



Savanta:
Office for Students

Student Pulse Survey:
tracking student views

Year 2 Wave 4
(Spring term 2026)

Published report

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Make Better Decisions

Methodology & Analysis

The student pulse survey was established to provide a regular time series of data that tracks student views on issues of sustained importance to the Office for Students (OfS), as a regulator. The survey focuses on monitoring sentiment across five key themes. By collecting and analysing student opinions at the start and end of each academic term, this research aims to offer timely and broad insights.

Quotas were used during fieldwork to ensure a representative sample within the postgraduate and undergraduate sample by broad age, ethnicity (5 groups), and sex. The total sample is also representative between both full and part-time students, as well as those eligible or not for free school meals. The data was weighted according to these demographics.

Significance testing has been completed for all questions. We use statistical tests to check whether the results are genuinely different from the previous year or the previous wave, or whether the change is likely to have happened because of random variation in the data. If a score is marked as significantly different, it means the difference is unlikely to be due to chance, with a 95% level of confidence.

Each graph includes a **margin of error** at the 95% confidence level. This range is shown by an error bar, which indicates where the true population result is likely to fall. Larger error bars show lower precision, while smaller error bars indicate a more precise result. In other words, there is a 95% chance that the real percentage lies within the interval shown around the survey score.

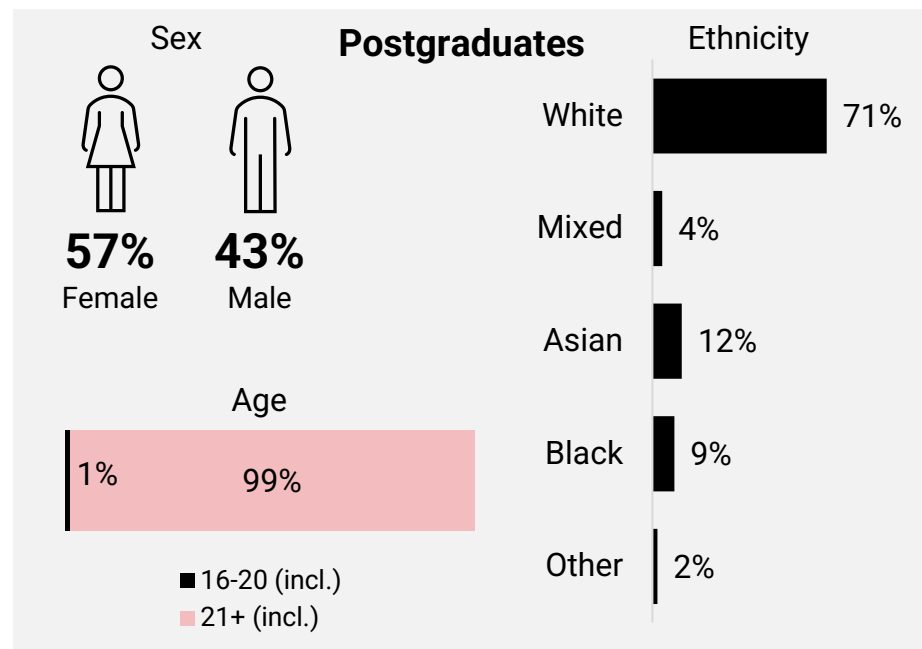
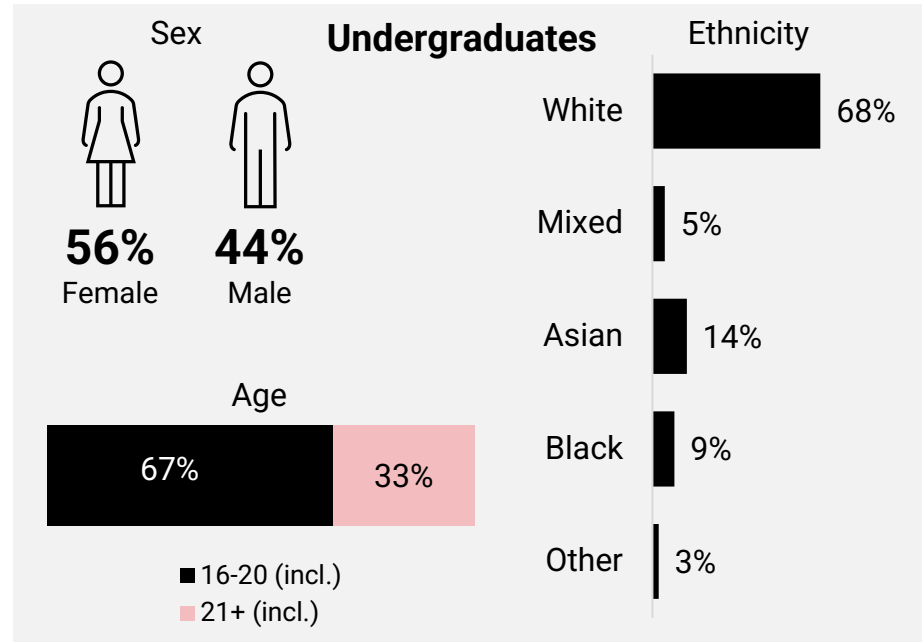
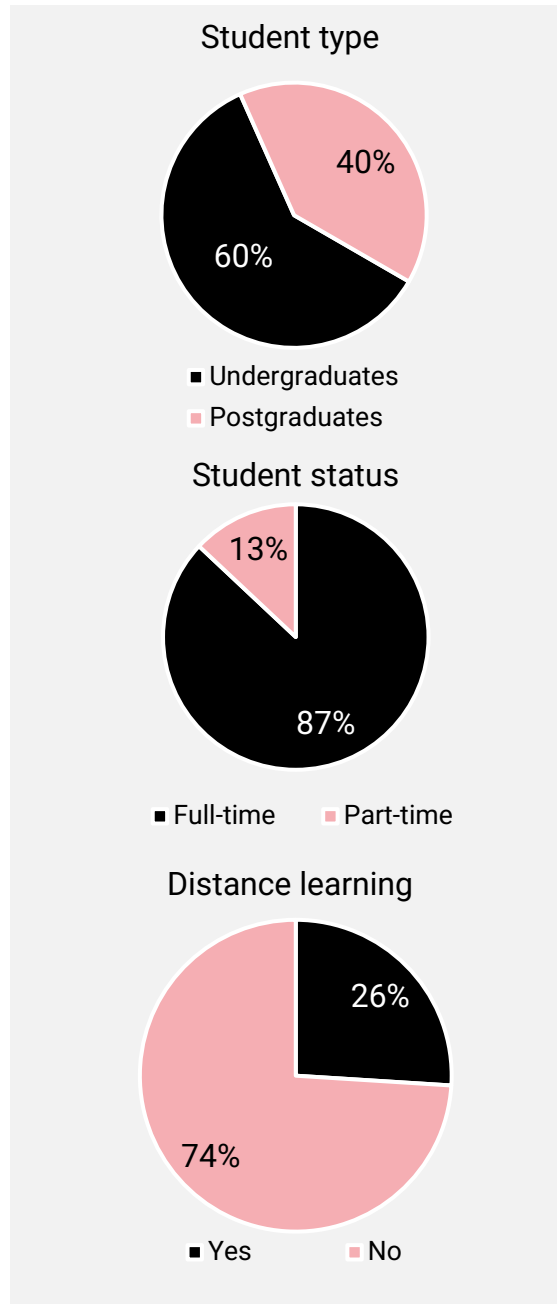
To create **term-based waves**, we have combined the results of two survey waves that took place during the same academic term, one at the beginning and one at the end. This gives a larger and more reliable sample, while still allowing meaningful changes in the data to be seen.

QUANTITATIVE

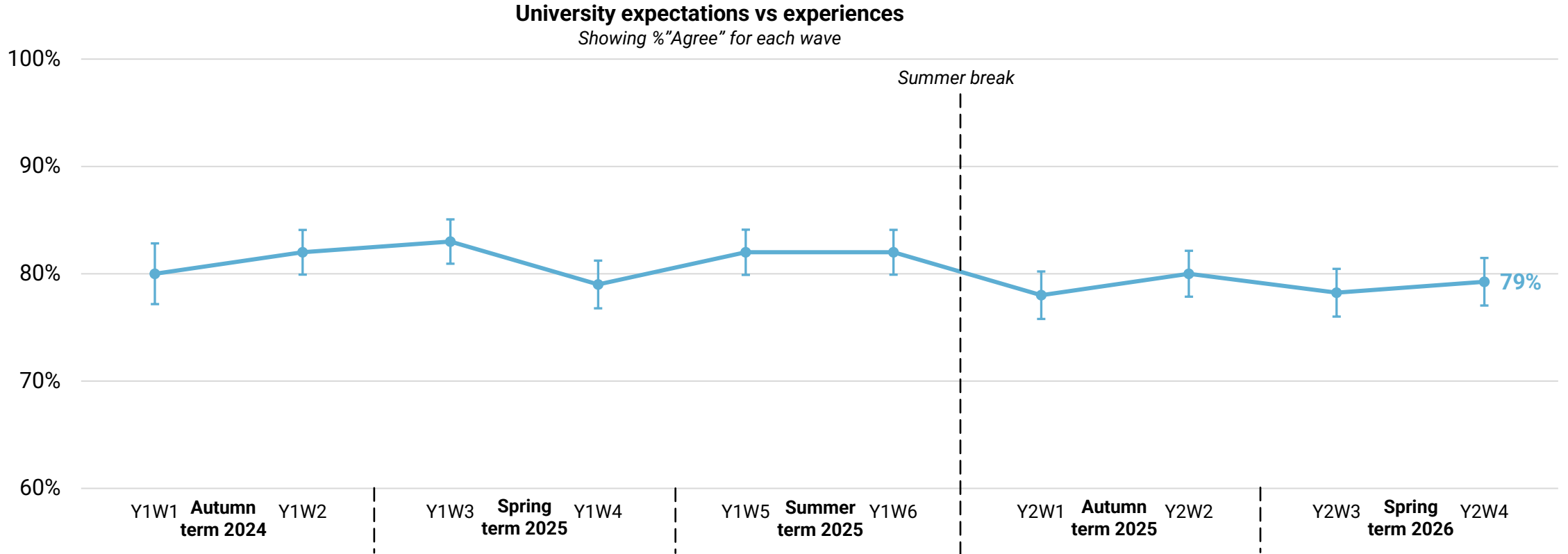
Sample and dates

- » Fieldwork consisted of a 5-minute online survey; this was repeated 6 times over the course of the academic year.
- » Year 1 Wave 1: 775 students. Data collected from 28/10/24 to 8/11/24.
- » Year 1 Wave 2: 1307 students. Data collected from 26/11/24 to 9/12/24.
- » Year 1 Wave 3: 1257 students. Data collected from 13/01/25 to 22/01/25.
- » Year 1 Wave 4: 1270 students. Data collected from 24/02/25 to 10/03/25.
- » Year 1 Wave 5: 1273 students. Data collected from 22/04/25 to 07/05/25.
- » Year 1 Wave 6: 1302 students. Data collected from 26/05/25 to 10/06/25.
- » Year 2 Wave 1: 1359 students. Data collected from 13/10/25 to 24/10/25.
- » Year 2 Wave 2: 1331 students. Data collected from 24/11/25 to 04/12/25.
- » Year 2 Wave 3: 1323 students. Data collected from 19/01/26 to 30/01/26.
- » Year 2 Wave 4: 1287 students. Data collected from 16/03/26 to 30/03/26.

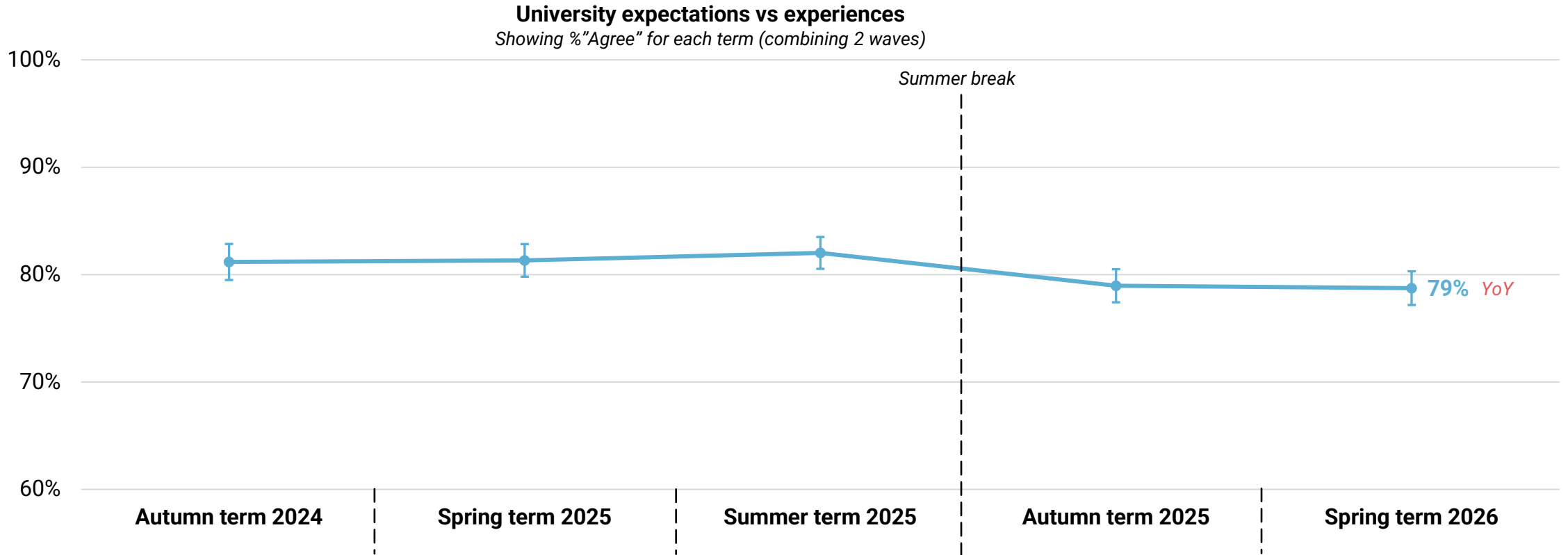
Weighted sample profile



To what extent do you agree or disagree that the higher education experiences you received matches what was promised when you enrolled?



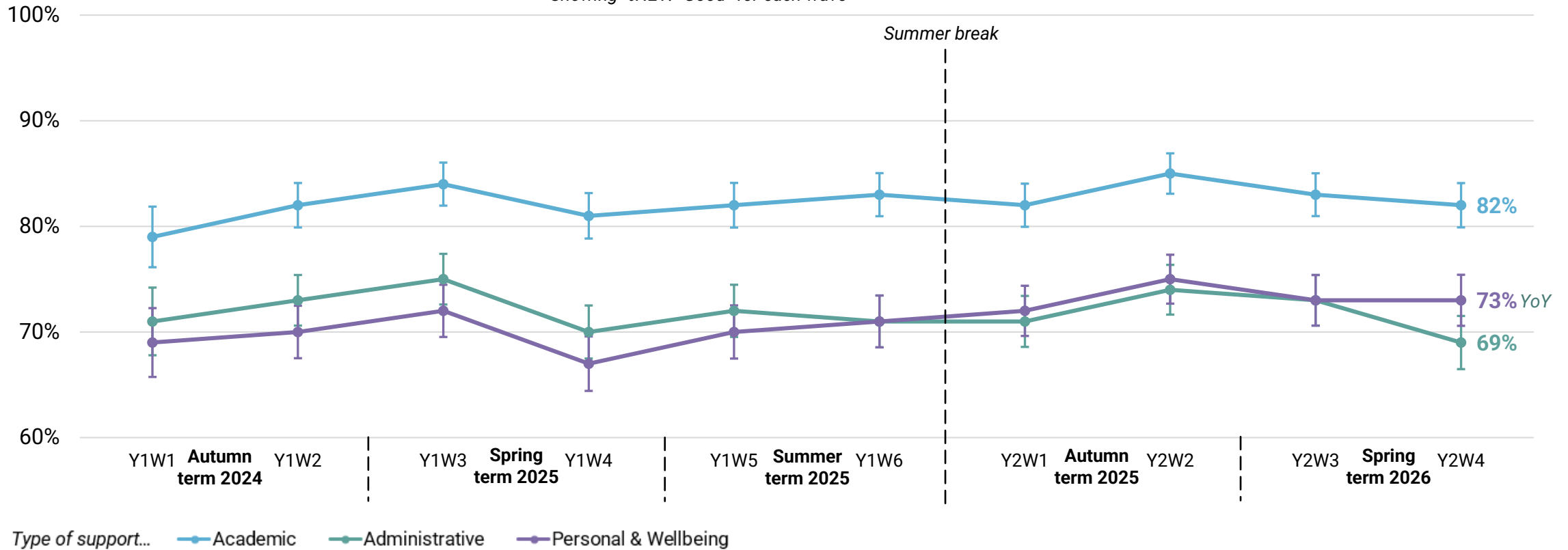
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the higher education experiences you received matches what was promised when you enrolled?



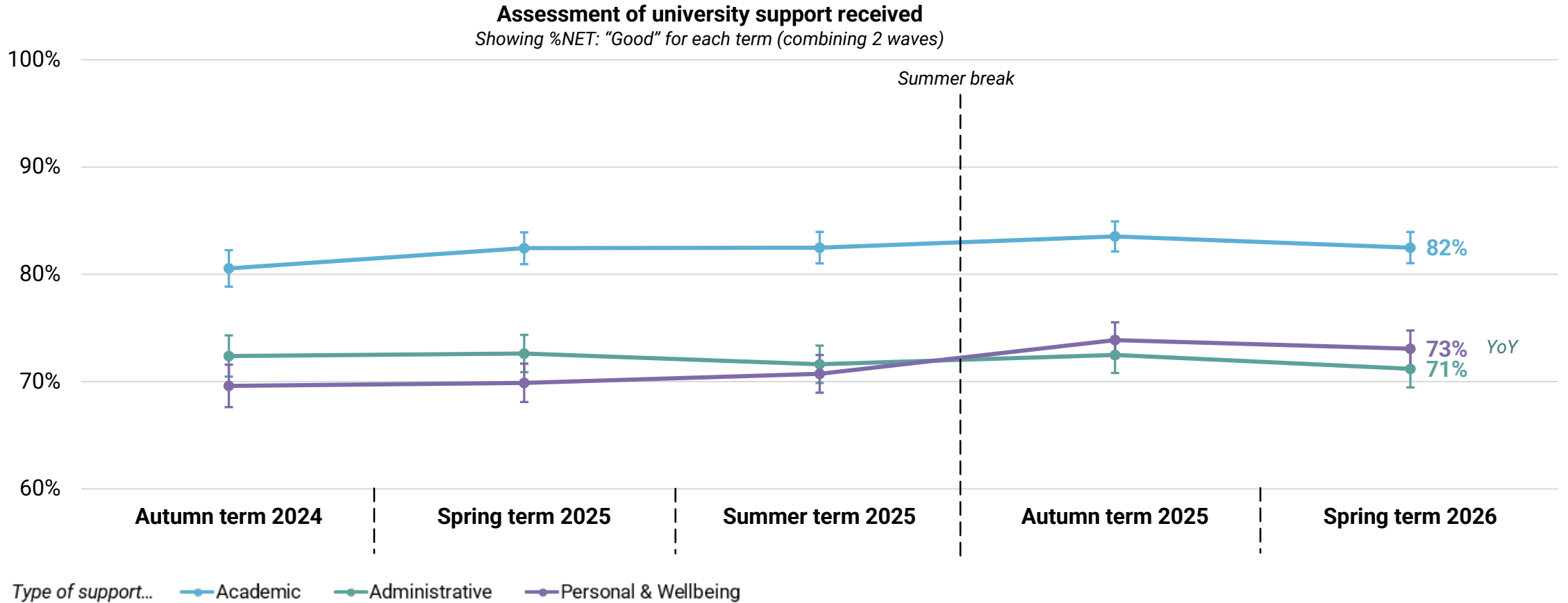
How would you rate the support you have received from your university or college in the following areas:

Assessment of university support received

Showing %NET: "Good" for each wave



How would you rate the support you have received from your university or college in the following areas:

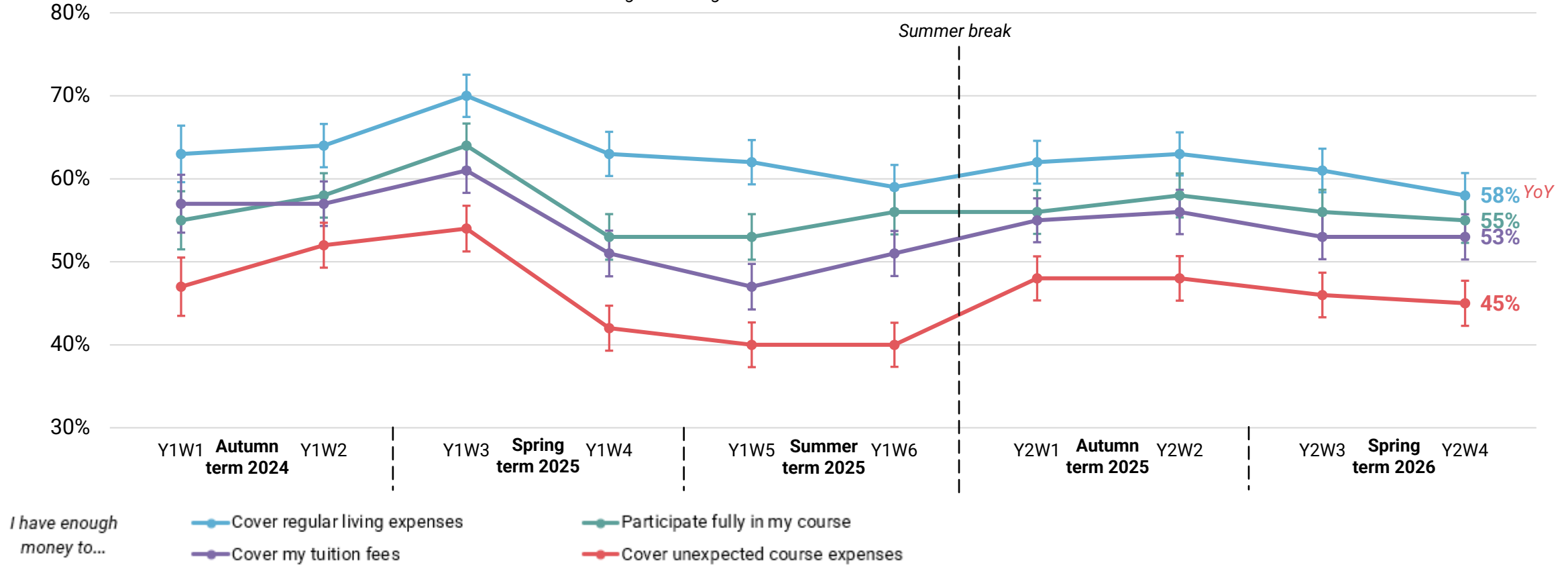


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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your current financial situation while studying?

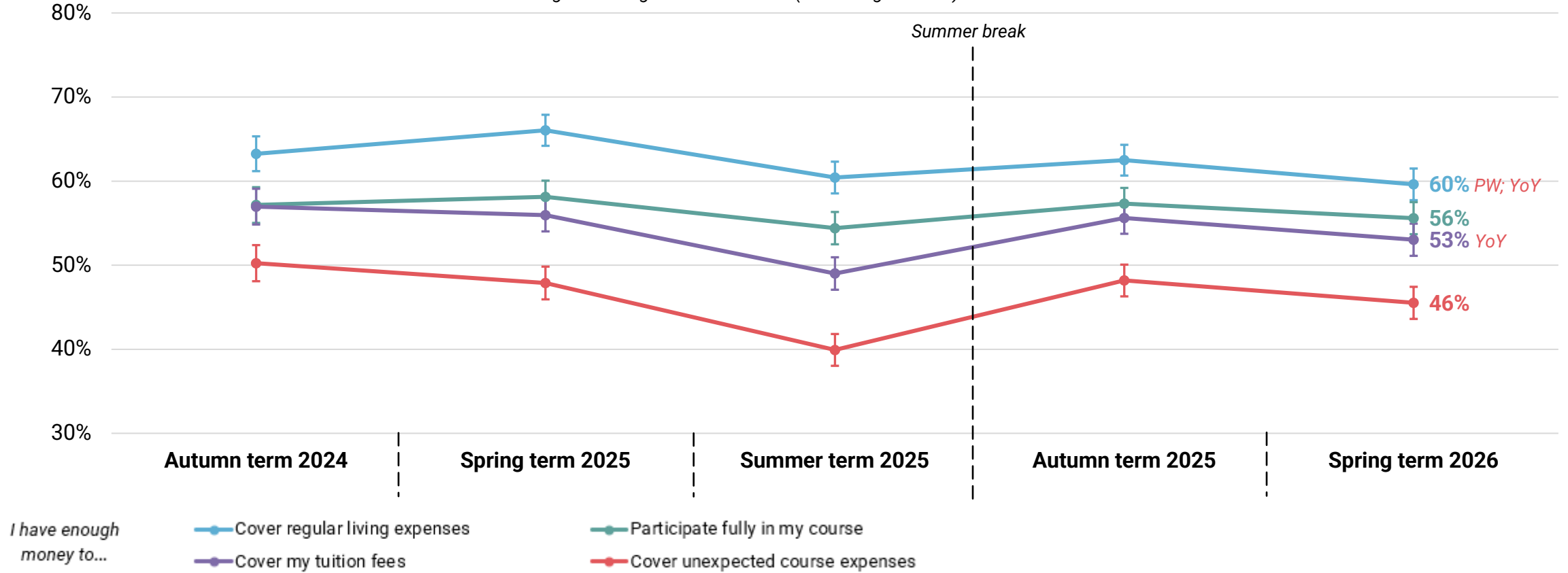
Financial situation while studying

Showing %NET: "Agree" for each wave



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your current financial situation while studying?

Financial situation while studying
Showing %NET: "Agree" for each term (combining 2 waves)

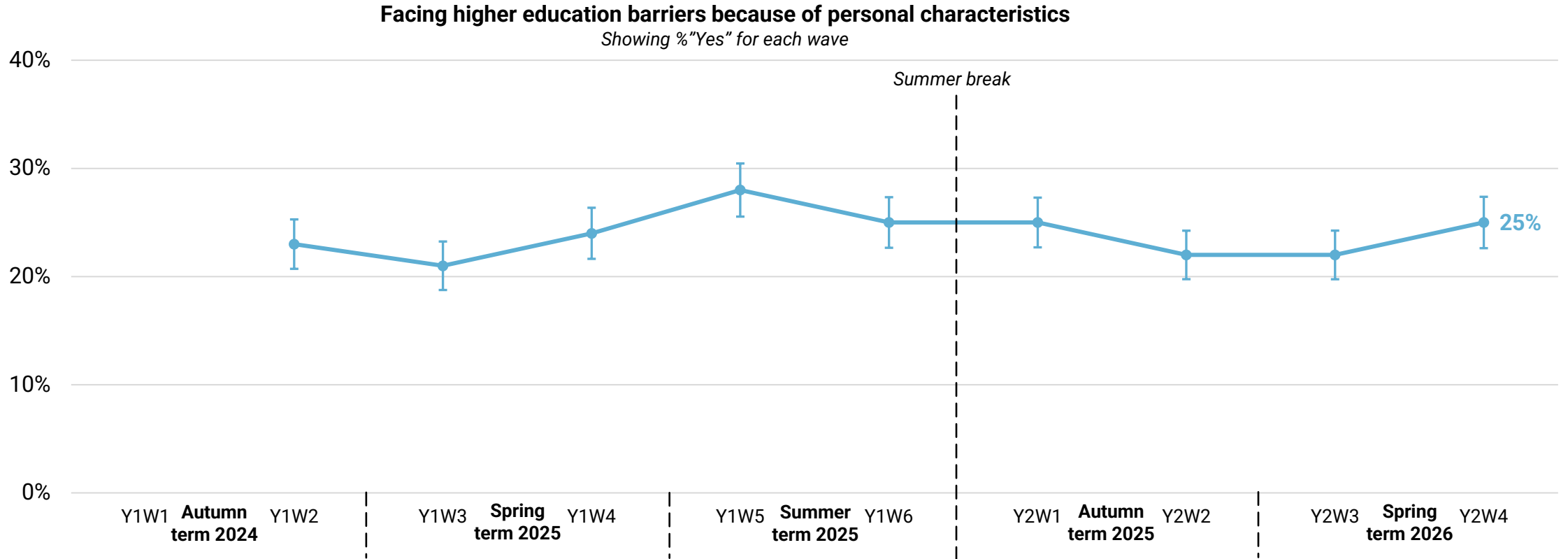


I have enough money to...

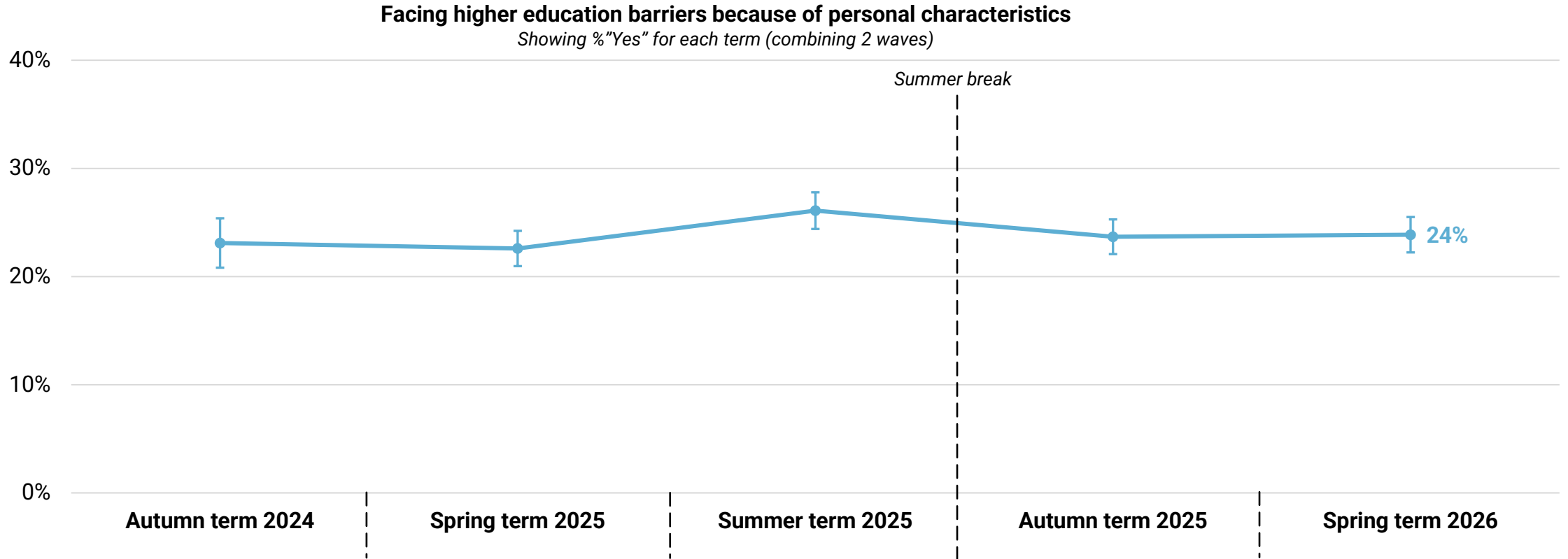
These error margins represent the interval within which we are 95% confident the population value lies

YoY/YoY
PW/PW
Figure is higher/ lower at 95% confidence level vs. previous year (YoY) or previous wave (PW)

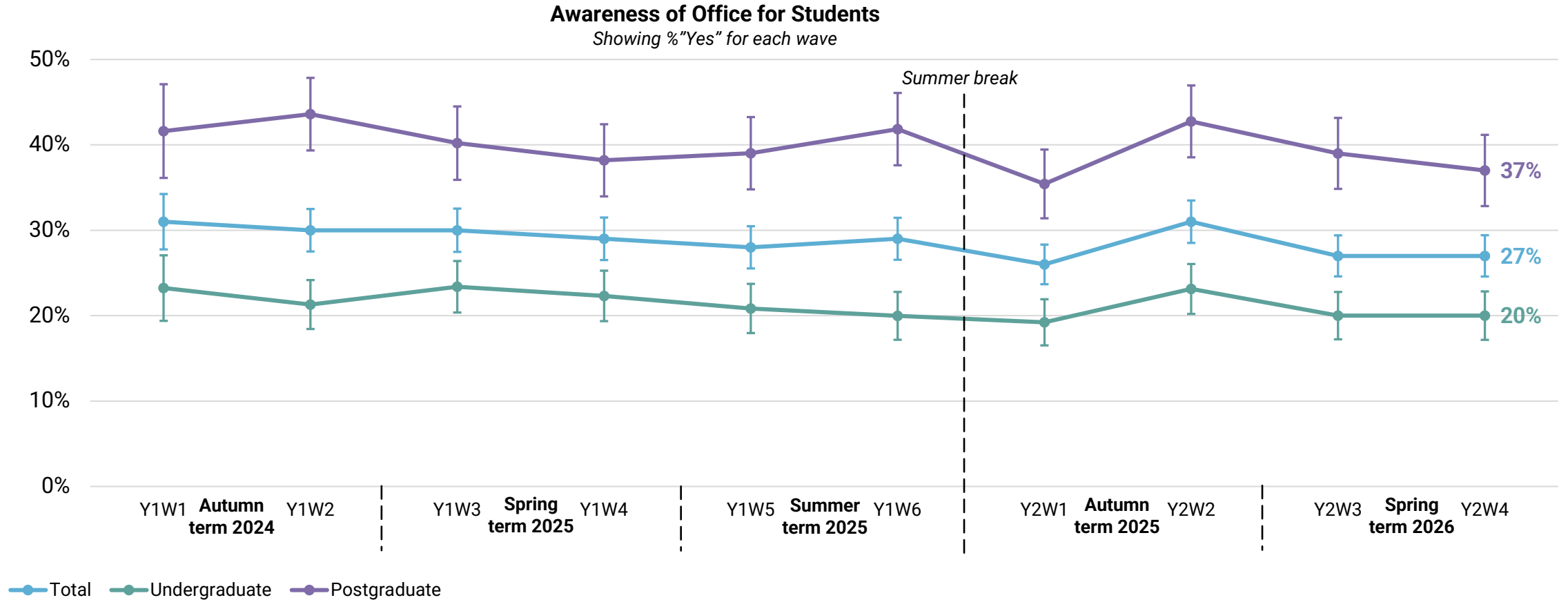
Have you faced barriers to progressing in higher education because of your personal characteristics? (e.g. your race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion/belief, pregnancy and maternity)



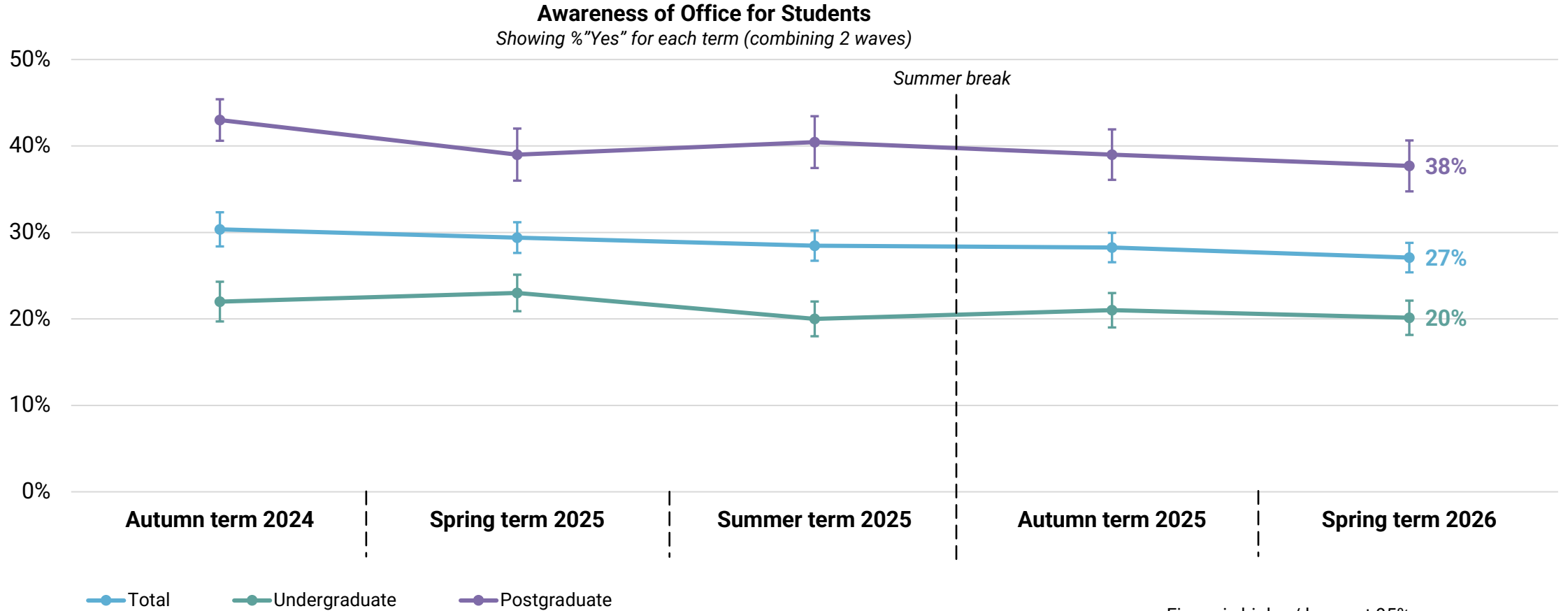
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Before today, had you heard of the Office for Students?



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These error margins represent the interval within which we are 95% confident the population value lies

YoY/YoY Figure is higher/ lower at 95% confidence level vs. previous year (YoY) or previous wave (PW)
PW/PW

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