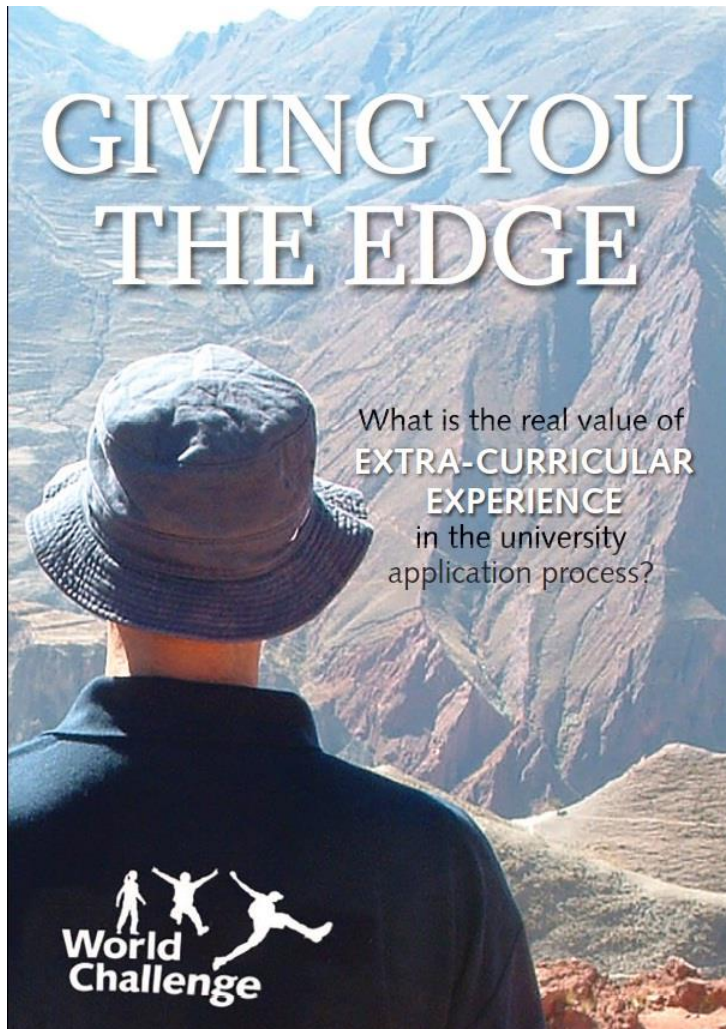


# Secrets to a university place revealed

## Survey of 63 university admissions teams



What is the real value of co-curricular experience in the university application process?

# Secrets to a university place revealed

## Survey of 63 university admissions teams

Which types of activity add the most value?

- 92% - Work experience
- 68% - Regular volunteering
- 28% - Duke of Edinburgh Award
- 20% - Young Enterprise

# Secrets to a university place revealed

## Survey of 63 university admissions teams

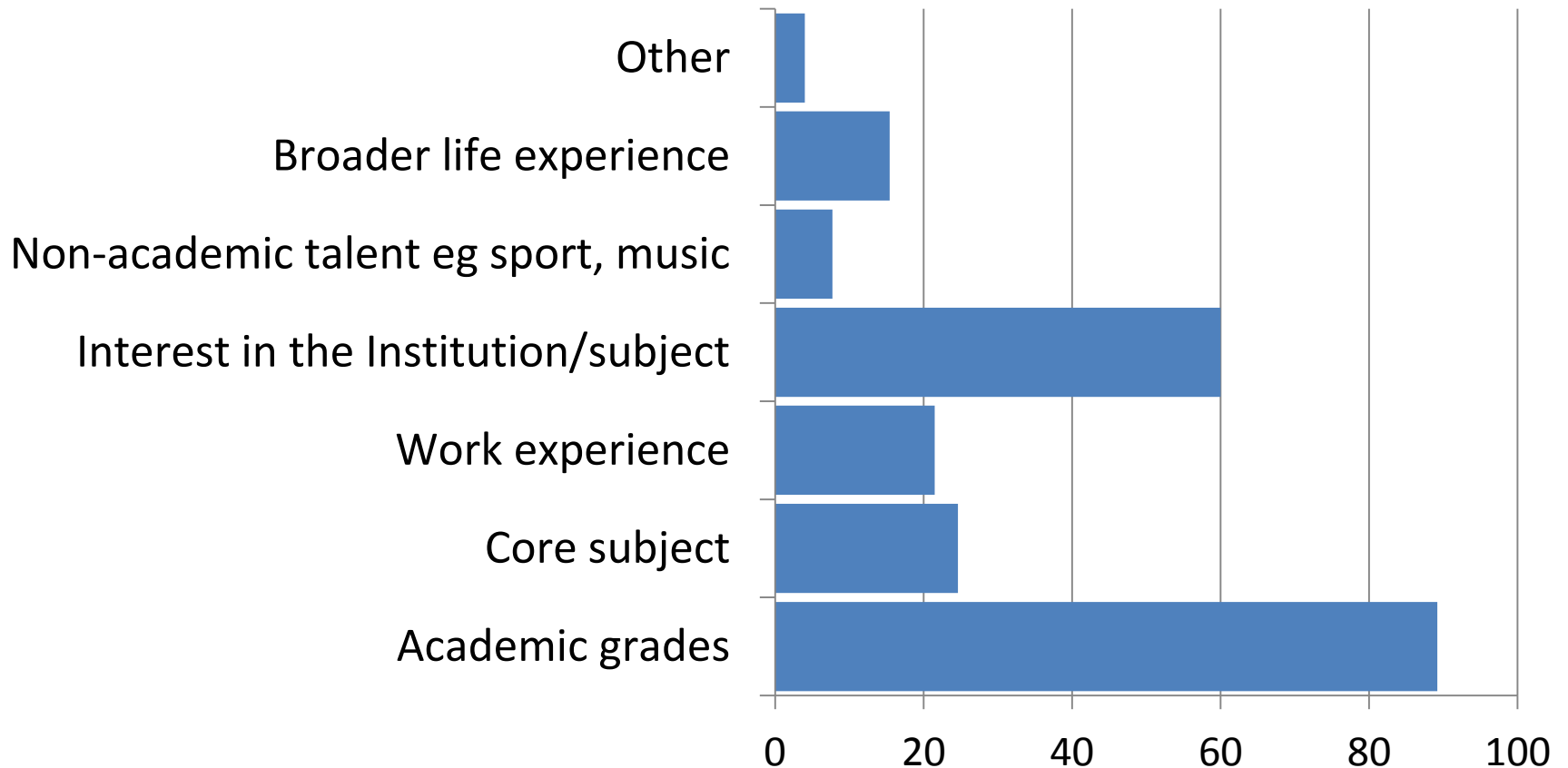
Why are co-curricular activities important to universities?

- Selective courses – differentiate between students with identical achieved and predicted grades
- Applicants who narrowly miss out on required grades
- Vocational courses – different skill set required, eg Medicine
- De-coupling of AS Levels and A Levels – predicted grades at A Level less reliable
- Widening participation agenda

# Secrets to a university place revealed

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What are the main things universities are looking for in a successful university application?



# Secrets to a university place revealed

## Survey of 63 university admissions teams

### Personal statement

- ✓ Do describe skills or personal development
- ✗ Don't list activities or achievements

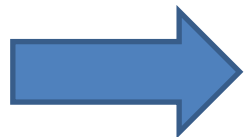
“It is not a case of trying to do as much as possible or simply doing activities to tick a box in the application process”

# Secrets to a university place revealed

## Survey of 63 university admissions teams

### Widening participation agenda

- Ensures no student is disadvantaged by the opportunities available to him.



It is not **WHAT** you do

Need to reflect on **SKILLS** and demonstrate impact

# Soft Skills

1. Communication skills
2. Teamwork
3. Time management
4. Decision making
5. Taking responsibility



Effective in the workplace