

The University of Birmingham Student Population by Protected Characteristics in the UK 2023/24

If you require any of this data in an alternative format, please contact 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 over 37,000 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 2023 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 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 HESA for students to select from.

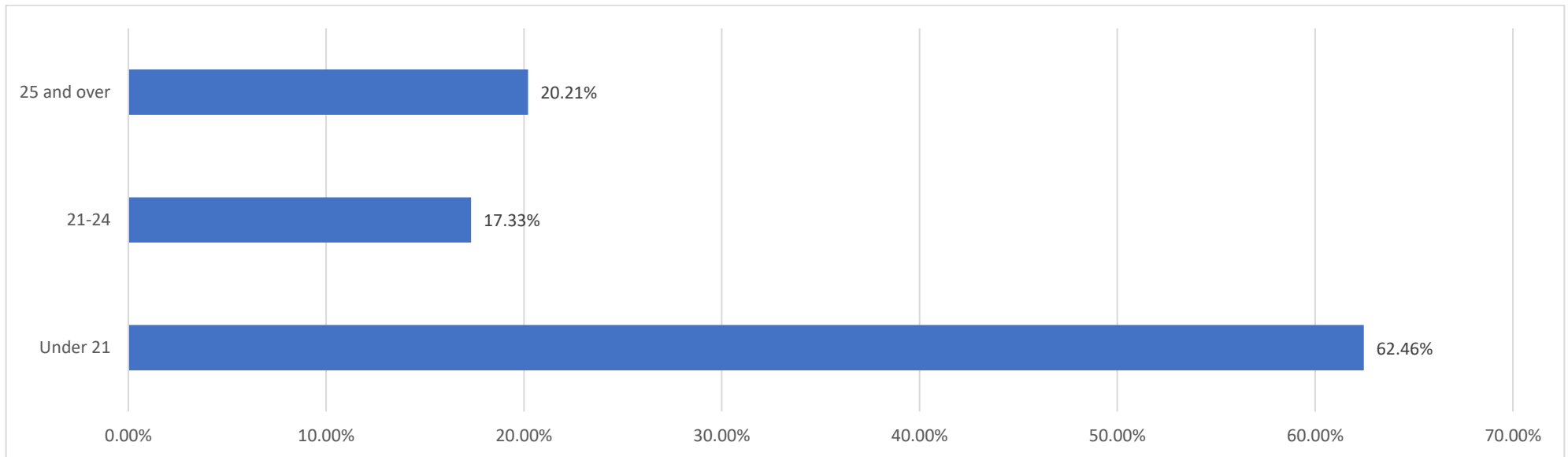
Protected characteristic	Equality Act 2010 definition
Age	A person's specific age and age group
Disability	A person who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
Gender reassignment	<p>A person is 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	21,963	62.20%	93	0.26%	N/A	N/A
21-24	958	2.71%	4,156	11.77%	1,006	2.85%
25 and over	350	0.99%	4,851	13.74%	1,934	5.48%

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

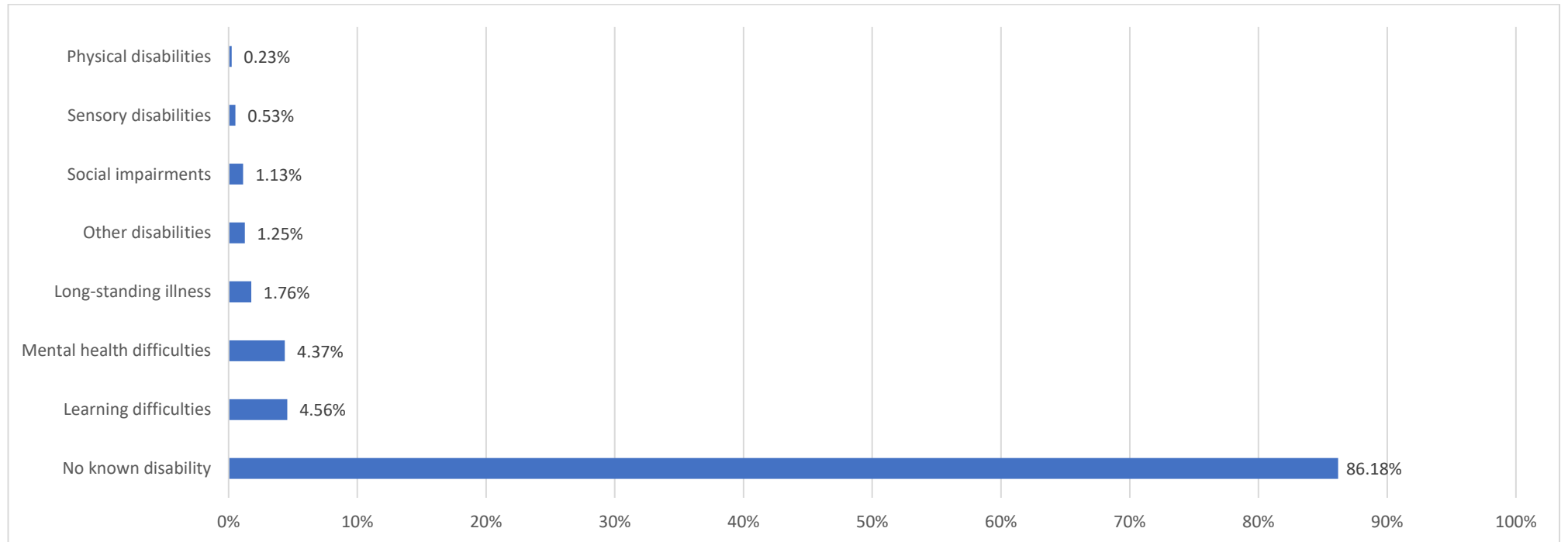


Protected Characteristic: Disability

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	1,169	3.31%	324	0.92%	115	0.33%
Long-standing illness	381	1.08%	163	0.46%	76	0.22%
Mental health difficulties	1,189	3.37%	230	0.65%	124	0.35%
Physical disabilities	46	0.13%	24	0.07%	12	0.03%
Sensory disabilities	126	0.36%	37	0.10%	24	0.07%
Social impairments	313	0.89%	54	0.15%	33	0.09%
Other disabilities	319	0.90%	88	0.25%	34	0.10%
No known disability	19,728	55.87%	8,180	23.16%	2,524	7.15%

The bar chart below shows all students by disability status.

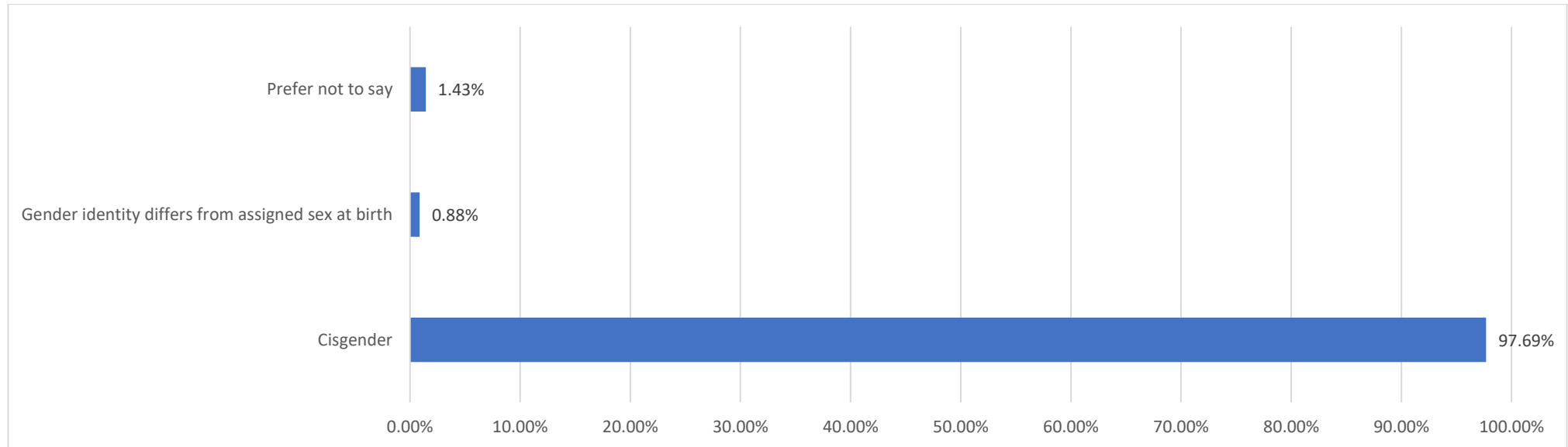


Protected Characteristic: Gender Reassignment

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	23,649	66.97%	8,604	24.36%	2,247	6.36%
Gender identity differs from assigned sex at birth	235	0.67%	52	0.15%	22	0.06%
Prefer not to say	289	0.82%	156	0.44%	59	0.17%

The bar chart below shows all students by gender identity.



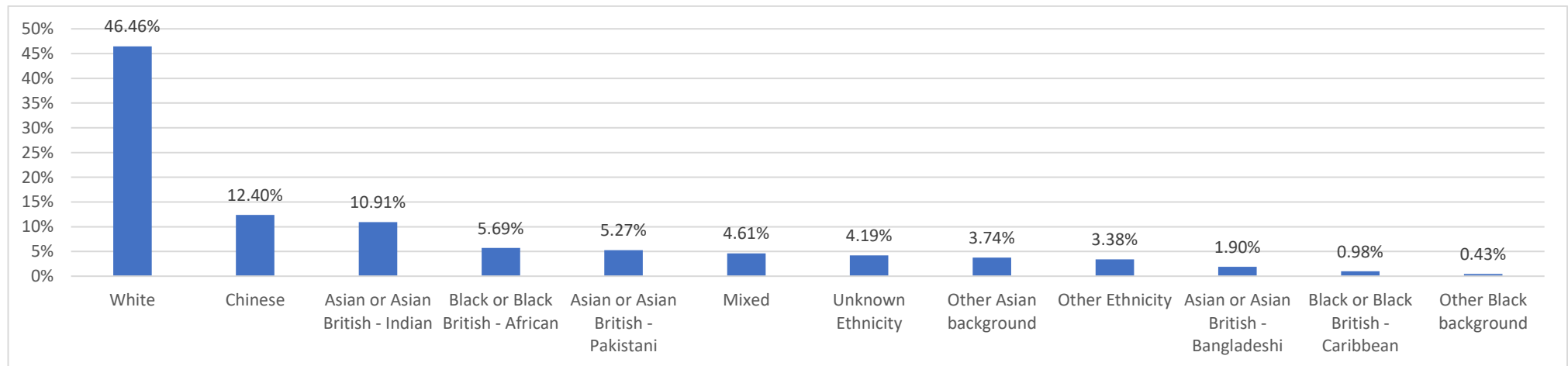
The University do not collect or hold specific data in relation to students who have undergone a gender reassignment process, as defined by the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristic of “gender reassignment”. We do hold data on students’ “gender identity”. This will include students who 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	536	1.52%	114	0.32%	22	0.06%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	2,173	6.15%	1,533	4.34%	148	0.42%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	1,468	4.16%	325	0.92%	67	0.19%
Chinese	2,072	5.87%	1,876	5.31%	431	1.22%
Other Asian background	803	2.27%	372	1.05%	147	0.42%
Black or Black British - African	1,410	3.99%	512	1.45%	88	0.25%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	234	0.66%	89	0.25%	24	0.07%
Other Black background	86	0.24%	67	0.19%	N/A	N/A
Mixed	1,228	3.48%	290	0.82%	110	0.31%
White	11,274	31.93%	3,504	9.92%	1,627	4.61%
Other Ethnicity	736	2.08%	246	0.70%	213	0.60%
Unknown Ethnicity	1,251	3.54%	172	0.49%	58	0.16%

The bar chart below shows all students by race.

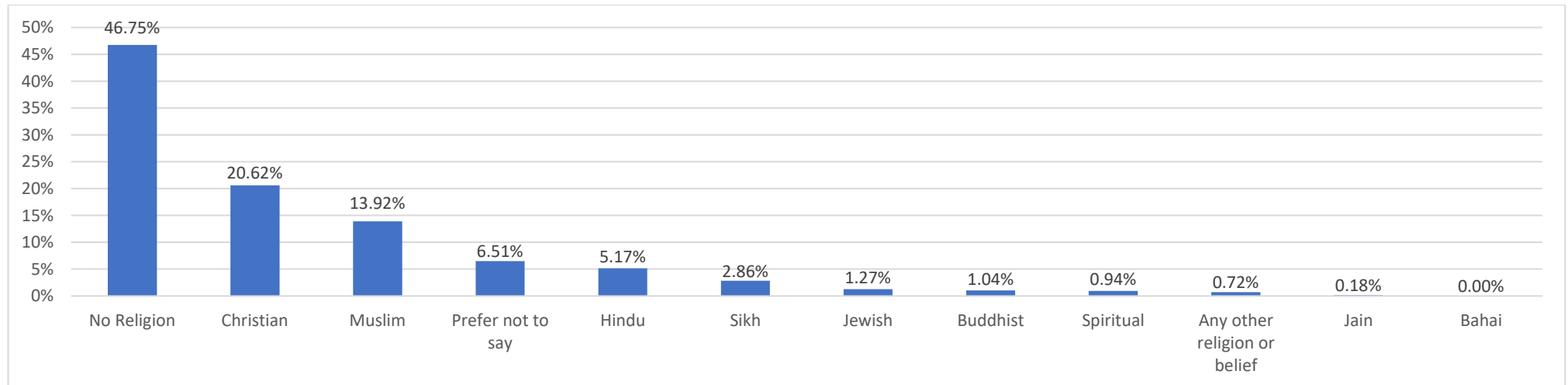


Protected Characteristic: Religion or Belief

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	214	0.61%	105	0.30%	50	0.14%
Christian	4,611	13.06%	2,057	5.83%	615	1.74%
Hindu	891	2.52%	856	2.42%	79	0.22%
Jain	28	0.08%	34	0.10%	N/A	N/A
Jewish	411	1.16%	22	0.06%	16	0.05%
Muslim	3,509	9.94%	1,013	2.87%	393	1.11%
Sikh	859	2.43%	116	0.33%	34	0.10%
Spiritual	181	0.51%	105	0.30%	46	0.13%
Any other religion or belief	145	0.41%	84	0.24%	26	0.07%
No Religion	11,098	31.43%	3,949	11.18%	1,463	4.14%
Prefer not to say	1,323	3.75%	756	2.14%	220	0.62%

The bar chart below shows all students religion or belief.

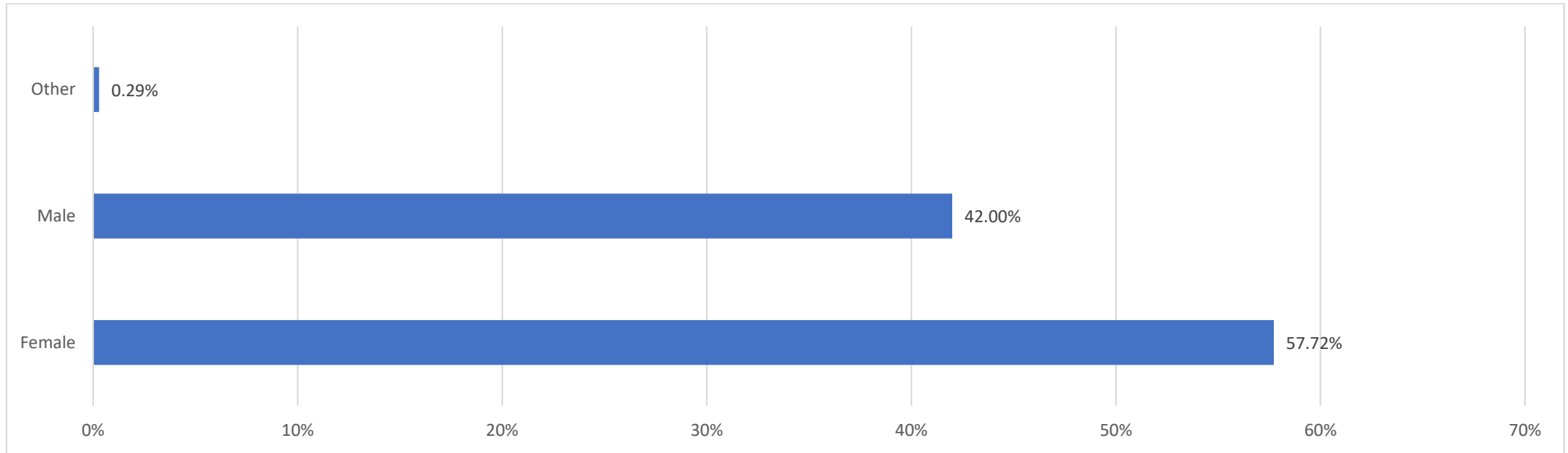


Protected Characteristic: Sex

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

	Undergraduate		Postgraduate Taught		Postgraduate Research	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Female	13,300	37.66%	5,479	15.52%	1,602	4.54%
Male	9,897	28.03%	3,609	10.22%	1,324	3.75%
Other	74	0.21%	12	0.03%	16	0.05%

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	303	0.86%	36	0.10%	18	0.05%
Bisexual	1,315	3.72%	354	1.00%	178	0.50%
Gay man	239	0.68%	109	0.31%	61	0.17%
Gay woman/lesbian	238	0.67%	94	0.27%	39	0.11%
Heterosexual	18,548	52.52%	7,234	20.49%	2,179	6.17%
Queer	294	0.83%	30	0.08%	22	0.06%
Other	175	0.50%	91	0.26%	58	0.16%
No data	12	0.03%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prefer not to say	2,147	6.08%	1,151	3.26%	387	1.10%

The bar chart below shows all students by sexual orientation.

