

Bridging the gap: Identifying the barriers to successful domestic and international students' relations

Presented by:

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Who are we?

The Council of International Students Australia (CISA) is the national peak student representative body for all international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS and foundation level in Australia.



What do we do?

Our main purpose is to:

- Advocate for the interests and needs of international students
- Advocate for high quality education for international students
- Facilitate network building among stakeholders with an interest in supporting international students.
- CISA works with State and Federal Ministry, various Stakeholders and Educational bodies
- Consultative Committees; Council for International Education, ESOS Act, EVCC & more
- Host an annual national conference for International Students, Government and the International Education Industry
- Provide means of consulting and engaging with the international students
- Host international student roundtable events in partnership with various government & non-government organisations
- Promote cross-cultural awareness and interactions in Australia
- Advocate for equitable, non-racist, non-discriminatory law reforms and practices concerning international students



Survey Rationale

- Identify current communication gaps between domestic and international students
- Best practice initiatives: What fosters interaction within students?
- Promote awareness of CISA
- Identify gaps in current efforts to foster cohesiveness



Survey Period & Promotion

- July 2016 – October 2016
- Advertised through Facebook Ads, Direct Mailers to members, stakeholder cross-promotional
- Prizes and Advertising funded by ETS TOEFL



Survey Methodology

- There were some compulsory qualitative questions
- Some were open questions where students elaborated on the various activities and events currently existing at their campuses
- The survey was done via SurveyMonkey



1. Age Breakdown

Answer Choices	Responses	
18 - 20	15.33%	88
20 -22	28.92%	166
22 - 24	18.12%	104
24 - 26	12.02%	69
26 and above	25.61%	147



2. Gender

Answer Choices	Responses	
Female	54.88%	315
Male	44.77%	257
Trans male	0.00%	0
Trans female	0.17%	1
Other (please specify)	0.17%	1



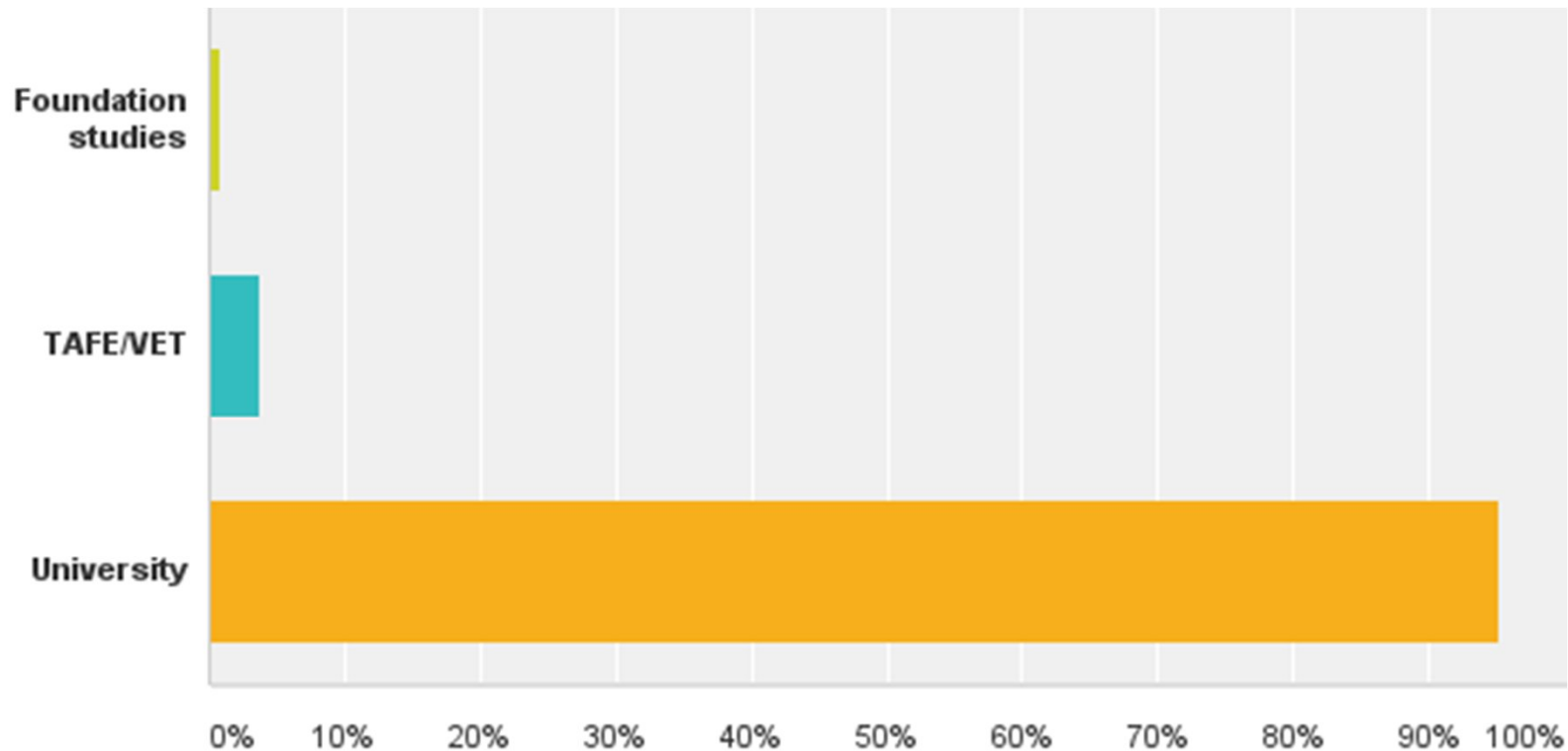
3. Australian State

Answer Choices	Responses	
Australian Capital Territory	8.71%	50
New South Wales	27.53%	158
Northern Territory	1.39%	8
Queensland	9.93%	57
South Australia	5.40%	31
Tasmania	3.83%	22
Victoria	41.64%	239
Western Australia	1.57%	9
Total		574

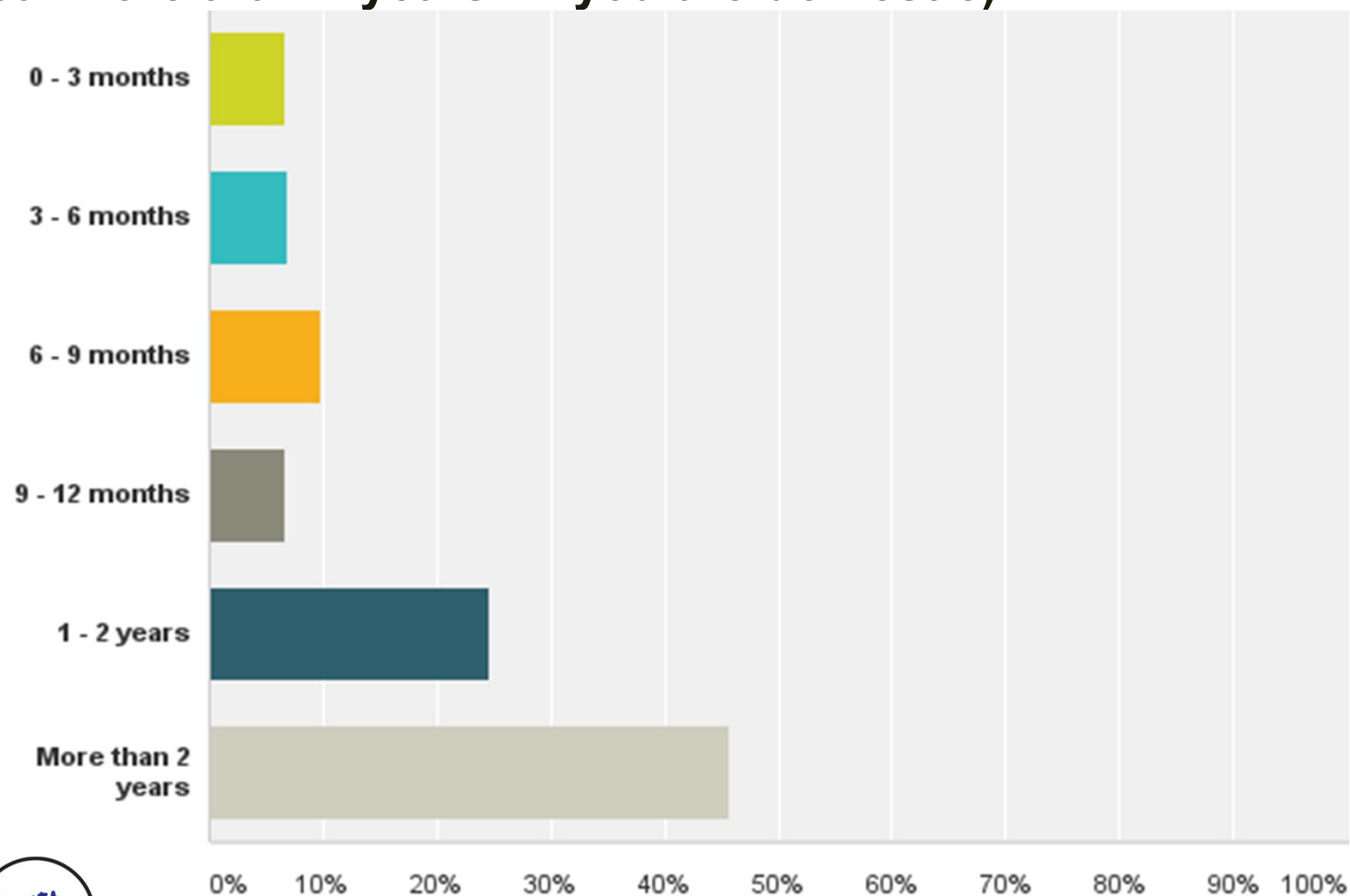
■ Answered: 574 Skipped: 73



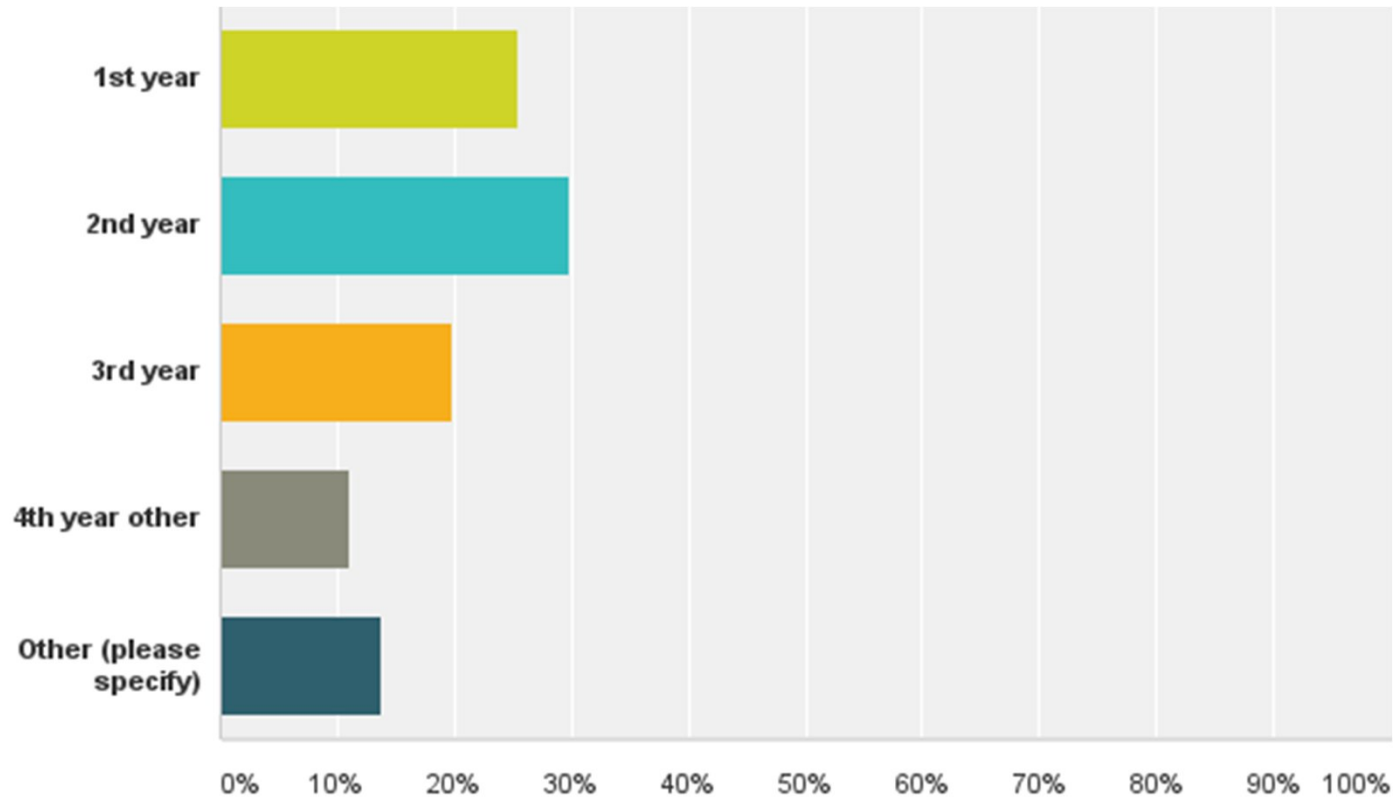
4. Sector Representation



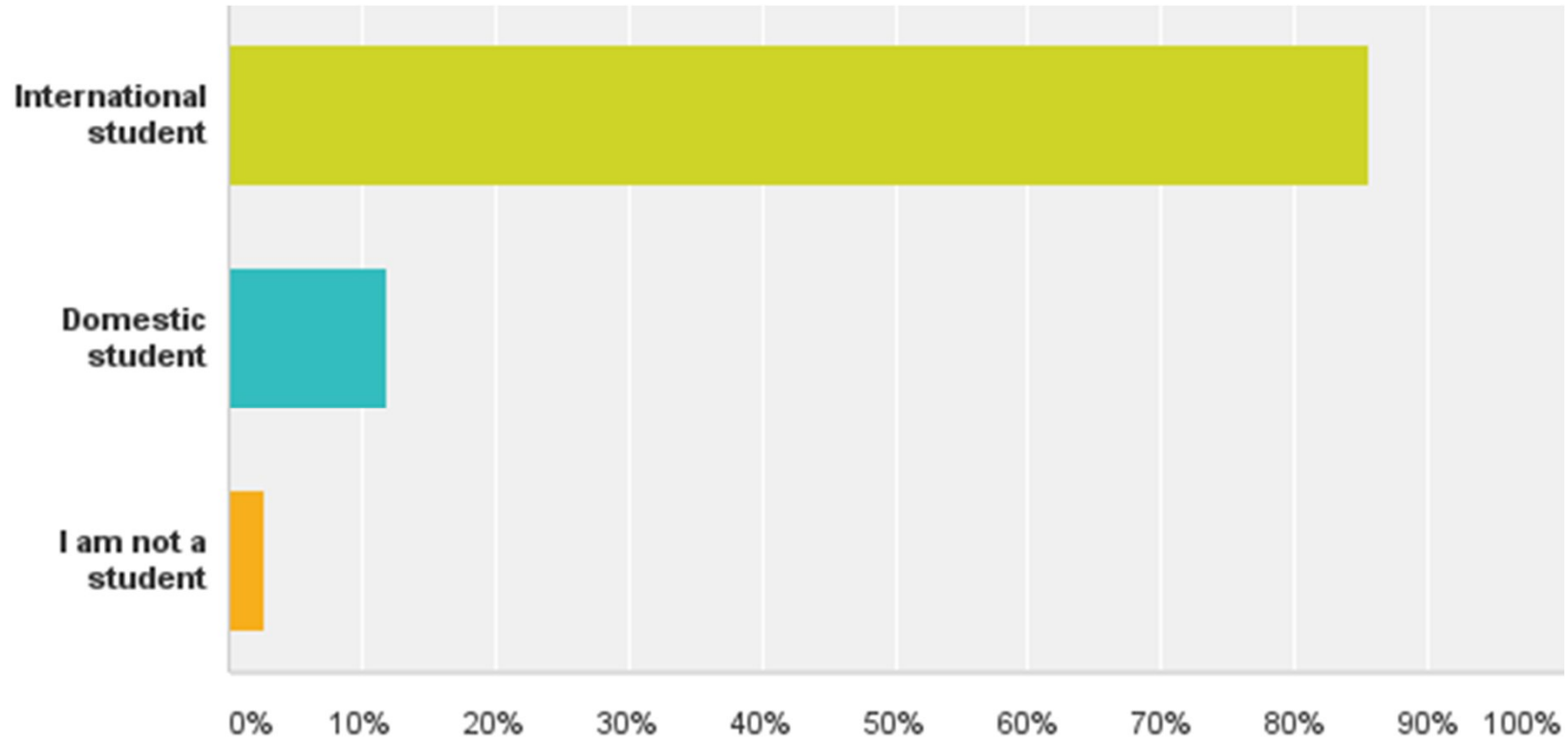
5. How long have you been studying in Australia? (Select "More than 2 years" if you are domestic)



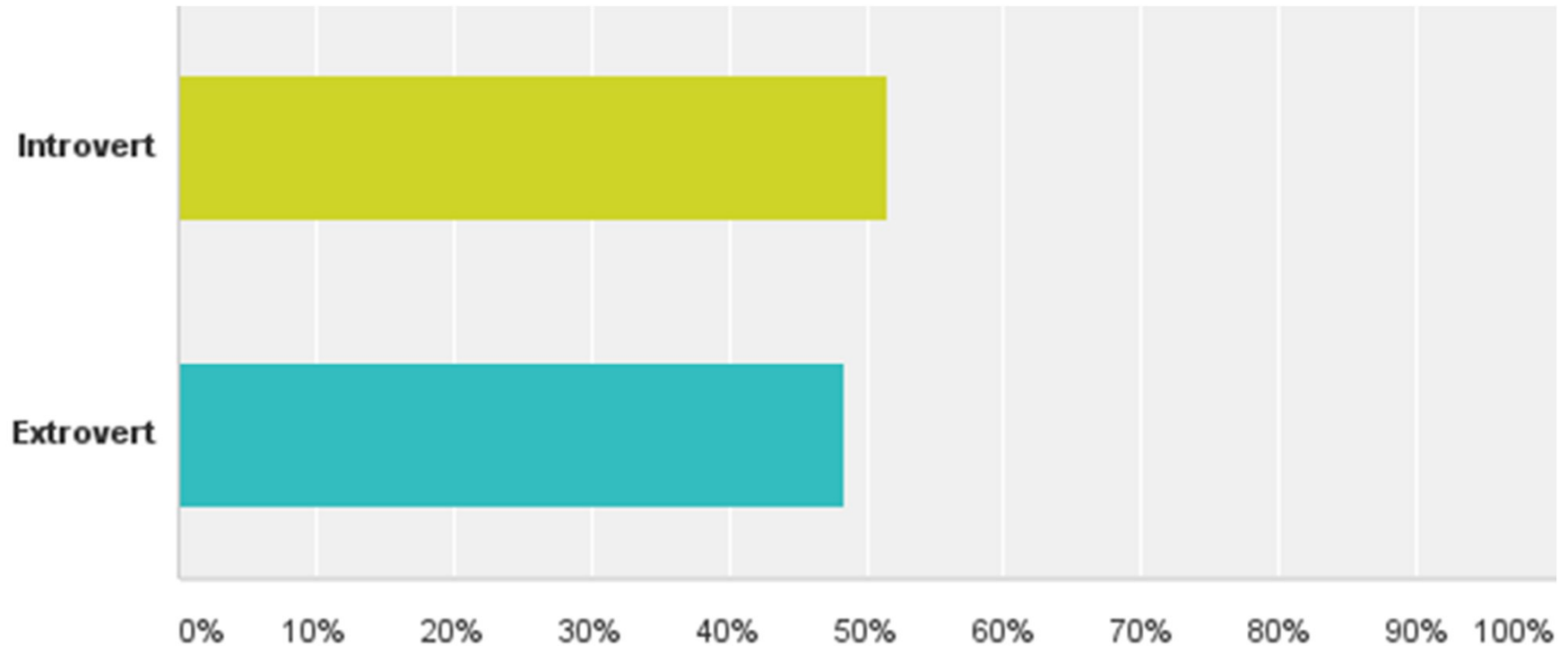
6. Which year of study are you in?



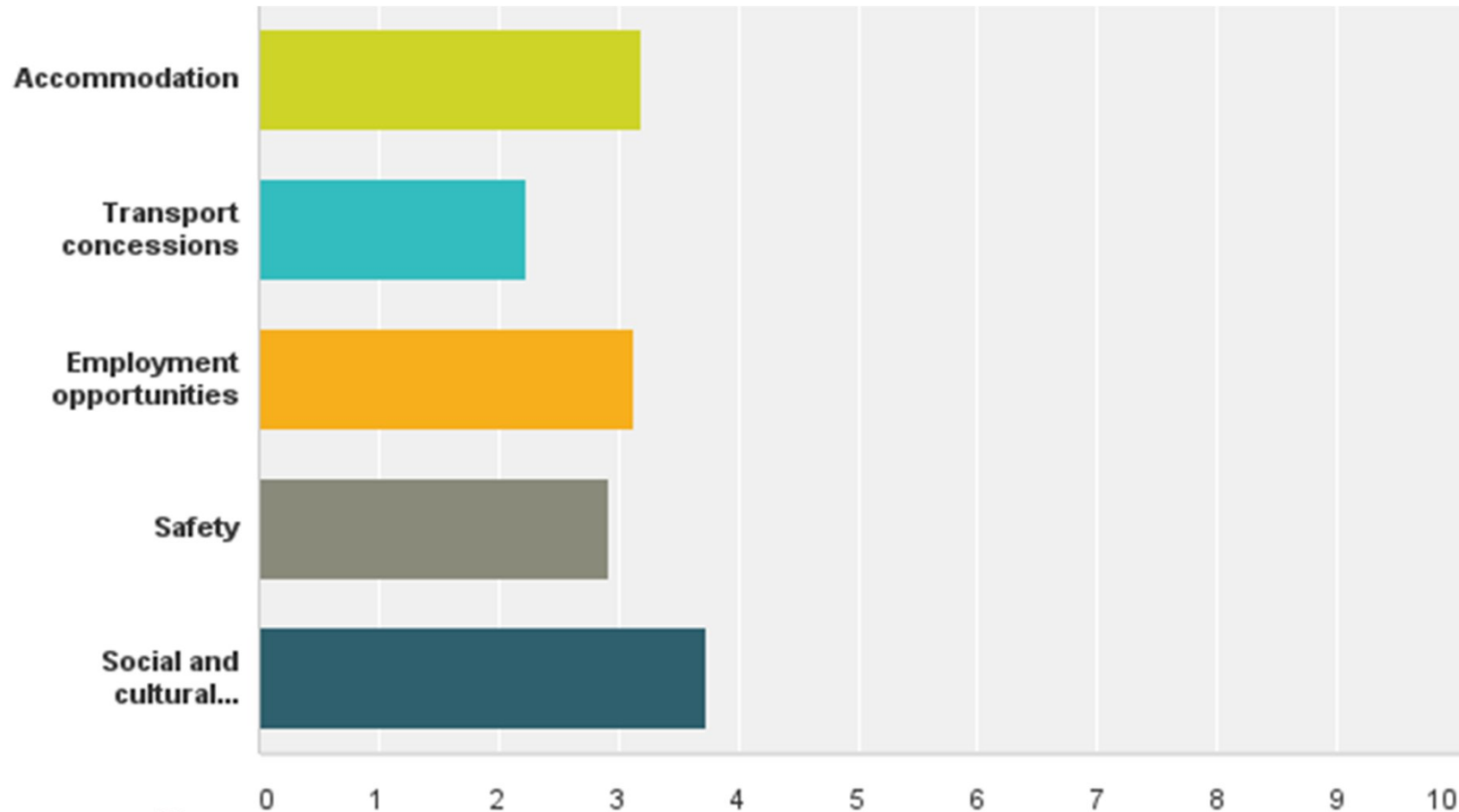
7. Residency



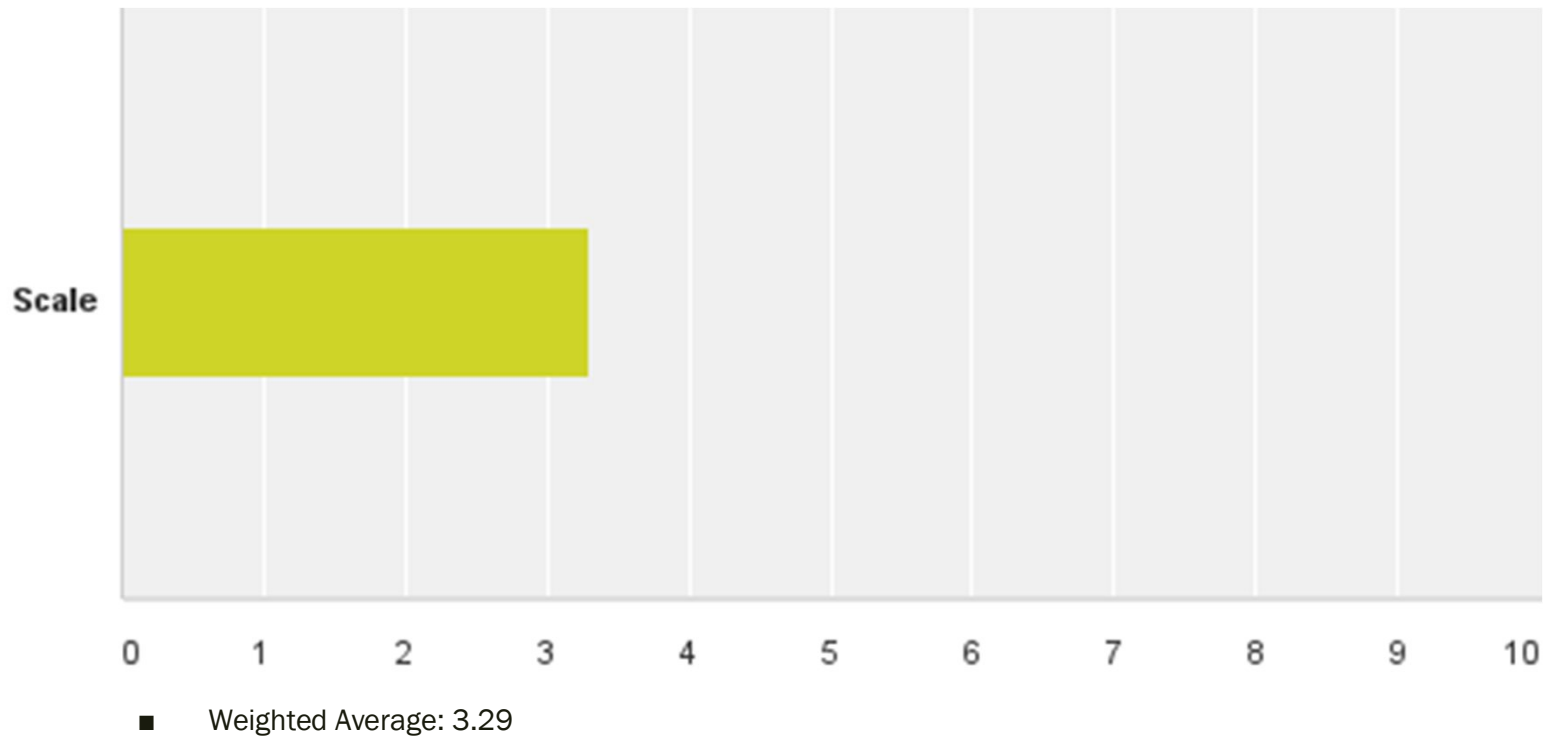
8. What type of personality are you?



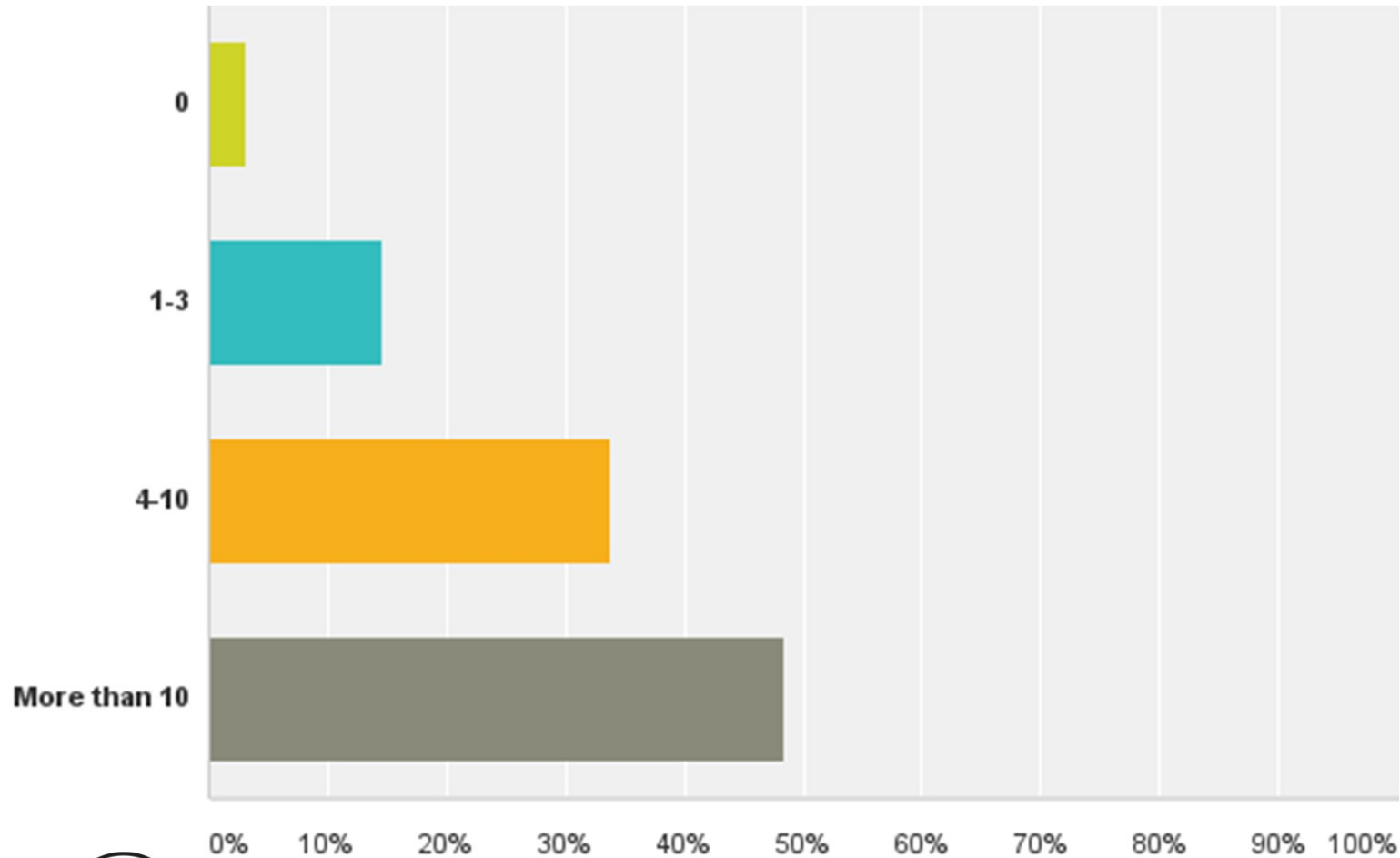
9. Rank the following issues affecting international students in order of priority



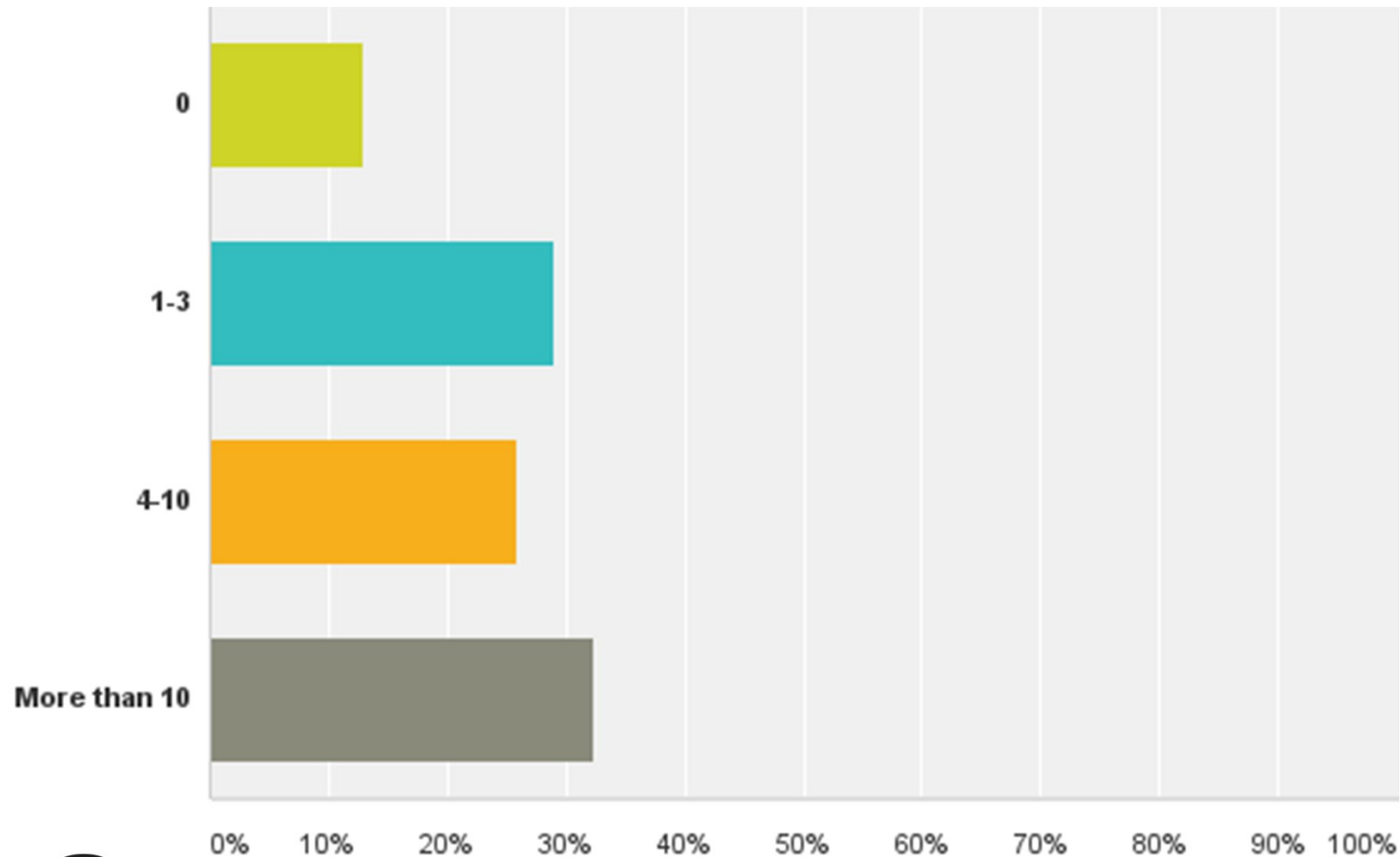
10. How easy do you think it is for international students to make friends with domestic students?



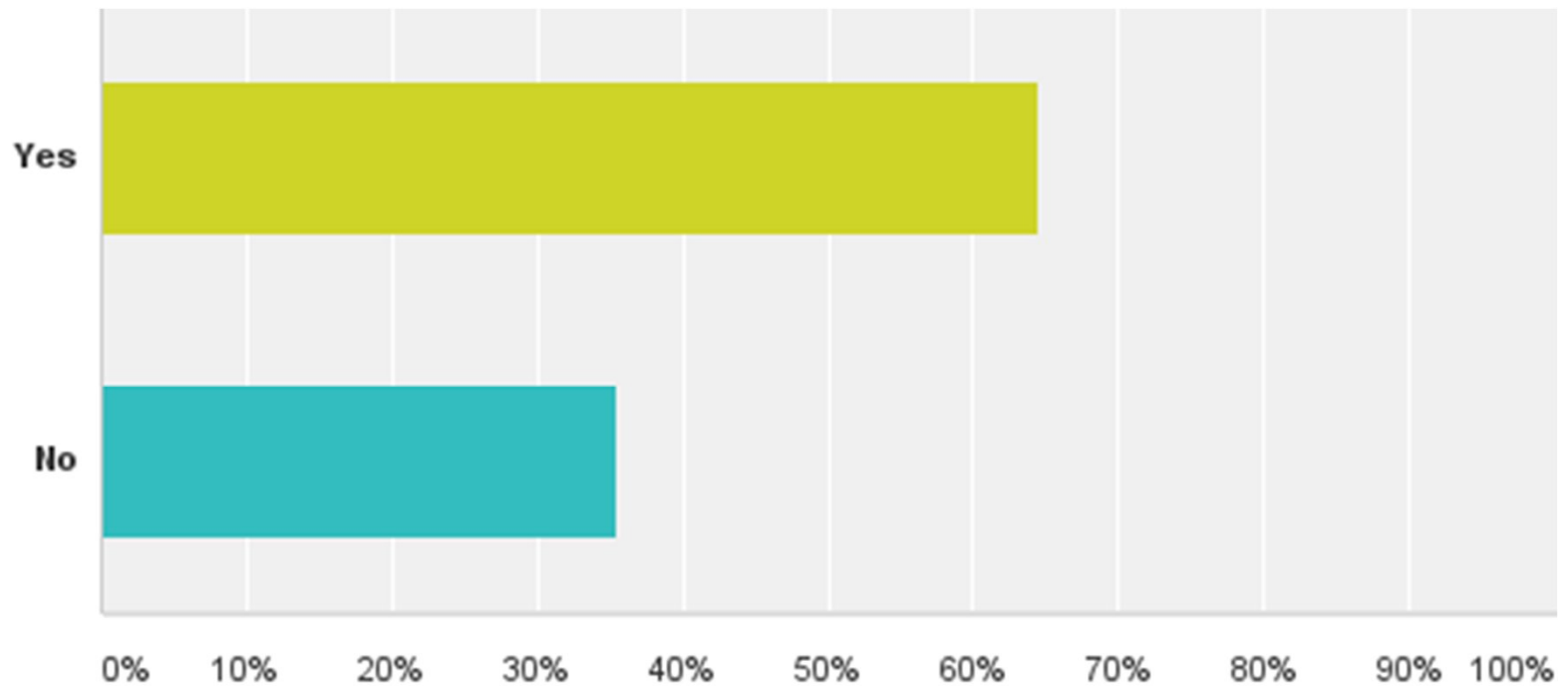
11. How many international students do you know?



12. How many of your friends are international students?



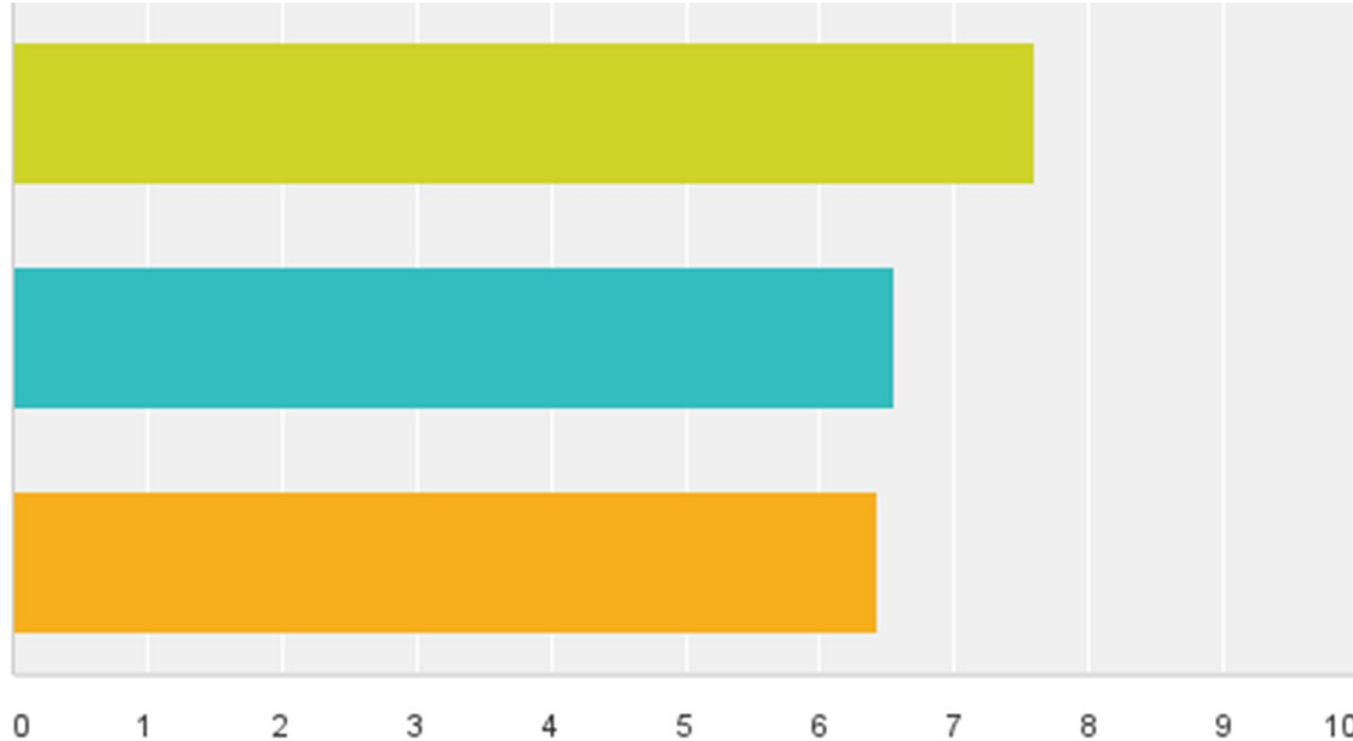
13. Do you usually make the initial approach to befriend international students?



14. Rate the following on a scale of 1-10: (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)

Level of interest in
befriending international
students

Your level of
interest in...



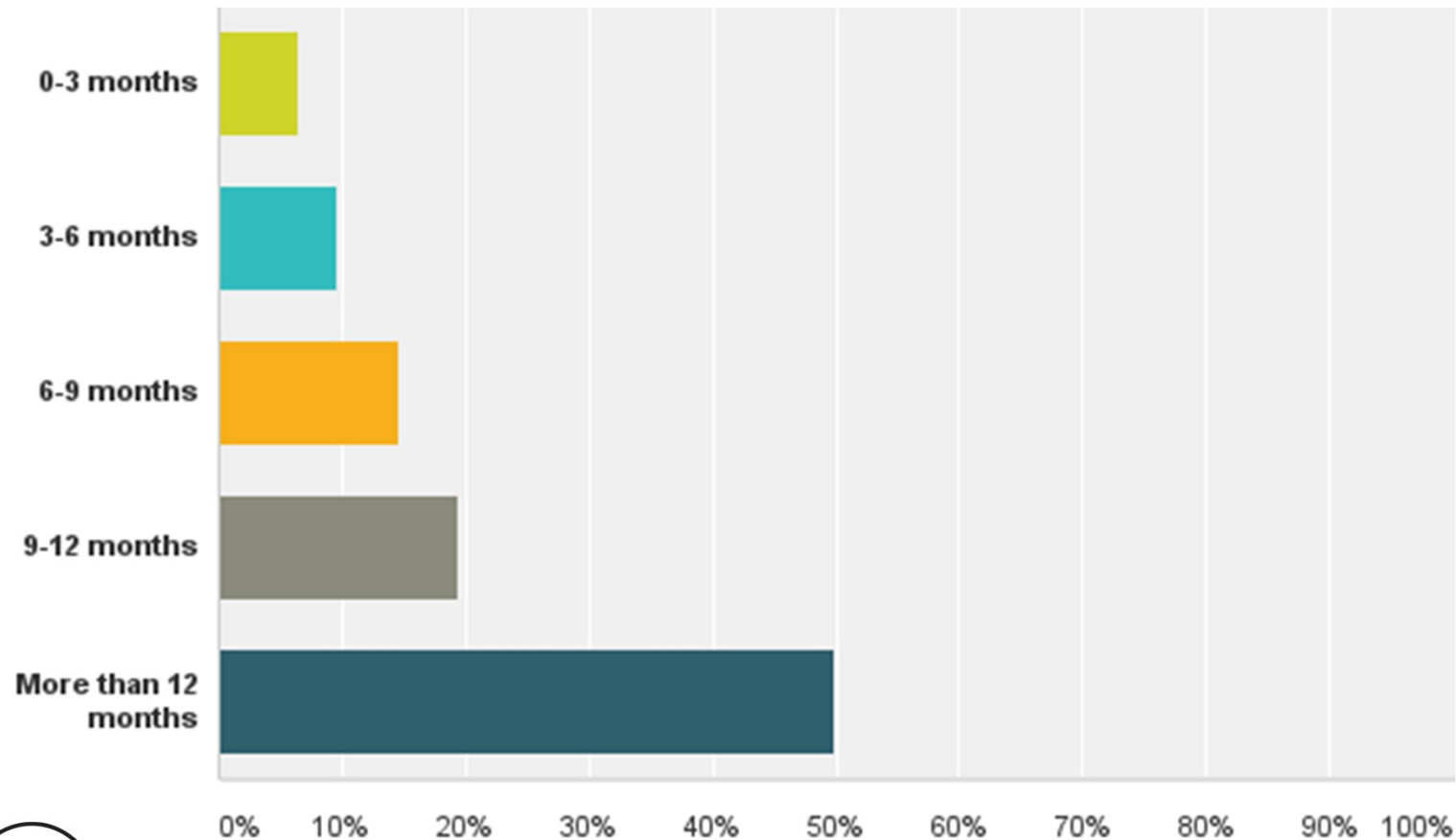
Frequency of
interactions with
international student
friends

Frequency of
interactions...

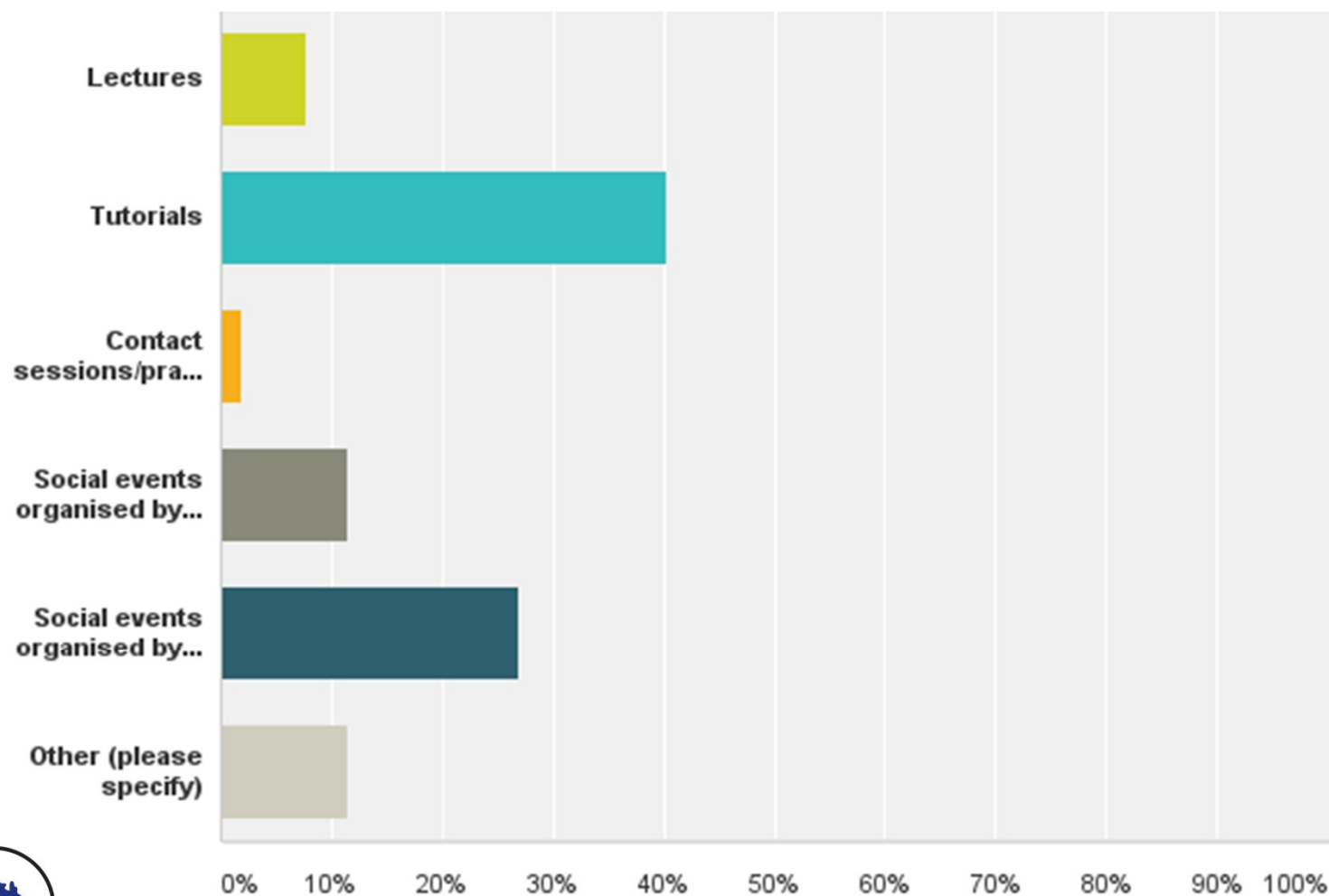
Strength of your
friendships with
international students

Strength of
your...

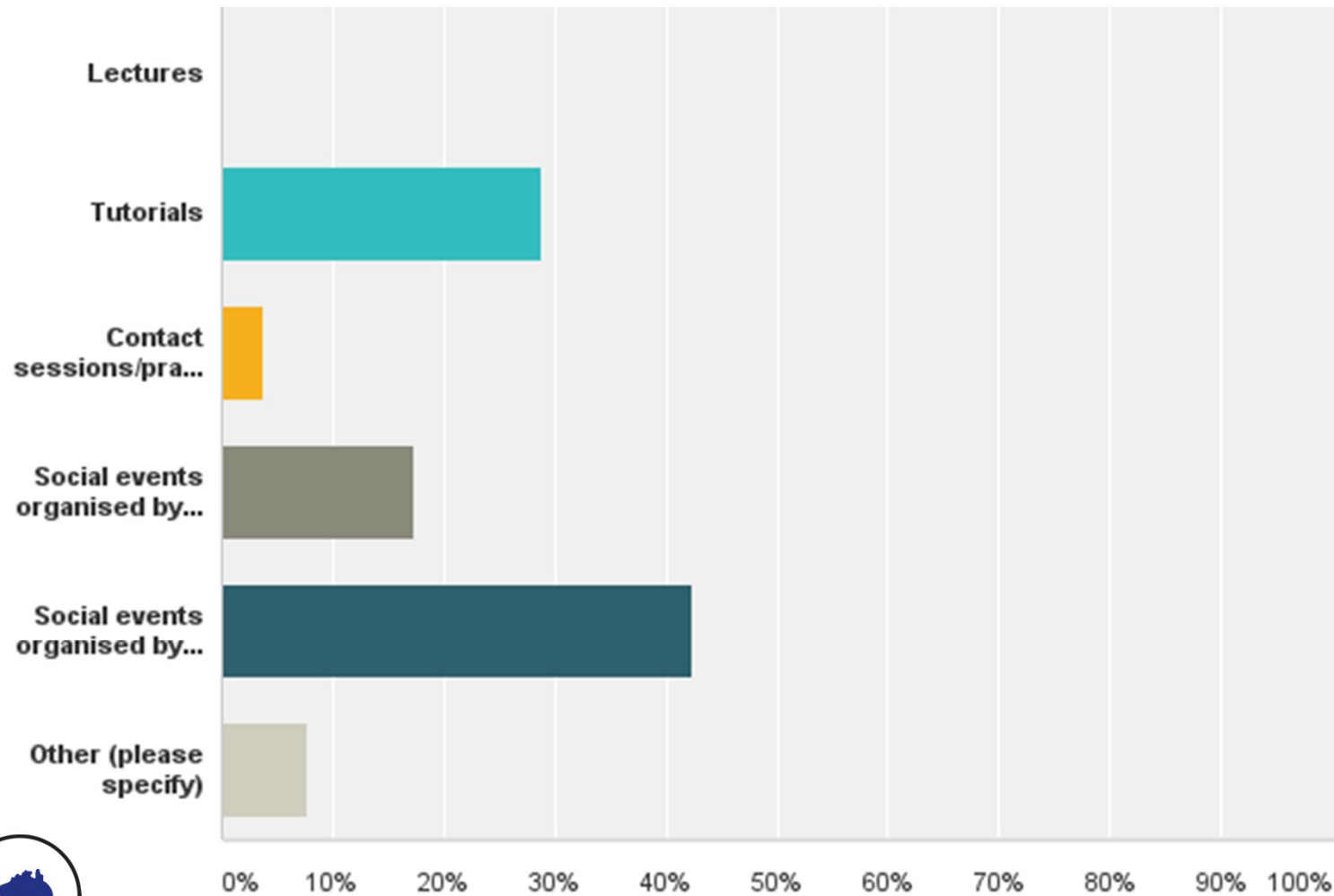
15. On average, how long do your friendships with international students last?



16. In which setting within your institution are you more likely to **meet** international students?

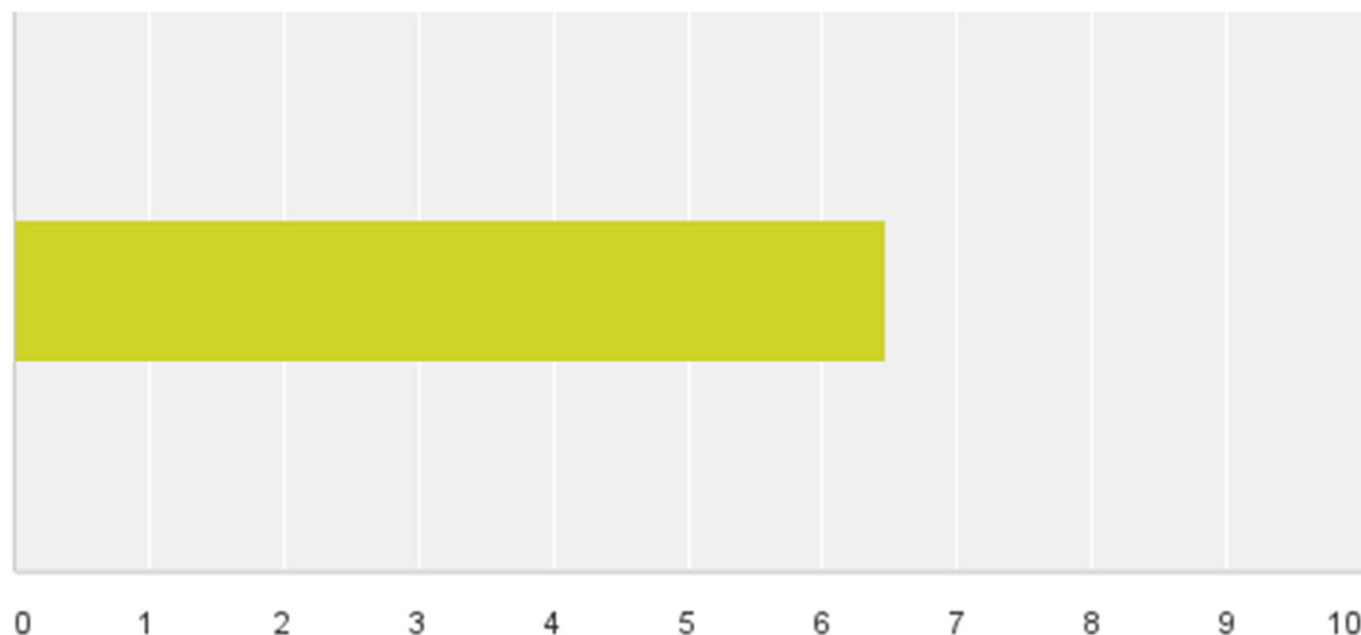


17. In which setting within your institution are you more likely to **make friends** with international students?

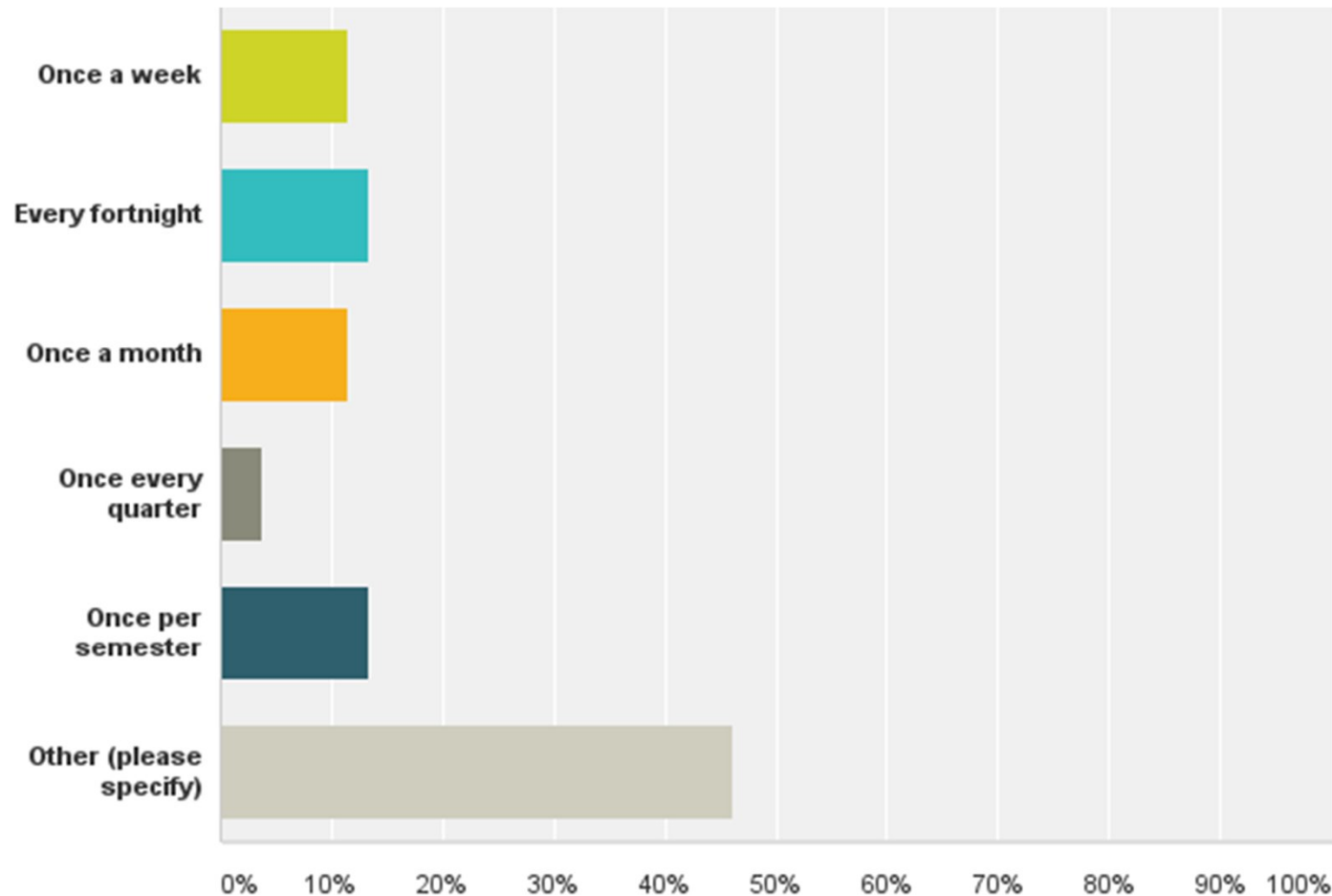


18. If your institution does have programs to create opportunities for international and domestic students to meet and socialise, please rate their success on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)?

■ Weighted
Average:
6.47



19. If your institution does have programs to create opportunities for international and domestic students to meet and socialise, how often do the programs run?



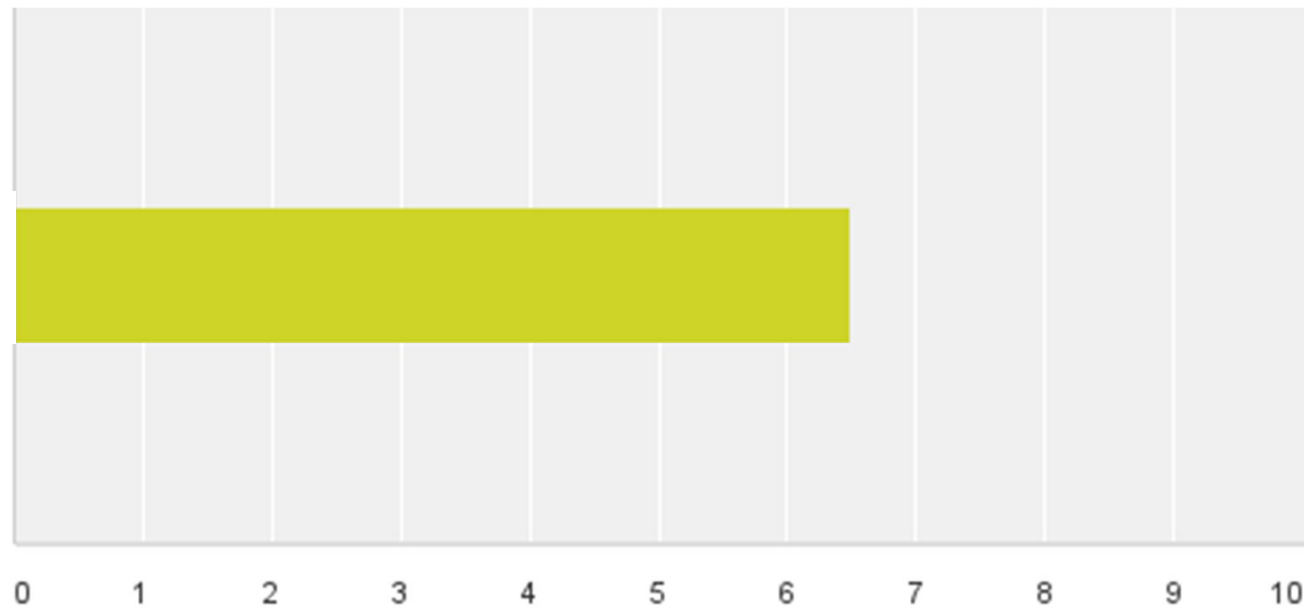
20. How many programs or events, per semester, does your student body/union/guild (incl. clubs & societies) organise to create an opportunity for international and domestic students to meet and socialise (excluding academic activities such as lectures, tutorials etc)?

0	1-3	4-6	7-9	More than 10	I don't know of any such program
3.85%	17.31%	17.31%	9.62%	21.15%	30.77%

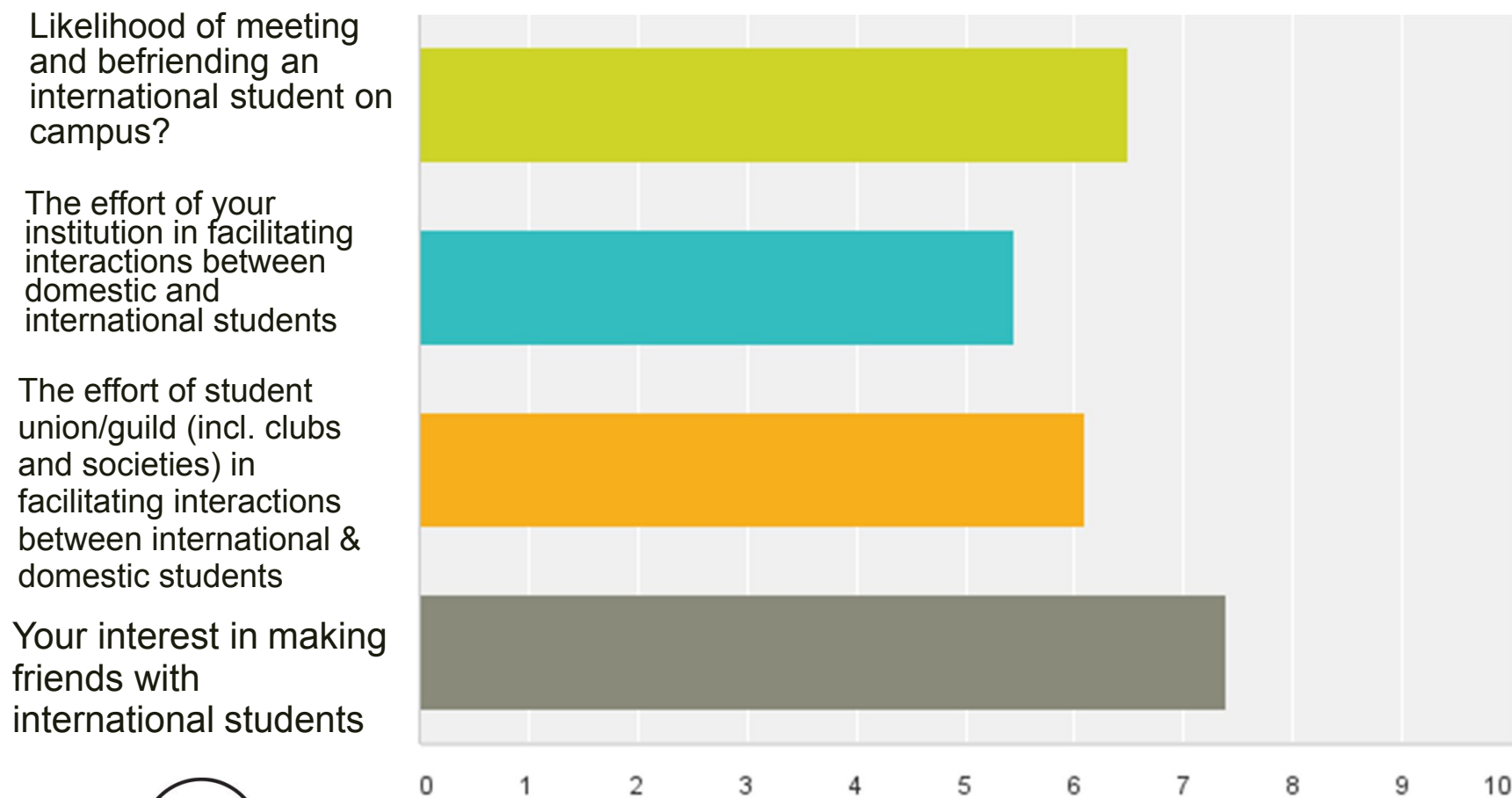


21. If your student body/union/guild (incl. clubs & societies) does have programs to create opportunities for international and domestic students to meet and socialise, please rate their success on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)

■ Weighted
Average:
6.50



22. Rate the following on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)

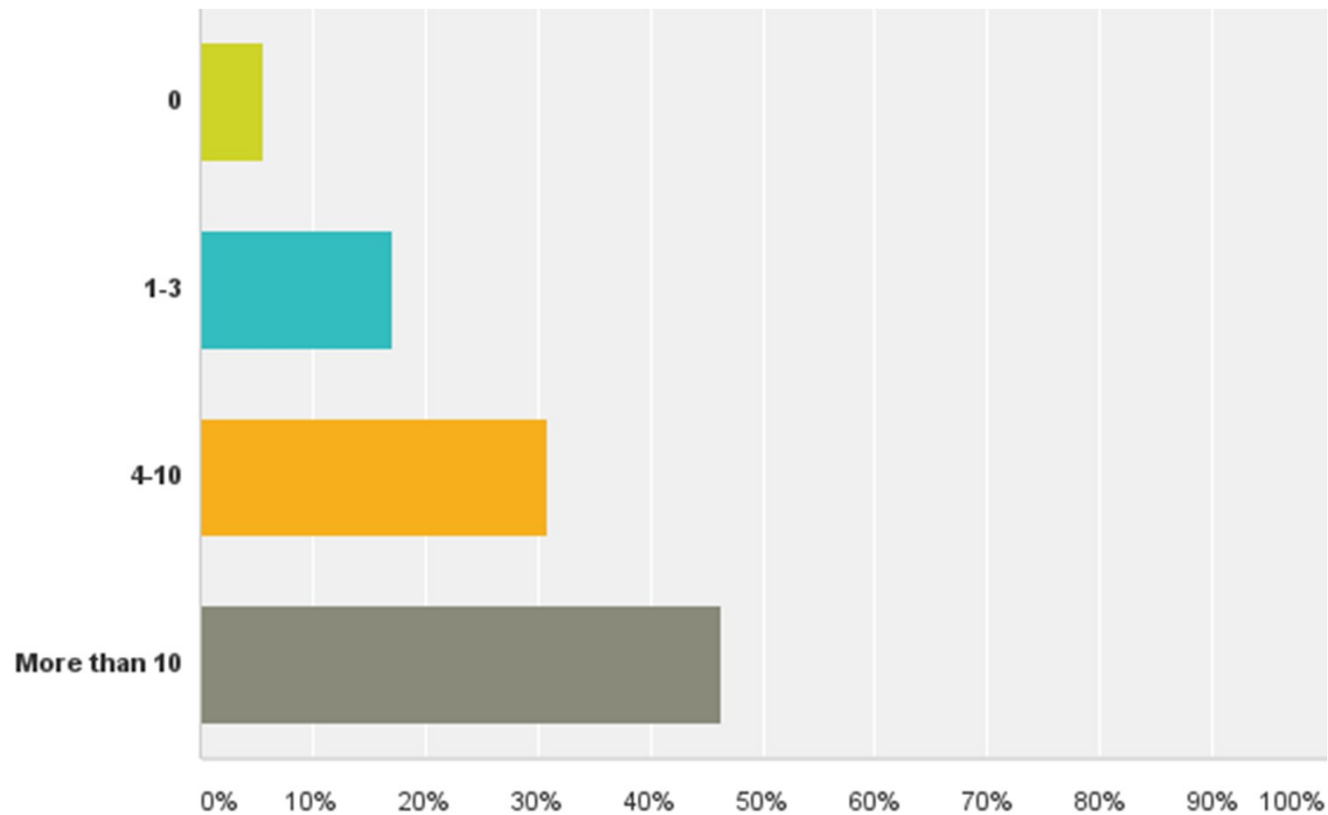


23. How easy is it for you to make friends with domestic students at your institution?

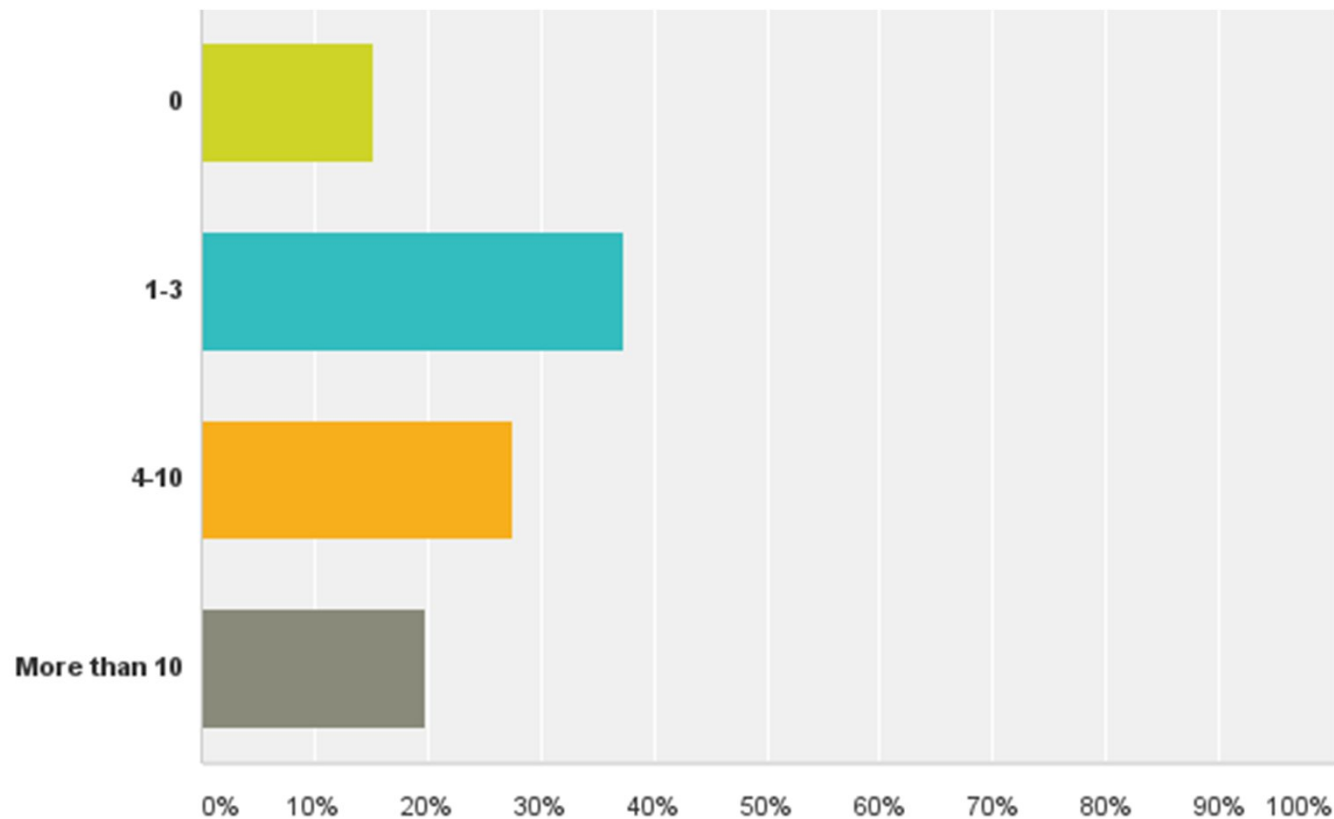
Very Easy	Easy	Slightly easy	Difficult	Very difficult
5.77%	23.29%	30.56%	32.91%	7.48%



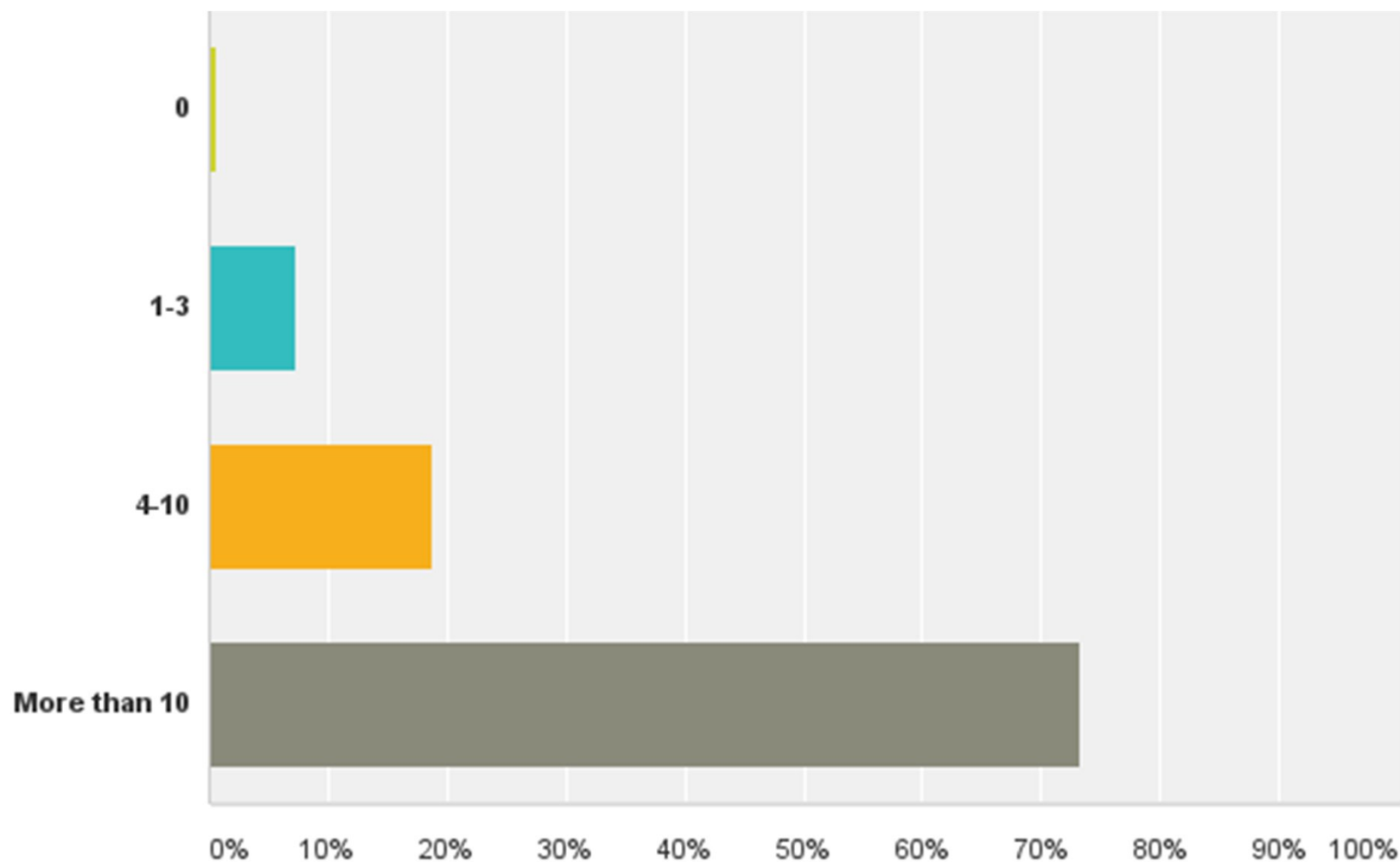
24. How many domestic students do you know?



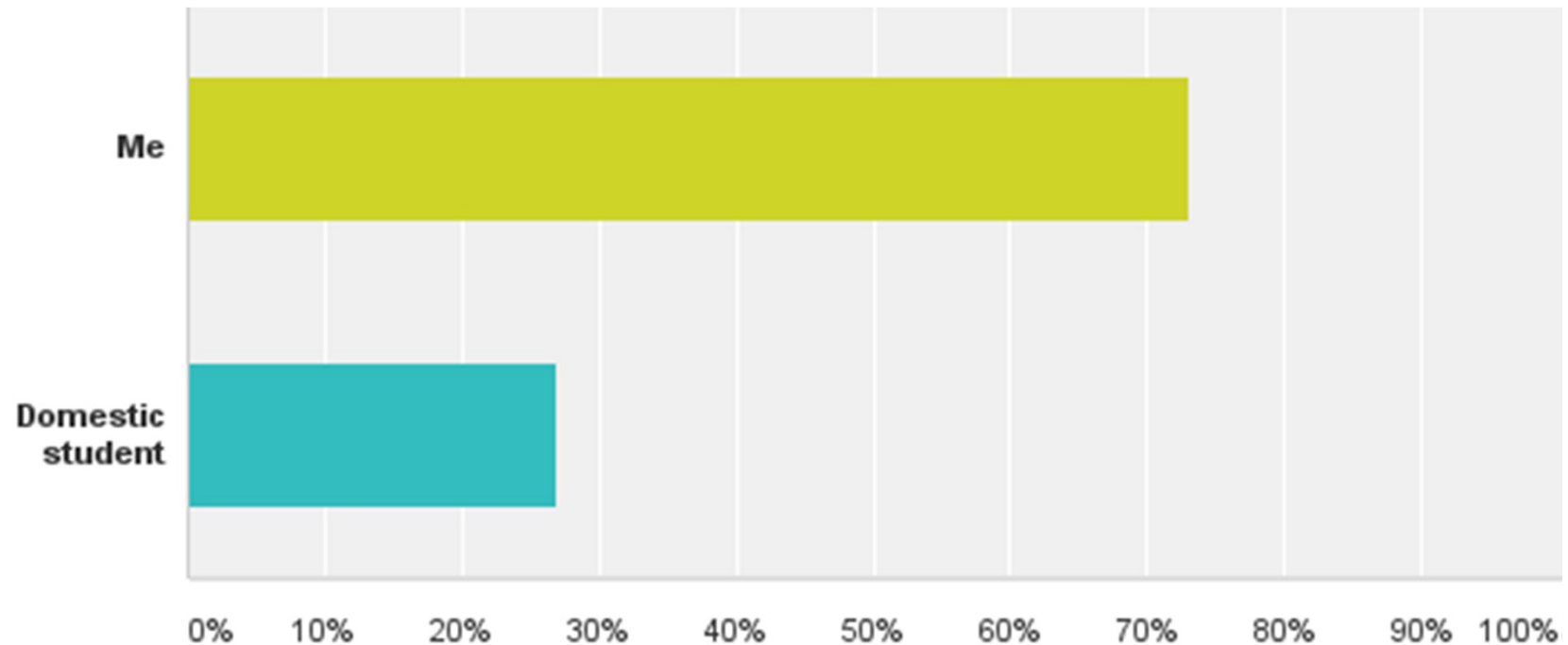
25. How many of your friends are domestic students?



26. How many of your friends are international students?



27. When making friends with domestic students, who usually makes the initial approach?



28. Rate the following on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)

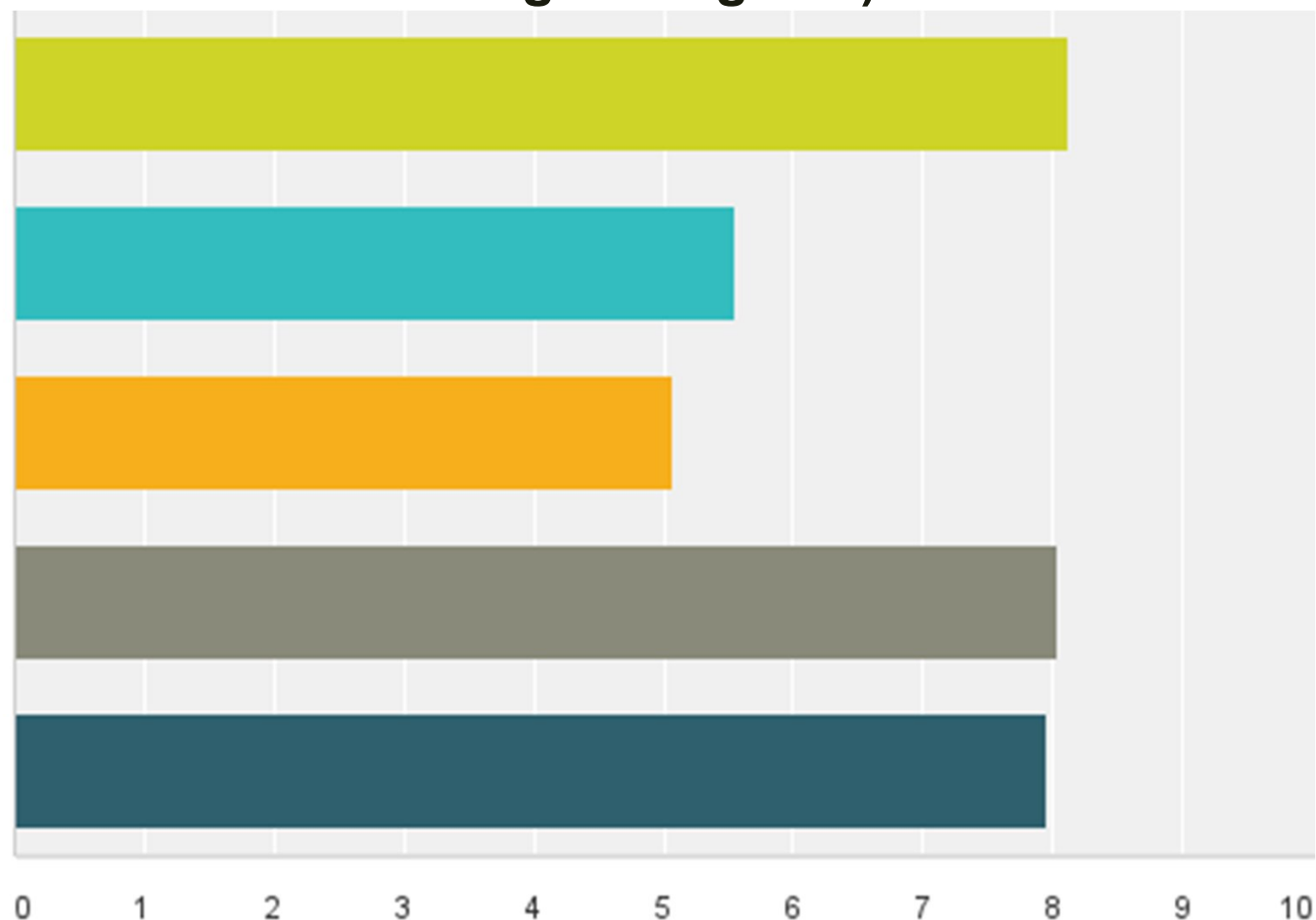
Your level of interest in making friends with domestic students

Frequency of interactions with your domestic student friends

Strength of your friendships with domestic students

Frequency of interactions with your international students' friends

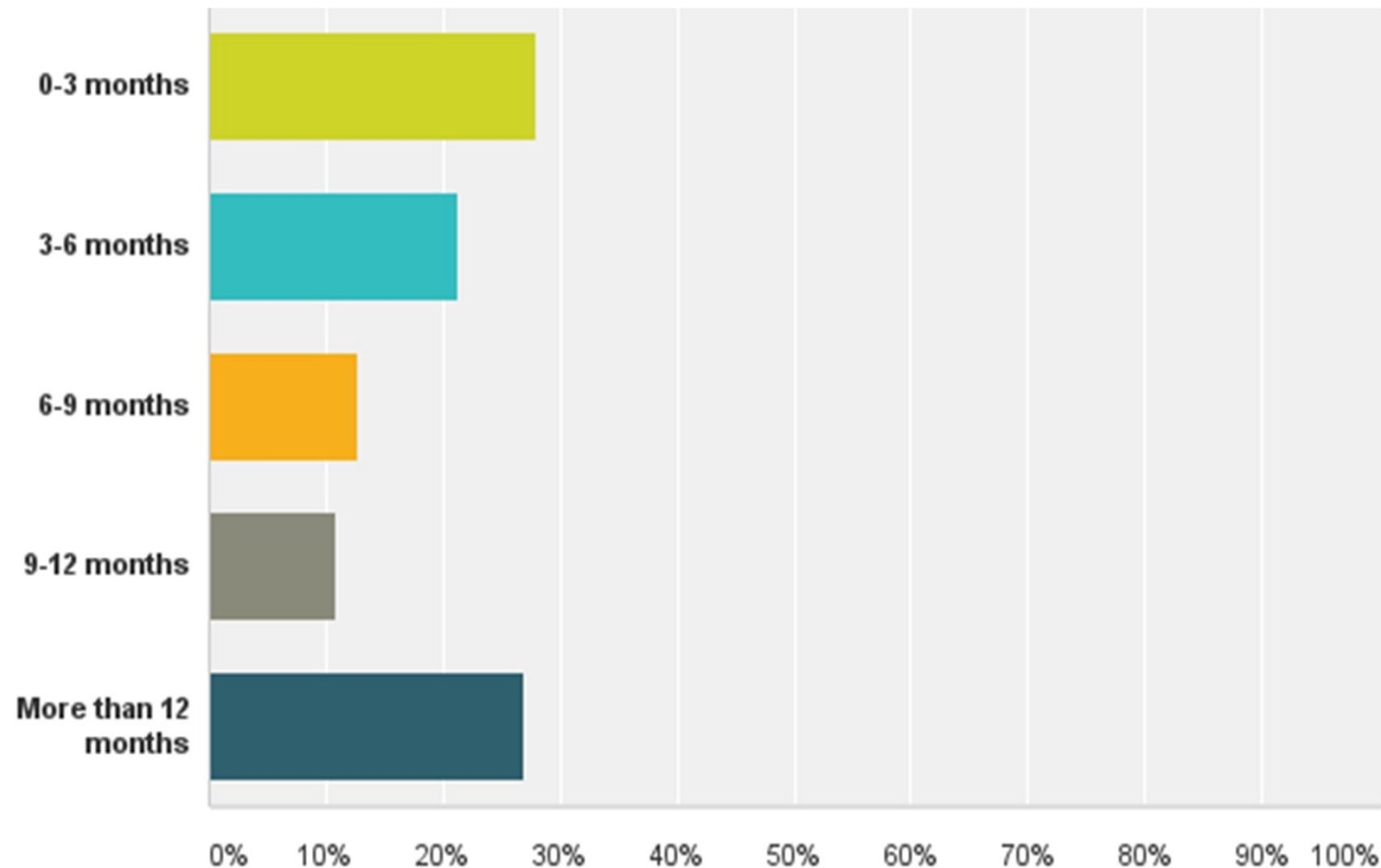
Strength of your friendships with international students



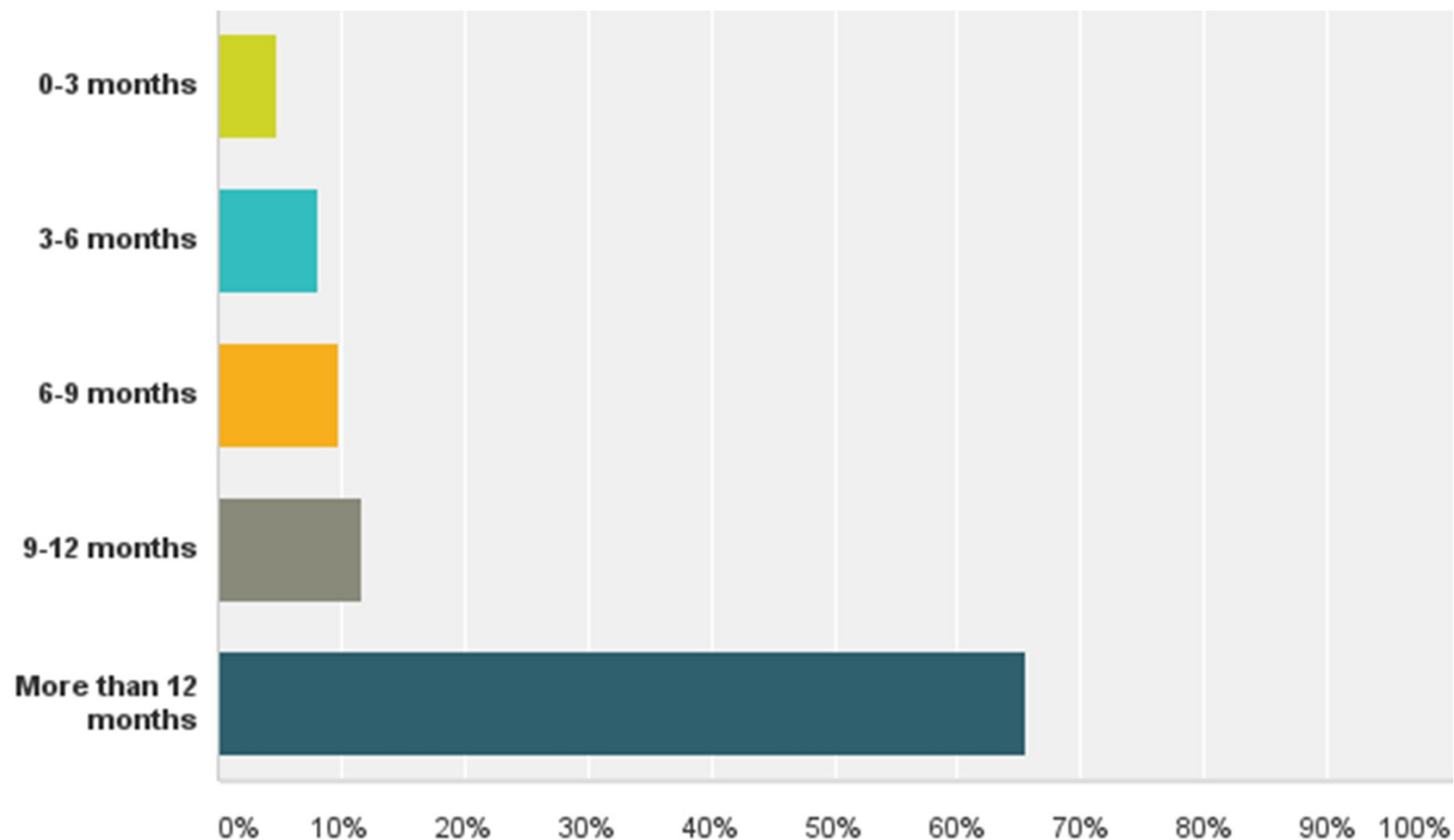
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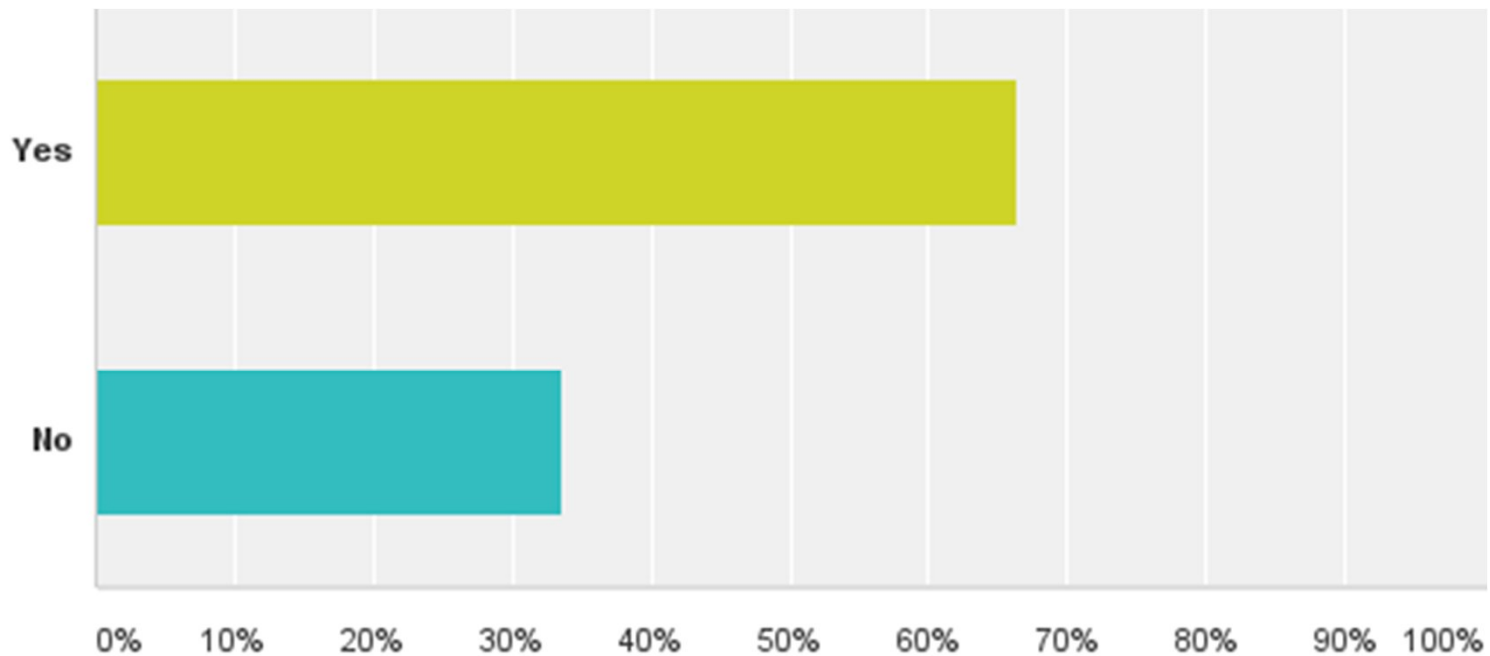
29. On average, how long do your friendships with domestic students last?



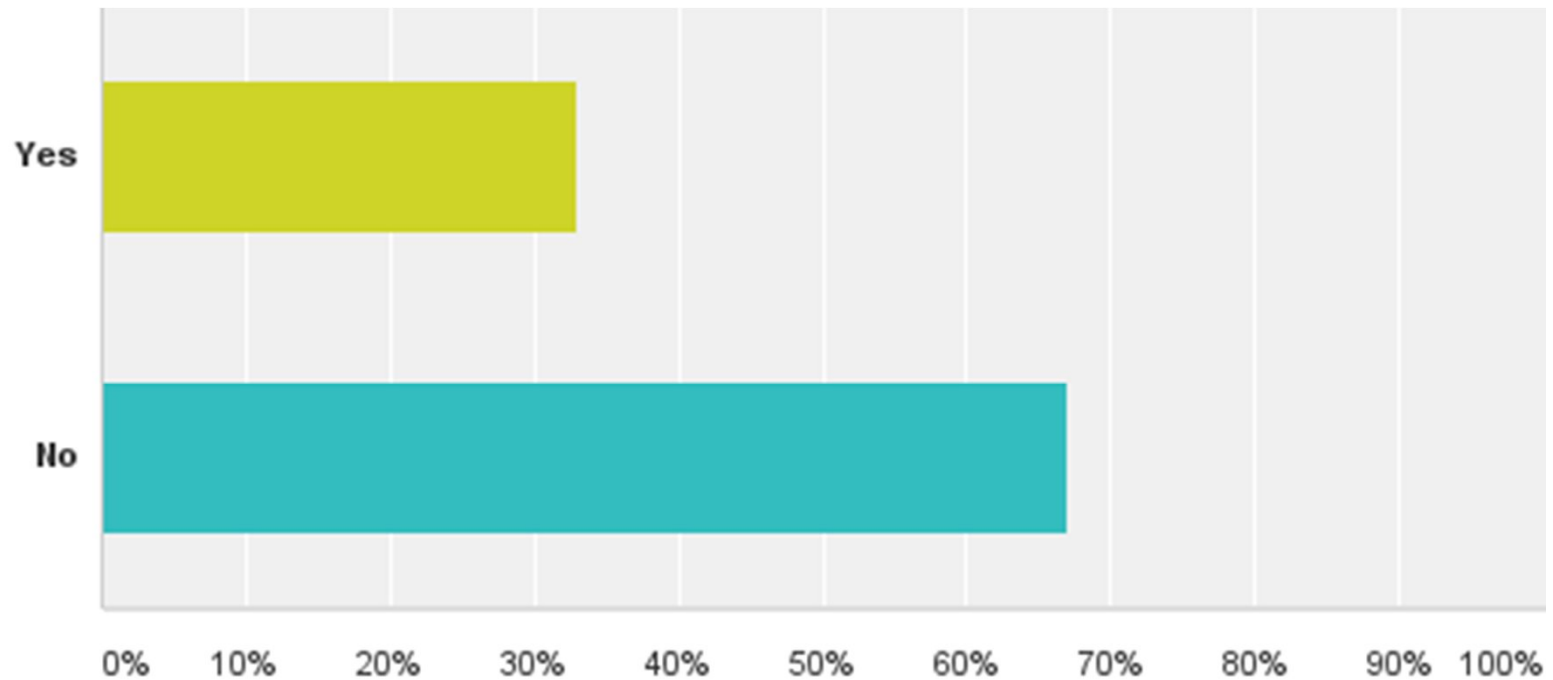
30. On average, how long do your friendships with international students last?



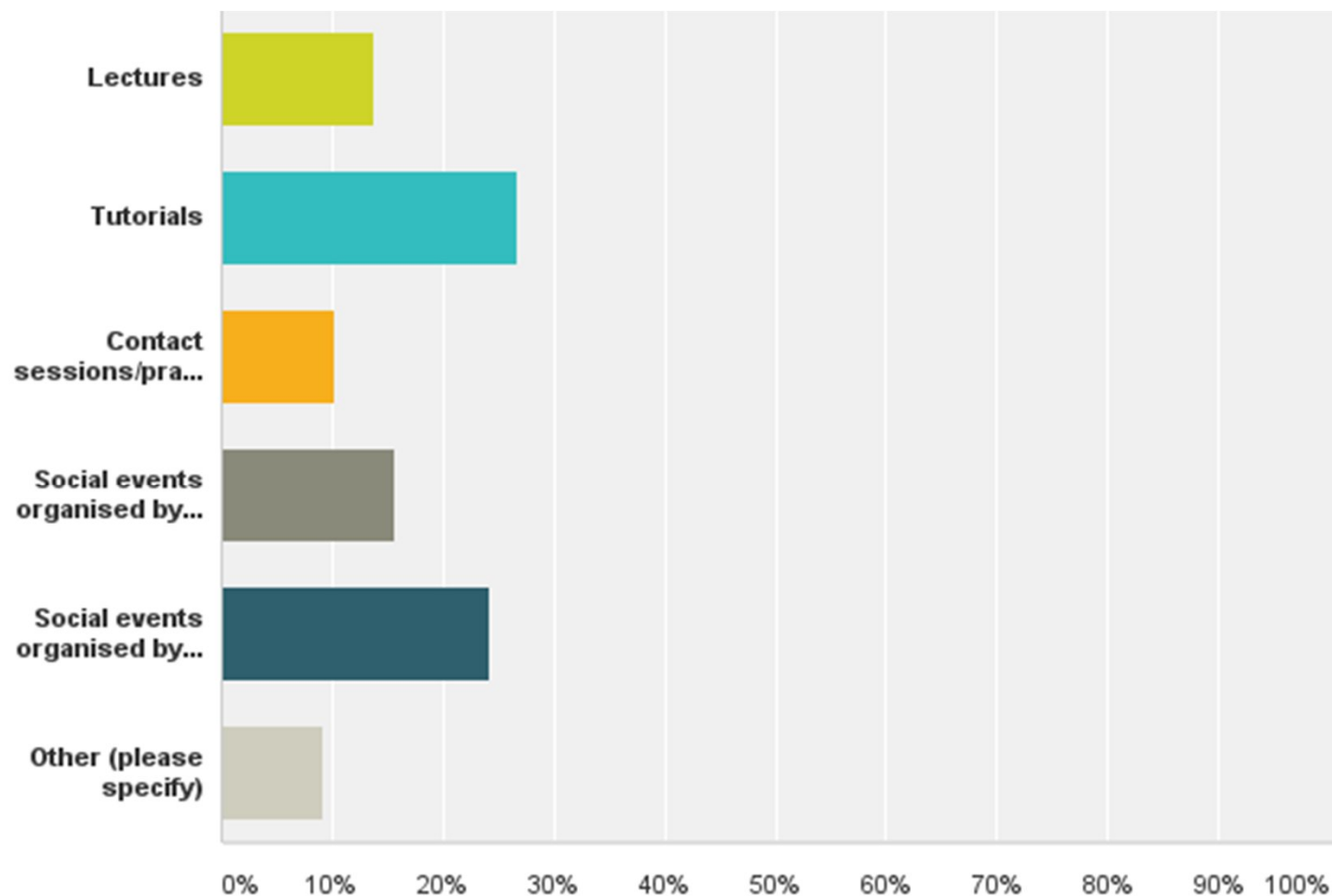
31. Have you ever confided in a domestic student?



32. Do you think domestic students are aware of the issues and problems faced by international students?

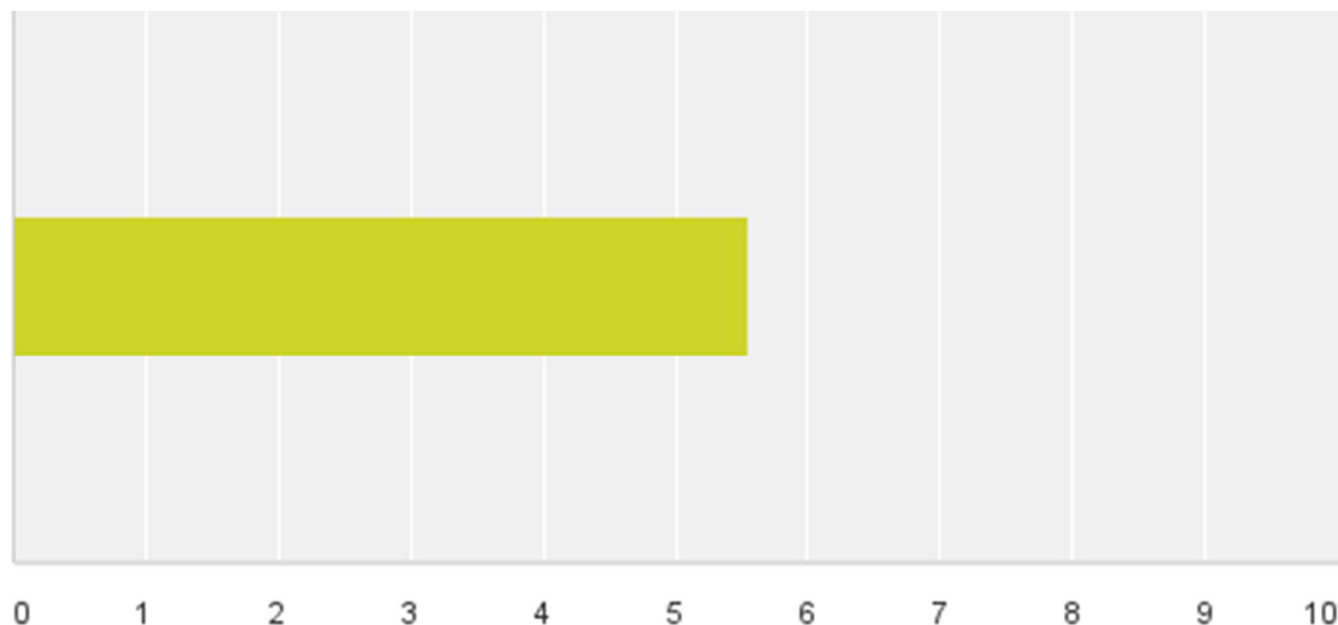


33. In which setting within your institution are you more likely to make friends with domestic students?

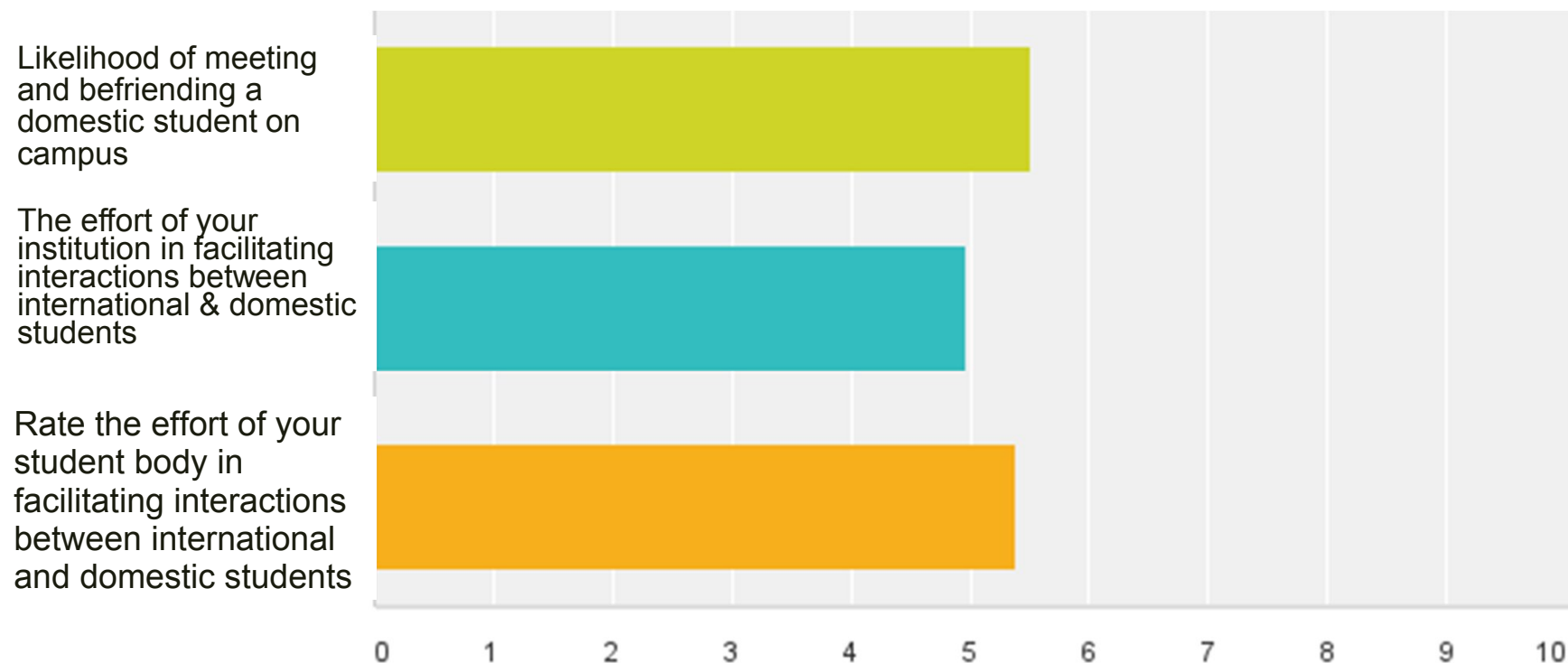


34. If your institution does have programs to create opportunities for international and domestic students to meet and socialise, please rate their success on a scale of 1-10 (1 being lowest and 10 being highest)

■ Weighted
Average:
5.55



35. Rate the following on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)



Recommendations

- Organic growth: Student-engineered vs. Institution directed
- Interaction within classroom: re-design of assessments
- Credit-based interaction design
- Stronger international student voice
- Global Outlook: Start from home
- Quality over quantity: student engagement
- Support beyond \$\$\$



Next Steps

- Policy paper to be published and directed to government and education providers
- Pilot projects in select partner education providers



Questions & Comments

