

Educational support for d/hh students in postsecondary education: A CoP approach

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*Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies
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Centre for SIGN LINGUISTICS & DEAF STUDIES

Project Objectives

- To build a Community of Practice to support deaf and hard-of-hearing (d/hh) students pursuing postsecondary education
- To explore possible types of support that suit d/hh students' diverse backgrounds and learning needs
- To raise awareness about ways to remove barriers to information accessibility in postsecondary education as experienced by d/hh students

Key performance indicators

Institutions'

- Improved understanding of the special learning needs of d/hh students pursuing education in the postsecondary context
 - Acquisition of knowledge of how accommodations in the physical learning environment and hardware potentially support d/hh students to pursue education
 - Adequate deployment of tools and aids, including real-time captioning, WTS system, note-taking, sign interpretation, and lecture recordings, to suit the diverse needs of d/hh students
 - Development of new pedagogical strategies and practices
- Establishment of a support system with accommodations for in-class and course-end assessments

CoP: Activity 1

AIM: SURVEYING THE CURRENT TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO D/HH STUDENTS PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG



Questionnaire design

- ▶ For the periods: 2020-2024 & 2024-2025
- ▶ Identification of the types of educational support to d/hh students
- ▶ Anonymity upheld
- ▶ With references to adopted practices worldwide (in the US in particular) and our understanding of the local situation, we generated a list of educational support services for d/hh students in Hong Kong
- ▶ References
 - ▶ NTID's Access and Support Services (<https://www.rit.edu/ntid/support-services>)
 - ▶ National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes at The University of Texas at Austin (<https://nationaldeafcenter.org/resources/access-accommodations/>)

Survey results: response rates and types

- 38 postsecondary institutions were invited
- 28 anonymous responses received (response rate: 74%)
 - 23 respondents: they had admitted d/hh students in 2020 - 2024
 - 12 respondents stated the number of d/hh students admitted
 - 12 respondents provided information about the types of educational support during this period
 - 10 respondents: they had admitted d/hh students in 2024-2025
 - All respondents stated the number of d/hh students admitted
 - 9 respondents provided information about the types of educational support during this period
 - 7 respondents completed the whole questionnaire, which offers a general picture of the types of educational support for d/hh students (i.e., Responded to Q10 & Q11 of the questionnaire)

D/hh students in postsecondary institutions

- ▶ 2020-2024: **276 d/hh students** in 11 postsecondary institutions
- ▶ 2024-2025: **168 d/hh students** in 9 postsecondary institutions
- ▶ 1 institution: 100 d/hh students in 2020-2024 & 100 d/hh students in 2024-25
- ▶ Around 90% of the institutions received requests from the d/hh students for educational support
- ▶ Requests from d/hh students:

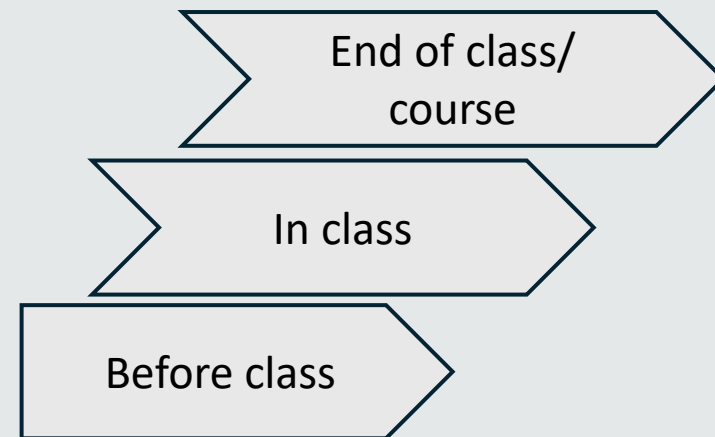
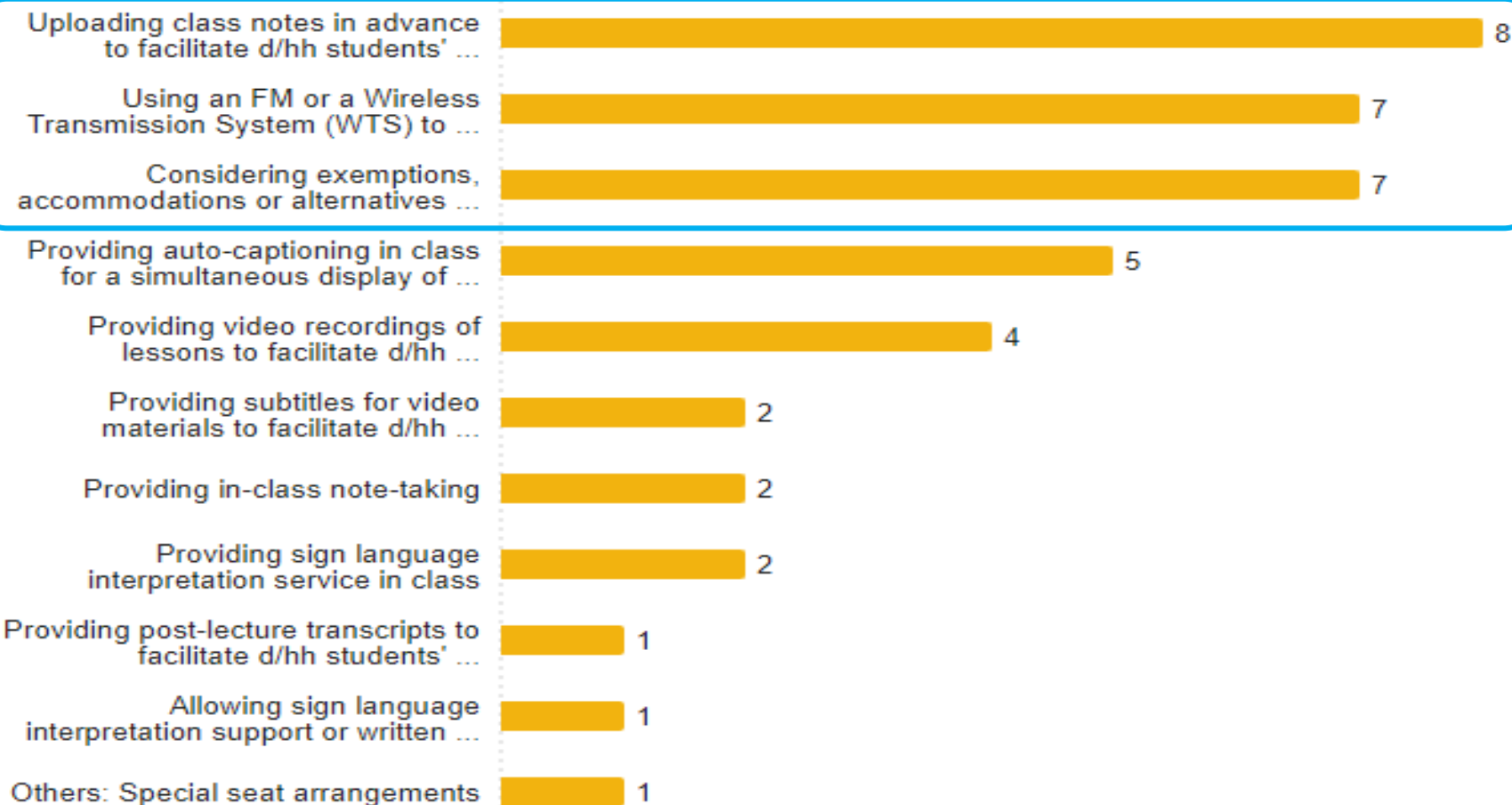
The number of institutions receiving requests from d/hh students for educational support services to their department/faculty or student affairs office



An overview of educational support to d/hh students across institutions

Types of educational support

Types of educational support services eventually provided for students admitted between 2020 and 2024 (**12 Responses**)



Generally adopted: 3 types of educational support

For each type, 7 to 8 out of 12 respondents reported provision of at least one of the educational support services.

Uploading class notes in advance to facilitate d/hh students' preview of learning materials

Using an **FM or a Wireless Transmission System (WTS)** to enhance audio signal reception via hearing aids or cochlear implants

Considering **exemptions, accommodations or alternatives in examinations** requiring the use of listening and speaking skills of students with hearing difficulties

Before class

In class

End of class/ course



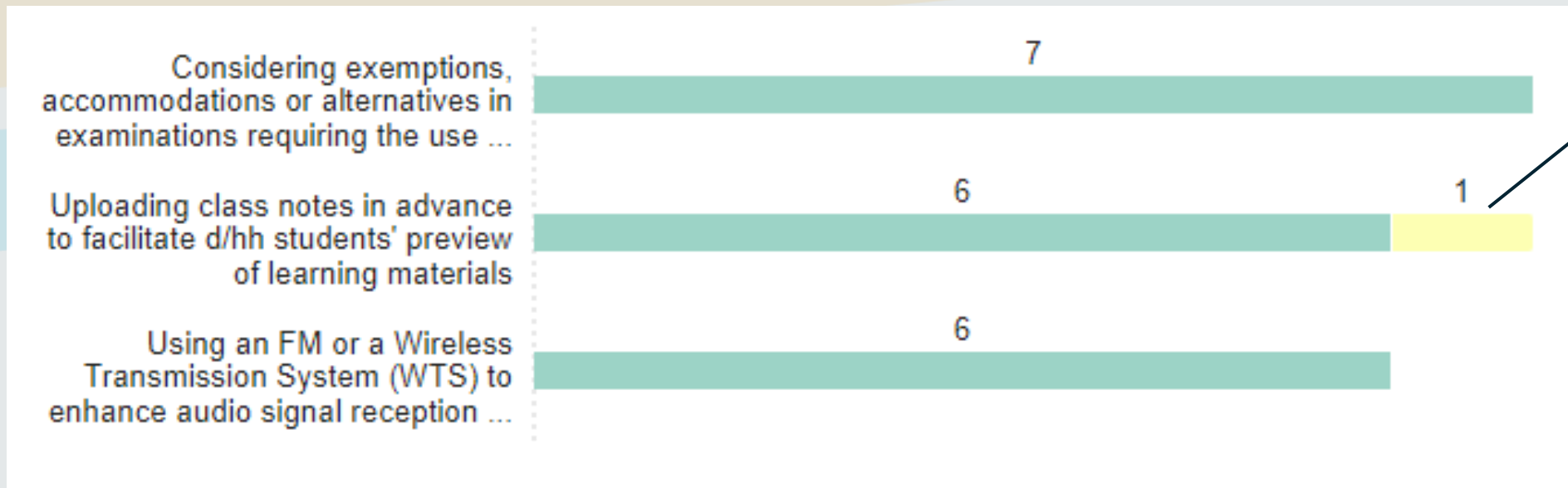
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Number of institutions providing the 3 educational support services

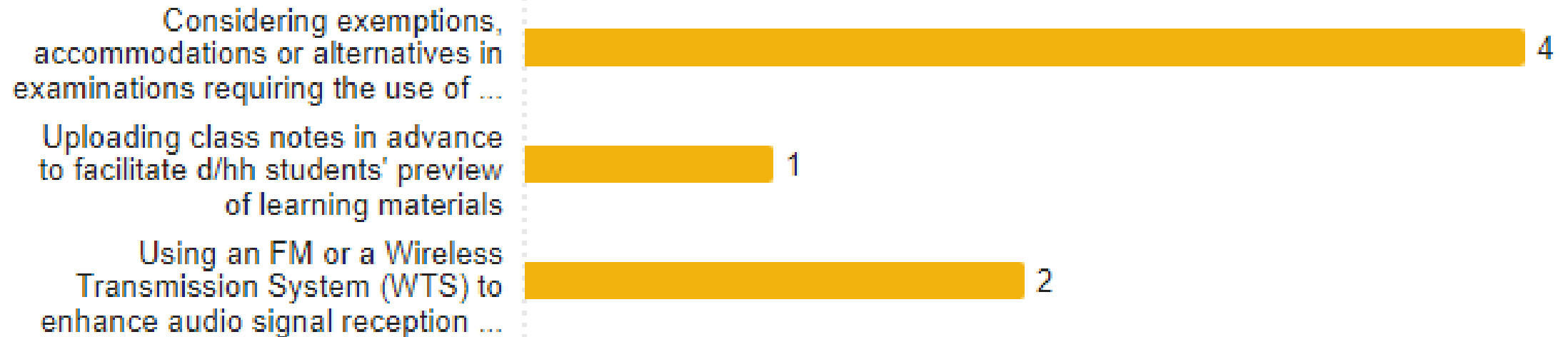
6 to 7 out of 8 respondents reported that they always adopt the following educational support services for d/hh students.



Newly added

Number of institutions receiving requests from d/hh students for the 3 educational support services

Types of educational support services included in the requests from students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 (**9 Responses**)



Number of students receiving the 3 accommodations

Figures provided by the institutions that provided any of the 3 educational support services between 2020 and 2024

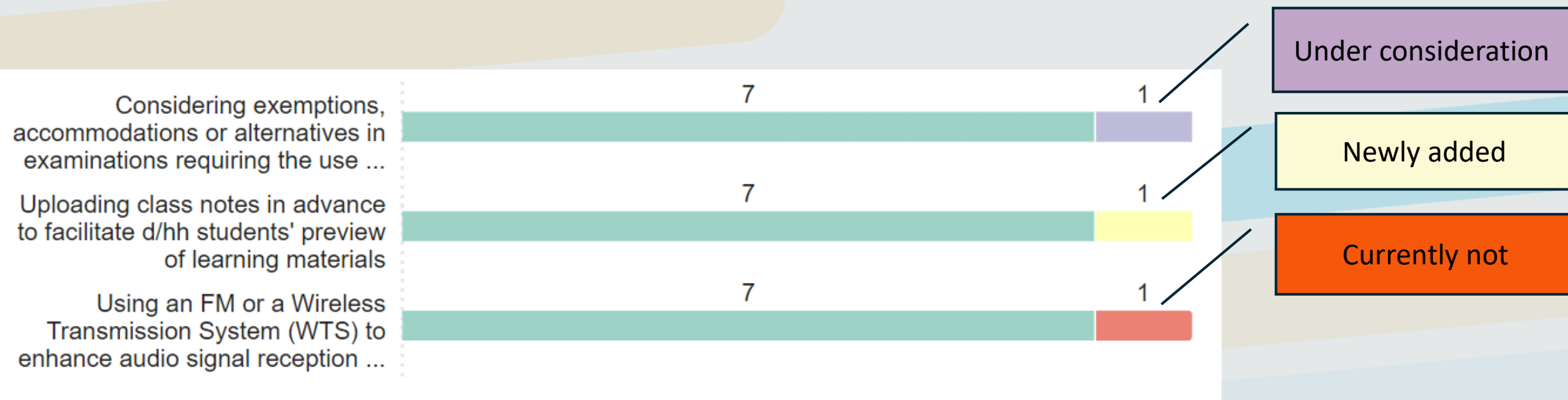
| Field | Institutions | Students |
|---|--------------|----------|
| Considering exemptions, accommodations or alternatives in examinations requiring the use of listening and speaking skills for students with hearing difficulties - Number of students | 6 | 38 |
| Uploading class notes in advance to facilitate d/hh students' preview of learning materials - Number of students | 6 | 36 |
| Using an FM or a Wireless Transmission System (WTS) to enhance audio signal reception via hearing aids or cochlear implants - Number of students | 6 | 12 |

Figures provided by **3 institutions** which **reported adopting all 3 educational support services**

| Field | Institutions | Students |
|---|--------------|----------|
| Considering exemptions, accommodations or alternatives in examinations requiring the use of listening and speaking skills for students with hearing difficulties - Number of students | 3 | 24 |
| Uploading class notes in advance to facilitate d/hh students' preview of learning materials - Number of students | 3 | 26 |
| Using an FM or a Wireless Transmission System (WTS) to enhance audio signal reception via hearing aids or cochlear implants - Number of students | 3 | 8 |

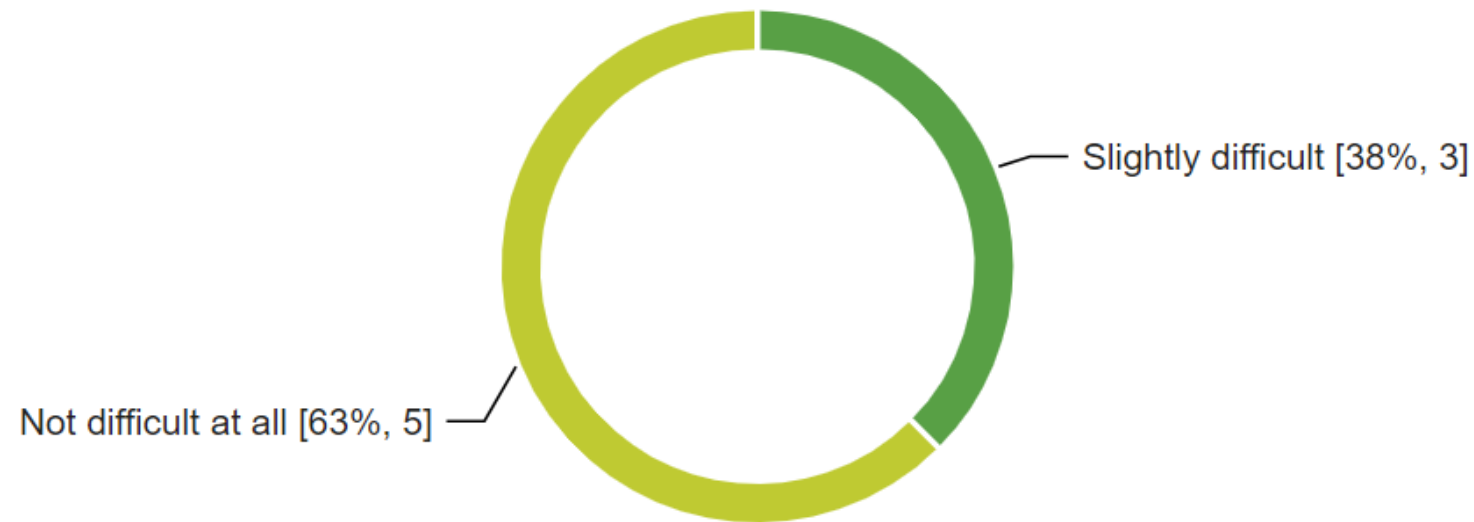
Number of institutions providing the 3 educational support services (based on 8 responses)

Including responses from institutions with no students admitted in 2020-2024 and/or 2024-25.



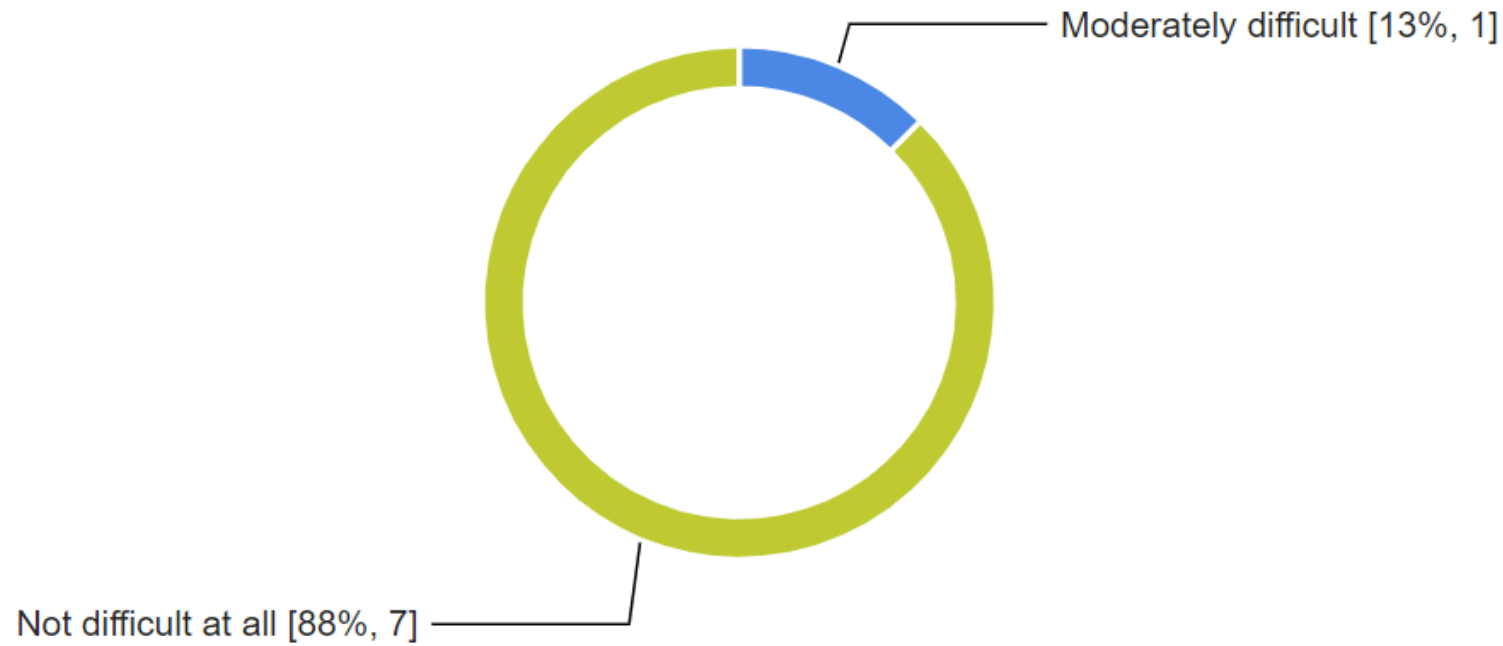
Perceived difficulty in providing educational support (based on 8 responses)

Considering exemptions, accommodations or alternatives in examinations requiring the use of listening and speaking skills for students with hearing difficulties



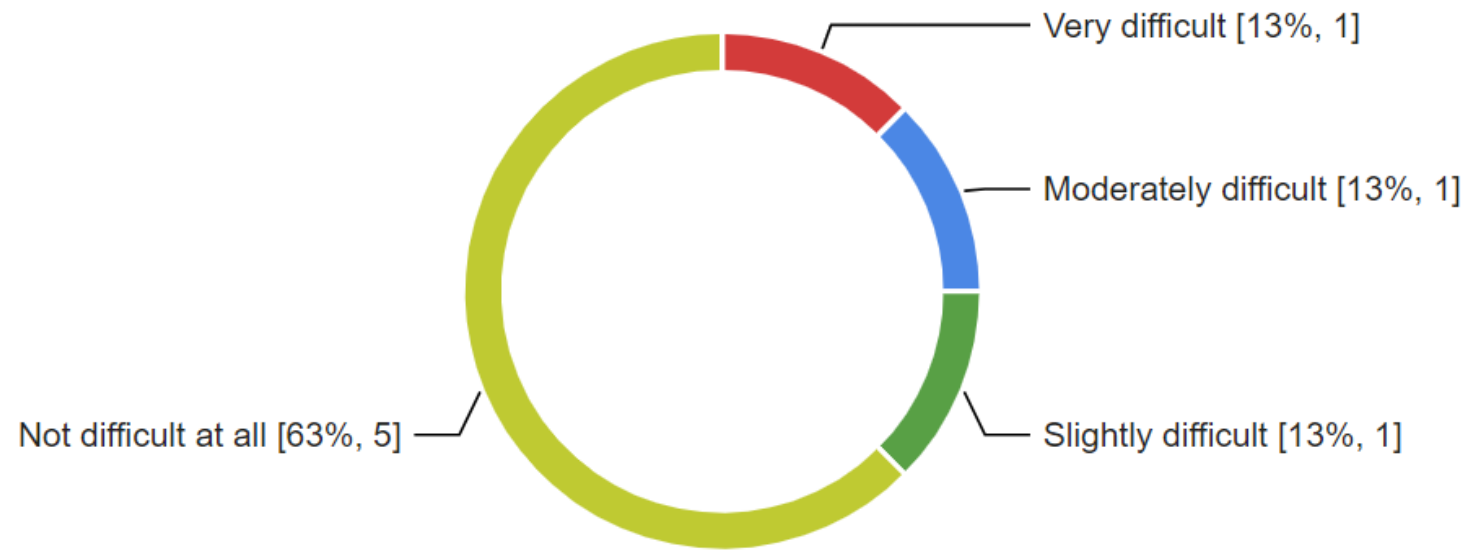
Perceived difficulty in providing educational support

Uploading class notes in advance to facilitate d/hh students' preview of learning materials



Perceived difficulty in providing educational support

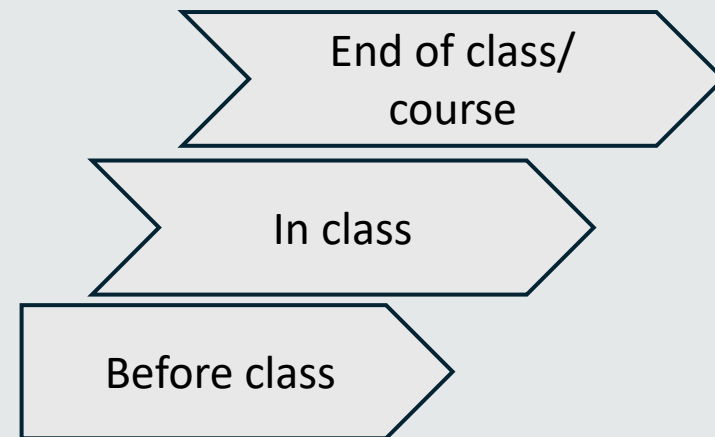
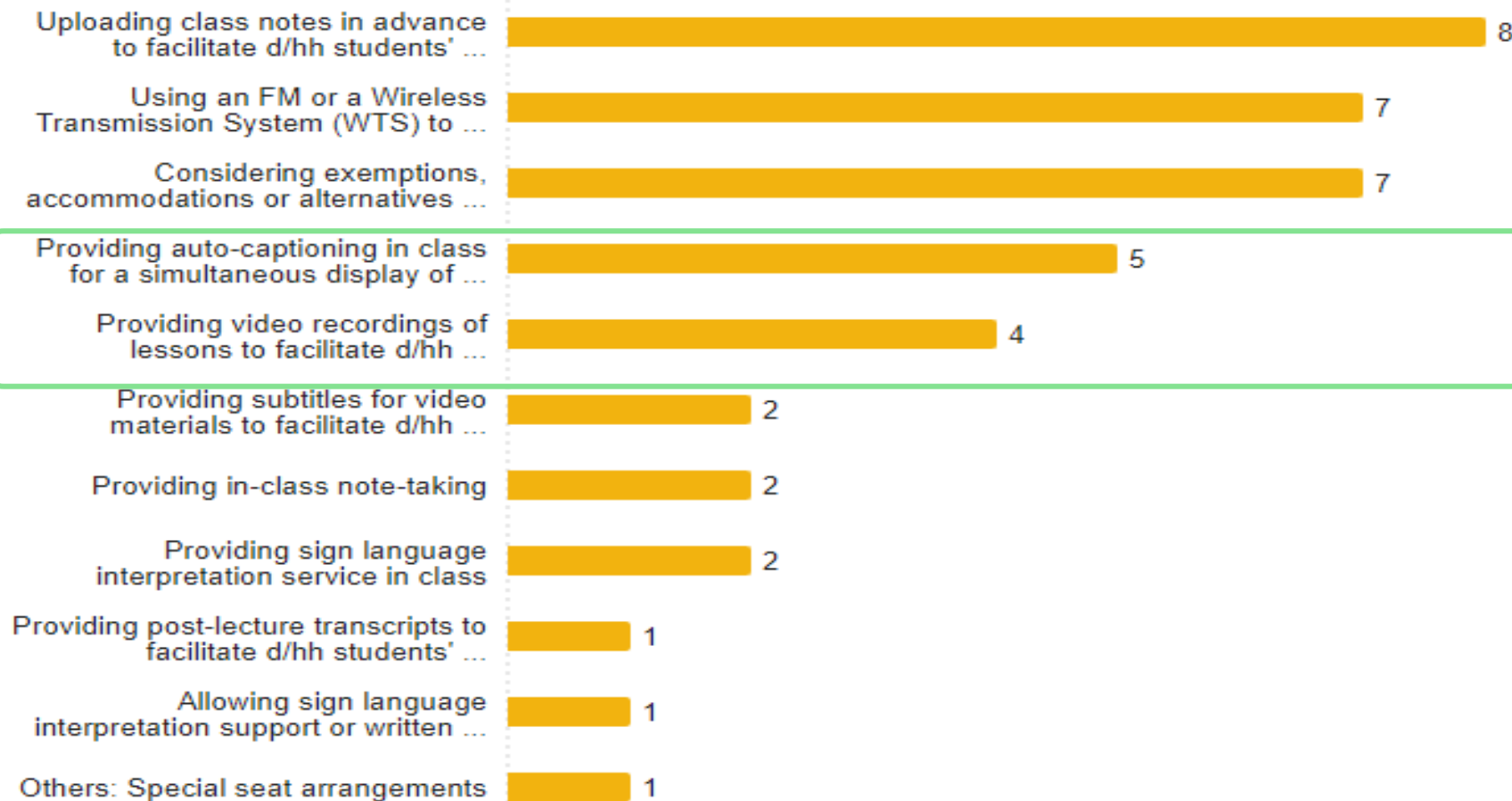
Using an FM or a Wireless Transmission System (WTS) to enhance audio signal reception via hearing aids or cochlear implants



Provided by 1 respondent whose institution admitted 7 d/hh students in 2020 - 2024 and 1 d/hh student in 2024 - 2025.

Types of educational support

Types of educational support services eventually provided for students admitted between 2020 and 2024 (12 Responses)



Less generally adopted: 2 types of educational support

For each type, 4 to 5 out of 12 respondents reported provision of at least one of the educational support services.

Providing **auto-captioning in class** for a simultaneous display of speech-to-text outputs

Providing **video recordings of lessons** to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision

Before class

In class

End of class/ course



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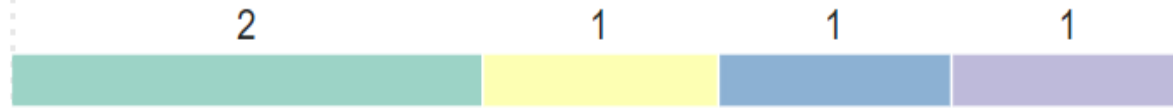


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Number of institutions providing the 2 educational support services

2 to 3 out of 5 respondents reported that they always adopt the following educational support for d/hh students.

Providing auto-captioning in class for a simultaneous display of speech-to-text outputs



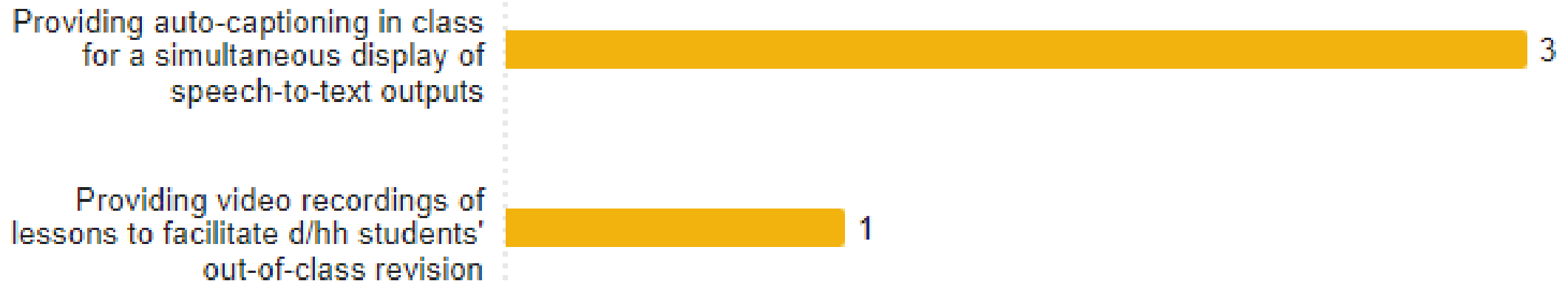
Providing video recordings of lessons to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision



Newly added

Number of institutions receiving requests from d/hh students for the 2 educational support services

Types of educational support services included in the requests from students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 (**9 Responses**)



Number of students receiving the 2 educational support services

Figures provided by the institutions that provided any of the 2 educational support services between 2020 and 2024

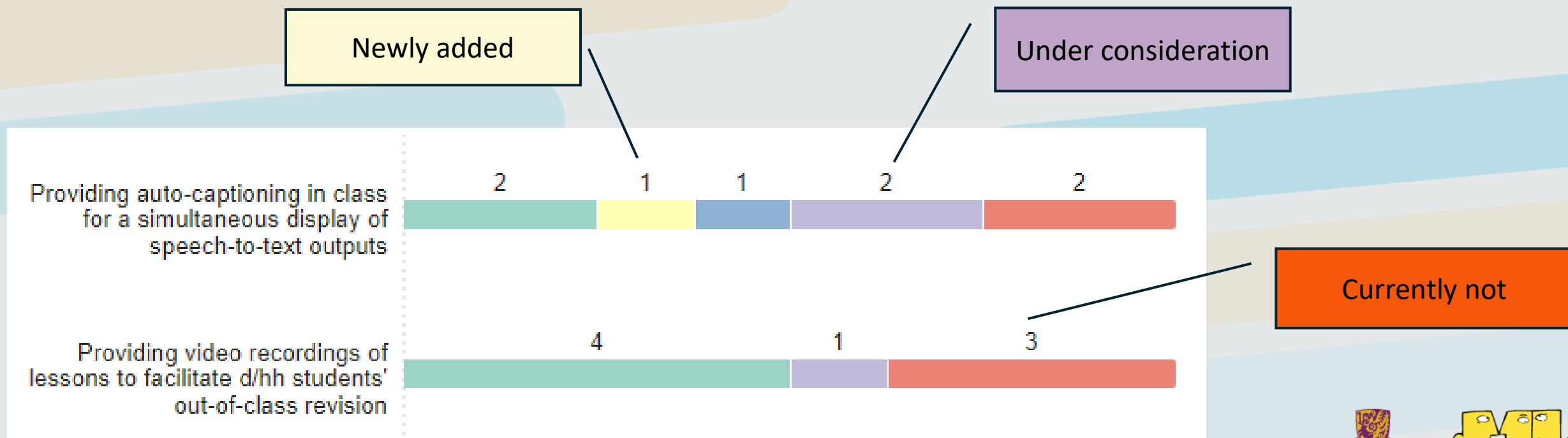
| Field | Institutions | Students |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Providing auto-captioning in class for a simultaneous display of speech-to-text outputs - Number of students | 5 | 20 |
| Providing video recordings of lessons to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision - Number of students | 4 | 40 |

Figures provided by **2 institutions** which **reported adopting both educational support services**

| Field | Institutions | Students |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Providing auto-captioning in class for a simultaneous display of speech-to-text outputs - Number of students | 2 | 13 |
| Providing video recordings of lessons to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision - Number of students | 2 | 35 |

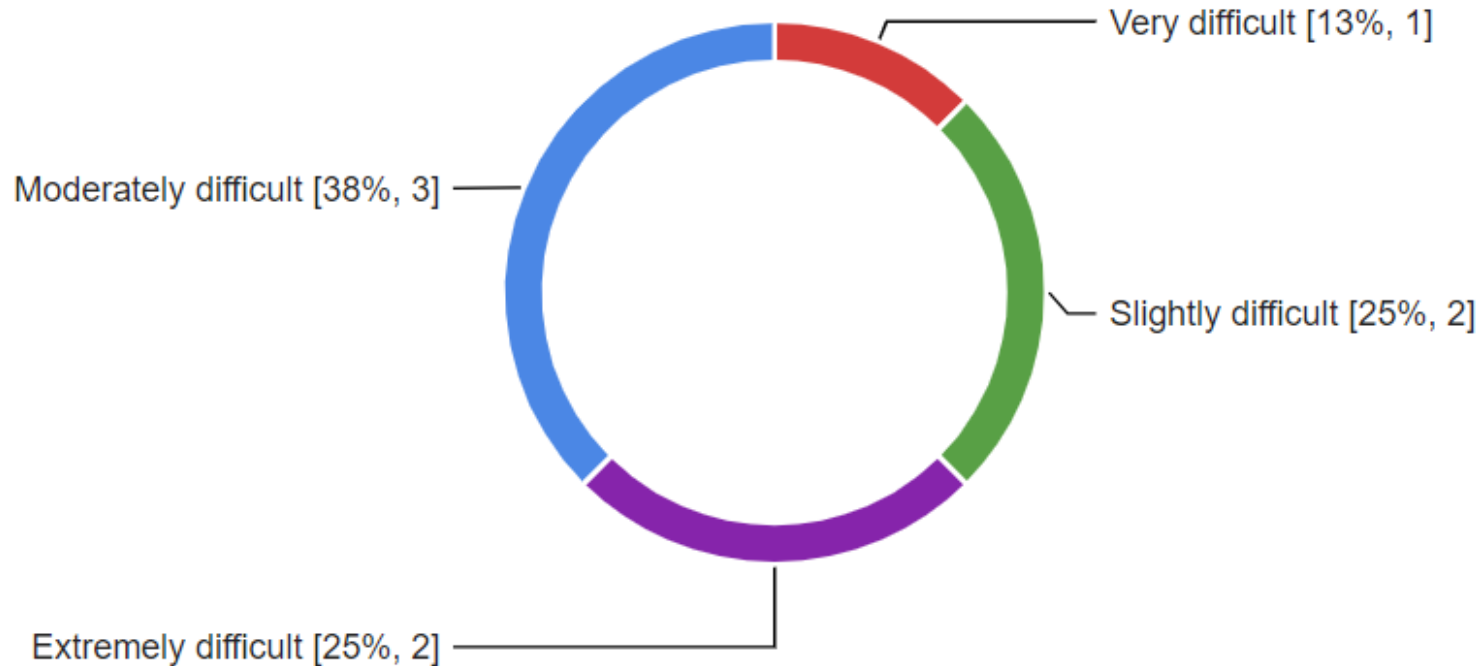
Number of institutions providing the 2 educational support services (based on 8 responses)

Including responses from institutions with no students admitted in 2020-2024 and/or 2024-25.



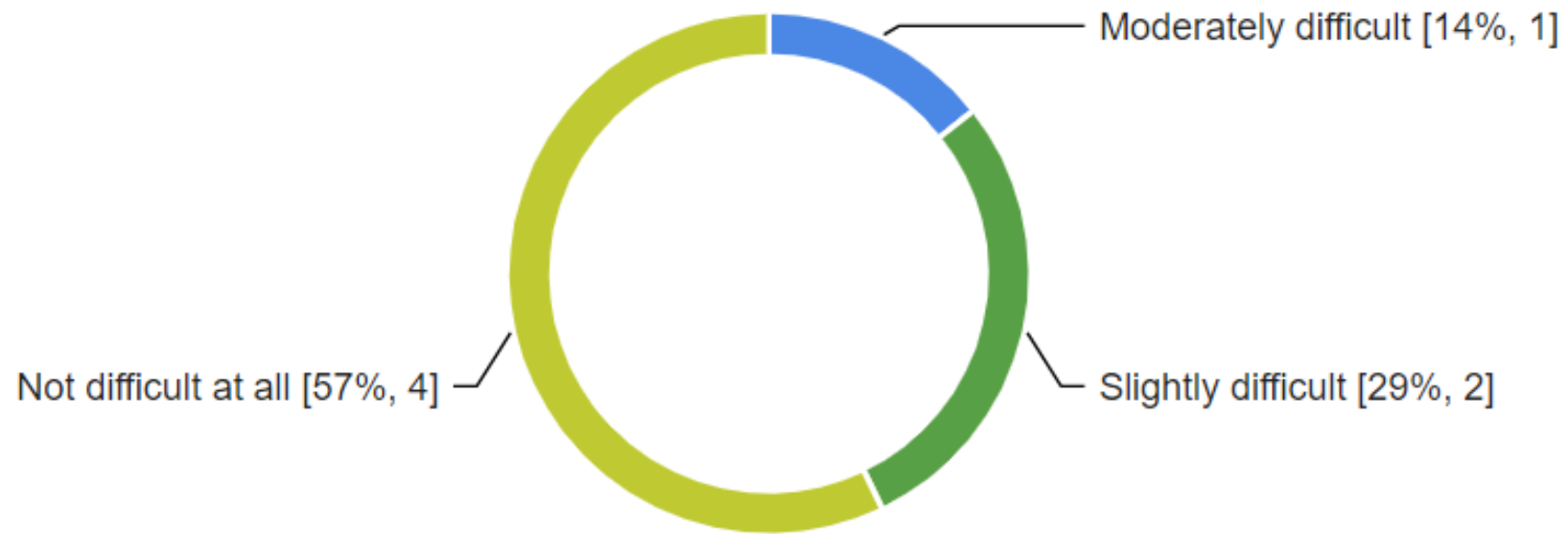
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing auto-captioning in class for a simultaneous display of speech-to-text outputs



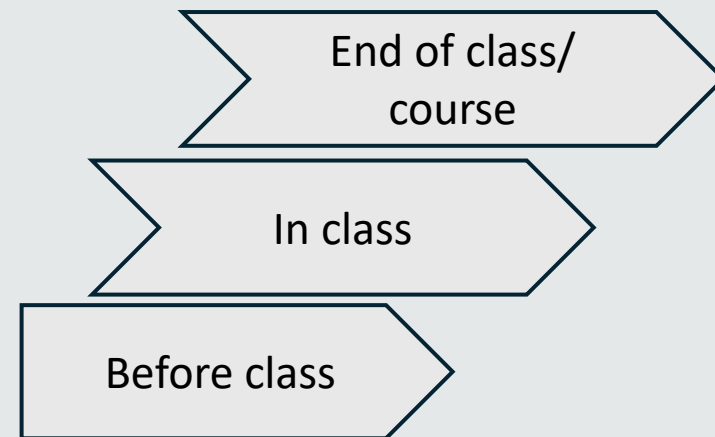
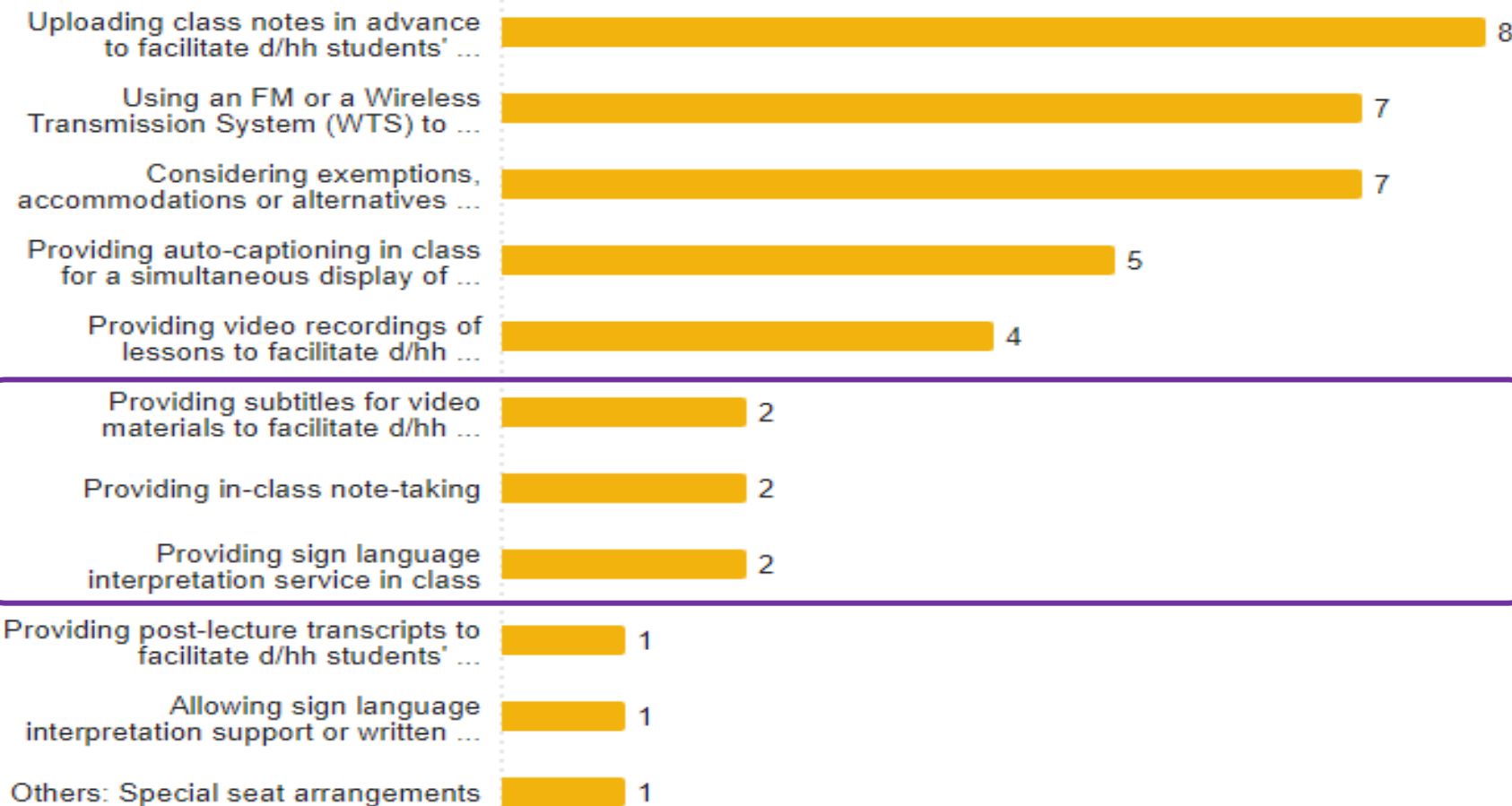
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing video recordings of lessons to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision



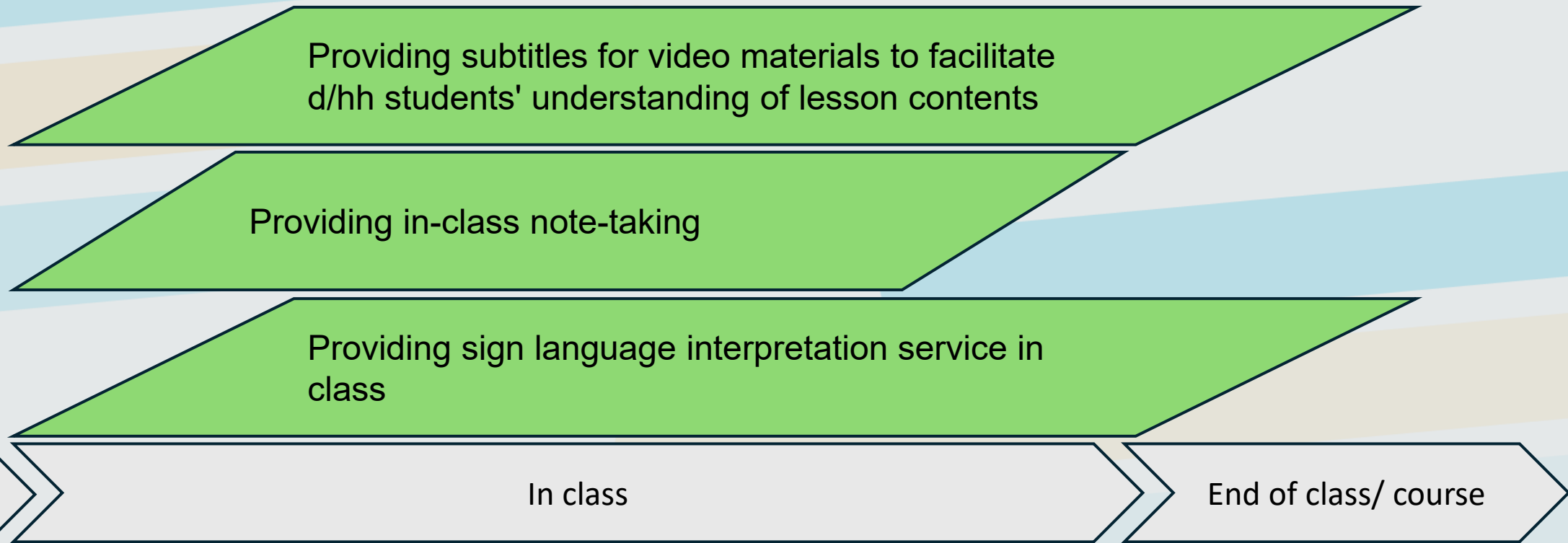
Types of educational support

Types of educational support services eventually provided for students admitted between 2020 and 2024 (12 Responses)



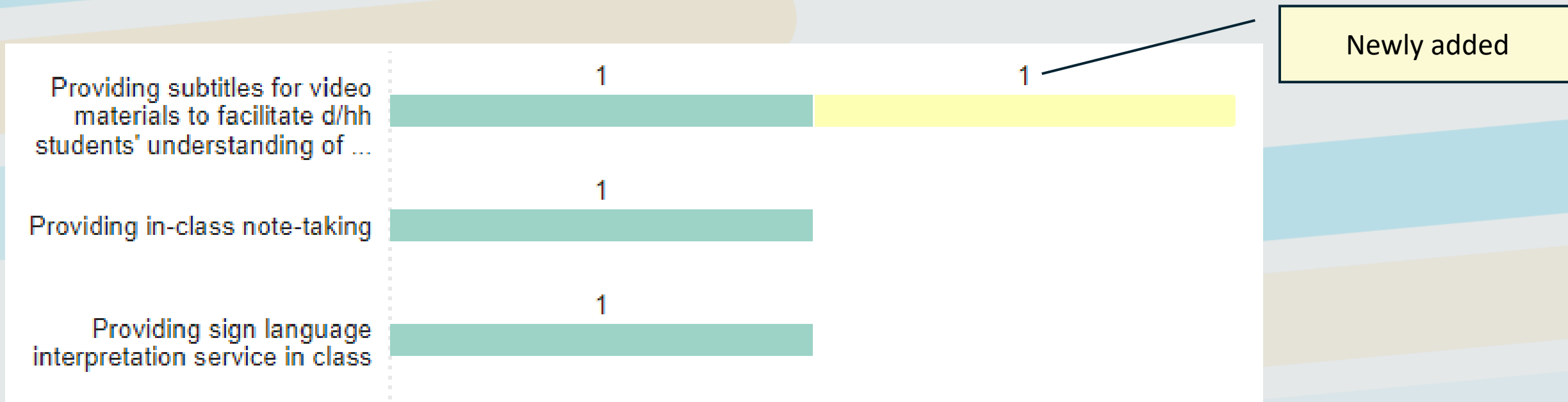
Less adopted: 3 types of educational support

For each type, 2 out of 12 respondents reported provision of at least one of the educational support services.



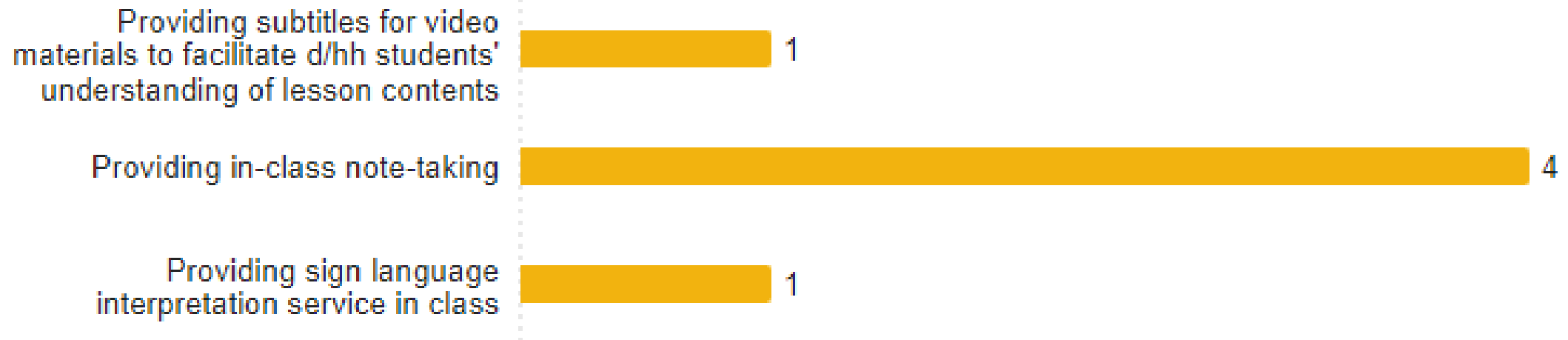
Number of institutions providing the 3 educational support services

1 out of 3 respondents reported that one of the services is always adopted for d/hh students.



Number of institutions receiving requests from d/hh students for the 3 educational support services

Types of educational support services included in the requests from students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 (9 Responses)



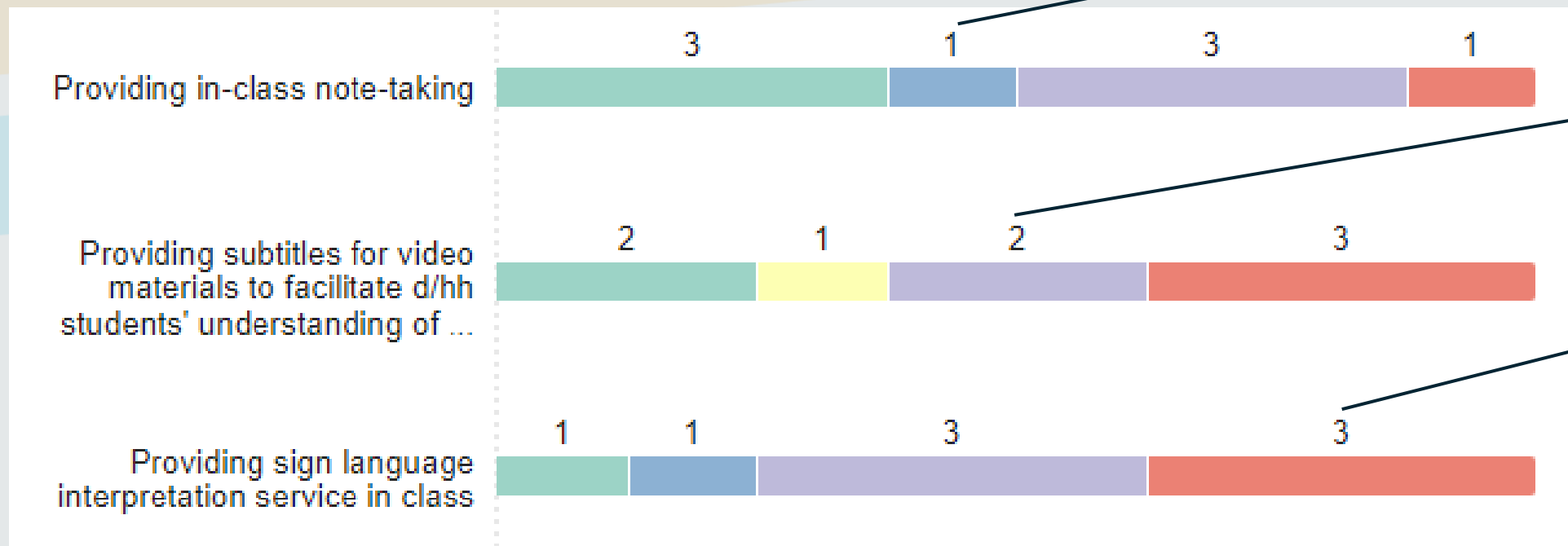
Number of students receiving the 3 educational support services

Figures provided by the institutions that have provided any of the 3 educational support services between 2020 and 2024

| Field | Institutions | Students |
|---|--------------|----------|
| Providing subtitles for video materials to facilitate d/hh students' understanding of lesson contents | 2 | 11 |
| Providing in-class note-taking | 2 | 6 |
| Providing sign language interpretation service in class | 2 | 3 |

Number of institutions providing these types educational support (based on 8 responses)

Including responses from institutions with no students admitted in 2020-2024 and/or 2024-25.



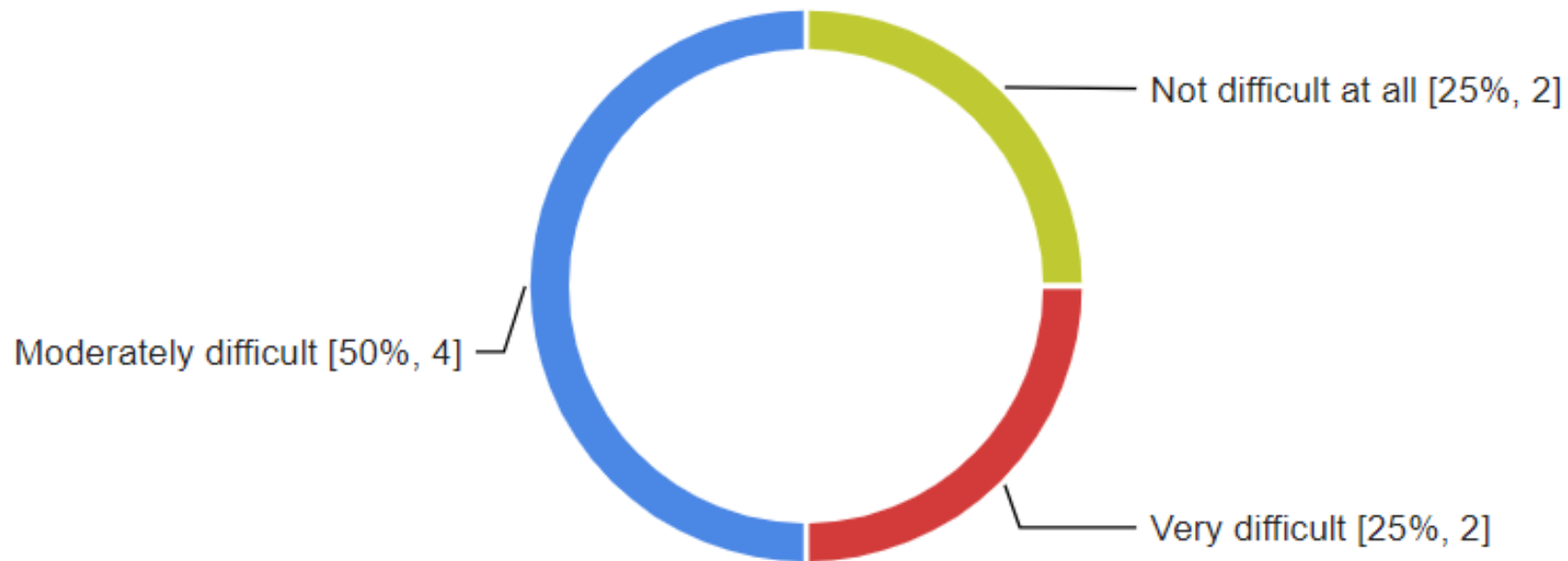
Will be adopted

Under consideration

Currently not

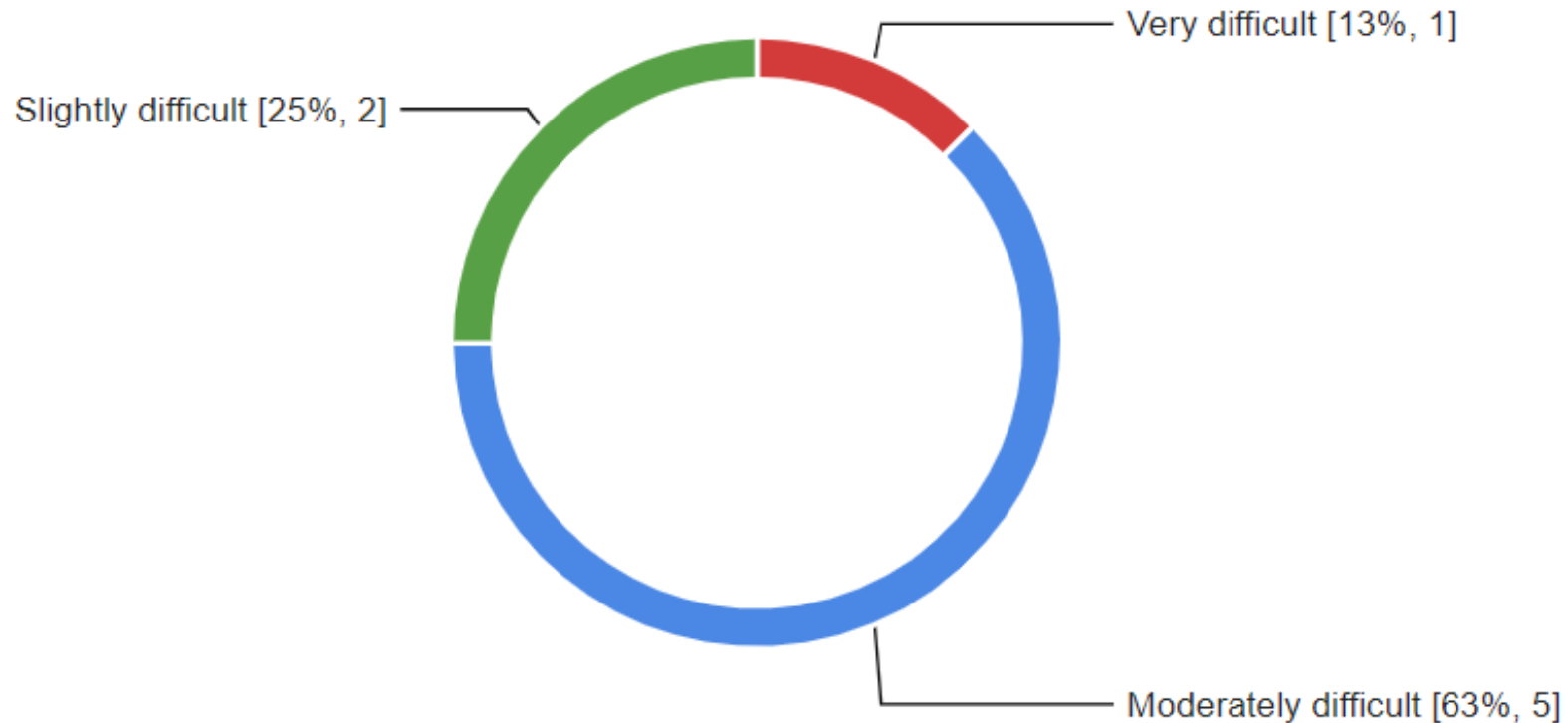
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing subtitles for video materials to facilitate d/hh students' understanding of lesson contents



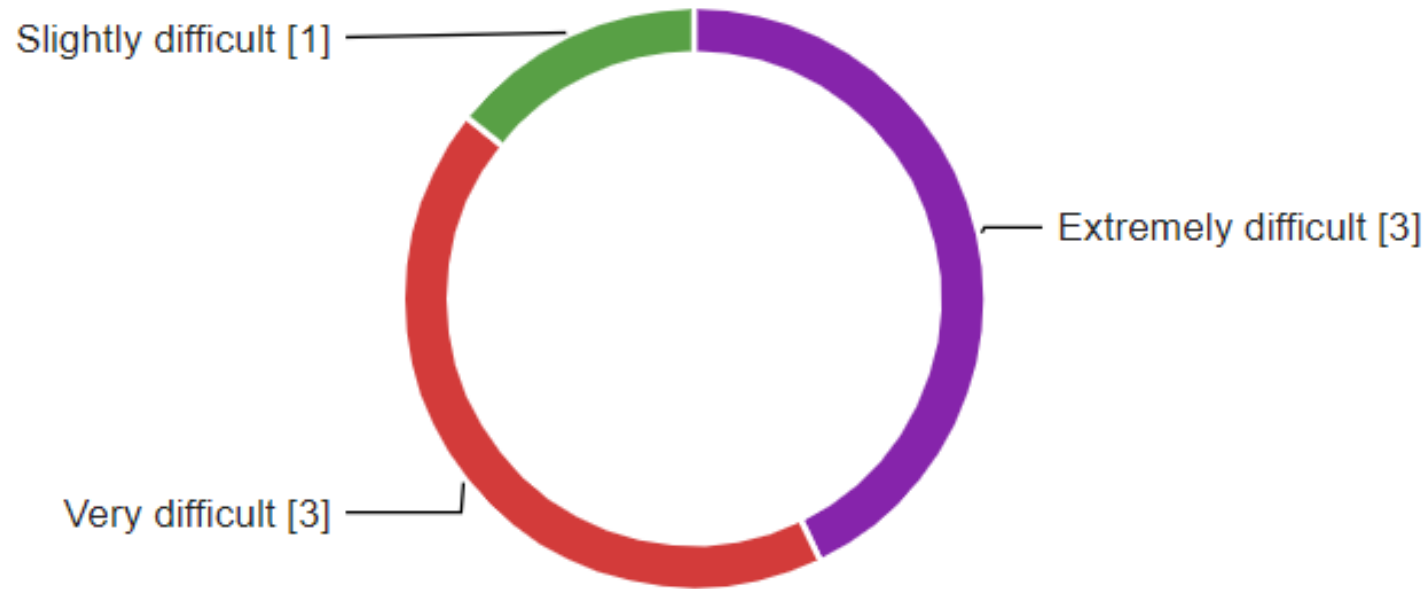
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing in-class note-taking



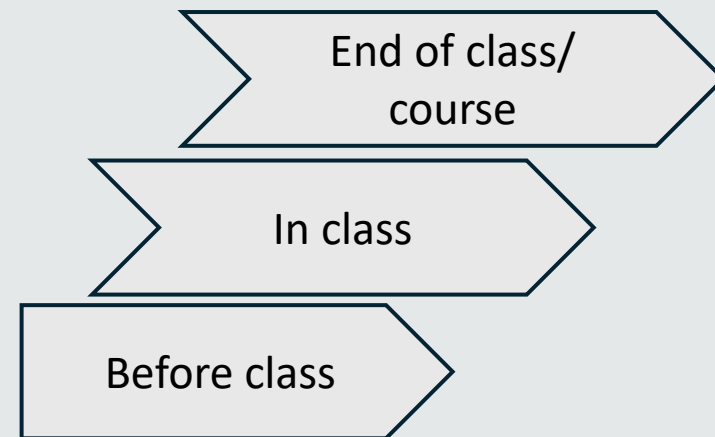
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing sign language interpretation service in class



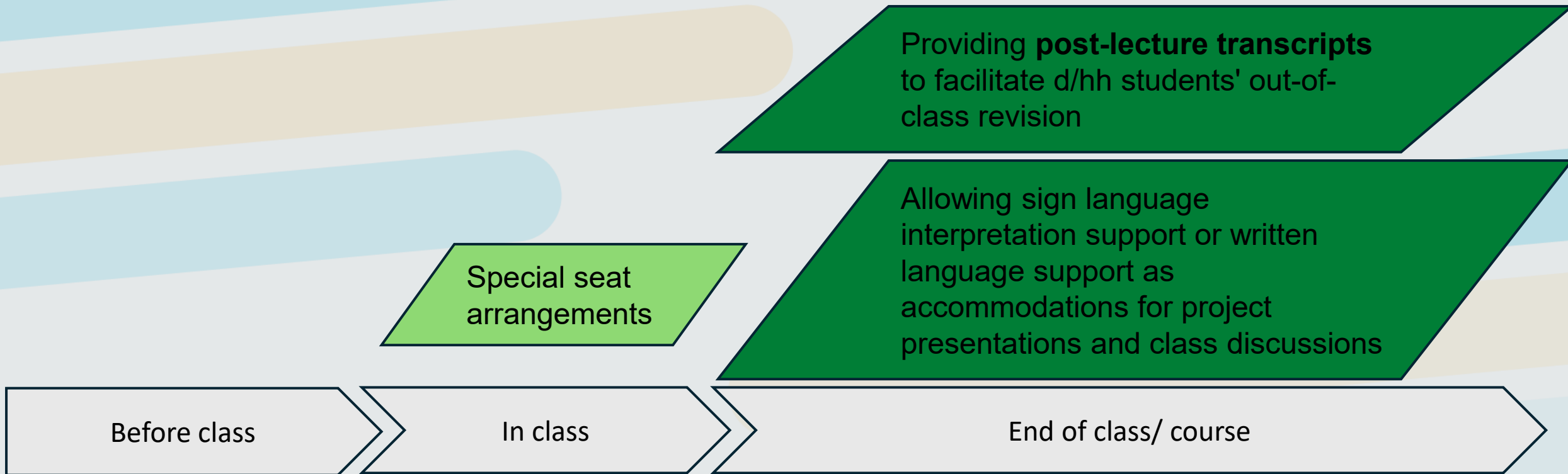
Types of educational support

Types of educational support services eventually provided for students admitted between 2020 and 2024 (**12 Responses**)



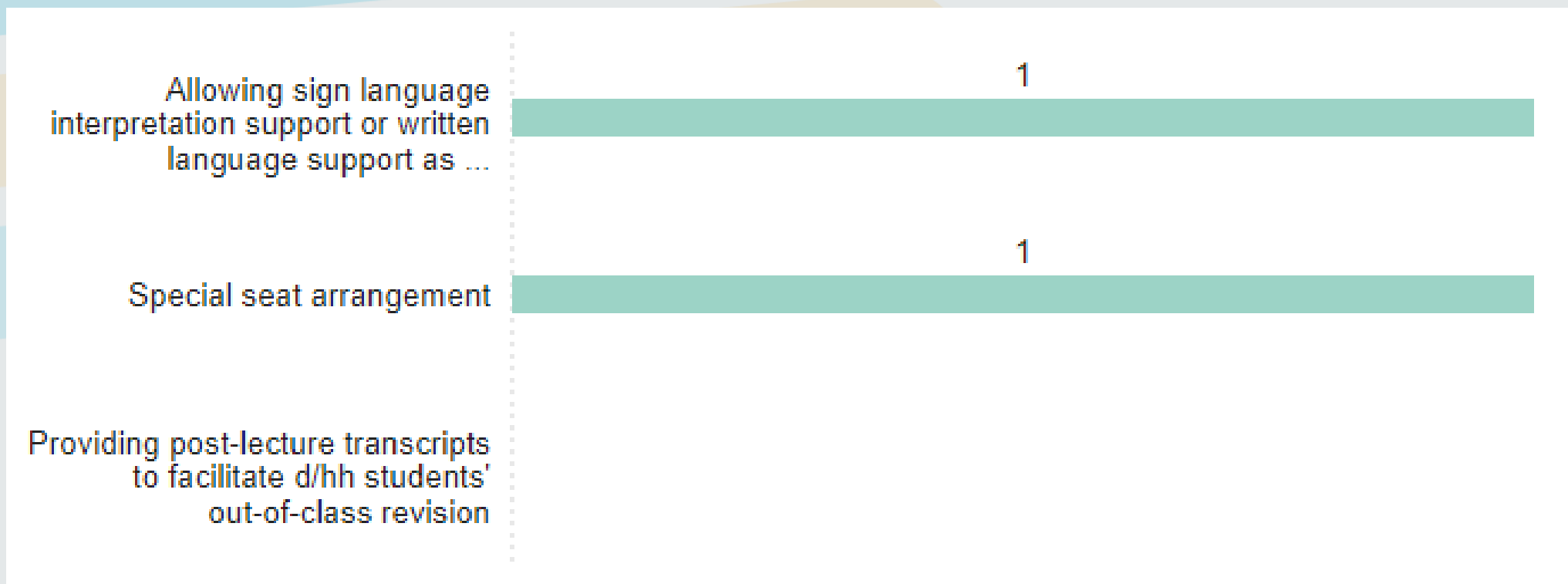
Least adopted: 3 types of educational support

For each type, 1 out of 12 respondents reported provision of at least one of the educational support services.



Number of institutions providing the 3 educational support services

Only 1 out of 3 respondents reported that they always adopt the following educational support for d/hh students.



Number of institutions receiving requests from d/hh students for the 3 educational support services

Types of educational support services included in the requests from students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 (9 Responses)



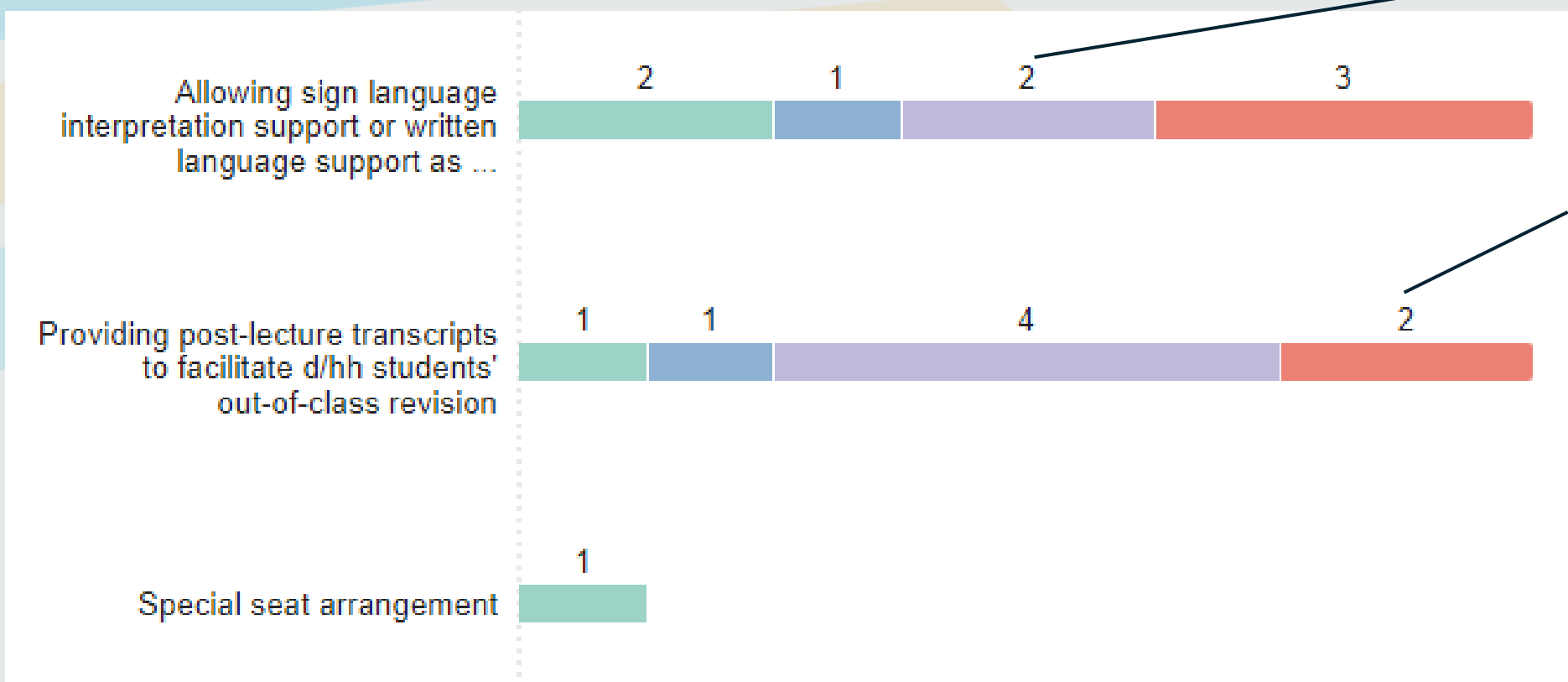
Number of students receiving the 3 educational support services

Figures provided by the institutions that have provided any of the 3 educational support services between 2020 and 2024

| Field | Institutions | Students |
|---|--------------|----------|
| Providing subtitles for video materials to facilitate d/hh students' understanding of lesson contents | 1 | 1 |
| Providing in-class note-taking | 1 | 2 |
| Providing sign language interpretation service in class | 1 | 2 |

Number of institutions providing the 2 educational support (based on 8 responses)

Including responses from institutions with no students admitted in 2020-2024 and/or 2024-25.

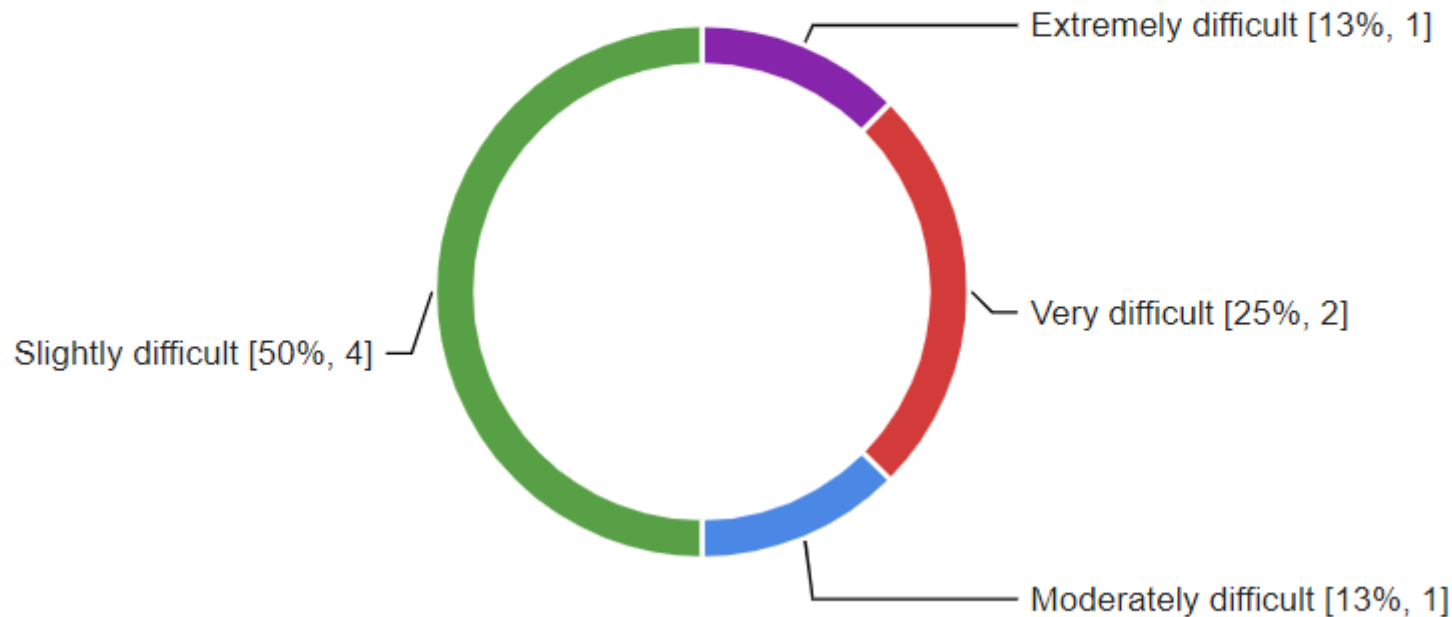


Under consideration

Currently not

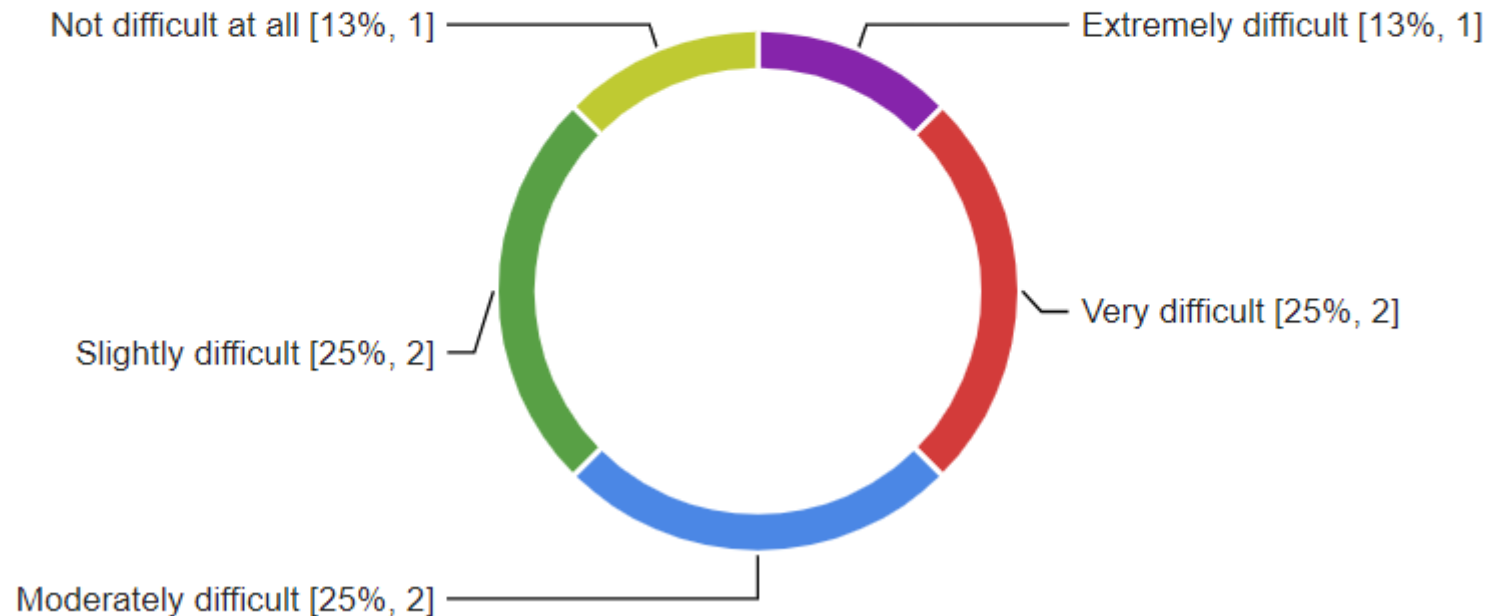
Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support (based on 8 responses)

Providing post-lecture transcripts to facilitate d/hh students' out-of-class revision



Perceived difficulty in providing the educational support(based on 8 responses)

Allowing sign language interpretation support or written language support as accommodations for project presentations and class discussions



Focused Discussion



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END



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