



DSU ANNUAL SURVEY

2021 REPORT

Overview

- The goal of the Annual Survey is to develop a benchmark on student satisfaction and awareness of the DSU
- The survey results will be used to:
 - Provide us with a benchmark of how we're doing
 - Inform us on ways we can ensure our planning and actions accurately reflect the needs of students
 - Provide us with a broad outreach tool that we can use to consult, collaborate, and gather information from our members
- Overall, the DSU wants to achieve legitimacy in our work and ensure we are making informed decisions driven by student consultation





Response Rate & Communications

- The overall response rate was **5.5%** (representing 820 respondents).
- The survey was open from February 15 - March 15, 2021
- We incentivised the survey with a chance to win a \$500 Tuition Credit, Townie Bike, Fast Food gift cards, or fitness packages.
- We promoted the survey in three campus-wide emails, via social media, our website, and by working with faculty to encourage students to participate.

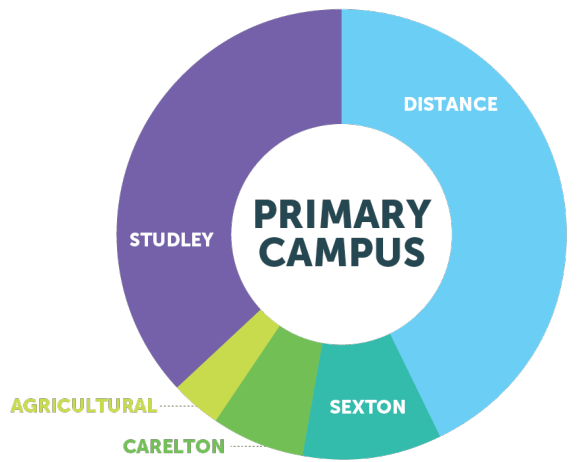
Survey Composition

- There is a total of 30 questions across five main categories:
 - Demographic
 - Overall DSU satisfaction and awareness
 - DSU community & Student Issues
 - Funding, Debt and Employment
 - Open Questions

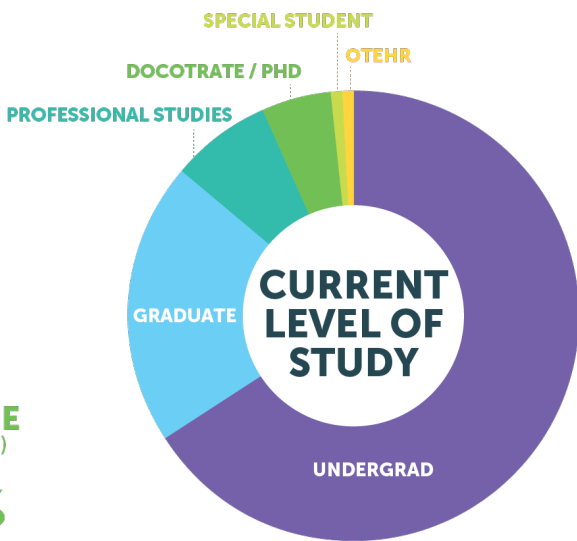
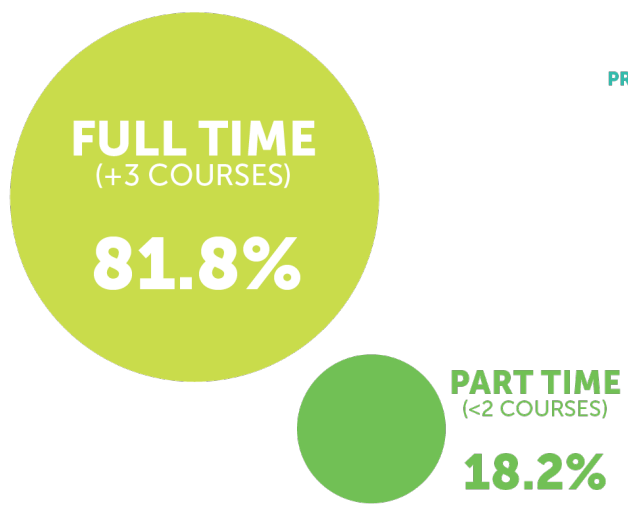


Demographics of Student Respondents

ACADEMIC YEAR



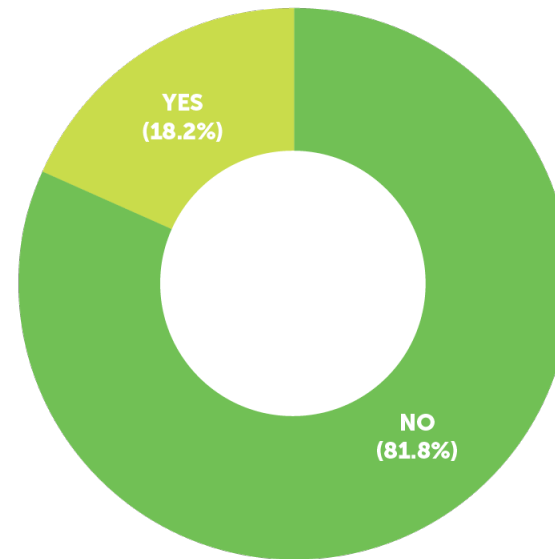
COURSE LOAD



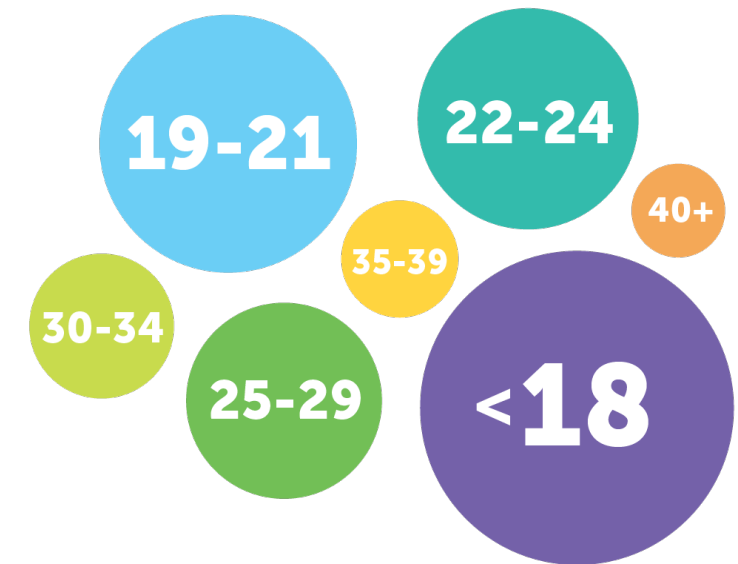
- The majority of students report their primary campus as distanced for the 2021-22 year due to closures caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Primarily undergraduate students participated in the survey, this coincides with the general composition of students studying at Dalhousie
- 81.8% Dalhousie students are full-time students.

- Most survey participants are 21 or younger. This coincides with a high response rate of 1st year students who tend to be in their late teens or early 20s
- 18.2% of survey participants identified as Neurodivergent or as having a disability.
- Roughly 18% of survey respondents identify as being part of the LGBTQ2+ community

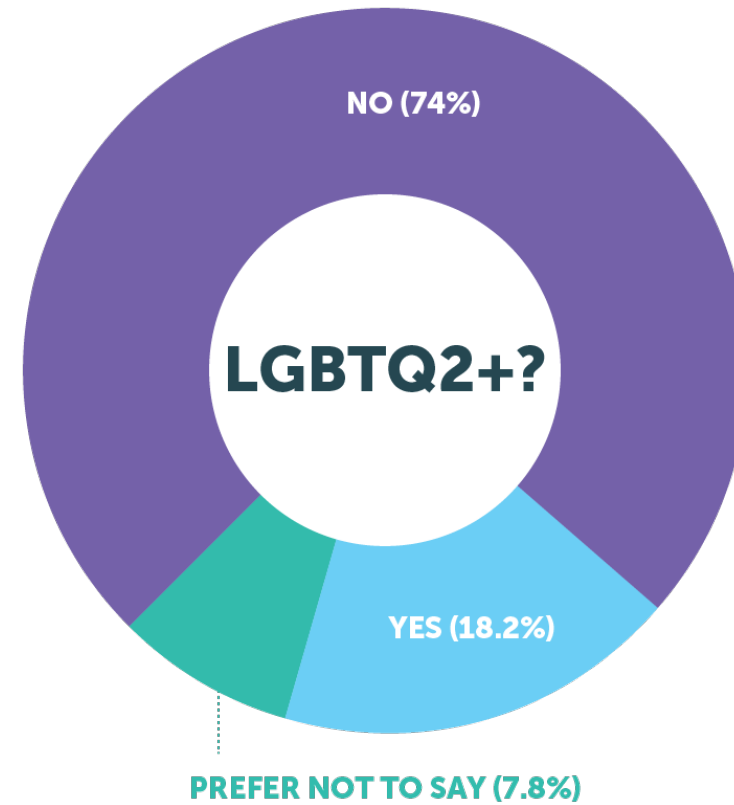
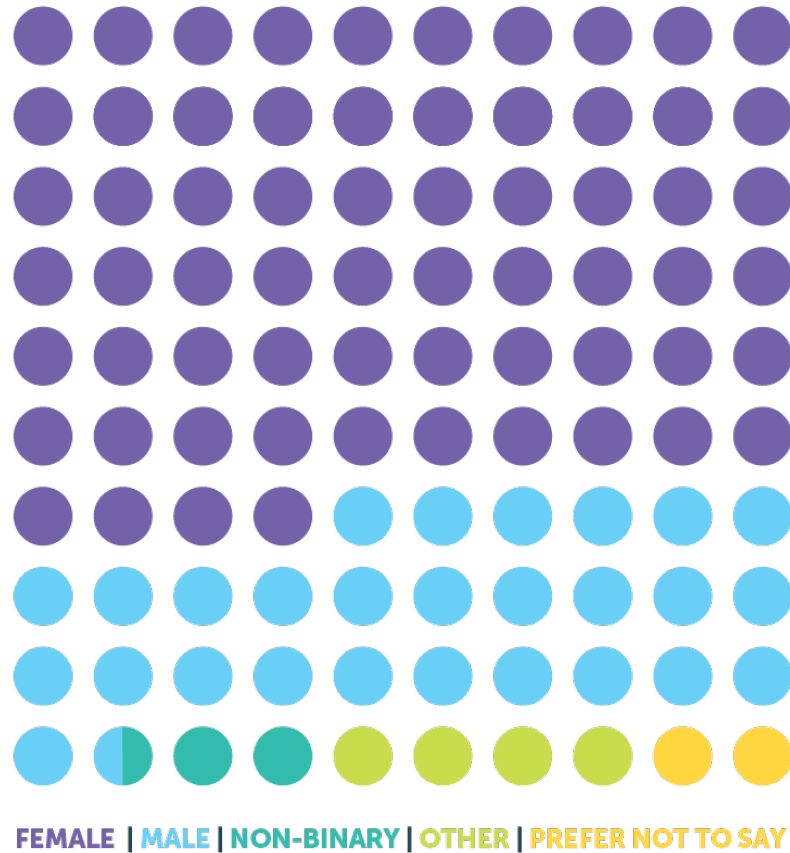
DISABILITY OR NEURODIVERGENCE?

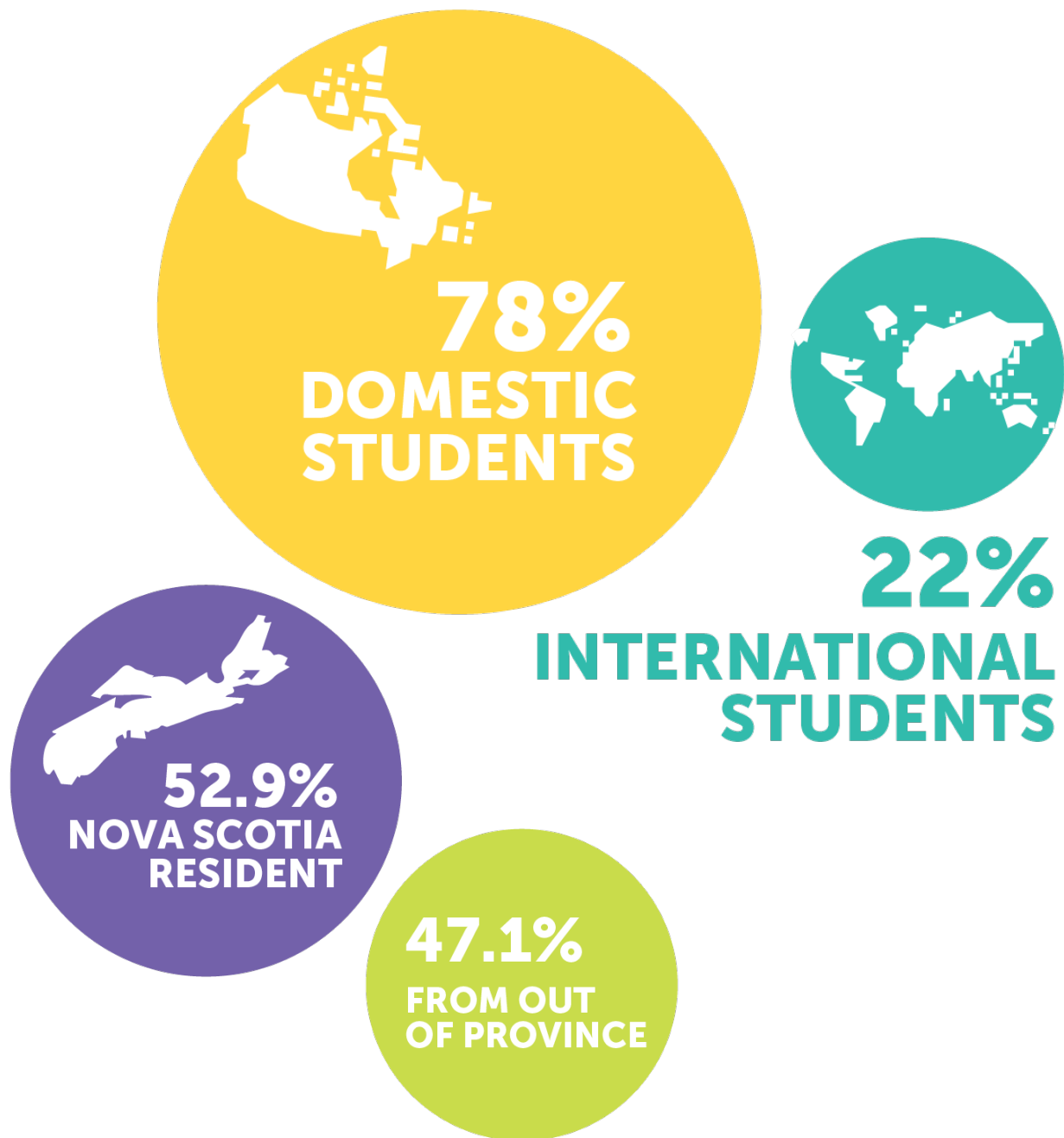


AVERAGE AGE



GENDER





- The majority of survey participants are domestic students. With only 22% of students in the 2021 year identifying as international students.
- Almost 53% of Domestic Students are Nova Scotia residents

Satisfaction & Awareness of the DSU

I FEEL I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION OFFERS ME



I AM SATISFIED WITH WHAT THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION OFFERS ME



I FEEL LIKE I AM A PART OF THE DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY

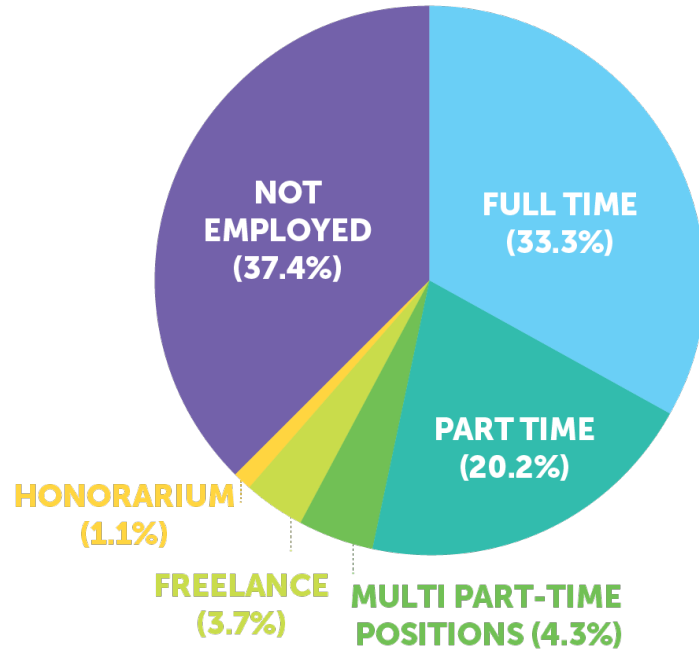


I FEEL SUPPORTED IN MY ACADEMIC PROGRAM/FACULTY

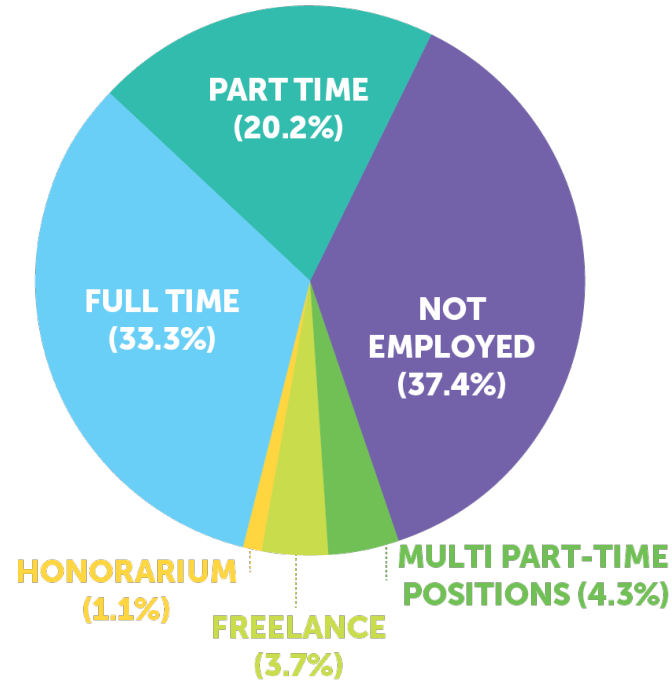


Funding, Debt and Employment

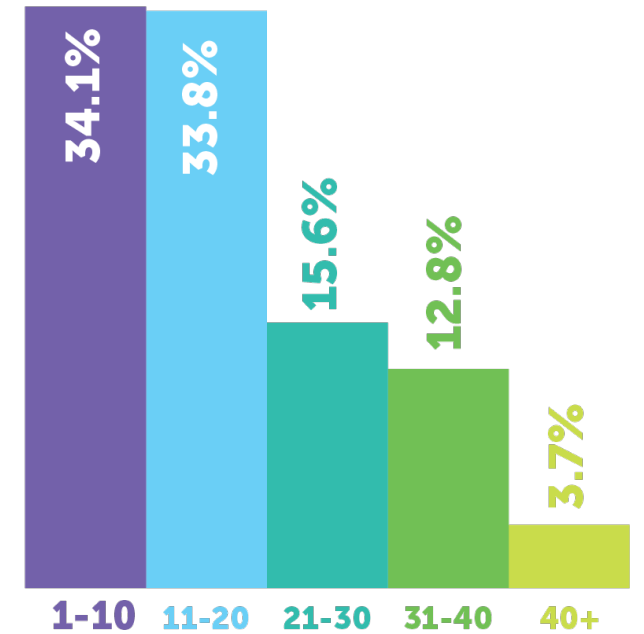
SUMMER JOB STATUS



FALL-TERM JOB STATUS

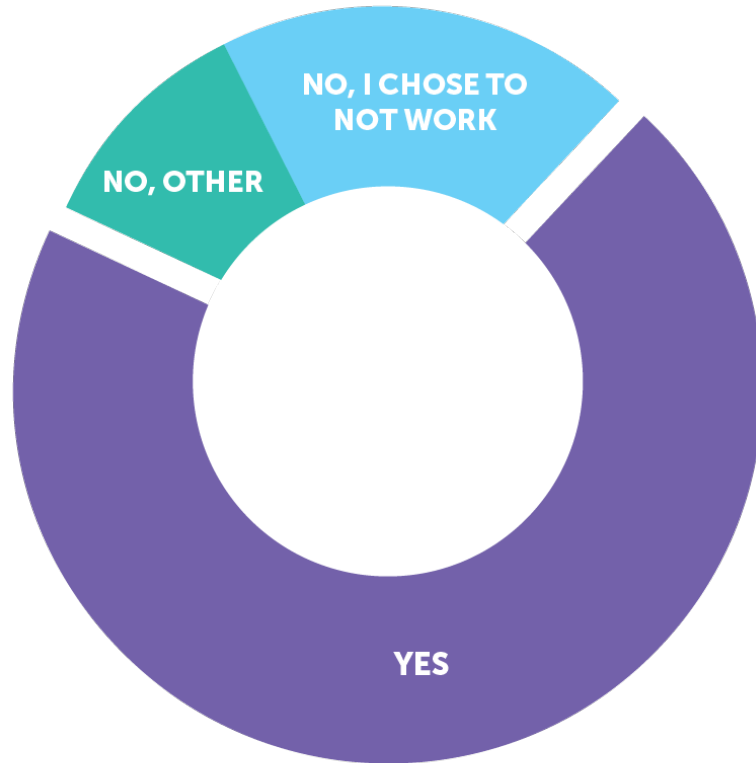


FALL-TERM HOURS WORKED

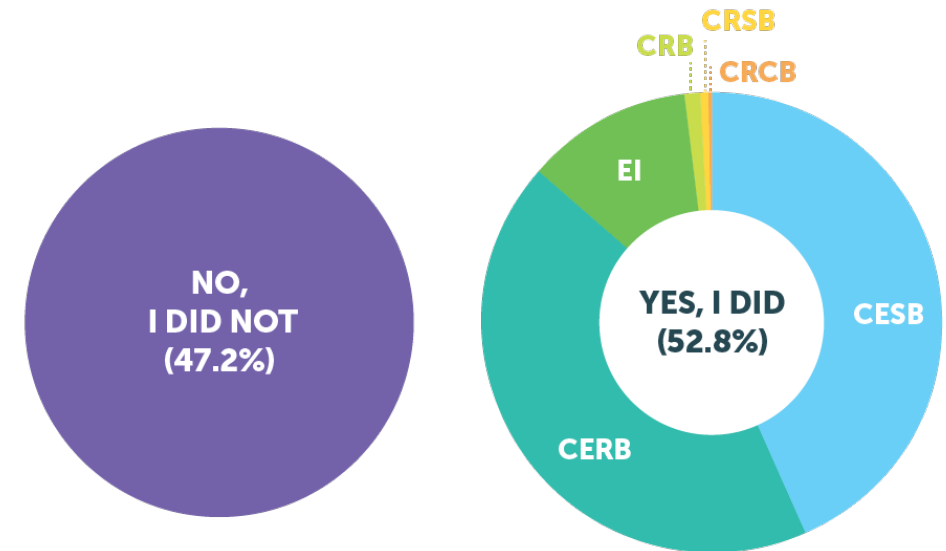


- 67.9% of students work 1-20 hours in Fall/Winter
- Many students were unable to work in 2021 compared to previous years

DID COVID PREVENT YOU FROM FINDING WORK?

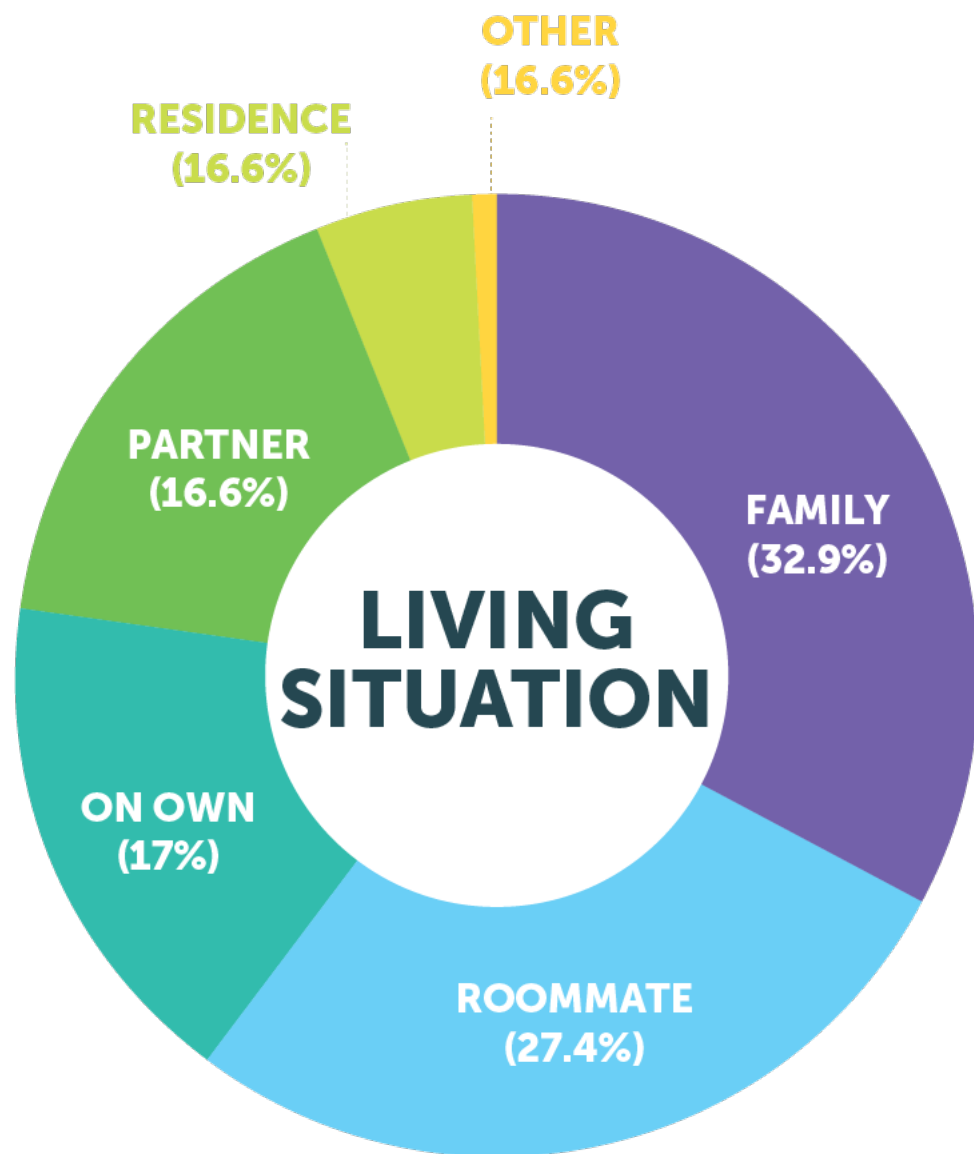


DID YOU RECEIVE CANADA GOVERNMENT COVID-19 BENEFITS



- Due to COVID-19 Many students found it challenging to work throughout the 2021 year due to layoffs, closures or travel barriers.
- 51.8% of students received some form of COVID related.

DSU Community & Student Issues (7)



- The majority of survey participants lived with one or more people, 33% of students lived with family in the 2021 year while 44% of students lived with a partner or roommate(s).
- Only 16.6% of students lived on campus in 2021 due to the COVID-19 related Residence closures.

- When asked what students think are the most important issues to talk about the top 6 answers in order were:

1. Education Costs
2. Mental Health
3. Cost of Living
4. Equity & Accessibility
5. Health & Wellness
6. Sustainability

TOP 6 ISSUES STUDENTS FIND TO BE MOST IMPORTANT



**EDUCATION
COSTS**



**MENTAL
HEALTH**



**COST OF
LIVING**



**EQUITY &
ACCESSIBILITY**

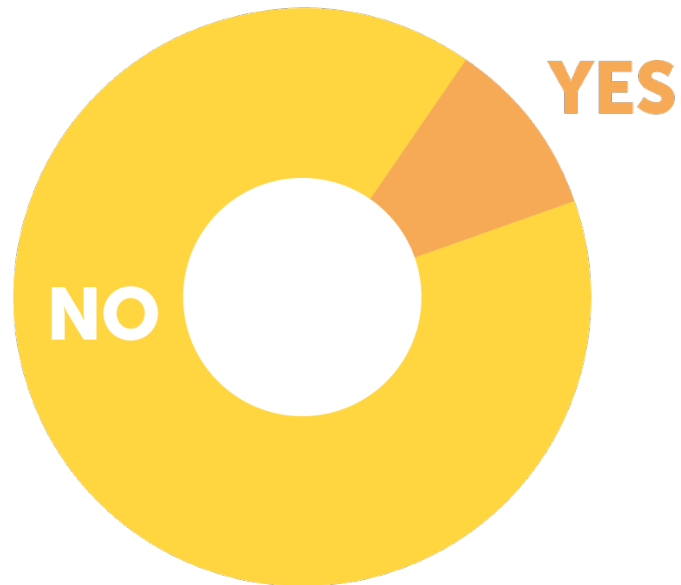


**HEALTH &
WELLNESS**

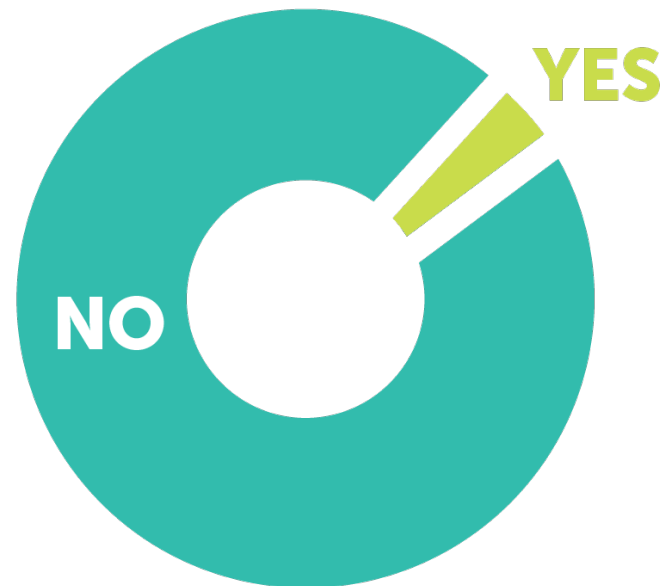


SUSTAINABILITY

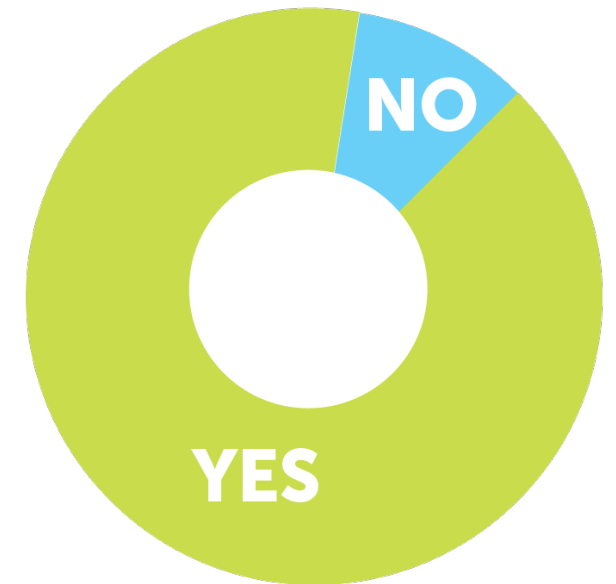
**HAVE YOU EVER VOLUNTEERED
WITH THE DSU?**



**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN
EMPLOYED WITH THE DSU?**



**IS THE DSU AS A GOOD PLACE
TO WORK/VOLUNTEER?**



PRIMARY 3 REASONS FOR ATTENDING A DSU EVENT?

#1



**TO GAIN
SKILLS**

#3



**TO HAVE
FUN**

#2

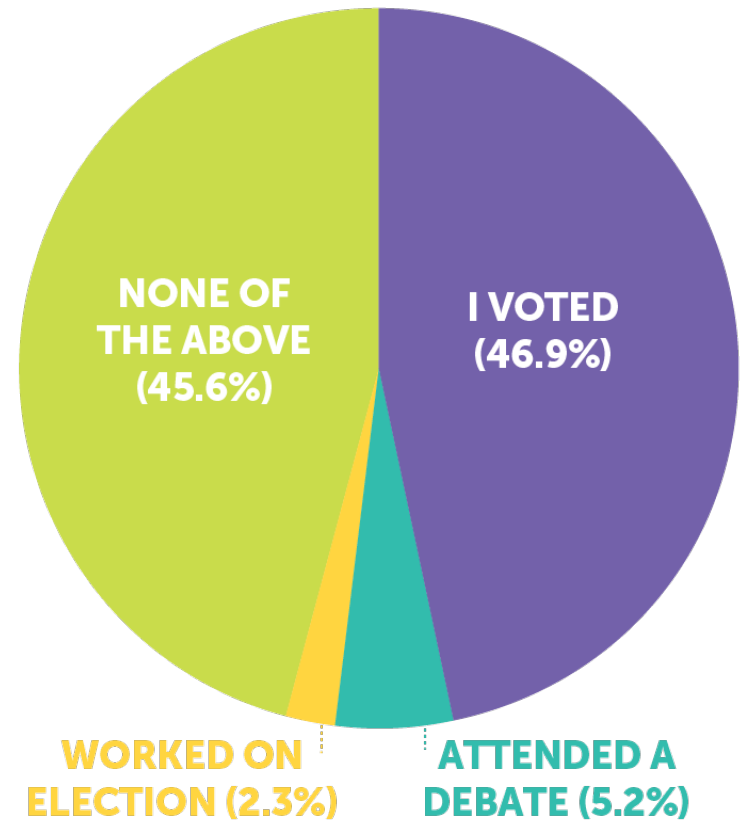


**TO BUILD A
NETWORK**

- When asked why students like to attend DSU Events participating students said their 3 top reasons were:
 1. To gain skills
 2. To build a network
 3. To have fun

- When asked how students participate in DSU Democracy 54.4% of Survey participants said they participated in an election
- 46.9% said they voted in the 2021 DSU election or By-Election. While 7.5% said they worked on, ran in or volunteers for a candidate.
- 45.6% did not participate in any form.

PARTICIPATION IN DSU ELECTION



Open Questions

3 survey questions had open text boxes that respondents could type their feedback into. Given the magnitude and complexity of responses, the top 10-15 categorical trends of each are reported. All relevant data will be used to help inform future decision making.

If the DSU could do ONE thing to improve your Dalhousie experience, what would it be?

1. More events and opportunities to connect with others in person and virtually.
2. Advocating for affordable education and reduced tuition fees for both domestic and international students.
3. More funding opportunities such as bursaries and scholarships.
4. Better Mental health and wellness support for students.
5. A more active presence on campus, and a better connection with students.
6. Job and volunteer opportunities at the DSU
7. Better advocacy for student issues, and a way for student to voice these issues.

If the DSU could do ONE thing to improve your Dalhousie experience, what would it be? (continued)

9. Better Health Plan options for students.
10. Reopening of facilities and services that closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
11. Lower DSU fees.
12. More transparency with funding and DSU choices.
13. Free food or other “freebie” giveaways at the SUB.
14. More study spaces and more casual hangout spaces in the SUB.
15. Organizing activities for mature and/or graduate students.

In what aspects do you feel you need the most support in being a student at Dalhousie?

1. Mental health support.
2. Financial support and Funding.
3. Social opportunities and events.
4. Volunteer opportunities and Co-op supports for programs.
5. Survivor support.
6. Online learning support and better communication from professors.
7. Accommodation and Food Security

In what aspects do you feel you need the most support in being a student at Dalhousie? (continued)

9. Academic and career planning supports.
10. Better sense of community at Dalhousie.
11. More study spaces on campus.
12. More focus on other campuses (Sexton Campus, Agricultural Campus).
13. More general parking.
14. Knowledge of campus services and resources available to students.
15. Network building support and opportunities.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

1. Students questioned how their fees were being spent, noting that they didn't understand the value of the DSU or its purpose.
2. Participants noted that the DSU should focus on academic issues, especially lobbying for lowering tuition and fees.
3. Students noted that they didn't feel there is enough focus on mature students, graduate students and those in Professional Programs.
4. Students stated that they would like to see better healthcare options at Dalhousie.
5. Students would generally like to see more focus on Mental Health support, with many noting that the COVID-19 Pandemic has made them feel very isolated.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? (continued)

6. Students would like to see more events and programming through the school year to meet other students in person
7. Students noted finding it hard to find a work /school balance due to high coursework levels and little to no support.
8. Students noted a general lack of awareness of the DSU including its purpose and what it does.
9. Students on Sexton and AC campuses note feeling disconnected from the DSU and more effort be prioritized in doing campus outreach.
10. Students would like to see the DSU be more transparent with what it does on a monthly basis for the student population.