

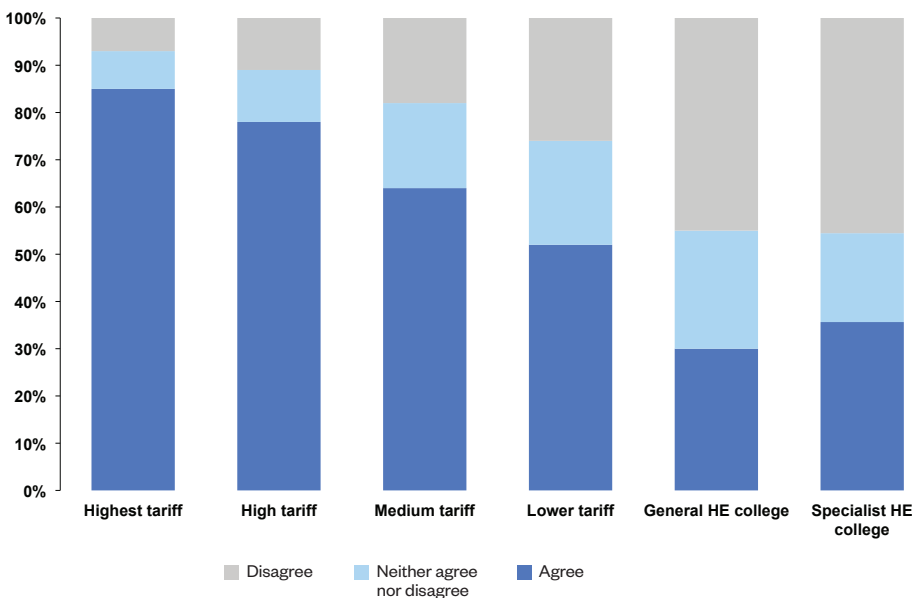


FUTURETRACK is following a cohort of students from UCAS application until they get their first job in order to build a 'real-time' picture that reveals how, when and why students make decisions.

The study is helping the government, careers advisers and education professionals to provide the best possible information and guidance to students throughout their academic careers.

Extracurricular Activities

'THERE WERE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON OR AROUND CAMPUS'



KEY QUESTIONS

What kinds of extracurricular activities do students participate in?

Which students participate in extracurricular activities?

What barriers do students face in accessing opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities?

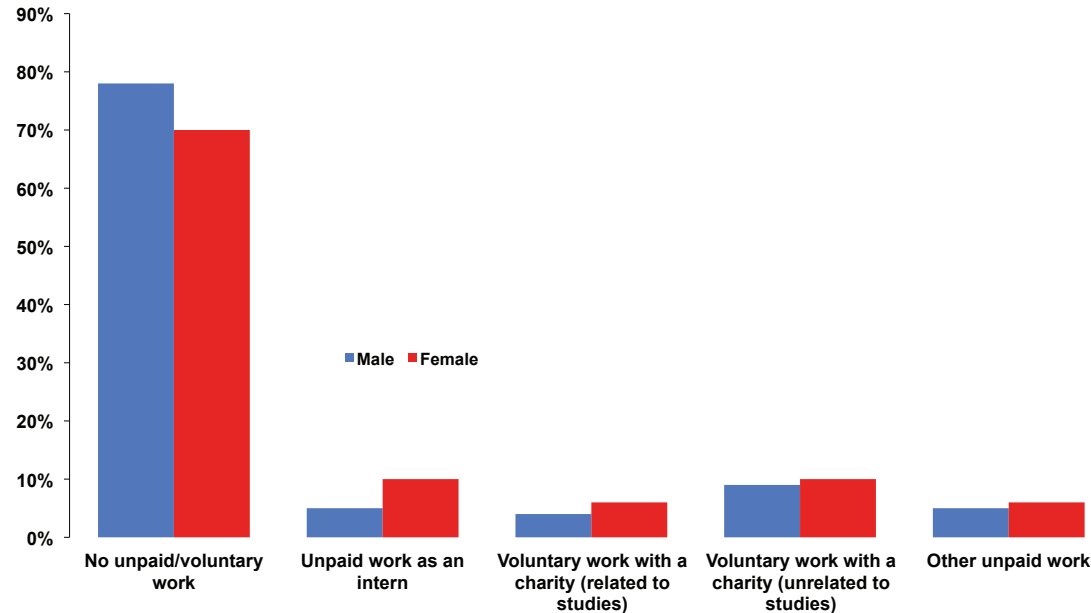
- Around two-thirds of Futuretrack students agreed that there were excellent opportunities for extracurricular activities on or around their campus. Students living in university accommodation were more likely than those living at home with their family or partner to feel there were excellent opportunities for extracurricular activities near their campus (around 60% compared to 40%).
- Students attending higher tariff universities were more likely than those attending lower tariff universities to think their university offered excellent opportunities for extracurricular activities.

85% of students at the highest tariff universities agreed that their institution offered excellent opportunities for extracurricular activities on or around campus, compared to 78% of students at high tariff universities, 64% of those at medium tariff universities, 52% of those at low tariff universities, and around 30% of those at higher education colleges.

- Students from routine and manual occupational backgrounds were less likely than students from professional or managerial backgrounds to participate in extracurricular activities.

- Students attending the highest tariff universities were the most likely to have participated in extracurricular activities within university; students attending general higher education colleges were more likely to pursue an activity outside university than within it.
- Students participated in a variety of extracurricular activities within their university, including: university sports societies or clubs (35%); other creative hobbies (18%); the Students Union (17%); subject or departmental societies (16%); student journalism or politics (7%).

PATTERNS OF UNPAID AND VOLUNTARY WORK (BY GENDER)



KEY QUESTIONS

How many students engaged in unpaid or voluntary work during their first year at university?

What kind of unpaid or voluntary work did students engage in?

Why did students engage in unpaid or voluntary work?

- Around a quarter of Futuretrack students participated in unpaid or voluntary work during their first year at university.
- Women were more likely than men to have engaged in unpaid or voluntary work.
- Unpaid or voluntary activities included: voluntary work in local schools; university related activities (e.g. helping with university open days, staffing university club nights, writing for a university magazine); community activities (e.g.

helping out at Brownies, serving as a Special Police officer); sports coaching; unpaid work for the Students' Union; fundraising or volunteering for a charity (e.g. raising money for a hospital, volunteering for a charity for homeless people, taking part in sponsored walks); unpaid work to help family and friends (e.g. unpaid tutoring, unpaid work for family business, acting as a carer).

- First year students engaged in unpaid and voluntary activities for a variety of reasons, including: to learn new skills; to gain experience for their future career; because they wanted to help an individual/the community; to meet people.

STUDENTS ON EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

'Haven't really got an opportunity to [take part in extra-curricular activities], the campus where these activities take place is the main campus, which is a 40 min bus journey. I would have carried on with a sports team...rugby or netball'
Female, subjects allied to medicine

'You shouldn't only go to university just to gain a job out of it. You should go for the experience, activities, acquiring new skills, meeting new people, realising your full potential and much more. You go there to enjoy the ride!'
Female, business and administration studies

FUTURETRACK is funded by the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HECSU) - a charity with 40 years experience in higher education research. The study is being conducted by the Warwick Institute for Employment Research.

www.hecsu.ac.uk
www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier

FURTHER INFORMATION

- More information about the project www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_futuretrack.htm
- Download research reports in full www.hecsu.ac.uk/futuretrack_research_reports.htm
- Find out more about Futuretrack: part-time students www.hecsu.ac.uk/futuretrack_part_time_students.htm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Summary report prepared by HECSU
- Research by Kate Puroell and colleagues at the Warwick Institute for Employment Research.