



STUDENT LIFE

Belong to the Pack

ACCOMMODATION

SURVEY

REPORT

2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION & AIMS

2 THE FIGURES

- STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED ACCOMMODATION
- COMMUTER STUDENTS
- STUDENTS WHO ARE STILL SEEKING ACCOMMODATION

3 FINDINGS



INTRODUCTION

The UL Student Life (ULSL) Accommodation Survey was conducted in an effort to create a clearer image of the experiences of University of Limerick students who are facing the fall out of the housing crisis. By encapsulating their experience, UL Student Life and the 2022 Student Officer team aim to take the first steps in carving a path forward through the crisis for our students.



The survey captures the experiences of all students; commuter students, students currently seeking accommodation and those who have secured accommodation. The survey has a variety of questions depending on the experiences of students as well as a platform for students to make suggestions on carving a path forward

AIMS



Give students a platform to be heard



Create a clear image of the student experience in the housing crisis



Collect meaningful and powerful data to lobby for change



STUDENT LIFE
Belong to the Pack

THE FIGURES

16 DAYS

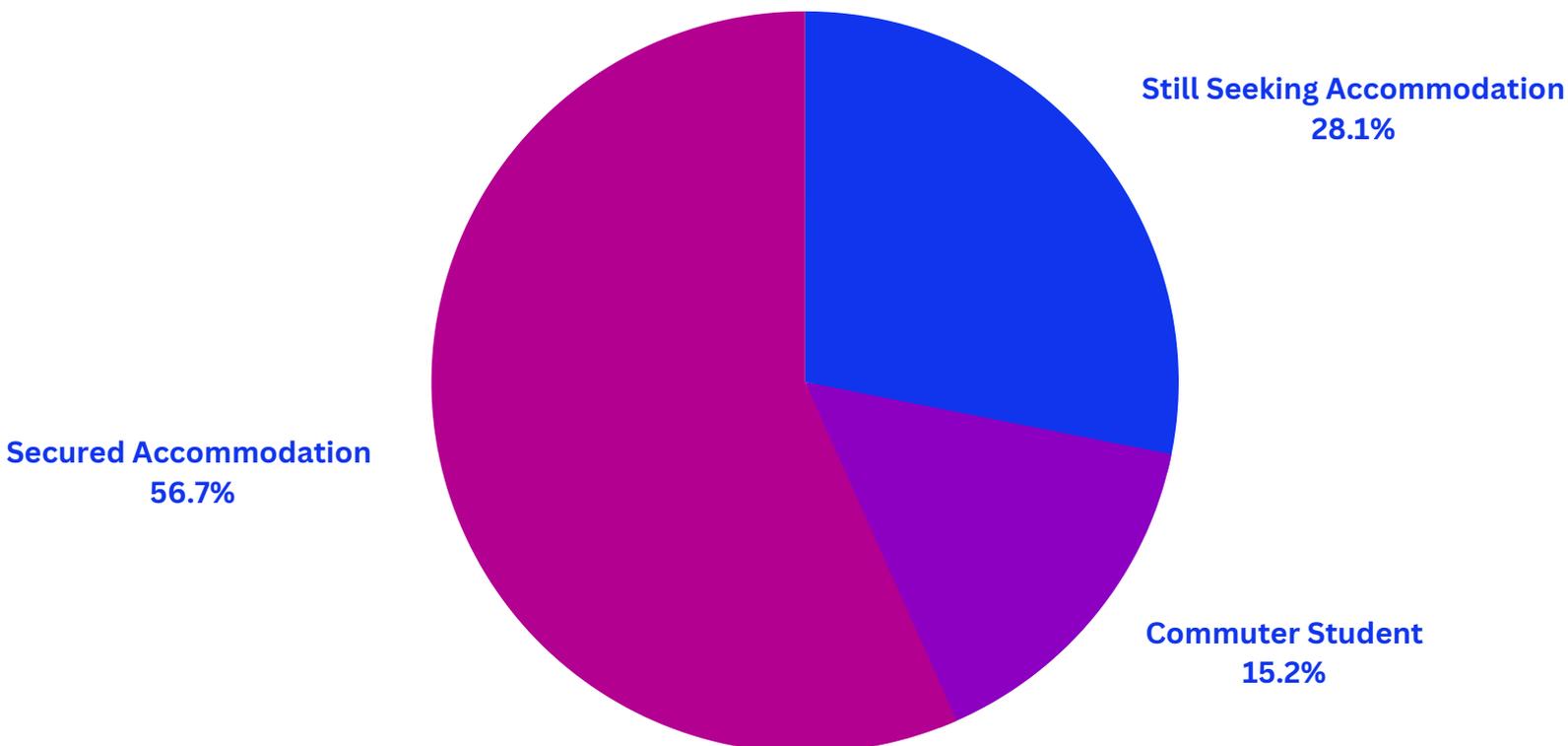
13/09/2022 -29/09/2022

1233 STUDENT RESPONSES

91.2% Undergraduate & 8.8% Postgraduate

WE ASKED STUDENTS

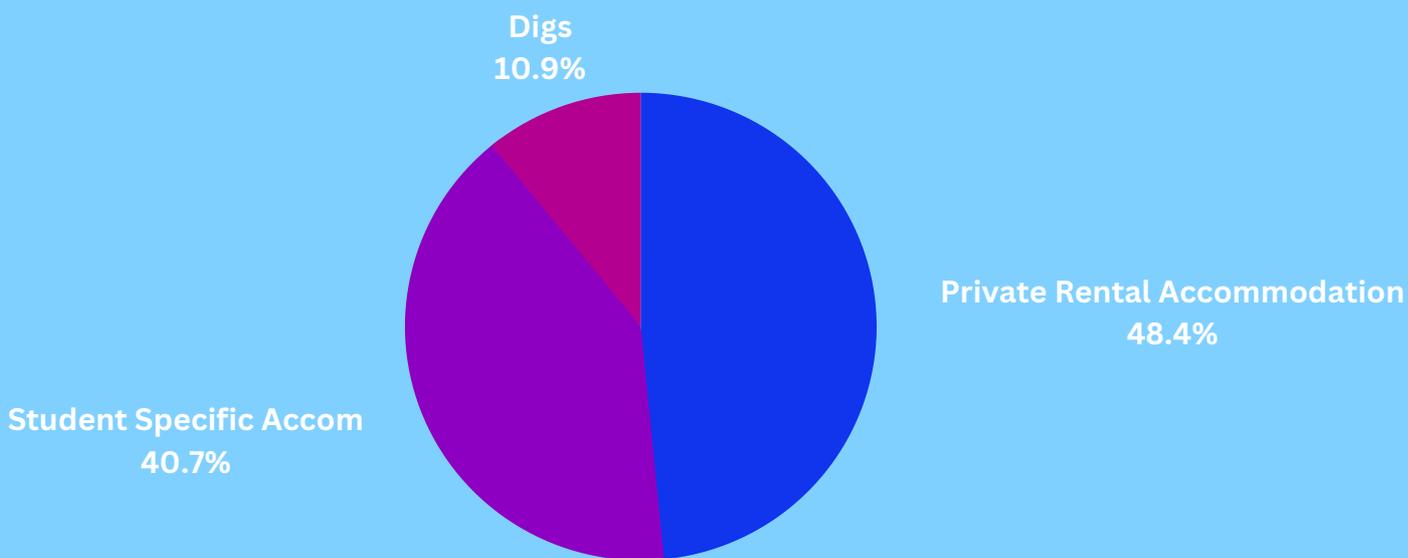
'DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE 22/23 ACADEMIC YEAR '



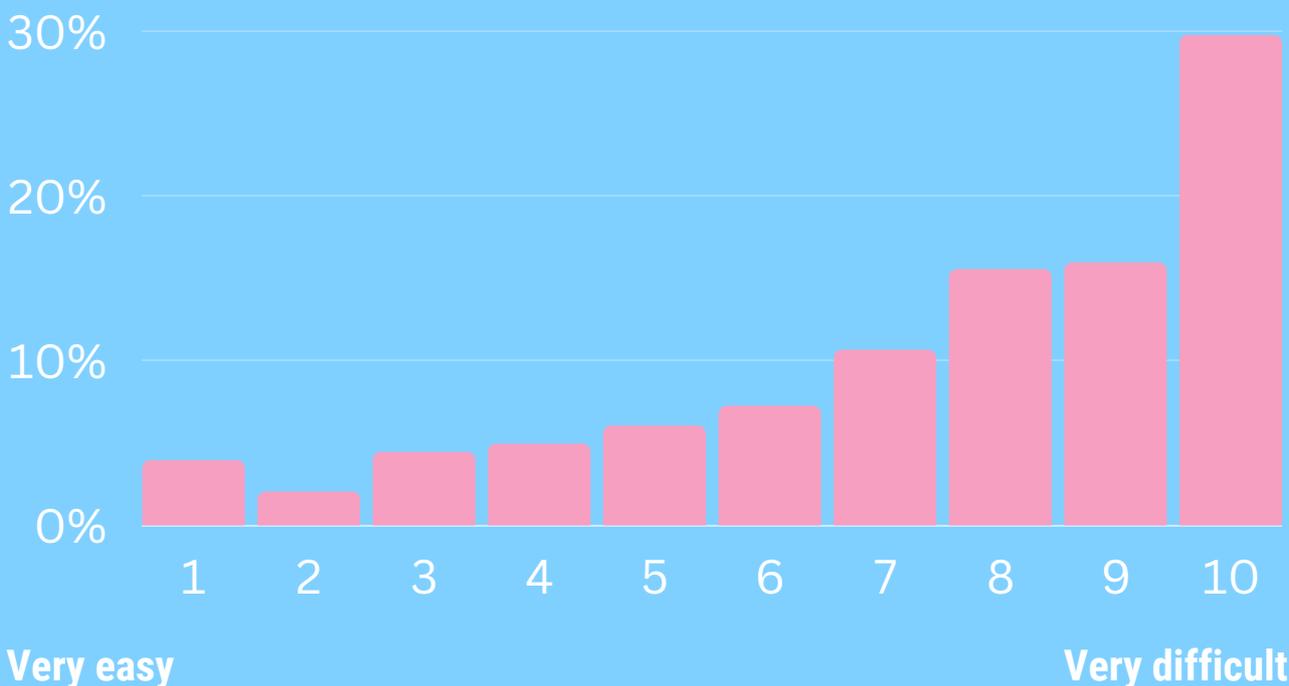
Once students had determined their status, as seen in the last pie chart, the survey presented specific questions to each cohort.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED ACCOMMODATION

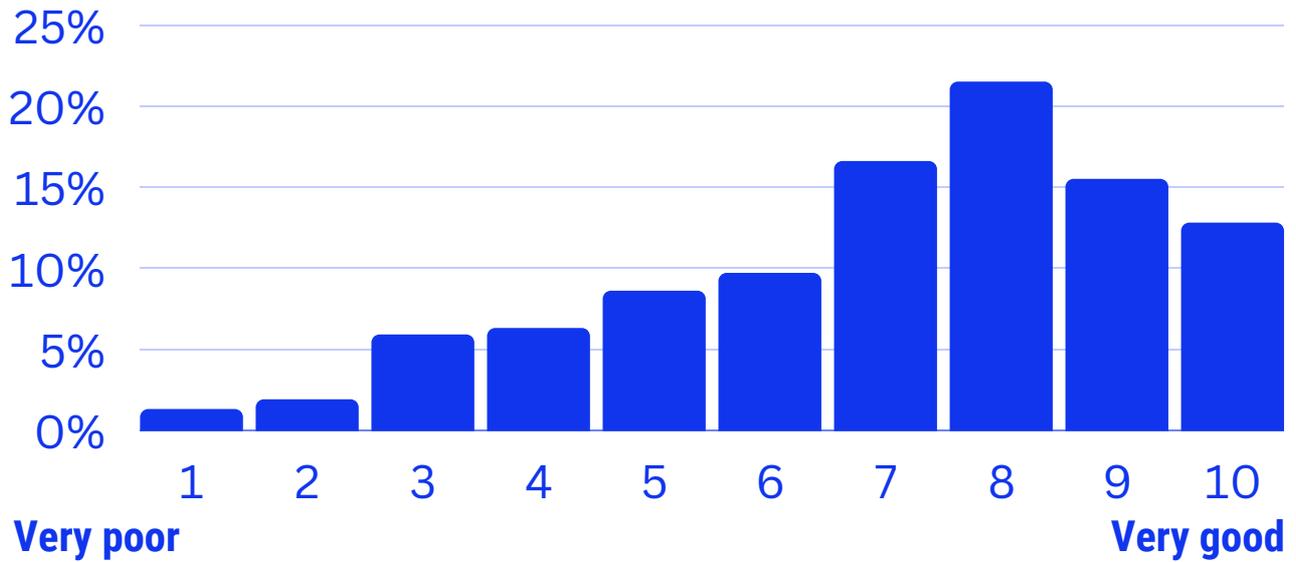
WHAT TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION ARE YOU LIVING IN ?



HOW DIFFICULT WAS THE PROCESS OF FINDING ACCOMMODATION?



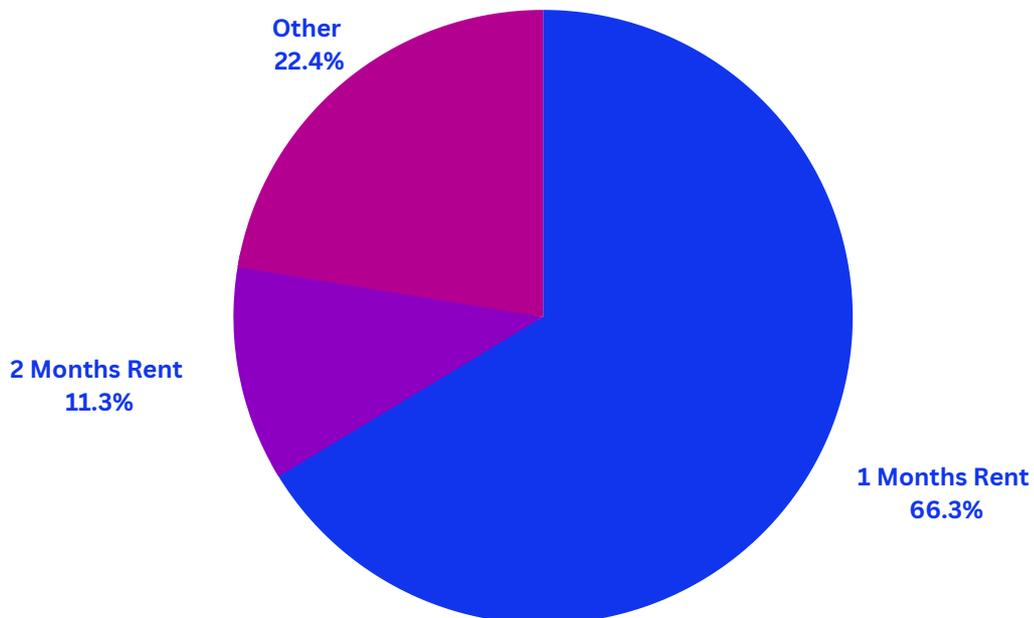
IS YOUR ACCOMMODATION OF ADEQUATE LIVING STANDARDS ?



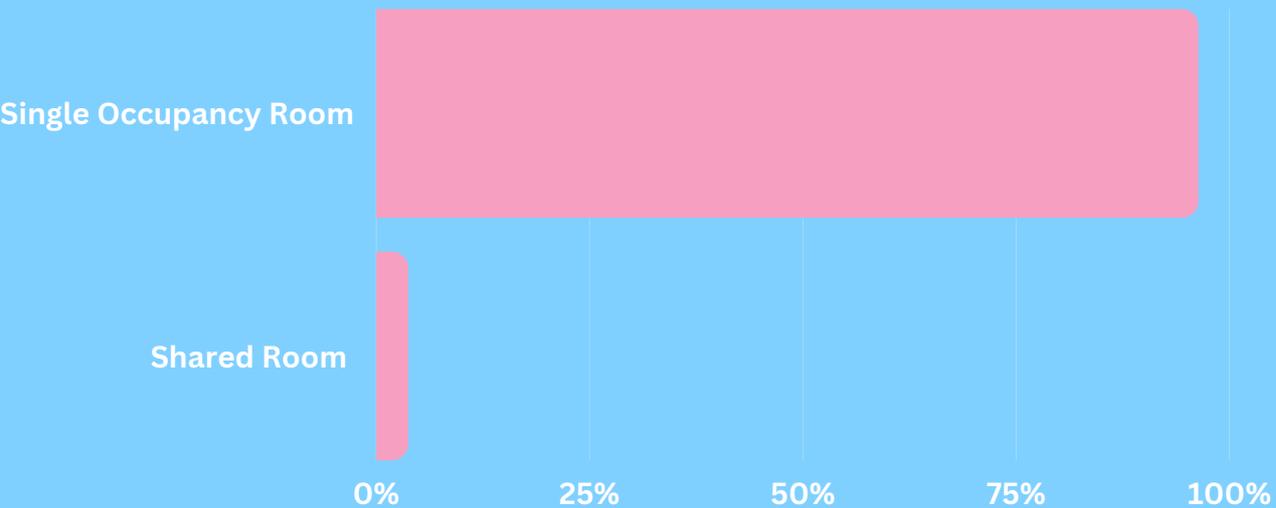
HOW MUCH RENT DO YOU PAY MONTHLY?



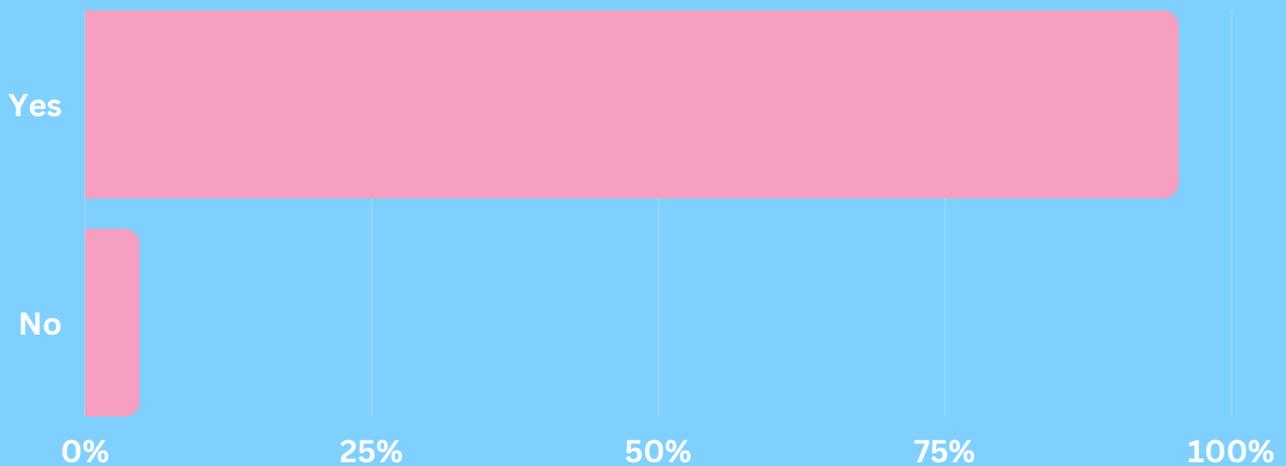
HOW MUCH OF A DEPOSIT DID YOU HAVE TO PAY TO SECURE YOUR ACCOMMODATION ?



WHAT KIND OF ROOM DO YOU LIVE IN?



IF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION WAS MORE AFFORDABLE WOULD YOU AVAIL OF IT?



HOW CAN UL STUDENT LIFE SUPPORT YOU WITH ACCOMMODATION I.E. CAMPAIGNS, SERVICES, ETC ?

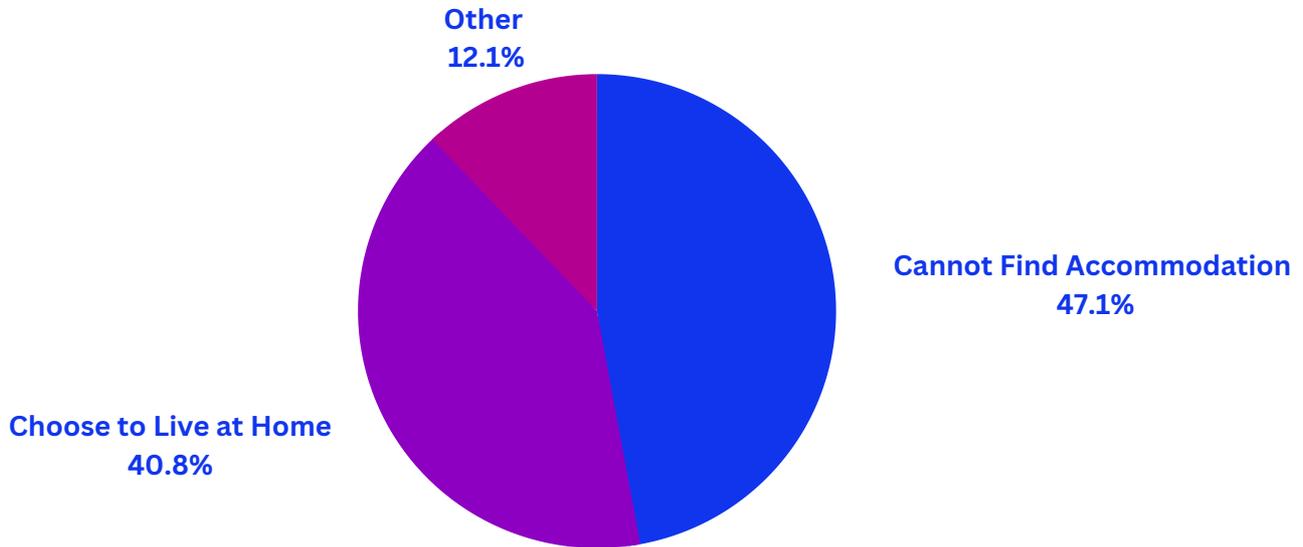
"ADVOCATE FOR UL ACCOMMODATION TO BE CHEAPER, IT IS UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT FOR MOST STUDENTS TO AFFORD AT THE MOMENT"

"BY LISTENING TO STUDENTS VOICES AND NOT ALLOWING MORE STUDENTS INTO THE UNIVERSITY WHEN THERE IS NO ACCOMMODATION TO BE AVAILED OF"

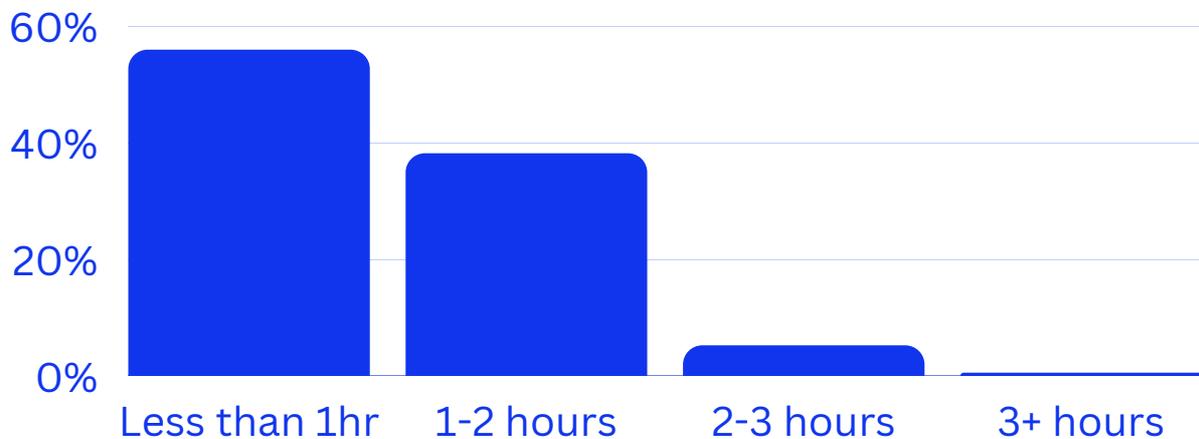
"BY MAKING SURE ACCOMMODATION IS LIVABLE"

COMMUTER STUDENTS

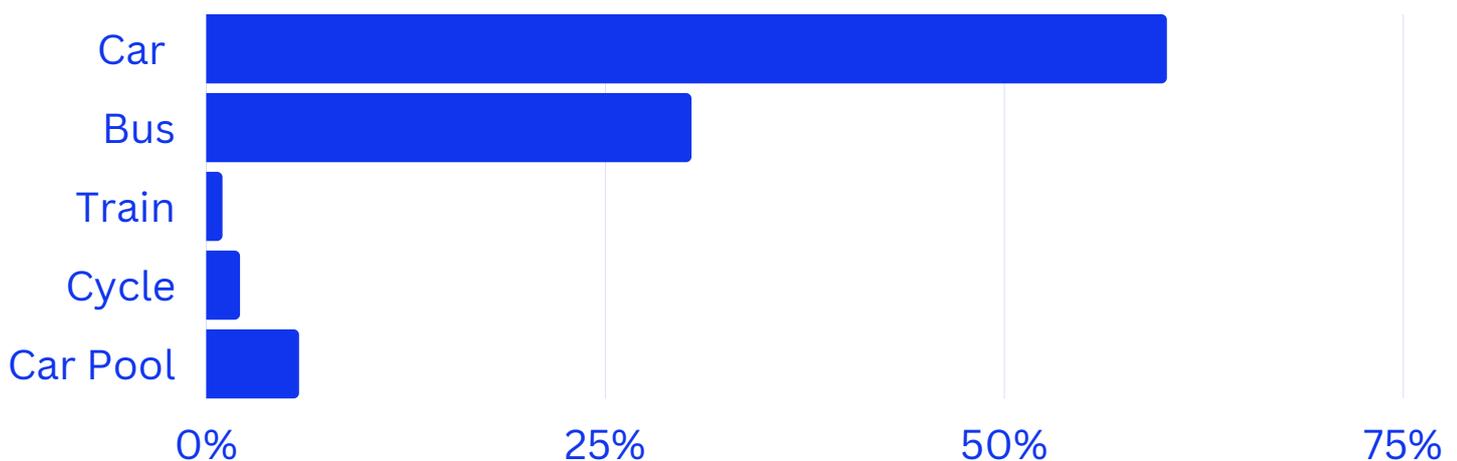
WHY ARE YOU COMMUTING ?



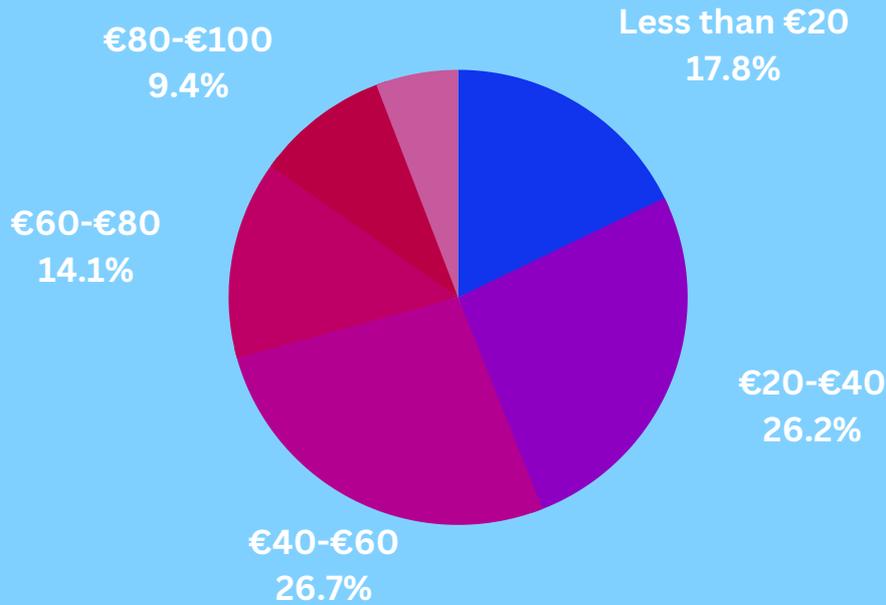
HOW LONG DOES YOUR COMMUTE TAKE ?



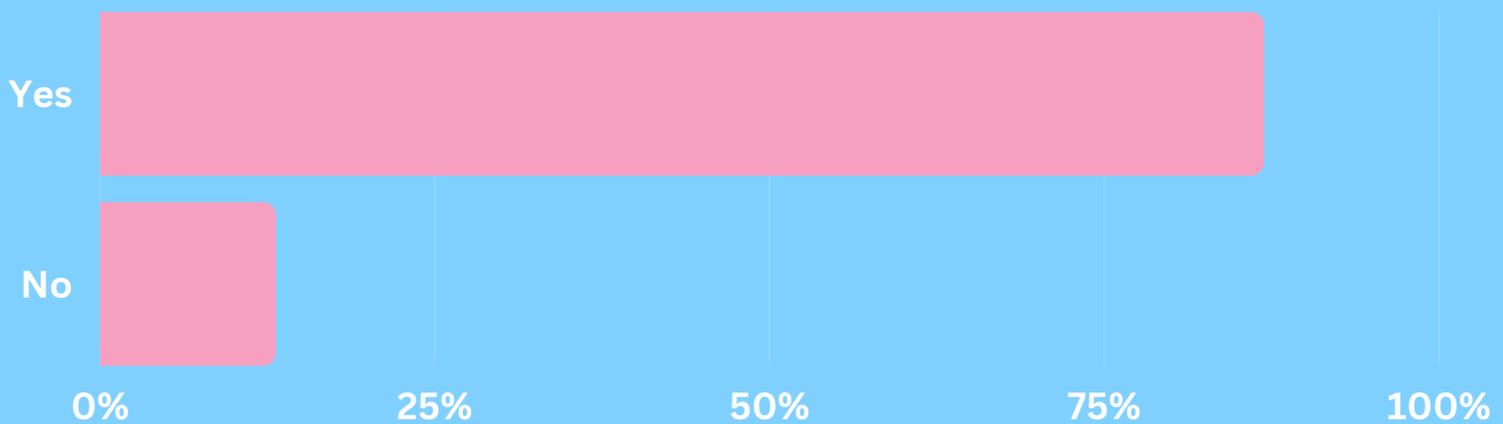
HOW DO YOU GET TO COLLEGE ?



HOW MUCH DOES YOUR COMMUTE COST YOU A WEEK?



IF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION WAS MORE AFFORDABLE WOULD YOU AVAIL OF IT?



HOW CAN UL STUDENT LIFE SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR COMMUTE I.E. CAMPAIGNS, SERVICES, ETC ?

"FUEL VOUCHERS, MORE COMMUNAL SPACES FOR COMMUTERS TO SPEND TIME IN BETWEEN LECTURES"

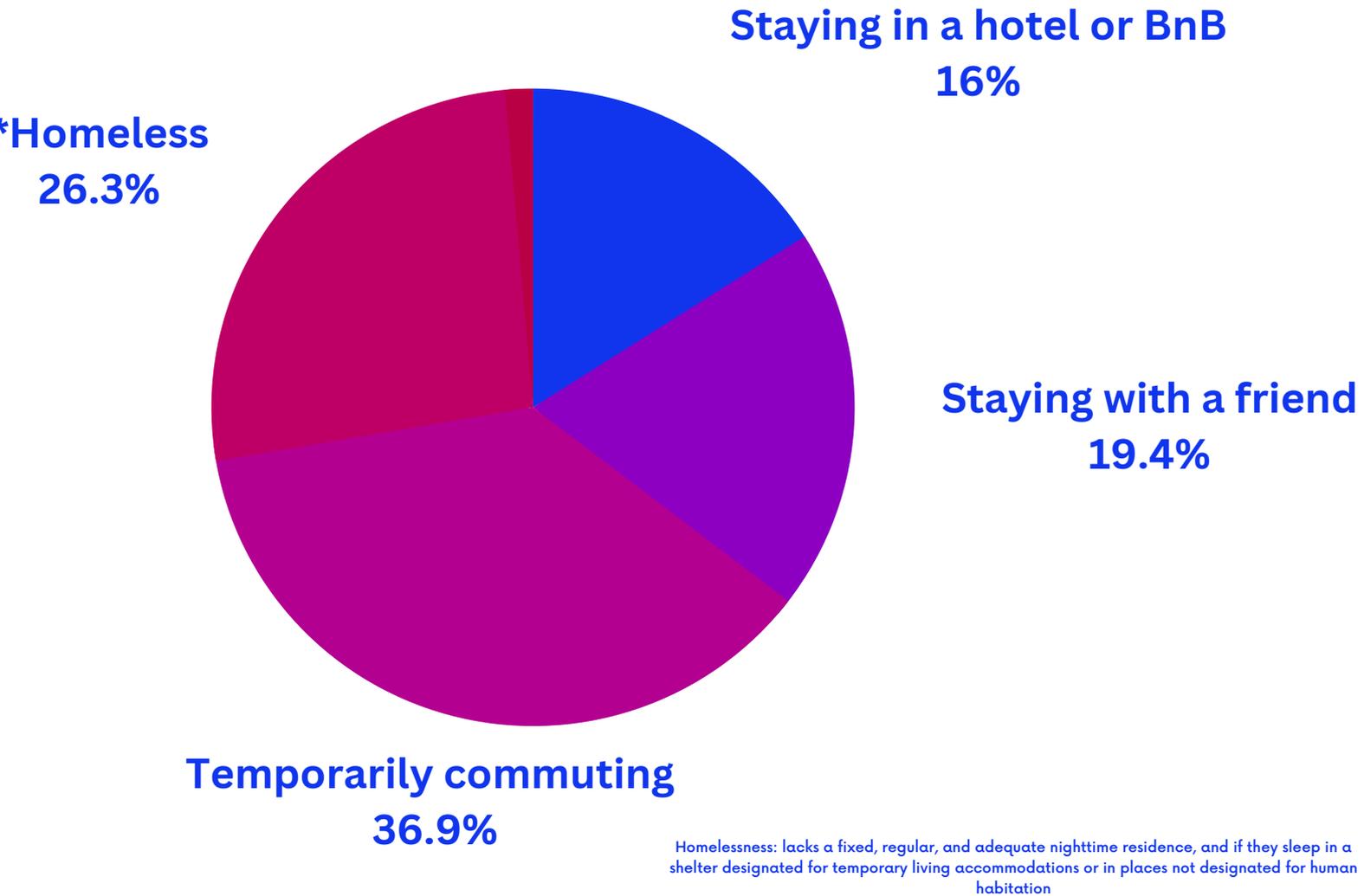
"MORE FREE PARKING needed IMMEDIATELY"

"MORE FREE PARKING SPACES ON CAMPUS AND BETTER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT BY THE FLAG POLES"

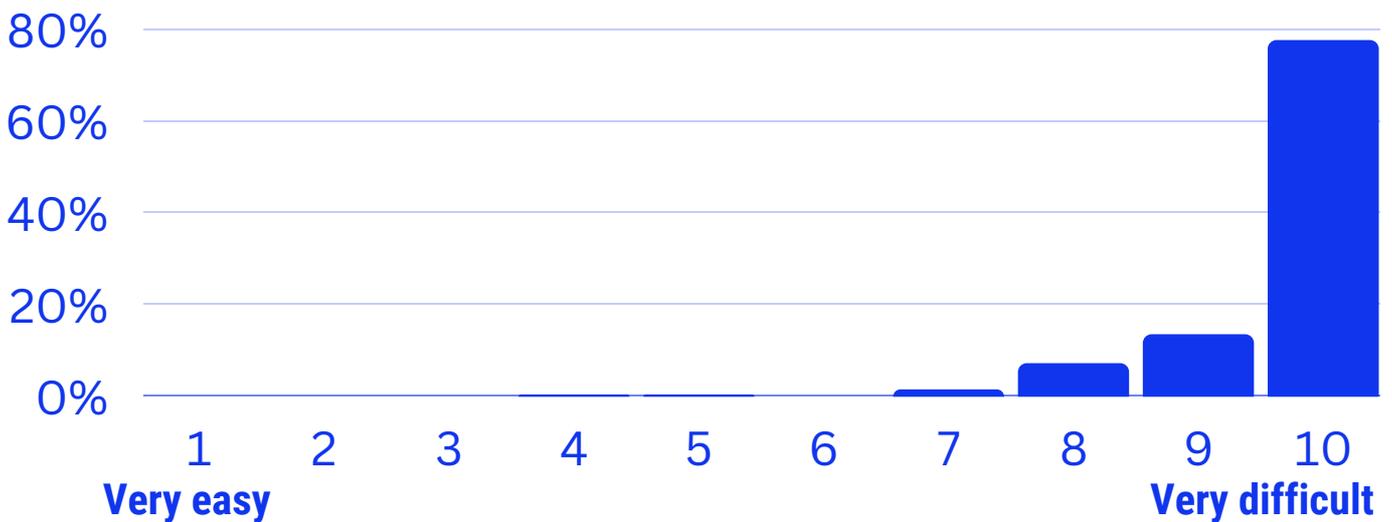
"RUN DIRECT UL BUSES FROM TOWN/ DIFFERENT PARTS OF LIMERICK"

STUDENTS WHO ARE STILL SEEKING ACCOMMODATION

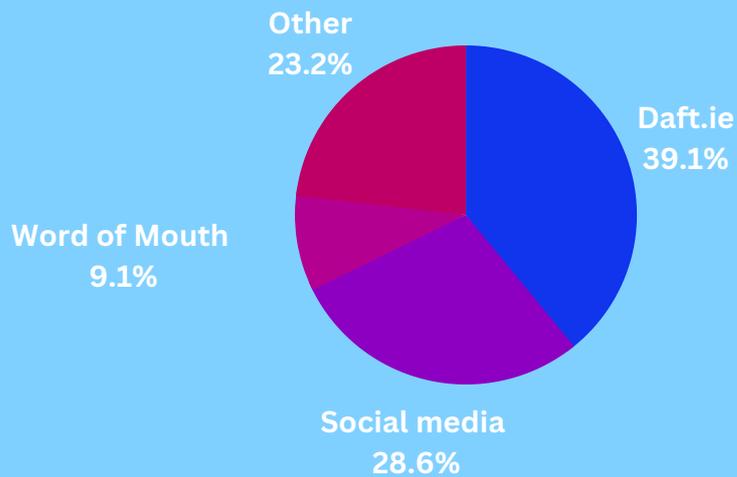
WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS ?



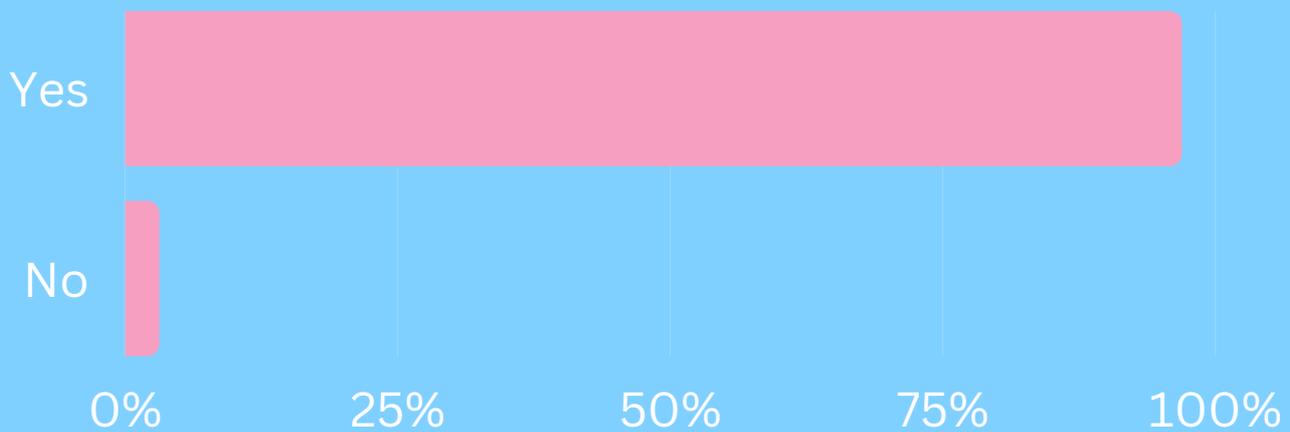
HOW DIFFICULT IS THE PROCESS OF FINDING ACCOMMODATION?



WHAT METHODS DO YOU USE TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION ?



IF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION WAS MORE AFFORDABLE WOULD YOU AVAIL OF IT?



HOW CAN UL STUDENT LIFE SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR ACCOMMODATION SEARCH I.E. CAMPAIGNS, SERVICES, ETC ?

"EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE"

'BUILD MORE
STUDENT
accommodation'

'KEEP USING YOUR VOICES'

FINDINGS

This survey has highlighted some of the main issues facing our students. Each student has a different experience of the housing crisis but this survey has successfully summarised the main impacts on the students wellbeing and experience. The following piece will outline some of the more interesting trends that can be seen in the data amongst the three key groups.

With 28.1% of our students still seeking accommodation and 15.2% of students commuting, it is essential that we take a fresh look at the approach we take in supporting students now and into the future. These numbers are stark but upon further investigation, the number of students who are essentially forced to commute due to the lack of available housing stock increases these figures further. Similarly, a large proportion of those who identified as commuter students have stated that the reason for their commute was simply that they are still seeking accommodation.



FINDINGS

STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED ACCOMMODATION

For students who have secured accommodation, there is a clear issue with the quality of housing stock from the qualitative data. With almost half (48.4%) of the students who have successfully secured accommodation living in private rental properties, it shows students reliance on the wider private rental market. The private rental market is already under immense pressure from the general population, so it is integral that new student specific options become ascertainable and affordable.

When students who had secured accommodation were asked "how difficult was the process of finding accommodation" the majority answered on the higher end of difficulty. It was interesting to see that even from a cohort of students that had successfully attained accommodation, there was still major difficulty in doing so.

One of the most alarming figures was that the most common rent for students who had secured accommodation was €700+ with 17.5% of students paying that monthly. As seen in a recent daft.ie report students are facing sharp increases in rent with Limerick being one of the highest spikes.

COMMUTER STUDENTS

For students that are commuting the figures are also concerning with 47.1% of commuter students commuting as they cannot find accommodation. This highlights the true numbers of students that are still seeking accommodation as a result of the housing crisis

There is also action needed to accommodate the methods in which these students commute. The majority of students are commuting by car from our survey respondents and as a result, a new demand on car parking facilities can be seen in the University of Limerick but similarly across the country.

With this change in circumstances for so many students it is clear that there is a need for a fresh approach to student spaces to accommodate commuter students. The creation of safe, comfortable and welcoming spaces for students was the main request of the qualitative research.

FINDINGS

STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT SECURED ACCOMMODATION

Finally, students who are still seeking accommodation were asked what their current circumstances are and the respondents provided some striking results. Of the students who are still seeking accommodation, 36.9% are temporarily commuting to combat their struggles in finding accommodation. There was also a cohort of students, 26.5%, that identified as homeless and accessing emergency accommodation. As mentioned previously students who had secured accommodation indicated that the process of finding accommodation was very difficult, this was also seen amongst students who are still seeking accommodation.

We asked all three cohorts of students 'if student accommodation was more affordable would you avail of it?'. There was a clear answer, yes, with on average over 90% of all students who completed the survey answering yes.



WHAT IS NEXT ?

It's clear from the figures and findings that students are under immense pressure from the challenges of securing housing. Students who are commuting are also experiencing difficulty in expense and quality of transport routes to college.

From the qualitative and quantitative data collected from over 1200 students it is clear that a change is needed and emergency response to the current crisis is necessary.



STUDENT LIFE

Belong to the Pack

OUR CRISIS

#USEYOURVOICE

TIME FOR CHANGE