

INTEGRATION INTO UNIVERSITY LIFE. THE EXPERIENCES OF INTERNATIONAL FRESHMAN STUDENTS



The academic and cultural challenges international students encounter during their integration increase interest in many universities to develop their practices.

DATA SOURCES

LONGITUDINAL STUDY of international students studying at Hungarian Universities under the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Program (SHTrack 2023)

SATISFACTION SURVEY of international students studying at Hungarian Universities under the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Program (SHSurvey 2023)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN HUNGARY

Three phases of inbound student mobility trends



PHASE 1.

The Period after the change of regime (the 1980s-1990s):

- The number of international students increased, but the proportion was not significant;
- The intensity of cross-border mobility increased;
- As a result of earlier agreements, the number of students from post-socialist countries (eg Vietnam) was significant;
- Medical and agricultural study fields were the most popular fields.



PHASE 2.

The Period of the European integration and the Bologna Process (1990s-2016):

- Slow increase in the number and proportion of international students, especially from European countries;
- As a result of European integration, the intensity of short-term mobility increased;
- A dramatic increase in the number of students in cross-border mobility;
- The concentration of international students in some HEIs was significant.



PHASE 3.

After 2016, intensive inbound degree-seeking mobility as a result of the scholarship programs:

- A significant increase in the number and proportion of international students (in 2023: 43,000 international students);
- Widening range of sending countries (app. 180 countries);
- A significant increase in the role of Asian and African countries, parallelly a slow decline in the role of European and North American countries;
- An increasing number of universities hosting international students.

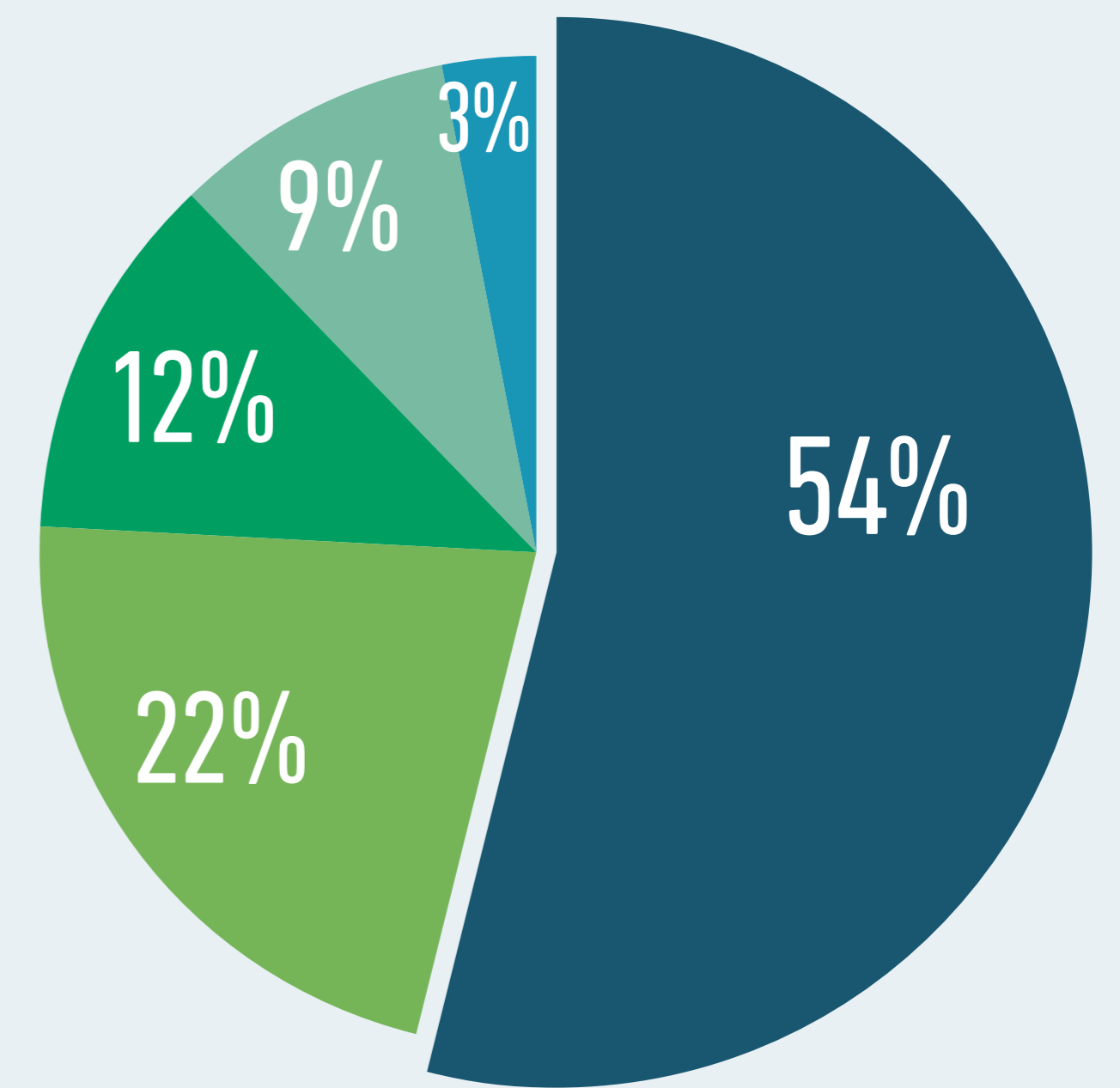
INTEGRATION WITHIN CLASSROOM

Limited number of domestic (Hungarian) students in some courses

Are there any Hungarian students in the student group?
Respondents of international freshman students

(n=1816, SHTrack survey)

- No, there are not
- Yes, only 1 or 2 students
- Yes, about 3-5 students
- Yes, more than 6 students
- I do not know



Satisfaction with academic life at university

(SHSurvey, 2023; 5-point scale; n=10,023)

Support and advice you have received by your professors/lecturers/teachers

English knowledge of your professors/lecturers/teachers

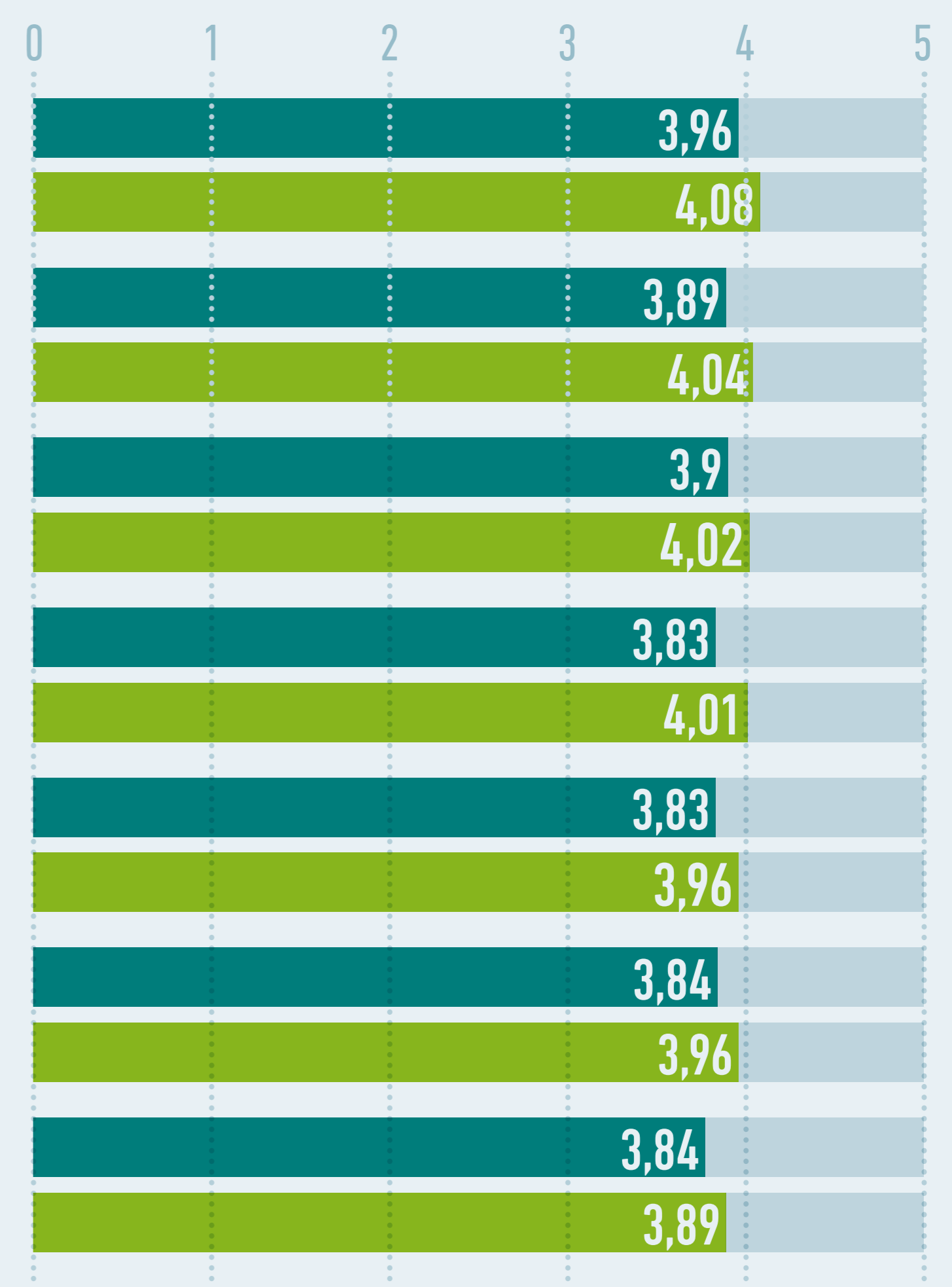
Quality of explanations provided by your professors/lecturers/teachers

Variety of courses at your university/college

Quality of lectures and seminars at your university/college

Quality of lecture notes, teaching materials

Teaching methods your professors/lecturers/teachers use at your courses



■ Senior students ■ Freshman students

SHARING DATA AND INFORMATION



INTEGRATION of international and domestic students is a key priority in Hungarian Higher Education in the next five years;

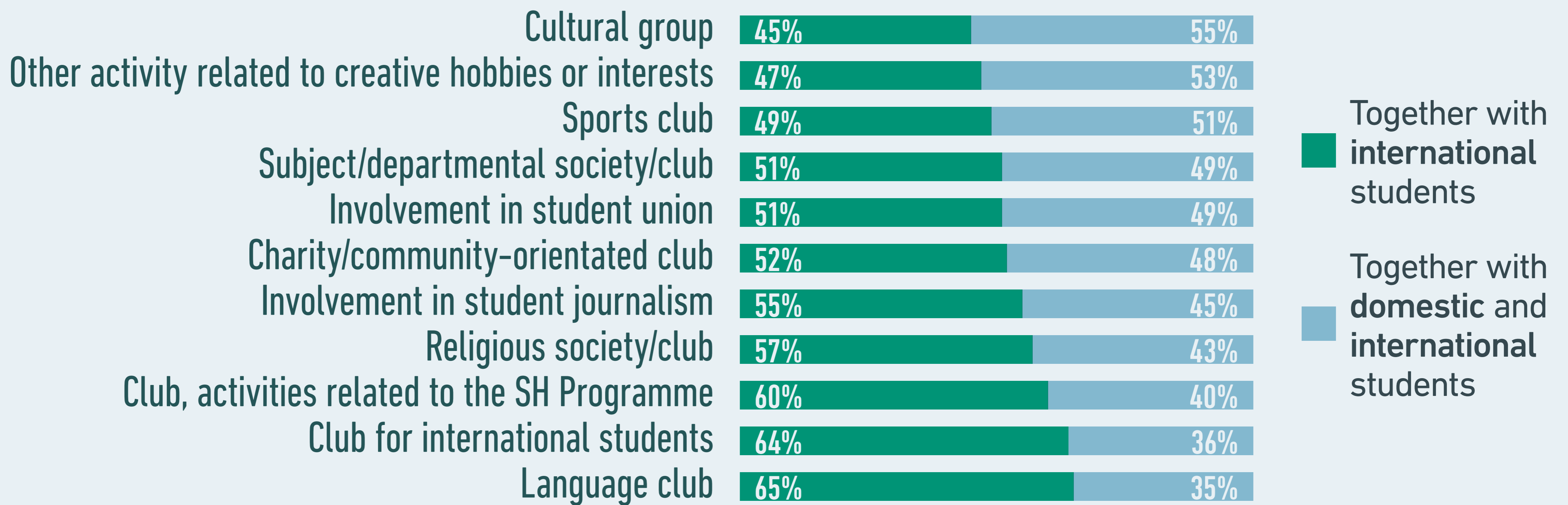


ENHANCING CAPABILITIES APPROACH: various stakeholders are required to share the responsibility to improve the integration of international students;

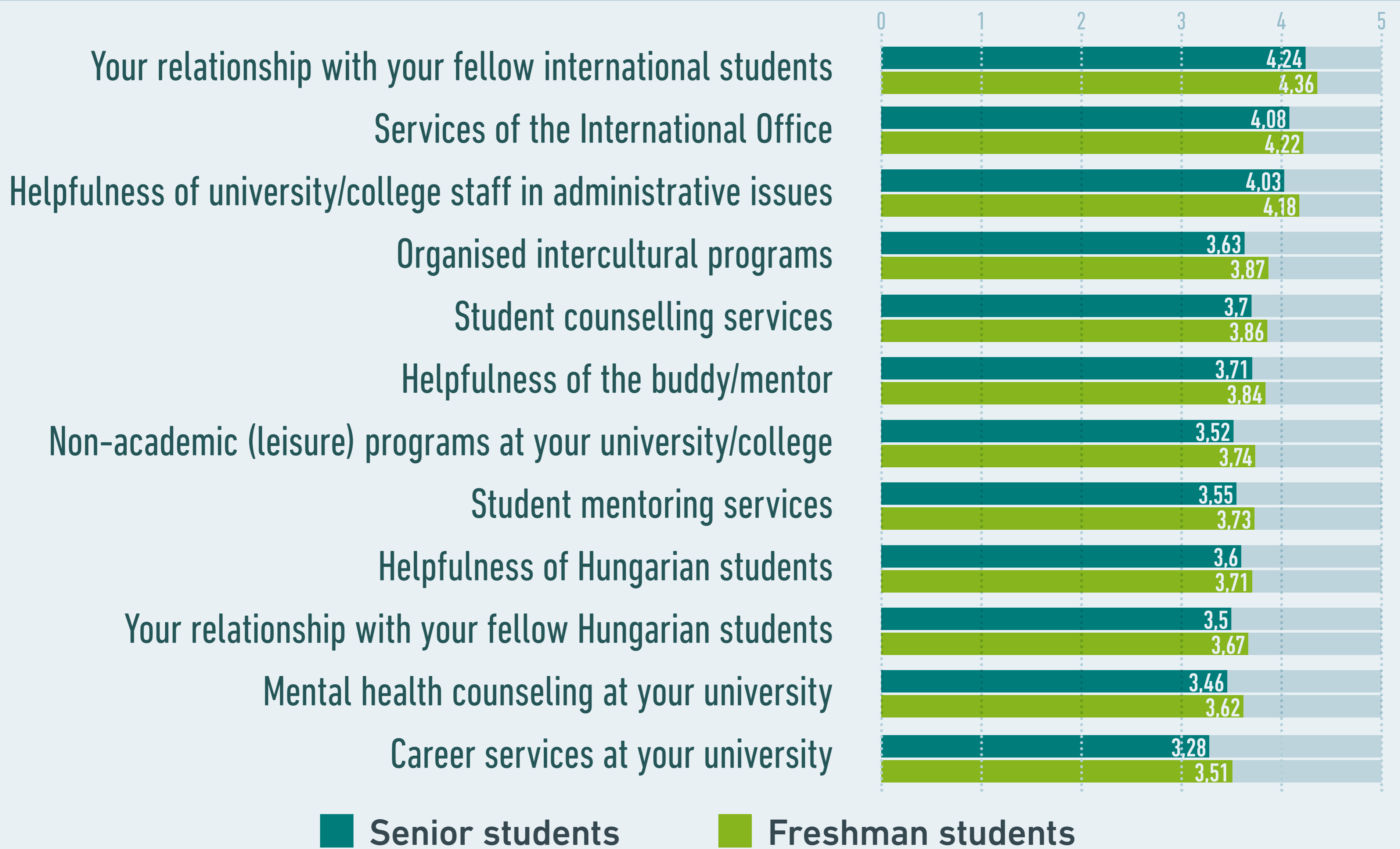
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INTEGRATION OUTSIDE CLASSROOM

Various active social relations at university outside the classroom (n=1816, SHTrack survey)



Satisfaction with university services and related factors (SHSurvey, 2023; 5-point scale; n=10,023)



WITH UNIVERSITIES



DATA DRAW the attention to the main and effective forms and activities for integration;



Various **GOOD PRACTICES** at universities, for instance, book clubs, community gardens, internship programs, joint research and capacity-building projects.