

# Title: An investigation of the long term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education and clinical development of Diagnostic/Therapeutic Radiography students in Northern Ireland.

Mc Fadden S, Guille S, Marley J, Hanratty C, Shepherd P, Daly-Lynn J, Hughes C

<sup>1</sup> School of Health Sciences, Ulster University, Jordanstown

# DISCLOSURES

- Nothing to disclose

# BACKGROUND

- COVID-19 impact on the education/clinical placement of students <sup>1</sup>
- Universities using online/remote delivery
  - Limited face to face delivery
- Clinical placement of undergraduates

# Aim

- To explore the impact of COVID-19 on radiography education and clinical development in Northern Ireland.

# METHODOLOGY

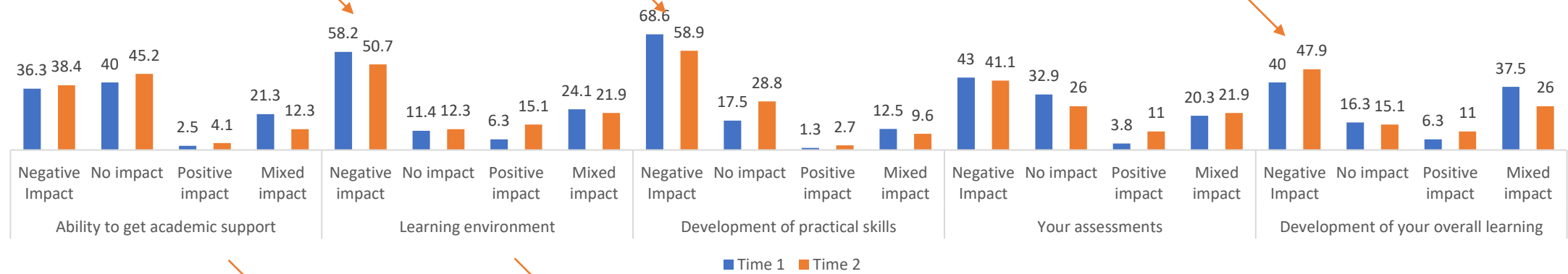
- Online survey using Qualtrics platform
- Students at Ulster University invited to participate via email
- Data collected at three timepoints across one academic year (2020/2021)
- Analysed using SPSS Version 25 and NVivo 12

# RESULTS

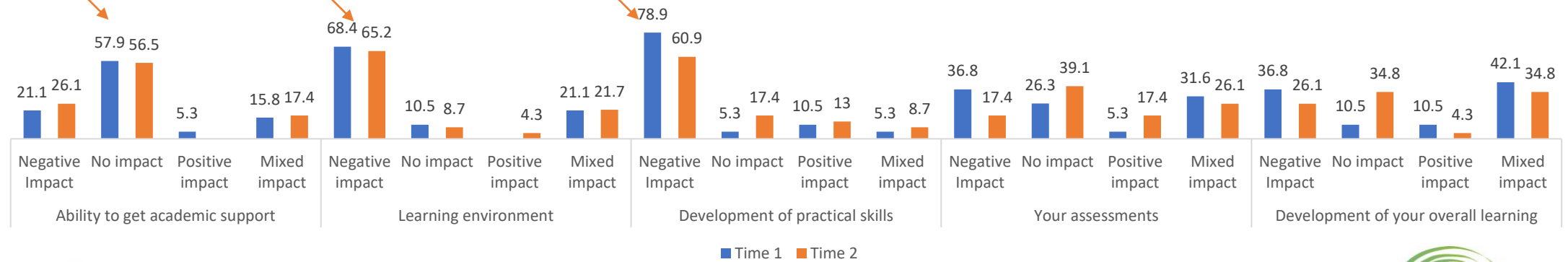
- 89, 79, 61 and 20, 26, 21 Diagnostic (D) and Therapeutic (T) students completed the survey at three different TP's respectively (across three years of the programme).
- The majority of respondents were in the university at TP's 1-3 whilst an average of 18% of D and 23% of T respectively were on clinical placement.

# Figure 1a and b: Impact of COVID-19 on Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging students' academic experiences (%) at Time 1 and Time 2.

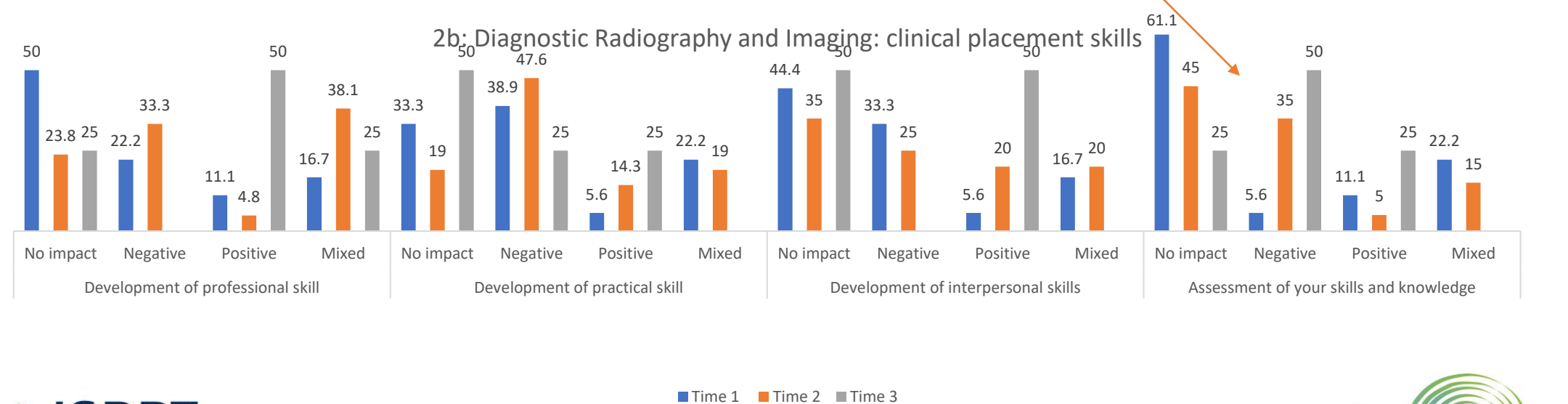
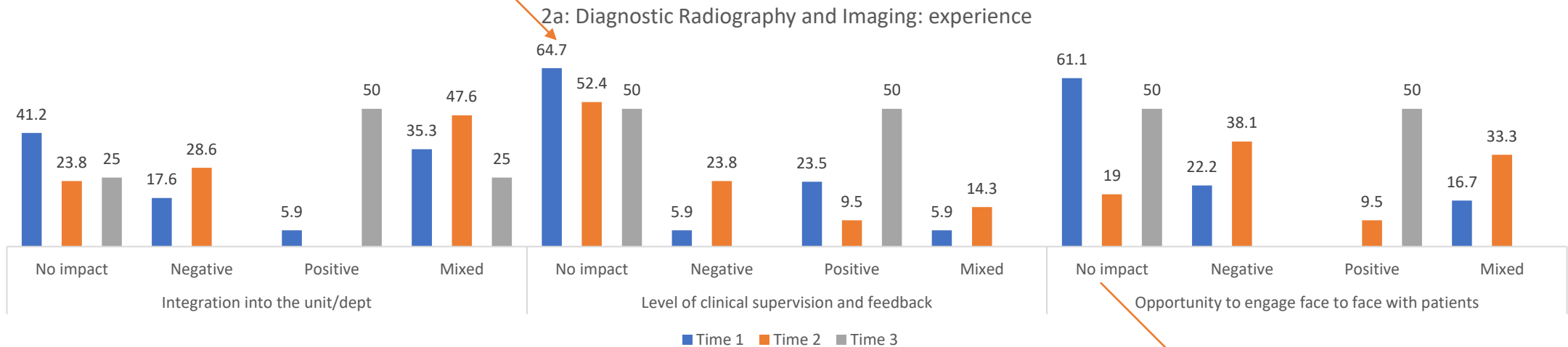
## Figure 1a: Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging



## Figure 1b: Radiotherapy and Oncology

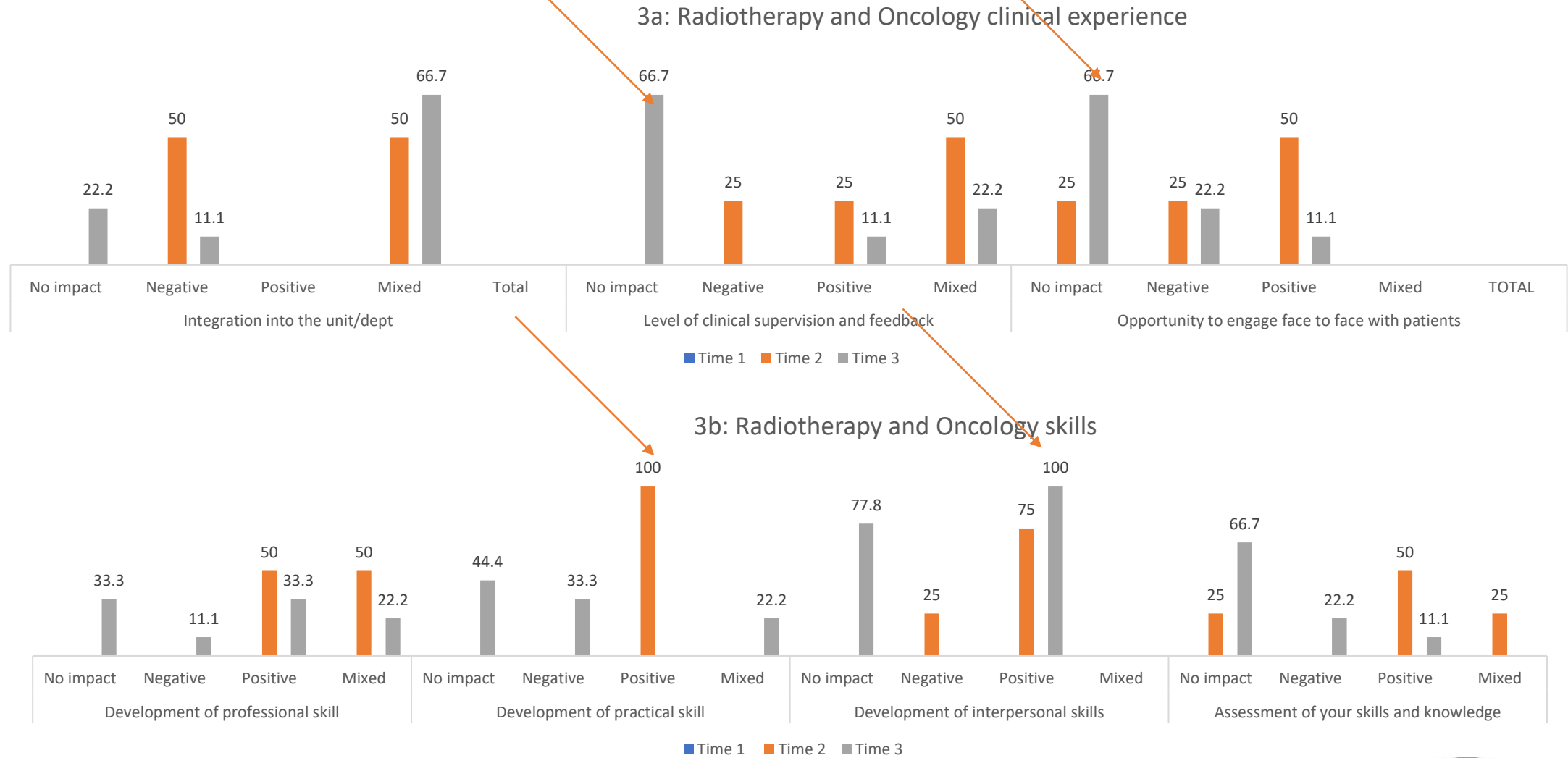


**Figure 2a: Impact of COVID-19 on students' clinical placement experiences and 2b : skills (%) at Time 1, Time 2 and Time 3 (Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging)**

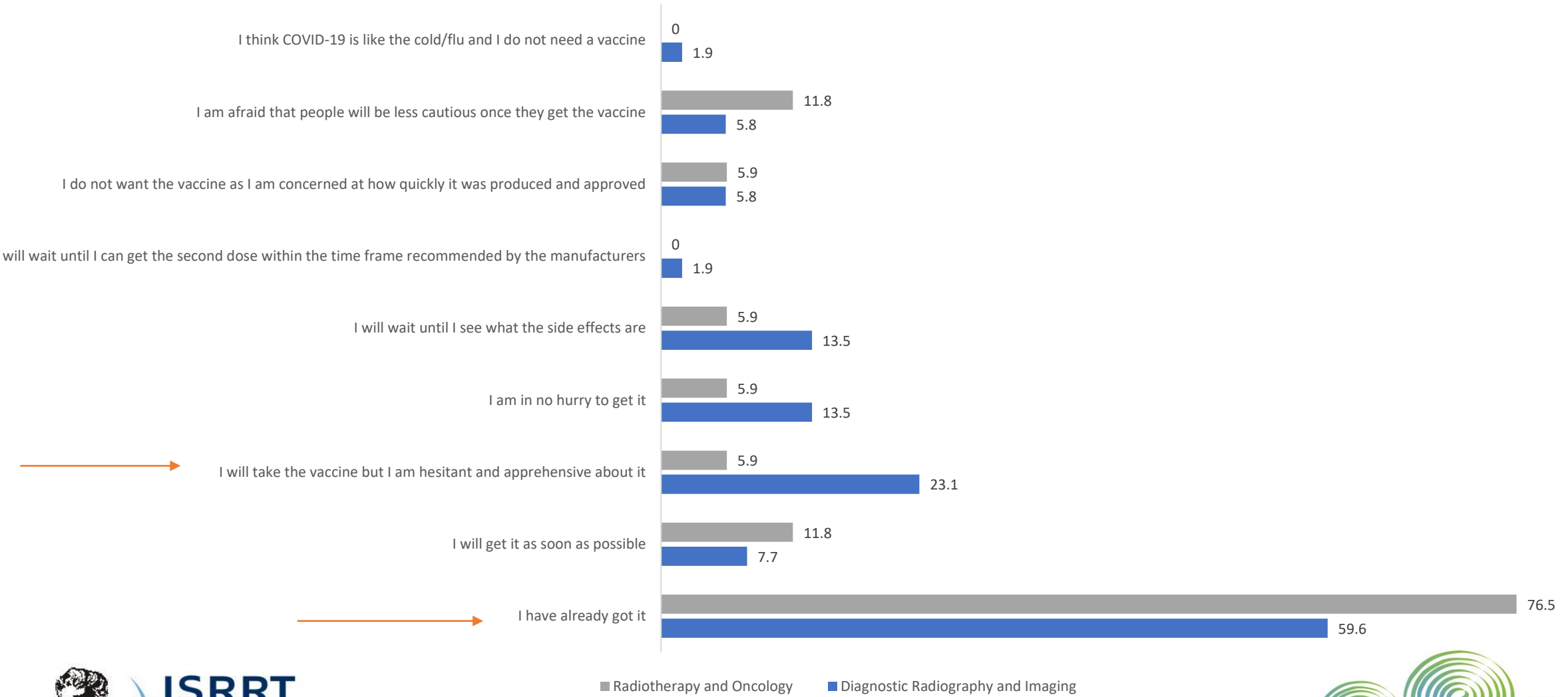




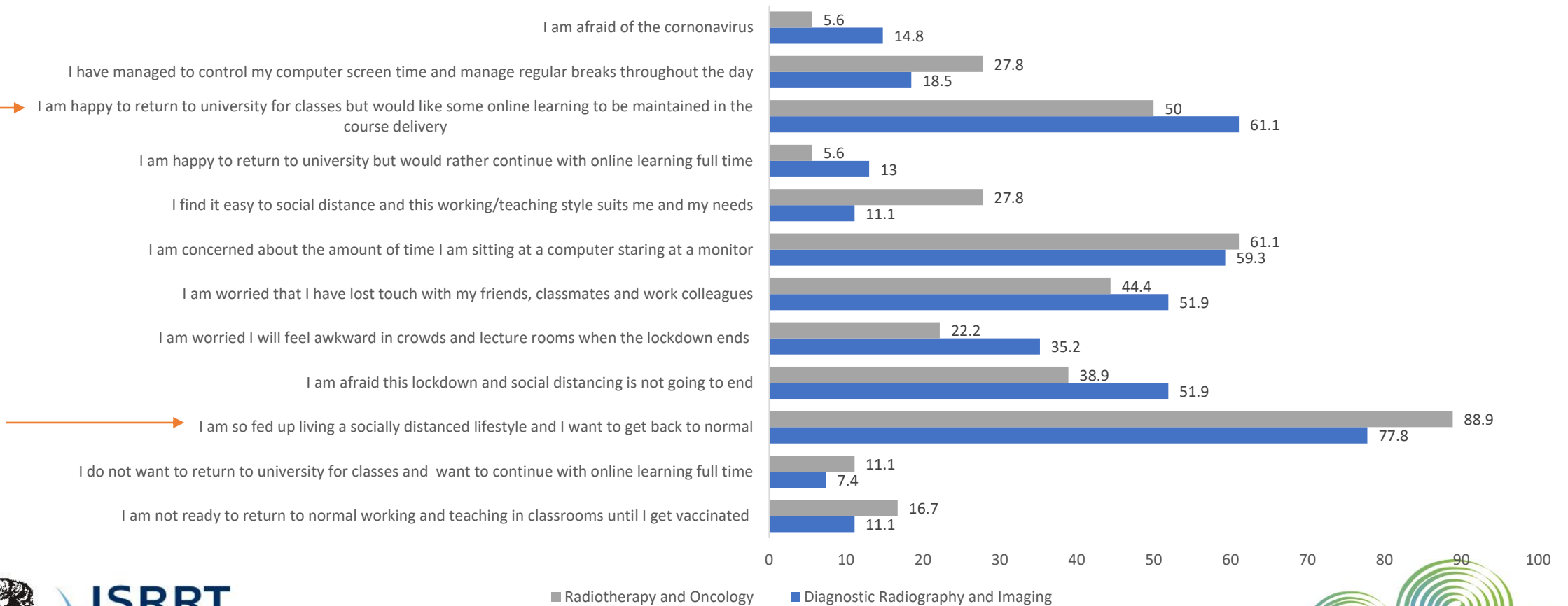
**Figure 3a: Impact of COVID-19 on students' clinical placement experiences and 3b: skills (%) at Time 2 and Time 3 (Radiotherapy and Oncology). \* no students on placement at Time 1**



**Figure 4: Students (%) thoughts and feelings about the vaccine at Time 3.**



**Figure 5: Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging and Radiotherapy and Oncology Students (%) opinions after living with COVID-19 for one year at T3**



# DISCUSSION

- The negative impact of COVID in terms of making and maintaining friendships and mental wellbeing increased slightly over the 3 timepoints
- Increased burden of student workload
- COVID 19 had no impact or a positive impact on choice of career
- Some positive impacts with flexible learning
  
- By TP3 students had adapted to synchronous and non-synchronous remote learning -preferring teaching delivered via university and remote learning combined

# CONCLUSION

- Radiography students quickly adapted to remote delivery of lectures
- Blended learning with some synchronous online delivery should be maintained in the post COVID-19 world
- We need to continue to support and invest in our workforce of the future

# REFERENCES

- L A Rainford , M Zanardo , C Buissink , R Decoster , W Hennessy , K Knapp , B Kraus , L Lanca , S Lewis , T B Mahlaola , M McEntee, D O'Leary, H Precht , T Starc, J P McNulty. The impact of COVID-19 upon student radiographers and clinical training. 2021 May;27(2):464-474. doi: 10.1016/j.radi.2020.10.015. Epub 2020 Nov 6.
- Shane J. Foley, Anne O'Loughlin & Jill Creedon . Insights into Imaging volume 11, Article number: 104 (2020) Early experiences of radiographers in Ireland during the COVID-19 crisis

# CONTACT DETAILS

- Email: [s.mcfadden@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:s.mcfadden@ulster.ac.uk)
- Twitter: [@sonyia\\_mc](https://twitter.com/sonyia_mc)