

International Student Mobility for Females in the MENA Region



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Session Themes

- Student Mobility Data
- Evolving Attitudes in the MENA Region
- Unique Challenges for Female Students
- Personal Experiences and New Opportunities
- Parent involvement with the transition stage of female students studying abroad



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What kind of challenges do you face working with females in your role?



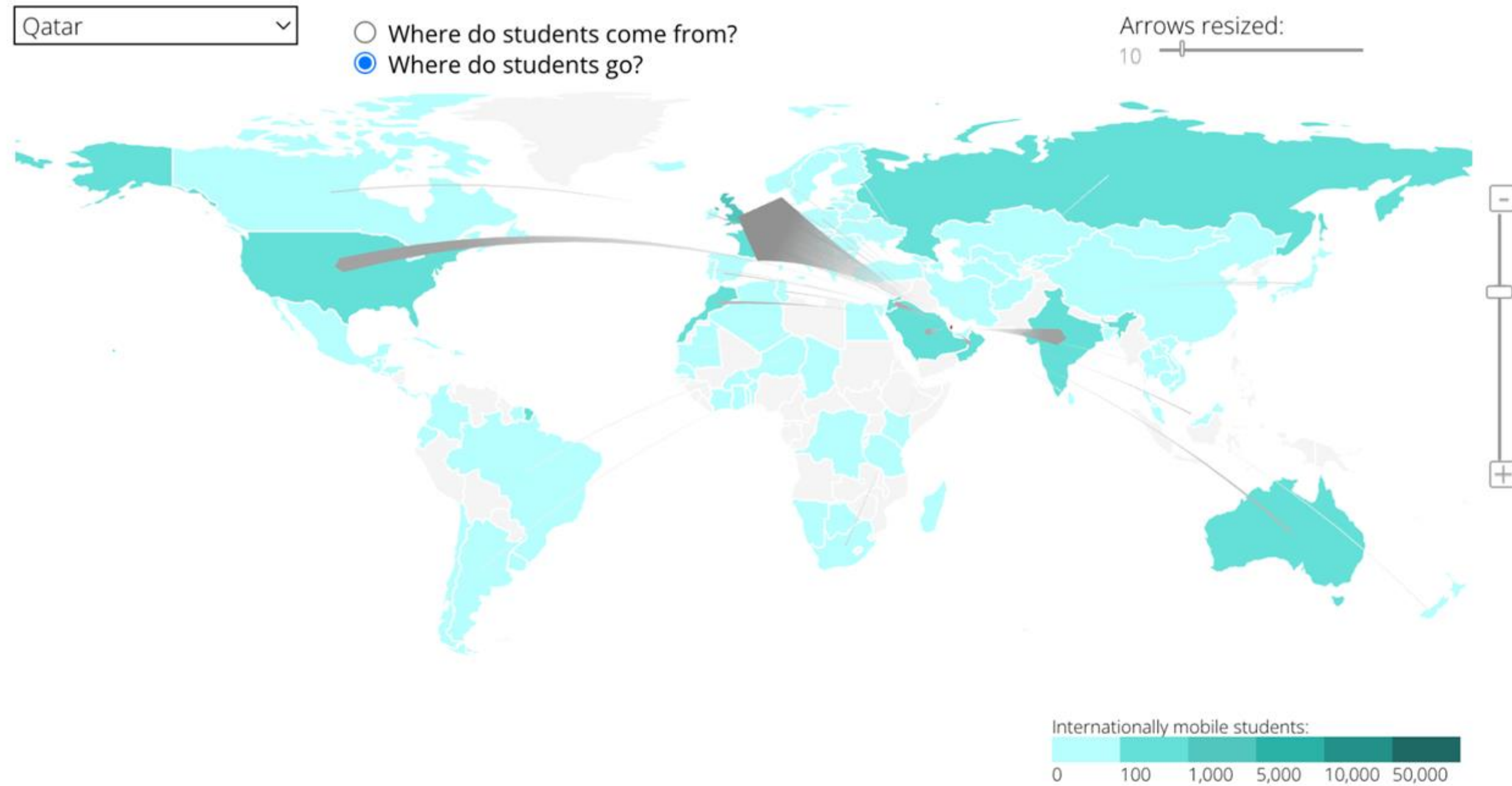
What factors do you think impact female student mobility?



Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students

Where do students go to study? Where do they come from? UIS data on the mobility of students shed light on the shifting demand for higher education, particularly in the developing world.

To explore the data select a country from the menu, or click on the map.



Qatar

<https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>



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Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students

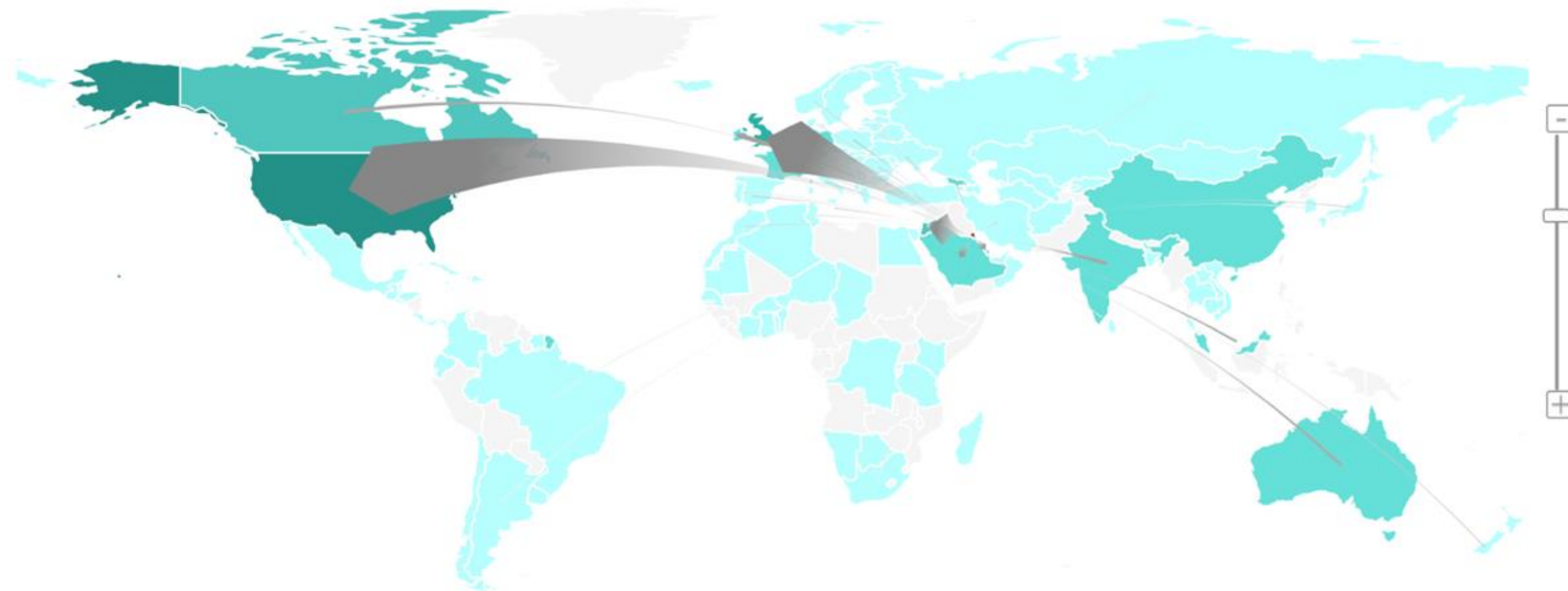
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Kuwait

- Where do students come from?
- Where do students go?

Arrows resized:
10



Internationally mobile students:
0 100 1,000 5,000 10,000 50,000

Kuwait



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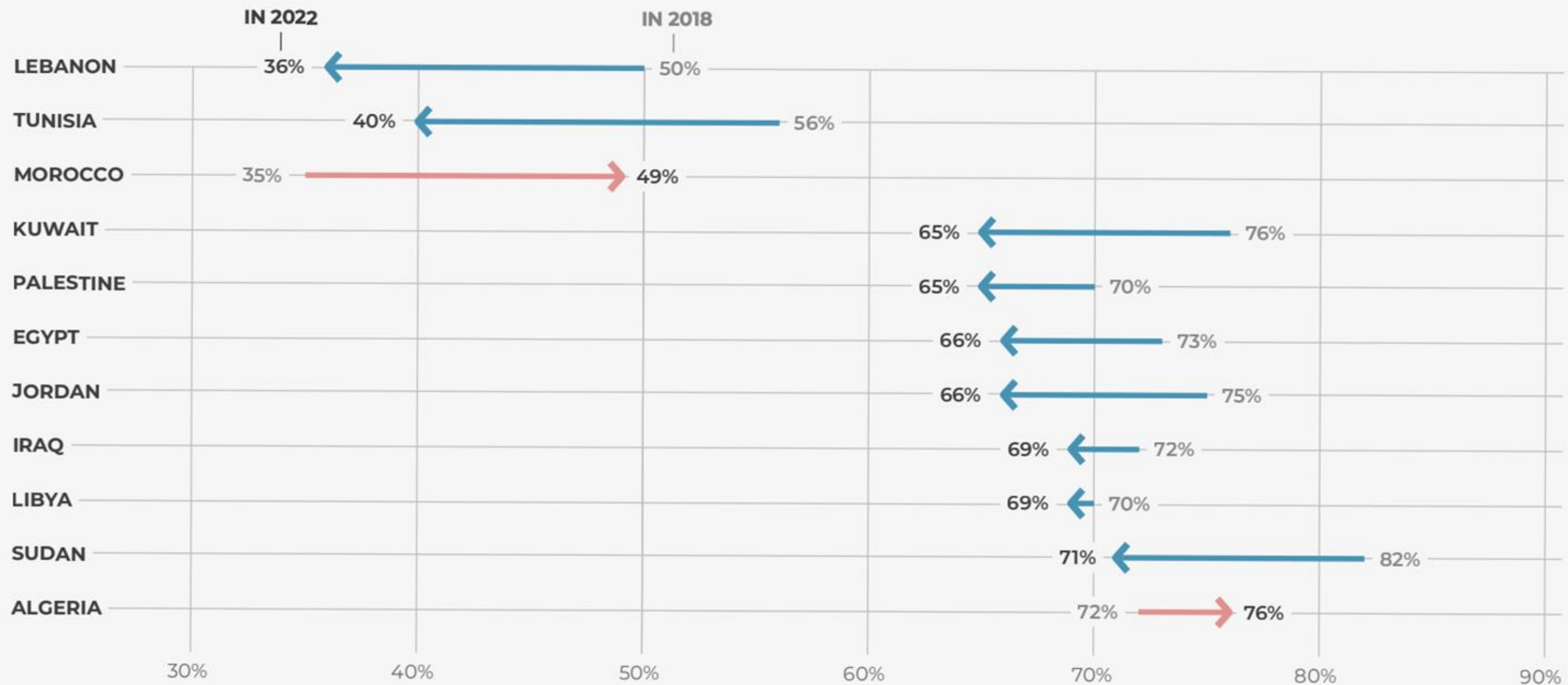
<https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

Taking Arabs' Pulse: Gender Attitudes and Trends in MENA

Gender equality is far from achieved in MENA. Yet, there are signs of change.

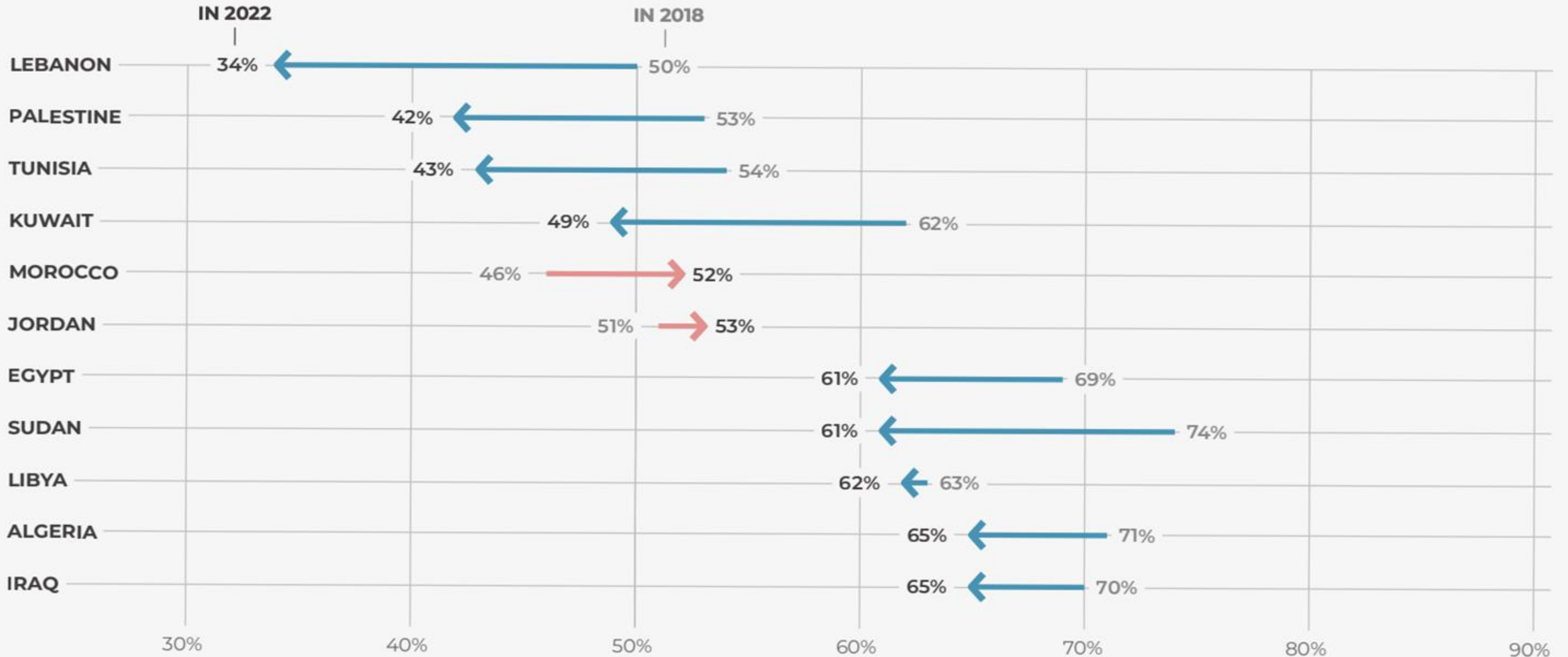
Citizens becoming more open toward women in politics

% WHO SAY MEN ARE BETTER THAN WOMEN AT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN 2018 AND 2022



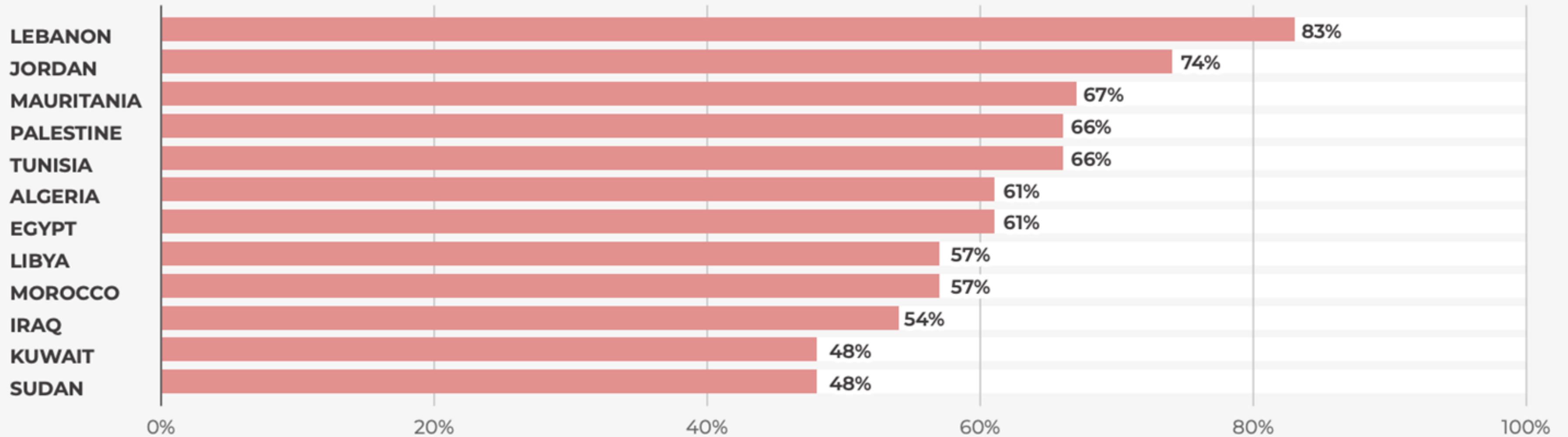
Similar advances in women having more authority in decision-making inside the home

% WHO SAY A MAN SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN FAMILY DECISIONS



Broad backing for women's right to pass citizenship to their children

% WHO AGREE THAT A WOMAN WHO MARRIES A FOREIGNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS CITIZENSHIP TO HER CHILDREN

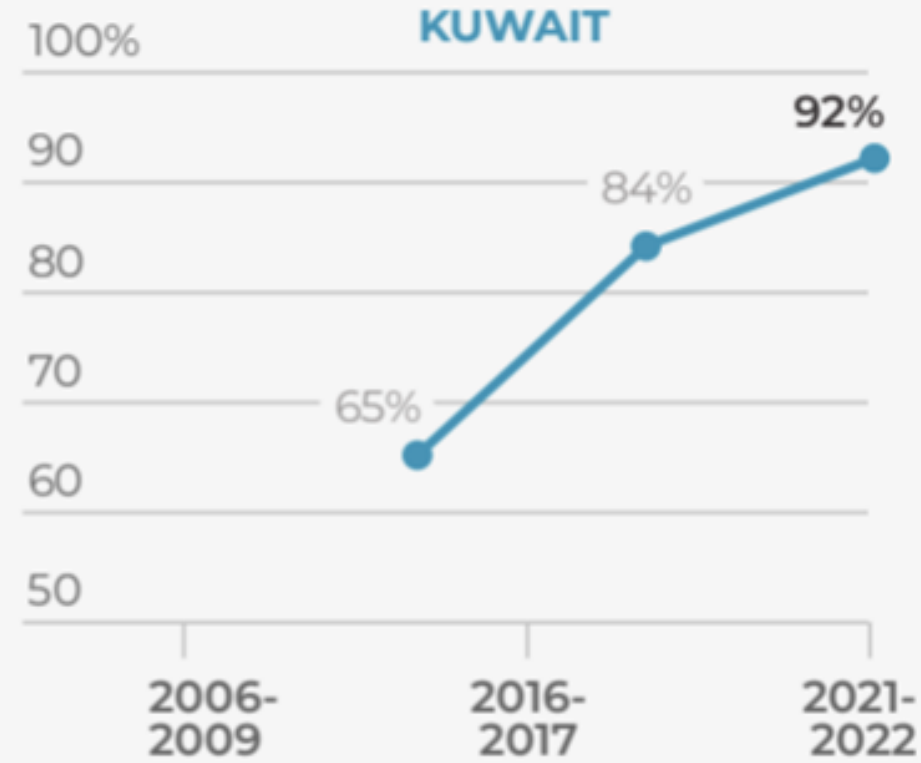


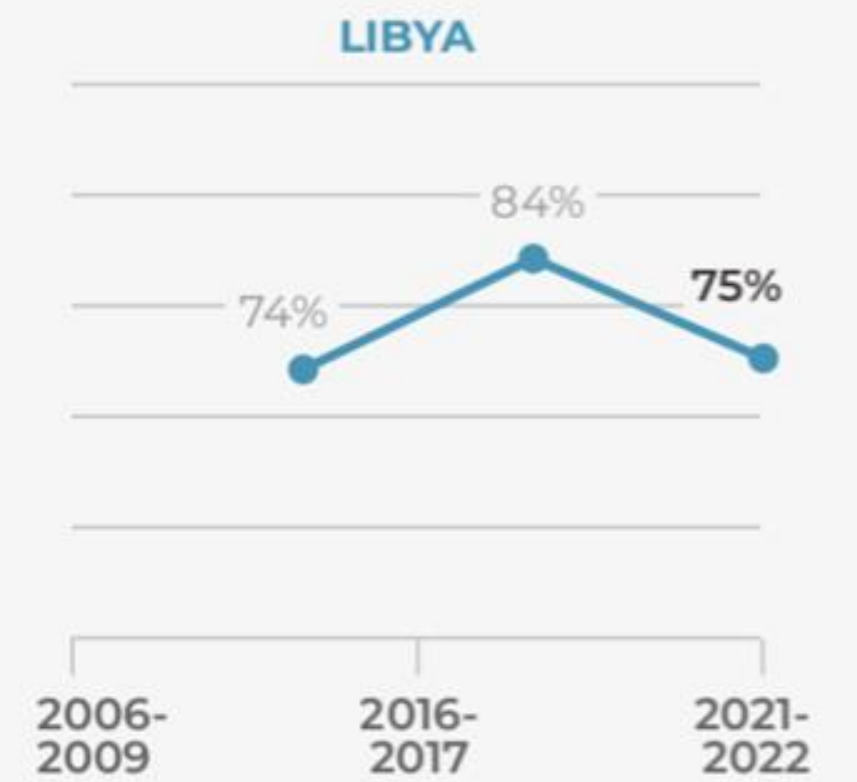
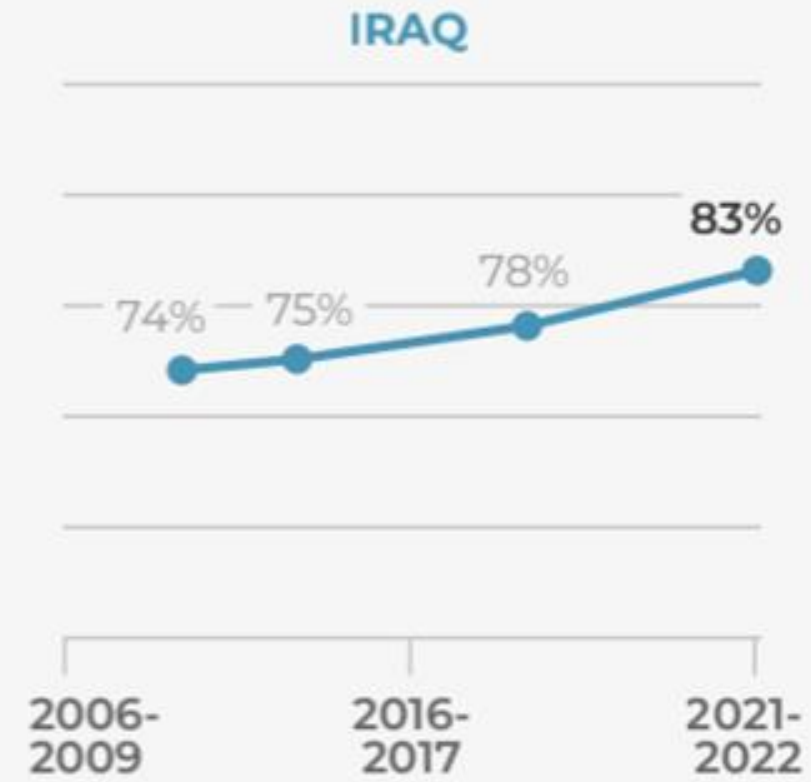
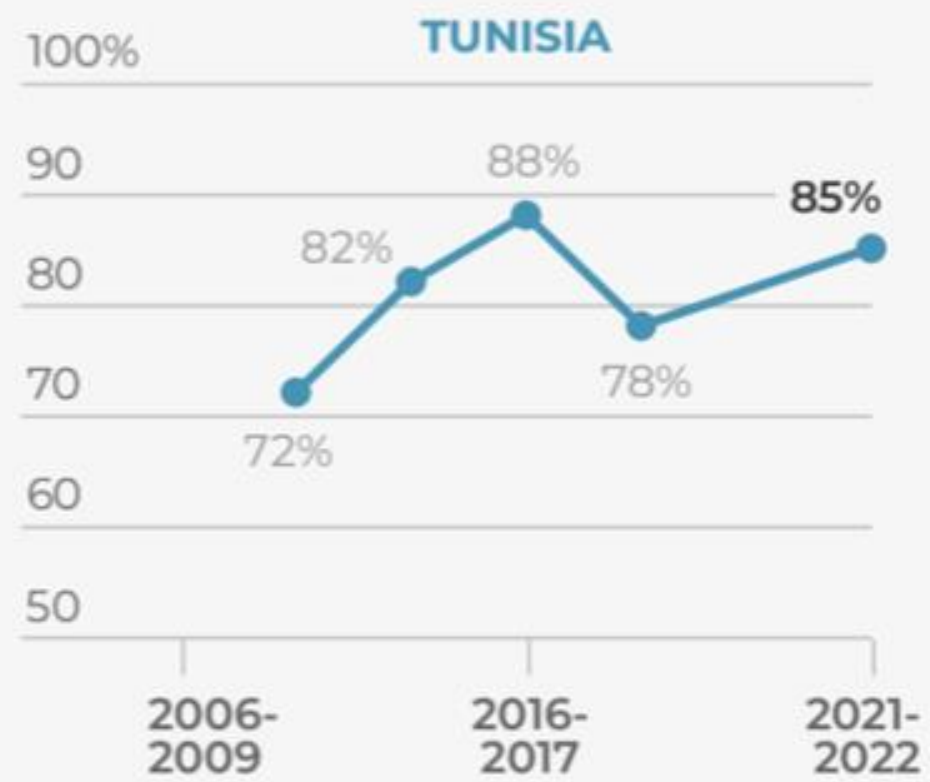
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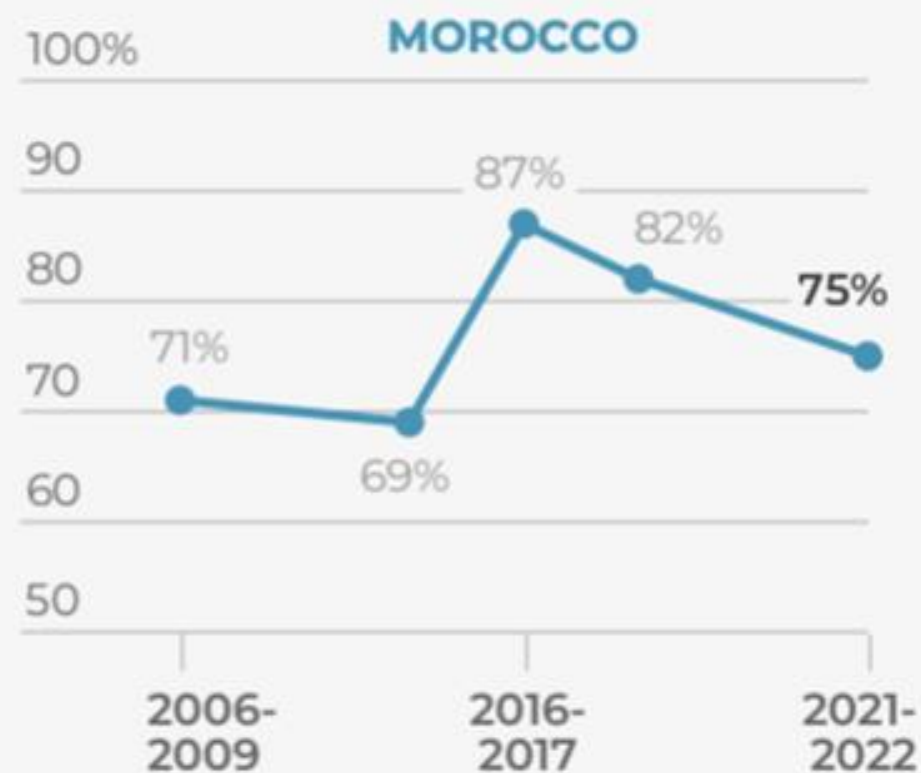
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Overwhelming support for women's pursuit of higher education

% WHO DISAGREE THAT UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR MALES THAN FEMALES



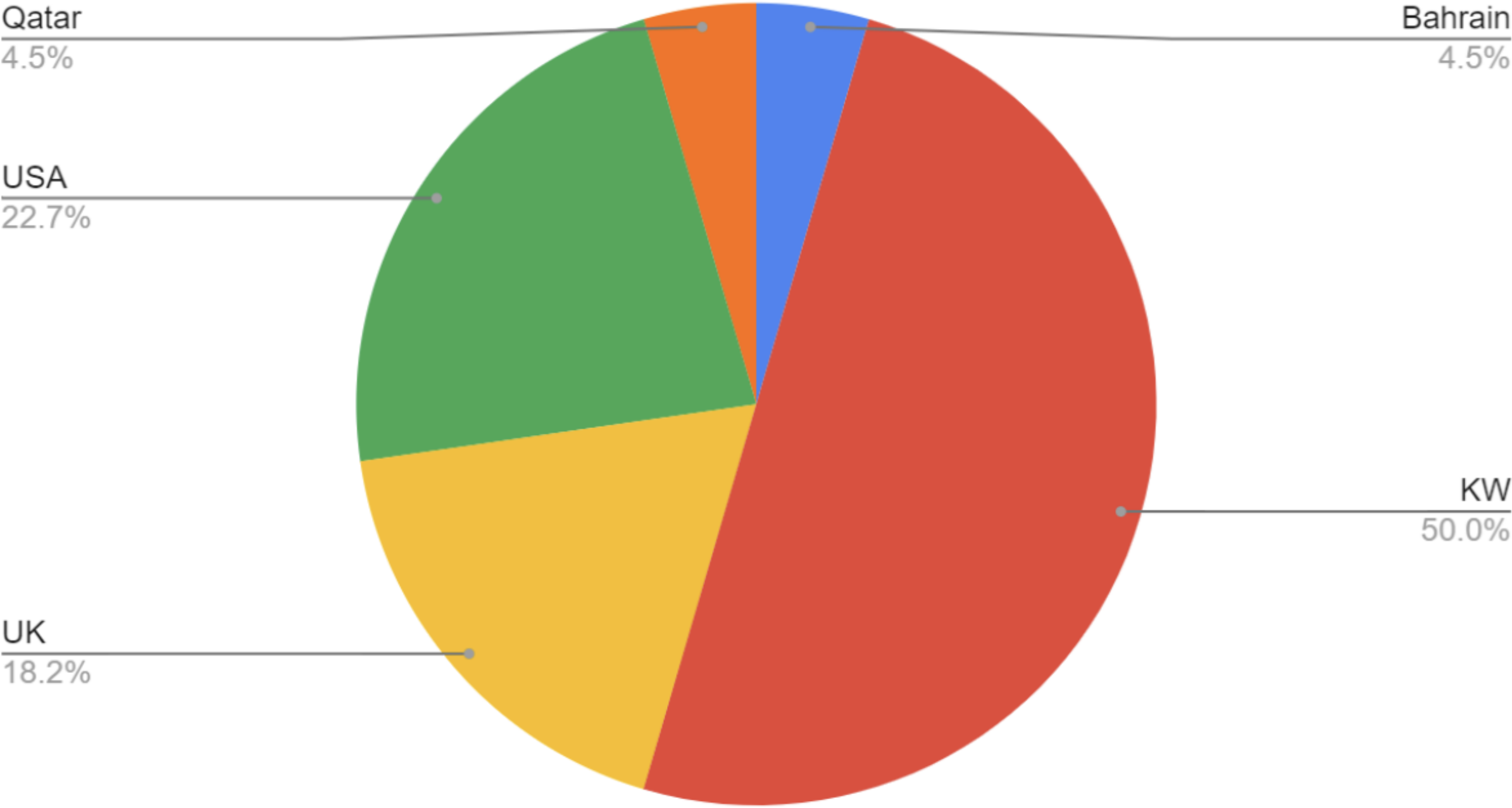




Female data over the last two years from [AUS](#)

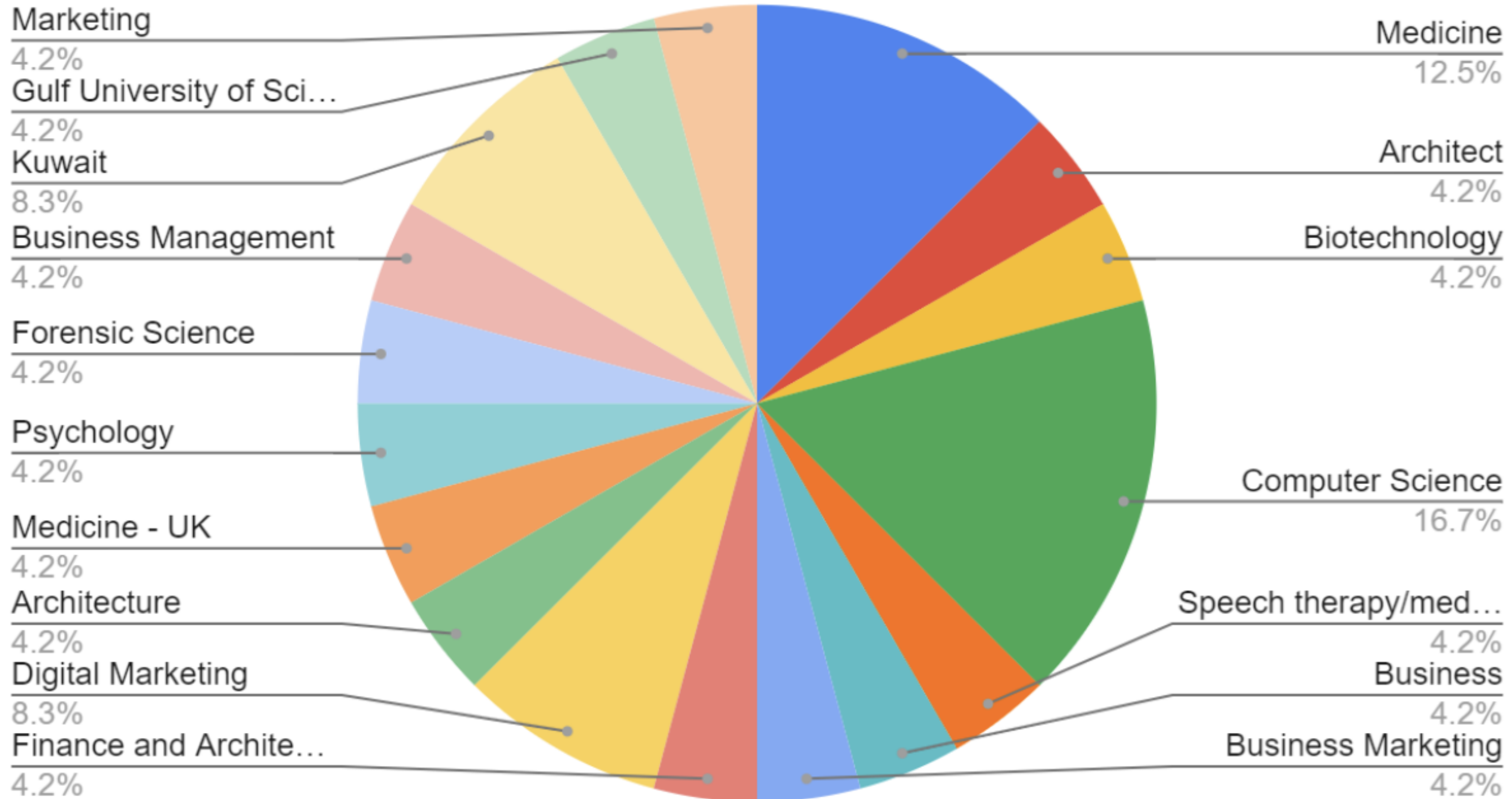
Class of 2023

Female Preferred country of study 2023



Female data over the last two years from AUS

Female majors 2023

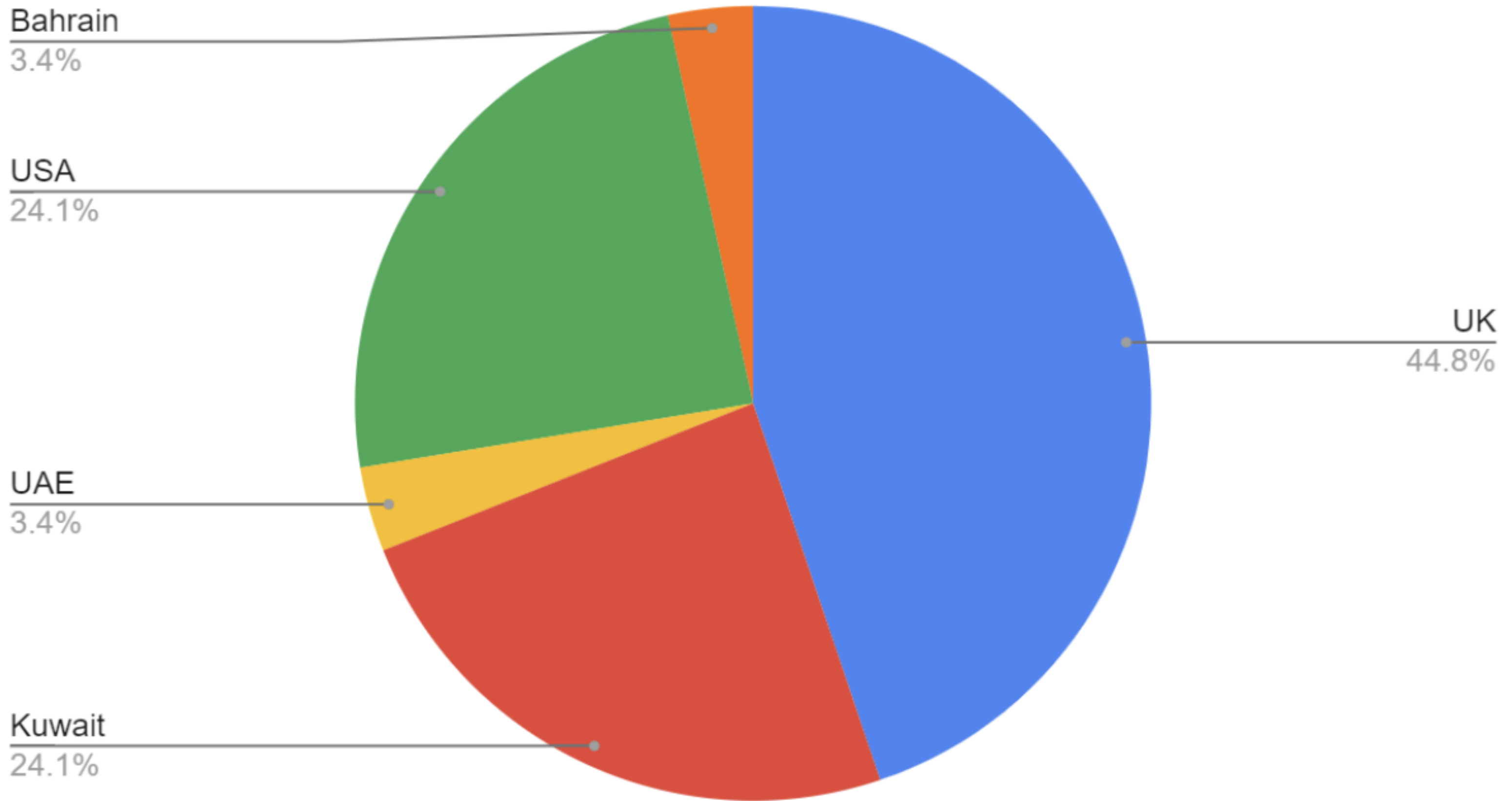


Class of 2022 Data

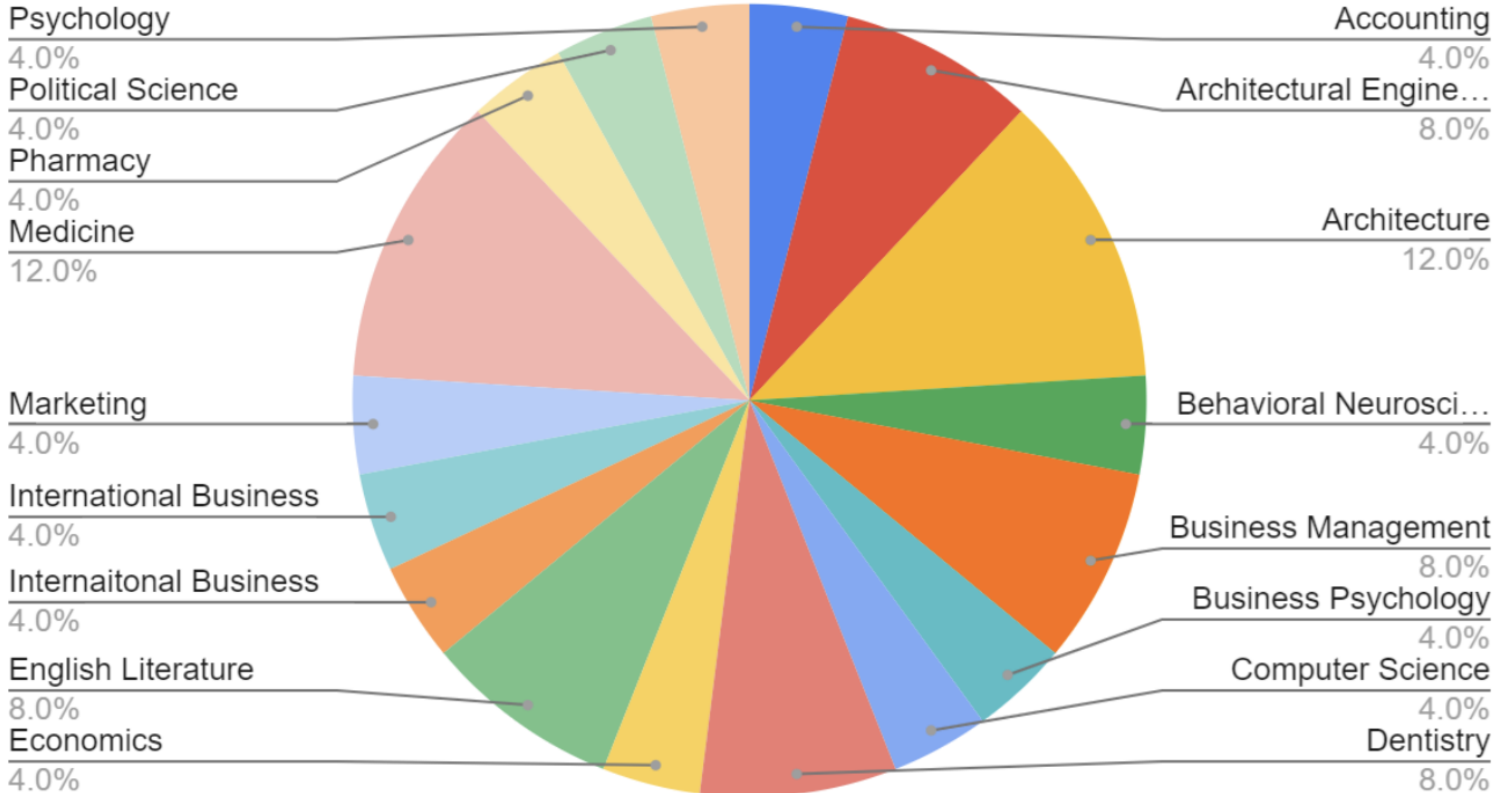
Female Data	
28 Female students in the Class of 2022	
Of the 28 students, only five stayed in Kuwait or in the region while the other 23 female students studied abroad in the United Kingdom and the USA	82% of female students studied abroad

Male Data	
25 male students in the Class of 2022	52% of male students studied in Kuwait or in the region
13 male students studied abroad while 12 male students stayed in Kuwait or in the region	

Preferred country of study 2022



Female Major of study 2022



Taking Arabs' Pulse: Women in the Workforce

MOST CHALLENGING BARRIER TO ENTRY INTO THE WORKPLACE FOR WOMEN

% OF RESPONDENTS

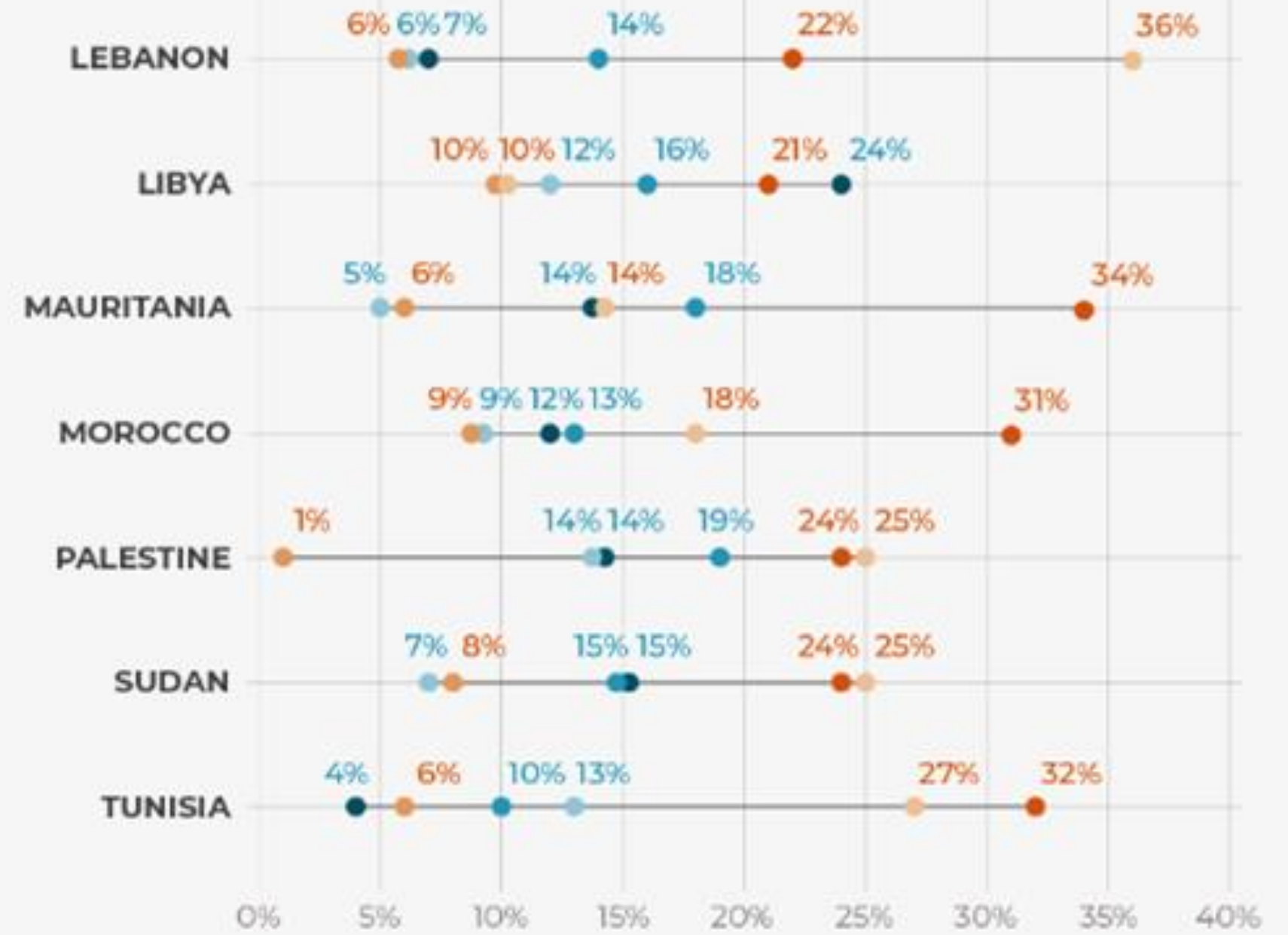
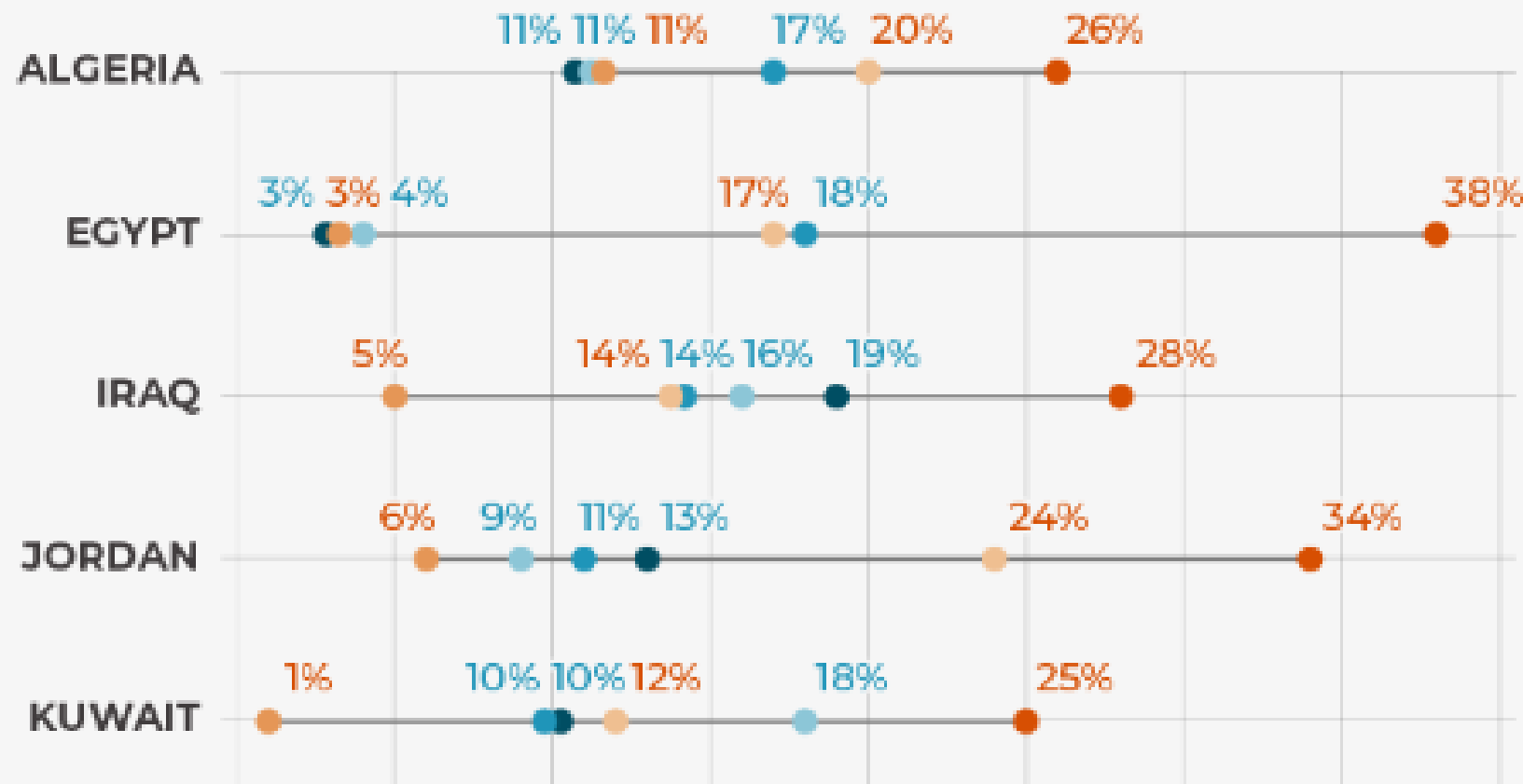


CULTURAL BARRIERS

- SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE
- MEN GIVEN PRIORITIES
- MIXED WORK SPACES

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

- LACK OF CHILDCARE OPTION
- LACK OF TRANSPORTATION
- LOW WAGES



Mitigating Factors

- Scholarship / Sponsored students
- Chaperones / Guardians
- Regionally located institution vs. campus outside the region
- Religious / cultural / family traditions
- Expectations for citizens vs. expat students
- Mixed gender vs. single gender education
- Undergraduate vs. graduate expectations
- Perceptions of safety



Q&A from current high school students - Kuwait and Qatar

- Why did you choose your major and country of study?
- How do you think higher education is encouraged for females in your country as compared to males?
- What advice would you give to females who plan to go into higher education outside of their home countries?

Thank you! Questions?



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