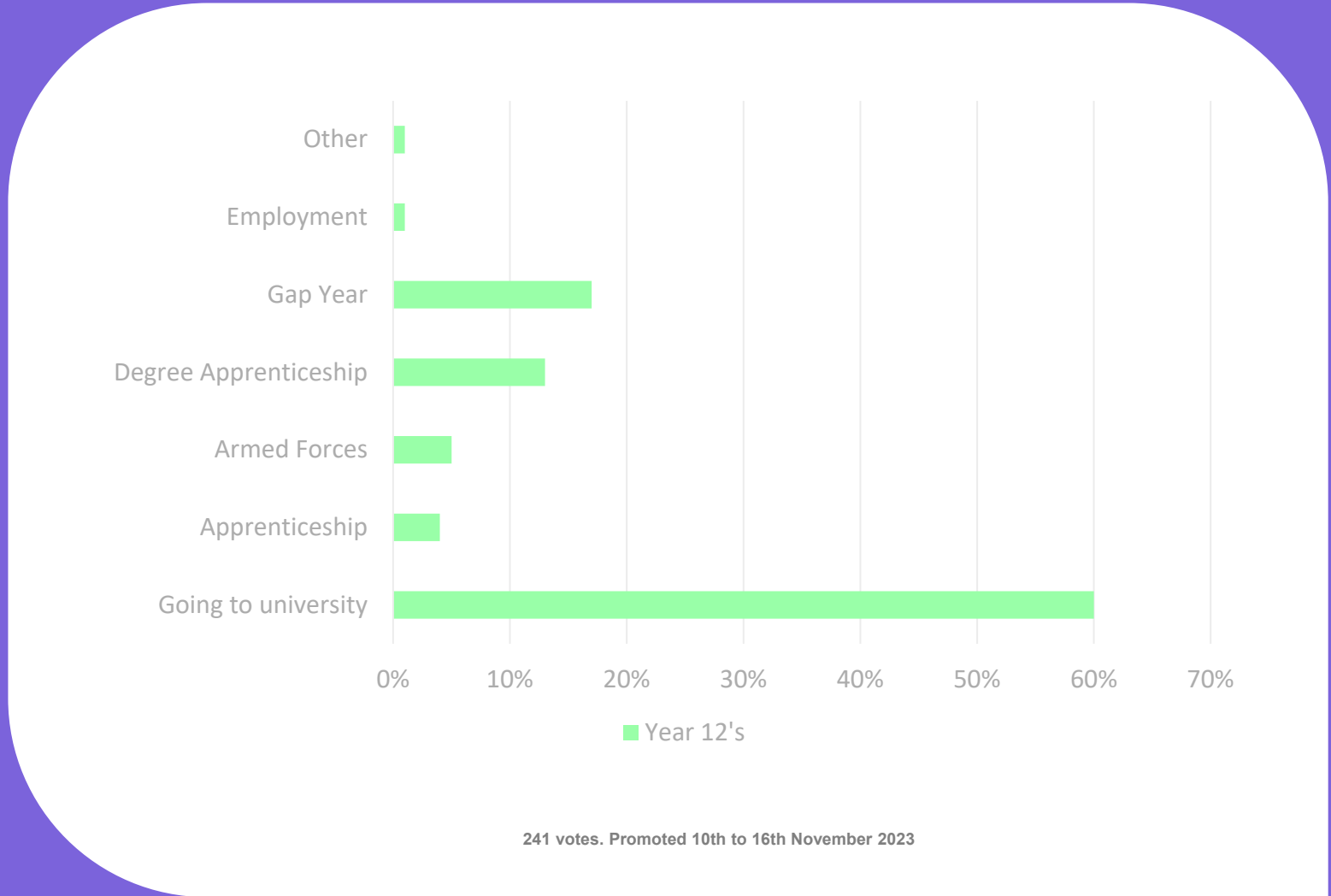
150 votes. Promoted 3rd to 10th November 2023

## Year 12's, are you considering any of the following after year 13?

The poll indicates that most Year 12 students polled plan to pursue university education, while **13%** lean towards Degree Apprenticeships, and **17%** are contemplating a Gap Year or alternative pathways. Notably, **5%** express interest in the Armed Forces, and **4%** consider Apprenticeships.

Only **1%** consider immediate employment, suggesting a prevailing inclination towards further education or alternative paths.

Overall, seeing **16%** of students increasingly open to non-traditional routes compared to traditional university pathways is higher than we've seen before.



“Luckily I still have a year to think about this as I’m in L6 doing my A-levels, I’ve been set on architecture for years now and certain that I want to do it in the future, I’ve looked into different Unis that offer BSc, BA, MA degrees etc for architecture and found it tricky already to figure it out, my parents want me to do an architecture apprenticeship to avoid mass amounts of student debt (7 year degree, living expenses yk) but I fear it’s not as (for a lack of a better word) prestigious or respected to become a fully qualified architect, I don’t know much about apprenticeships as well”

Just wanted to ask, is it worth taking a GAP year for medicine to get into a preferred uni, or should I stick with whatever I get? I haven't applied to unis I want to go to for medicine (2024 entry), but I am also scared that next year will be more competitive, and that I might lose my chance.”

It is disappointing that society still deems university as essential (parents etc). Most graduates are unemployed are they not? Places should be capped by market demands or just scrap universities and have apprenticeships for absolutely everything.”

“I definitely don't want to go uni and would rather do an apprenticeship. I am predicted BC and a merit in BTEC IT- any apprenticeships which will be fine with these grades and what are the general requirements for an apprenticeship? (Preferably a degree apprenticeship)”

## How do you intend use The Student Room for your university application

During this current application period **42%** of respondents plan to use The Student Room for connecting with other students navigating the university application process, emphasising the platform's unique community support. Additionally, **19%** aim to connect with current university students for firsthand insights.

**18%** seek engagement with student ambassadors, university staff and services, respectively. Practical aspects of the application process are addressed, with **21%** focusing on advice articles for next steps, use of our personal statement tools or something else.

"I'm finding TSR quite nice just to talk to other people who are applying university, not necessarily the same course as me because it is something we can all relate to."



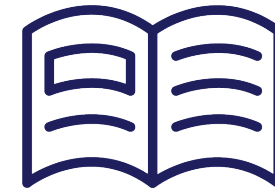
42% Talking to other students going through the same thing



19% Talking to current university students



18% Looking to connect with ambassadors, staff or services



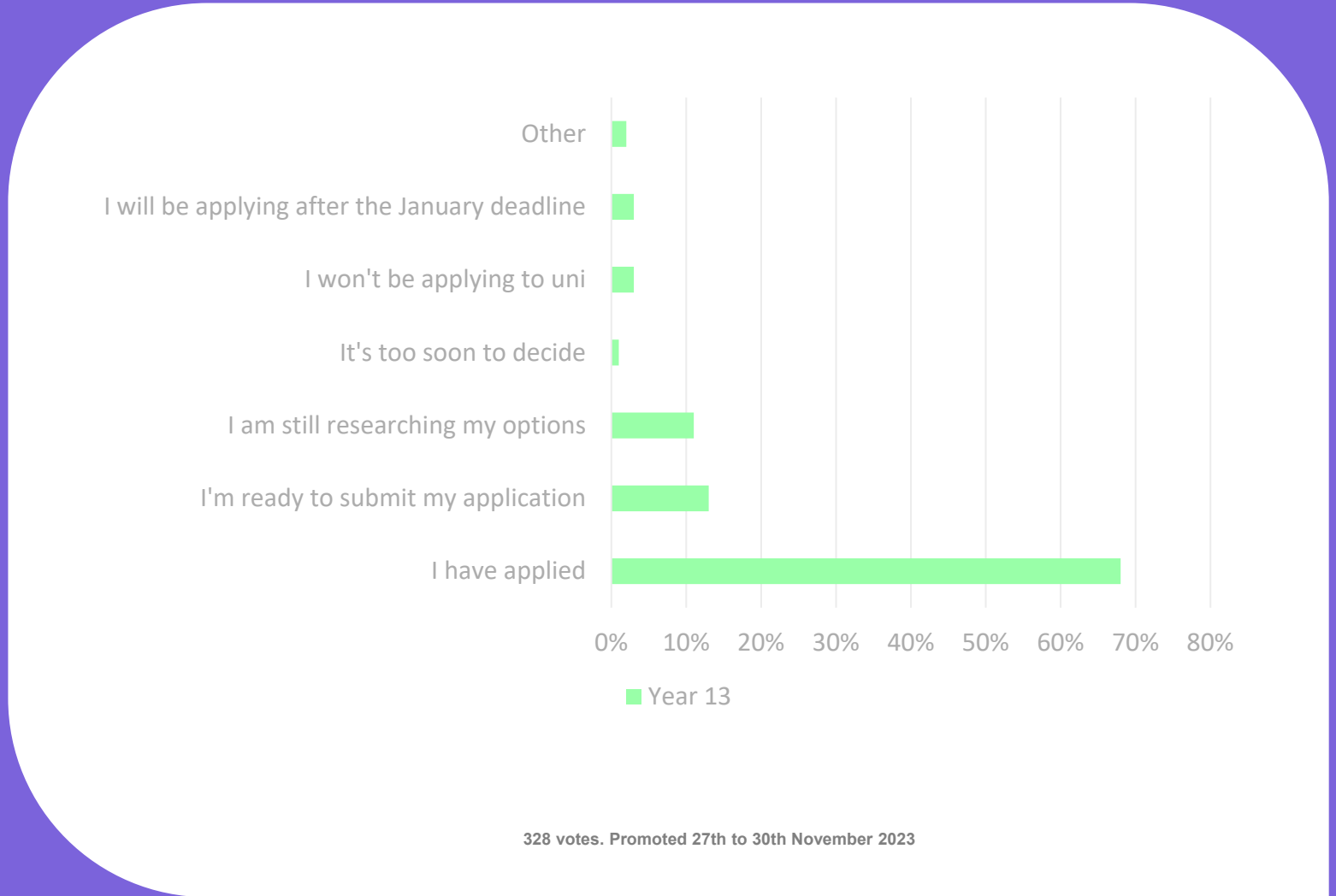
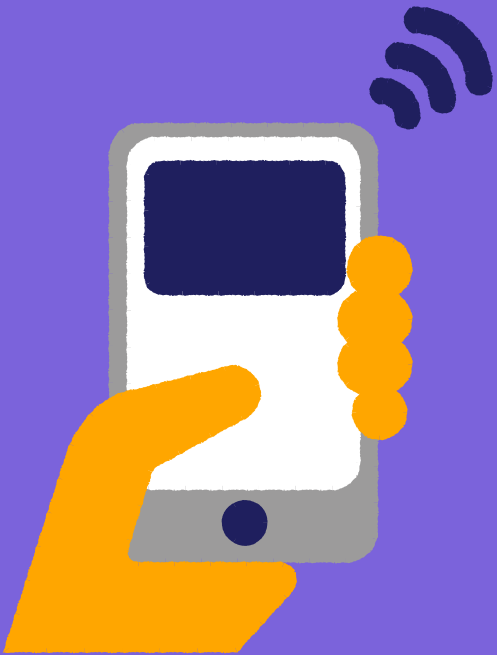
21% Read articles or use onsite tools



## Year 13s: What stage are you at in your university application?

While **68%** of those who took part in this poll said they had already applied based on the other responses the indication is that there is still a significant number of students who haven't yet pressed the button.

In fact, just based on this poll almost **one third** are still to make their final decisions at this point!



328 votes. Promoted 27th to 30th November 2023

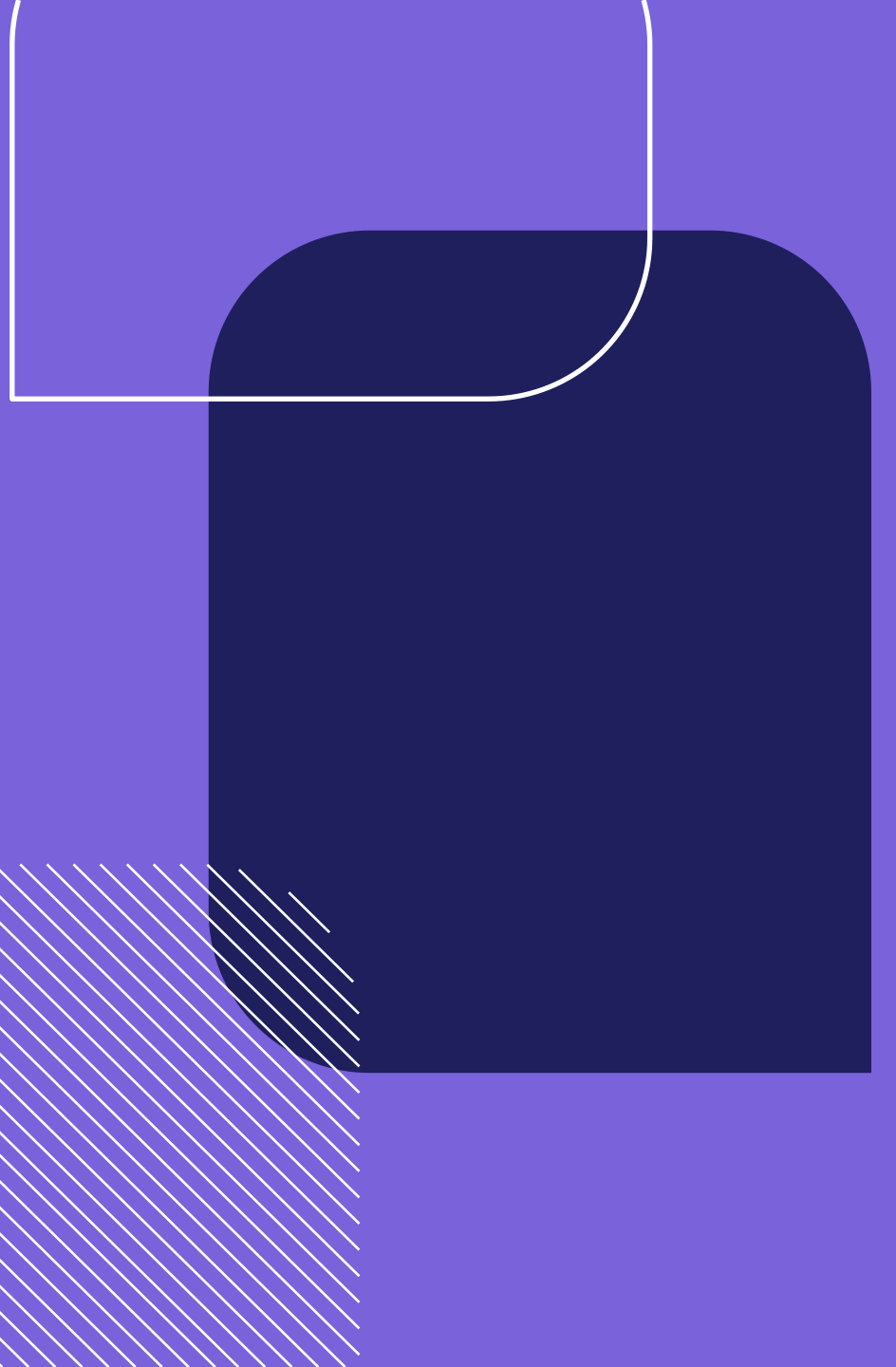
“Most of my classmates have already submitted their applications and received offers, so I'm just feeling a bit worried. I'll definitely have it in before December, but will this be seen badly and mess with my chances?”

I am currently in the middle of my UCAS application and since day one of my Access course at college (I'm a mature student), I have had my heart set on studying a combined degree of English Literature & History at university. Trouble is, all of a sudden, I am not sure which degree I would like to do the most now... I have always said that I have wanted to be a secondary school English teacher but I have a deep passion for History (specifically medieval and early modern history). I'm stuck!

“Time to apply for UCAS and start writing my personal statement, but I'm so lost on whether to do pharmacy or optometry.”



# Summaries



## How are schools and colleges supporting 2024 entry decision making?

We surveyed prospective undergraduates to explore the influence schools and colleges were having on their university decision making. Almost two-thirds (63%) felt their teachers would have some influence on their university choice.

Positively, almost all (94%) had been given guidance on where to seek information to support their decision making, with around a third (32%) advised to look at comparison sites like The Uni Guide and over a fifth (22%) being directed to online forums such as The Student Room by their teachers.

**Methodology:** Online survey

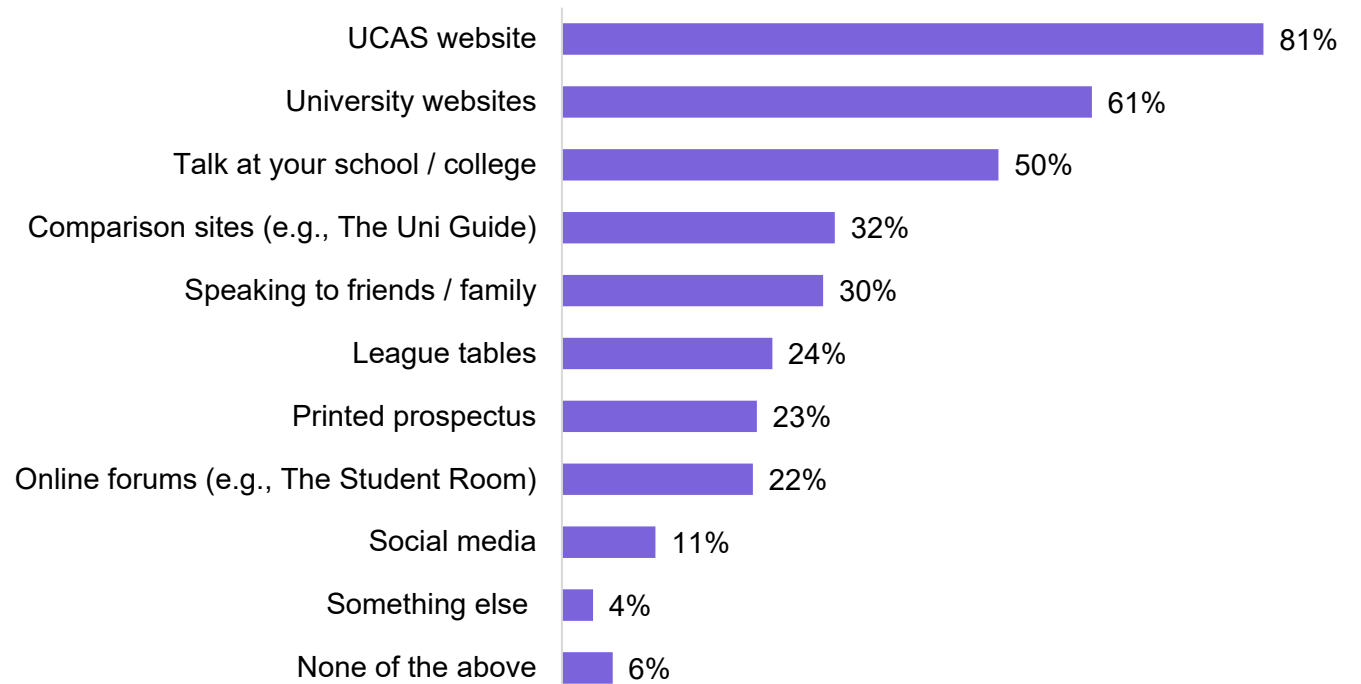
**Audience:** 2024 entry prospective UGs aged 16+

**Fieldwork:** 6th - 9th October 2023

**Base:** 222 respondents

Download the full  
summary [here](#)

Q: Which, if any, of the following information sources have teachers advised you to use in relation to your university application / decision? (Multiple response)



## How do students feel about postgraduate study?

We surveyed prospective postgraduates to investigate their perceptions towards further study. **86%** were open to the idea of postgraduate study.

Almost **three-fifths** felt the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills was a benefit of postgraduate study. Similarly, over **half** felt a postgraduate degree could enhance their earning potential, but just **37%** believed it would allow them to stand out in the job market.

**Methodology:** Online survey

**Audience:** Current undergraduates (second year and above), graduates, and others considering postgraduate study

**Fieldwork:** September – October 2023

**Base:** 135 respondents

Download the full  
summary [here](#)

Q: Which if any of the following do you think are the benefits of postgraduate study? (Multiple response)

