

# **The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students' perceptions June 2020**



# Overview

UCU commissioned YouthSight to **administer a survey of applicants to higher education (HE)** to better understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prospective enrolment behaviour. This survey builds on recent work presented by London Economics relating to potential deferrals and students switching university

- The survey was administered between **Thursday 7 May and Tuesday 12 May 2020**
- The sample includes predominantly UK-domiciled students (**87%**) that have applied to undertake undergraduate degree level qualifications at UK higher education institutions
- The analysis is based on the UK-domiciled responses which have been weighted to be representative of the population of HE applicants in terms of **gender, age category** and **type of school attended**.

## 516 responses



**Male**  
44%



**Female**  
56%



**Ind.**  
9%



**State**  
91%



**<19y.o**  
73%



**>=19y.o**  
27%

UK-domiciled	<b>87%</b>
<i>England</i>	<b>76%</b>
<i>Wales</i>	<b>3%</b>
<i>Scotland</i>	<b>5%</b>
<i>N. Ireland</i>	<b>3%</b>
EU-domiciled	<b>9%</b>
Non-EU-dom.	<b>4%</b>



## Key numbers – student perceptions

The survey also asked prospective students about their perceptions in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on university viability, the impact on their own studies and the extent to which they supported delaying the start of term

'How worried are you that the university you wish to attend will **go bust** (not have enough money to operate) because of the crisis?'

**3.49**

S.D. = 2.76  
[0 'not at all worried' to 10 'very worried']

**23%**

of prospective students **moderately or very worried** (response  $\geq 6$ )

'How worried are you that the university you wish to attend will need to **make cuts** because of the Covid-19 crisis **that will negatively impact your education?**'

**5.40**

S.D. = 2.70  
[0 'not at all worried' to 10 'very worried']

**49%**

of prospective students **moderately or very worried** (response  $\geq 6$ )

'How supportive would you be of **moving the start of your first year** of university **to a later time** if it meant you could have more face-to-face rather than online teaching?'

**7.08**

S.D. = 2.69  
[0 'not at all supportive' to 10 'very supportive']

**71%**

of prospective students **moderately or very supportive** (response  $\geq 6$ )



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[0 'not at all worried' to 10 'very worried']

**9%**

of prospective students very worried (response  $\geq 8$ )

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**7.08**

S.D. = 2.69  
[0 'not at all supportive' to 10 'very supportive']

**52%**

of prospective students very supportive (response  $\geq 8$ )

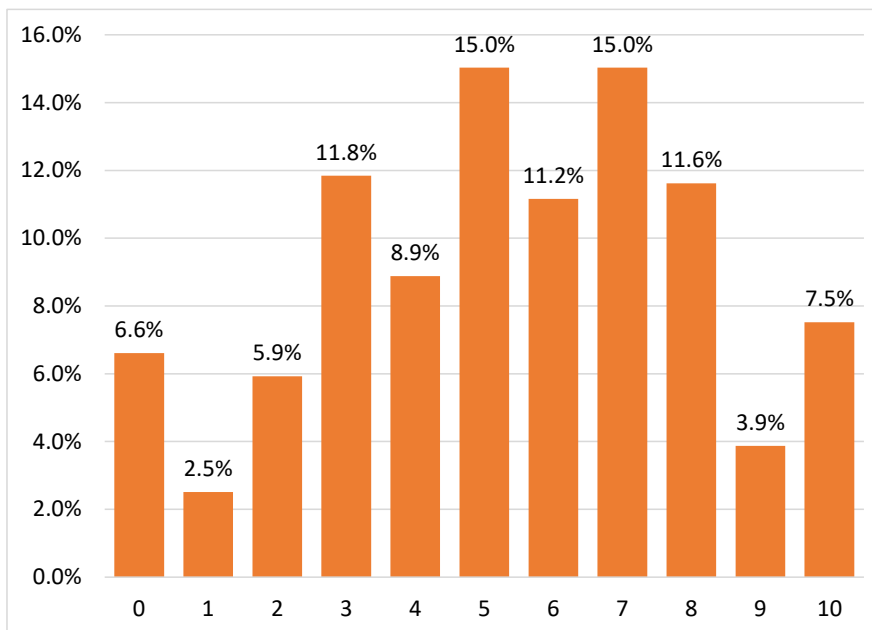
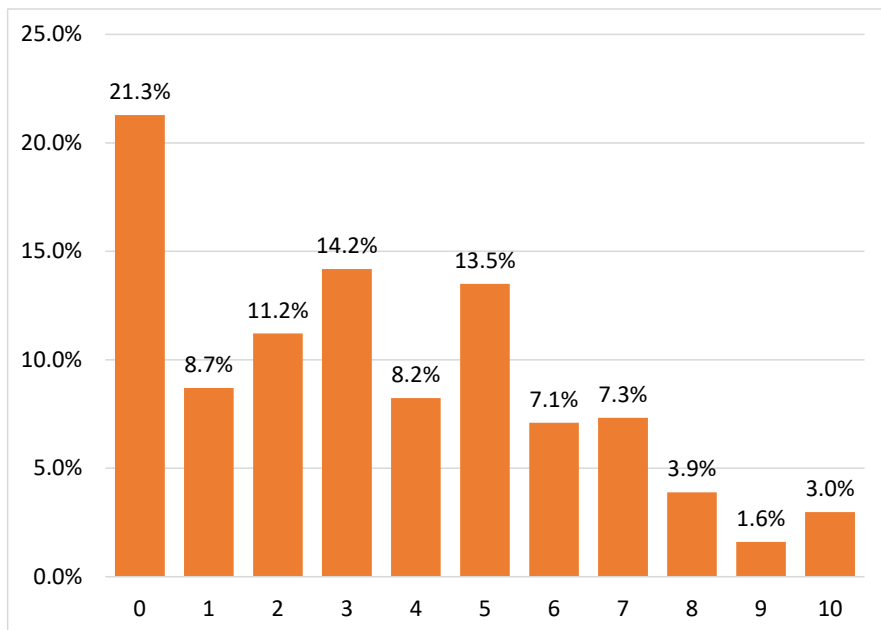


# Key numbers – wider views

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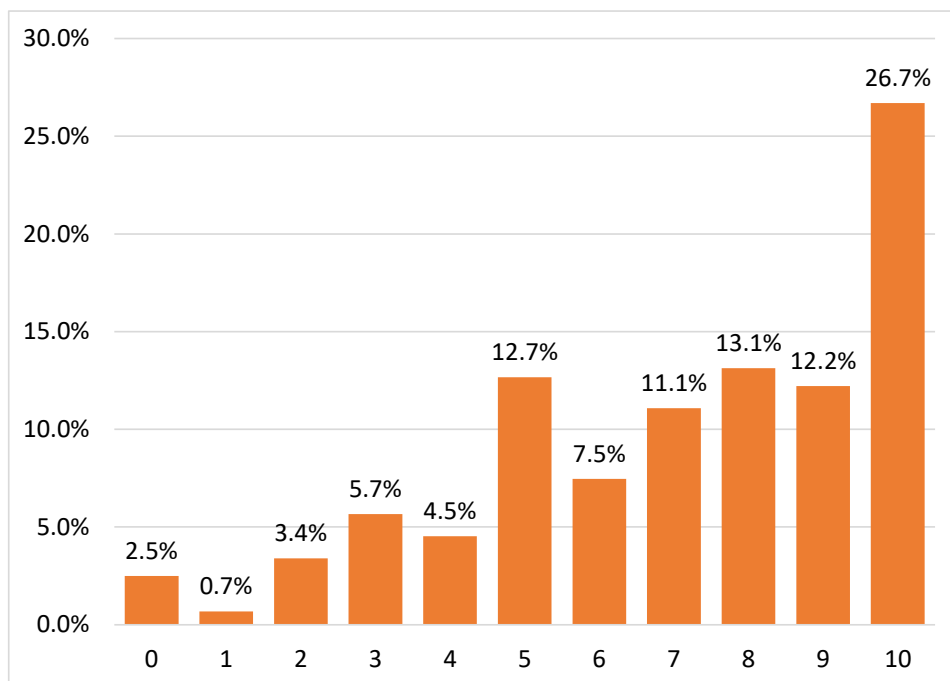
<sup>1</sup> Response values: 0 'not at all worried' to 10 'very worried'



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