

The University of Birmingham

Student Population by Protected Characteristics in the UK

2025/26 academic year

For further information, please contact the University of Birmingham's Student EDI Team: studentequality@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Introduction

Central to the mission and vision of the University of Birmingham is the promotion of equality, diversity, and inclusion. On our founding in 1900, a core commitment was to accept women and people of all religious backgrounds as equal members of the University community. Today, the University of Birmingham has nearly 40,000 UK-based students with diverse backgrounds, identities, perspectives, and lived experiences. Understanding the composition of our student population helps us to create mechanisms to address inequalities and promote an inclusive campus culture for students.

This report shows the University of Birmingham's student body as of the 1st of November 2025 in relation to the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics. The University publishes this information annually on data collected which is related to age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Students provide information on their protected characteristics at the start of each academic year and can update their data throughout their study via the student record system. The University does not collect or hold specific data for statistical analysis in relation to students who are married or in a civil partnership or are pregnant or on maternity leave.

Data on each protected characteristic is shown by the level of study, unless the number of students disclosing a particular characteristic is equal to or less than 10 per category.

Notes on the data

The table below sets out the definition and disclosure rates for each protected characteristic. Within each protected characteristic, the University uses the descriptors provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for students to select from.

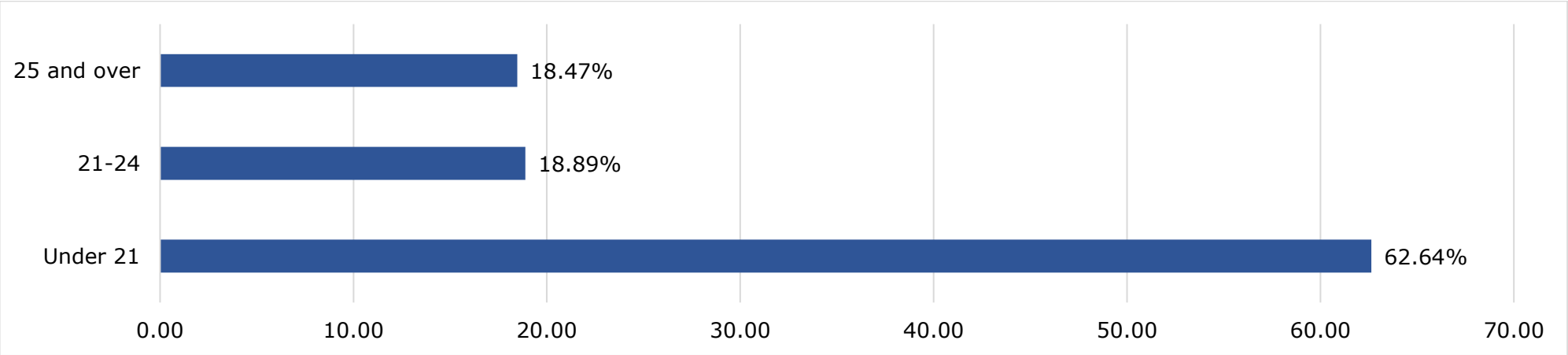
Protected characteristic	Equality Act 2010 definition
Age	A person's specific age and age group
Disability	A person who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
Gender reassignment	<p>A person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.</p> <p>The University asks students about their 'gender identity' and if this differs from their birth sex. This will include students who fall within the Equality Act 2010 definition of gender reassignment and students who do not.</p>
Race	A person's colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins
Religion or belief	A person's religion, philosophical belief or lack of religion or philosophical belief
Sex	A man or a woman of the same sex
Sexual orientation	A person's orientation to people of the same sex, of the opposite sex or of either sex

Protected Characteristic: Age

The table below shows all students by age of entry and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under 21	24,186	62.44%	75	0.19%	N/A	N/A
21-24	988	2.55%	5,273	13.61%	1,057	2.73%
25 and over	323	0.83%	4,759	12.29%	2,074	5.35%

The bar chart below shows all students by age of entry.

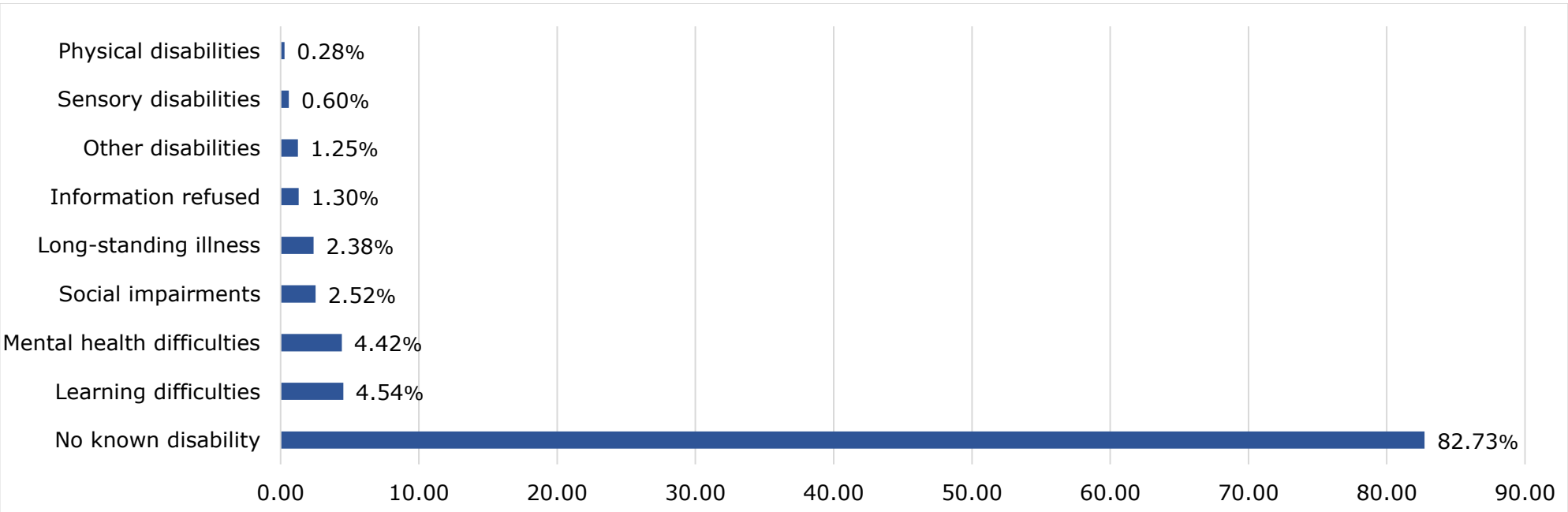


Protected Characteristic: Disability

The table below shows all students by disability status and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Learning difficulties	1,304	3.37%	328	0.85%	125	0.32%
Long-standing illness	641	1.65%	194	0.50%	86	0.22%
Mental health difficulties	1,344	3.47%	262	0.68%	106	0.27%
Physical disabilities	63	0.16%	29	0.07%	15	0.04%
Sensory disabilities	159	0.41%	44	0.11%	28	0.07%
Social impairments	686	1.77%	165	0.43%	126	0.33%
Other disabilities	378	0.98%	72	0.19%	33	0.09%
Information not provided	283	0.73%	185	0.48%	34	0.09%
No known disability	20,639	53.28%	8,828	22.79%	2,580	6.66%

The bar chart below shows all students by disability status.

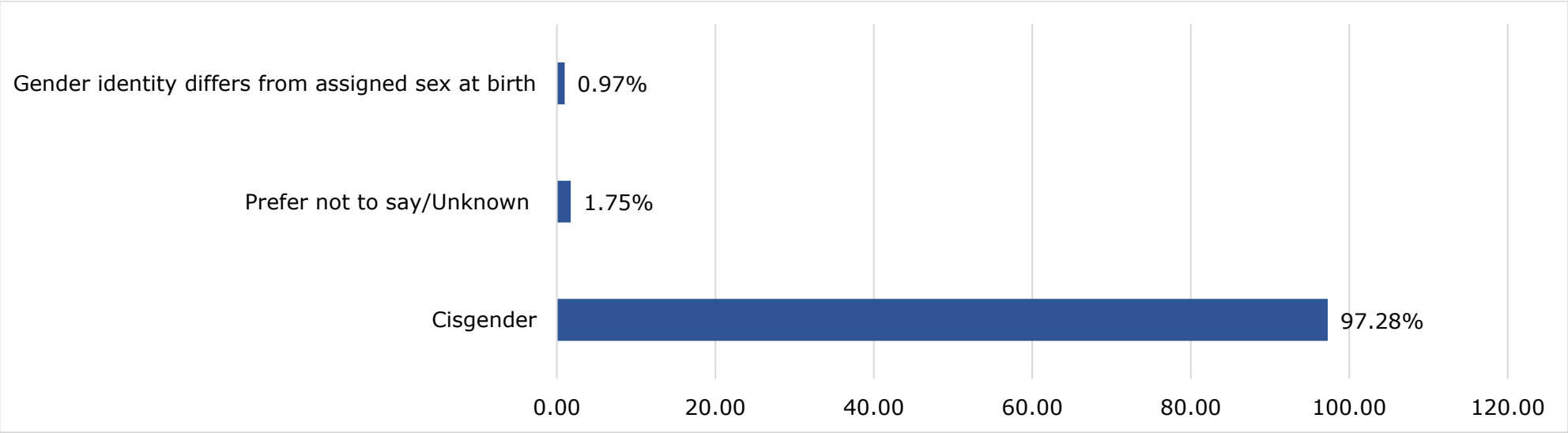


Protected Characteristic: Gender Reassignment

The table below shows all students by gender identity and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cisgender	24,912	64.31%	9,761	25.20%	3,008	7.77%
Gender identity differs from assigned sex at birth	268	0.69%	65	0.17%	44	0.11%
Prefer not to say	316	0.82%	281	0.73%	81	0.21%

The bar chart below shows all students by gender identity.



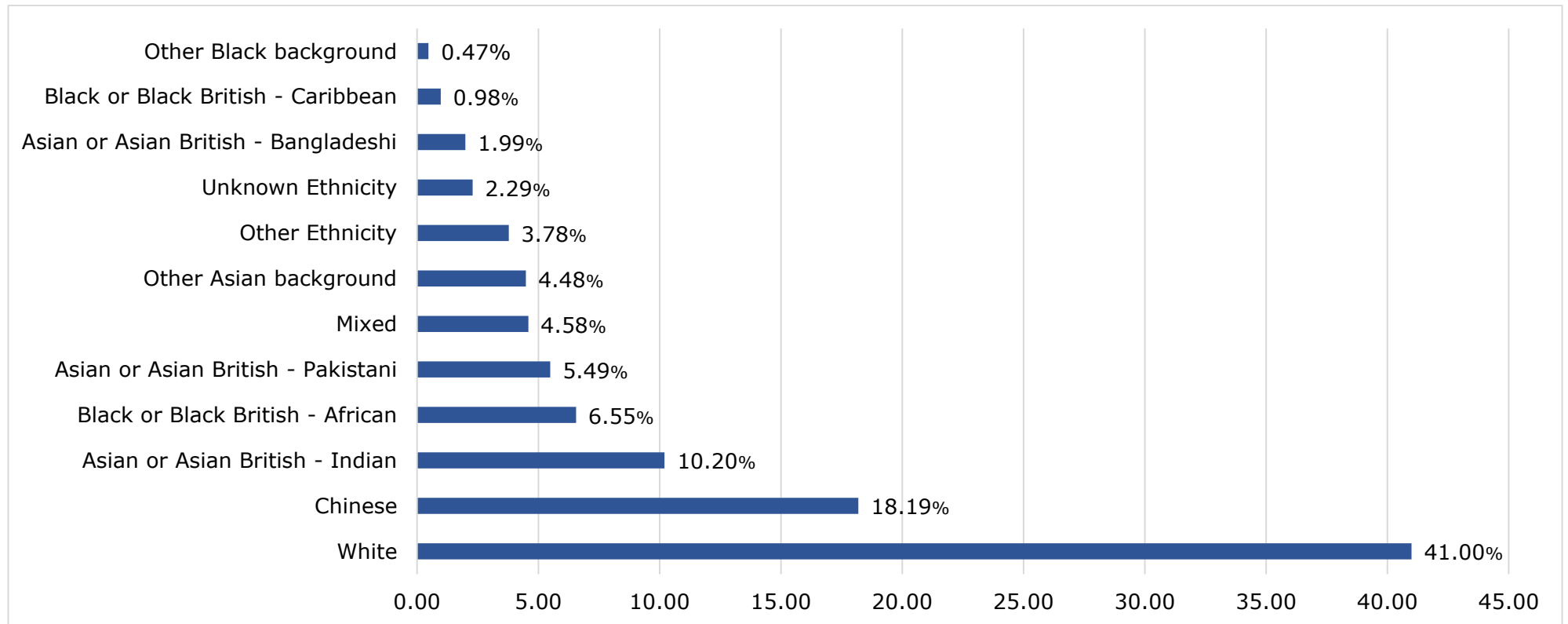
The University does not collect or hold specific data in relation to students who have undergone a gender reassignment process, as defined by the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristic of “gender reassignment”. We do hold data on students’ “gender identity”. This will include students who fall within the Equality Act protected characteristic of “gender reassignment” and students who do not.

Protected Characteristic: Race

The table below shows all students by race and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	618	1.60%	131	0.34%	21	0.05%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	2,625	6.78%	1,131	2.92%	196	0.51%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	1,697	4.38%	355	0.92%	73	0.19%
Chinese	3,205	8.27%	3,324	8.58%	517	1.33%
Other Asian background	1,088	2.81%	465	1.20%	184	0.47%
Black or Black British - African	1,939	5.01%	468	1.21%	131	0.34%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	260	0.67%	101	0.26%	18	0.05%
Other Black background	118	0.30%	54	0.14%	11	0.03%
Mixed	1,364	3.52%	283	0.73%	129	0.33%
White	11,046	28.52%	3,294	8.50%	1,541	3.98%
Other Ethnicity	871	2.25%	348	0.90%	245	0.63%
Unknown Ethnicity	666	1.72%	153	0.39%	67	0.17%

The bar chart below shows all students by race.

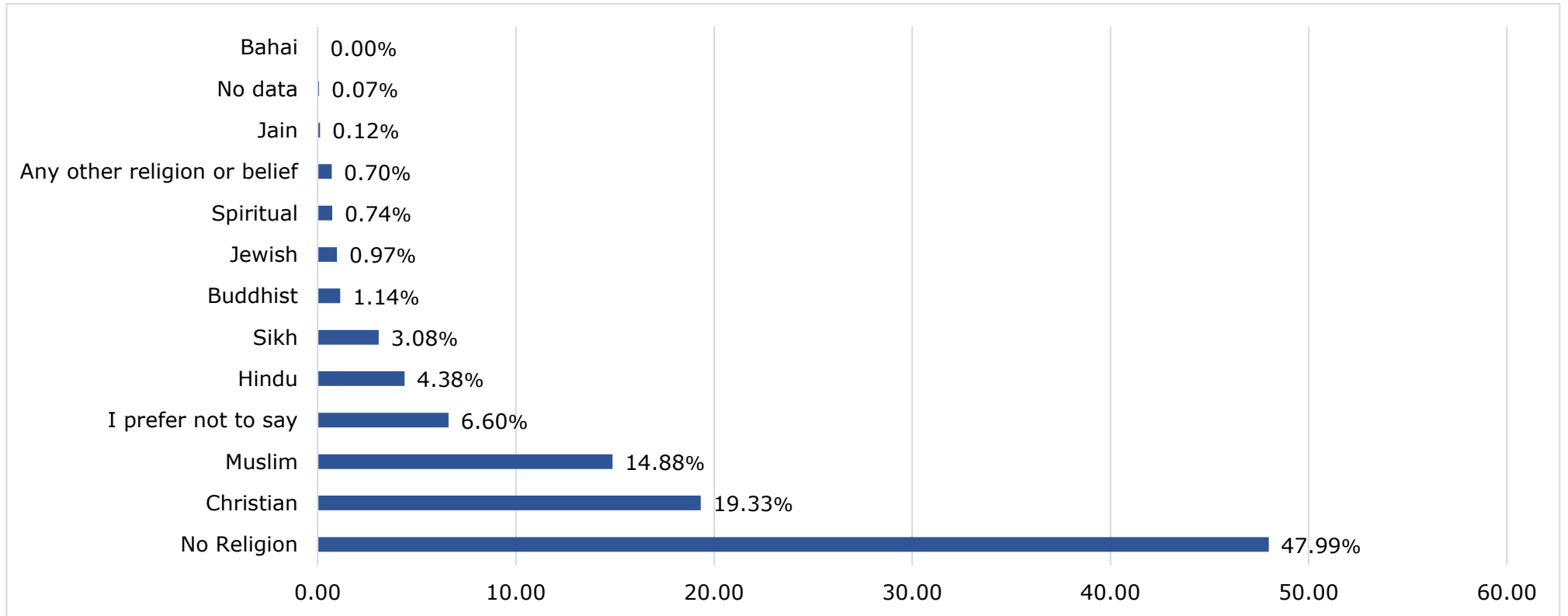


Protected Characteristic: Religion or Belief

The table below shows all students by religion or belief and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Bahai	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Buddhist	288	0.74%	109	0.28%	45	0.12%
Christian	4,998	12.90%	1,868	4.82%	623	1.61%
Hindu	997	2.57%	588	1.52%	112	0.29%
Jain	35	0.09%	11	0.03%	N/A	N/A
Jewish	344	0.89%	15	0.04%	18	0.05%
Muslim	4,195	10.83%	1,137	2.94%	431	1.11%
Sikh	1,008	2.60%	142	0.37%	42	0.11%
Spiritual	150	0.39%	98	0.25%	37	0.10%
Any other religion or belief	153	0.39%	84	0.22%	36	0.09%
No religion	11,761	30.36%	5,264	13.59%	1,563	4.03%
No data	N/A	N/A	24	0.06%	N/A	N/A
I prefer not to say	1,566	4.04	766	1.98%	226	0.58%

The bar chart below shows all students religion or belief.

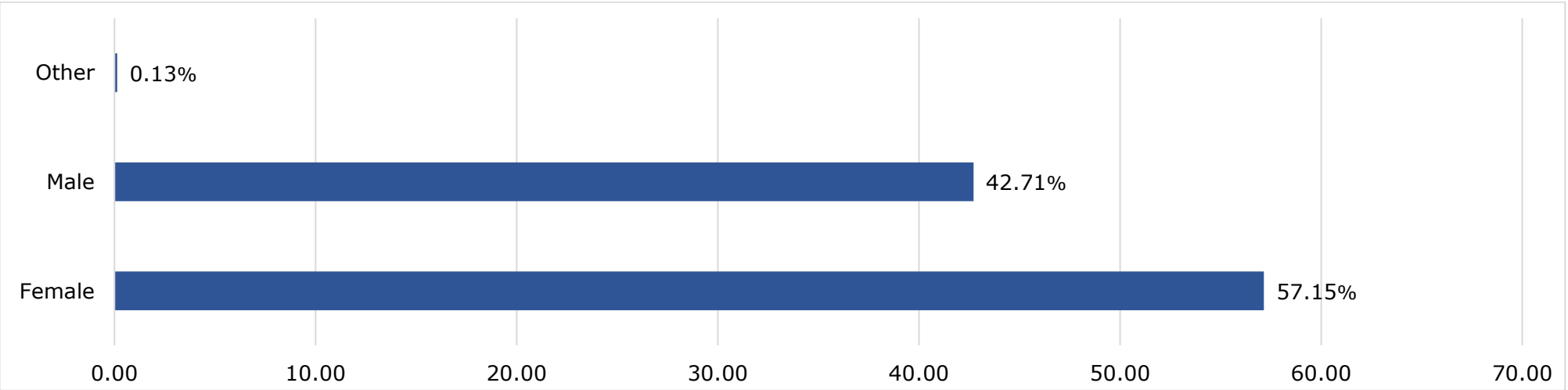


Protected Characteristic: Sex

The table below shows all students by sex and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Female	14,523	37.49%	5,908	15.25%	1,709	4.41%
Male	10,936	28.23%	4,196	10.83%	1,414	3.65%
Other	38	0.10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The bar chart below shows all students by sex.



Protected Characteristic: Sexual Orientation

The table below shows all students by sexual orientation and level of study.

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asexual	302	0.78%	47	0.12%	17	0.04%
Bisexual	1,353	3.49%	373	0.96%	229	0.59%
Gay man	204	0.53%	103	0.27%	50	0.13%
Gay woman/lesbian	296	0.76%	117	0.30%	53	0.14%
Heterosexual	20,292	52.38%	7,900	20.39%	2,287	5.90%
Queer	241	0.62%	19	0.05%	15	0.04%
Other	196	0.51%	92	0.24%	45	0.12%
No data	43	0.11%	25	0.06%	N/A	N/A
Prefer not to say	2,570	6.63%	1,431	3.69%	437	1.13%

The bar chart below shows all students by sexual orientation.

