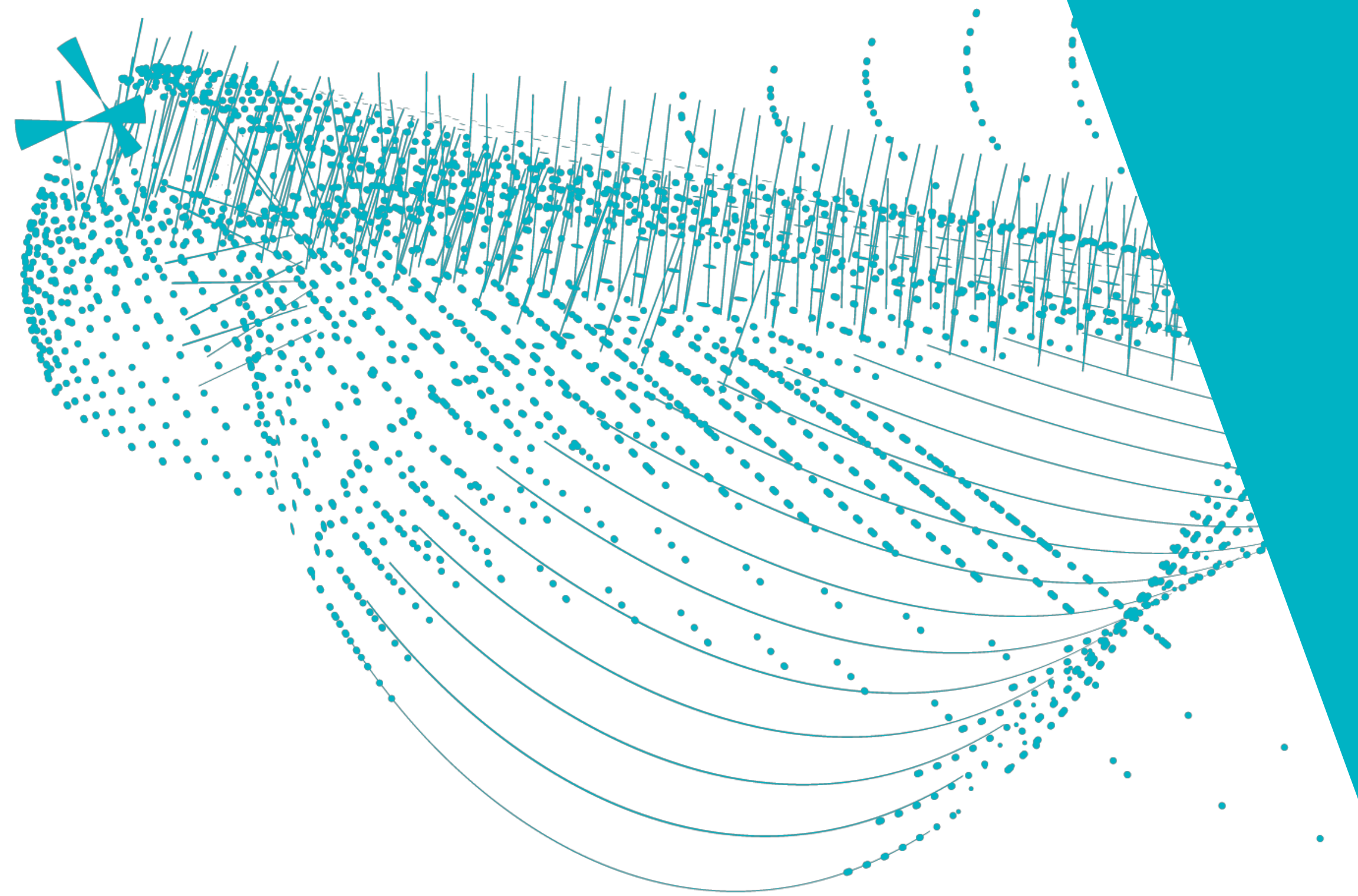


Nik|hef

# THE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MELISSA VAN BEEKVELD & TIM WOLF



# WHO ARE WE?

Melissa van Beekveld (PhD Nikhef/Radboud University)

- Resummation techniques in QCD
- SUSY dark matter
- Active in teaching and outreach



Tim Wolf (PhD Nikhef/University of Amsterdam)

- Flavour tagging in the ATLAS experiment
- Statistical interpretation of data
- Higgs boson-top quark interaction



# STRUCTURE OF DUTCH PHYSICS STUDY PROGRAM

## **Bachelor degree (3 years - 180 EC):**

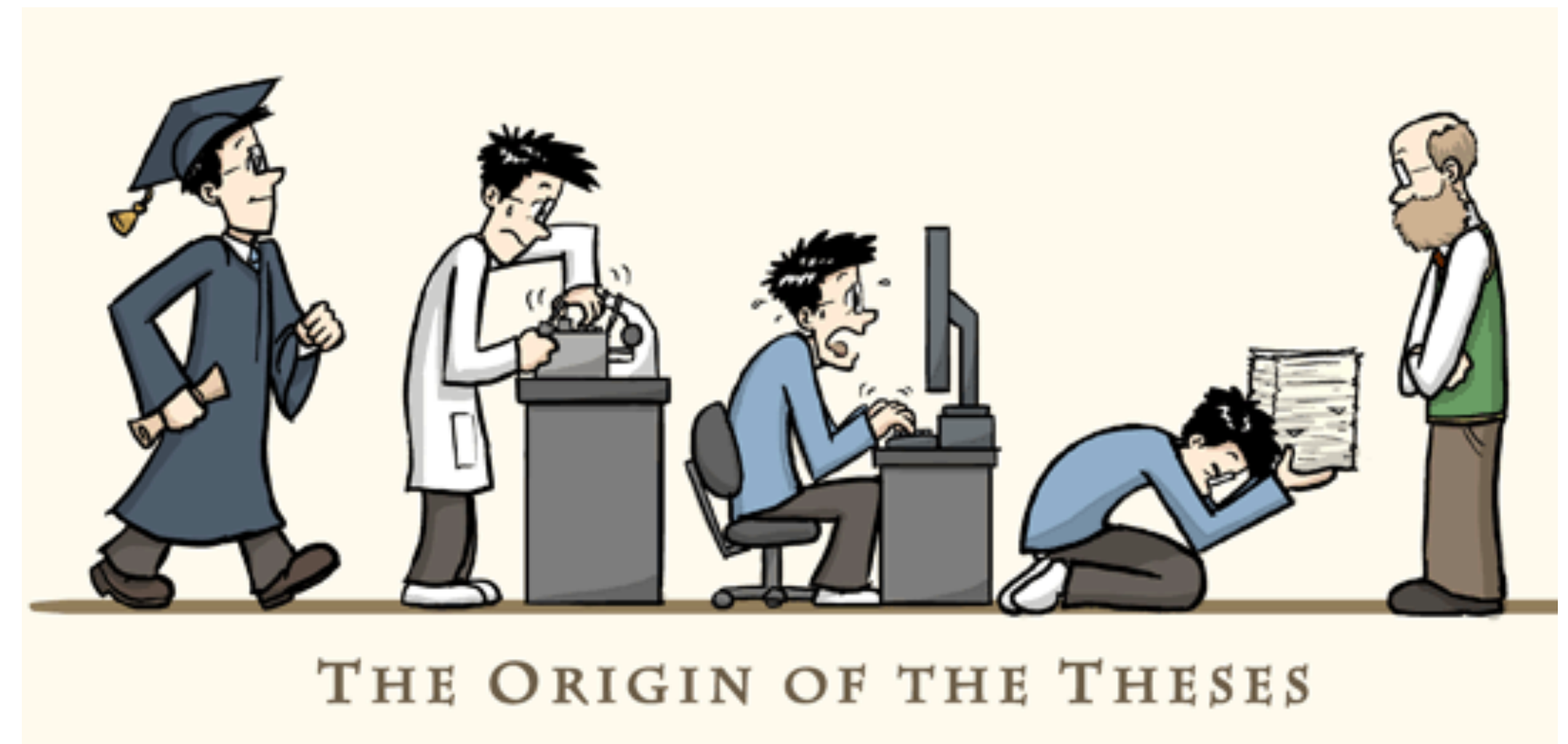
- Cover all main physics topics & maths
- Some introductions to advanced topics
- During 3rd year, students work on thesis (~ 15 EC)

## **Master degree (2 years - 120 EC):**

- Choose your specialization (1 year of in-depth courses)
- 1 year internship & thesis writing

# STRUCTURE OF DUTCH PHYSICS PHD

- 4 years
- Mandatory thesis
- Mandatory teaching time: 10%
- Mandatory schools: 2 times 2 weeks
- As ATLAS member: 1 year of service work
- Opportunity to spend some time abroad
- No required number of publications in general
- We earn around 2200-2800 euro gross



# SURVEY ABOUT YOUR PHD LIFE

In total 50 PhD students filled it out (out of 95)

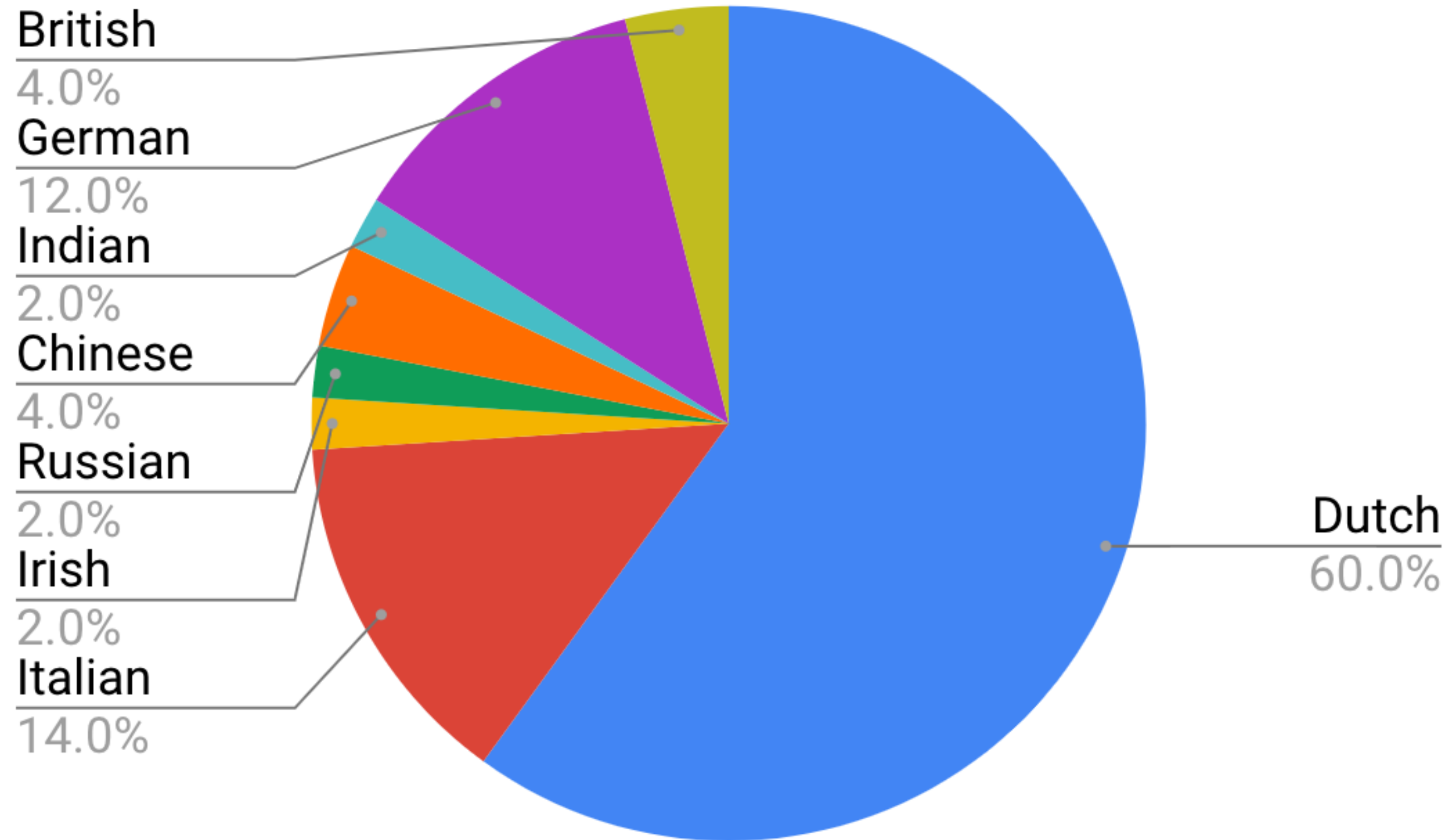
Composition of the PhD students is:

- 28 (~30%) are female
- 44 (~46%) are Dutch

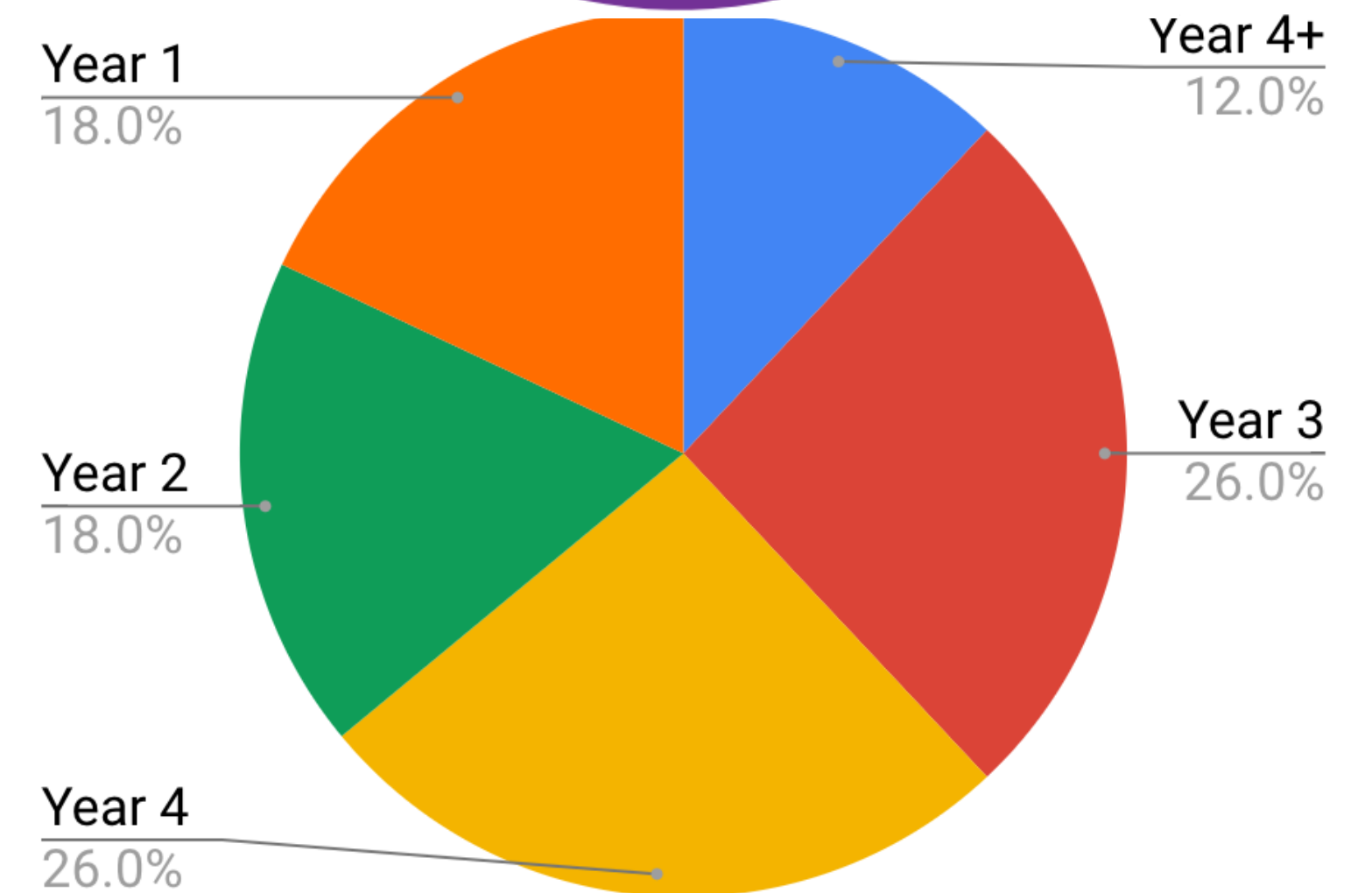
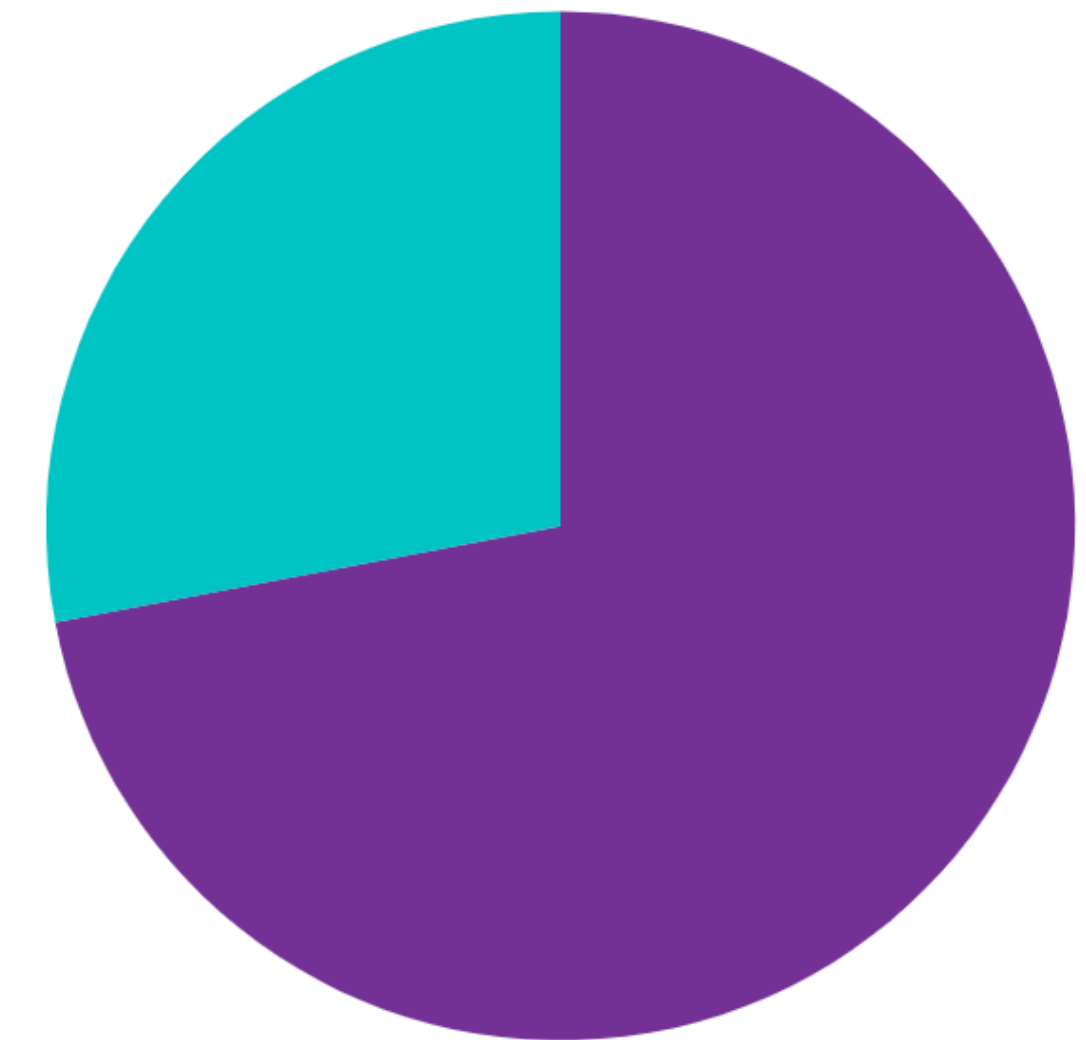
Goal of the survey:

- Overview of what PhD students like and dislike
- Giving feedback

# GENERAL - WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEY

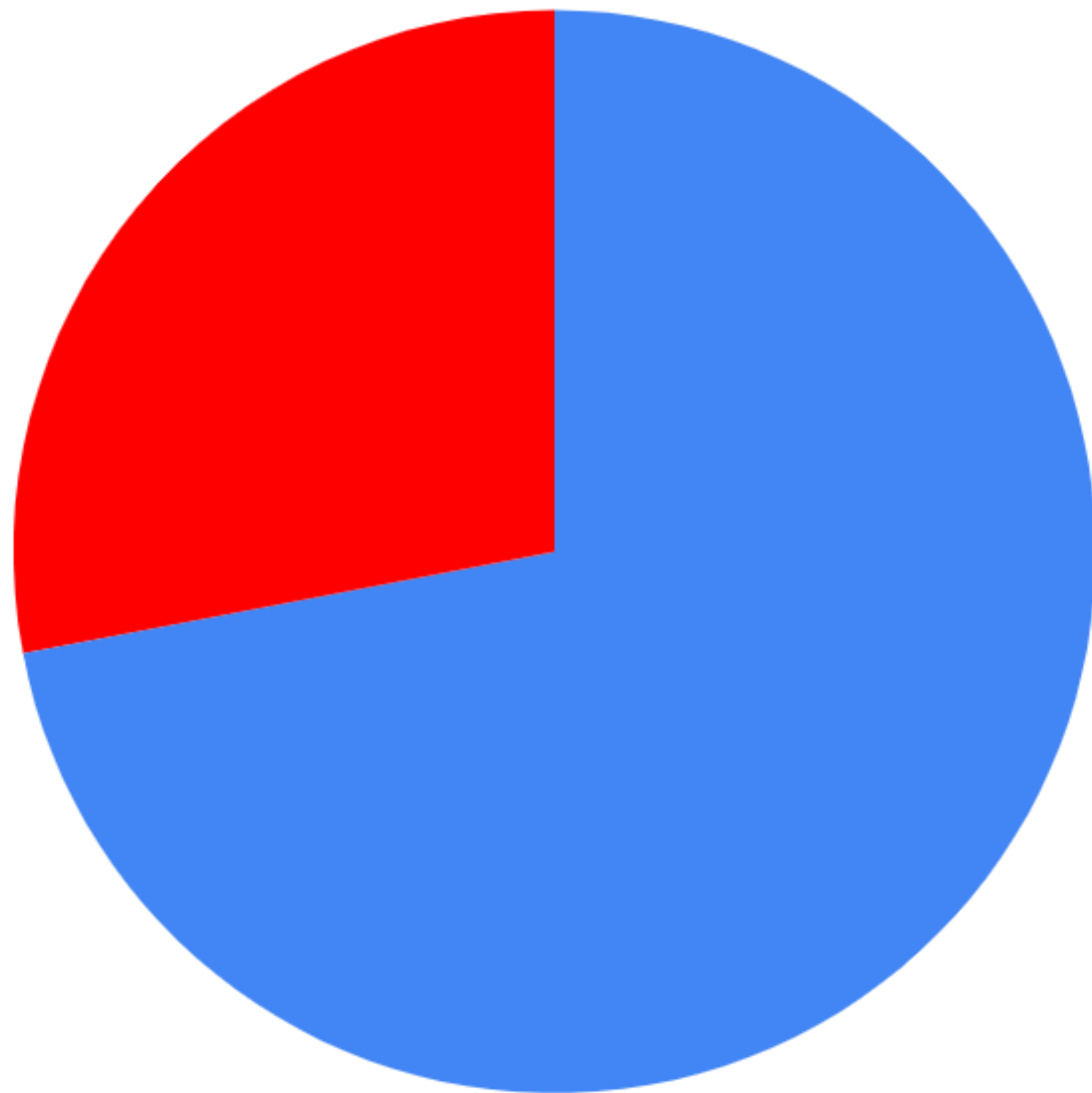


● Male ● Female



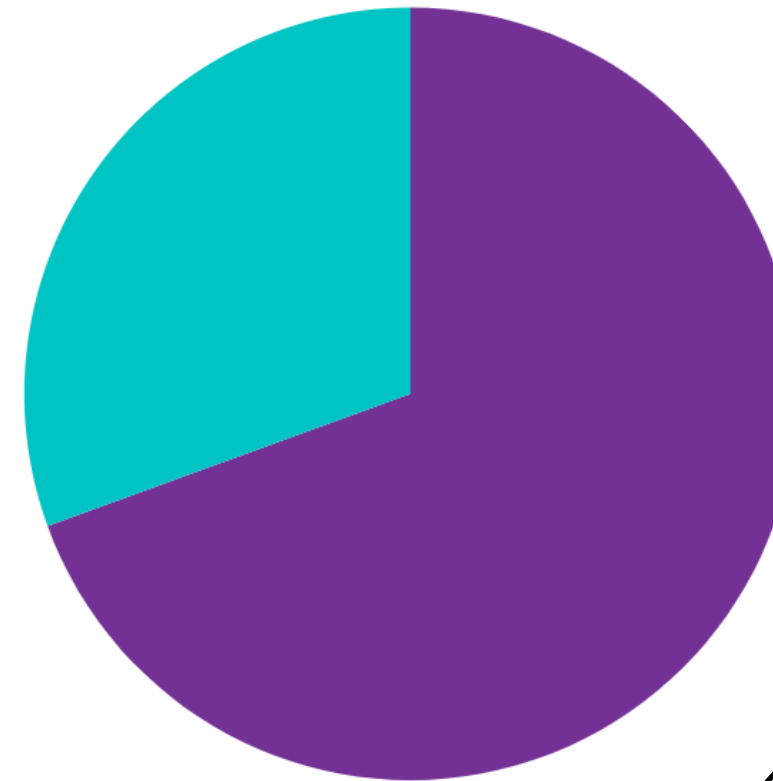
# GENERAL - WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEY

● Experimentalist ● Theorist

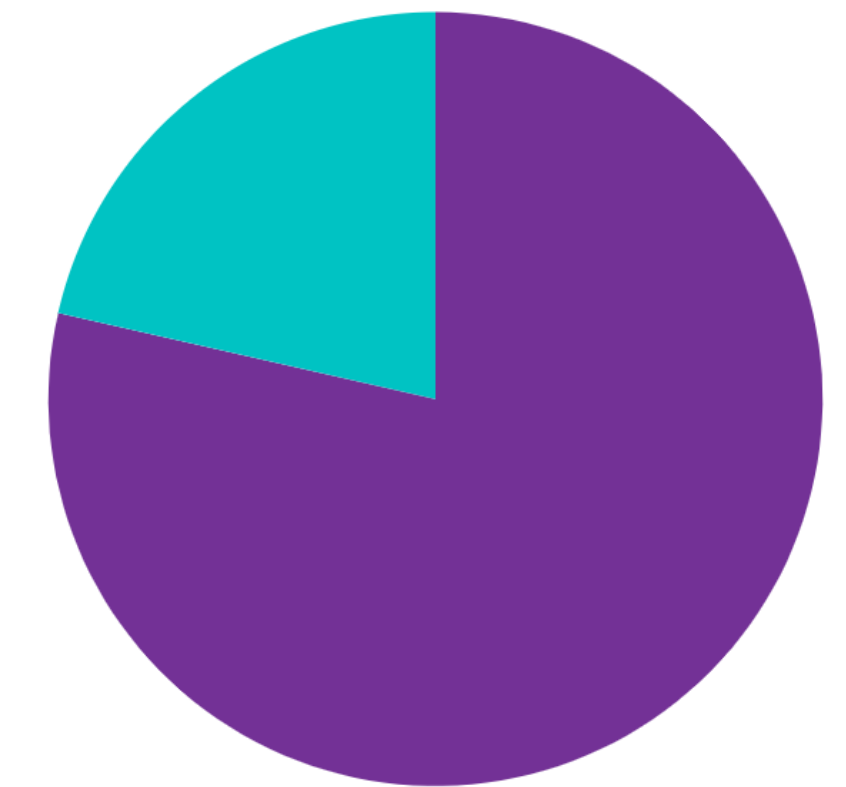


## EXPERIMENTALIST

● Male ● Female

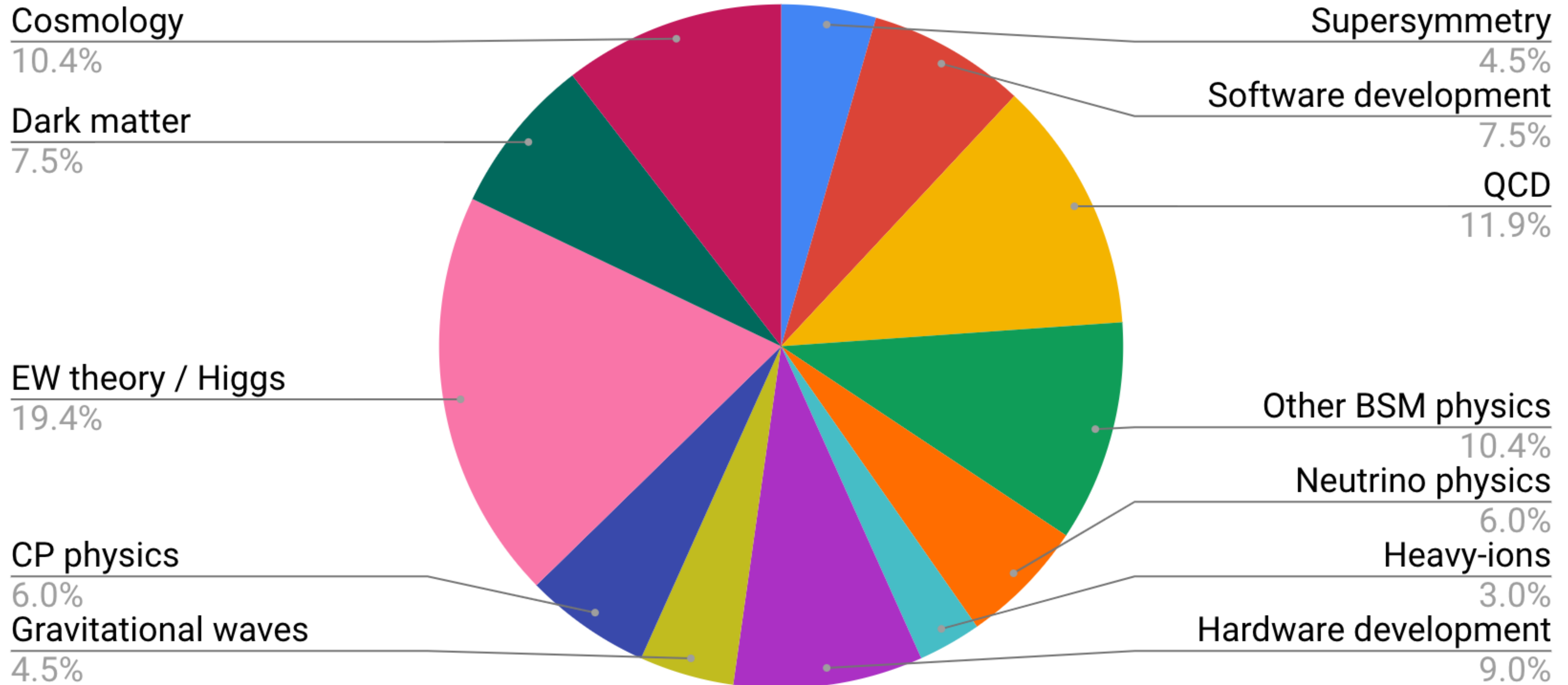


● Male ● Female



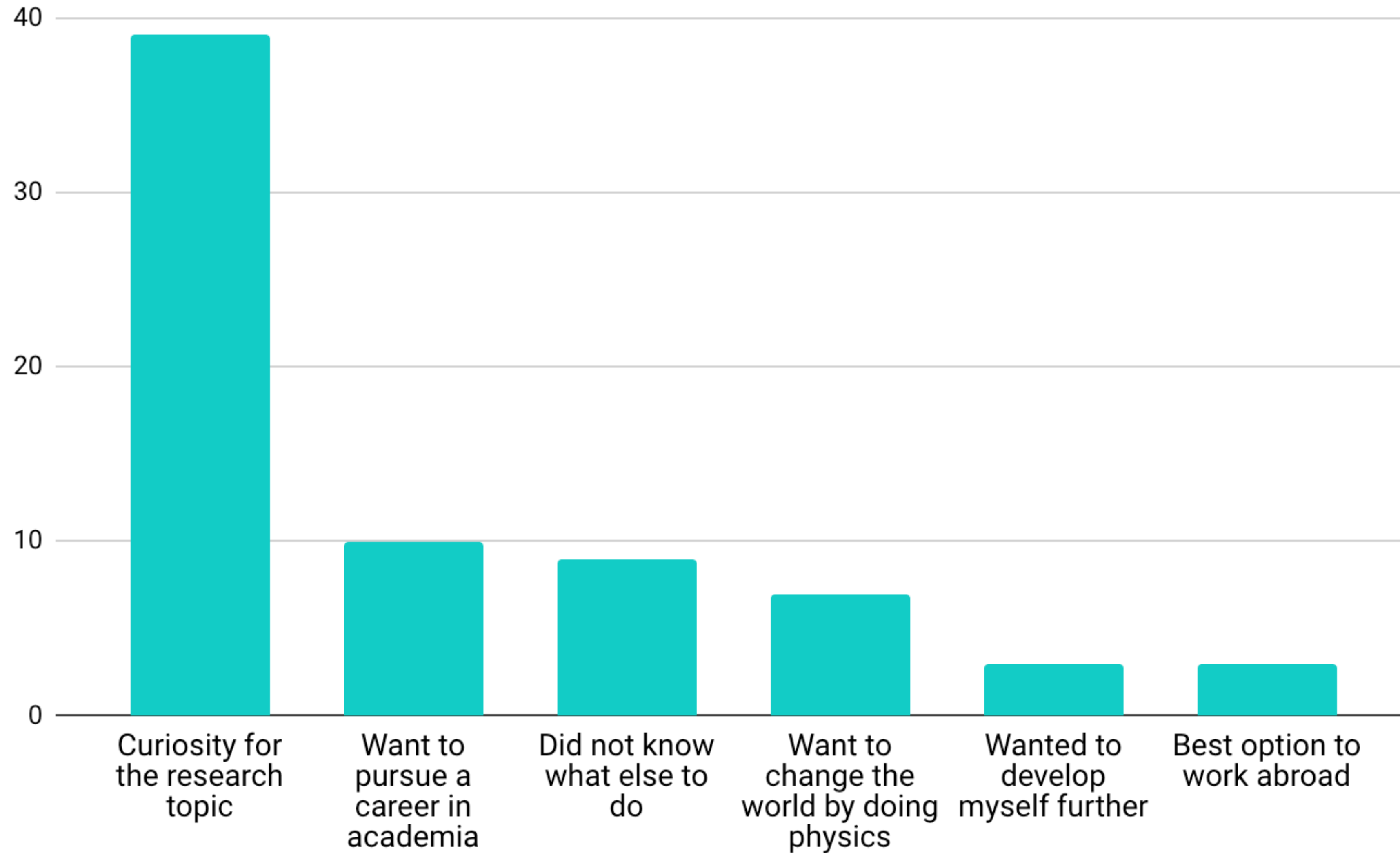
## THEORIST

# FIELD OF RESEARCH (MULTIPLE CHOICE)



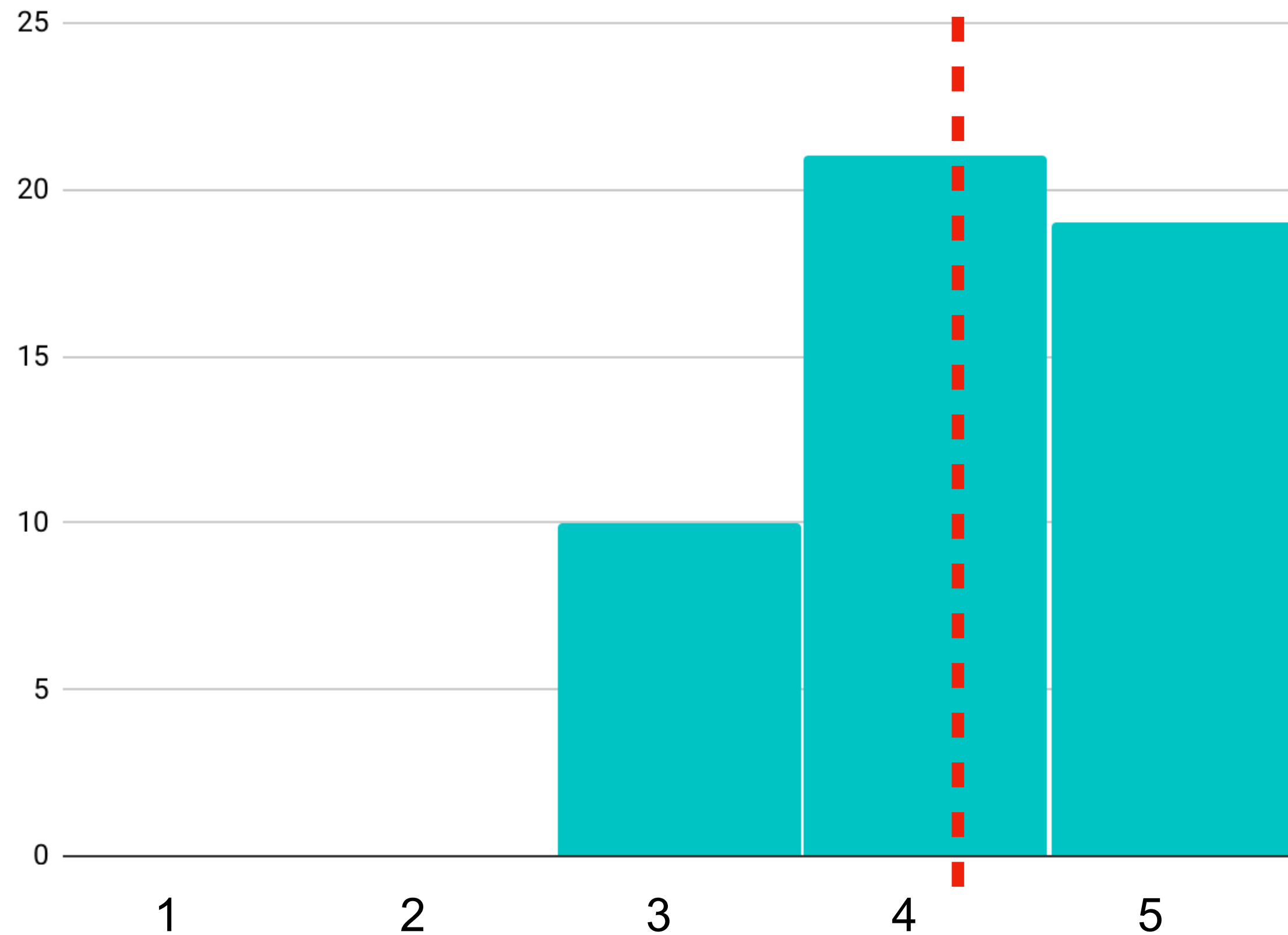


# REASON TO START A PHD (MULTIPLE CHOICE)

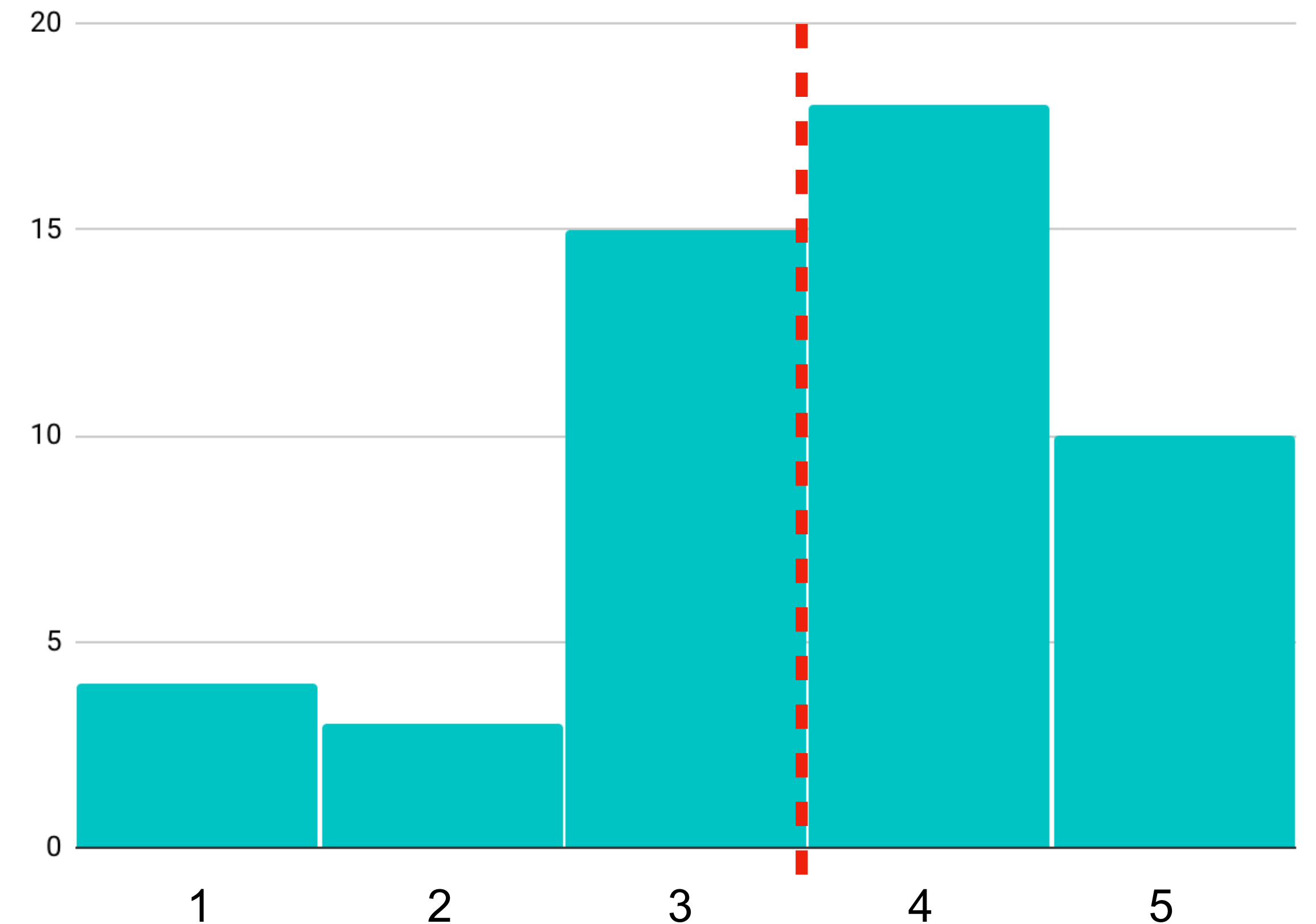


# HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH...

## your PHD topic



## The support at the beginning of the PHD



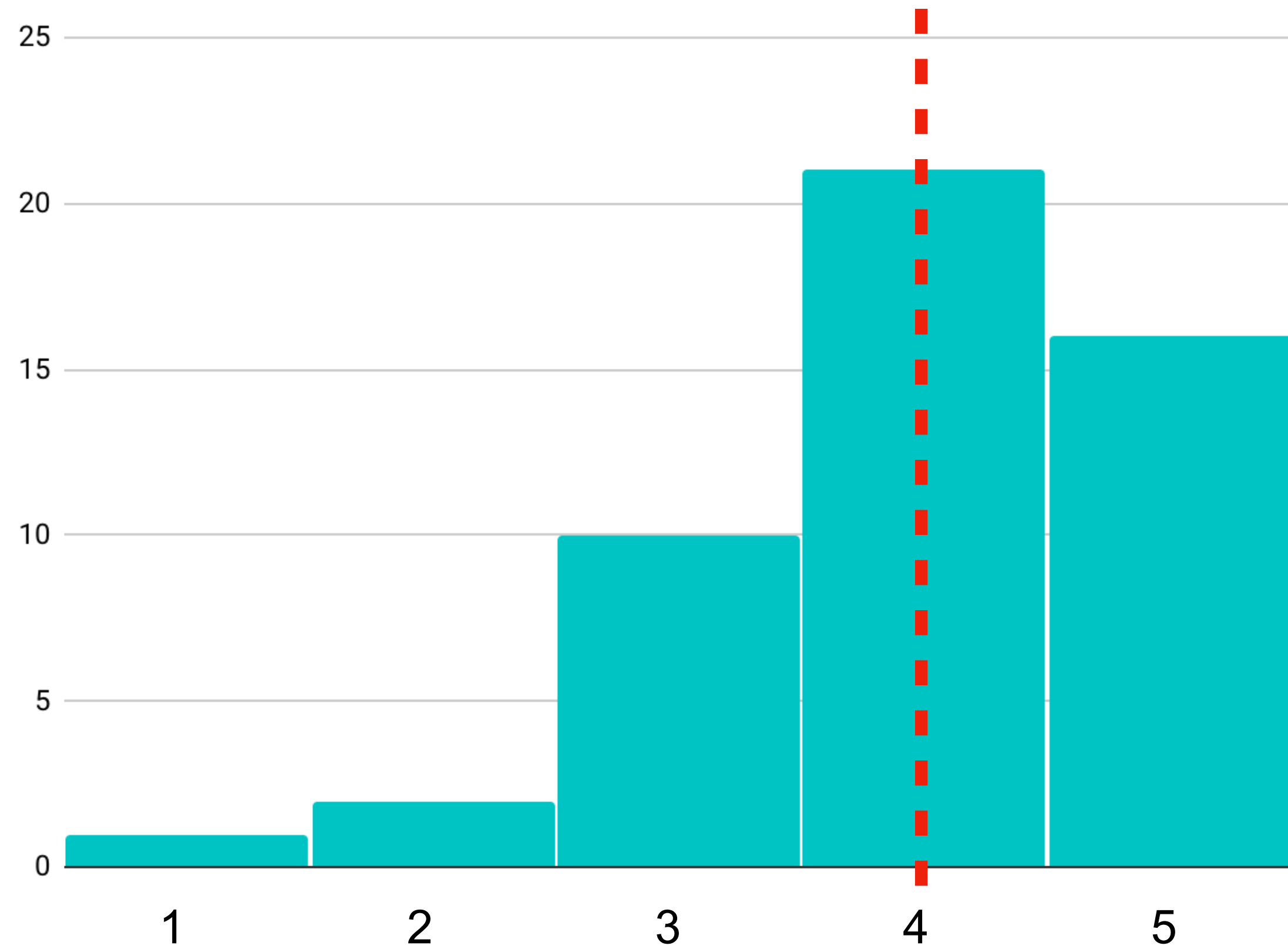
# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- PhD is motivated
- Supervisor needs to provide help
  - making sure technical skills and physics knowledge are acquired
  - establishing contact with other (important) people
  - keeping the balance between the interests of all parties
- These tasks over time become part of the responsibilities of the PhD

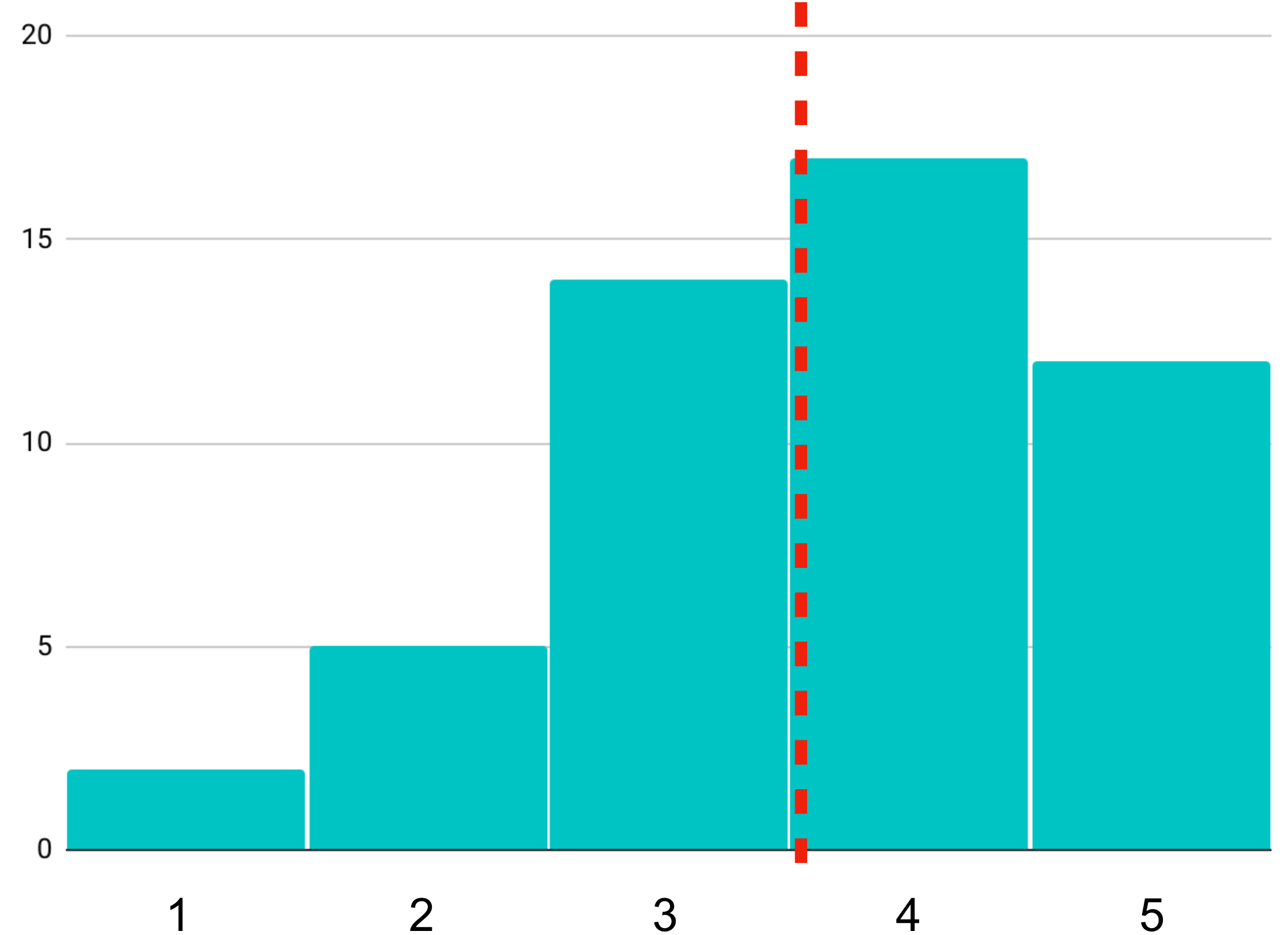
**Nevertheless, supervision can never be outsourced!**

# HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR...

## Supervisor



## The amount of time your supervisor invests in you



# SOME IMPRESSIONS

# WHAT DO YOU LIKE & DISLIKE?



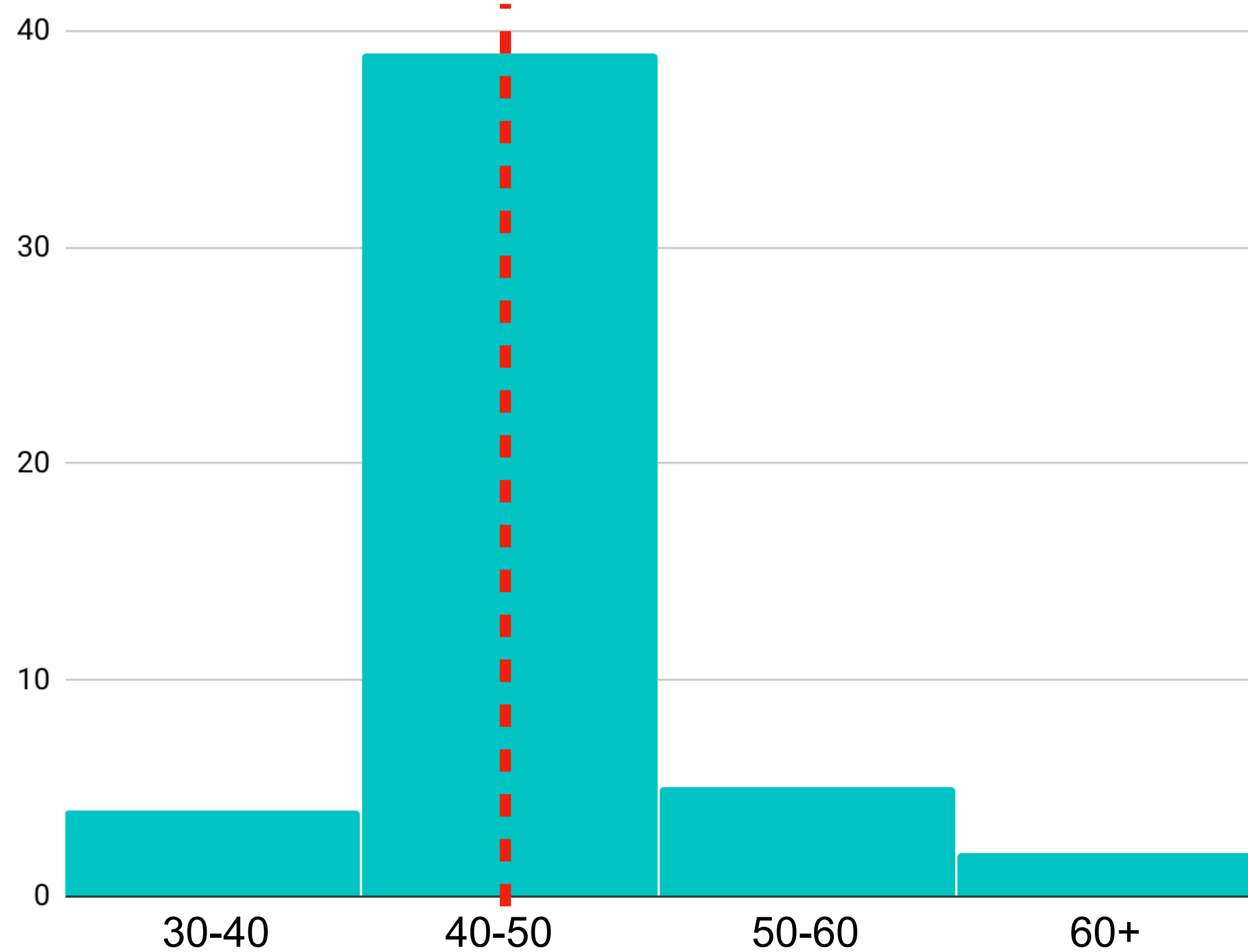
research  
work possibility  
working  
doing problems  
learn travel solve  
freedom  
interesting international challenging  
knowledge  
physics opportunities  
people



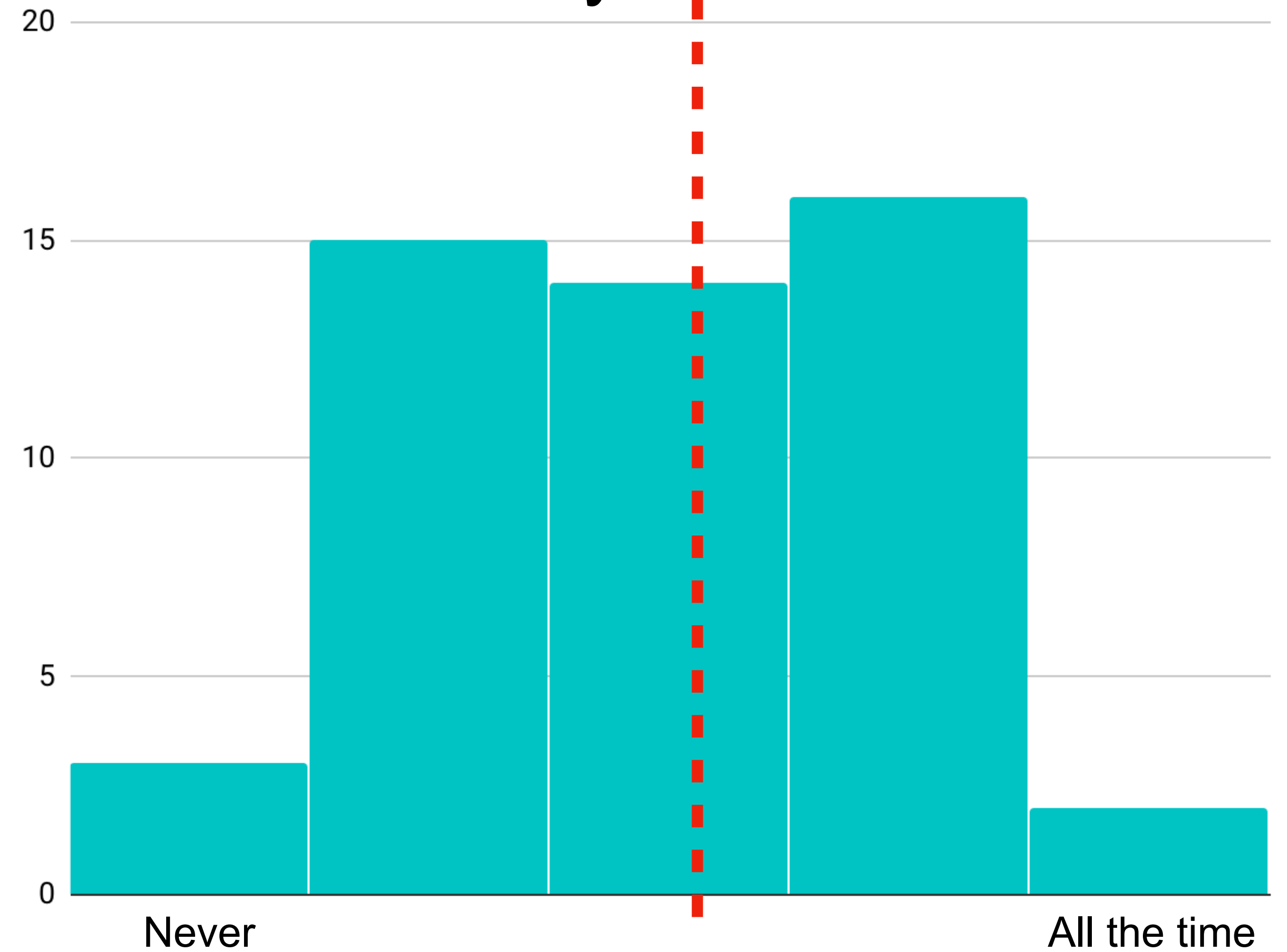
insecure  
deadlines  
slow uncertainty  
two-body-problem difficult  
overload stuck  
imposter  
prospects pressure  
traveling stress  
too-much freedom  
overwhelmed  
depression

# STRESS LEVELS

## Hours of work a week

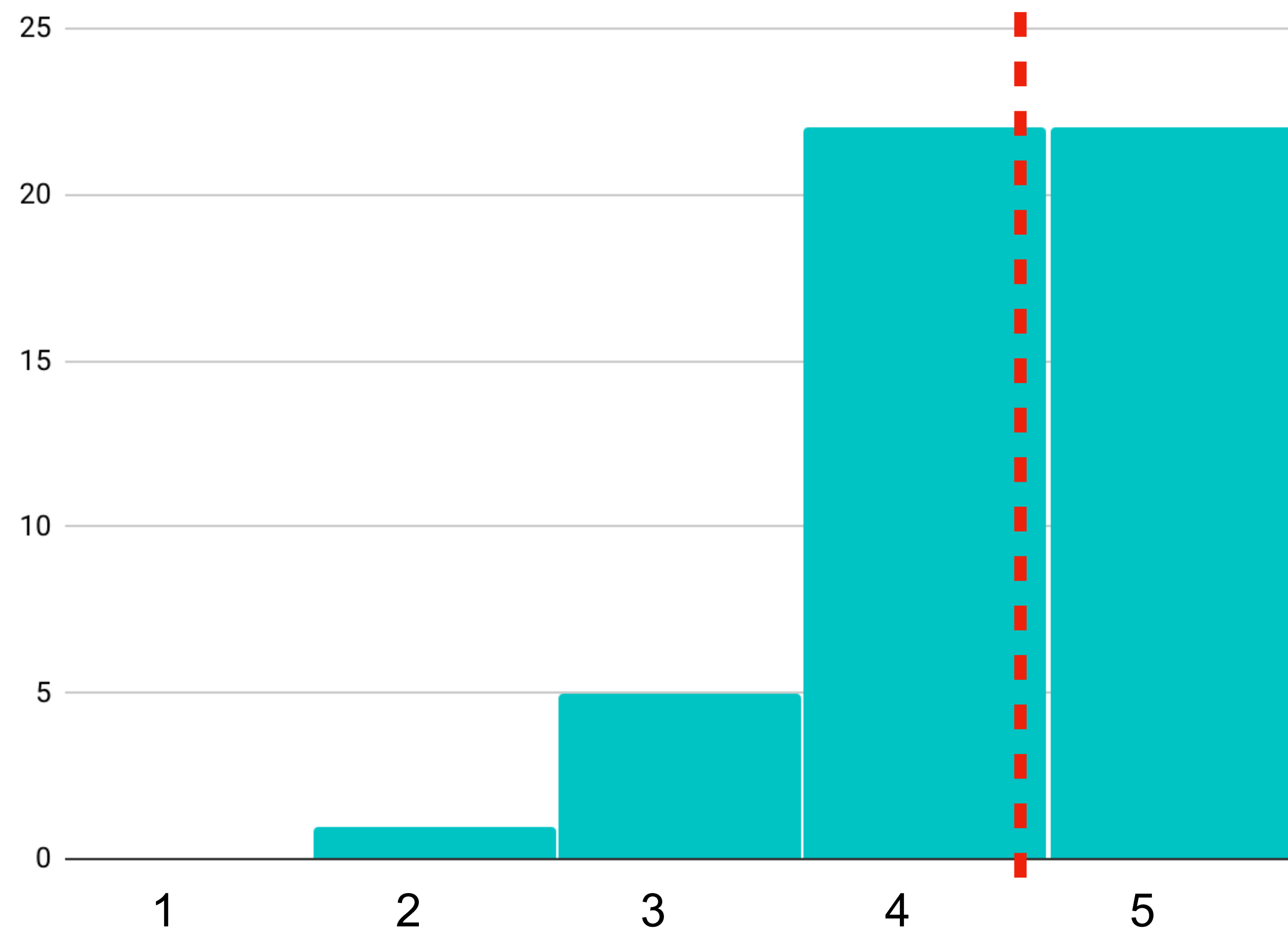


## How often do you feel stressed?

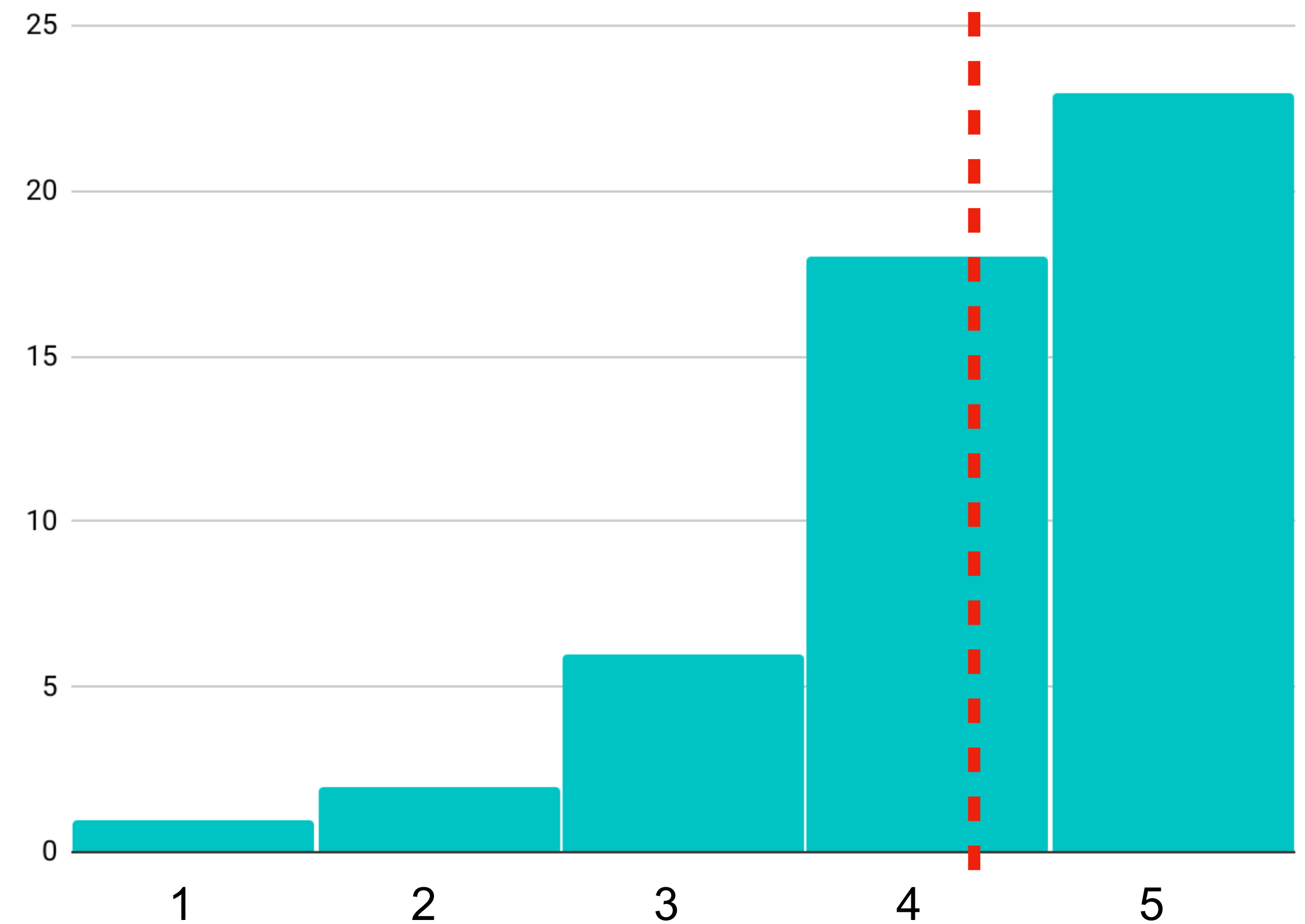


# HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH...

## NIKHEF



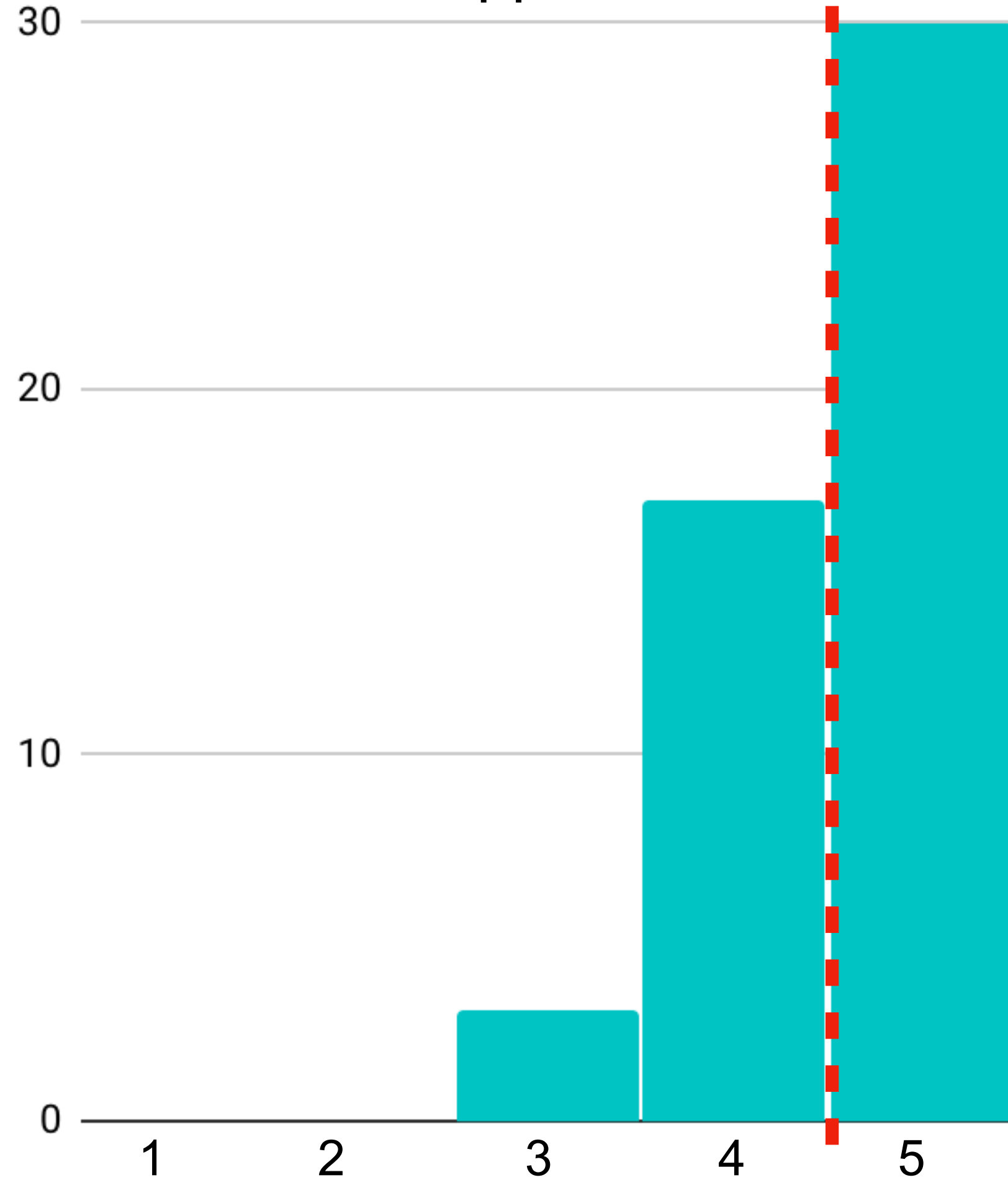
## The working atmosphere



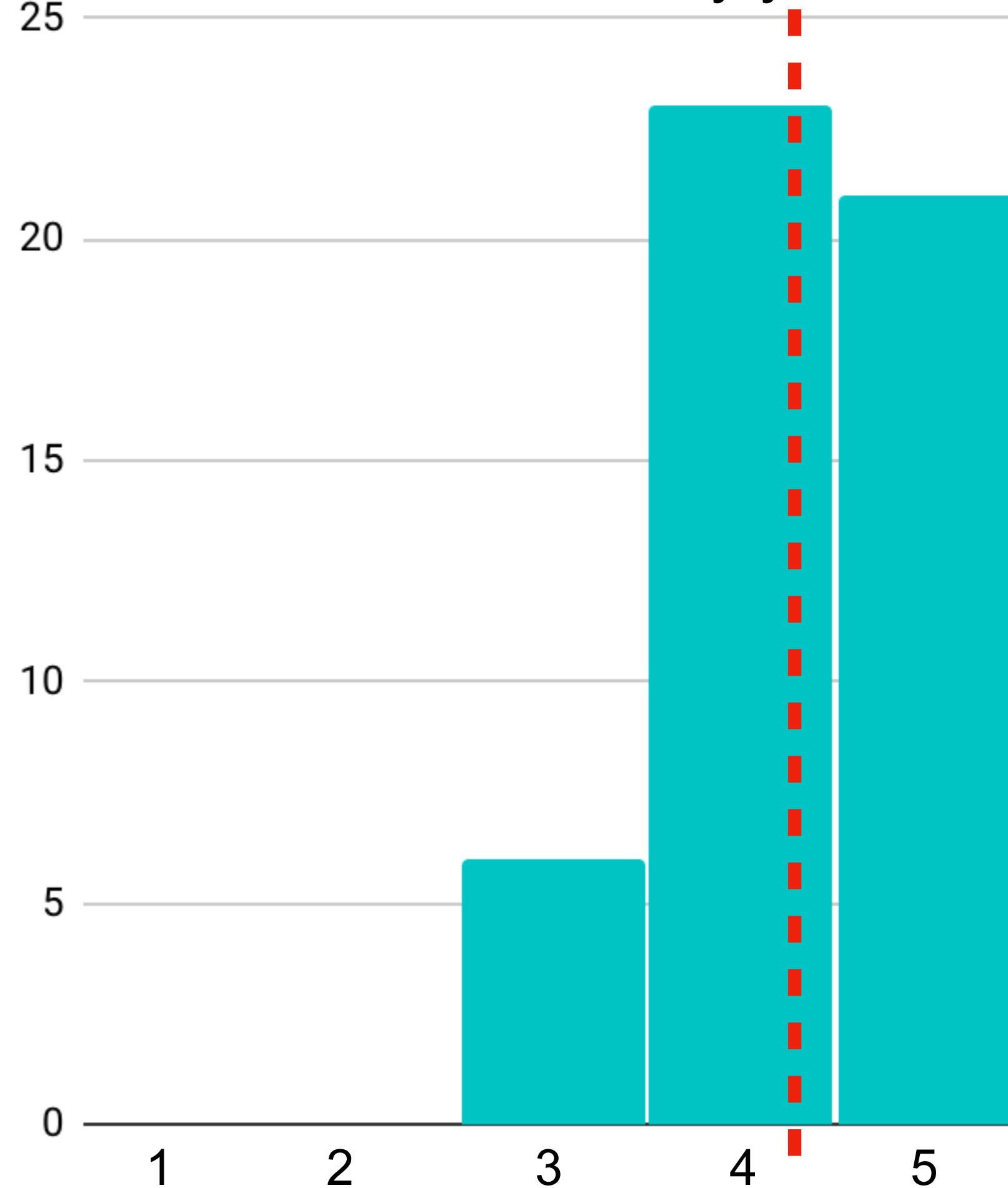


# HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH...

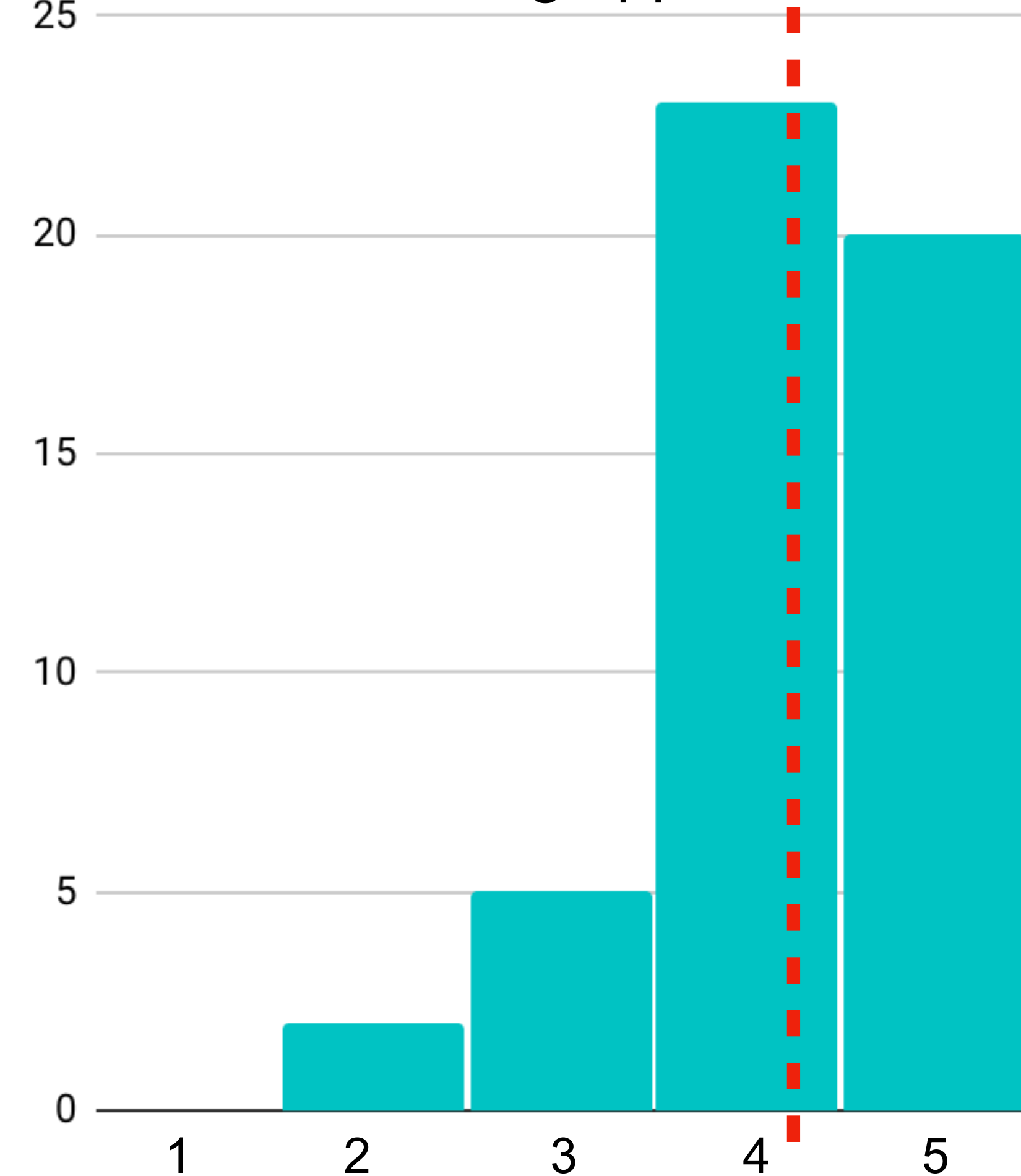
## The travel opportunities



## The amount of money you earn



## The learning opportunities

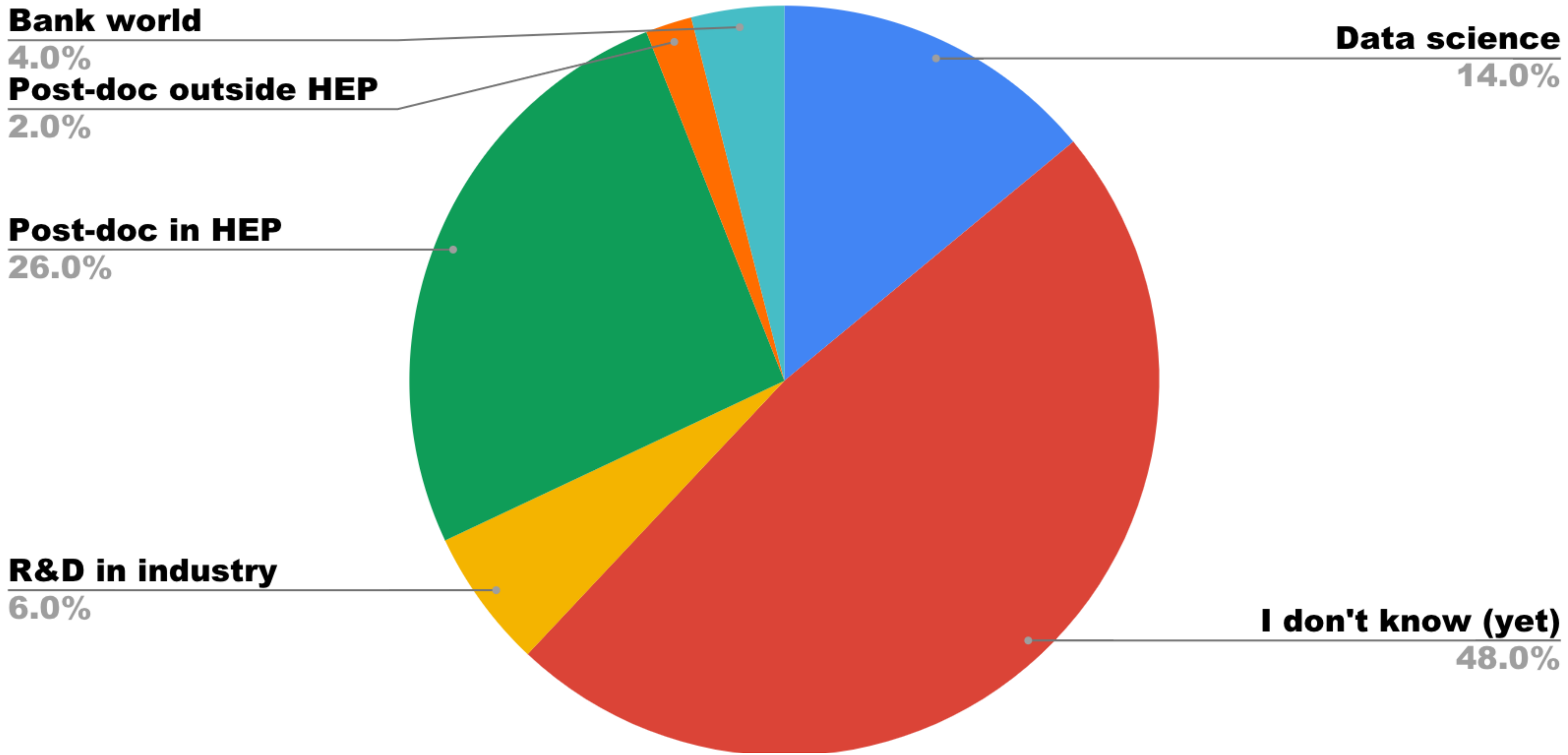


# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

## Women in science

- Personally feel no discrimination within academia
  - This is **very** different outside of academia
- There is a serious lack of female role models

# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER THE PHD?



# CONCLUSIONS

- PhD students are generally happy
- Nikhef is a good place that fosters talent
- Supervision should be strengthened in some aspects
- Make sure that talent is kept in the field
- **Pressure, stress, and uncertainty of the future** are the prime downsides of the job

# ENOUGH FREE TIME?

