Status Report based on the JML Survey

The Electrical Engineering Chapter & The Medical Engineering Chapter

Based on the International Student Responses

2025



Introduction

This document presents a summary of the results from the *JML Survey 2025*, which was conducted during the spring of 2025 by the joint equality committee (*JML Group*) for the Electrical Engineering Chapter and the Medical Engineering Chapter. The survey aimed to shed light on issues of equality within the chapters, based on the 2024 operational year, and consisted of five main sections:

1. Inclusion in chapter life
2. Occurrence of discrimination and harassment
3. Alcohol / Peer pressure within the chapters
4. Access to information in chapter life
5. General

The design of the survey and the compilation of the responses were carried out by Katja Yakob and Julia Oldin from the Medical Engineering Chapter, as well as Diana Nehard and Paulina Virtanen from the Electrical Engineering Chapter.

The analysis of the survey responses is divided into four parts:

1. The respondents
2. Results of the current state analysis
3. Conclusion
4. Final remarks

The first part describes the characteristics and background of the respondents. The second part presents the collected results. The third part summarizes and analyzes the findings from the previous two sections. The fourth and final part contains reflections and general comments.

The survey was available in both Swedish and English.

1 Respondents

The survey was answered by 116 individuals, of which 103 responded to the Swedish version and 13 to the English version. During the spring of 2025, the number of members in the Electrical Engineering Chapter was 623, while the Medical Engineering Chapter had 210 members.

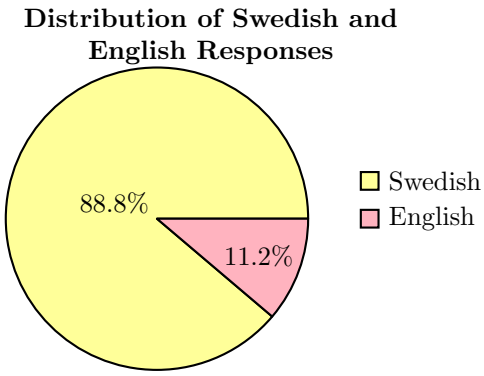


Figure 1: Answers to: *Which language do you prefer?*

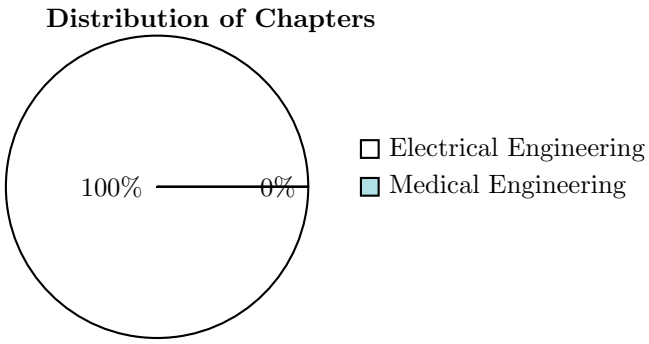


Figure 2: Answers to: *Which program are you enrolled in?* ***(13 responses)***

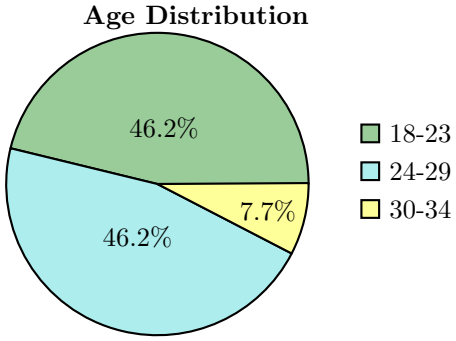


Figure 3: Answers to: *Which age group do you belong to?*

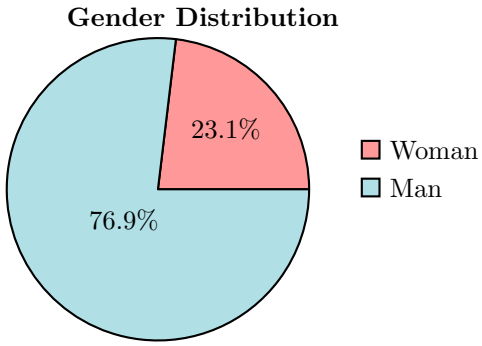


Figure 4: Answers to: *What gender identity do you identify with?*

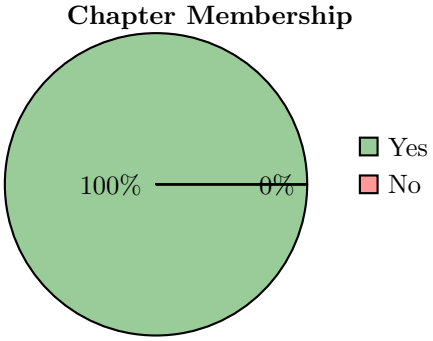


Figure 5: Answers to: *Are you a member of the chapter?*

2 Results of this years survey

2.1 Inclusion in the chapter life

Opinions about the social environment within the chapter vary. One respondent highlights a significant issue for international students who don't speak Swedish, feeling excluded from events and communication, as much of the content is in Swedish. There is a desire for more inclusive events for English-speaking students to avoid feelings of isolation. On the other hand, some find the social environment engaging, fun, and welcoming, while others describe it as difficult to navigate due to a guarded atmosphere, making interactions challenging. One person also expresses a feeling of loneliness, likening it to staying in their room due to difficulties in making friends in Stockholm.

Several respondents express challenges in feeling "at home" in the chapter. One person feels excluded, especially as an international student who doesn't speak Swedish, and requests an event tailored for non-Swedish speakers to help create meaningful connections. Others mention difficulty in making lasting friendships, describing interactions as temporary and more about one-off events, leaving them feeling disconnected. Some find it hard to break through social bubbles within the chapter, with people often staying within their close groups and not reaching out to new individuals. As a result, one person chooses not to attend chapter events, anticipating that they would end up feeling isolated.

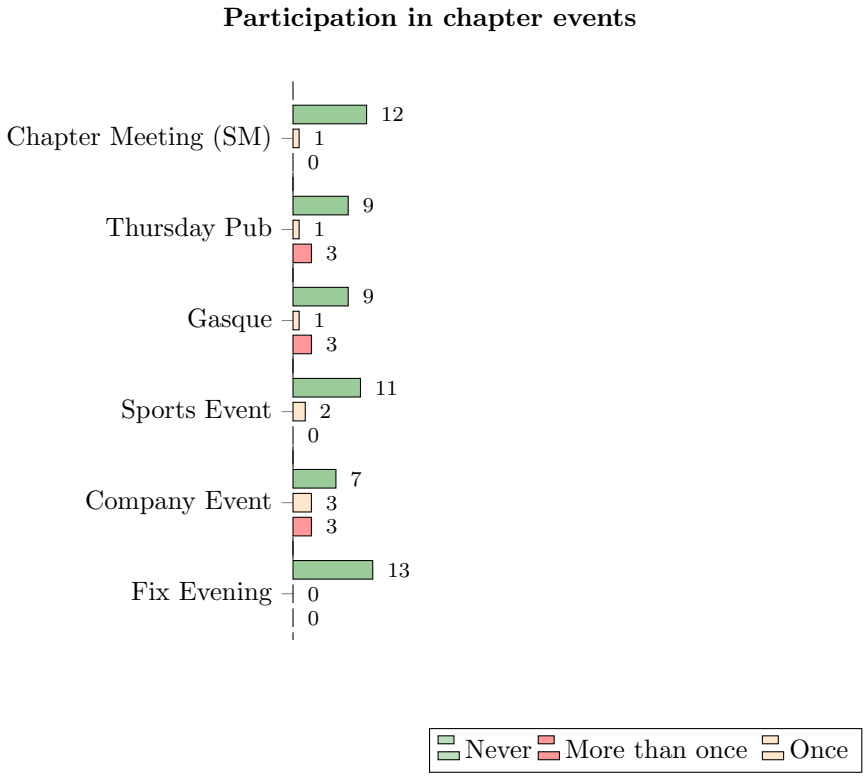


Figure 6: Answers to the question: *How many times have you participated in the following events during the past year?*

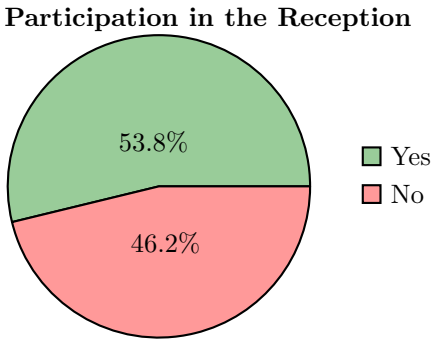


Figure 7: Answers to: *Have you participated in the reception during the past year?*

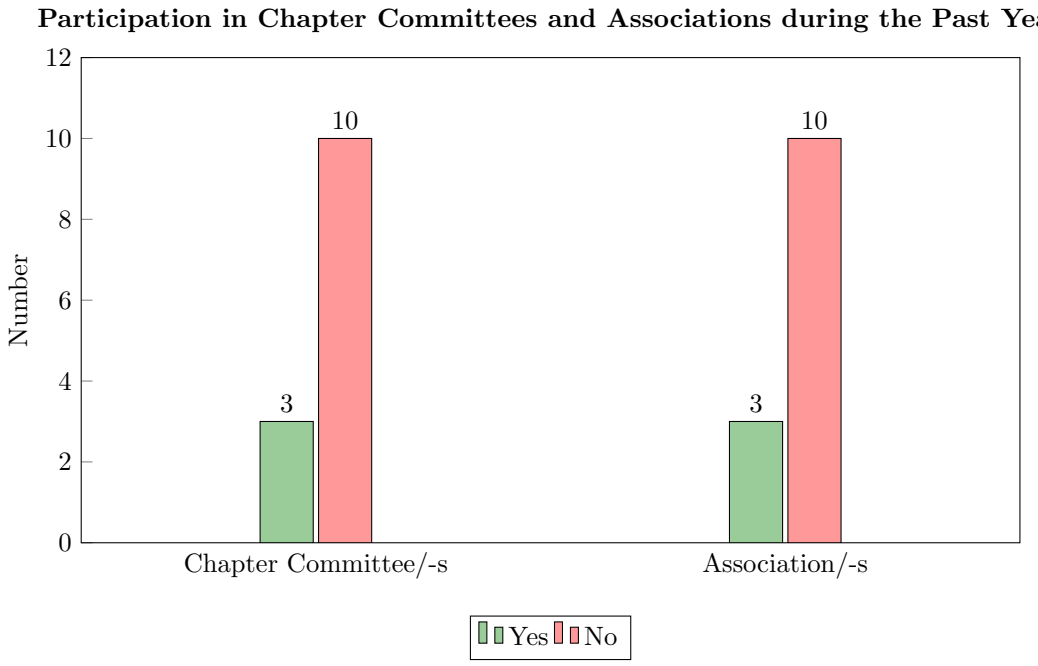


Figure 8: Answers to: *Have you been involved in any of the following during the past year?*

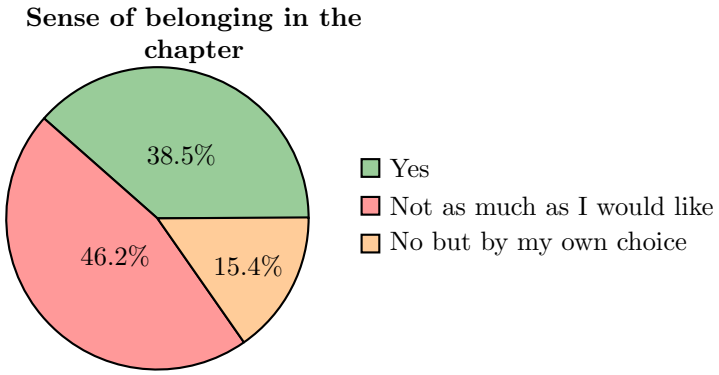


Figure 9: Answers to: *Do you feel at home in the chapter?*

2.2 Occurrence of discrimination and harassment

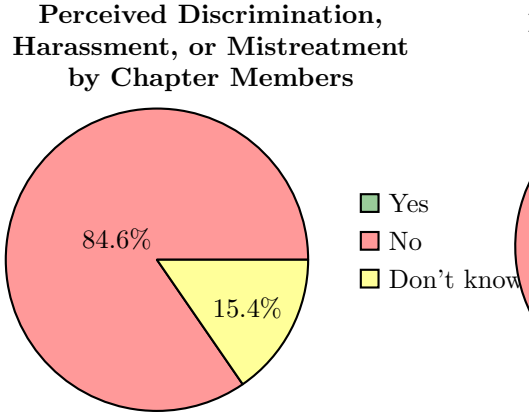


Figure 10: Response to: *Have you been harassed, discriminated against, or mistreated by other chapter members?*

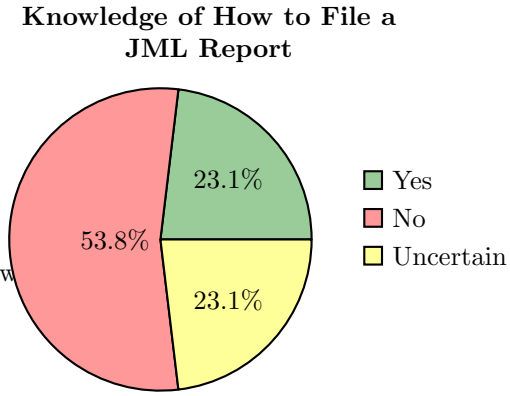


Figure 11: Response to: *Do you know how to report if you have been harassed, discriminated against, or mistreated?*

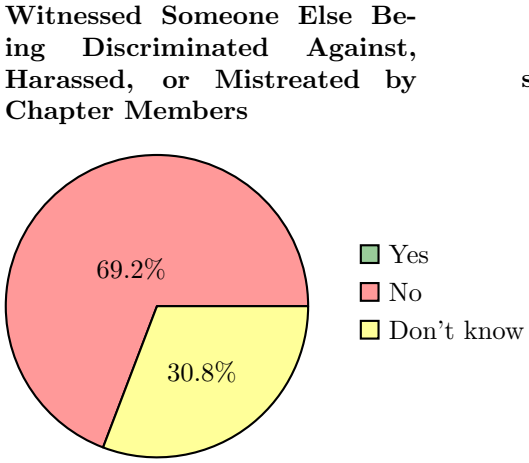


Figure 12: Response to: *Have you witnessed someone else being harassed, discriminated against, or mistreated by another chapter member?*

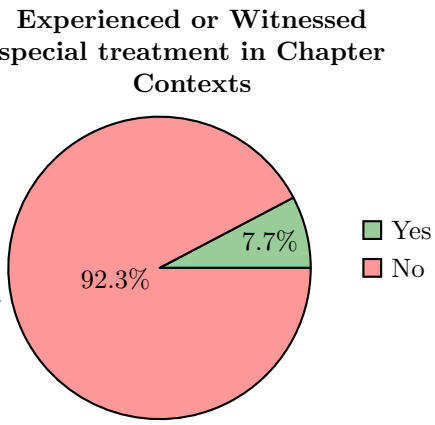


Figure 13: Response to: *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, have been receiving special treatment within the chapter?*

2.3 Alcohol / pressure within the chapter

One respondent expresses a preference for alcohol-free events but also highlights the challenge of feeling out of place in social settings where alcohol is involved. They feel that people in Stockholm tend to become more social and approachable when drinking, and that non-drinkers are sometimes treated differently, which discourages participation in alcohol-focused events like tenta pubs. The individual prefers to avoid these environments, often choosing to relax alone instead. However, they acknowledge that it depends on the people present and the overall vibe of the event. The response reflects a desire for more alcohol-free events where social interaction feels more inclusive and less dependent on alcohol.

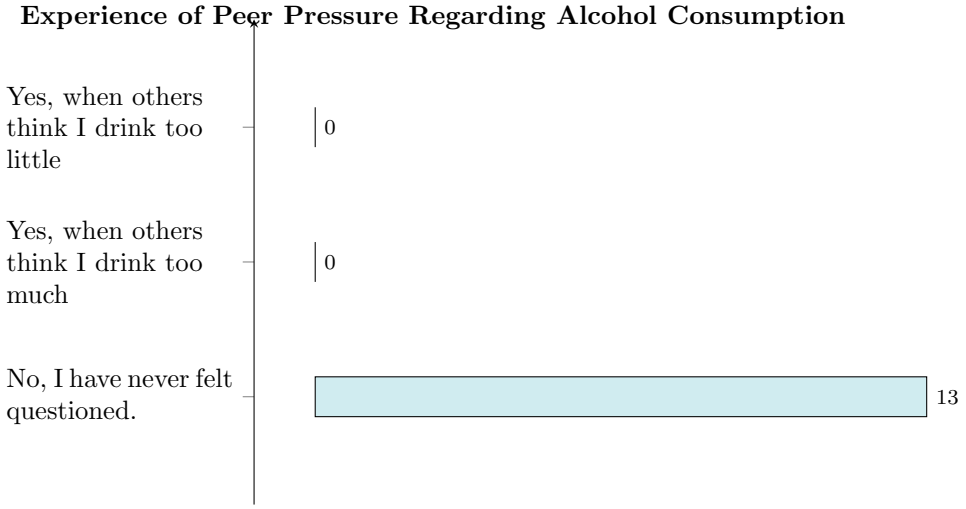


Figure 14: Response to: *Have you ever felt questioned about your alcohol consumption?*

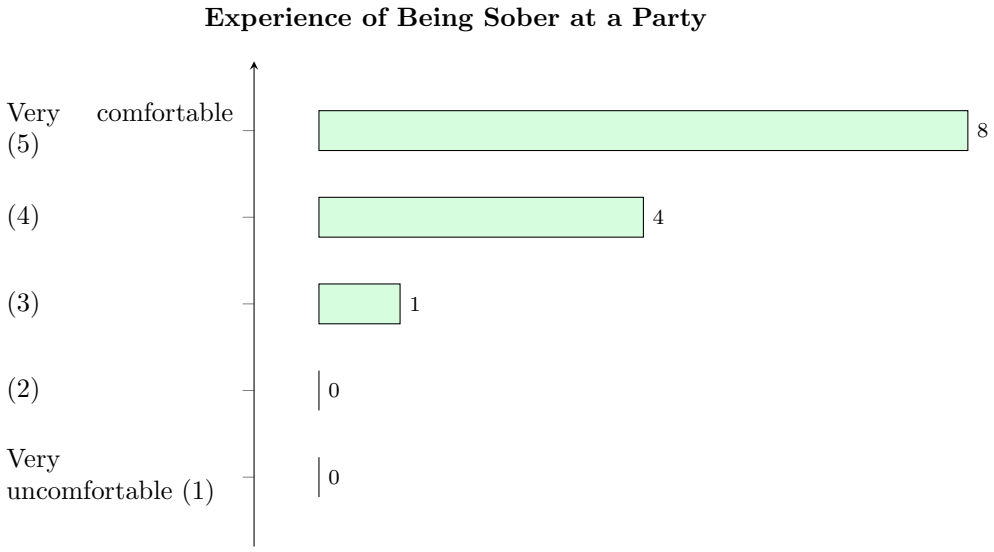


Figure 15: Response to: *How comfortable are you attending a party and being sober on a scale from 1–5?*

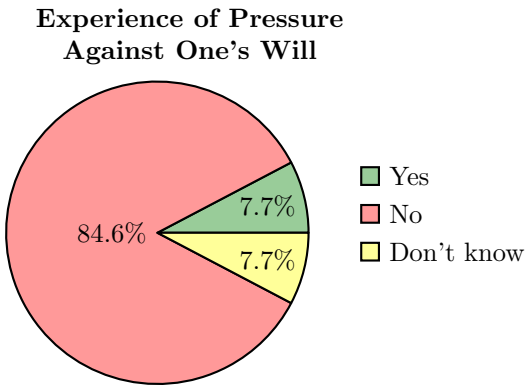


Figure 16: Response to: *Have you ever been pressured to do something against your will? (either regarding alcohol or something else)*

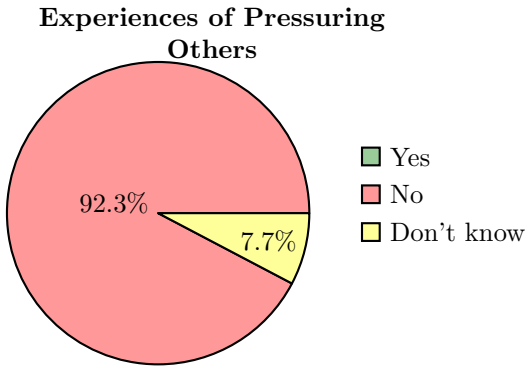


Figure 17: Response to: *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (either regarding alcohol or something else)*

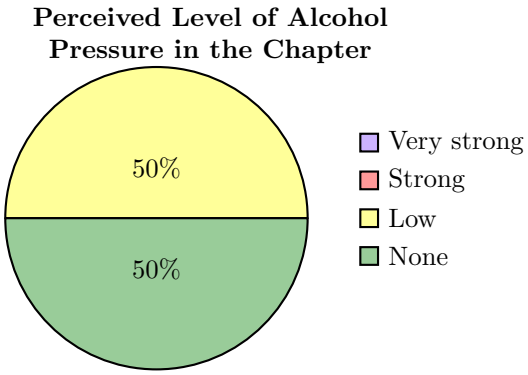


Figure 18: Response to: *How strong do you perceive the alcohol pressure in the chapters to be?*

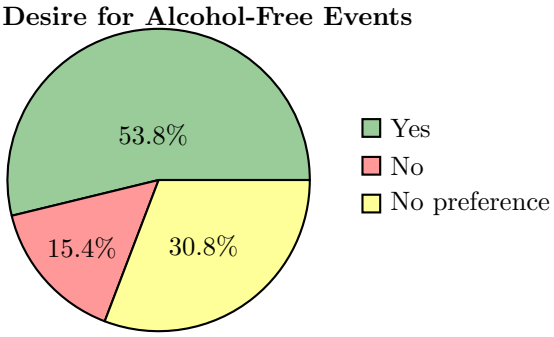


Figure 19: Response to: *Would you like more alcohol-free events to be organized in the chapter?*

2.4 Exclusion

Several respondents express feeling excluded in chapter contexts, primarily due to language barriers, as many events are conducted in Swedish, leaving non-Swedish speakers feeling out of place. International students, in particular, feel they don't receive enough information about chapter activities or have difficulty relating to events, especially when they are surrounded by Swedish-speaking participants. Some also mention that the high expectations for participation in the chapter can be overwhelming, especially for those who can't commit as much. There is a call for more diverse and inclusive events, such as karaoke, board games, or hikes, to encourage connections beyond the typical pub or club setting, where friendships are often limited to those specific contexts.

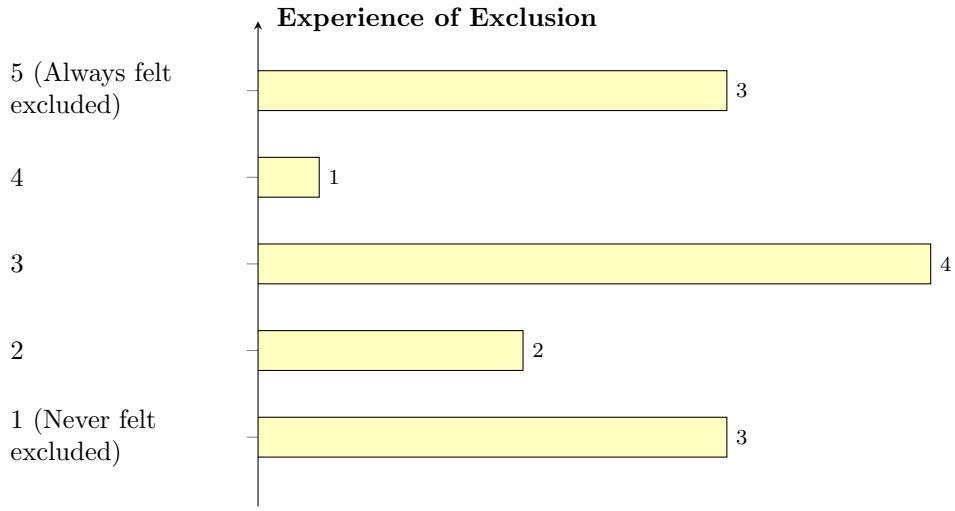


Figure 20: Response to the statement: *I have felt excluded in chapter-related contexts. (5= always, 1= never)*

2.5 Access to Information in Student Life

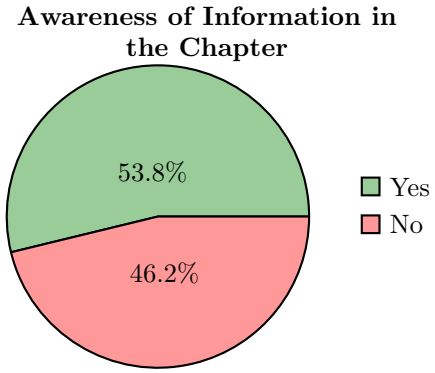


Figure 21: Response to: *Do you feel you receive the information you need/want? (Chapter Life)*

Those who answered 'Other' seem to feel that they are often or sometimes receiving the information they want.

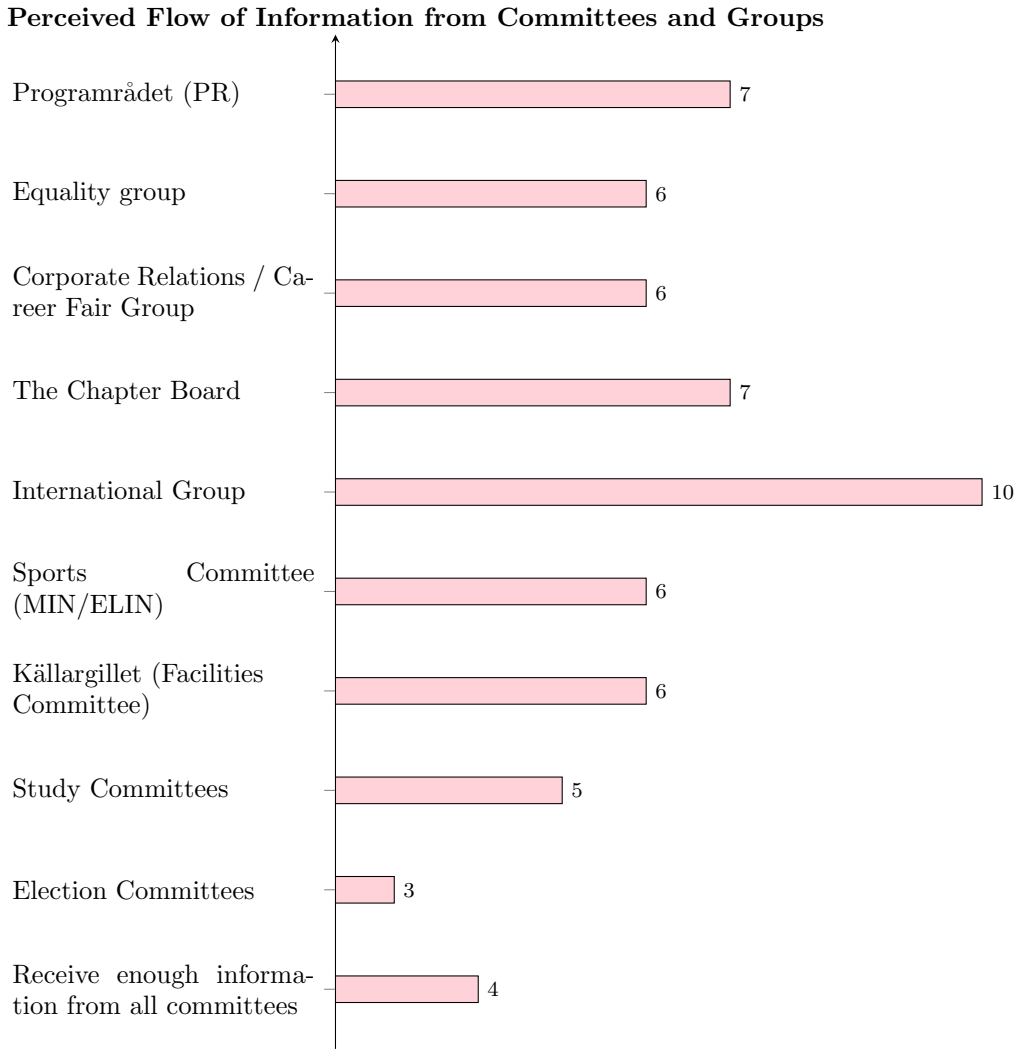


Figure 22: Response to: *From which part of the chapter would you like to receive more information?*

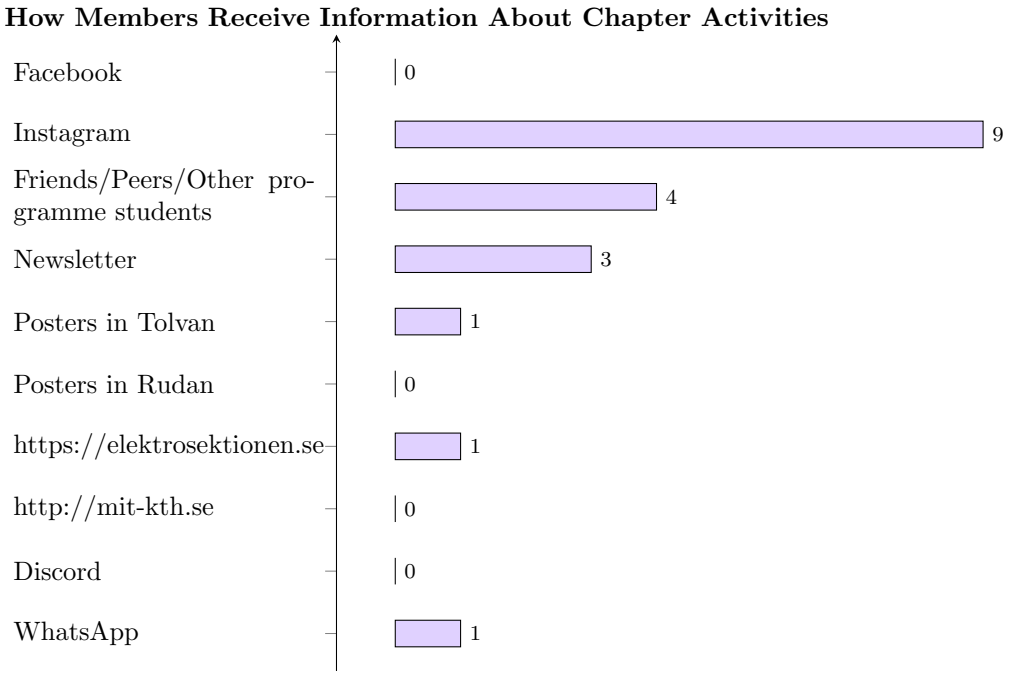


Figure 23: Response to: *How do you currently receive information about what's going on in the chapter?*

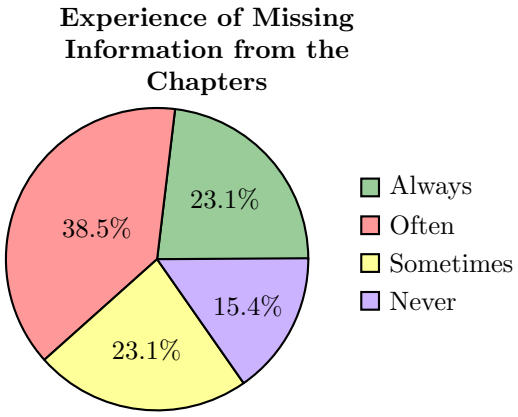


Figure 24: Response to: *How often do you feel that you miss important information from the chapters?*

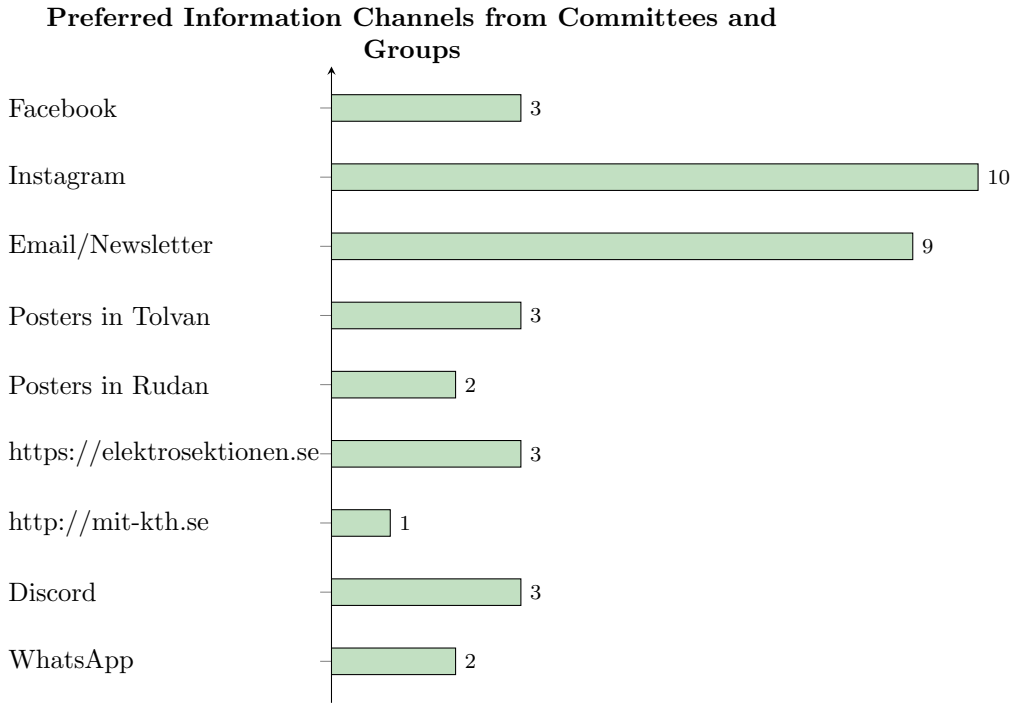


Figure 25: Response to: *How would you PREFER to receive information about what's going on in the chapter?*

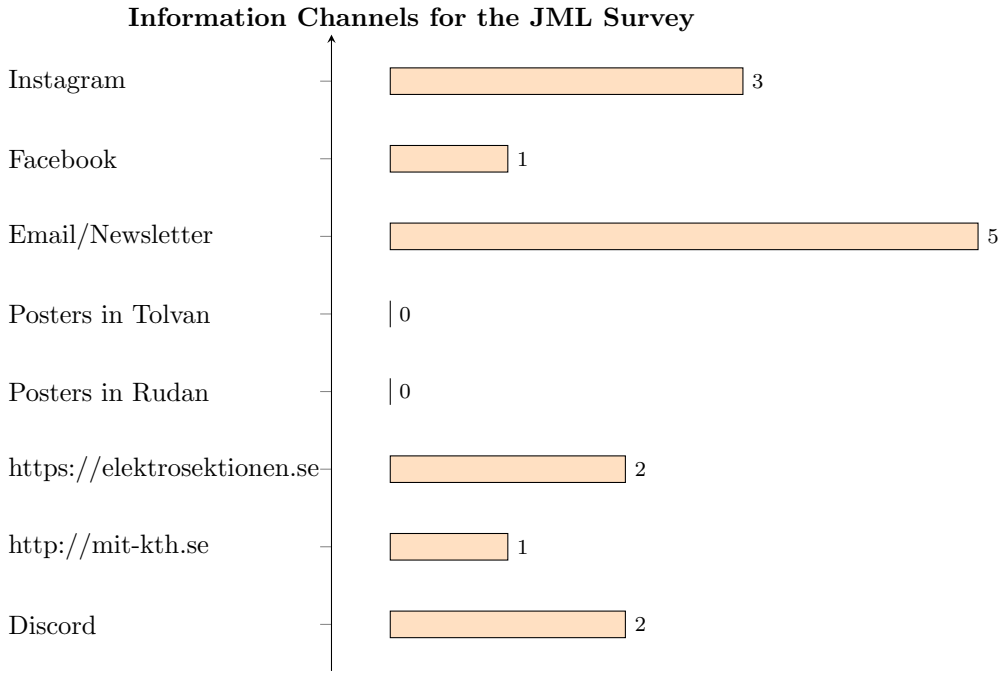


Figure 26: Response to: *Where did you receive information about this survey?*

2.6 General

Some respondents suggest that the chapter could improve its support for international students, particularly by establishing better communication channels after the reception to help them stay informed about upcoming events. There's also a request for a more inclusive, English-speaking environment and increased promotion of events, especially alcohol-free ones, to make socializing more accessible without the pressure of drinking. One person feels disconnected from the chapter and doesn't have specific suggestions, reflecting a sense of being left out of the community.

3 Analysis of Results

3.1 Inclusion in chapter life

The results show that while a majority of respondents feel somewhat comfortable within the chapter, there are clear signs that some members, particularly international students, experience exclusion or find it difficult to engage fully. Language barriers and social group dynamics appear to be the main obstacles. Although events such as Thursday pubs and gasques have higher participation rates, these tend to center around alcohol consumption, which is not always accessible or welcoming to everyone.

The need for more inclusive and diverse events is evident. Respondents express a desire for social activities that go beyond traditional pub settings, suggesting karaoke, board games, or outdoor events as alternatives. These findings highlight the importance of continued efforts to foster an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for all students, especially newcomers and non-Swedish speakers.

3.2 Occurrence of discrimination and harassment

The survey results show that **none of the respondents** reported having been directly exposed to discrimination, harassment, or mistreatment by other chapter members. This is a positive result and may indicate a safe and respectful chapter environment. However, the fact that **15.4%** responded *"Don't know"* suggests that there might be uncertainties regarding what constitutes inappropriate behavior, or hesitations about labeling certain situations as such.

In addition, **30.8%** were unsure whether they had witnessed such behavior towards someone else, and again, **no one** confirmed having witnessed it. While this might reflect a genuinely safe environment, it could also point to a lack of awareness, invisibility of incidents, or underreporting due to social pressure or fear of consequences.

A more concerning finding is that only **23.1%** knew how to file a JML report, while a majority (**53.8%**) did not, and **23.1%** were uncertain. This clearly indicates a **need for improved communication and visibility** around the JML group's reporting system and support structures. If members do not know how to report inappropriate behavior, it limits the chapter's ability to detect and act on potential issues.

Lastly, a small minority (**7.7%**) reported that they or someone else had received special treatment within the chapter. While the number is low, it is still relevant, as special treatment—whether perceived as positive or negative—can contribute to feelings of inequality and mistrust among members.

It is also important to consider that the feeling of exclusion expressed by several international students in other parts of the survey may influence their willingness to report incidents. If a member already feels disconnected from the chapter community, they may not feel safe or confident enough to speak up, share experiences, or trust that their concerns will be taken seriously. This highlights the importance of building an inclusive culture that actively supports and empowers all members, especially those who may already feel marginalized.

3.3 Alcohol and peer pressure

The results suggest that alcohol is not perceived as a source of strong social pressure within the chapters. All respondents reported **never feeling questioned** about their alcohol consumption. This indicates a generally accepting environment regarding individual choices around alcohol.

However, qualitative feedback reveals that some members still feel uncomfortable in alcohol-focused settings and wish for more alcohol-free alternatives. Despite the positive survey numbers, these comments highlight a need for broader inclusivity in social planning.

Furthermore, the majority of respondents feel comfortable attending parties while sober. A small proportion (**7.7%**) reported having felt pressured to do something against their will, while another **7.7%** were uncertain—possibly indicating subtle forms of pressure or unclear boundaries in social situations.

Notably, **92.3%** of respondents stated that they have not pressured anyone else, while **7.7%** were unsure. This likely reflects a positive social norm within the chapter, but the uncertainty also points to a potential lack of awareness about how one's behavior might unintentionally affect others—especially in group settings. This highlights the continued importance of education around consent, boundaries, and peer influence.

It is particularly important to note that the discomfort some respondents express around alcohol-related events may be linked to a broader feeling of exclusion. For international students or those who are less integrated into the chapter's social circles, alcohol-centered activities can deepen a sense of alienation, especially if they do not drink or feel disconnected from the atmosphere at such events. Choosing not to attend these events may lead to fewer opportunities to socialize, which in turn reinforces the feeling of being an outsider.

Lastly, **53.8%** of respondents expressed a desire for more alcohol-free events, while **30.8%** had no preference and only **15.4%** were against the idea. This supports the notion that offering more non-alcoholic options would be appreciated by many and could contribute to a more inclusive environment.

In conclusion, while the overall data suggests a respectful alcohol culture, the link between alcohol-centered social events and feelings of exclusion should not be overlooked. The chapter should continue to diversify its event offerings to ensure that all members feel welcome and included, regardless of their relationship with alcohol.

3.4 Exclusion

The results indicate a varied experience of inclusion among respondents. While some report rarely or never feeling excluded, a significant portion—**30.8%**—selected a mid-point on the scale, suggesting occasional or situational exclusion. Additionally, **23.1%** reported the highest level of exclusion (*5 – always felt excluded*), which points to a noteworthy issue.

The free-text responses further clarify the reasons behind these feelings. A recurring theme is the language barrier: several international students express that not speaking Swedish makes it difficult to participate in chapter life. Many feel that chapter communication and events are primarily conducted in Swedish, leading to a sense of disconnection and isolation. One respondent described feeling "completely neglected" at events where they are the only English speaker, ultimately choosing not to attend any events at all.

Another factor contributing to exclusion is the high expectation of involvement within the chapter. Some respondents feel that not everyone has the time or energy to commit to chapter activities, which can make them feel less seen or valued. Others mention the lack of event variety—highlighting that most social events revolve around Thursday pubs and alcohol—which makes it difficult to build deeper connections beyond those settings.

Several respondents suggested more inclusive, low-pressure activities such as karaoke, board games, hikes, or online events. These could help create more accessible social spaces and foster stronger community ties, especially for those who feel alienated in the current event structure.

In summary, the data highlights the need for more inclusive communication and a broader range of social activities that appeal to both Swedish and non-Swedish speaking members. Addressing these issues can help reduce feelings of exclusion and foster a more welcoming chapter culture.

The JML group will look further into this issue by gathering more feedback from international students and collaborating with chapter committees to ensure a more inclusive event structure. This includes promoting English-friendly environments, improving information accessibility, and encouraging activities that do not rely on alcohol or existing social circles. The goal is to create a chapter life in which all members, regardless of background or language, feel seen, supported, and welcomed.

3.5 General

The open responses under the general section point to a recurring theme of disconnection, especially among international students. Several respondents highlight the lack of communication and follow-up after the reception period, leaving them unaware of upcoming events or how to stay involved.

There is a clear call for the chapter to foster a more consistently English-friendly environment and to improve the visibility of events, including non-alcoholic alternatives. Some express feeling entirely disconnected from the chapter, which underscores the importance of sustained inclusion efforts beyond just the start of the academic year.

These insights emphasize the need for better long-term integration strategies, continuous communication in English, and a wider range of inclusive activities to ensure that all members feel seen and involved.

4 Final Remarks

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. This year marks a record number of responses, and we are deeply grateful for your participation. Your input provides a crucial foundation for shaping the future work of the JML group and offers valuable information on how the chapter is experienced by its members.

We hope that the results of this year's survey not only raise awareness, but also inspire reflection and encourage progress toward an environment where everyone feels welcome and safe.

Lastly, we want to remind all members that no issue is too big or too small to be raised. We are here for you.

