



## STFC ANNUAL STUDENT SURVEY 2023

In February 2023, the Office contacted all current students and their supervisors to request them to complete the survey. The deadline for completion of the survey was 31 March 2023. A total of 964 students responded out of the 1140 students who were contacted (85% response).

Percentages are based on the numbers of students that responded to the questions. Answers don't always add up to 100% due to rounding.

The main points are as follows:

84% of students met with their supervisor at least once a week.

91% of students rated their supervision that they received as 4 or 5 (i.e. good/excellent).

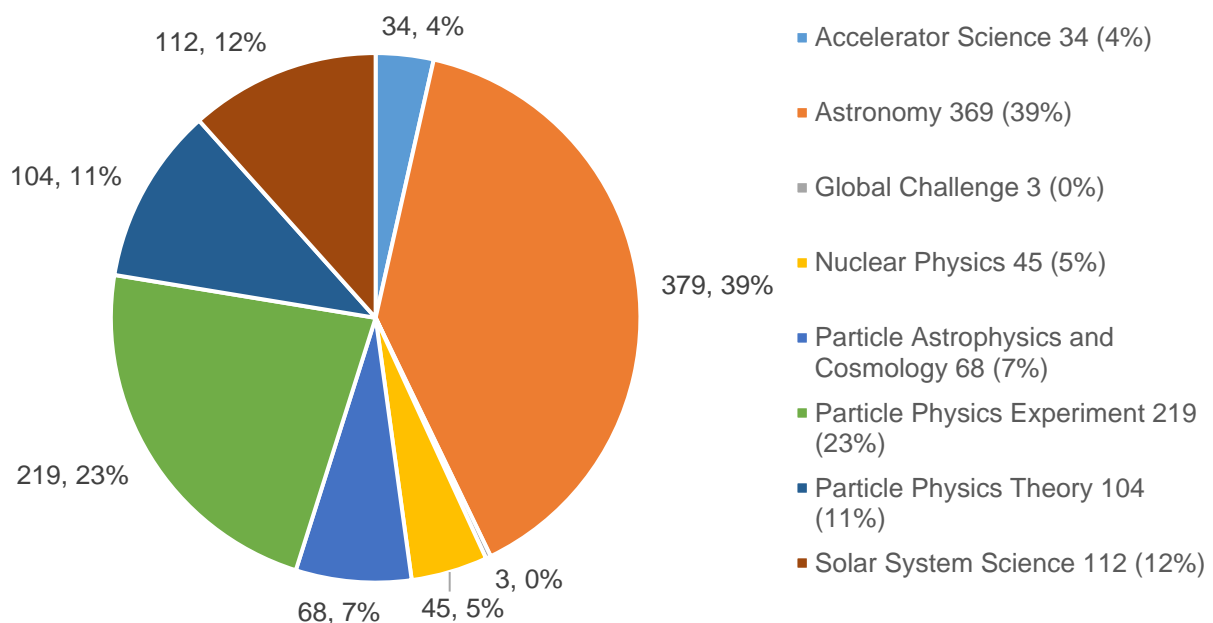
92% of students had received formal training in the first year.

61% of students wished to pursue a career in academia.

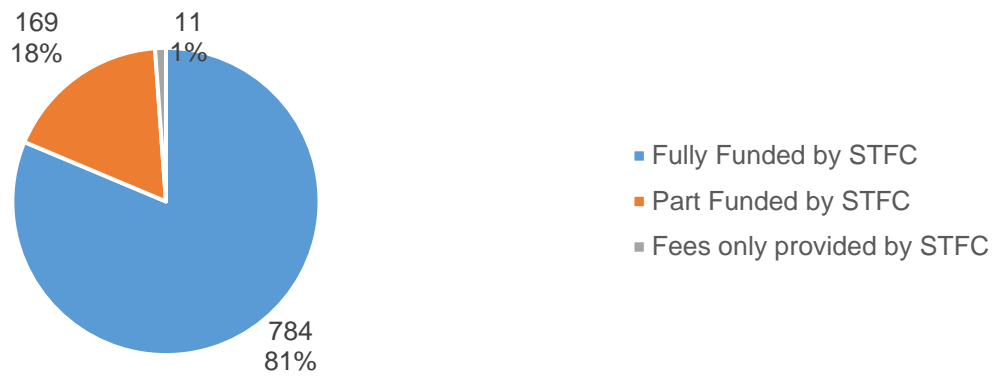
98% of students rated their overall training as good/adequate.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

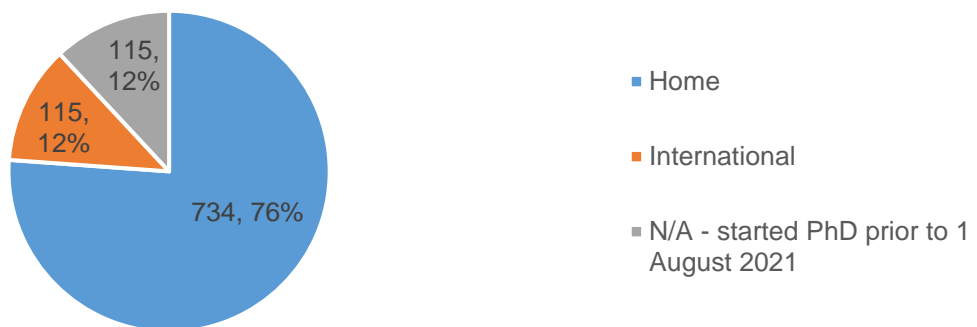
### General Field of Research



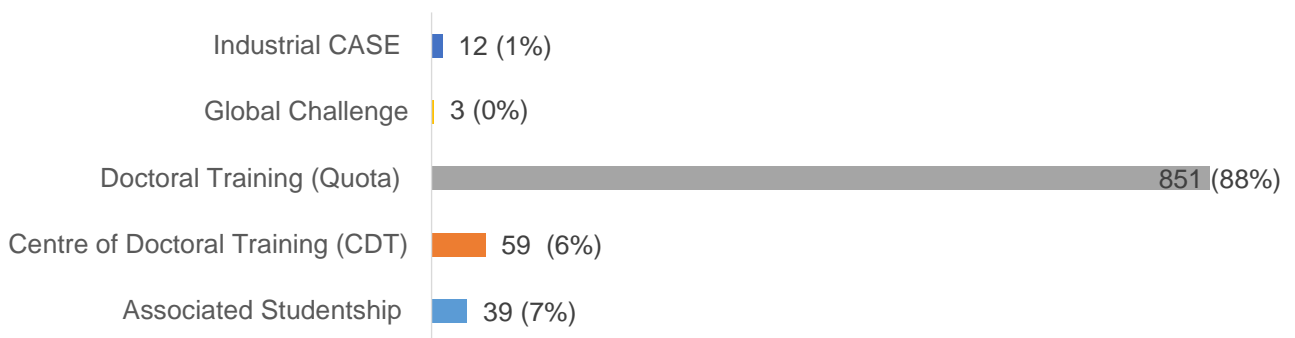
### Form of funding received



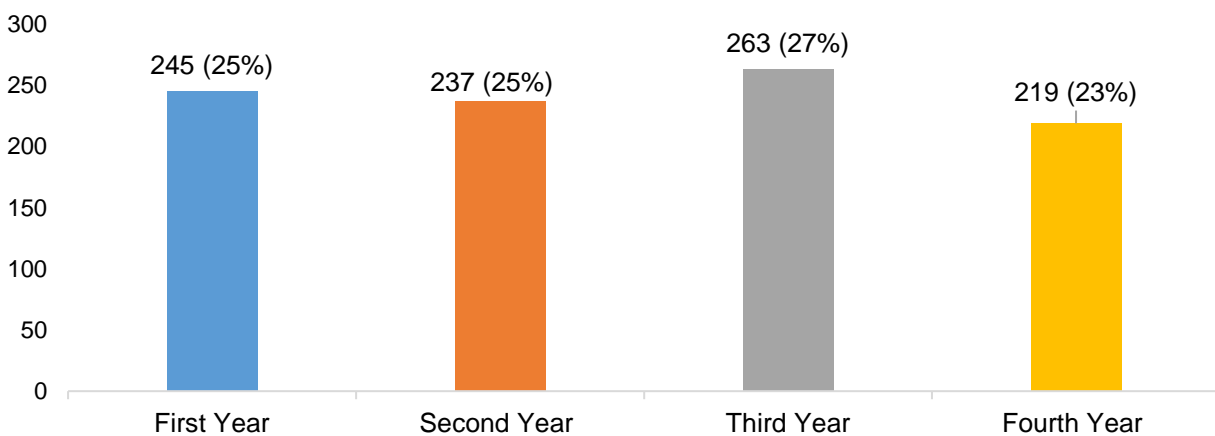
### Home / International Studentships



### Type of studentship

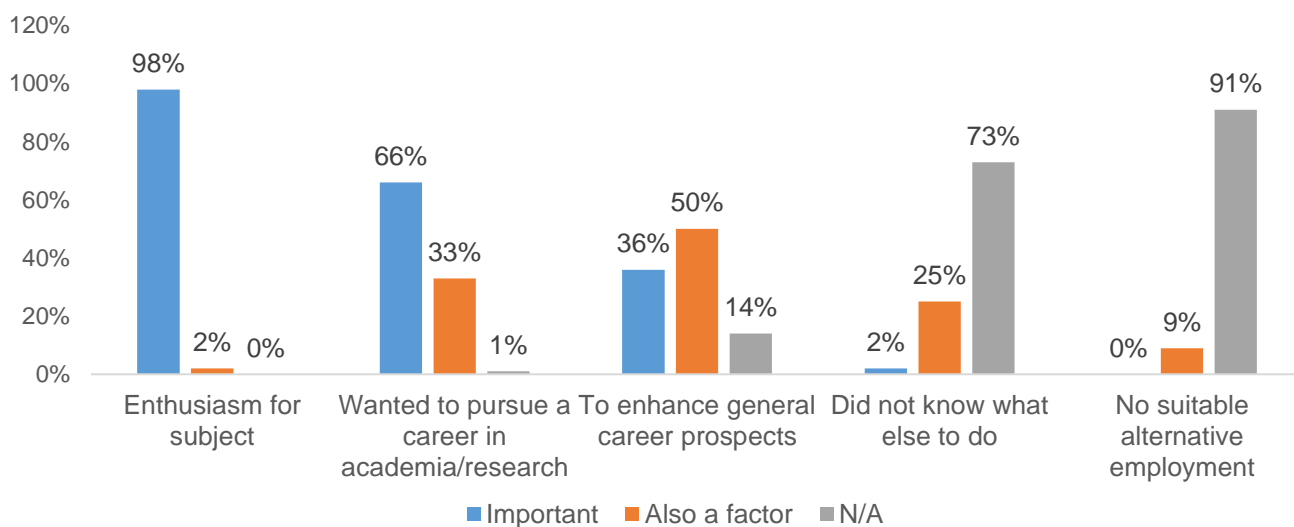


### Year of PhD



948 students were full time and 16 part time.

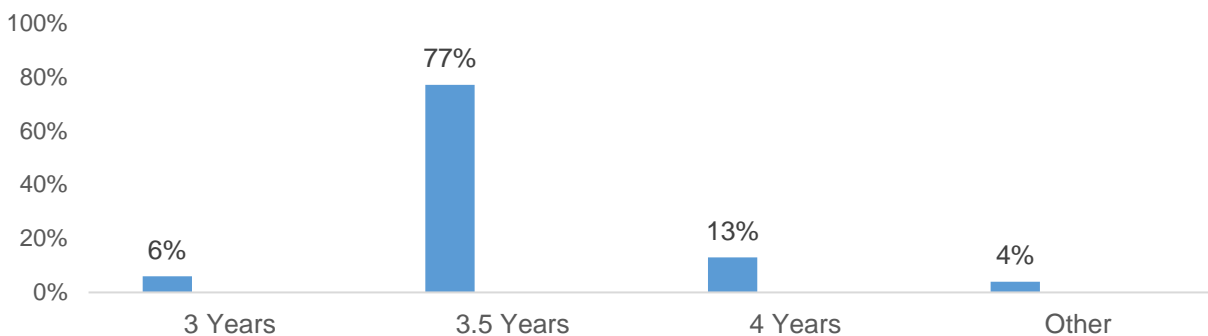
Reasons for undertaking a PhD (1<sup>st</sup> year students only – 245 responses)



### FUNDING PERIOD

95% of students confirmed their funding period was discussed and agreed with their supervisor at the beginning of their PhD.

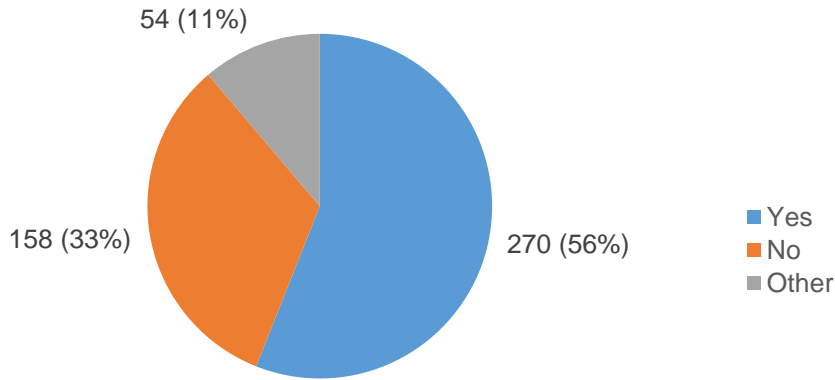
How long is funded period?



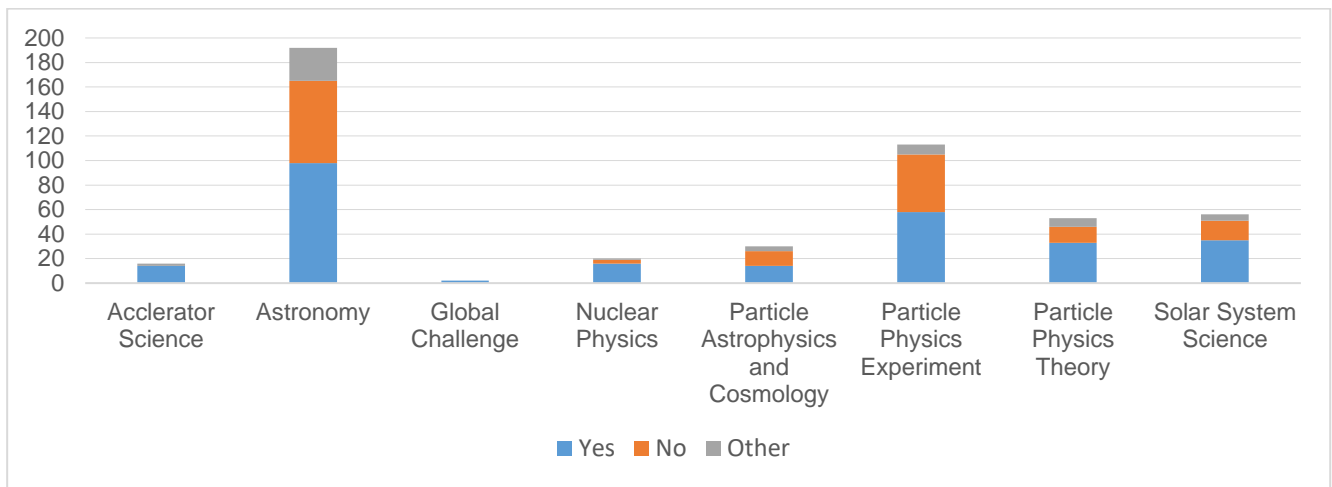
### PHD SUBMISSION - Questions asked of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students only

There were 482 third and fourth-year students who completed the questionnaire.

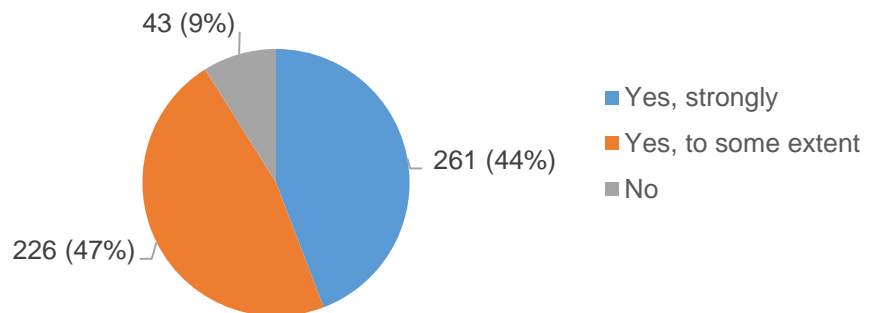
Do you think have sufficient time within the funded duration of your studentship to complete your PhD, including writing up?



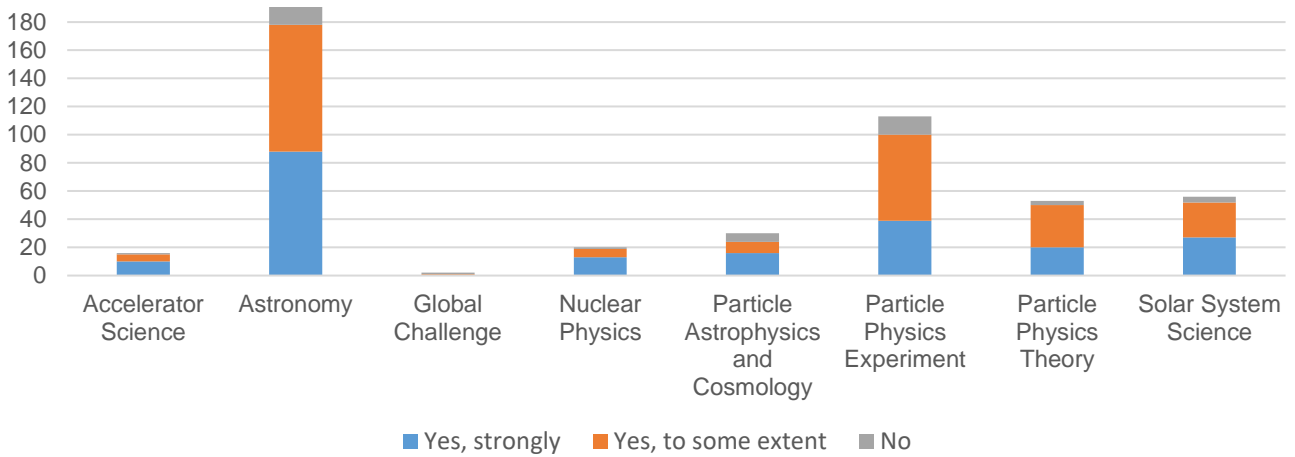
Breakdown of third- and fourth-year submission question "Do you think have sufficient time within the funded duration of your studentship to complete your PhD, including writing up?" by research area:-



STFC expects student projects to be planned and supported such that they may be completed within the funded duration of the studentship. Do you consider your institution actively encourages students to complete their PhD, including writing up, within the funded duration of the studentship?

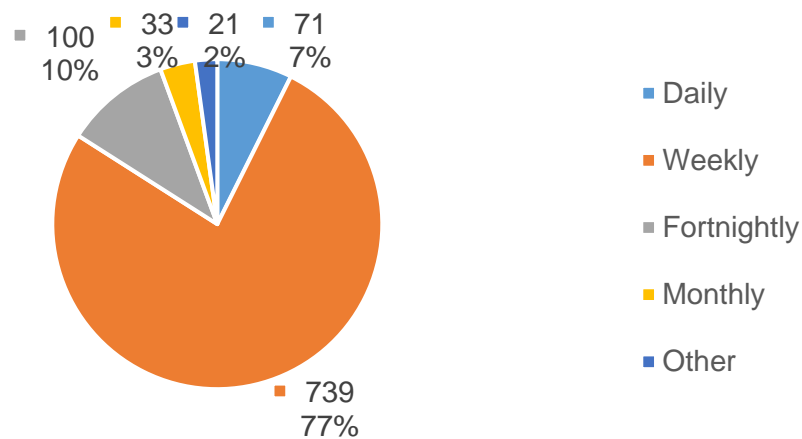


Breakdown of third and fourth-year submission question "STFC expects student projects to be planned and supported such that they may be completed within the funded duration of the studentship. Do you consider your institution actively encourages students to complete their PhD, including writing up, within the funded duration of the studentship?" by research area:-



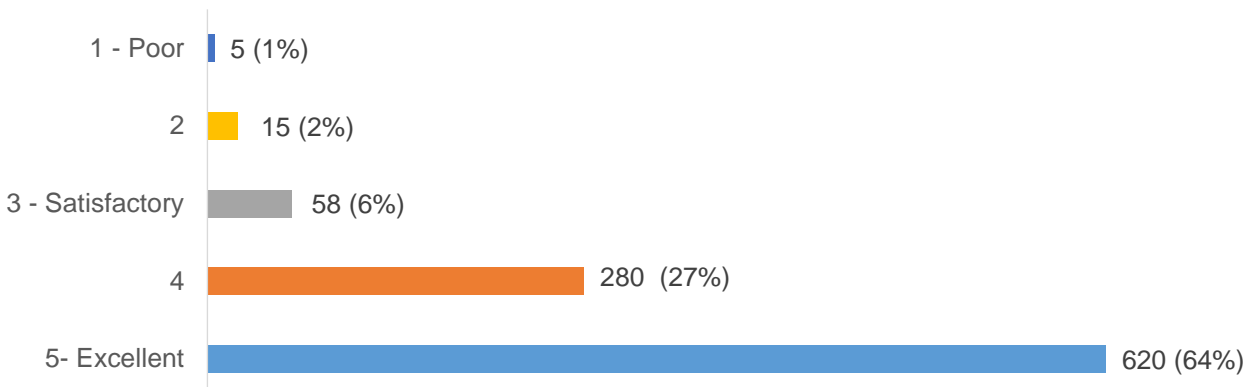
## SUPERVISORY ARRANGEMENTS

Frequency of contact with supervisor

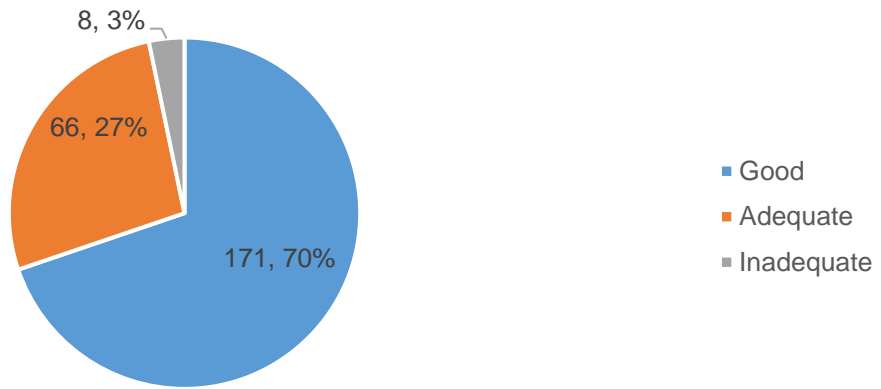


**84%** of students stated that they received help/advice from a second supervisor or other people in their department.

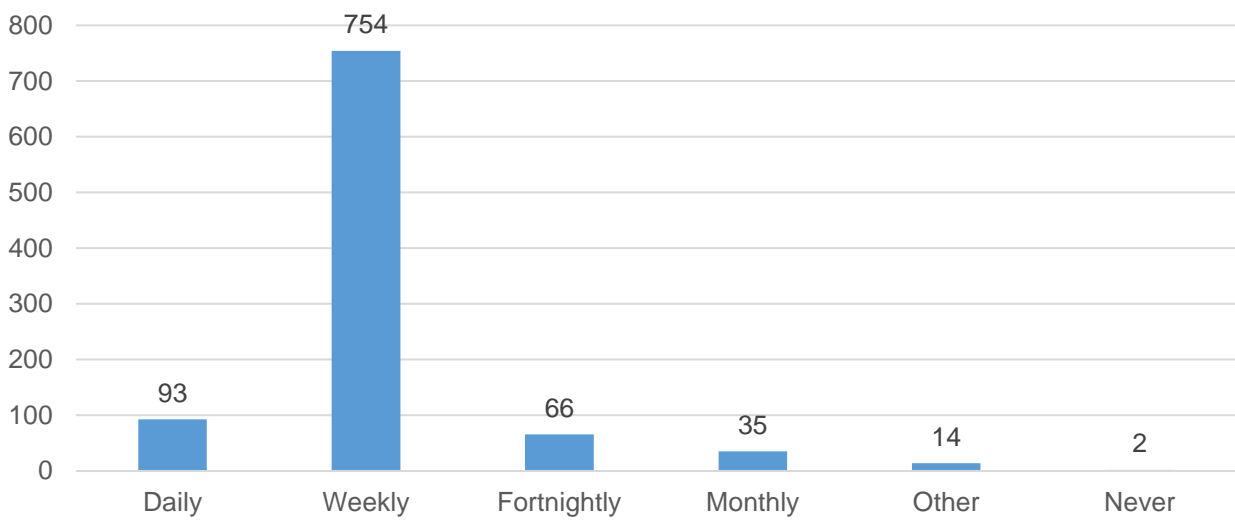
Usefulness of Supervision



Rating of Induction Programme (1<sup>st</sup> year students only – 245 responses)



### Attendance at group/departmental seminars



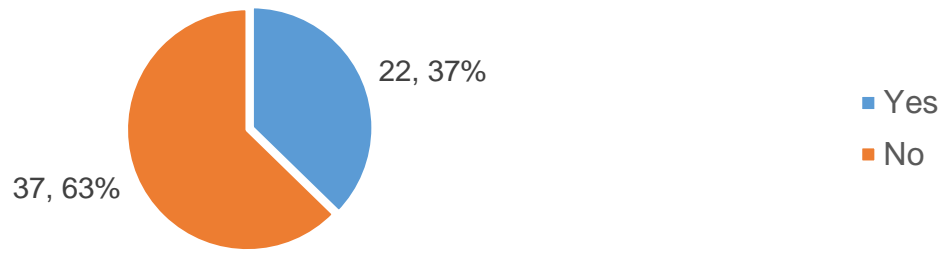
**88%** of students attended group/departmental seminars once a week or more.

### WELLBEING

Have you encountered problems or difficulties with your **supervisory team**, whether professional or personal?

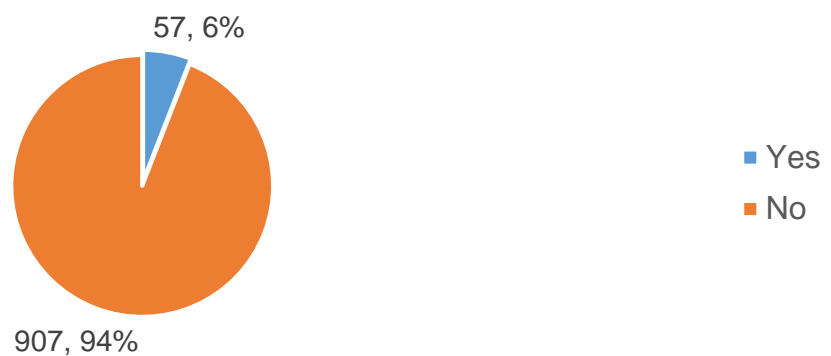


Did you report this to your institution?

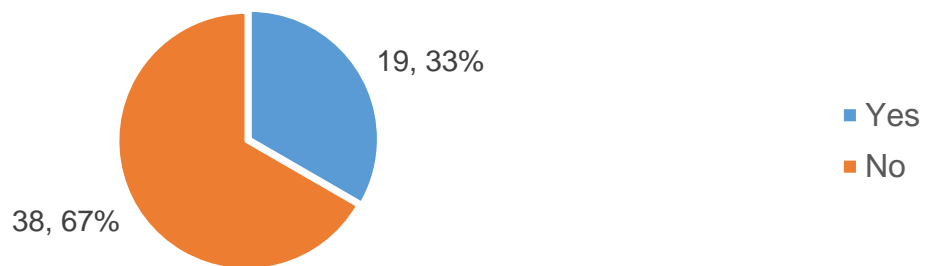


Of the **22** students that reported difficulties **10** students were satisfied with the way their problems were handled and **12** were not.

Have you encountered any problems or difficulties with other members of your **department**, whether professional or personal?



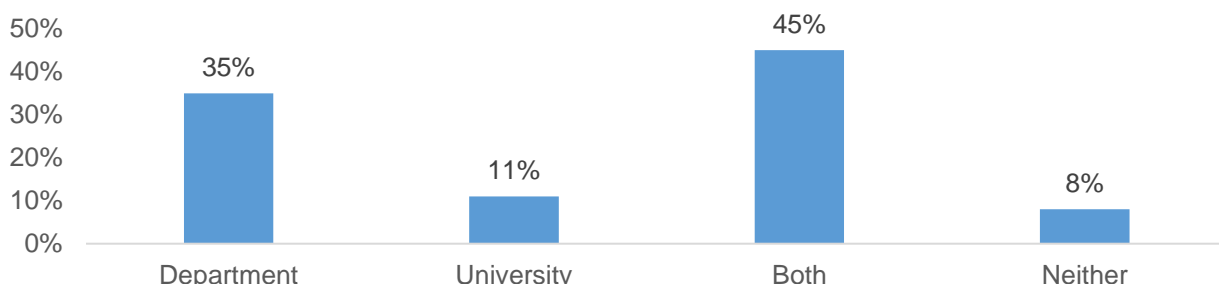
Did you report this to your institution?



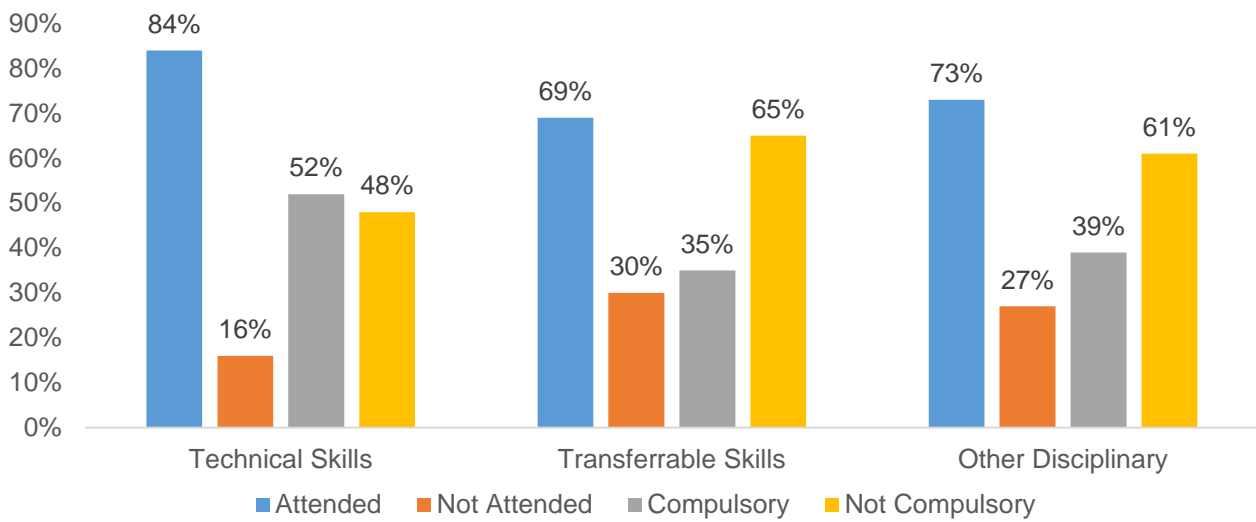
Of the **19** students that reported the problems to their institution **12** were satisfied with the way their problems were handled and **7** were not.

### TRAINING PROGRAMME

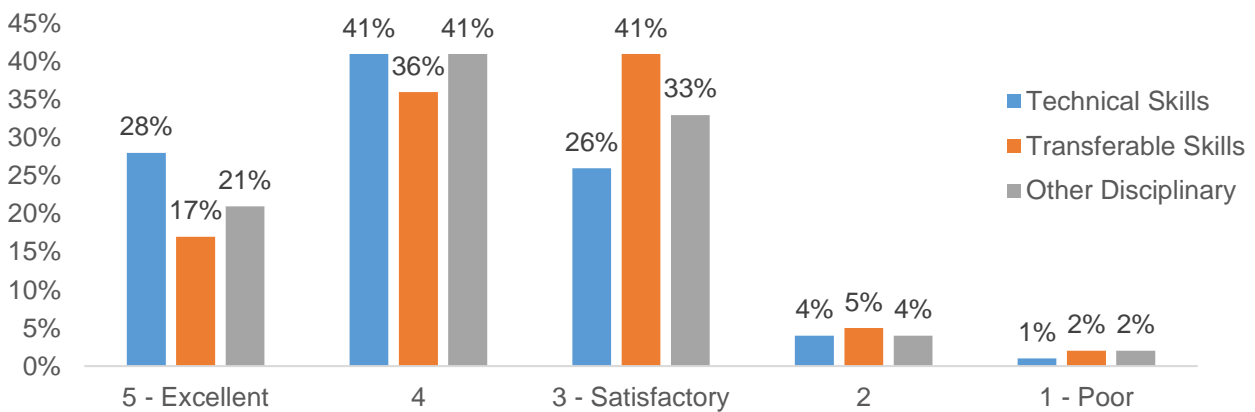
Formal training (e.g. lectures) provided during first year



Take up of technical, transferable and other disciplinary skills



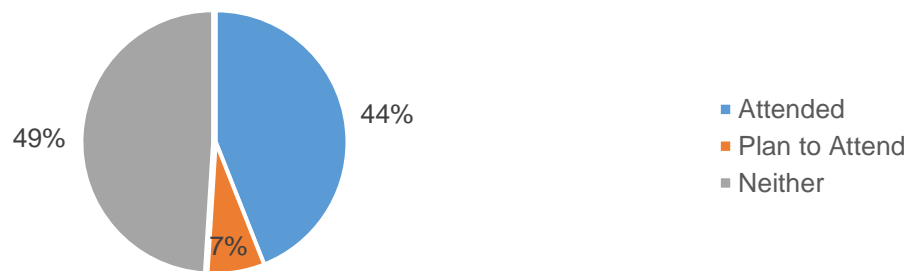
Usefulness of technical, transferable and other disciplinary skills training –



**79%** of students cited that their department had a nominated Postgraduate tutor with overall responsibility for co-ordinating their research training.

Astronomy students' attendance at the Introductory to Astronomy Summer School

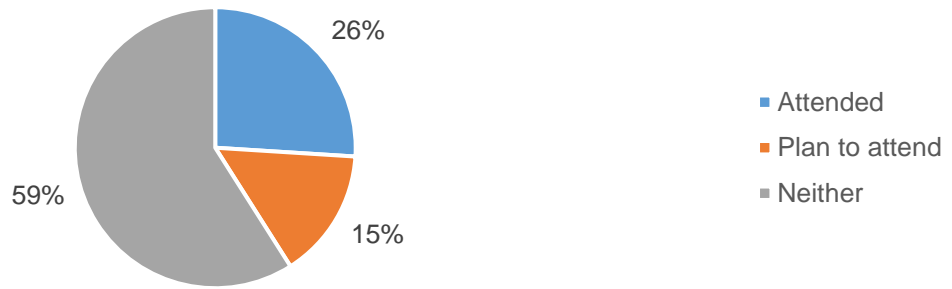
**379** Astronomy students responded to questionnaire



Solar students' attendance at Introductory to Solar System Science Summer School

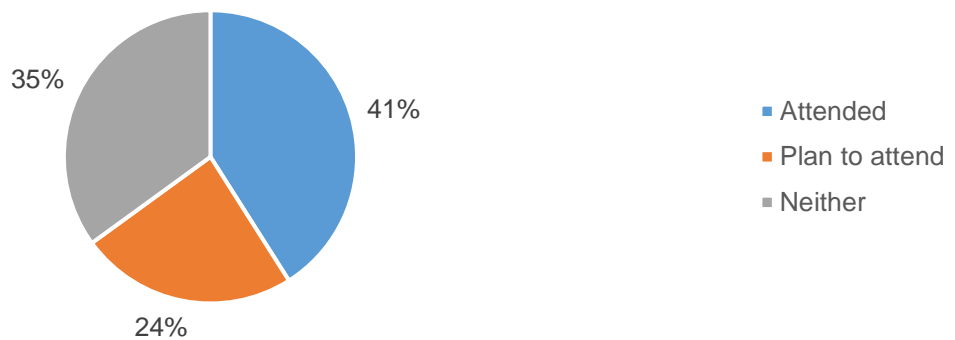
**112** Solar System students responded to questionnaire





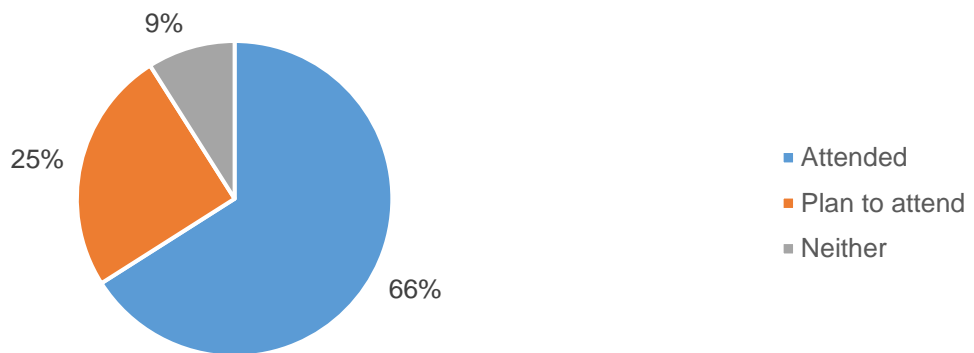
Particle Physics students' attendance at BUSSTEPP – British Universities Summer School in Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics

104 Particle Physics Theory students responded to questionnaire



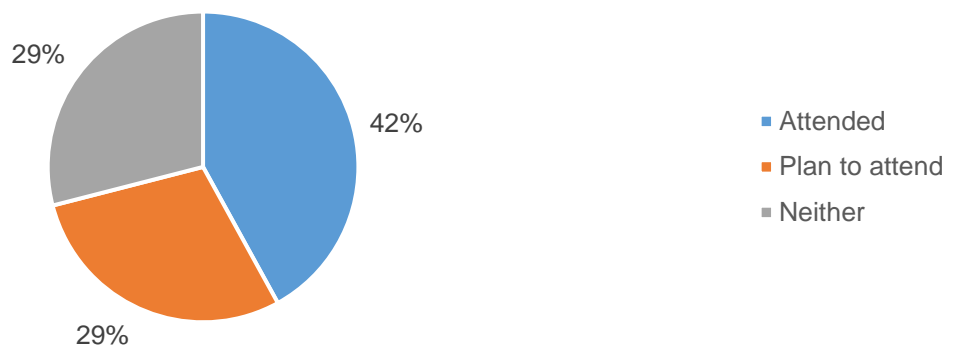
Particle Physics students' attendance at High Energy Physics Summer School (HEP)

219 Particle Physics Experimental students responded to questionnaire

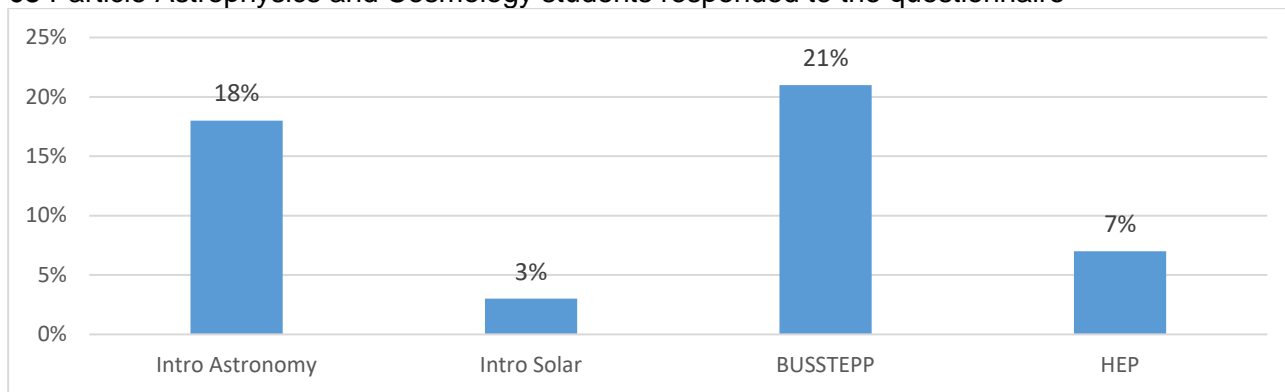


Nuclear Physics students' attendance at Nuclear Summer School

45 Nuclear Physics students responded to questionnaire



Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology students' attendance at summer schools  
**68** Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology students responded to the questionnaire

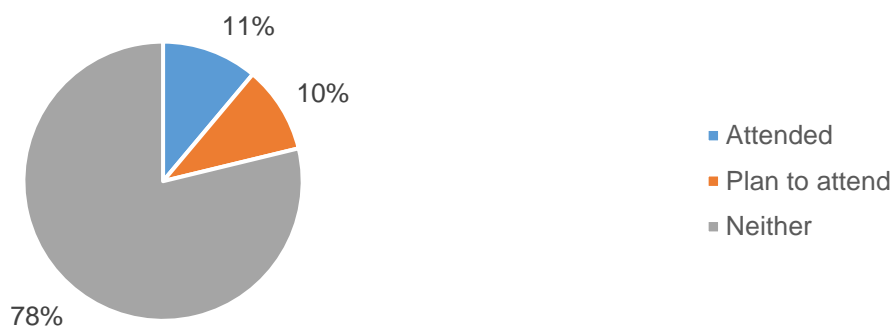


There were **34** Accelerator Science students that completed the questionnaire, but none had attended any of the fundamental summer schools.

Research Councils' Graduate Schools Programme



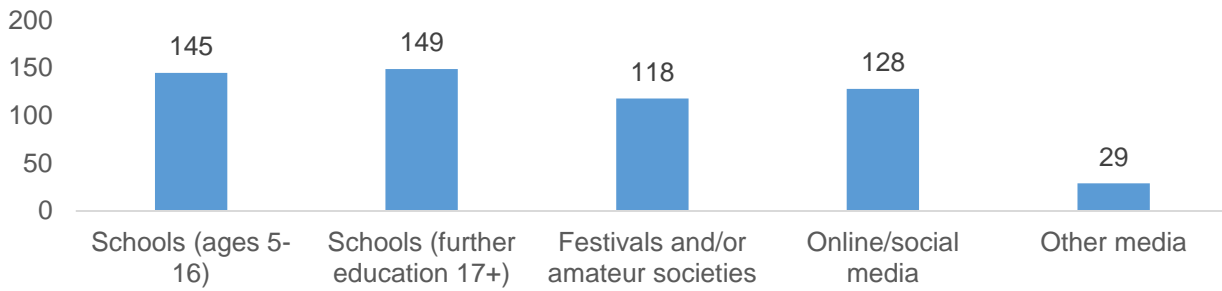
Other STFC Funded Summer Schools or Short Courses



**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

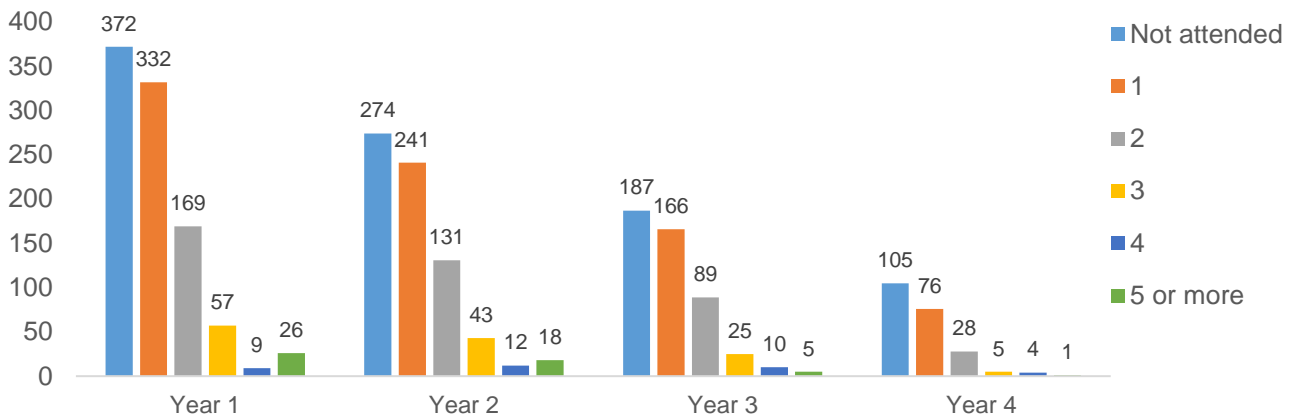
Communicated research to wider public audience

**32%** of students had communicated research to a wider public audience and many communicated to more than one audience.

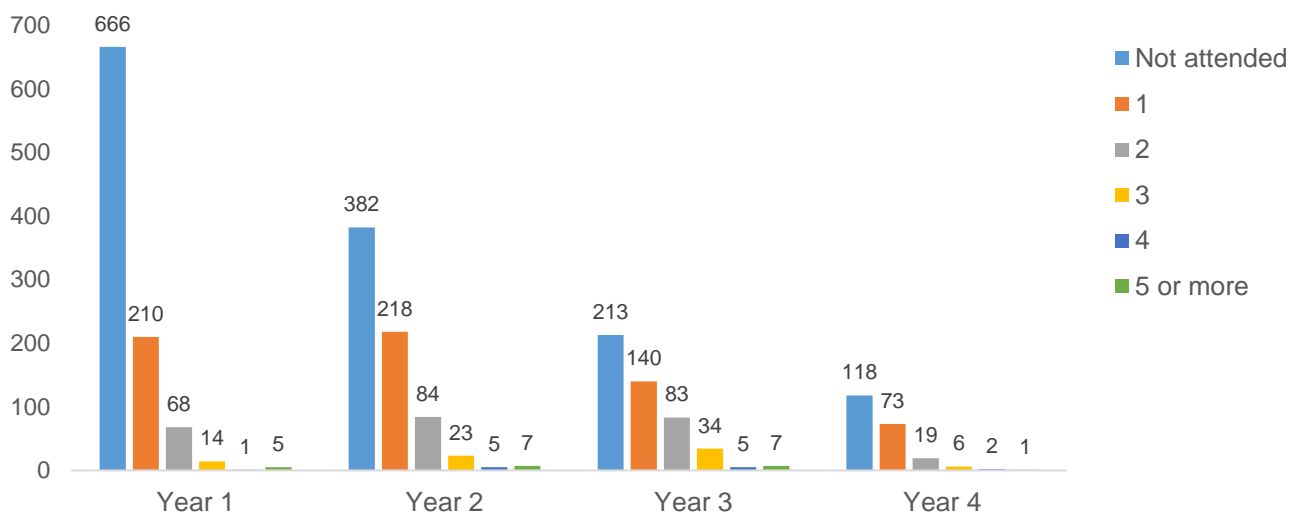


'Other' forms of public engagement students mentioned were radio, interviews with journalists for print media, pint of science, outreach talk at IoA open evening, CERN tour guide, podcast, eyes on Mars, LGBTQ and STEM events, Mars week, academic journal, BBC news interview, parliament, documentary, 3-minute public thesis competition, conferences for women in physics, pub quiz, outreach days and other invited talks.

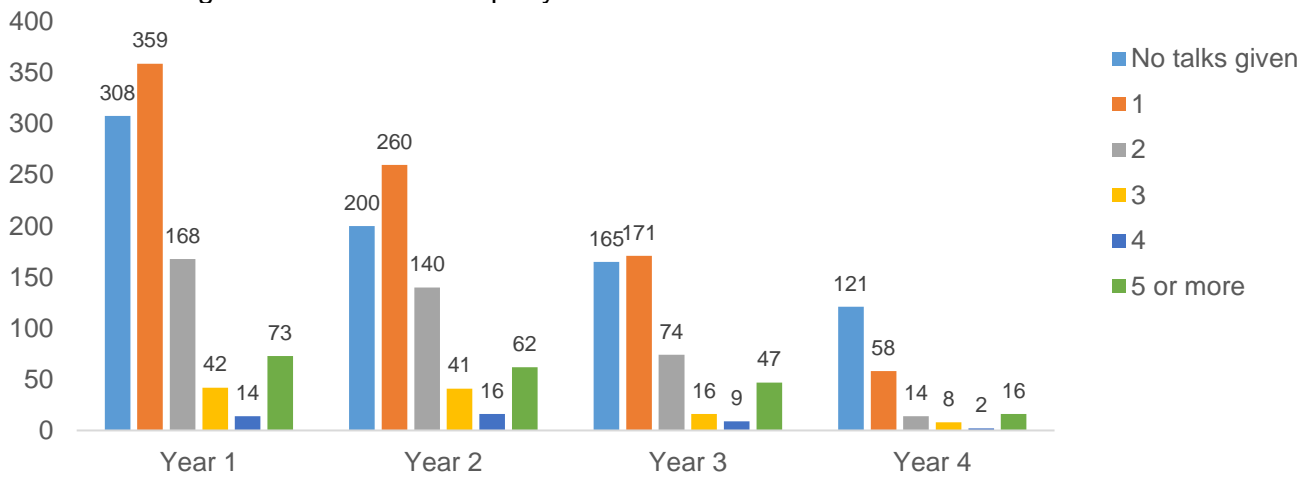
### Attendance at UK workshops or conferences by year



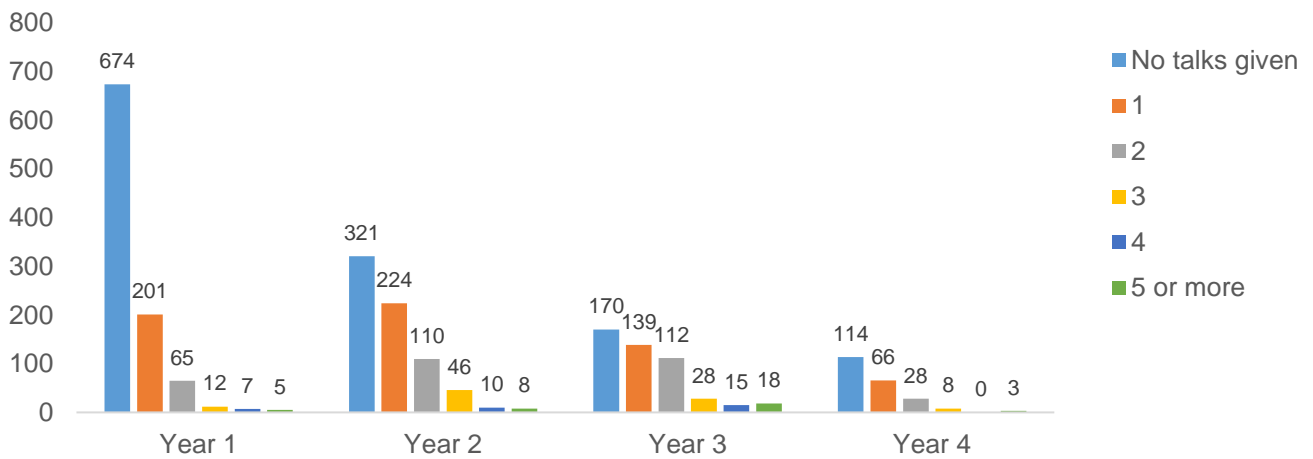
### Attendance at overseas workshops or conferences by year



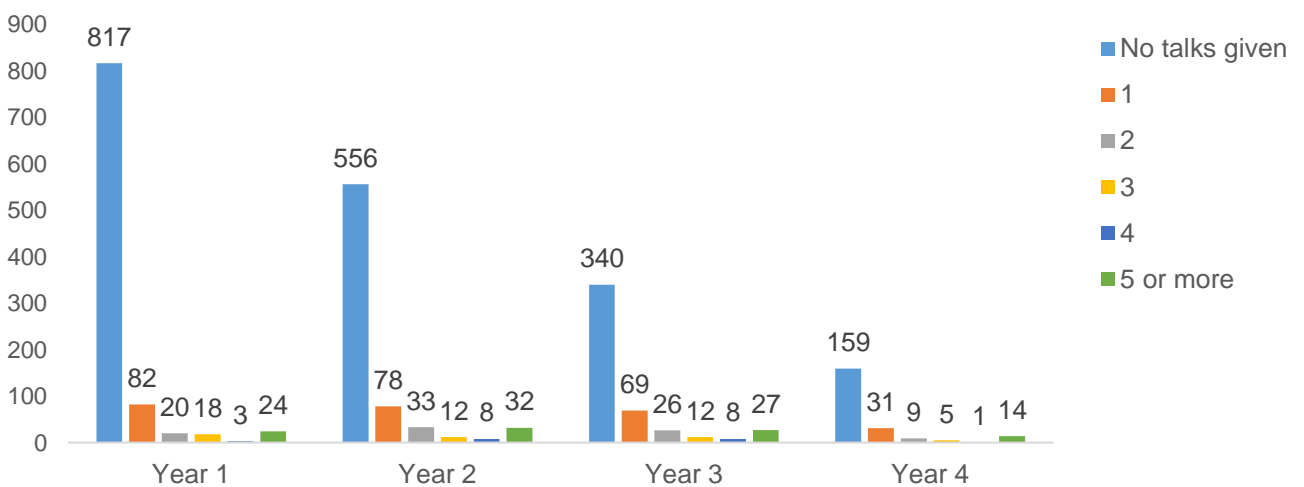
### Research talks given within institution per year



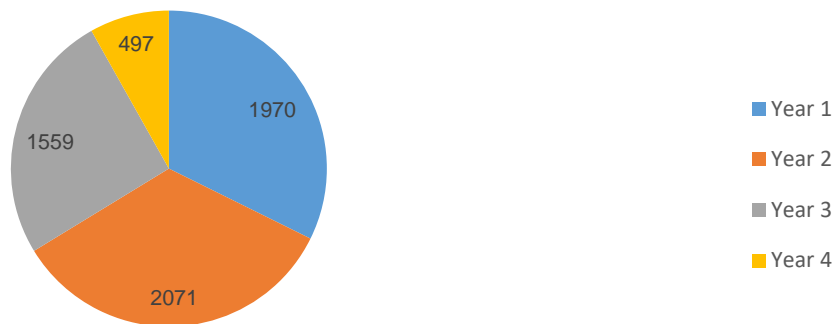
### Research talks given at conferences and or workshops per year



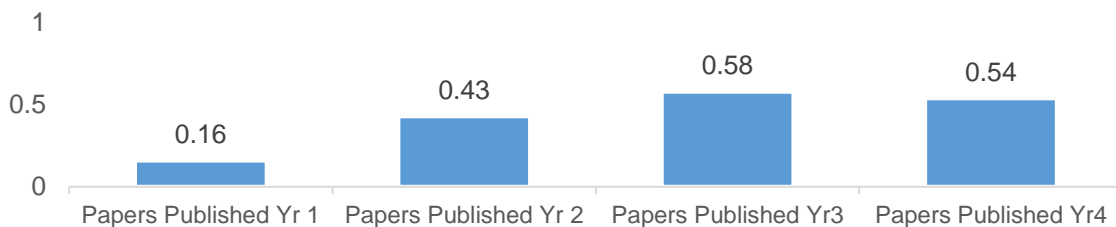
### Research talks given at other external events



Total number of Research talks given



Average number of papers published per student in each year

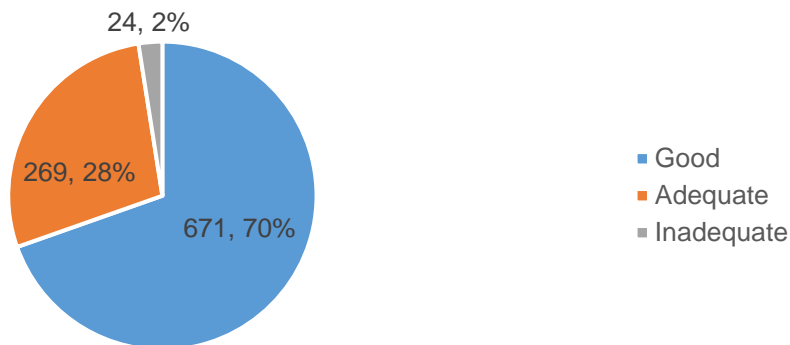


Year	No of Students	No of Papers Published in year	Average per student per year
1	964	153	0.16
2	719	306	0.43
3	482	278	0.58
4	219	119	0.54

In total the current 4<sup>th</sup> year students have published **406** papers during their awards. This equates to an average of **1.85** papers each during their studentship.

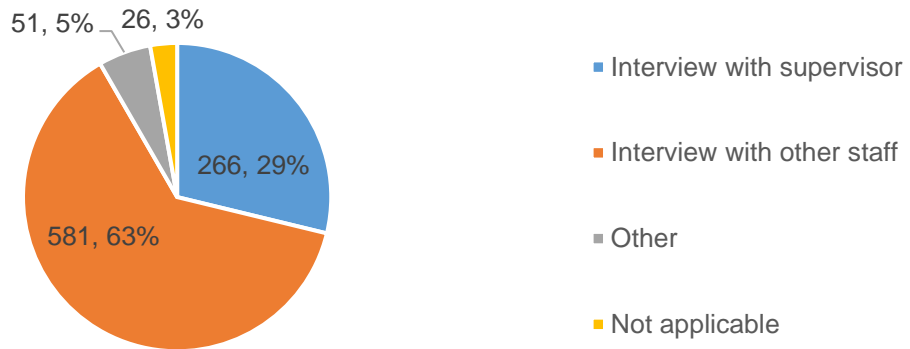
**MONITORING**

Rating of overall training



**74%** of students were required to submit a written progress report on their PhD in 2022/23.

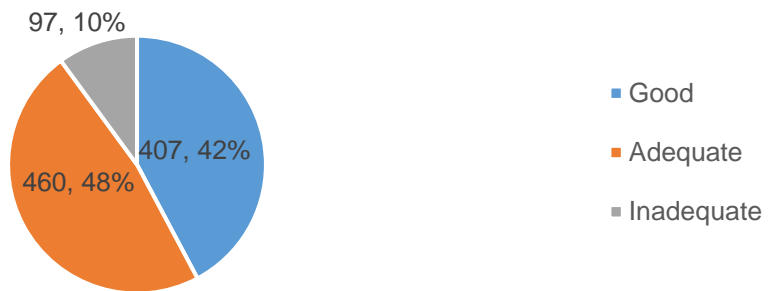
Assessment of progress report



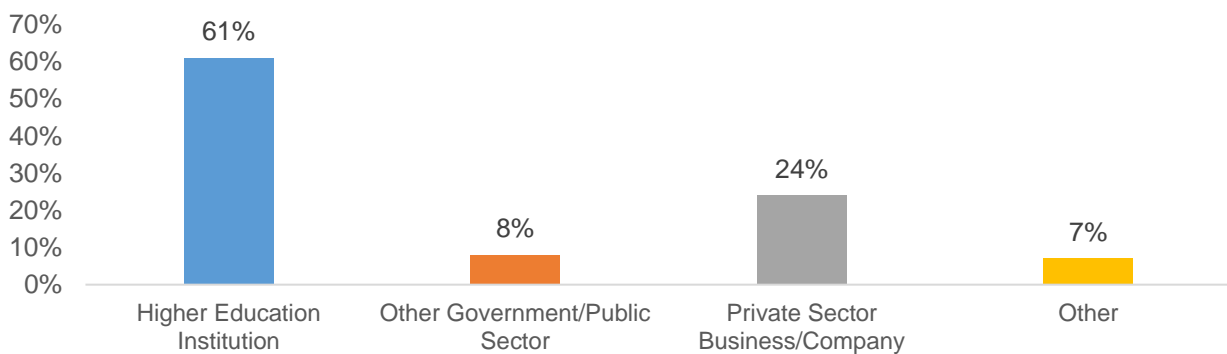
Other forms of assessments included research log, progression panel, poster presentation, presentation/seminar with Q&A, literature review, completion of thesis and viva.

### FUTURE CAREER

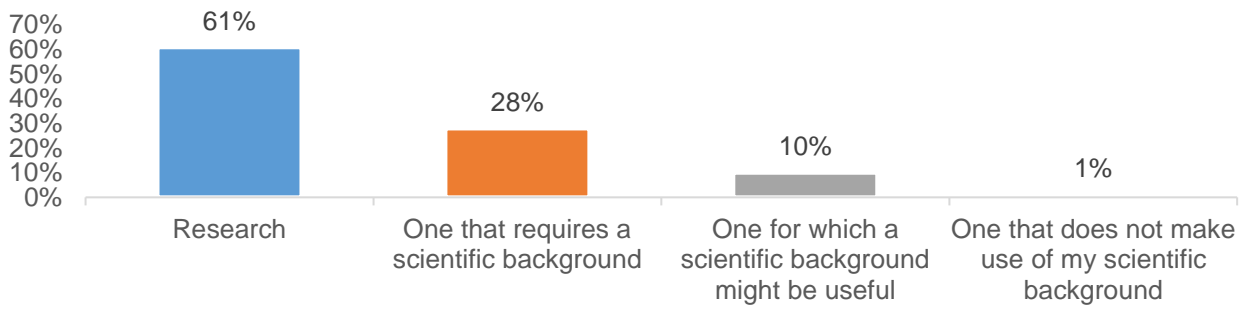
Rating of career guidance available during PhD



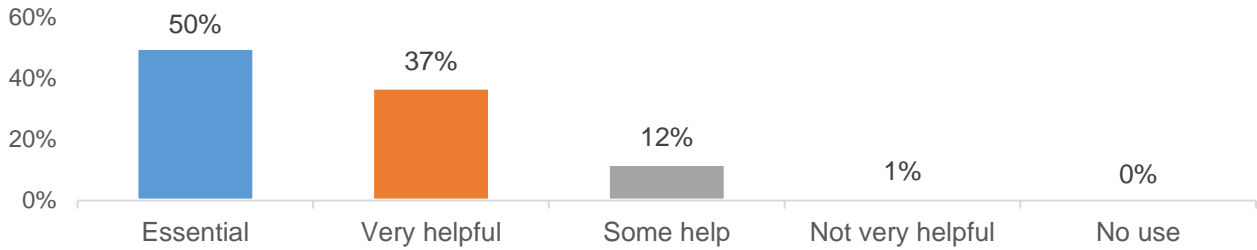
Type of organisation wish to work for upon completion of PhD



Sort of role intend to work in upon completion of PhD

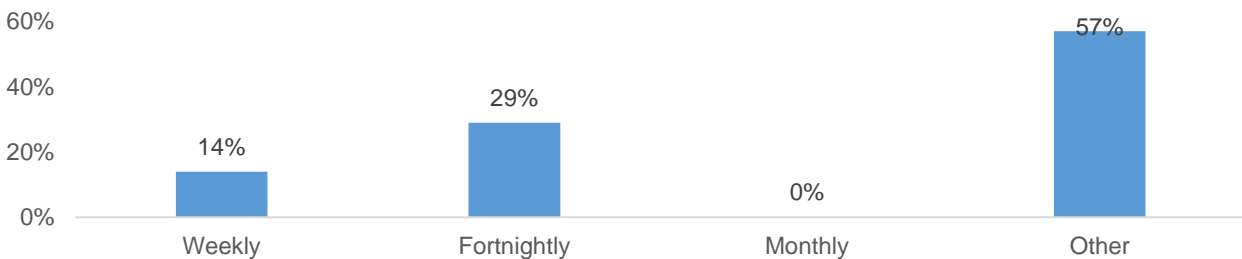


To what extent do you think your PhD will help you get a job?



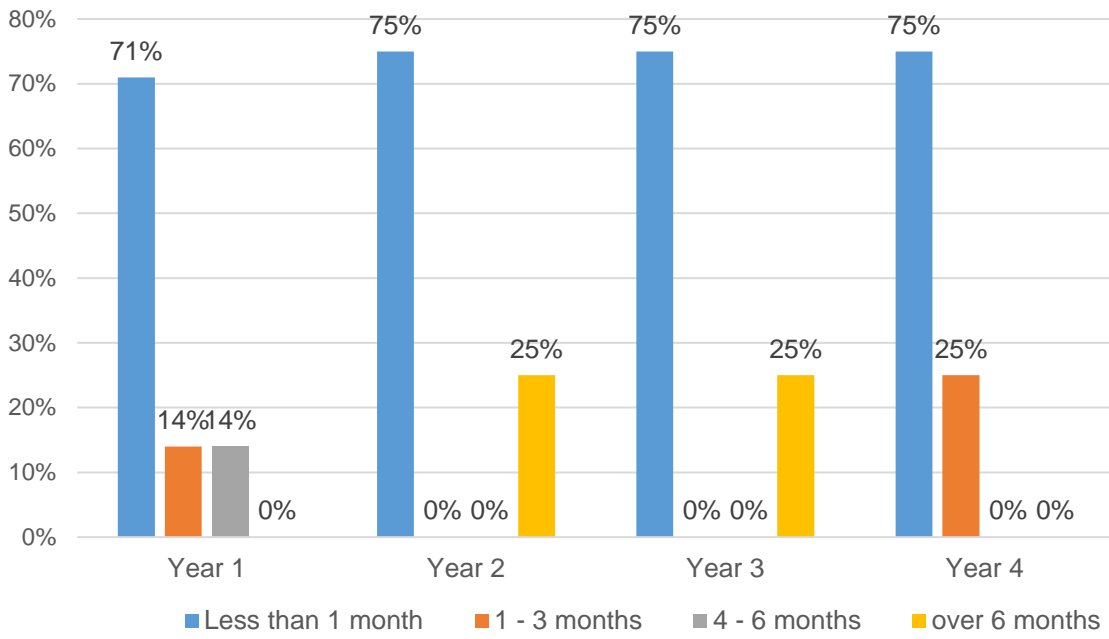
## INDUSTRIAL CASE STUDENTSHIPS

Frequency of contact with Industrial partner  
 7 Industrial CASE students responded to the survey



The CASE industrial students had varying amounts of contact with their CASE partner from a weekly contact to irregular contact.

Time spent on premises of Industrial partner per year  
 7 Industrial CASE students responded to this question on the survey: 3 in their first year, none in their second year, 1 in their third year and 3 in their fourth year.



Students are expected to spend 3 months a year on average at their CASE Industrial Partner premises.

END OF REPORT  
May 2023