

Belonging@VU

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<https://www.vu.nl/nl/over-de-vu/profiel-en-missie/diversiteit/index.aspx>

- Sense of belonging is almost equal among students with and without a migration background.
- International students feel the least sense of belonging, due to language barrier and group formation.
- Minority groups experience and observe substantially more often discrimination and exclusion.



VU students experience and observe discrimination and exclusion.

‘How often do you observe (or experience) exclusion or discrimination at VU University?’.

29 percent of respondents answered:
sometimes/frequently/always or almost always

VU students with a minority identity

Experience and observe substantially more often discrimination and exclusion:

- 41% LGBTQ+ students
- 72% non-binary students
- 34% students with disability
- 35% students with non-western migration background
- 41% international students
- 38% Muslim students

What has been learned...

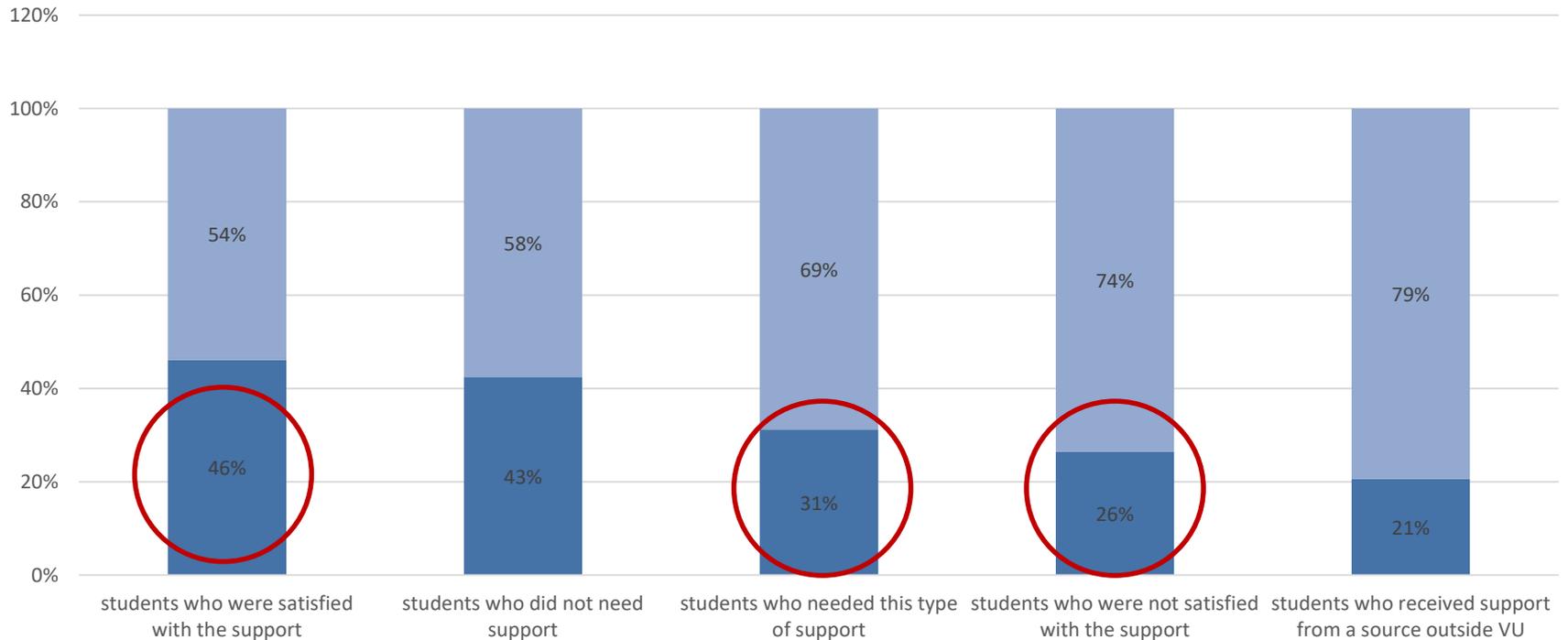
- Students do not know who they can approach if they experience exclusion or discrimination.
- More in general, support from Vrije Universiteit can do a lot better.
 - 20% of students who had made use of the support provided by VU were dissatisfied.
 - One-fifth of all respondents had been in need of support but had not obtained it from VU.
 - Some students said that they had missed specific types of support during their studies.
 - Some students said that it had been necessary for them to go to a great deal of trouble to find any information about the help available.
 - Some students said that they had not even been aware of the fact that VU offered support.

Support and belonging

Figure 6.6

Feelings of belonging at VU Amsterdam among students who used VU support

■ (almost) always feel that they belong ■ never, occasionally or regularly feel that they belong



Source: Belonging@VU 2019

...and how to apply these lessons during Covid-19?

- Take the need for support seriously, and act on it by providing support
- Clearly communicate support options
 - For whom
 - By whom
 - Where
 - How (online/ live/ one-on-one/ groups)
 - Possible costs