



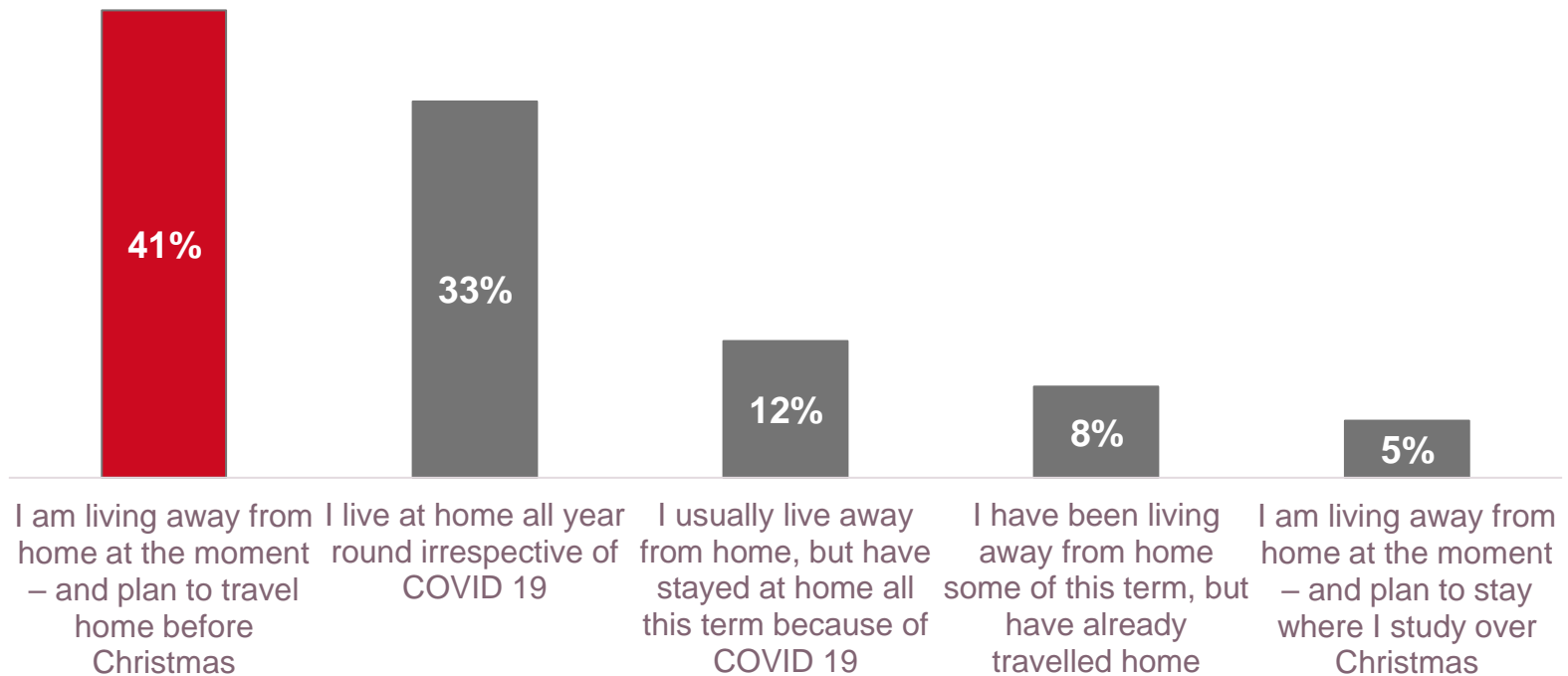
Student travel window survey

4 December 2020

Four in ten students are still away from home and plan to travel home for Christmas

Many students have access to cars

- Overall 31% have sole use of a vehicle and 20% shared access
- Of those living away and still planning to travel 28% have sole use and 14% shared access.



Q1. Which of these applies to you at the moment?
Base: All students (1040)

Typical experiences for those who have travelled – few problems reported across all modes

“I travelled home before lockdown because I felt I would be happier at home than in my halls for the 4 weeks. My mum picked me up by car and it was a good journey.”

“I travelled on the train. It wasn't really any different from normal. Just had to wear a face mask. No issues”

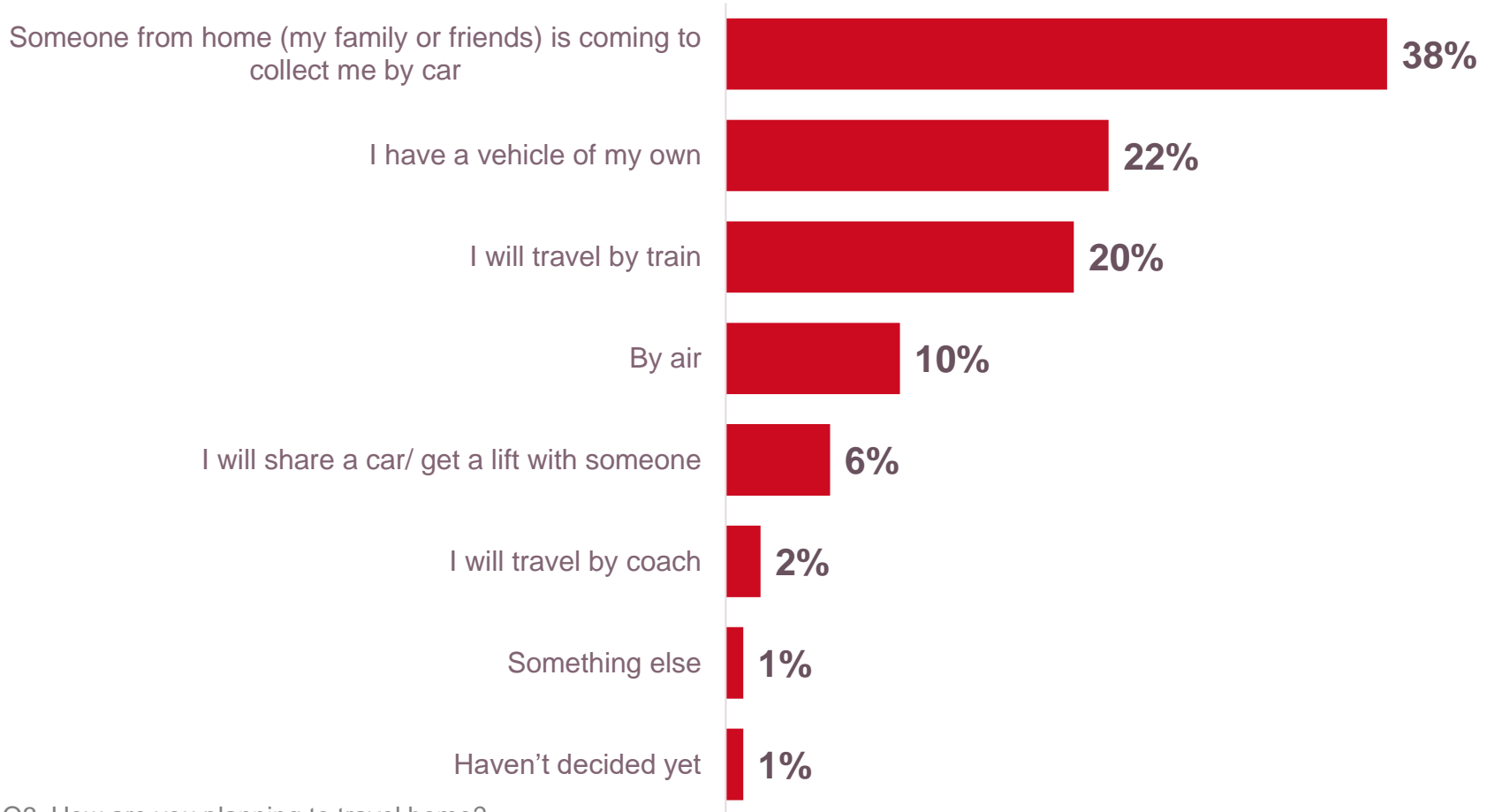
“I travelled by train to get home this was because the car that's usually available wasn't at this time, I travelled a few weeks ago and it was pretty good as I was home quicker than I would be by using a car.”

“Travelled back before lockdown started again. Took the coach. It was fine and a lot of safety procedures were nice.”

“Because I wasn't sure if we'd have another lockdown and I wanted to be home for Christmas. I travelled home just before the second lockdown began.”

“Travelled by train and plane. The journey was good enough and it was visible that the companies try to keep the safety measures.”

While most are being collected or driving themselves, one in five is using rail



Q3. How are you planning to travel home?
Base: All planning to travel (431 students)

Not using public transport to travel home is a mix of not needing to, practicality and deliberate avoidance

“I am a little concerned about going on public transport due to the risk of coronavirus. I also really don't want to wear a mask for that long! It is really uncomfortable as my journey is 6 hours. Also, it just so happens I am in my third year of university and have never lived with someone with a car before - so I am just taking advantage of this!”

“Don't feel safe travelling on public transport in a pandemic when other people will be travelling home too”

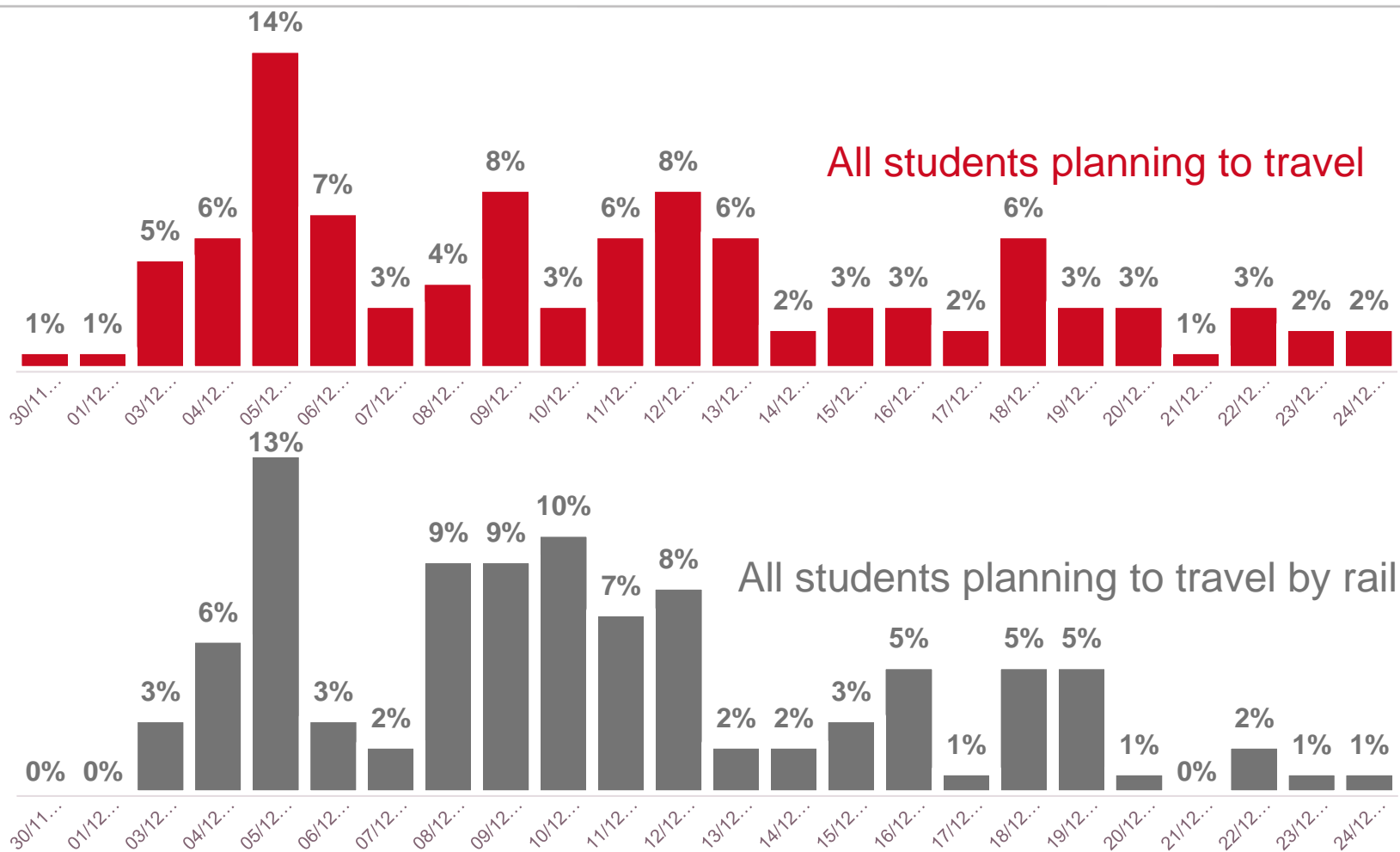
“My mom offered to drive me home, I only live about an hour and half away so not too much hassle and she said she'd feel much more comfortable if she drives me instead of me getting the train. I don't think its worth the risk when I'm being offered an alternative way to get home.”

“Because it is easier to get a family member to pick me up as I have a lot to take home.”

“I have a large box that I can't carry on the train and I can't leave it behind over Christmas.”

“I have a car, why would I use public transport?”

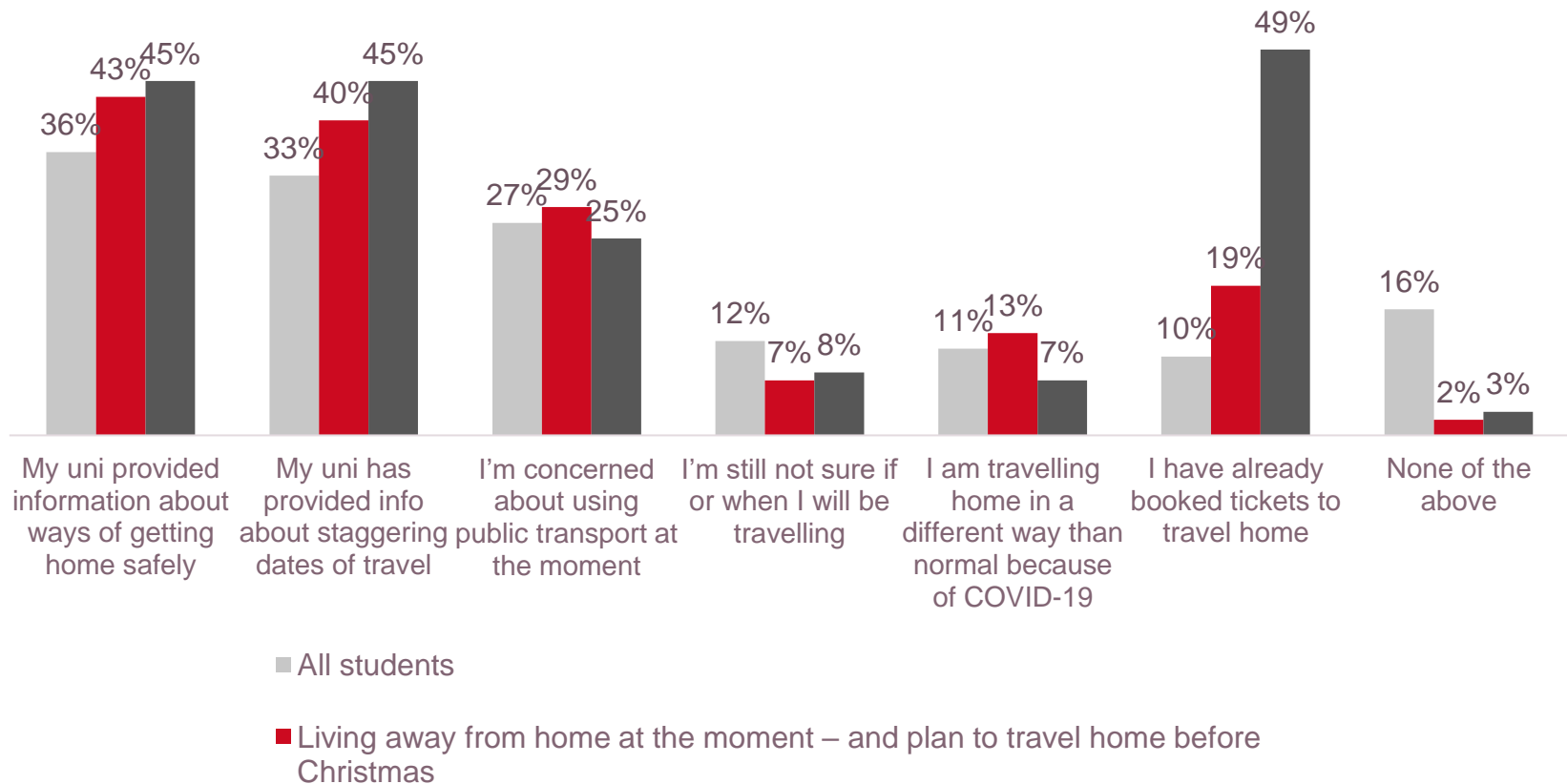
Overall Saturday 5 December is the most popular day for travel home. Rail journeys more evenly spread through week



Q4. When are you planning to travel home?

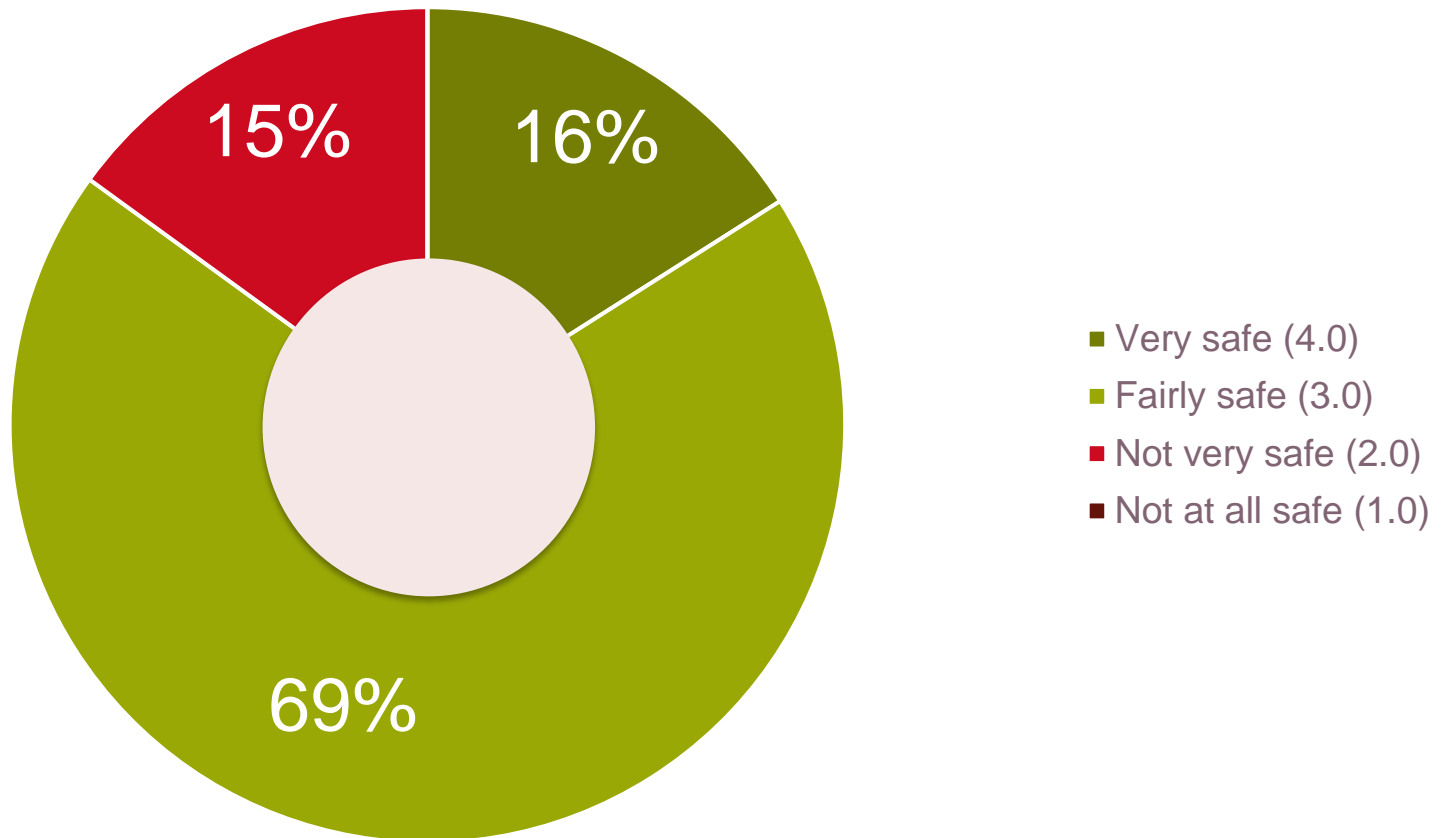
Base: All planning to travel (431 students) and by rail (88)

Information not provided to majority. Half those planning to use rail have booked tickets.



Q5. Thinking about the preparations for students travelling home for Christmas, which of the following applies to you?
 Base All (1040 students) , those planning to travel (431), those planning to travel by rail (88)

Those planning to travel by rail generally expect to feel safe



Q6. Specifically in relation to coronavirus, how safe do you expect you will feel making a journey by train? Base: 88 students, all those travelling by rail

Reasons for expecting to feel safe or unsafe when using rail focus on face covering and social distancing/reservations

“Seats are already reserved, previous travel has demonstrated social distancing and been safe.”

“There are many precautions in place and the number of tickets are limited so it doesn’t feel overwhelming or unsafe.”

“Because you still can’t sit next to people very closely on trains and I will just use hand sanitizer.”

“I know seat reservations need to be made so the bookings can space passengers out to prevent the spread of COVID. Also, I usually travel by train to and from university so I’m very familiar with it. I also plan to travel off-peak like I usually do so it’s cheaper and emptier.”

“Because there will be lots of people from different areas on the train and people who are asymptomatic may still travel.”

“I feel that they shouldn’t be too busy, since I am travelling in the evening and it is the end of the travel window so hopefully social distancing should be possible.”

Method

- 1040 online interviews with students at UK universities
- Using Youthsight's well-established student omnibus
- The sample is representative by gender, course year and university group and is recruited in conjunction with UCAS
- Interviewing conducted between 27 and 30 November 2020.