



US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

25–26 June 2020



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr Joanna Newman, Chief Executive and
Secretary General

For the lives we can lead



The ACU: a unique network of **500+** universities across the Commonwealth

- **50+ countries**
- **10 million+ students**
- **500,000+ academic staff**
- **500,000+ professional staff**



66% of members in low and middle income countries



Two-thirds of the Commonwealth under 30

Our mission



To build a better world through
higher education

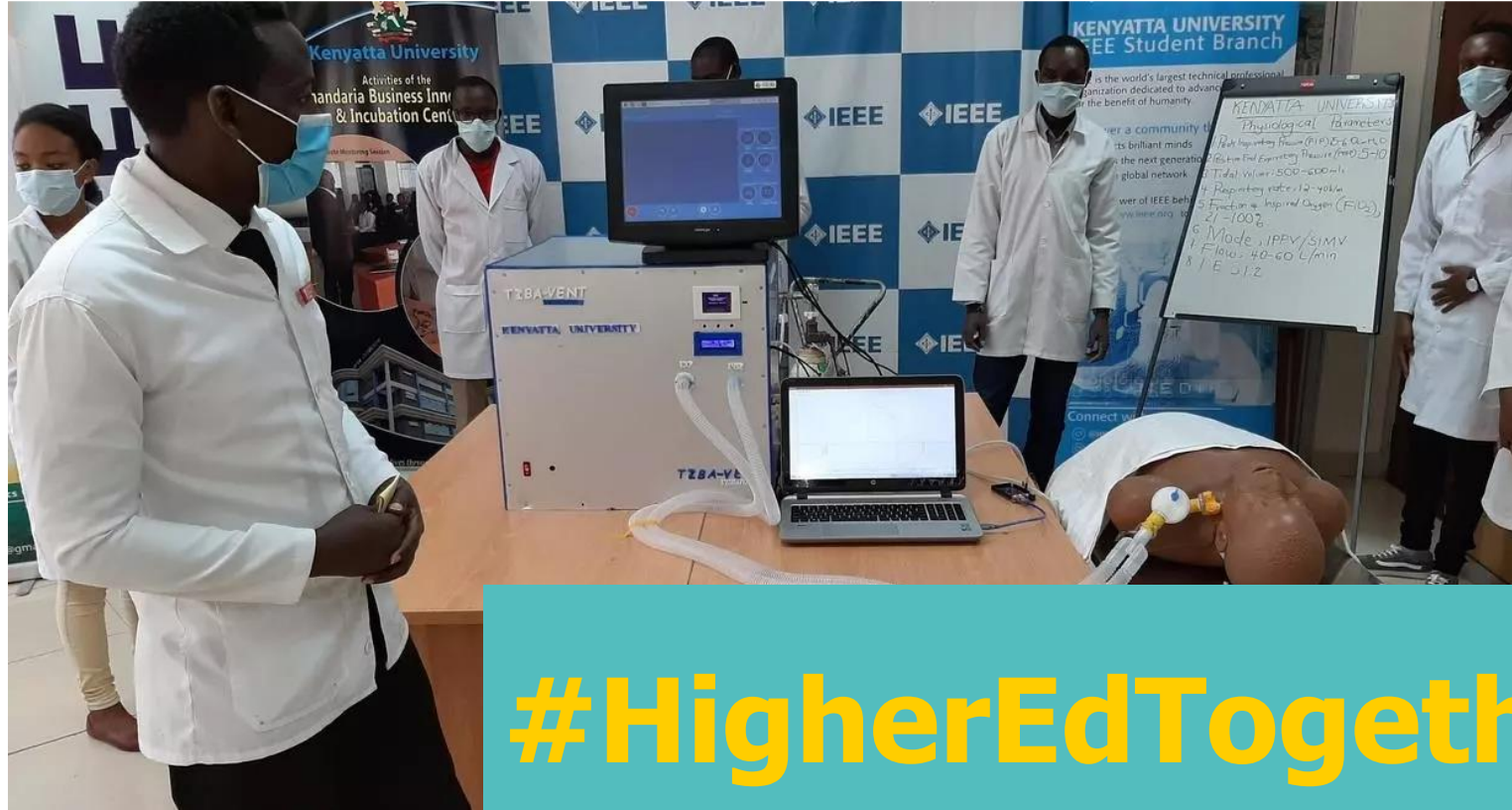
HIGHER EDUCATION'S ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs



Strong higher education systems are both an end in their own right and essential to sustain strong basic education and lifelong learning



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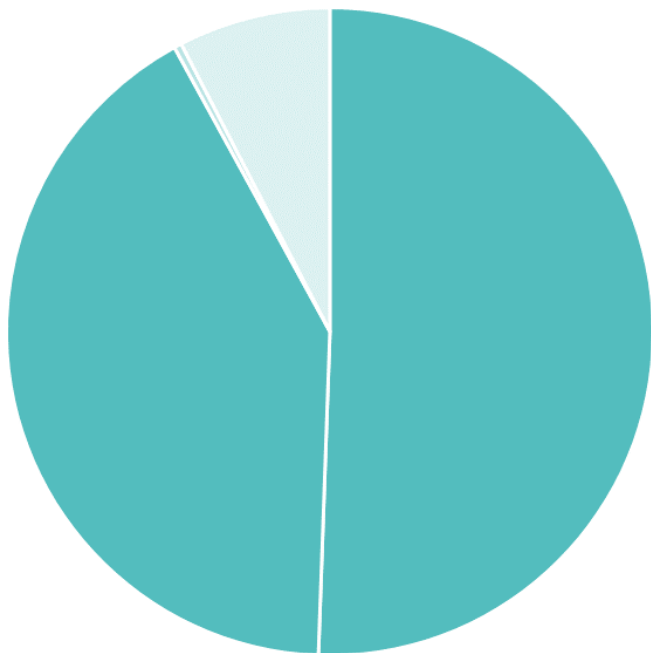




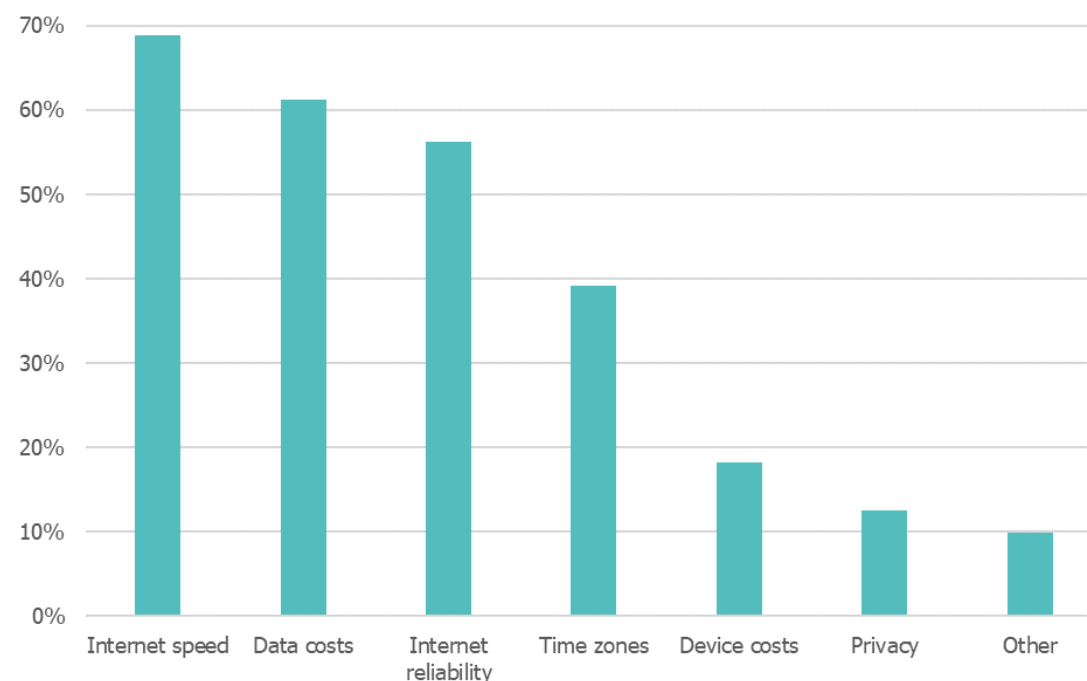
Inequalities exposed

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

+90% at institutions that fully or partially closed in response to COVID-19



+60% identified internet speed and data costs as key problems

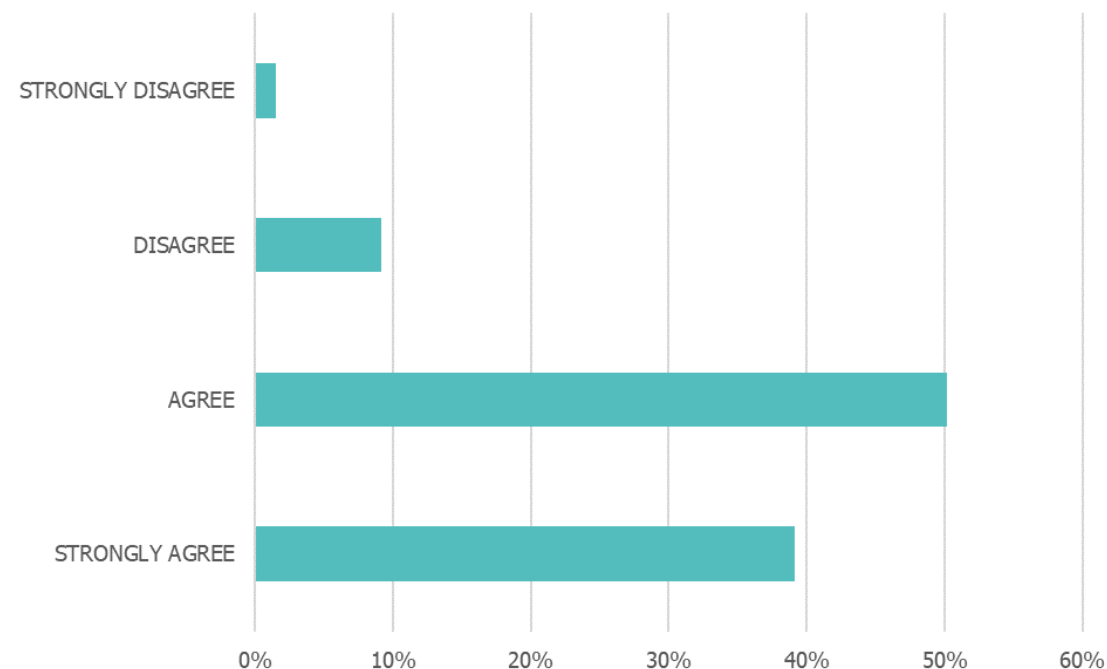
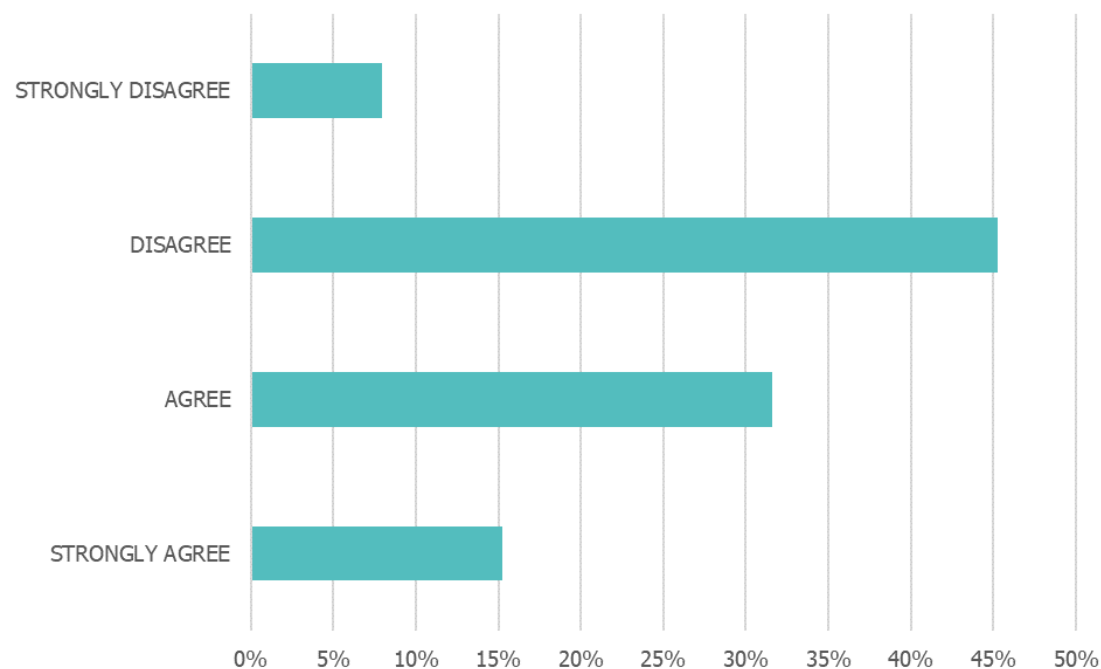


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DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

+50% said that an online-only degree **is not** equivalent to a face-to-face degree

>90% said that a blended degree **is** equivalent to a face-to-face degree



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ACU initiatives and networks



International collaboration through equitable partnerships – the PEBL model

GLOBAL ISSUES, GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



- Research collaborations
- Global benchmarking & information sharing
- Solidarity and collective action



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Thank you!

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