

# STUDENT OPINION CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19

JUNE 2020



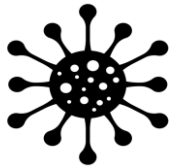
STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

## We asked students in further and higher education their views on climate change and the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic...



**88%**

are fairly or very concerned about climate change



**76%**

agree that climate change is as serious a crisis as COVID-19 in the long term



**51%**

disagree that the government should focus on economic recovery first and foremost, even if it means taking actions that are bad for the environment



**68%**

agree that it's important for the government to prioritise climate change in the recovery after coronavirus but...



**31%**

agree that economic recovery should be prioritised even if it leads to negative environmental impacts.

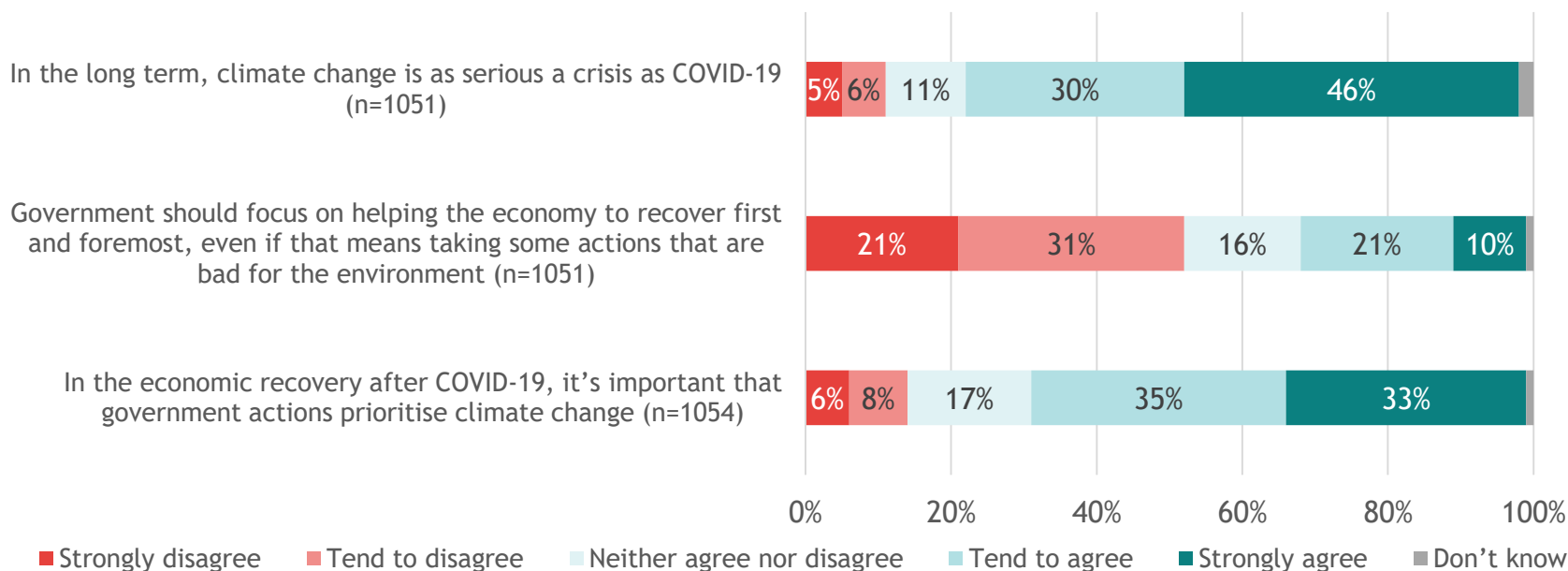
# FINDINGS IN DETAIL

This research was carried out in June 2020, as part of a broader survey with TOTUM student discount cardholders on the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Just over 1000 students completed the survey, which was incentivised with a cash prize draw. Data has been weighted by gender according to HESA statistics for the UK higher education student population.

# Student respondents identify climate change as serious a risk as COVID-19 and support prioritisation of climate change in the economic recover after the pandemic

The questions in this report replicate those asked by [Ipsos Mori](#) to respondents representative of the GB population as a whole:

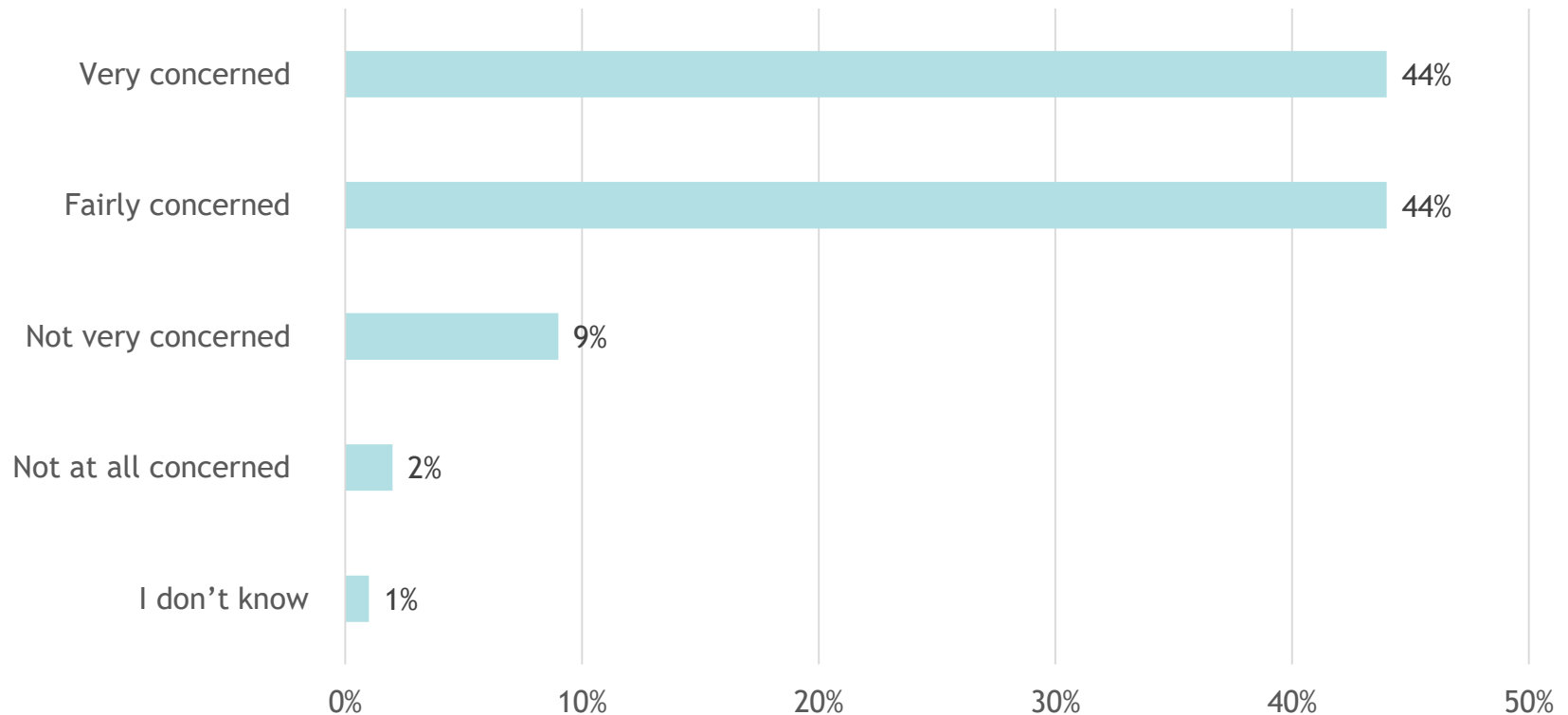
- 76% of respondents in higher and further education in the UK see climate change as serious an issue as COVID-19, this compares to 66% of the GB general population
- 31% of respondents think economic recovery should be prioritised, even if some actions are detrimental to the environment, this compares to 46% of the GB general population
- 68% of respondents in higher and further education think government actions in the post-COVID-19 economic recover should prioritise climate change, compared with 58% of the GB population overall



Q. For each of the following statements below, please indicate your level of agreement. Base: (see chart) Balance: No response.

# Concern about climate change amongst student respondents remains high, with 88% saying they're fairly or very concerned

This question replicates national research carried out for BEIS on an annual basis through the [Public Attitudes Tracker](#) on energy and climate change. The latest research, carried out in March 2020, revealed that 76% of people said they were very or fairly concerned about climate change, compared to 88% of respondents in higher and further education who hold this sentiment.

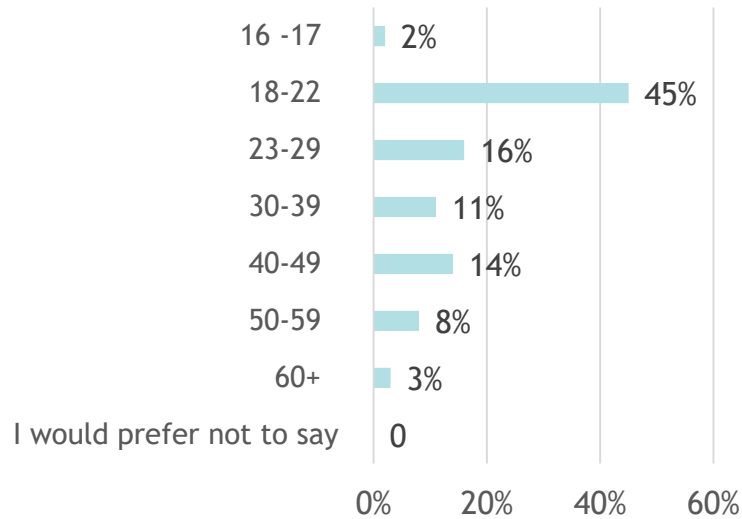


Q. How concerned, if at all, are you about climate change? Base: 1067 Balance: No response.

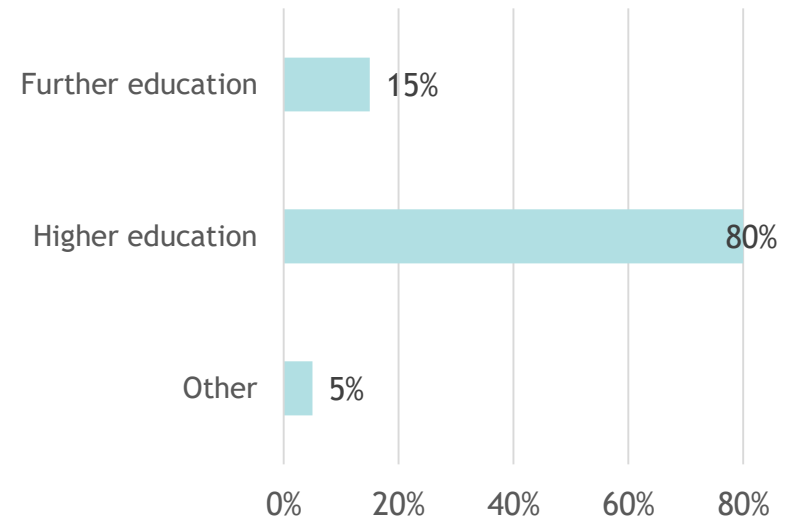
# DEMOGRAPHICS

# Respondent demographics

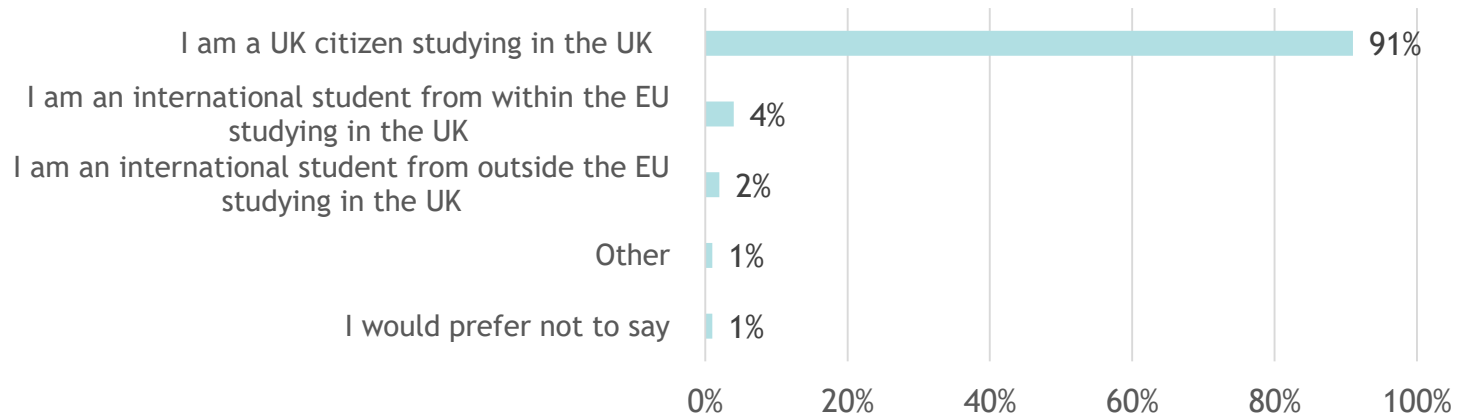
## AGE



## STUDY LEVEL

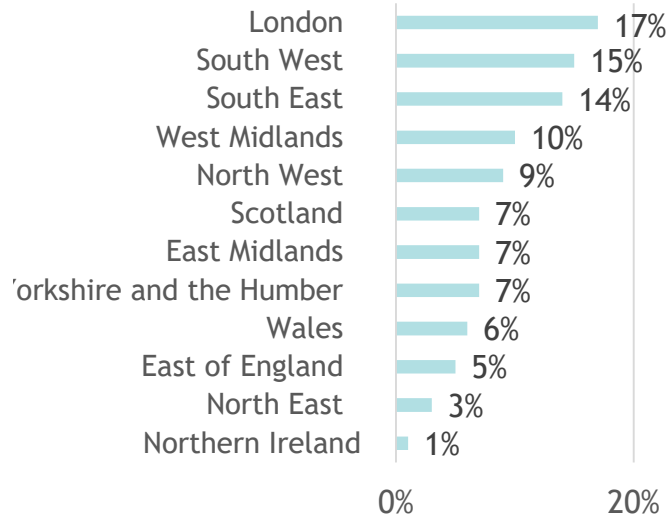


## NATIONALITY

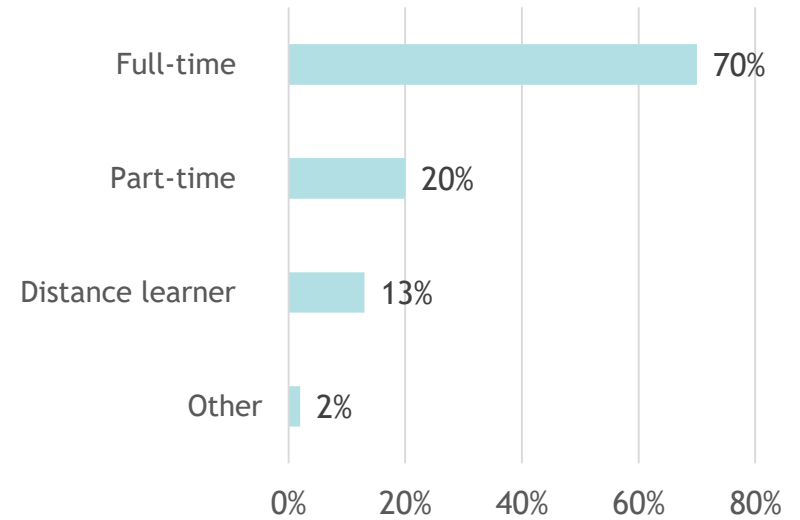


# Respondent demographics

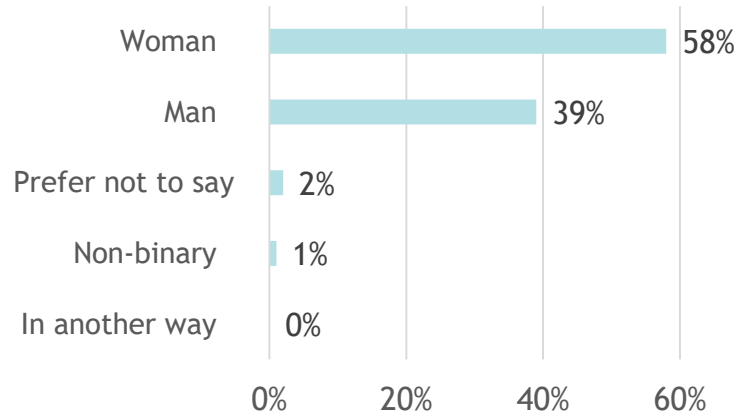
## STUDY REGION



## STUDY MODE



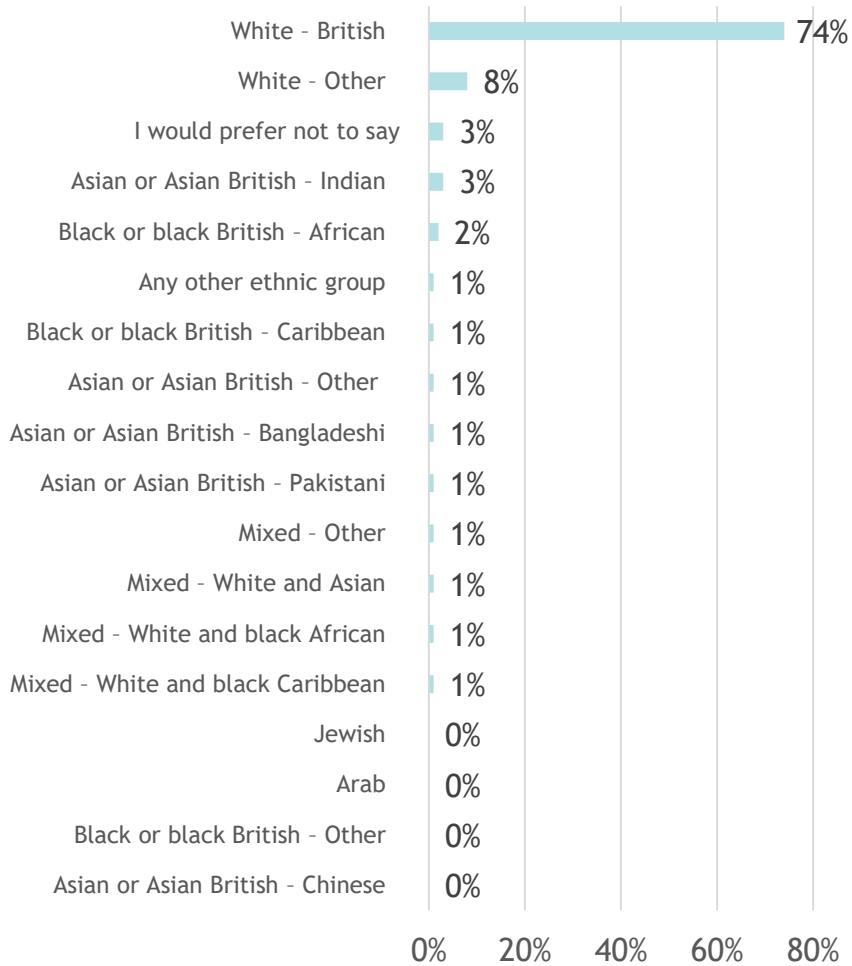
## GENDER



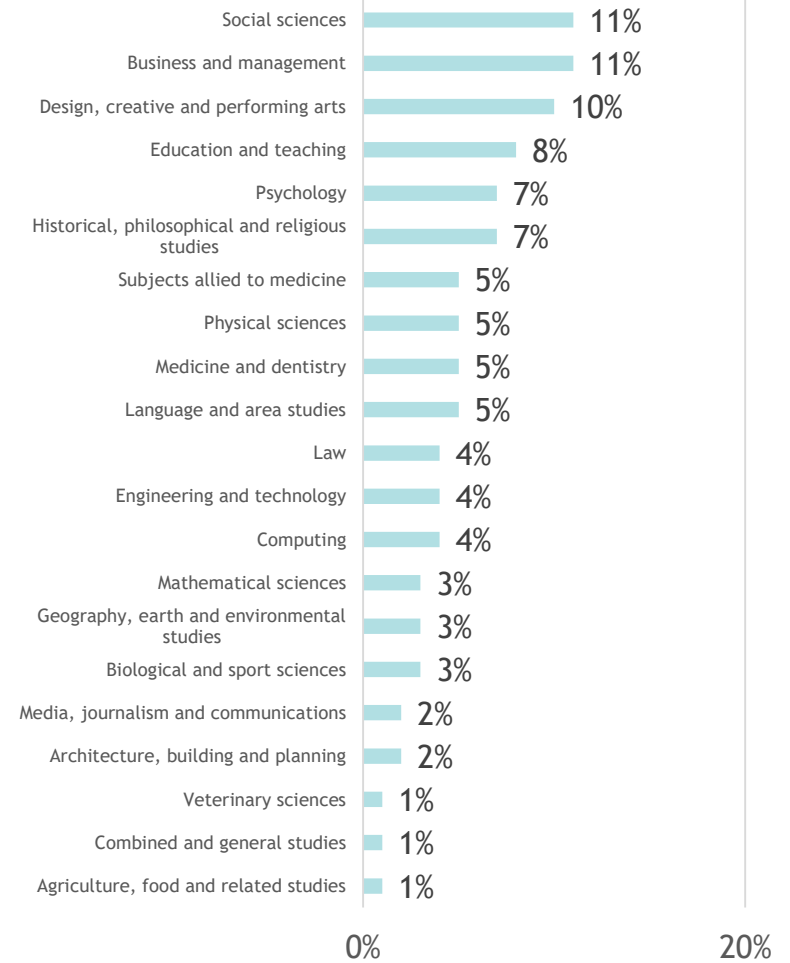


# Respondent demographics

## RACE / ETHNICITY



## SUBJECT



Images sourced from the Noun Project including:

- Climate change, Laymik
- Season, Wichai Wi
- Economy, Priyanka
- Coronavirus, Pham Thanh Loc

For more information about our research, get in touch at [hello@sos-uk.org](mailto:hello@sos-uk.org) or visit our website: [sos-uk.org](https://sos-uk.org)