

INSIGHTS

As of the 8th of December 2018, at the time of the preparation of this report, 176 international students participated in our online questionnaire. Questions that were asked included the following:

I. How long have you spent in the TRNC?

II. How did you hear about the TRNC?

III. Have you ever been exploited by your school agent? If Yes, please briefly explain how.

IV. Before coming to the TRNC were you aware it was an unrecognized state?

V. Before coming to the TRNC, did you think it was a member of the European Union?

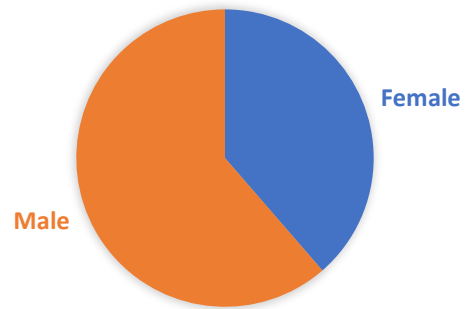
VI. What problem(s) do you face most as an international student in the TRNC?

VII. Would you want to be part of an organization which defends the rights and interests of international students?

STATISTICS

1.

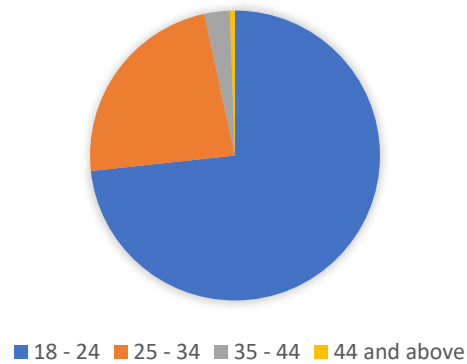
What is your gender?



Of the 176 responses, 61% were male and 39% were female.

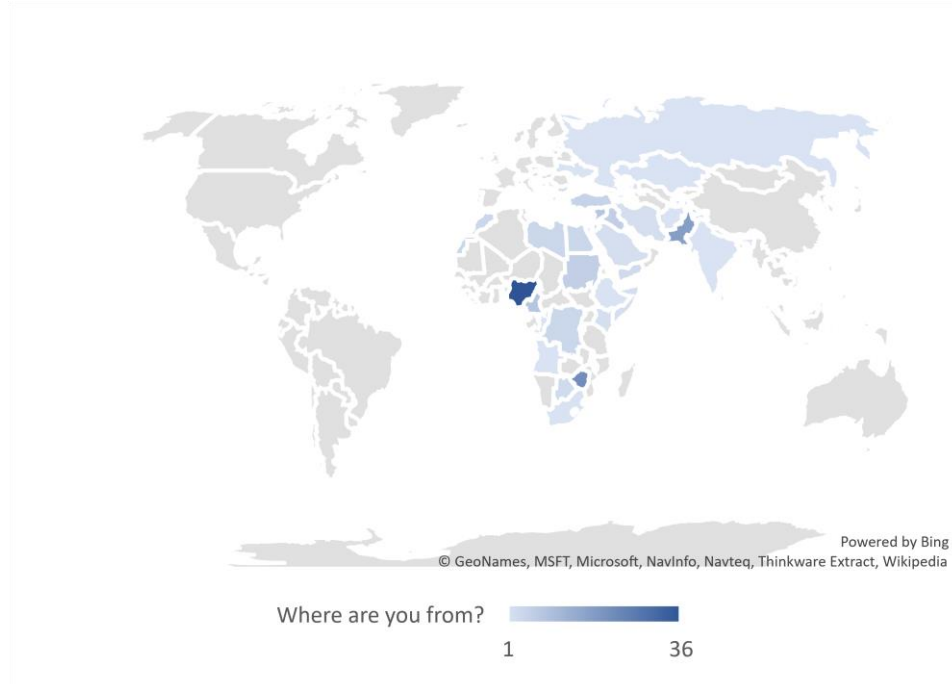
2.

How old are you?



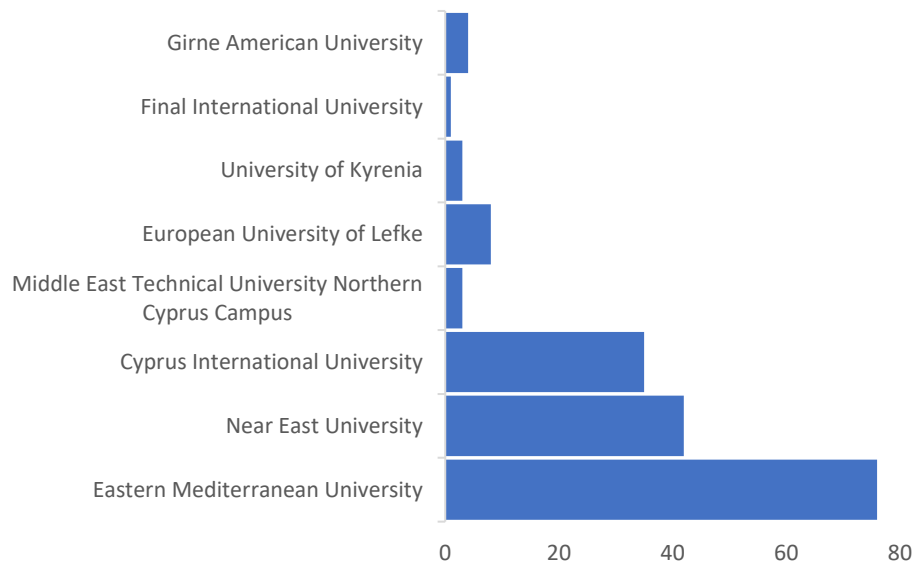
A large majority of the students (73%) were between the ages of 18 and 24. The remaining 23% were aged 25-34, and a negligible percentage were older than 34.

3.



Most of the students hail from Asian and African countries, with a majority being from Africa. The highest concentrations are from Nigeria (20%), Zimbabwe (12.5%) and Pakistan (10%).

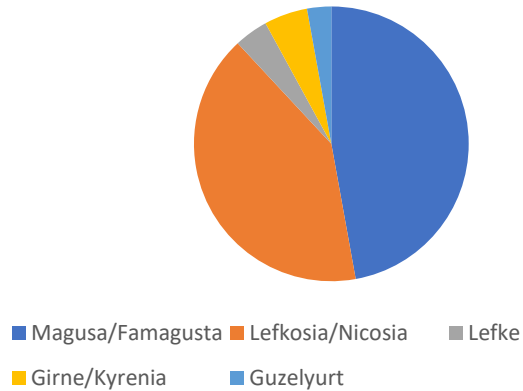
4.



43% of the students study in Eastern Mediterranean University, around 24% are in Near East University, 20% are in Cyprus International University, and the rest are comparatively low numbers in other universities.

5.

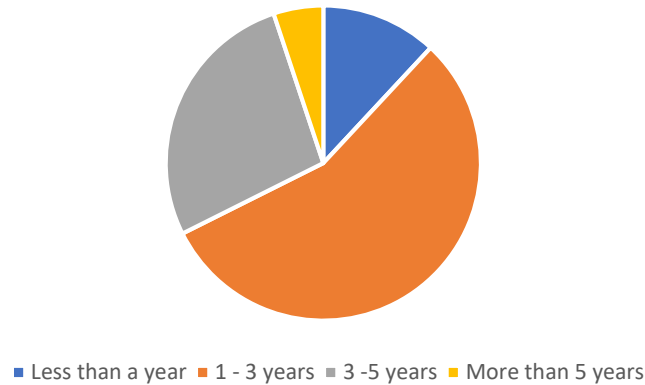
Where do you reside in TRNC?



Almost half the students (47%) reside in Famagusta, with another 41% living in Lefkosa. The remaining 12% are distributed over Lefke, Girne and Guzelyurt. The numbers closely relate to the chart above concerning where the students study.

6.

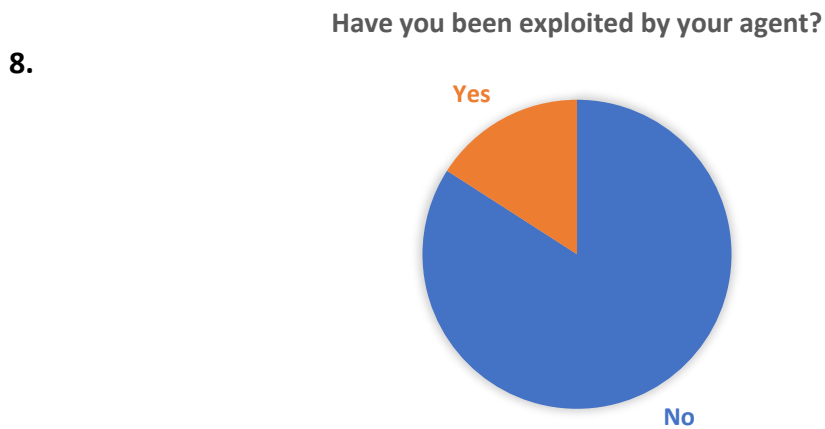
How long have you been studying here?



A little over half (56%) the students have been here for 1 – 3 years, and 27% of them have been here between 3 – 5 years. Only 12% have spent under a year in the TRNC, whereas 5% have lived for over 5 years here.

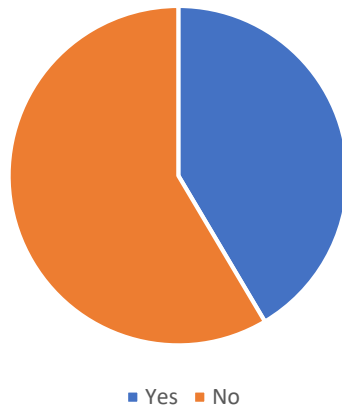


When asked how they heard of the TRNC, 47% of the students said they knew of it from a friend. Of the remaining 53%, half of them (27%) knew of the TRNC through an agent, while the rest either found out online or from other sources.



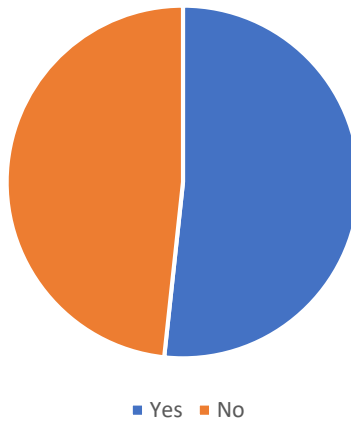
84% of students said they had not been exploited by their agents, whereas the rest said they did. Of the 16% that were exploited, most of the issues were related to finances and being told to pay more than they needed to.

9. Before coming to the TRNC were you aware it was an unrecognized state?



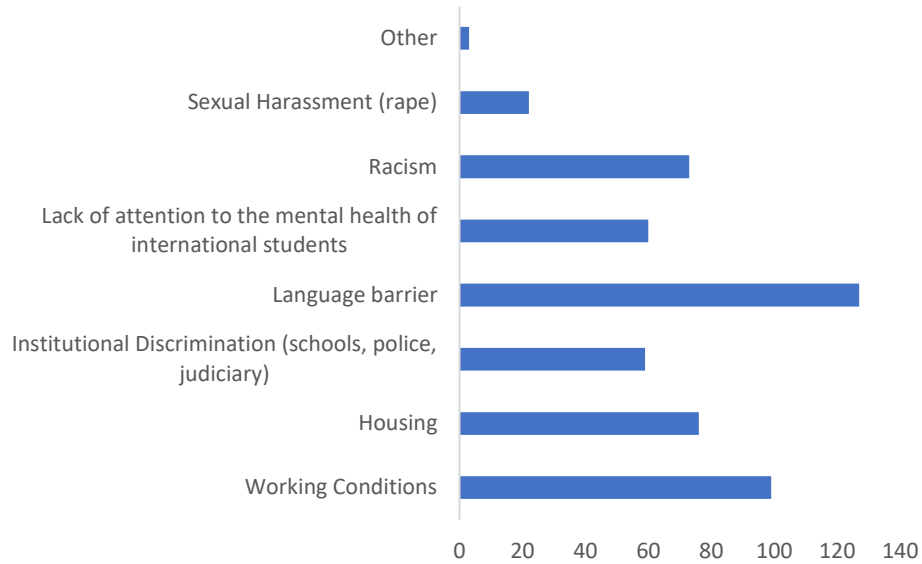
When asked if they knew the TRNC was an unrecognized state before coming here, a surprising 59% said they had no idea, while only 41% knew that information beforehand.

10. Before coming to the TRNC, did you think it was a member of the European Union?



Similarly, when asked if they thought it was a member of the European Union, 52% said they did and 48% said they did not.

11.



Of the problems faced by international students in the TRNC, the language barrier is the most recurrent with 72% of the students finding it challenging to communicate with the locals. 56% said the working conditions were unfavorable, and 41% were met with racism. Housing issues also took up a large portion of the problems, with 43% of students having faced them. Institutional discrimination and lack of attention to the mental health of international students were similarly felt, with 34% of students mentioning them. Sexual harassment was only at 12.5% with other negligible issues also being mentioned, such as not being able to cross to the southern side.