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Student survey on social status

Tbilisi

2025

Research objective

The aim of this study is to identify groups of university students who belong to various vulnerable categories (first-generation students, representatives of national minorities, people with disabilities, IDPs, refugees, orphans, members of large families, socially vulnerable people, etc.), taking into account the social, economic and cultural diversity of university students. The data obtained are used by [Times Higher Education](#) For participation in sustainability impact rankings to demonstrate the university's role in promoting social development, equality and access to education.

Research methodology

The present study used a population-based/Census-based approach, which covers a wide area of survey coverage and involves inviting all members of the population to participate in the study. In this case, an online questionnaire was sent to active students of higher education programs of all seven faculties of Tbilisi State University via Google Surveys. Respondents were sent a structured questionnaire consisting of 6 questions.

Information about the study was sent to students via e-mail and mobile phone in the form of a short text message. They voluntarily filled out the questionnaire. The anonymity of respondents was ensured during the survey process. The survey was conducted from October 10 to November 3, 2025. The procedure for conducting the study and processing data was centralized and was carried out by the University's Quality Assurance Service.

Main features

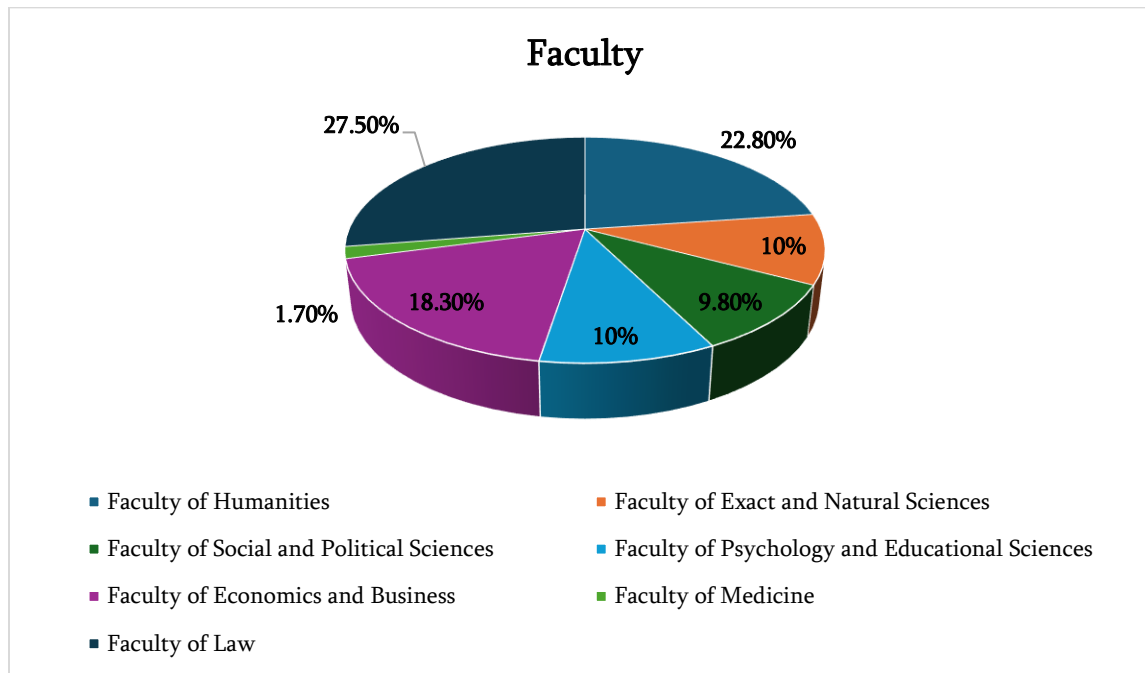
The main findings of the study indicate three critical trends: 1) the university functions as an important social elevator ¹- almost half of the students (46%) are the first generation of their family to have a higher education; 2) socially vulnerable groups are widely represented at the university (52.5%), which indicates the inclusiveness of education at TSU. 3) a gender imbalance was identified (76% women and 24% men).

¹ "Social mobility/social elevator" is a sociological term that describes mechanisms or institutions that help people move from one social stratum to another (usually from the bottom up).

Research Results - Quantitative Analysis

400 active students from all seven faculties of TSU participated in the survey. The Faculty of Law leads in the number of respondents surveyed (27.5% - 110 respondents). It is followed by the Faculty of Humanities (22.8% - 91 respondents) and Economics and Business (18.3% - 73 respondents). Other faculties have a relatively low response rate (see Diagram N1).

Diagram N1. Faculty



Research participant The majority of respondents are female (75.8% - 303 students), which, using the example of TSU, shows a modern trend and indicates the high involvement of women in higher education. A large share of respondents falls on the bachelor's level - 85% of respondents, which is natural, since this is the most popular level of higher education in Georgia. The second largest number of respondents,

but a relatively small number, falls on the master's level - 11.3%. The number of students at the remaining levels is insignificant (ranging from 1-2%).

Research participant The level of higher education and socio-demographic data of the respondents are distributed as follows (see Diagrams N2, N3 and N4):

Diagram N2. Level of education

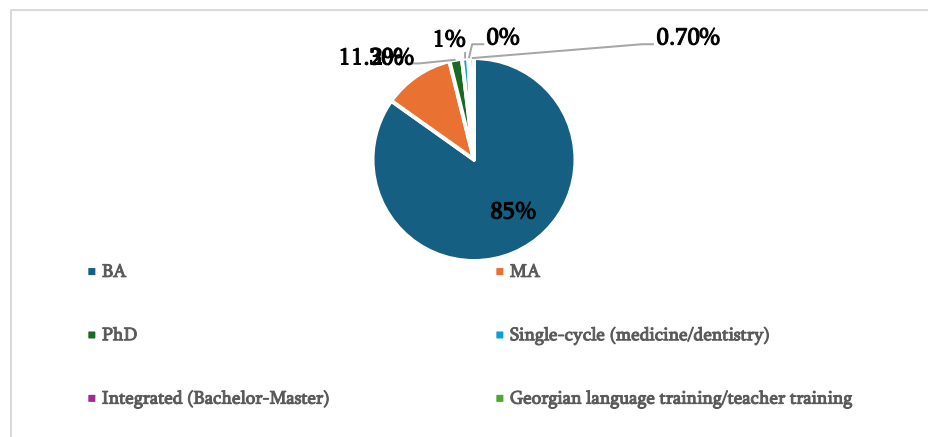
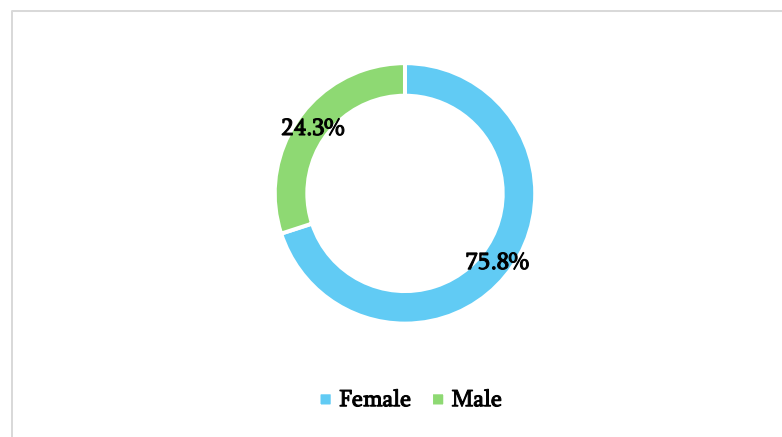


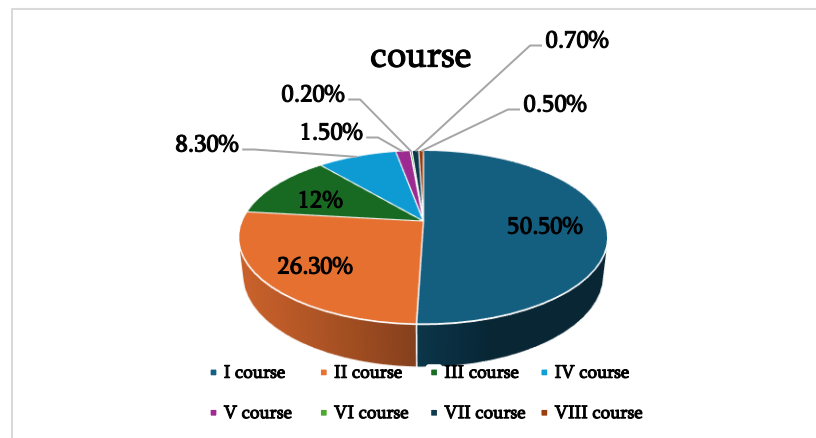
Diagram N3. Gender



It is worth noting that a large proportion of respondents are in the I, II, and III years. Specifically, the data is distributed as follows:

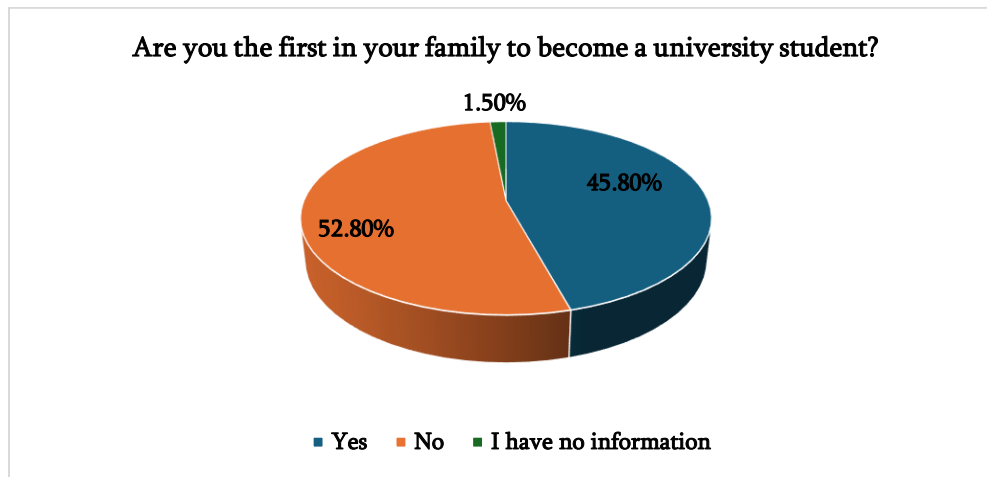
- I course - 50.5%
- 2nd year - 26.3%
- III course - 12%
- IV course - 8.3%
- V, VI, VII, VIII courses - 1.5%, 0.2%, 0.7%, 0.5%

Diagram N4. Course



As part of the study, we asked students whether they were from a family The first one who became University Student . Respondents Almost Half (45.8%) of the mentioned Question Positively answered , which In general indicates about that Social Mobility Cases In Georgia , as Developing In the country , the highest Education With the support of It is high . It is worth noting that 52.8% of respondents He said that the family Other Members too They own Higher Education diploma , and 1.5% of the aforementioned To the question No has Information (see diagram N5).

Diagram N5. First Generation At the university



During the research, we became interested in the social status of students. The analysis of the results showed that 313 students belong to at least one social group. A certain number of students (15% - 47 respondents) indicated several social group categories at once (e.g., displaced, socially vulnerable, with many children, etc.), which means that the intensity of vulnerability is high (see Diagram N6).

The largest number of surveyed students falls into the socially vulnerable group, 25.8% of respondents (103 students) have been granted the relevant status and benefit from certain types of benefits from the state, including full funding of tuition fees (depending on a low social score).

72 students (18%) identify themselves as displaced persons - this is the second largest social group in the survey. According to Georgian legislation, this is a Georgian citizen or a stateless person permanently residing in Georgia who was forced to leave their permanent place of residence and move within the territory of Georgia for the purpose of endangering their life, health or freedom or that of their family members due to foreign aggression, internal conflict or mass violations of human rights.

The third, largest group is students from large families. 60 students (15%) come from large families. In the Georgian context, "large families" usually means a family with 4 or more children.

Finally, the 4th largest category, which is characteristic of Georgia as a multi-ethnic country, is the group of national minorities. In particular, 41 students (10.3%) belong to national minorities. In the Georgian context, this may include: Azerbaijanis (the largest minority, approximately 6% of the population); Armenians (approximately 5% of the population); Ossetians, Russians, Greeks, Kurds, and other ethnic groups.

Diagram N6. Social status of students

