

ANNUAL GLOBAL STUDENT WELLBEING SURVEY **UK REPORT**



2025

Research
carried out by:

YouGov

Reported by:

Studiosity



Chapter 1: Generative AI and student wellbeing

Higher education worldwide is undergoing, or being forced to undergo, a period of tectonic change. This annual Student Wellbeing survey provides timely and pragmatic insights for sector leaders to celebrate unique strengths and acknowledge gaps, to ensure our critical social institutions of learning remain agile and responsive to providing the evolving capabilities required by graduates and communities.

Michael Larsen
Chief Executive Officer, Studiosity



Findings

64%

have used any AI tools to help with assignments or study tasks.

88% of international students report use of AI to help with study tasks compared with domestic students at 60%.

60%

have experienced stress whilst using AI tools as part of their studies.

Female students experience 6% higher amount of stress (63%) than their male counterparts (57%).

47%

of students think their university is adapting fast enough to provide AI study support tools.

This is up by 11% from last year, however this is after a year of global generative AI development and opportunity for institutions to adapt,

95%

of students have some level of confidence that they are learning as well as improving their own skills whilst using generative AI tools.

45% of male students say they are 'very' or 'extremely' confident compared to female students at 35%.

39%

of all students expect their university to give them access to generative AI tools to support their studies.

This increases by 12% for male students (51%), and by 19% for students studying business (58%). International students exceptions are 25% higher than domestic students.

69%

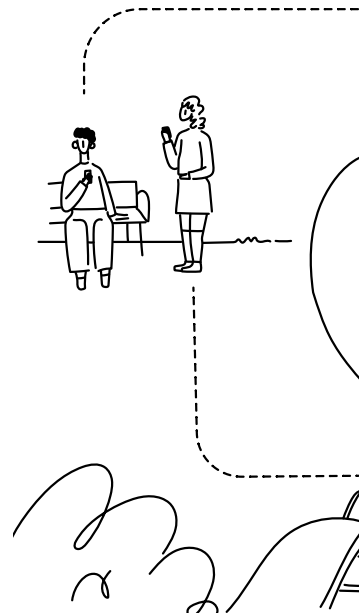
of students who feel like they belong in their university community have used AI tools

This compares with 29% who feel like they belong that have never used AI tools.

25%

of students said 'confidence' is the main reason for using university's AI support or feedback

This year 'confidence' (25%) overtook 'speed' (16%) as the main reason students want to use the university's AI service for support or feedback. Female respondents in particular at 29% compared to 20% for male students.



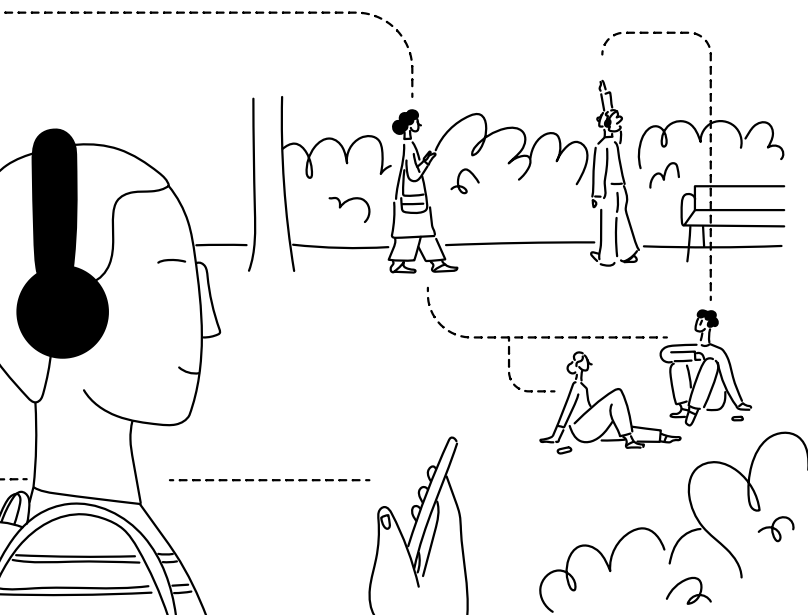


From YouGov®

The education sector has the greatest potential to change the world - students become future researchers, teachers, business owners, leaders, carers, and more, contributing to the rich societal fabric that the world needs. To protect and grow the education sector, listening and responding to the feedback, concerns, and recommendations of college students is a necessary challenge.

It is evident that students are navigating a changing academic terrain. Personalised support, a heightened sense of belonging, and rapid adaptation to AI supports are paramount .

This survey captures the voices of students, to support education leaders in their ongoing efforts to offer students an educational experience that aligns with both their study expectations and aspirations for the future.





From the CEO



Mike Larsen
CEO, Studiosity

To our partners in education:

Higher education in the United States - and across the globe - is in the midst of significant transformation, driven by technology, shifting student needs, and evolving societal expectations. This annual Student Wellbeing survey continues to provide learner-centric guidance for leaders and policymakers. It offers insights to celebrate the sector's strengths, address emerging gaps, and ensure that educational institutions remain adaptive, informed, and responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of today's students - including a positive education experience and the higher order thinking skills essential in this age of AI.

In partnership with the higher education sector, we remain steadfast in our core mission of increasing life chances for students, everywhere. We continue to prioritise student learning & wellbeing and are committed to supporting the sector in navigating the challenges and opportunities in the years ahead.

Michael Larsen
Chief Executive Officer, Studiosity

In the 2025 UK report:

47%

of students believe their university is adapting to AI fast enough. Significantly up from last year by 11%.

51%

are confident they will have a job within six months of graduation.

37%

are stressed daily or constantly.



From the Chief Academic Officer



Prof Judyth Sachs

CAO, Studiosity

Dear colleagues in education,

In any context, effective education involves asking questions - some technical, others practical while others are about meaning and purpose. Each requires different responses to achieve positive outcomes. . The challenge in the current context is understanding how we balance innovation with tradition? How do we ensure that AI enriches, rather than diminishes, the student experience? How do we reconcile the joy of learning with a societal responsibility for credentials?

What is clear, is that our focus must remain on continual investment in quality teaching and learning. This means that all students, regardless of background or performance level, are equipped to thrive in the world that is changing at rapid speed, with increasing levels of ambiguity and uncertainty. In this year's survey we see positive signs of this happening -

particularly trends around belonging and stress. We can also see a fractured student population and diverse expectations and experiences, reminding us that we have no choice but to be attentive to the experiences of all. To achieve this, more than ever before we need courageous leadership for decisive institutional change.

Whether it's enhancing accessibility, strengthening personalized learning, or improving peer connections, we are reminded that our commitment to student wellbeing must be unwavering and adaptive.

This year's report highlights key actions for driving forward our shared mission: to create an inclusive, engaging, and ethical learning environment that prepares students for success in the world ahead.

Professor Judyth Sachs

Chief Academic Officer, Studiosity

Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, Provost Macquarie University, Former Pro Vice Chancellor learning and teaching at Sydney University



Summary of findings

Have you used any AI tools to help with your assignments or study tasks?

64% of all students have used AI tools to help with their assignment or study tasks. However, singling out 18-25 year old students, their use at 70% is significantly higher than all other age categories combined at 55%. International students that have used AI tools for assignment or study (87%) is 27% higher than their domestic student counterparts (60%).

There is also a huge difference (21%) between female students who have said they have never used AI tools for study tasks at 42%, than their male counterparts at 21%. Looking at subject areas, only 17% of students studying business said they have never used, compared with 46% of those studying Humanities and Social Sciences.

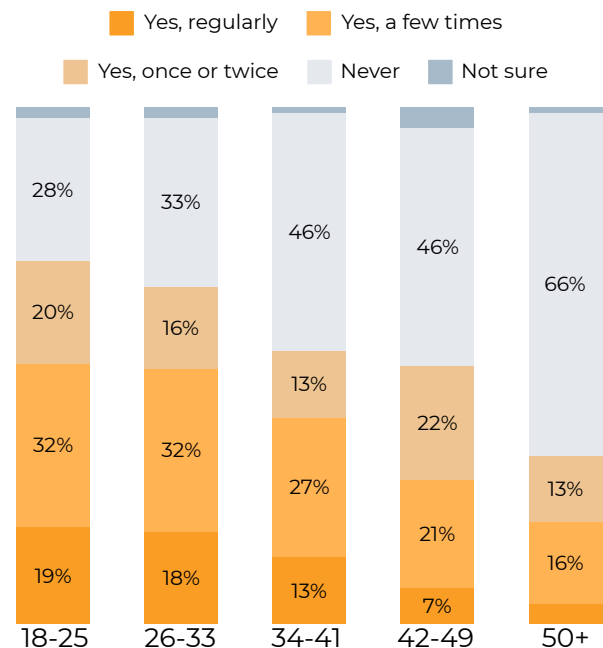
When asked, 78% of students from London have used AI tools to help with assignments or study tasks which is for more than any other region. At the other end of the scale, the highest percentage of students that have never used it are from the Wider UK - Scotland (44%).

39% students expect their university to provide the AI tools to support their studies.

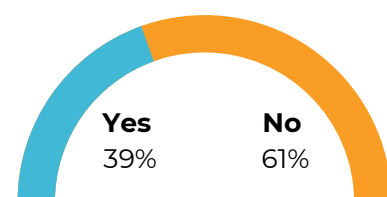
This was significantly higher for male students (51%, yes) and for international students (61%, Yes).

Students in business (58%), medicine (53%), nursing (48%) and STEM (46%) were more likely to respond 'Yes' over other subjects.

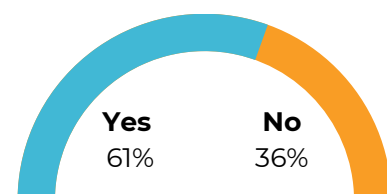
FREQUENCY OF AI USE BY AGE AMONGST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



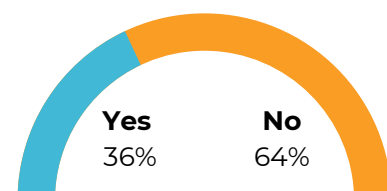
EXPECT MY UNIVERSITY TO OFFER AI SUPPORT TOOLS



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



DOMESTIC STUDENTS





Do you expect your university to give you access to generative AI (artificial intelligence) tools to support your studies?

YES

“Because AI can be of great help in many positive ways and not just doing ones work, such as self teaching something”

“It helps me structure my essays.”

“Because AI is here to stay so we need to learn how to use it well and responsibly. Having no experience of AI will put us at a disadvantage in the workplace.”

“To get quick access to answers and sources because it’s harder to contact a teacher when distant learning.”

“Because it make learning faster and less stressful for both the teachers and the learners.”

NO

“I don't think unis support its use because it helps students plagiarise and cheat.”

“This shouldn't be supported, but if students can find a way to use AI to aid them in a subtle way, then not much can be done. For example, I have used AI before to help to suggest arguments and points for an essay.”

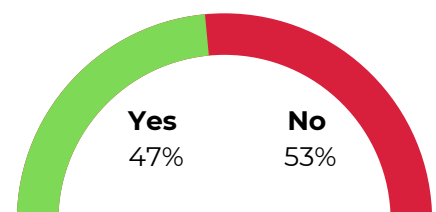
“I think AI beats the whole idea of a degree, but it can be used for grammar correction and general fluidity.”

“Because it would be unfair and result in the student not really learning or thinking for themselves.”

An increase of 11% from last year on students thinking that their university is adapting fast enough to provide AI study support tools.

After a year of global generative AI development and another year for institutions to adapt, despite being up from 2024 (36%), students that think their university is adapting fast enough are still slightly in the minority this year at 47%. The remaining 53% of student respondents believe there is more to be done.

UNIVERSITY ADAPTING FAST ENOUGH TO INCLUDE AI SUPPORT TOOLS FOR STUDY

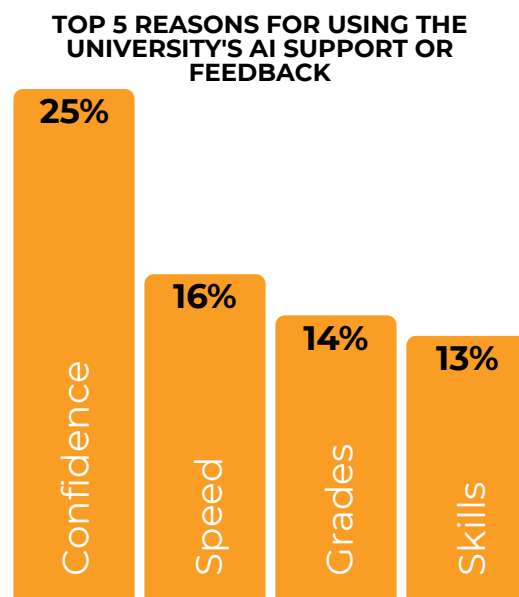




This year, “Confidence” (25%) overtook “Speed” (16%) as the main reason for wanting to use the university’s own, provided AI service for feedback.

Confidence was the most popular main reason, but female respondents were significantly higher at 29% than males at 20%. Males (19%) were more likely to value speed of feedback than female respondents (14%) were. ‘Grades’ was also valued higher by males at 16% vs 12% for females.

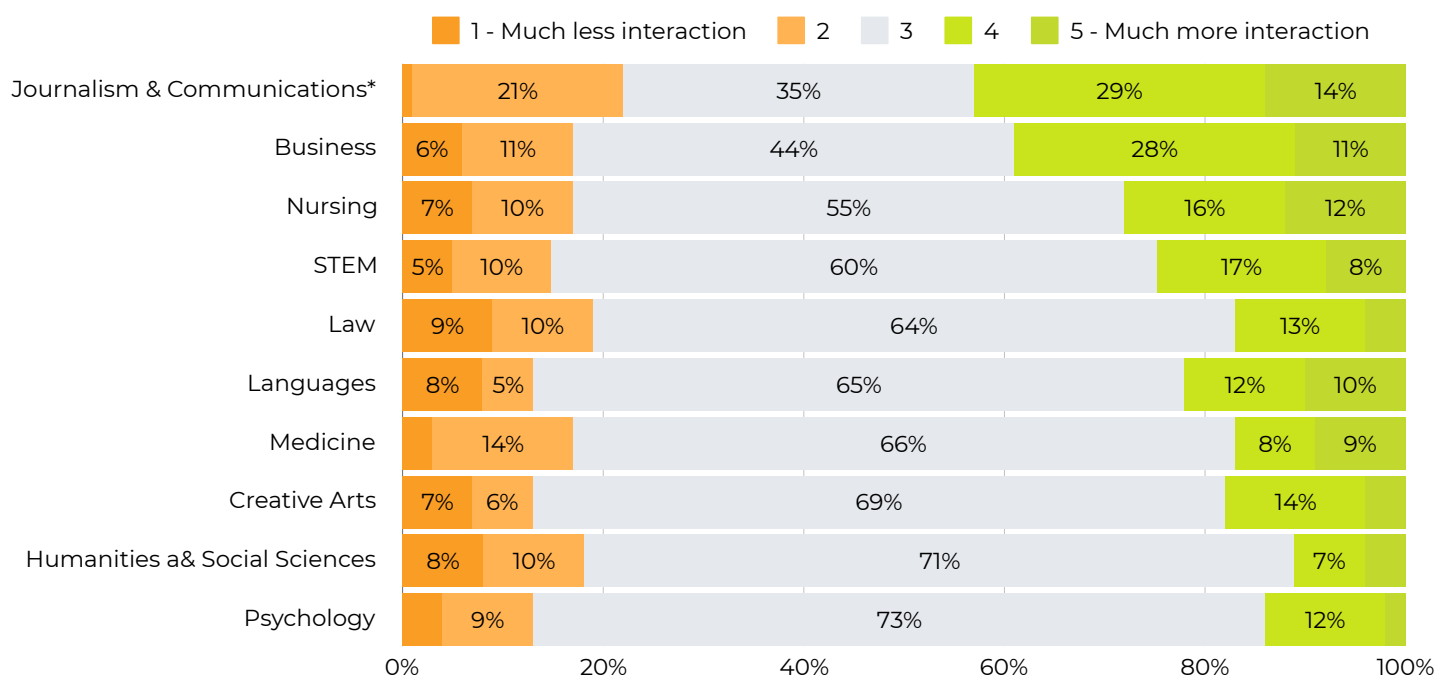
International students valued ‘Skills - learn to use AI tools’ the most at 20%, significantly higher than domestic students at 11%.



Impact of AI on peer and teacher interaction

Overall, students are not sure if generative AI use has impacted peer and teacher interaction levels, with a large group of students staying neutral (63% neither less nor more). Interestingly, whilst male and female students had the same response for “Less” interaction (16%), male students were significantly higher for “More” interaction at 31%, compared with female students at 15%.

Journalism and Communications saw the overall highest impact - with more net “More” responses from students sharing that AI had increased interaction with peers and teachers.



*n=45



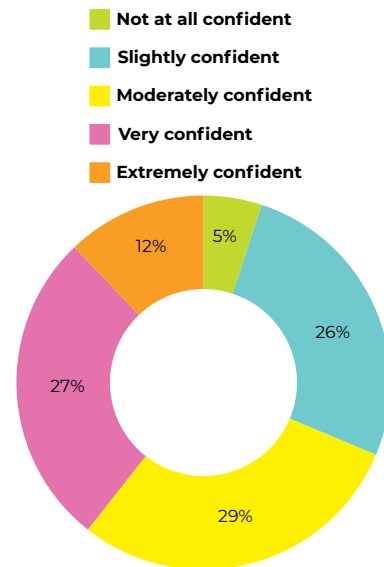
How confident are you that you are learning as well as improving your own skills while using generative AI tools?

The overwhelming majority of UK students who were surveyed said they are confident that they are learning as well as improving their own skills when using generative tools, as only 5% of all students said they were 'Not at all confident'.

26% said they were 'Slightly confident', 29% 'Moderately confident', 27% 'Very confident' and 12% 'Extremely confident'.

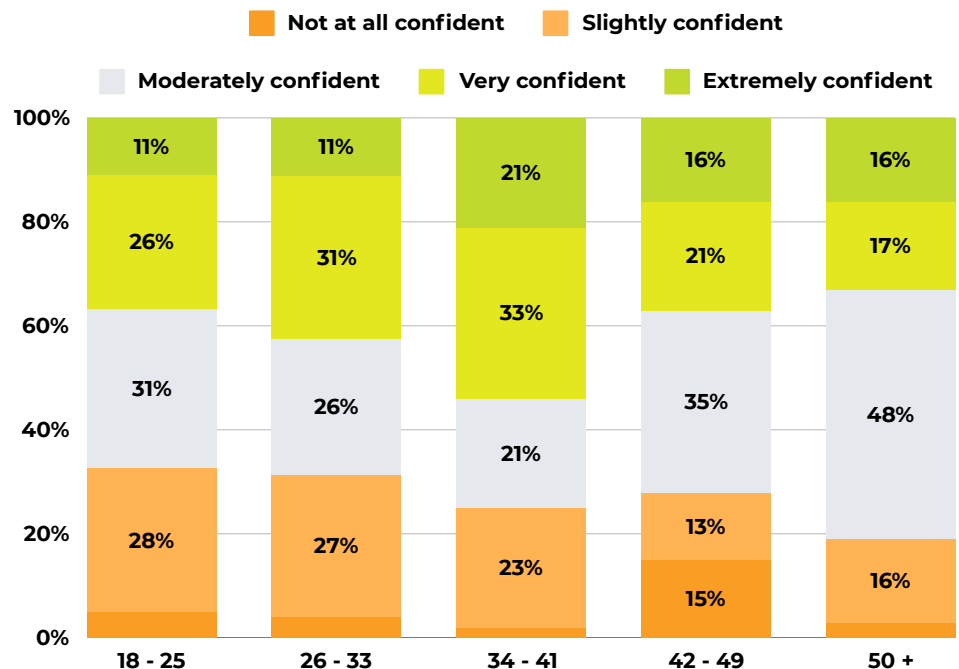
A significantly higher percentage of male students said they were 'Very confident' (31%) compared with female students (24%).

Interestingly students aged 34-41 report the most amount of confidence 'Extremely' at 21%, compared to 18-25 year olds at just 11%.



CONCERN ABOUT COGNITIVE OFFLOADING, BY AGE.

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOU ARE LEARNING AS WELL AS IMPROVING YOUR OWN SKILLS WHILE USING GENERATIVE AI TOOLS?



"I expect the university to teach me the skills instead of AI"

- Student aged 18 - 25



Higher belonging and higher use of AI for study help.

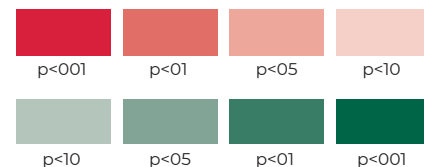
Correlation can be examined between students' sense of belonging in their university community, and the amount they use AI tools to help with assignments or study tasks.

For students that feel like they belong, 67% said they have used AI tools to help with assignments or study tasks, compared with 32% that have never used AI tools. Conversely, for students that do not feel like they belong the picture is more balanced, 47% of students have used AI tools, compared with 49% who have never used them.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE AI TOOLS FOR STUDY HELP?

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU 'BELONG' IN YOUR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY? →

	Not much at all	Not much	Neutral	Somewhat	Very much	Net: Likely to feel like they belong	Net: Unlikely to feel like they belong	All
Yes, regularly	14%	12%	13%	14%	27%	17%	13%	16%
Yes, a few times	11%	21%	27%	33%	33%	32%	17%	30%
Yes, once or twice	18%	17%	20%	18%	15%	18%	17%	18%
Never	53%	47%	37%	33%	23%	32%	49%	34%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%



Half of all students who use AI tools regularly to help with assignments or study tasks are more likely to rank Fear of failing among their top 3 stressors

61% of UK students ranked 'Fear of failing' in their top 3 reasons for feeling stressed about studying. Time related reasons follow this with 52% 'balancing other commitments' and 41% for preparing for exams and assessments.

When comparing this data with students that use AI tools to help with assignments or study tasks, fear of failing is still the highest ranked study stress. However, the amount whilst high, significantly decreases with more use: Students that state their AI tools use as 'Never' 69%; 'Yes, once or twice' 62%, 'Yes, a few times' 58% and 'Yes, regularly' 50%.





Stress experienced by students while using AI tools as part of studies

For all areas of study, 60% of all students report some level of stress about using AI as part of their higher education workload.

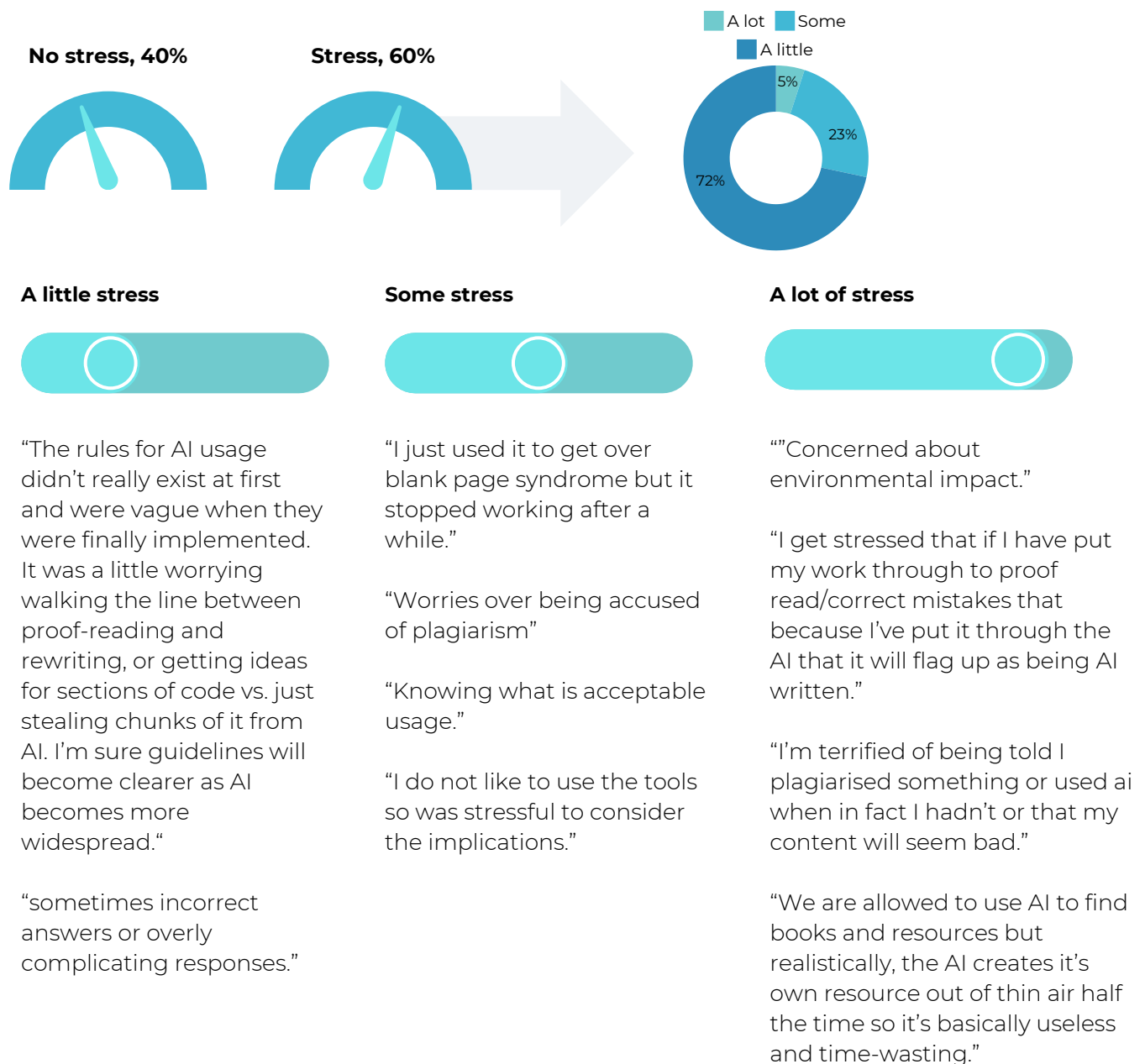
For passing students, the higher the grade, the less stress about using AI as part of completing a degree. But even 53% of the highest-performing respondents feel stressed about it.

For 'Pass' students, 66% reported feeling some level of stress.

For 'High Distinction', this falls to 53% who feel any amount AI-related stress.

Female students report more stress (63%) than male respondents (57%).

Students studying Psychology were the most stressed overall about using AI as part of their study workload - only 31% report 'no stress' at all, compared to 52% of Creative Arts students.





Survey background

YouGov

YouGov is a global public opinion and data company, international market research and data analytics firm headquartered in the UK with operations in Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Asia-Pacific.

Studiosity

Studiosity's AI-for-Learning is a critical component of the modern university, ensuring all students can engage in ethical generative AI to receive feedback, for successful, credible, graduate outcomes with visible learning outcomes for teachers. Universities around the world partner with Studiosity to grow student success at scale, via 24/7 formative writing feedback, discussion about core skills, and peer-to-peer connection.

Studiosity has run Student Wellbeing Surveys with UK university students since 2019. In October 2024, YouGov was commissioned by Studiosity to conduct a global wave of this research.



Objectives and methodology

Objectives

The survey investigates students' own responses to key areas of their wellbeing during study. This annual survey seeks to better understand and discuss the motivations, emotions, and demands of university students, to provide the data and findings to higher education leadership, to support initiatives and solutions. This year, the survey focused on topics such as experiences of artificial intelligence, connection to other students, stress, importance of grades, experiences of cheating, optimism for the future, and institutional belonging.

Methodology

Sample & Target Group:

Studiosity produced the questions for this survey with advice from YouGov to ensure robust data collection. YouGov gathered the responses from students in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates via an online survey.

The survey was conducted by the YouGov analysis institute. The survey ran from 15th November to 12th December 2024 and gained 10,224 responses, with 2,291 from students in the UK (slightly lower than the UK sample size of 2,422 in 2023).

This survey was collected on the YouGov and partner panels, where each member has accepted to participate in online interviews and has received an E-mail invitation with a link to the survey. The sample definition is created in order to provide a representative cross-section of the UK population, based on the target group and the purpose of the survey.



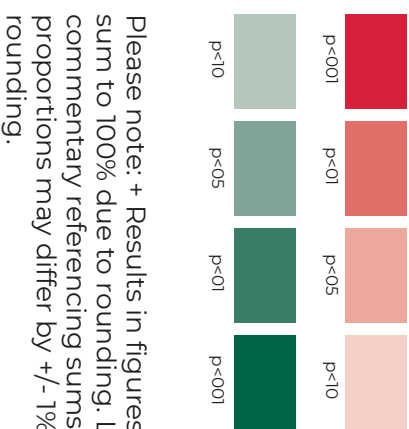
Weighting

The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults aged 18+. Data was weighted according to the dimensions of gender, level of university studies finished, and geography based on an ideal weighting from the various statistic institutions of each country. This ensures the results are representative of each of the countries' population in relation to the aforementioned target group.

to determine statistically significant differences in results, either within a question or between sub-groups of interest (see the sample profile section for the sub-groups analysed).

Only differences that are statistically significant are noted in the commentary and are identified with arrows as follows:

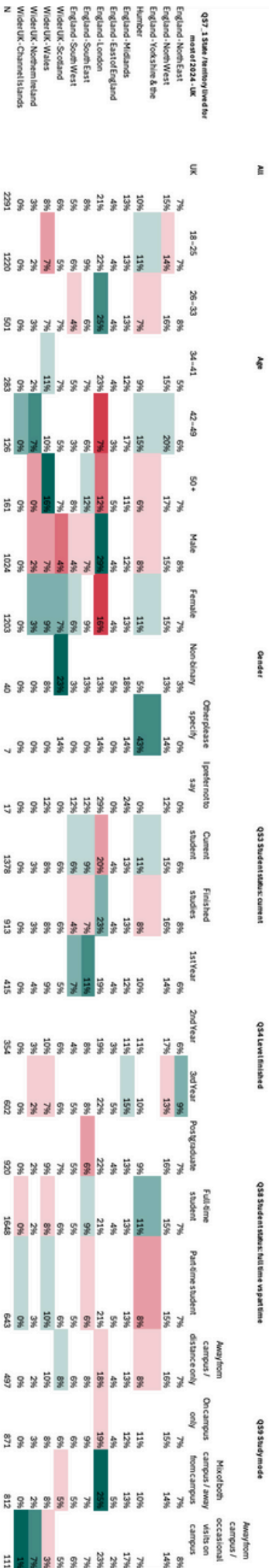
▲ denotes figure is significantly higher or lower than total



Please note: + Results in figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Likewise, commentary referencing sums of figure proportions may differ by +/- 1% due to rounding.

Notes on how to read this report
Tests for statistical significance at a 95% confidence interval have been conducted

In tables, the cells are coloured based on their difference from the column marginal value (row average) if the difference is statistically significant.



Q37: 1. How many people do you know who use generative AI?

Q38: 2. How often do you use generative AI?

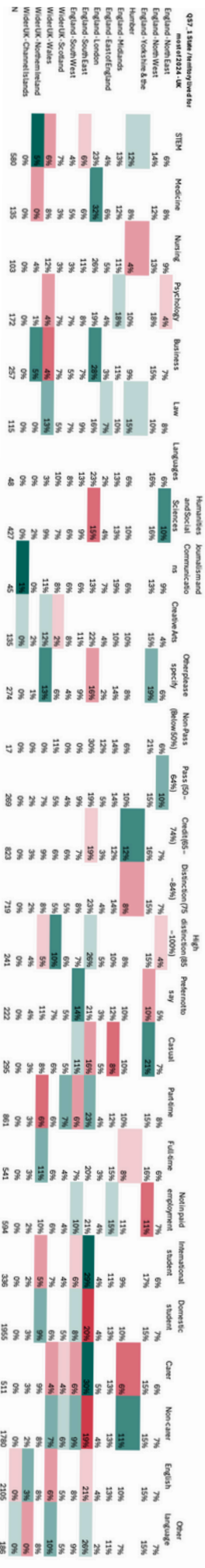
Q39: 3. How often do you use generative AI?

Q40: 4. How often do you use generative AI?

Q41: 5. How often do you use generative AI?

Q42: 6. How often do you use generative AI?

Q43: 7. How often do you use generative AI?



Q37: 1. How many people do you know who use generative AI?

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Q39: 3. How often do you use generative AI?

Q40: 4. How often do you use generative AI?

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Q43: 7. How often do you use generative AI?



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For other chapters and countries, visit:
studiosity.com/surveys-and-evidence

**Other chapters and data in the 2025
Global Student Wellbeing Survey:**

Stress
Student Experience
Peer Connection
Generative AI
Employability

Other reports:

Australia
Canada
Global
New Zealand
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
United Arab Emirates
USA

