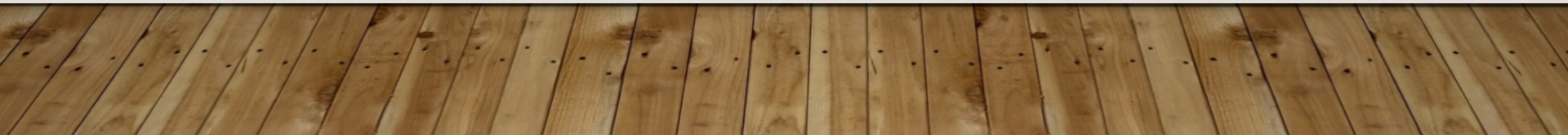


# JAPI 2016 FOREIGN STUDENTS IN JAPAN SURVEY – GRADUATE STUDENTS

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PREPARED BY AUSTIN ZENG

BASED OFF ORIGINAL REPORTS WRITTEN BY VU PHUONGTHUY  
AND FURTHER COMMENTARY BY AUSTIN ZENG



# NOTE ABOUT WHO IS INCLUDED

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- Respondents reporting being part of an exchange program are excluded.
- Results for exchange students are displayed in separate set of slides.

# KEY FINDINGS

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- Internet the most useful information source when researching about universities
  - But other factors more important compared to undergrads
- Attractions of universities: education in field of interest then reputation and quality of education
- Evidence for a large portion of grad. students not reaching advanced Japanese by graduation

# KEY FINDINGS

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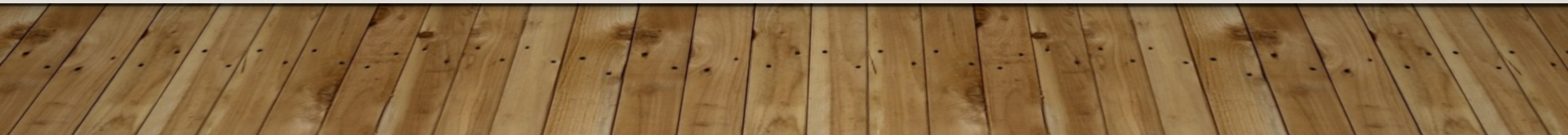
- Overall satisfaction rates quite high – though depend highly on the topic
  - Career development big stumbling block
- Majority reporting at least one problem in studies but differing issues depending on study field
- Reported wants and needs largely center around opportunities outside from studies

Possible solutions outlined at end.



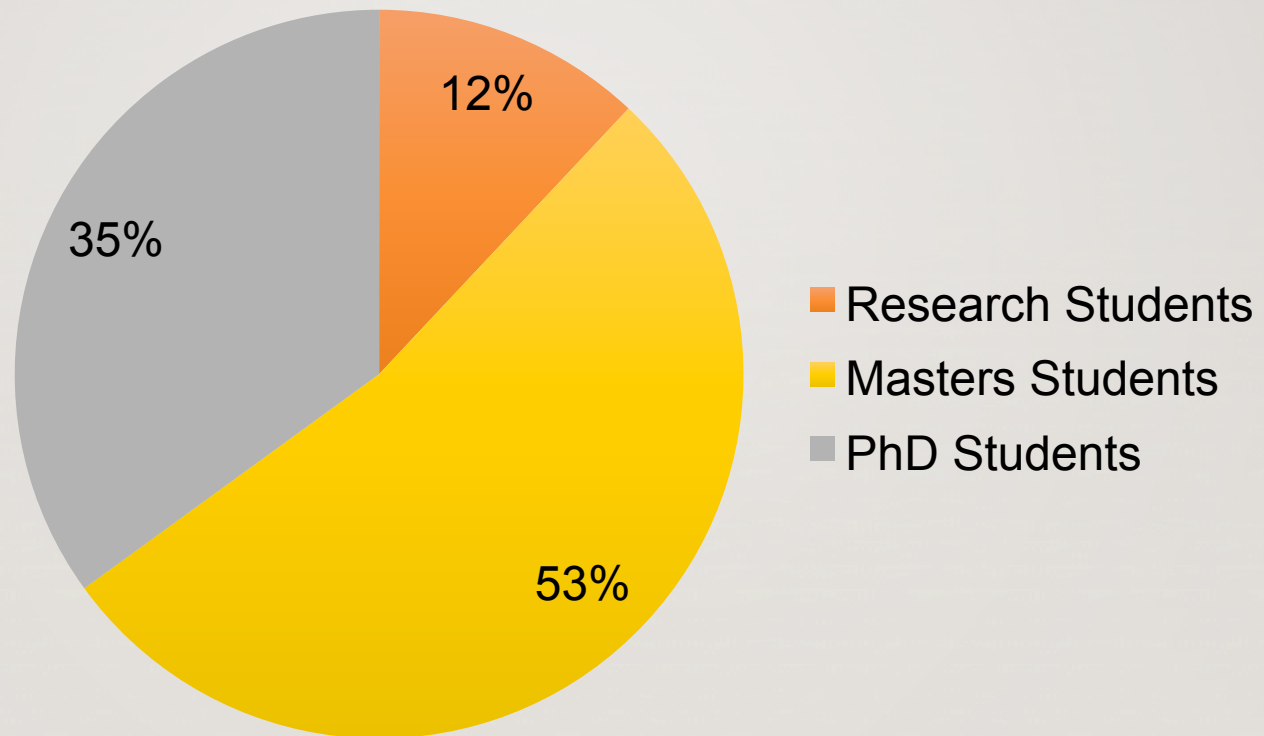
# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

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TOTAL = 392,  
MAJORITY MASTERS WITH 1/3 PHD AND  
REMAINDER RESEARCH STUDENTS

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# ASIAN MAJORITIES WITH SE ASIA THE LARGEST CONTINGENT

## TOP 12 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

| Nationality | Numbers |
|-------------|---------|
| China       | 91      |
| Thailand    | 39      |
| Indonesia   | 30      |
| Vietnam     | 29      |
| Philippines | 24      |
| Malaysia    | 15      |
| Myanmar     | 11      |
| Singapore   | 10      |
| Nepal       | 10      |
| India       | 9       |
| USA         | 8       |
| France      | 4       |

## By region (Top 4)

- SE Asia: 36%
- East Asia: 31%
- Europe / USA / Canada / AUST / NZ: 11%
- South Asia: 9%

# TOP 10 SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

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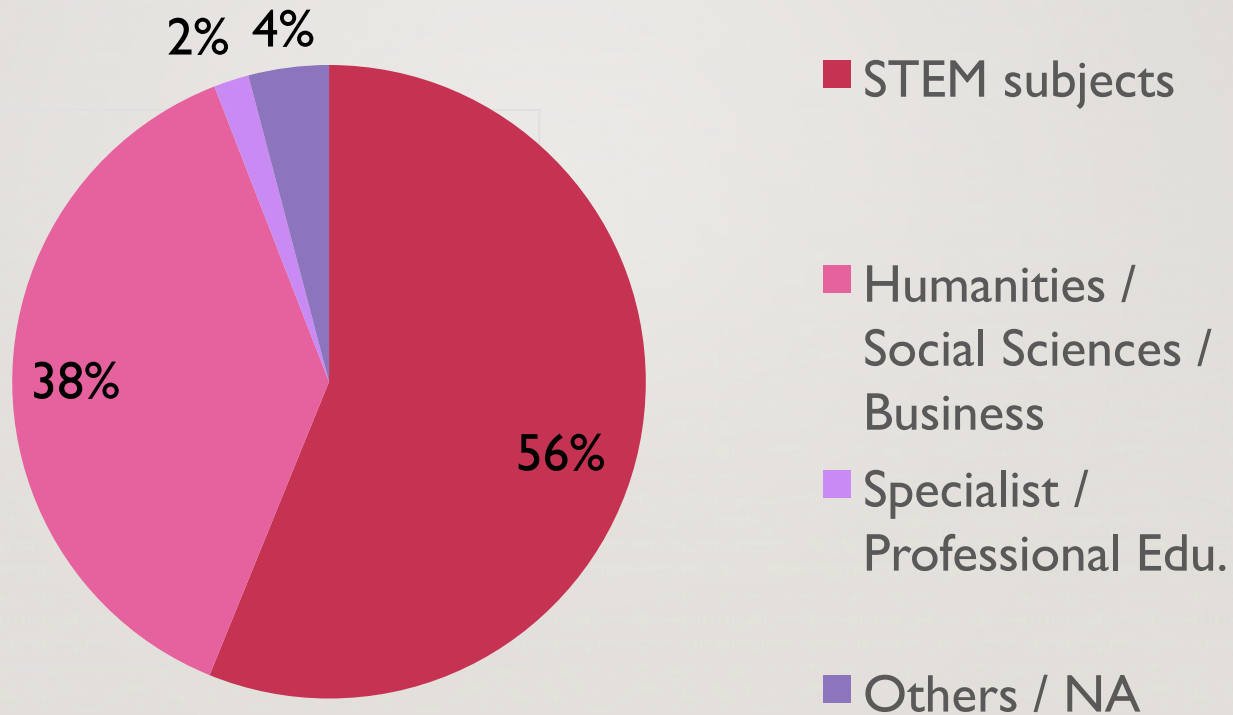
| University             | Numbers |
|------------------------|---------|
| Tokyo Inst. of Tech.   | 53      |
| U. of Tokyo            | 50      |
| Shibaura Inst. of Tech | 40      |
| Sophia U.              | 21      |
| Hokkaido U.            | 20      |
| Utsunomiya U.          | 20      |
| Asia U.                | 19      |
| Yokohama Nat. U.       | 17      |
| Waseda U.              | 17      |
| Osaka U.               | 16      |



# MAJORITY STEM SUBJECTS – CONTRASTED TO ARTS & HUMANITIES UNDERGRADS

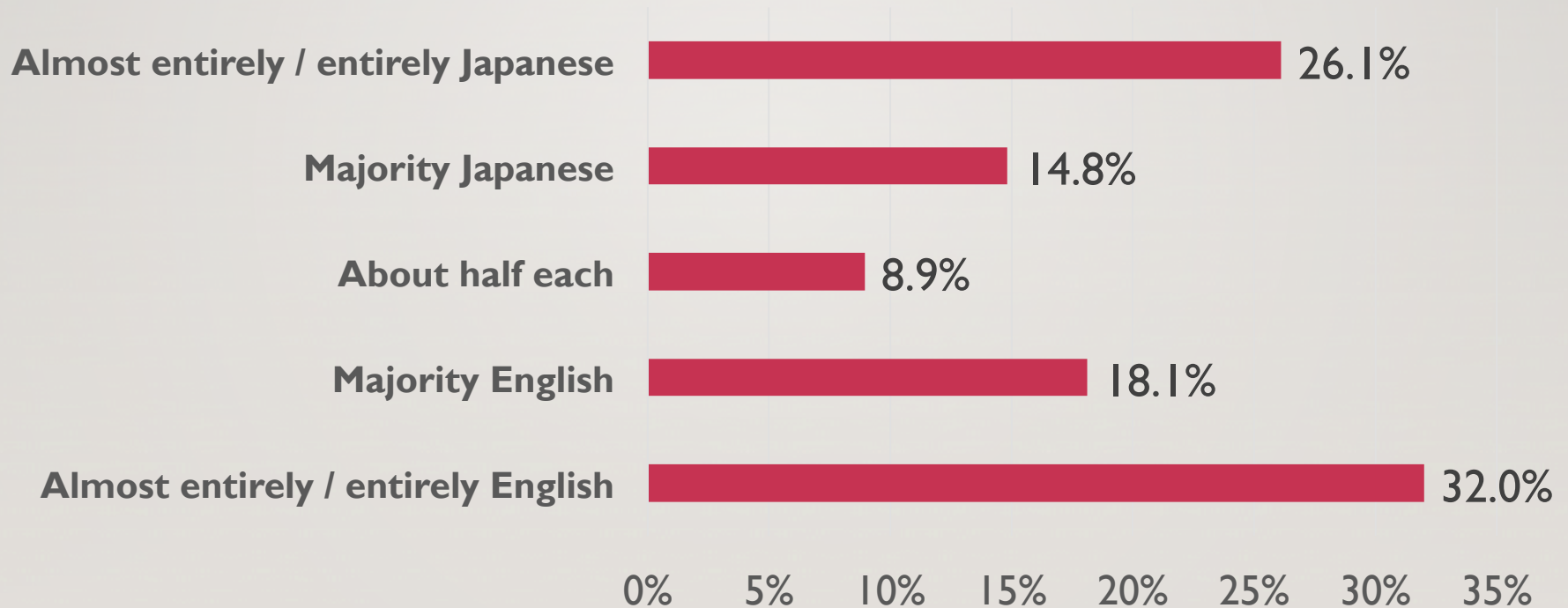
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**Breakdown by Field of Study**



# MORE STUDENTS STUDYING IN ENGLISH THAN IN JAPANESE – CONTRASTED WITH UNDERGRAD.

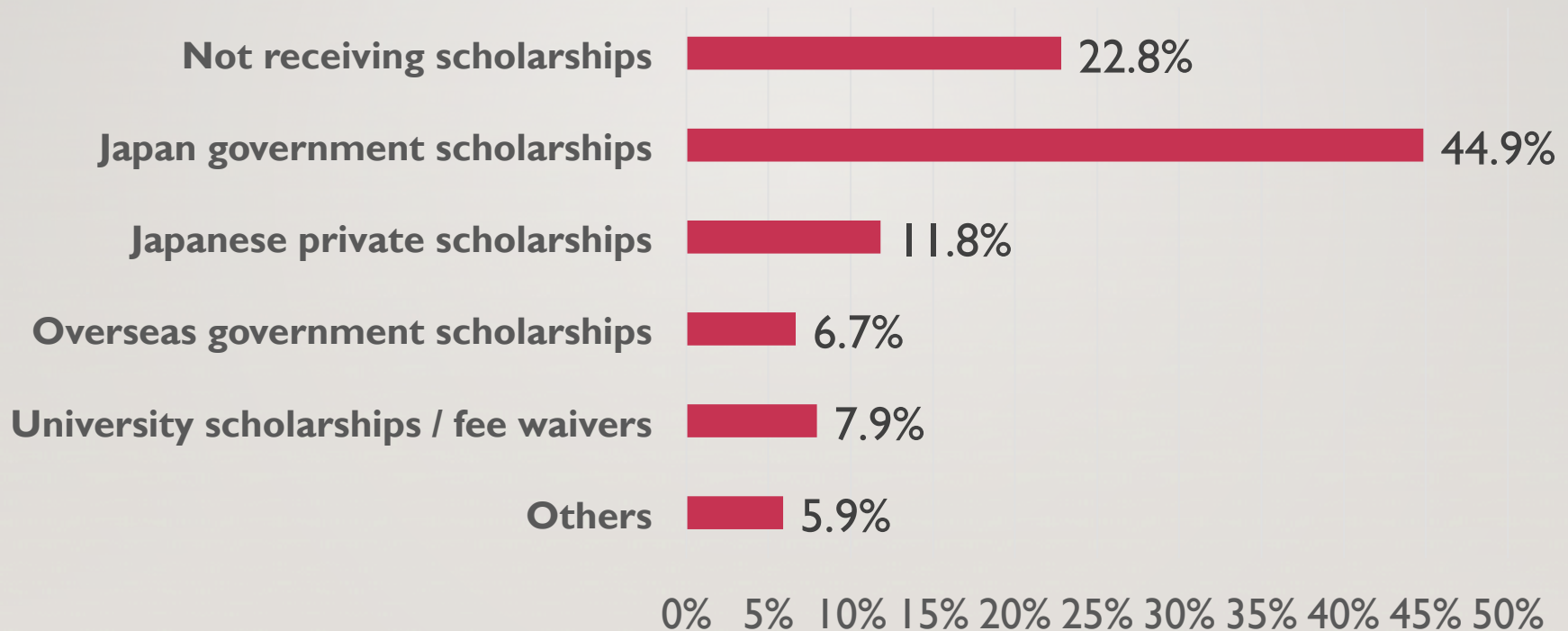
BY GDP/CAPITA RANKING OF HOME COUNTRY



# VERY HIGH INCIDENCE OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS (E.G. MEXT, JASSO ETC.)

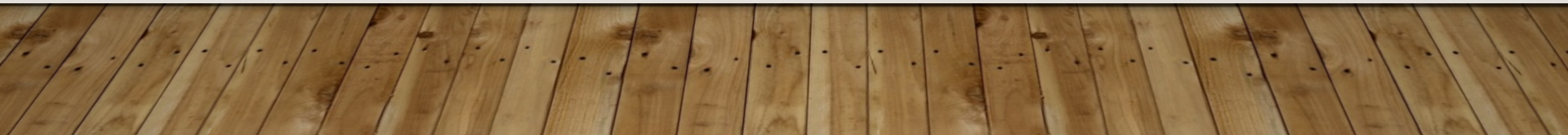
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## BY SCHOLARSHIP TYPE



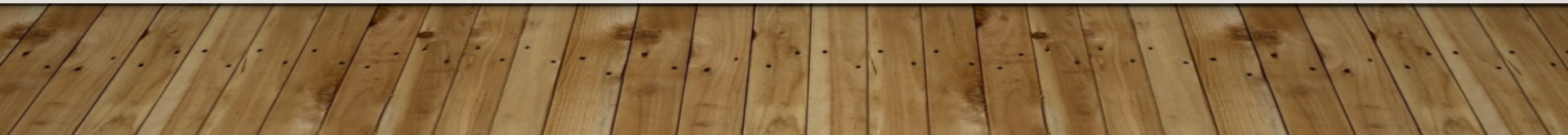
# RESULTS

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# **BEFORE ENTERING UNIVERSITY**

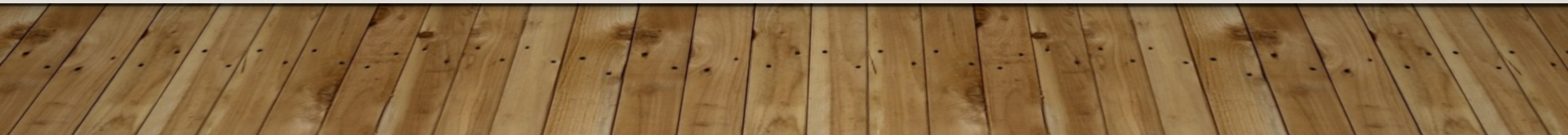
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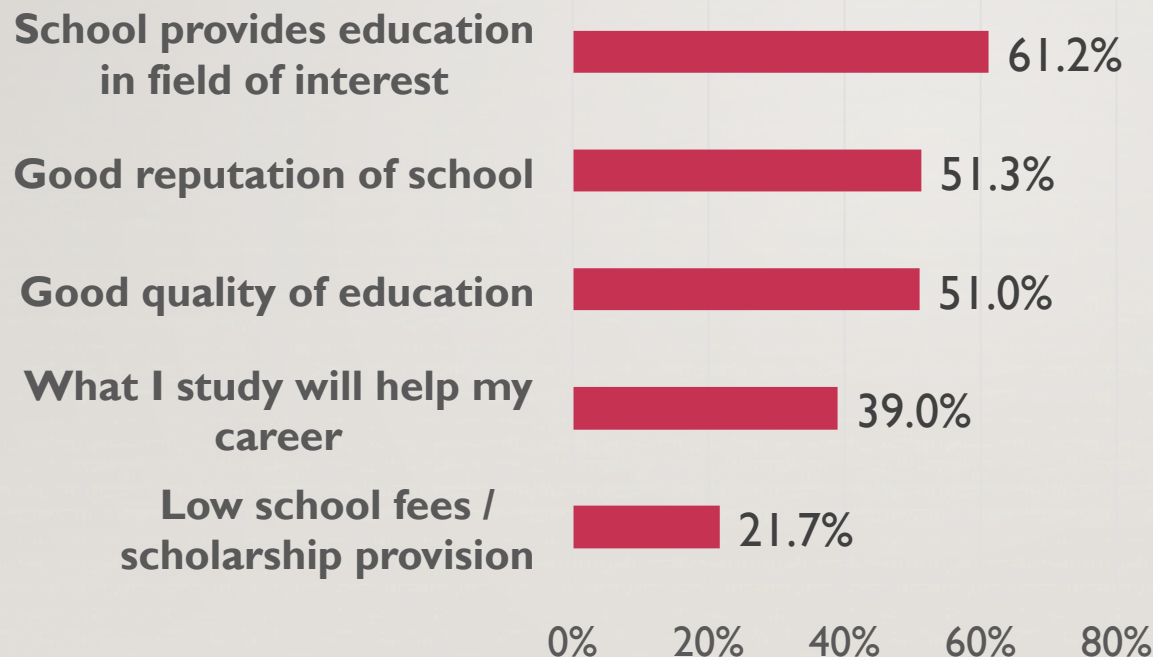
EDU. IN FIELD OF INTEREST,  
REPUTATION AND  
EDUCATION QUALITY MAIN  
REASONS FOR SCH. CHOICE

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# FIELD OF INTEREST MOST RAISED REASON – REPUTATION AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION ALSO MAJOR

## WHAT WERE YOUR REASONS FOR CHOOSING YOUR SCHOOL? – TOP 5 ANSWERS



## Notable differences:

**Field of interest:** GNI per cap. 1<sup>st</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup>: 93% Others: 57%

**Good reputation of school:**  
Arts/Humanities: 64%  
STEM: 54%

GNI per cap. 1<sup>st</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup>: 75%  
Others: 48%

**Recommendation from  
study agents / prev. schools:**  
Arts/ Humanities: 10%  
Stem: 22%

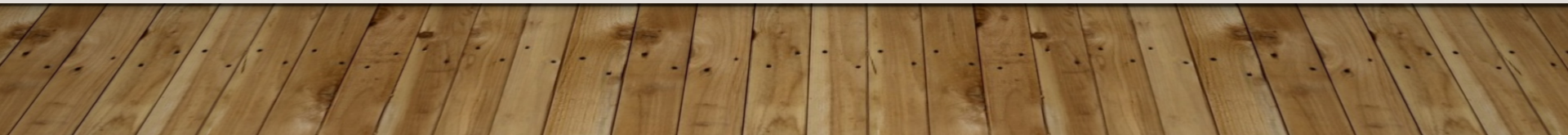
Other choices: recommendation from study abroad agent / previous school, friends/  
family had link to school, ease of admissions, no particular reason.

Given possible tradeoffs between career development and grad. school, it is clear why scholarship provision is not so much a key factor for grad students.

This is despite high rates of receiving scholarships.

**Implication:**

(Unlike undergraduates) scholarships alone not enough to attract graduate students?



# WHAT REPELS STUDENTS: LANGUAGE BARRIER BIGGEST ISSUE

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Further answers indicate a large splits between  
STEM and arts/humanities students



# WHAT ARE THE FACTORS IMPEDING STUDENTS FROM YOUR COUNTRY STUDYING IN YOUR UNI. – TOP 6 PER GROUP

| Section  | % of STEM | % of Arts/<br>Humans |
|--|-----------|----------------------|
| Worries about language barrier                     | 72.1%     | 53.4%                |
| Lack of info. about admissions                     | 32.4%     | 48.6%                |
| Impression of a big cultural barrier in Japan      | 31.1%     | 31.8%                |
| High tuition fees                                  | 28.8%     | 25.0%                |
| Lack of friends/family already studying in Japan   | 26.9%     | 22.3%                |
| Lack of transparency about post-graduation careers | 25.1%     | 20.3%                |

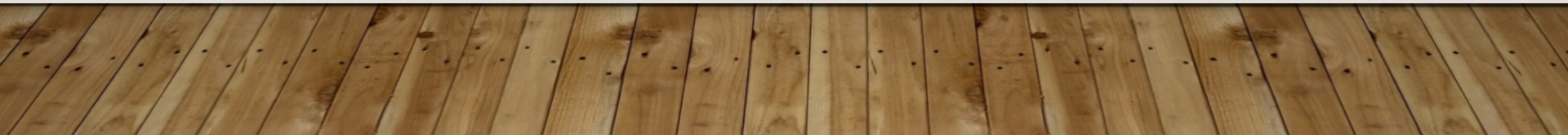
Other choices: lack of info. about individual unis. / courses, indifference towards Japan as study location, lack of confidence in Japanese educational standards, difficult admissions, poor impression / indifference to your university.



Generally speaking, arts/humanities grad. students speak better Japanese than science grad. students.

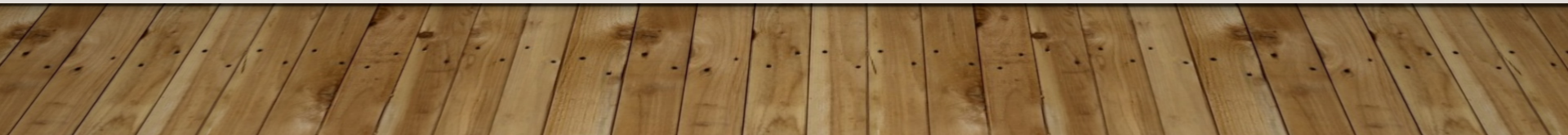
They are more likely to be disadvantaged by “over qualification” by going to grad. school.

The above may explain their responses being more similar to undergraduate results?



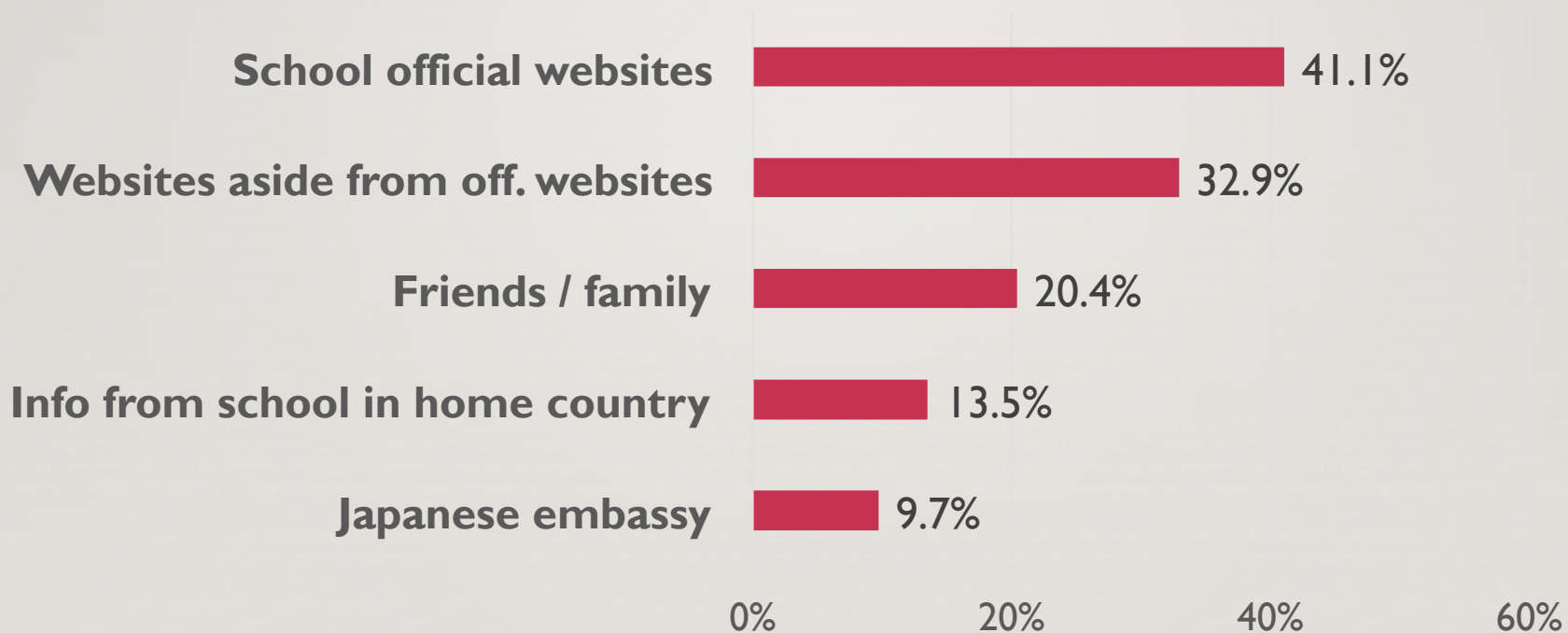
# INTERNET MOST HEAVILY USED AS INFORMATION SOURCE

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# HIGH NUMBERS FOR OFFICIAL WEBSITES BUT NOTE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER SOURCES

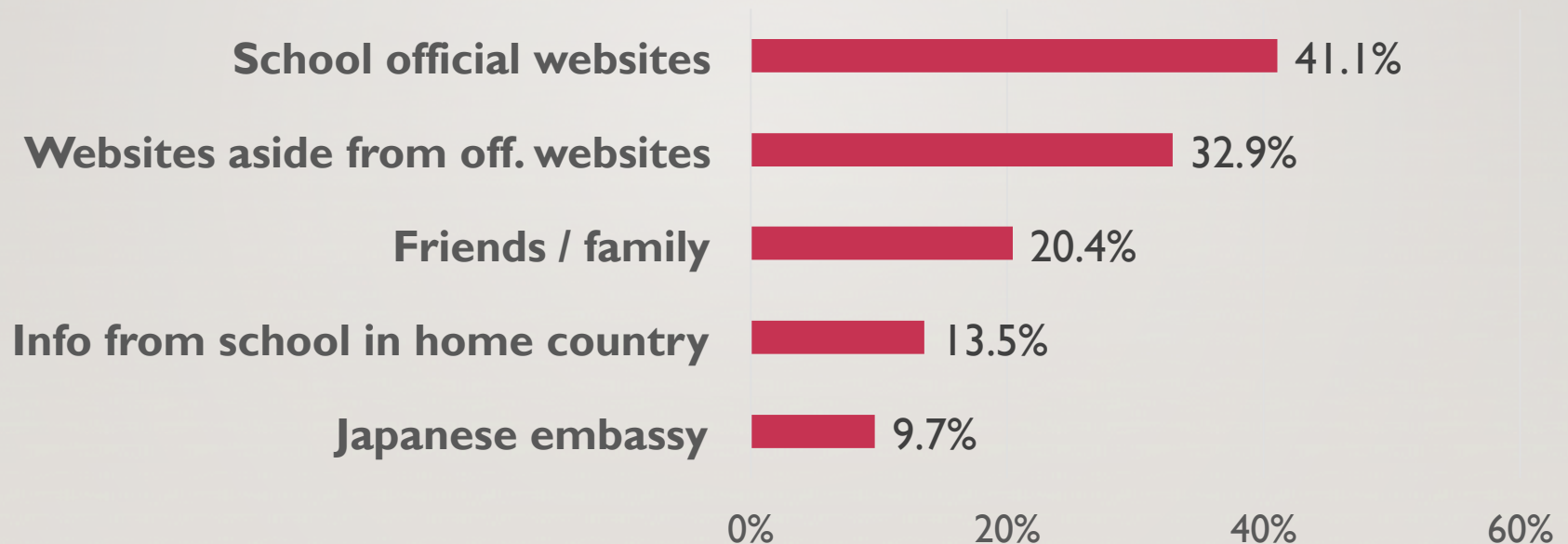
% ANSWERING “VERY USEFUL”  
FOR EACH INFORMATION SOURCE – TOP 5 OPTIONS



Other choices: recommendation from study abroad agent / previous school, friends/  
family had link to school, ease of admissions, no particular reason.

# HIGH NUMBERS FOR OFFICIAL WEBSITES BUT NOTE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER SOURCES

% ANSWERING “VERY USEFUL” FOR EACH  
INFORMATION SOURCE – TOP 5 OPTIONS



Other choices: recommendation from study abroad agent / previous school, friends/  
family had link to school, ease of admissions, no particular reason.

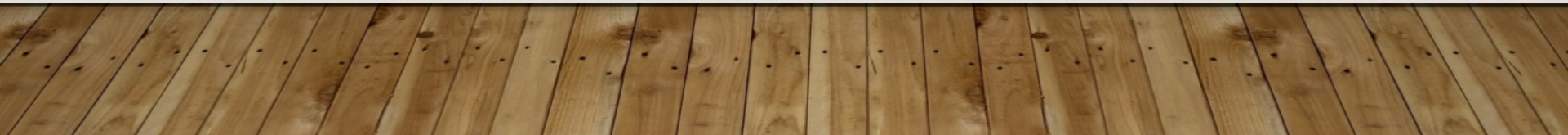


## **High % answering official websites**

Searches by professor names / research may make it easier to gather information compared to undergrads.

## **High % answering friends & family**

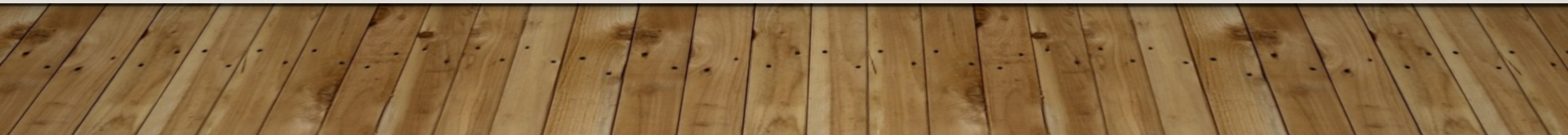
Underlies importance of word-of-mouth given very subject specific nature of graduate studies.





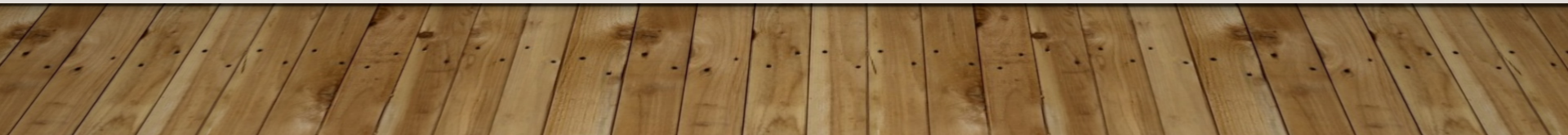
# **AFTER ENTERING UNIVERSITY**

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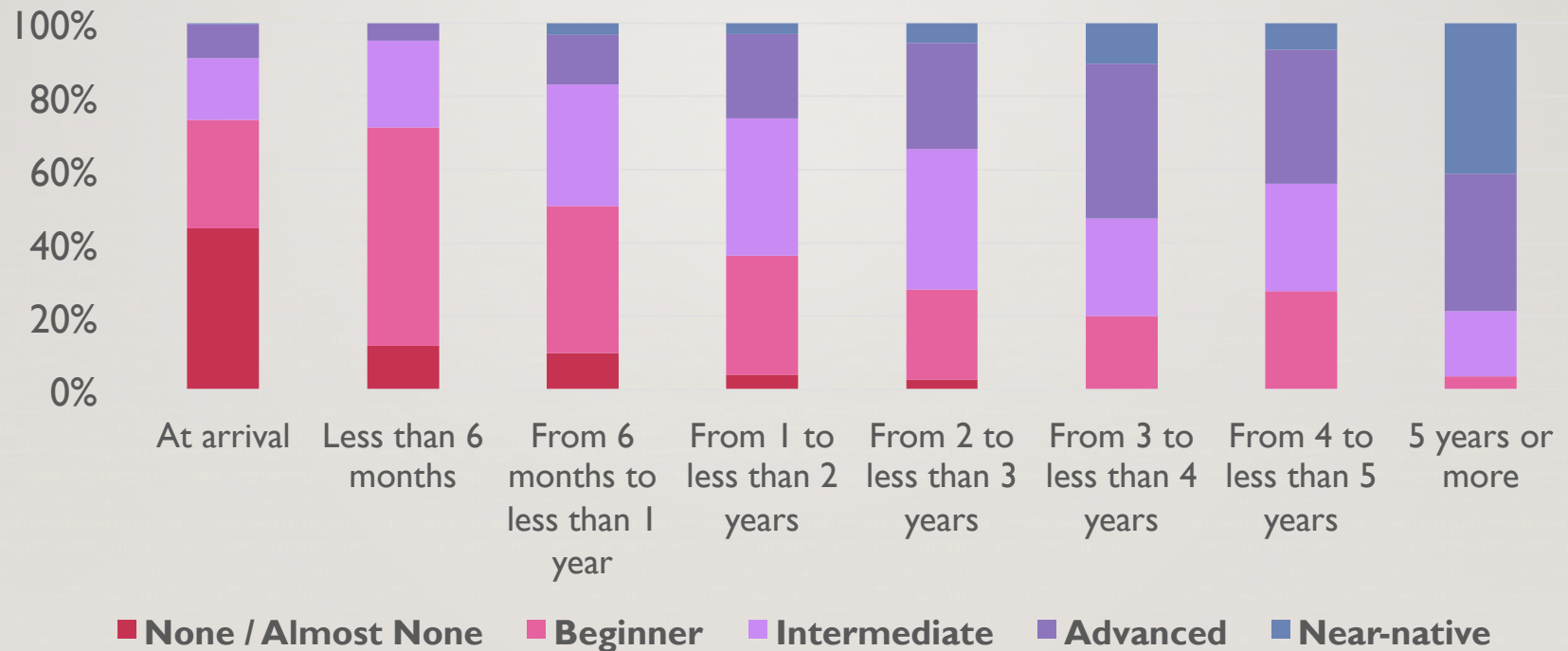
# JAPANESE LANGUAGE FLUENCY POSSIBLE STUMBLING POINT

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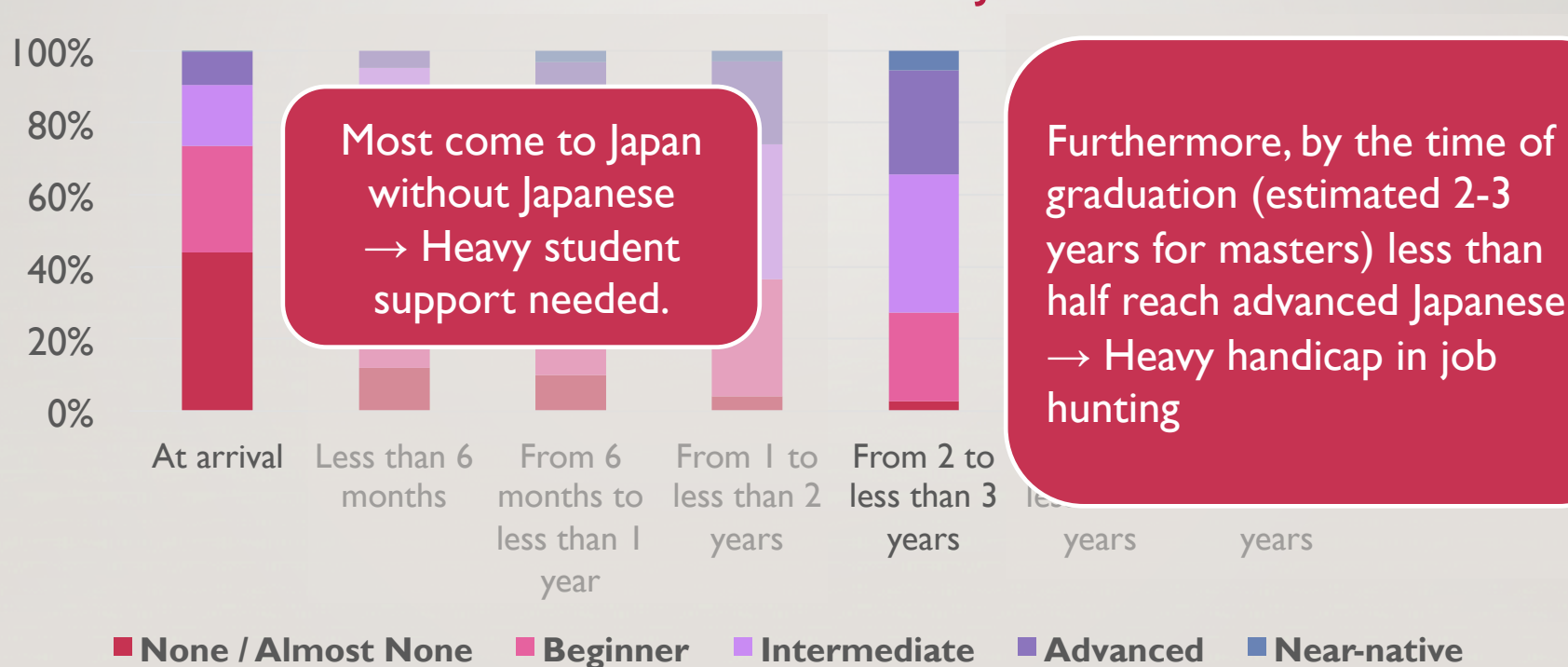
# INCREASING FLUENCY WITH TIME BUT LIMITED NUMBERS REACHING ADVANCED AND ABOVE

WHAT IS / WAS YOUR JAPANESE LANG. LEVEL NOW /  
WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN JAPAN?



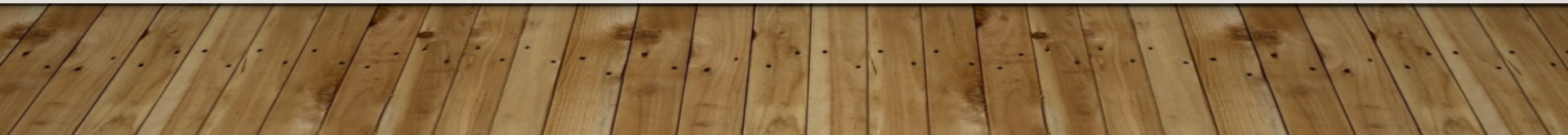
# LIMITED FLUENCY MAY BE CAUSING PROBLEMS IN JOB HUNTING

WHAT IS / WAS YOUR JAPANESE LANG. LEVEL NOW / WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN JAPAN?



**OVERALL SATISFIED BUT CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT ONE BIG WEAKNESS**

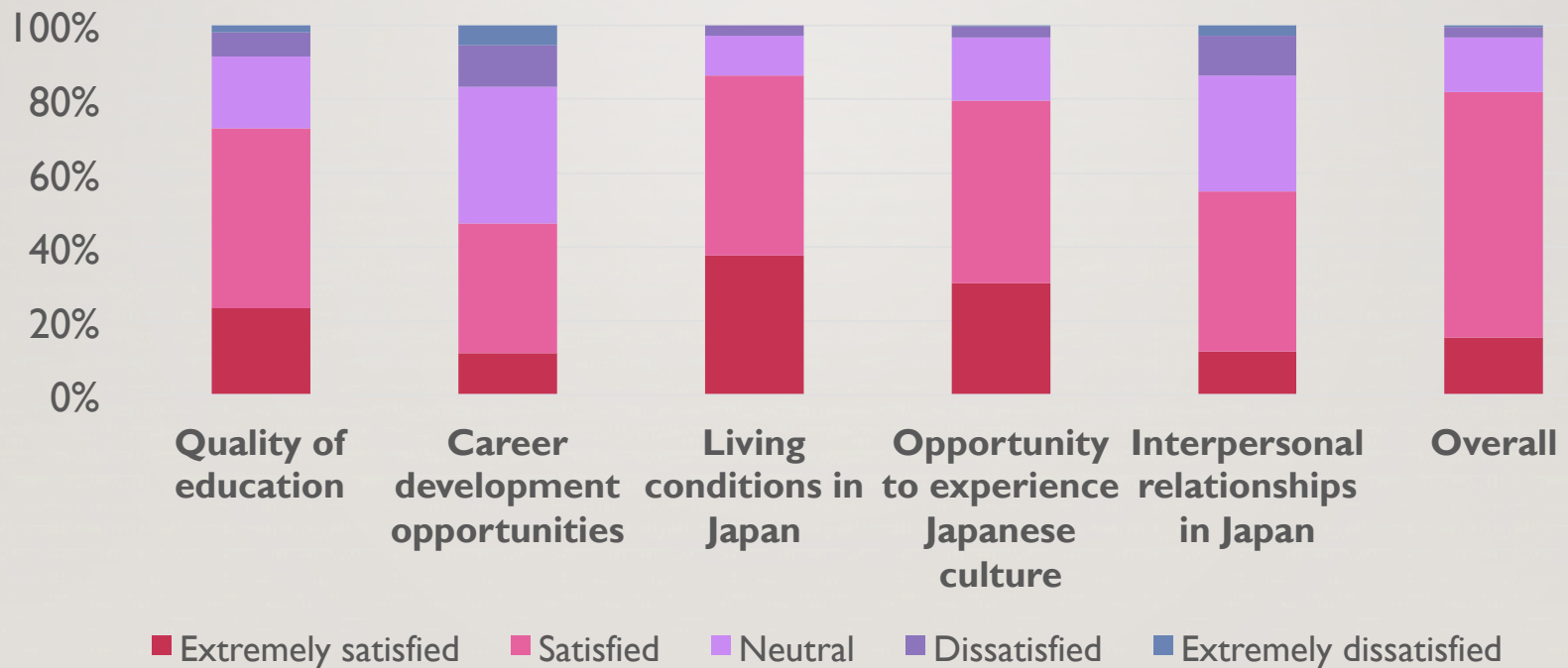
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# STRENGTHS IN LIVING CONDITIONS & EXPERIENCING JAPANESE CULTURE BUT WEAKNESS IN CAREER DEV.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU ON THE FOLLOWING  
SECTIONS BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN?

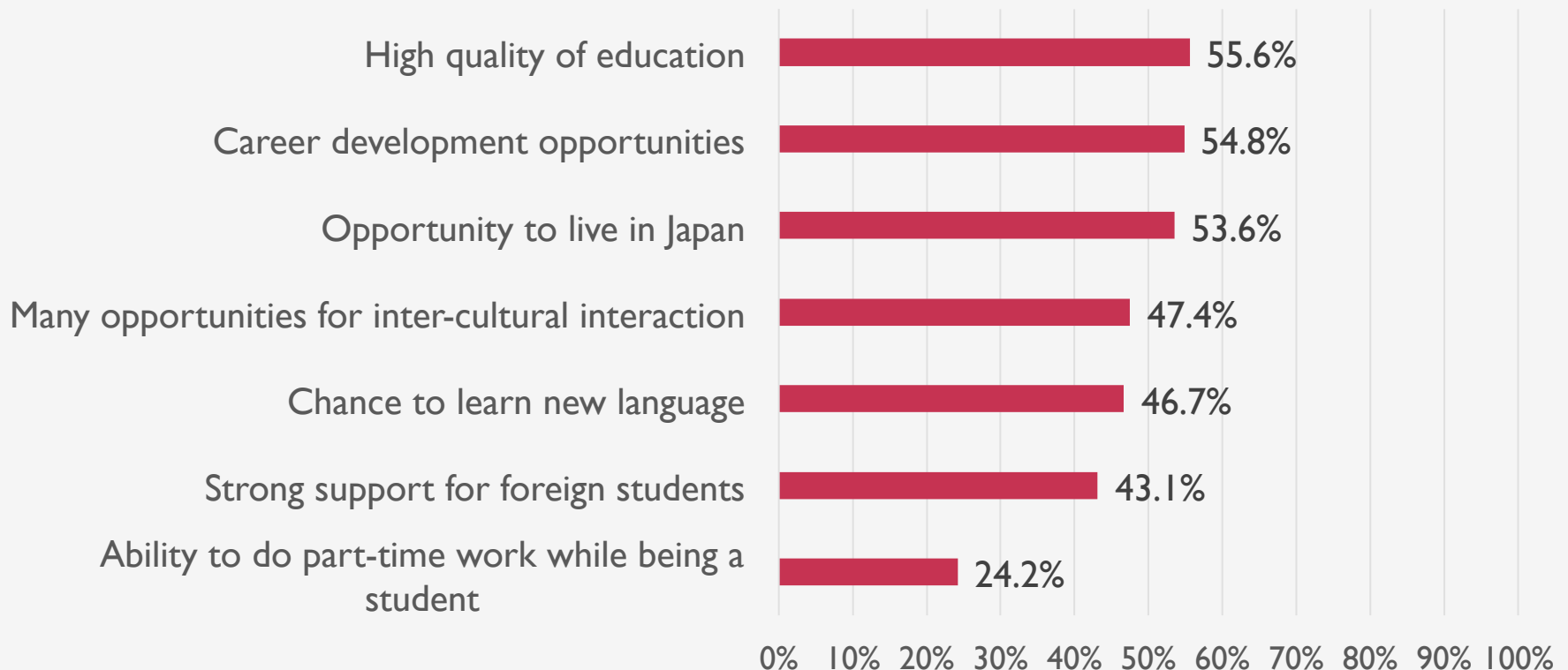


# EVEN SPREAD OF ANSWERS ABOUT THINGS APPRECIATED

WHILE CAREER EDUCATION COMES SECOND, PERHAPS RESPONDENTS APPRECIATE WHAT IS DONE WHILE FEELING IT IS NOT ENOUGH

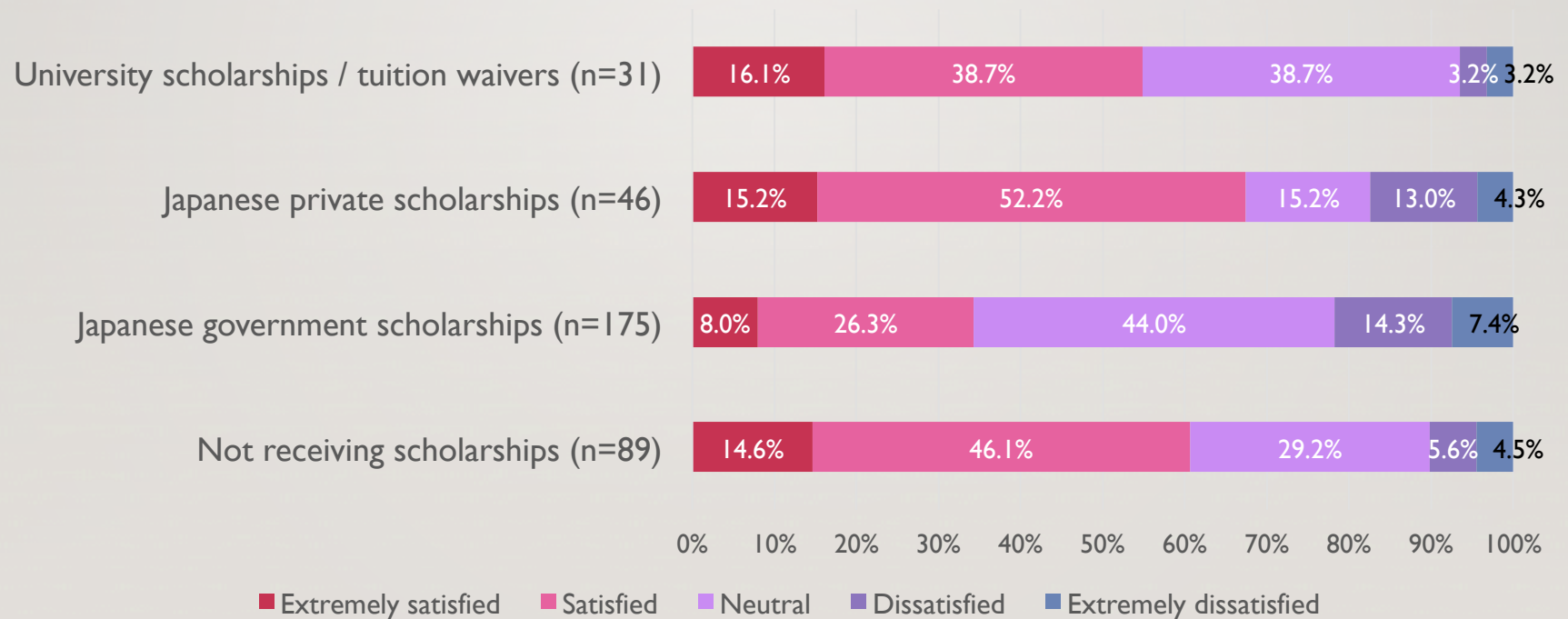
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## WHAT WERE THE THINGS YOU FELT WERE GOOD ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL



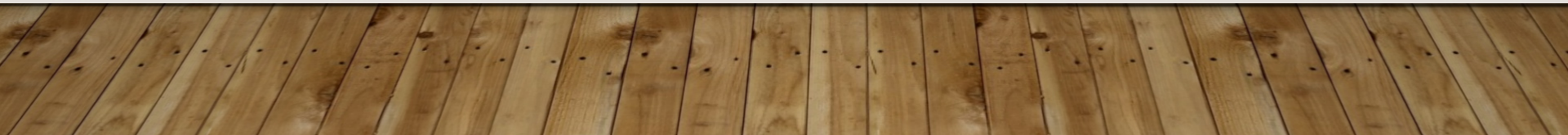
# CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM PARTICULARLY ACUTE FOR JAPANESE GOVT. SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS  
– CAREER DEVELOPMENT, BY SCHOLARSHIP TYPE



Problem compounded by how Japanese govt. scholars have generally weaker Japanese compared to private scholars / those not receiving scholarship.

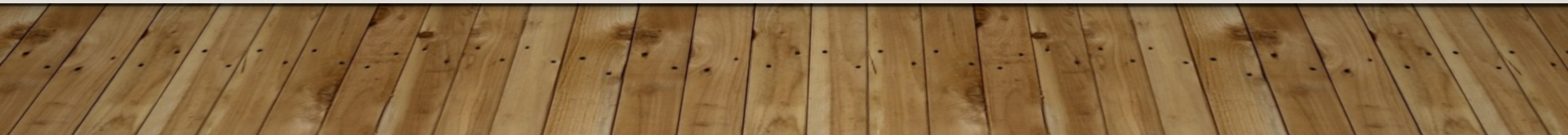
Furthermore, dispersion throughout japan is a further hurdle that impedes scalable career development.





**ARTS/HUMANS – PROBLEMS  
WITH ABSTRACT CURRICULUM  
STEM – CURRICULUM  
COMPATIBILITY A PROBLEM**

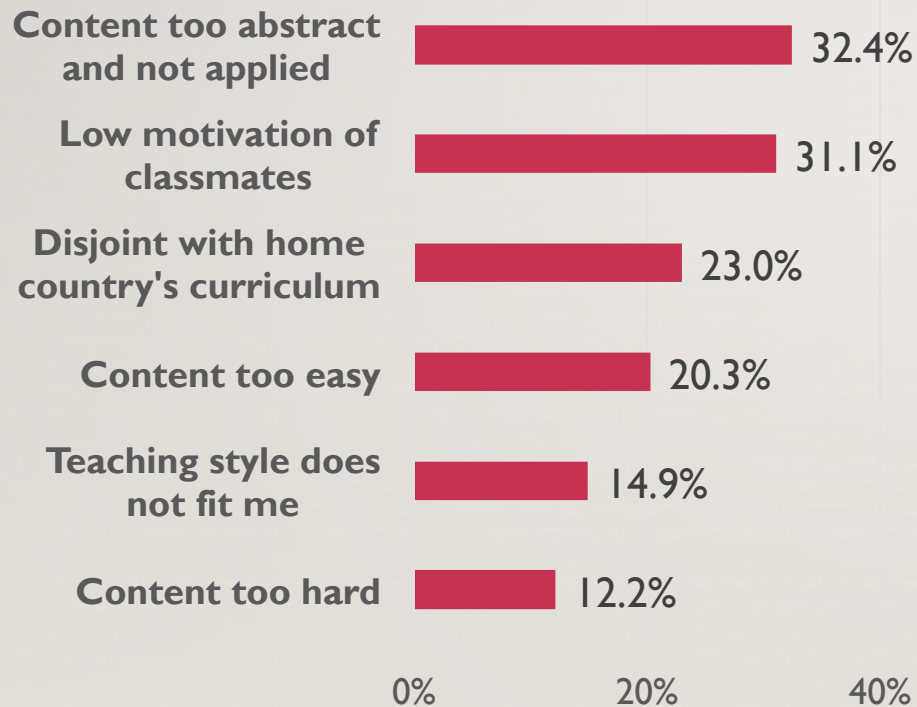
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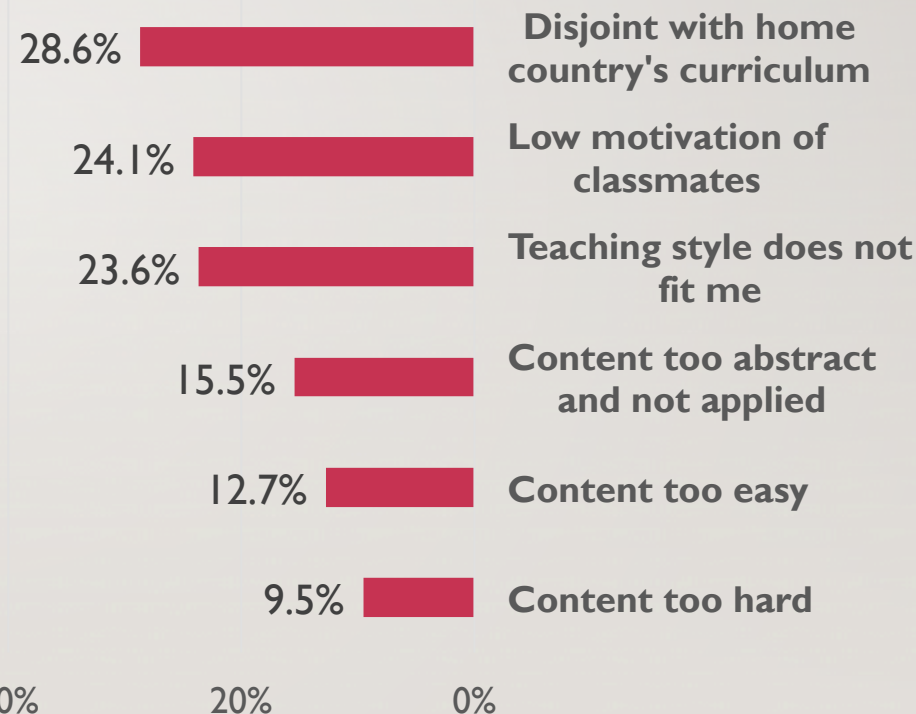
# DIFFERING CONCERNS BASED ON RESEARCH FIELD

*C.F.: % ANSWERING “NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM” WAS 37% OVERALL*

## Arts / Humans. / Biz



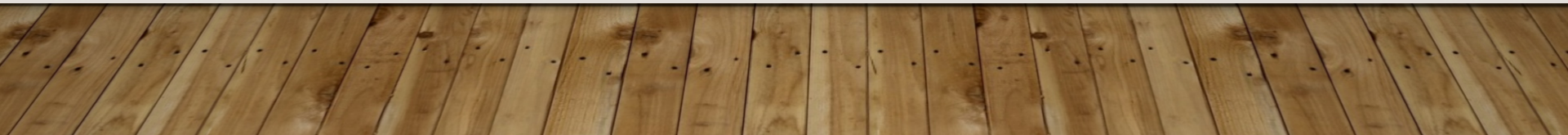
## STEM



**Others (in order of % answering):**  
**Conflicts with professors, class sizes too large, conflicts with classmates.**

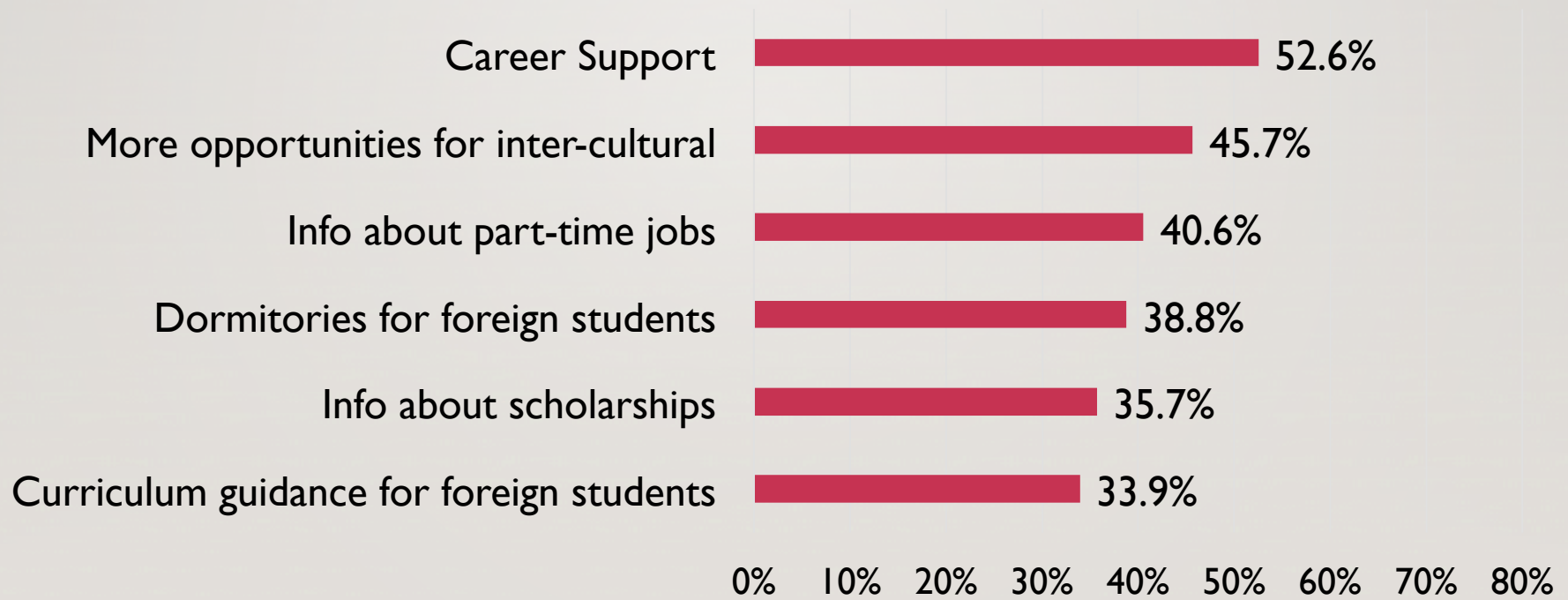
WANTS AND NEEDS REVOLVE  
AROUND OPPORTUNITIES  
*OUTSIDE* THE CLASSROOM

---



# MORE FOCUS NEEDED ON SUPPORT OUTSIDE ACADEMICS – CAREER SUPPORT, INTERACTION AND PART-TIME WORK REQUESTED

AMONG THE FOLLOWING, CHOOSE TWO WHICH YOU WISH YOUR SCHOOL PROVIDED

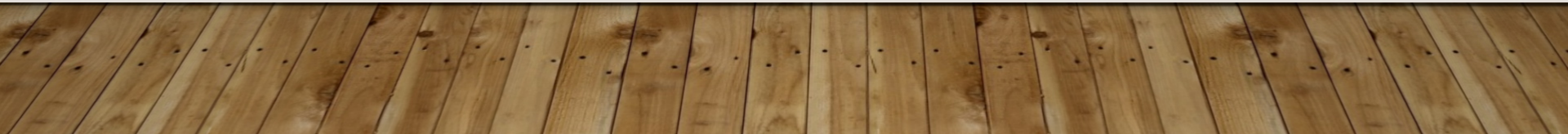


Other choices by % answering – being a guarantor for renting / phones, reorganizing official websites / direct notifications to foreign students, administrative support in foreign languages, food options taking into account food restrictions, more academic material in English



# PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

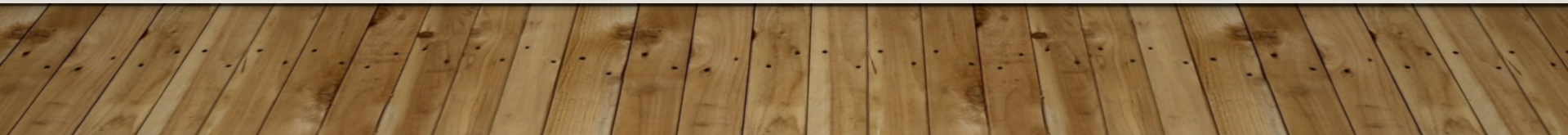
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# **General slow uptake of Japanese lang.:**

More emphasis on educating students in Japanese language given effect on study and post-graduation life

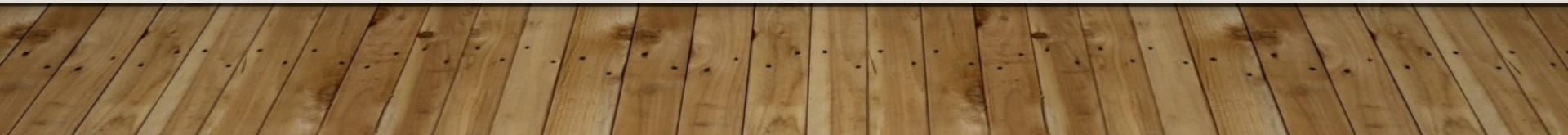
Awareness about useful internet tools may help too



## **Opportunities beyond academics:**

Despite research-oriented nature of grad. school, research should not be the *only* thing scholars can do.

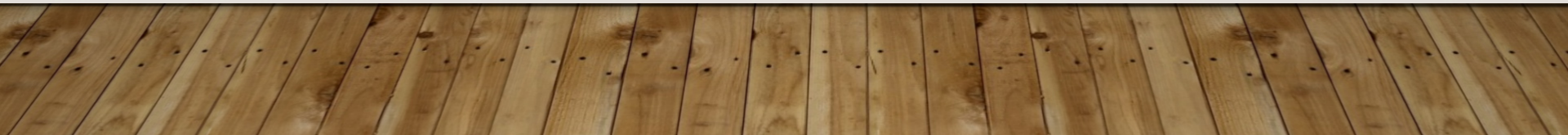
Part time job information and interaction necessary for a fulfilling scholar life



## **Career education:**

Difficult because of subject-related nature of grad.  
school student job hunting  
(ie. General shukatsu preparation may not help)

Links with seniors through organizations such as  
MEXT Scholars Assoc. etc, necessary?





# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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- Overview

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_a3721ed7fcab4938a52efbc692879075.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_a3721ed7fcab4938a52efbc692879075.pdf)

- Undergraduates

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_2e43fe017ef1444994c92f6e08e6054b.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_2e43fe017ef1444994c92f6e08e6054b.pdf)

- Graduate-students

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_4608304ceddc47fea5bf5db0f5c19076.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_4608304ceddc47fea5bf5db0f5c19076.pdf)

- Japanese-Lang-Schools

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_49c43040d06344a1ad95a95b14d05486.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_49c43040d06344a1ad95a95b14d05486.pdf)

- Exchange-students

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_93d91f9606e84b5e8d11f4b740864cd3.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_93d91f9606e84b5e8d11f4b740864cd3.pdf)

- Career

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4\\_5afac68f26404ffeaec164090c405ef6.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5117b4_5afac68f26404ffeaec164090c405ef6.pdf)