

International students in Atlantic Canada: A survey of their lived experience

**Ather H. Akbari
(in collaboration with IRCC and Group ATN)**



**Sobey School
of Business**
Saint Mary's University

This survey has received clearance from Saint Mary's University Research Ethics Board (SMU REB)

- The SMU REB reviews and provides clearance for [research](#) involving *human participants* under the jurisdiction of Saint Mary's University and [NSCAD University](#) as well as serves as the appeals Board for [Mount Saint Vincent University](#); as determined by the federal [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, \(TCPS 2, 2022\)](#).



**Sobey School
of Business**

Saint Mary's University

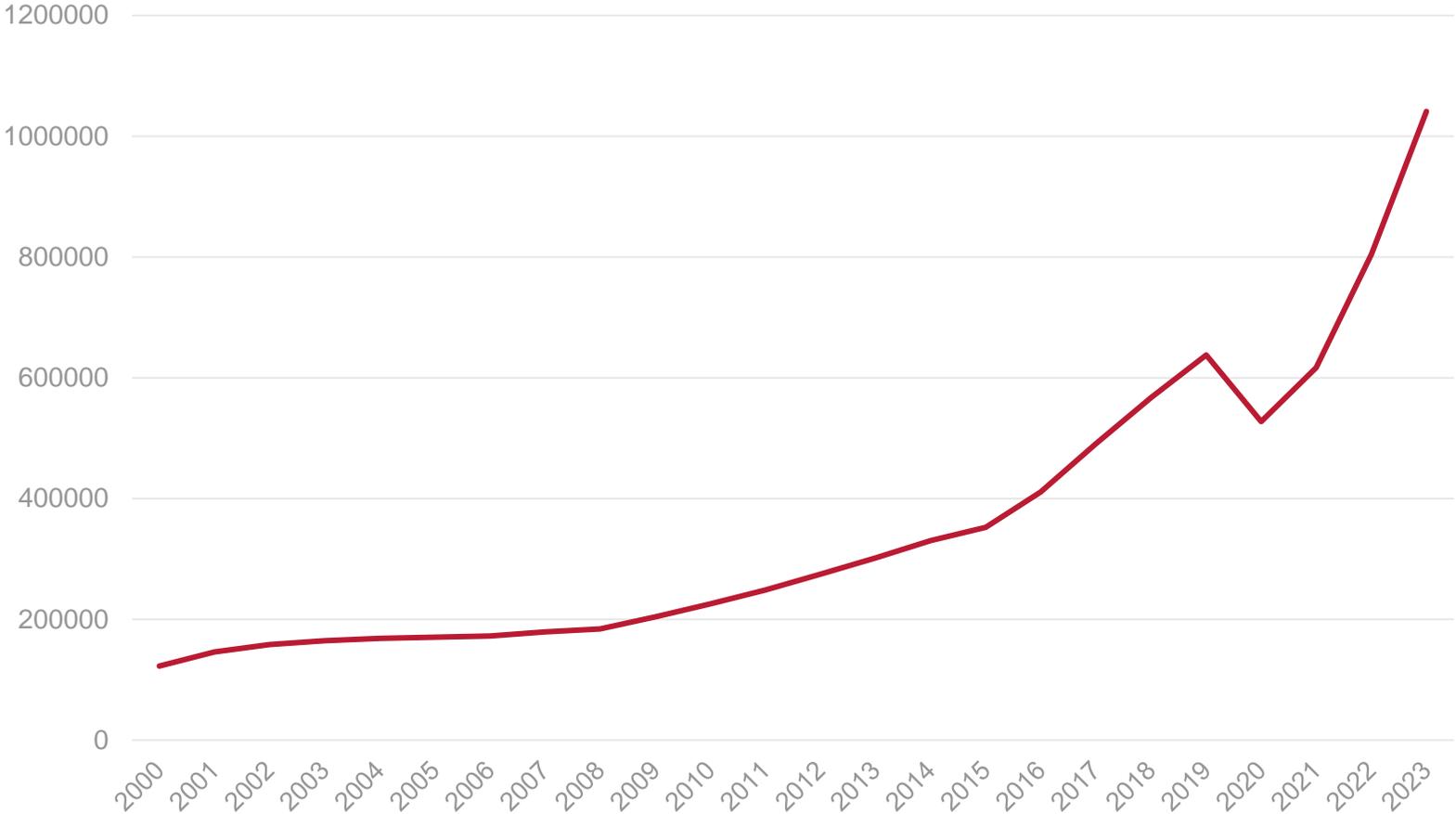
Supporting partners:

- Group ATN (consultation, development of the survey and technical support)
- Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (survey distribution to target population)
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (financial support)

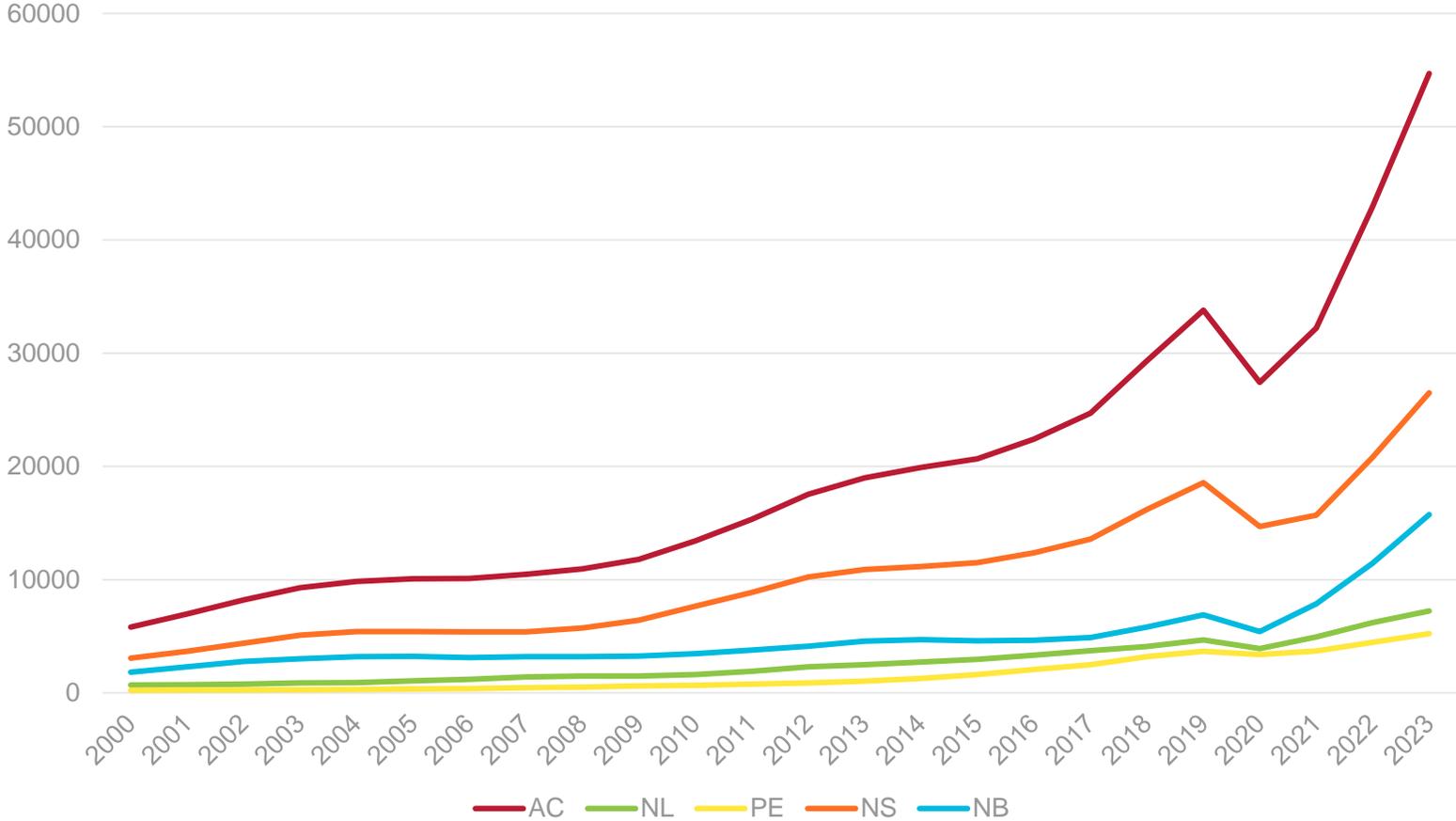
Project steering committee

- Ather H. Akbari –Committee Chair (Saint Mary's University)
- Stephen Coyle – Group ATN
- Peter Halpin – Association of Atlantic Universities
- Lisa O'Connell – Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
- Sarah McRae – Government of New Brunswick
- Lauren Cullen – Saint Mary's University
- Jennifer Porter – Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Jerry Wang – University of Prince Edward Island

Study permit holders on December 31, Canada



Study permit holders on December 31, Atlantic Canada

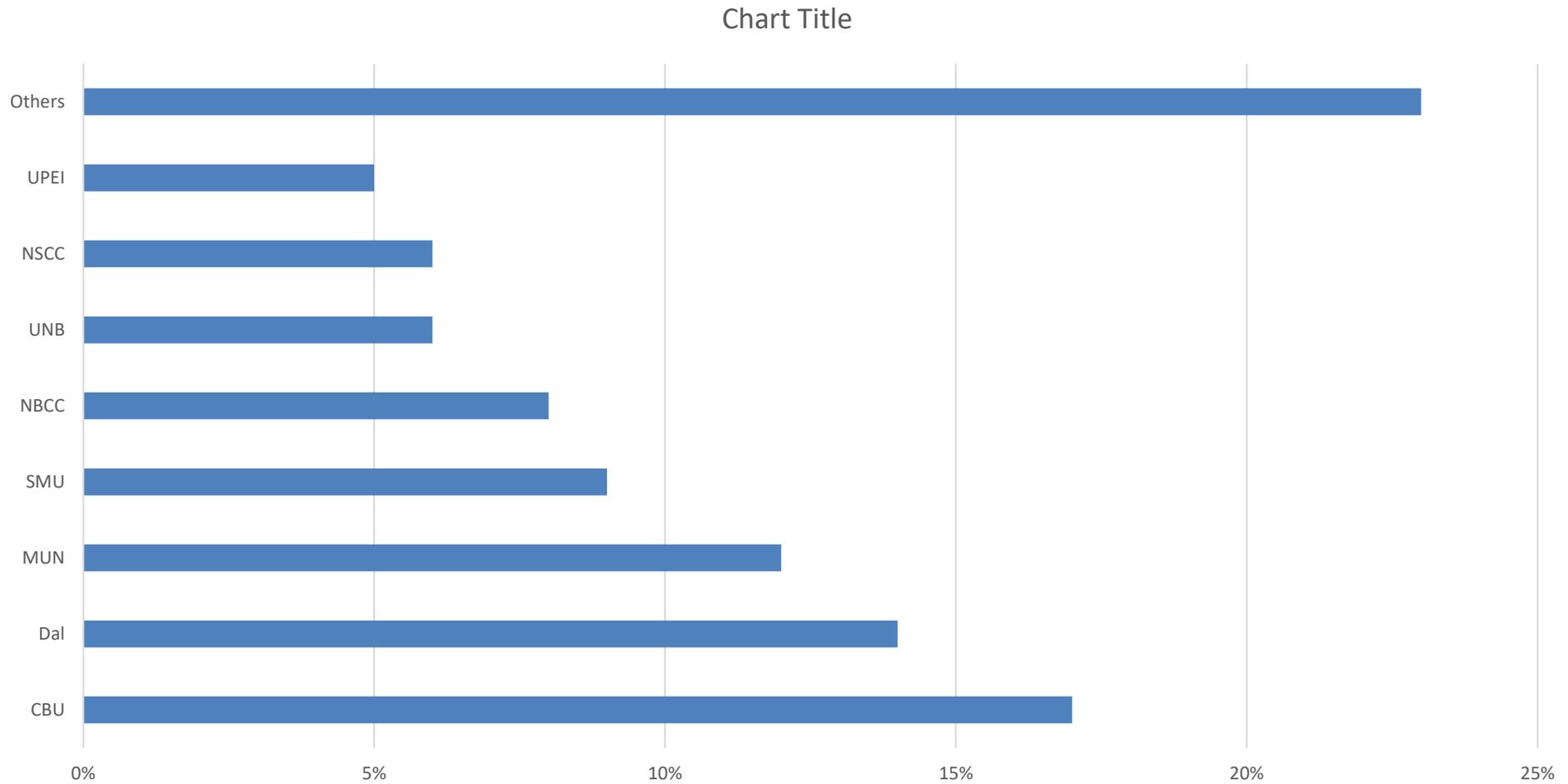


Selected characteristics of international students entering Atlantic Canada (2017-2023)

	Population		Selected Sample		Diff2 (Population - Selected Sample)
	N= 68,825	%	N= 40,947	%	% pts
New Brunswick	17470	25.38%	10172	24.84%	0.542
Newfoundland and Labrador	10005	14.54%	6095	14.89%	0.347
Nova Scotia	35980	52.28%	21508	52.53%	0.248
Prince Edward Island	5370	7.80%	3172	7.75%	0.053
Female	29200	42.43%	17300	42.25%	0.178
Male	39625	57.57%	23647	57.75%	0.178
18-24	25975	37.74%	15272	37.30%	0.445
25-34	34240	49.75%	20491	50.04%	0.297
35+	8610	12.51%	5184	12.66%	0.148
French speaking	9560	13.89%	5740	14.02%	0.131
Non-French speaking	59270	86.11%	35207	85.98%	0.131
Cameroon, Federal Republic of	1170	1.70%	689	1.68%	0.014
Algeria	1070	1.56%	645	1.58%	0.018
Nigeria	4845	7.04%	2930	7.16%	0.119
Iran	1580	2.30%	976	2.38%	0.085
India	18230	26.49%	11255	27.49%	1.000
China, People's Republic of	10620	15.43%	5832	14.24%	1.189
Bahama Islands, The	1435	2.08%	874	2.13%	0.049
Bangladesh	2915	4.23%	1832	4.47%	0.240
Other	26960	39.17%	15914	38.86%	0.308
	68825				



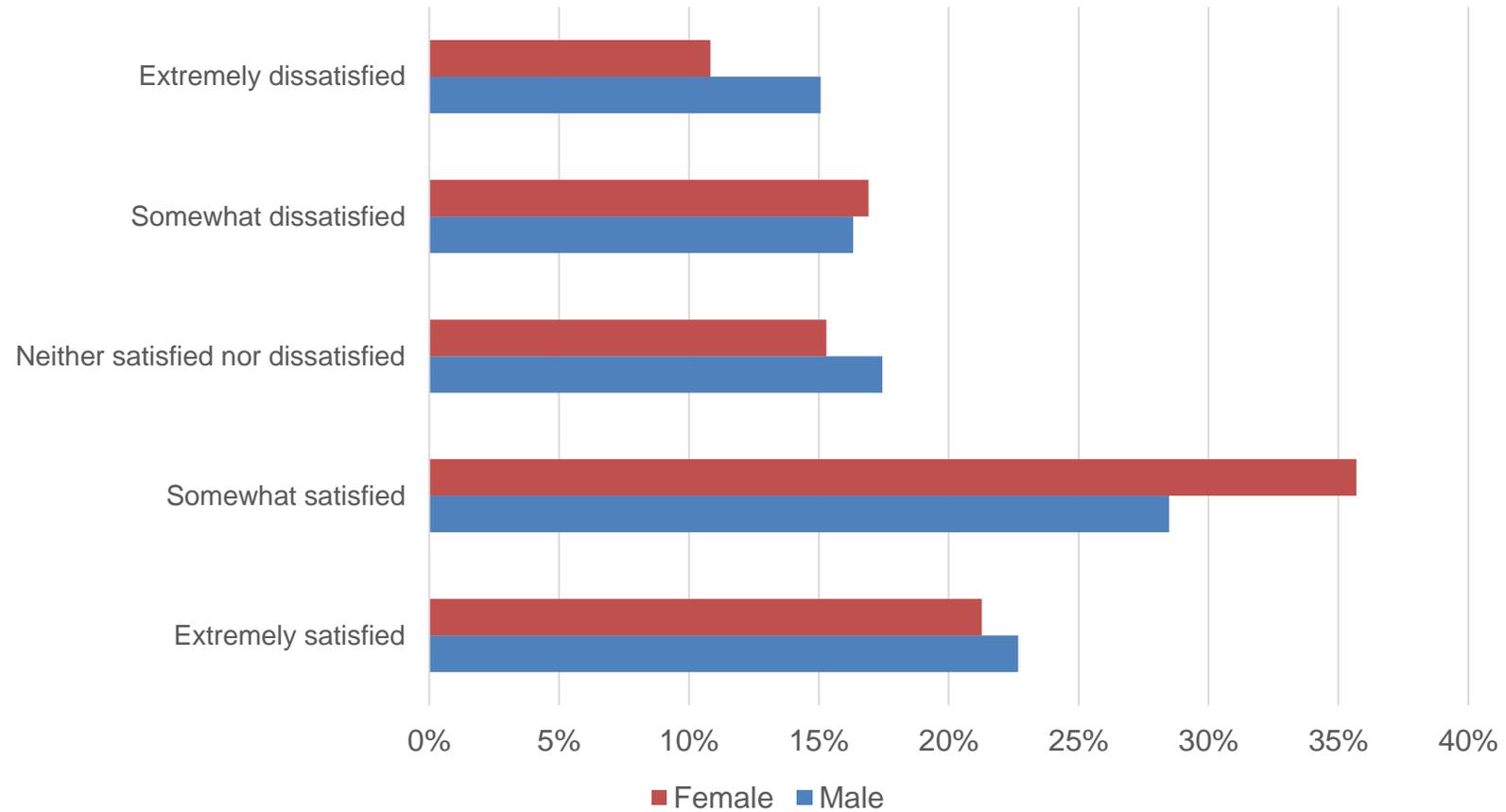
Response rate by institution (%)



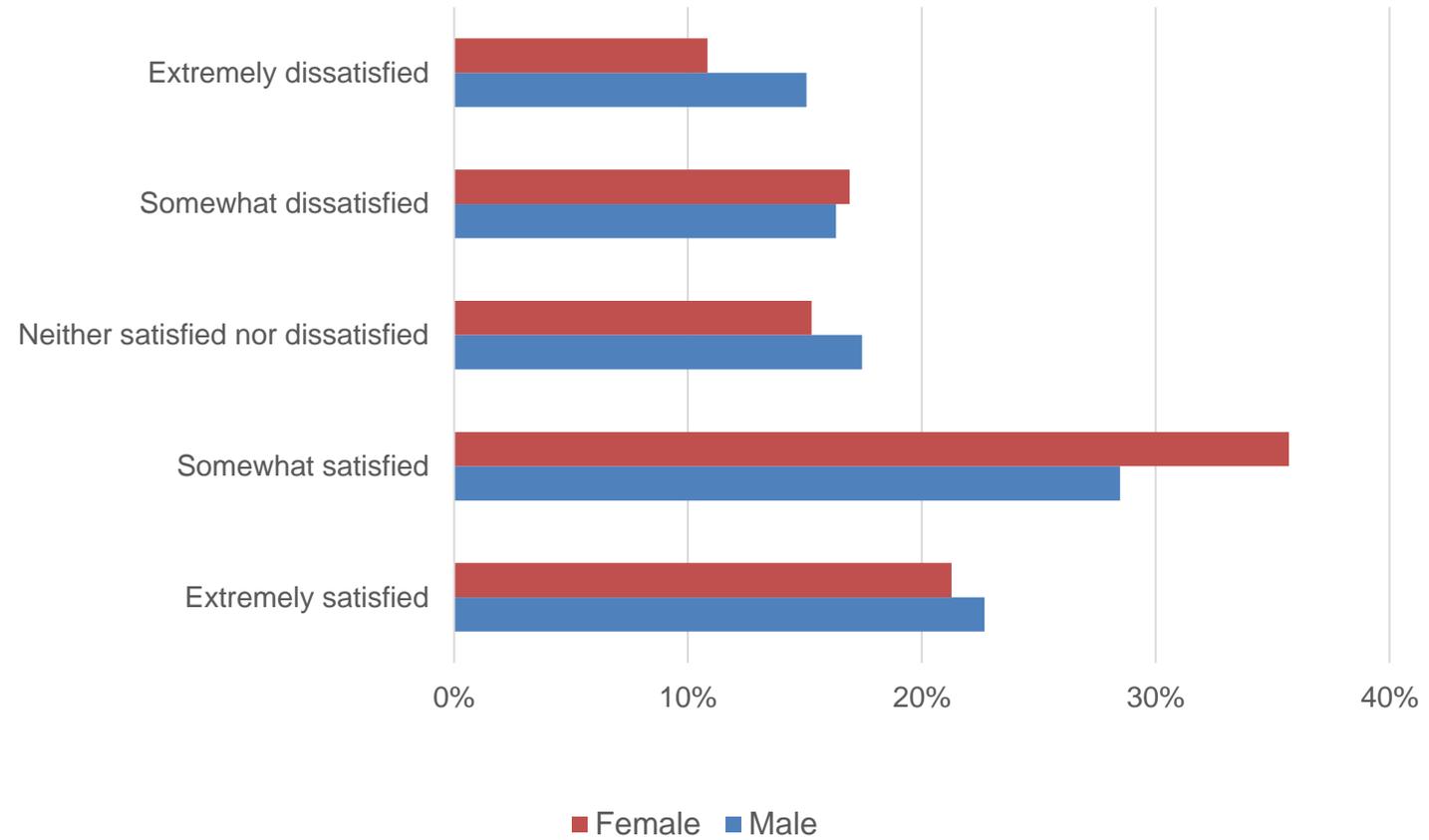
Statistic for testing the significance of value

$$Z = (X_i - \bar{X}) / \text{Std. Dev}$$

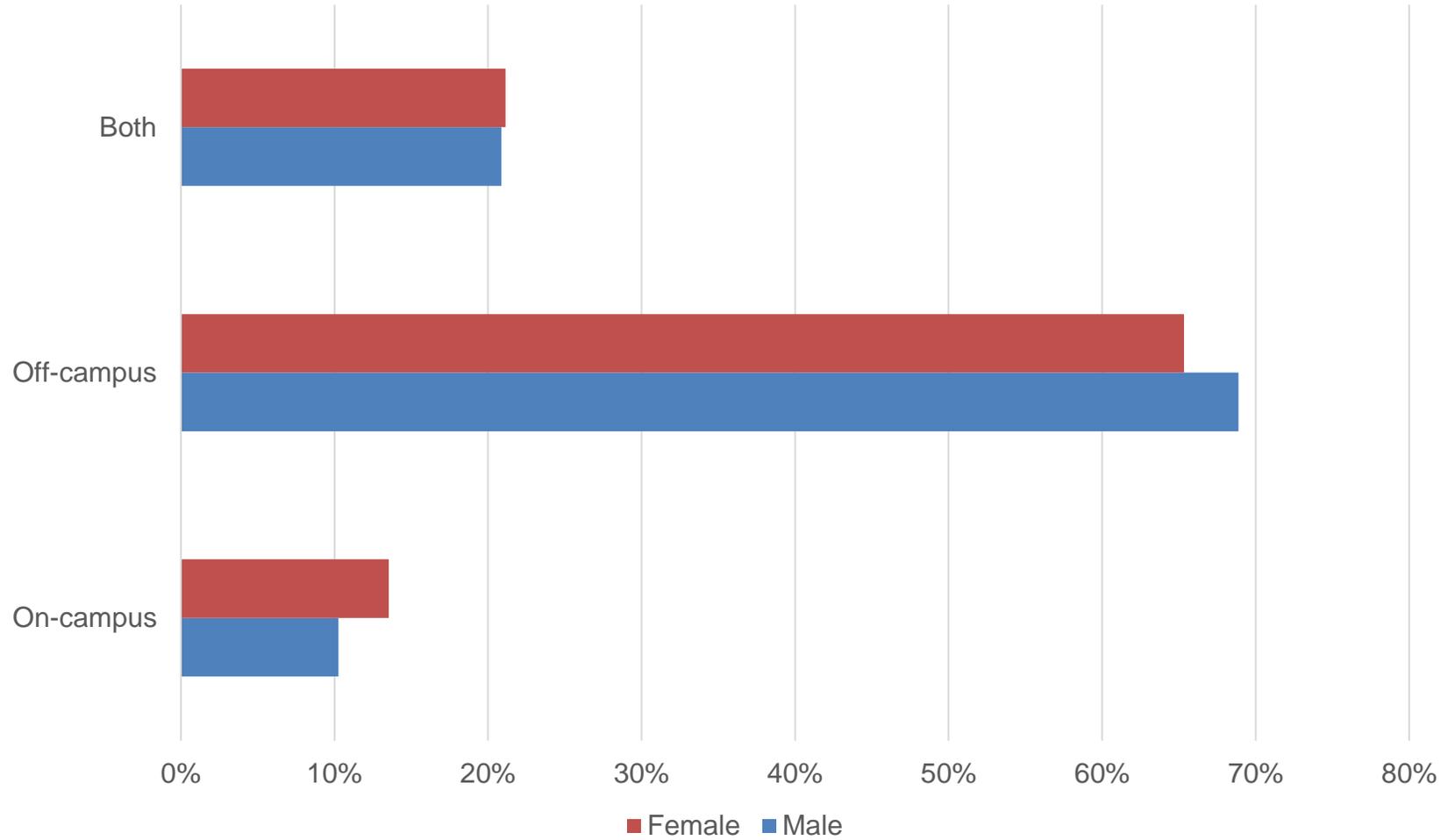
Accommodation experience



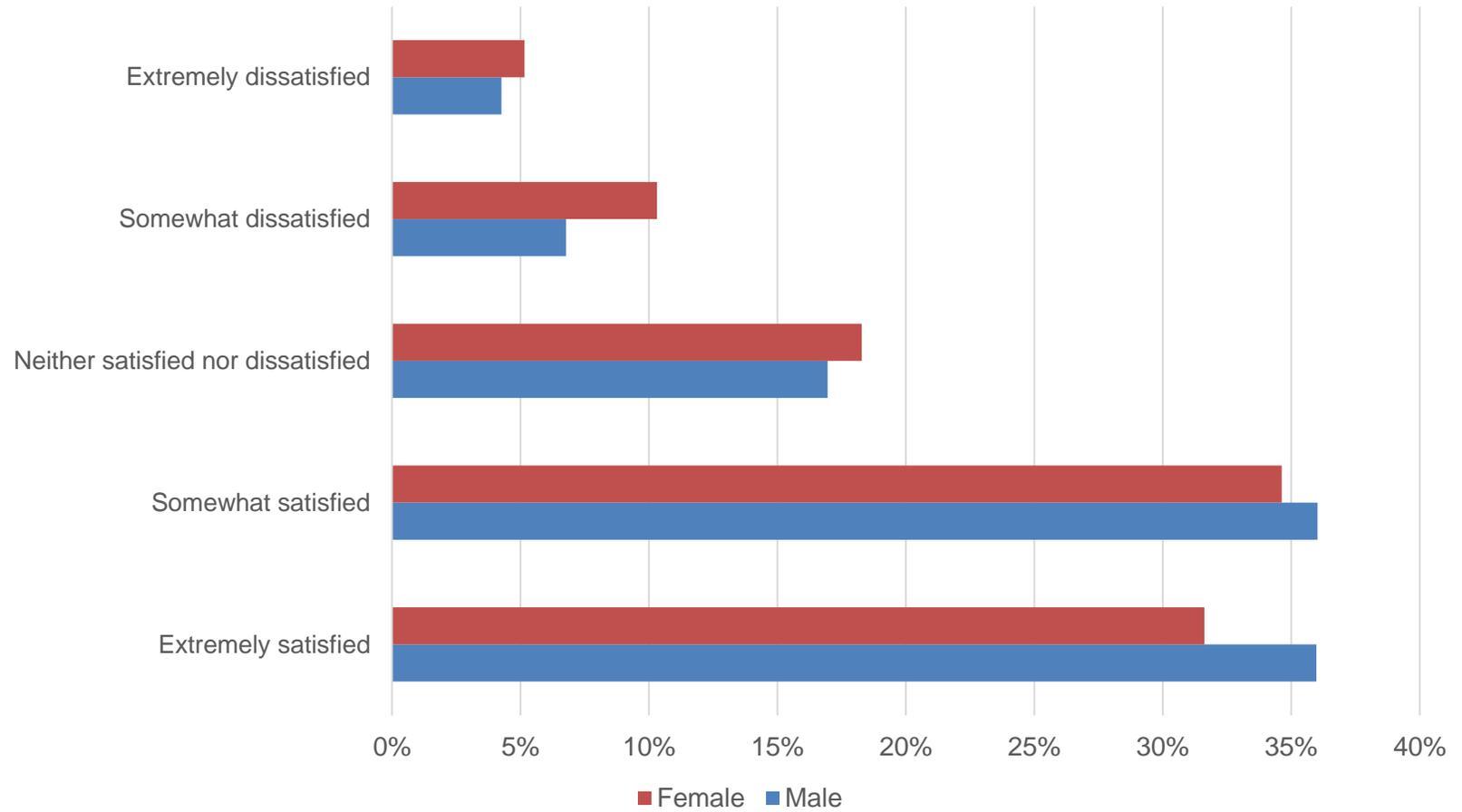
Choice of school



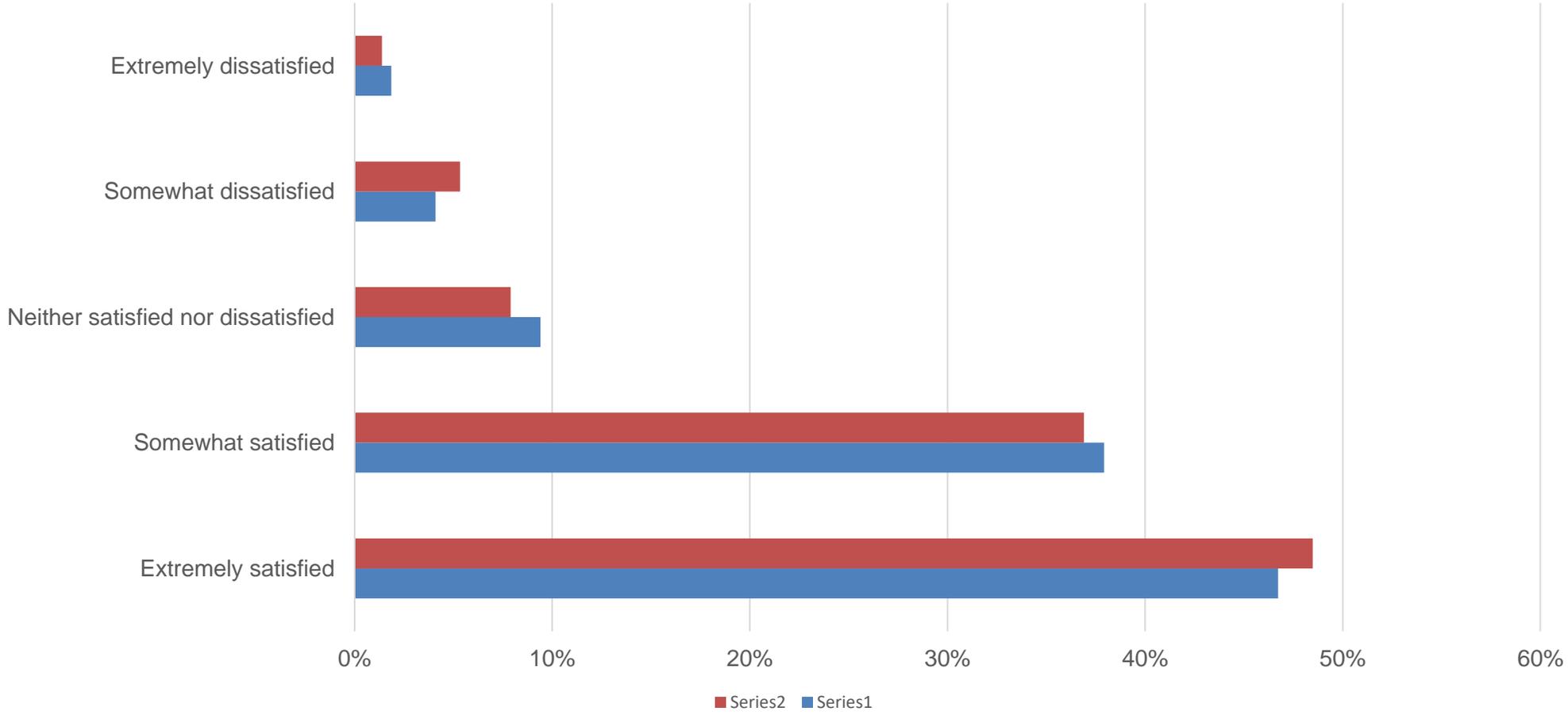
Choice of residence



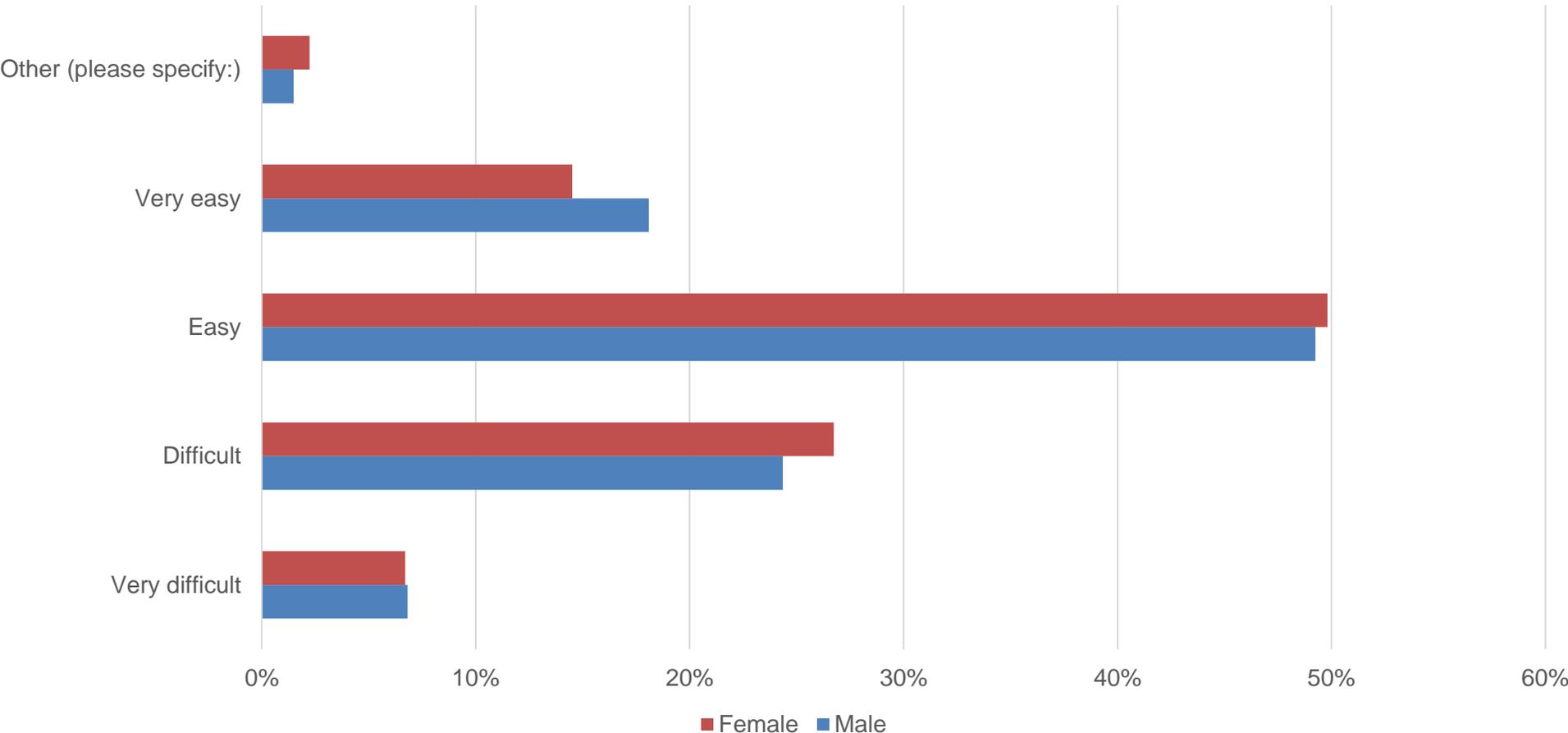
Interaction with domestic students



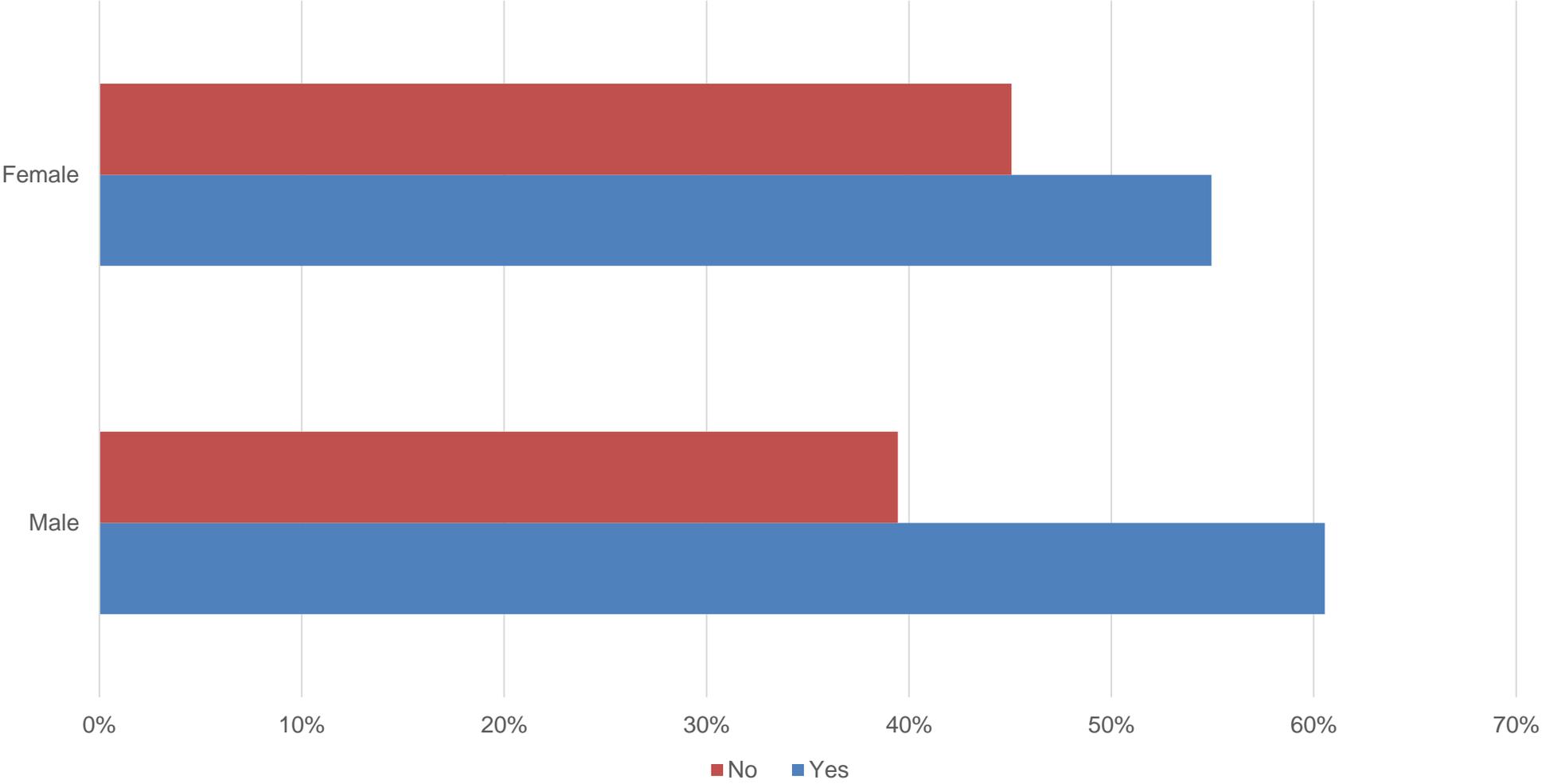
Interaction with faculty and staff



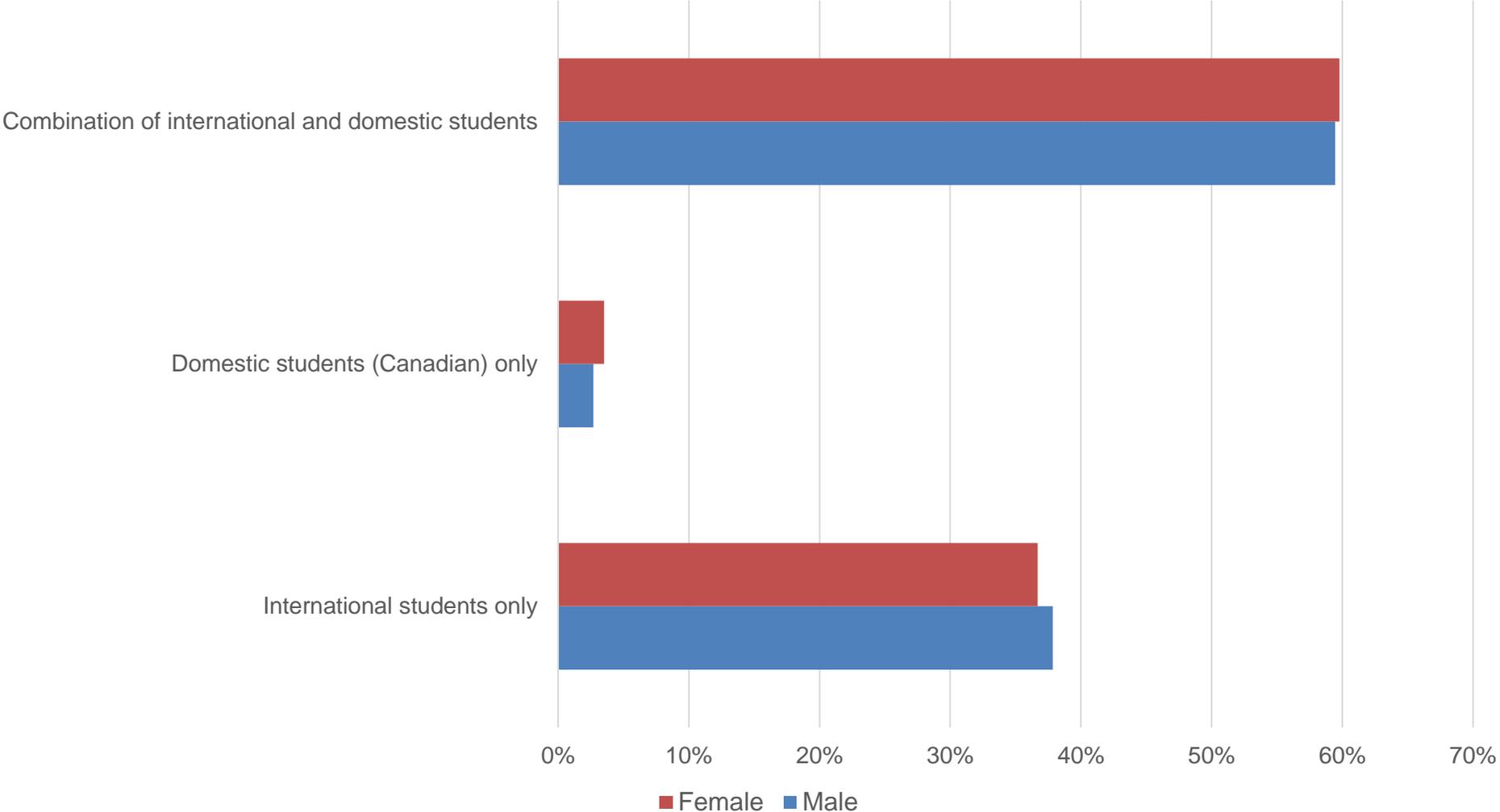
Making friends with other students while studying



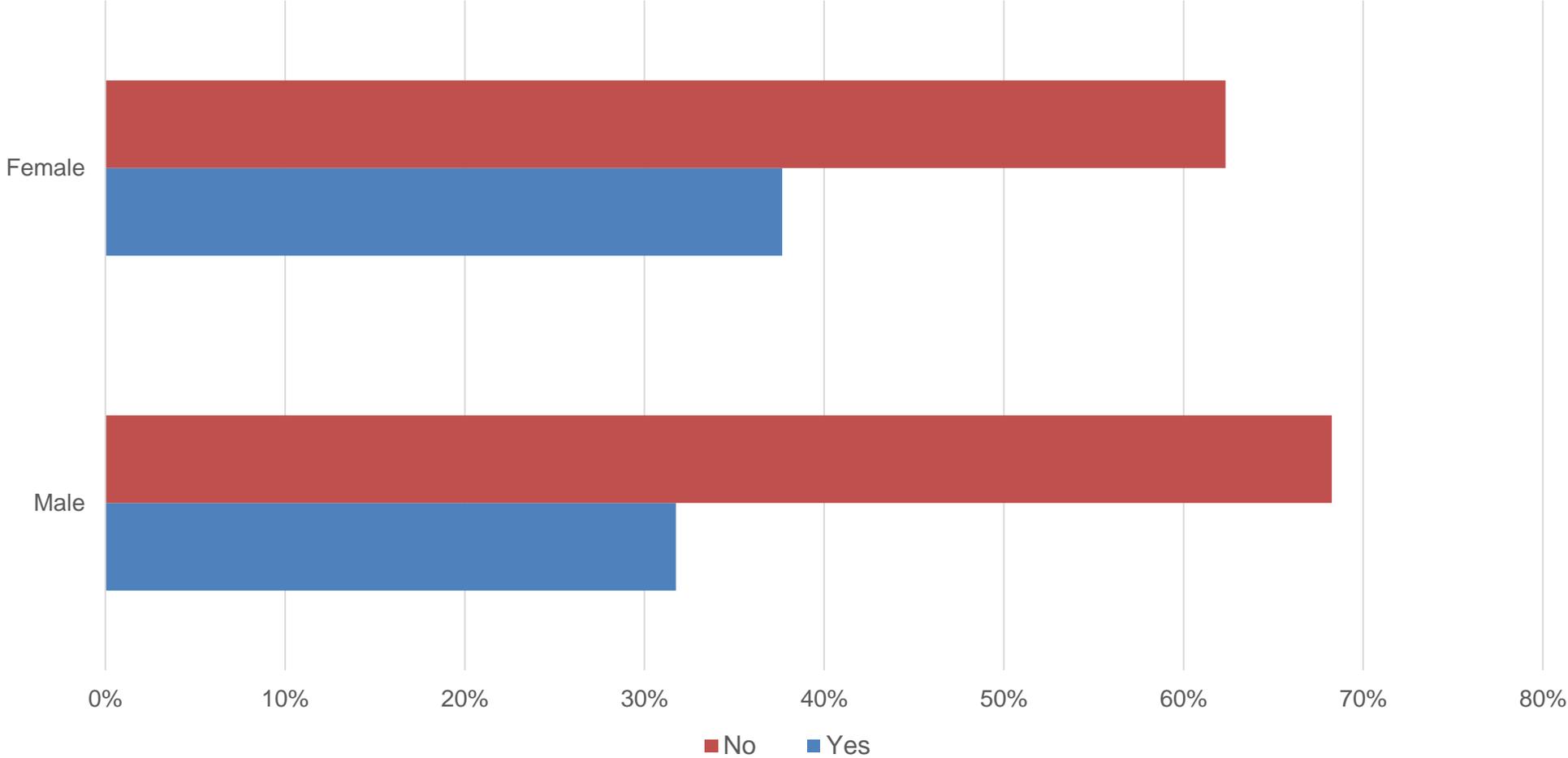
Part of study group?



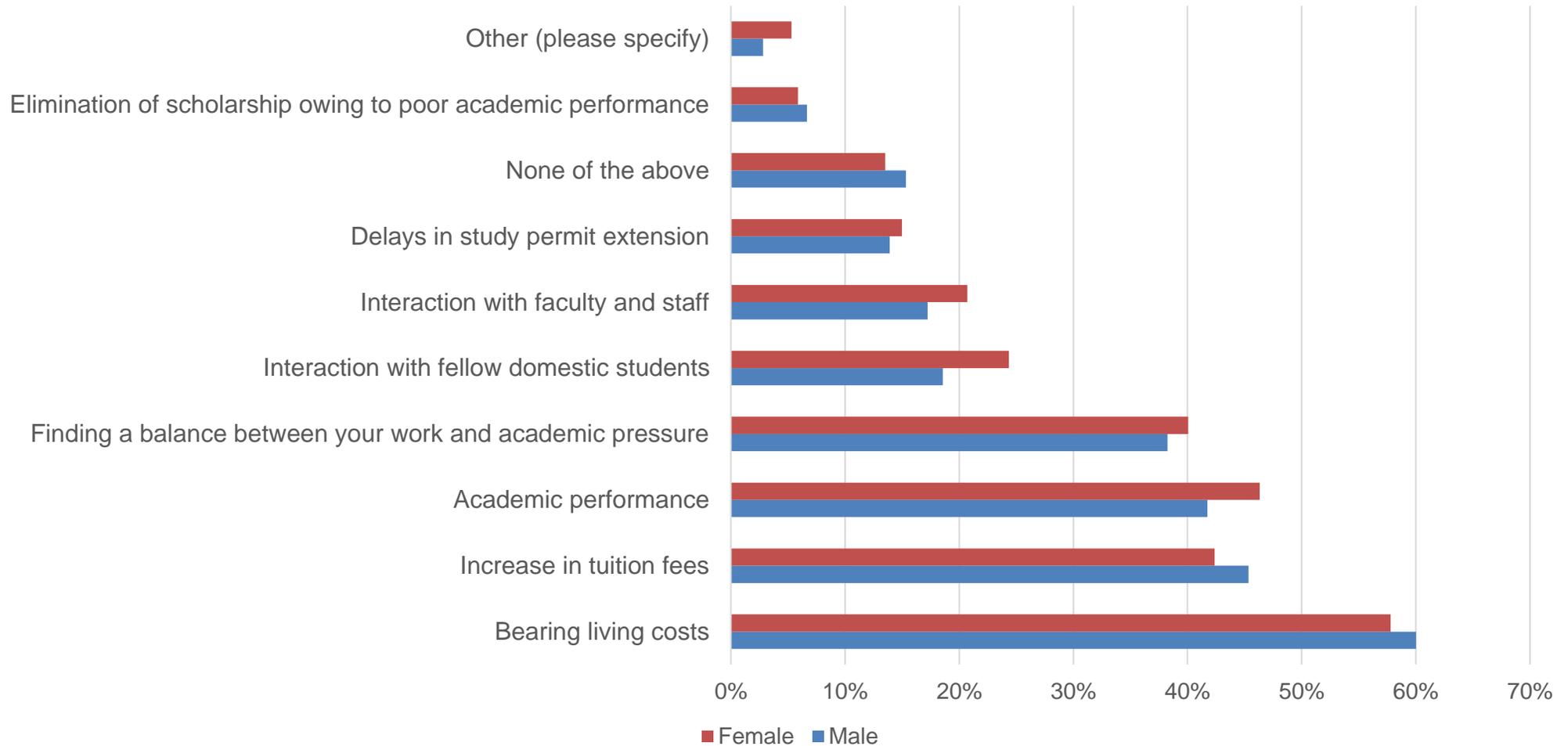
Composition of study group



Felt social isolation on campus



Causes of mental stress during studies



Thanks to our partners and supporters



Atlantic Canada
Opportunities
Agency

Agence de
promotion économique
du Canada atlantique



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Sobey School
of Business

Saint Mary's University

Thank you all!

