

STFC ANNUAL STUDENT SURVEY 2017

In July 2017, the Office contacted all current students and their supervisors to request them to complete the survey. The deadline for completion of the survey was 14 August 2017. A total of 645 students responded out of the 827 students who were contacted (78% 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:

76% of students met with their supervisor at least once a week.

88% of students rated their supervision that they received as 4 or 5 (i.e. good/excellent)

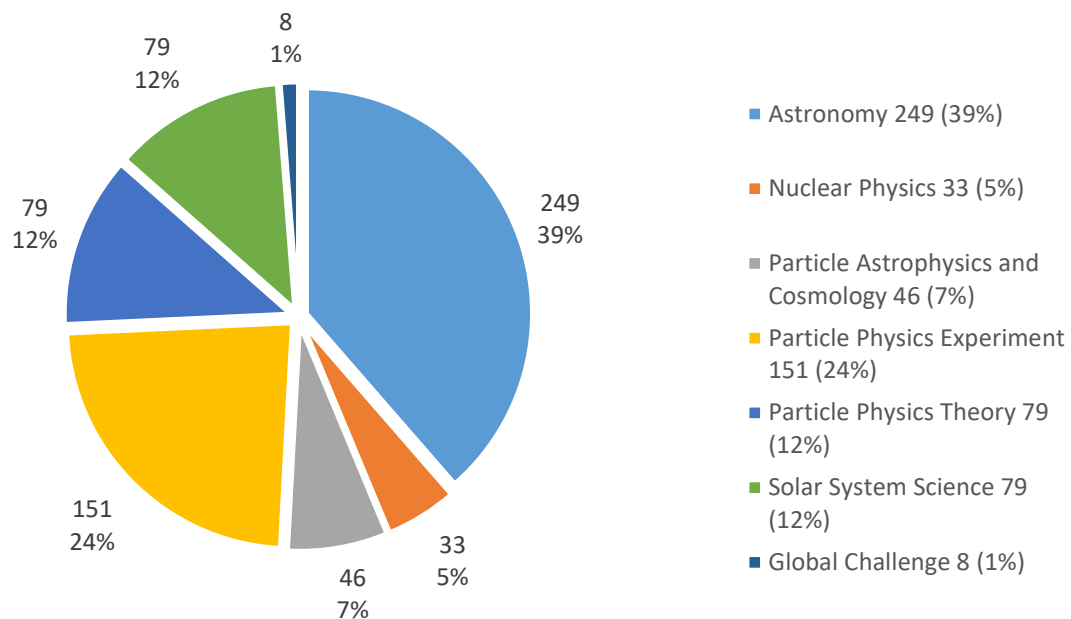
83% of students had received formal training in the first year

59% of students wished to pursue a career in academia.

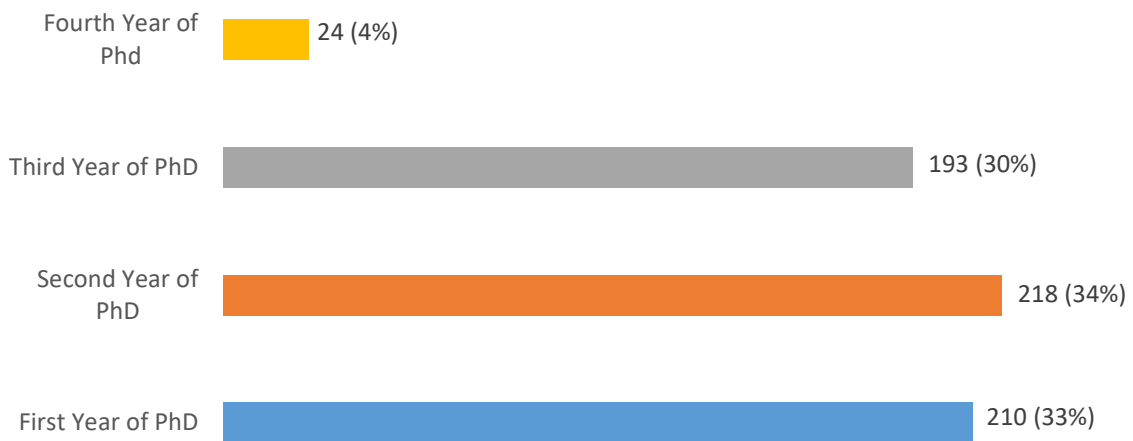
97% of students rated their overall training as good/adequate.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

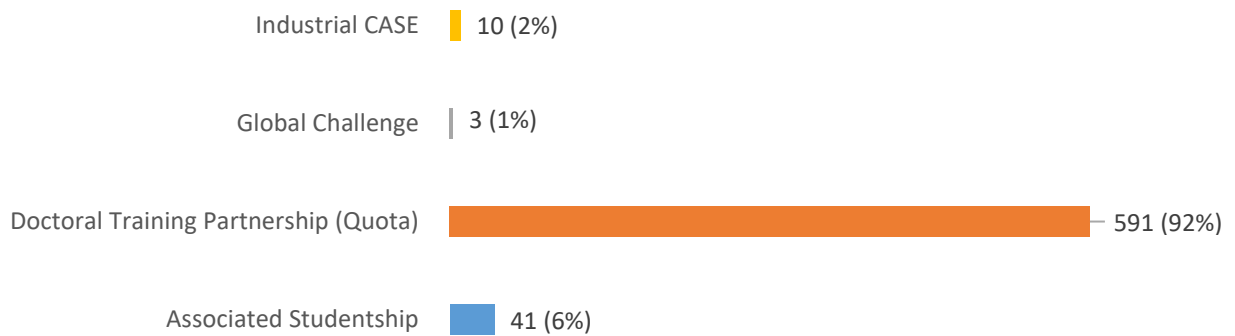
General Field of Research



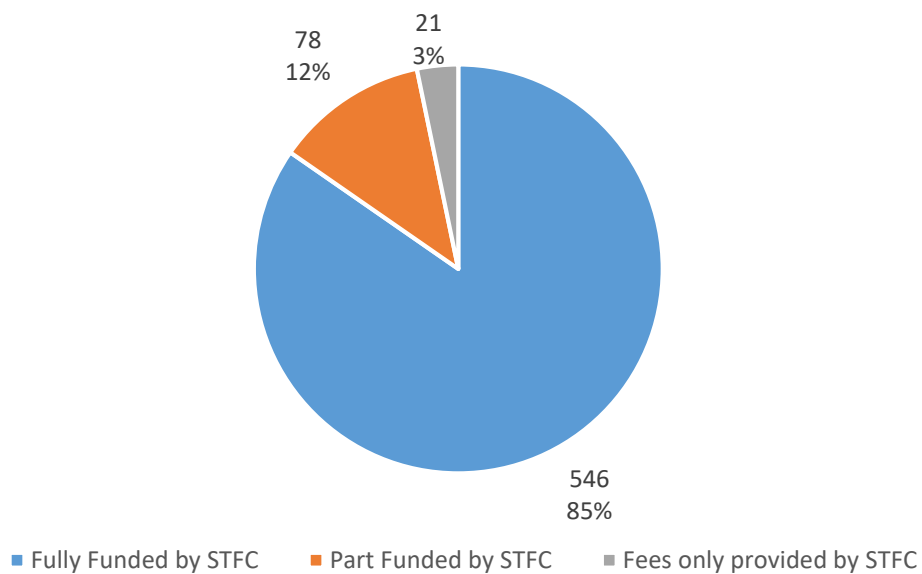
Year of PhD



Type of Studentship

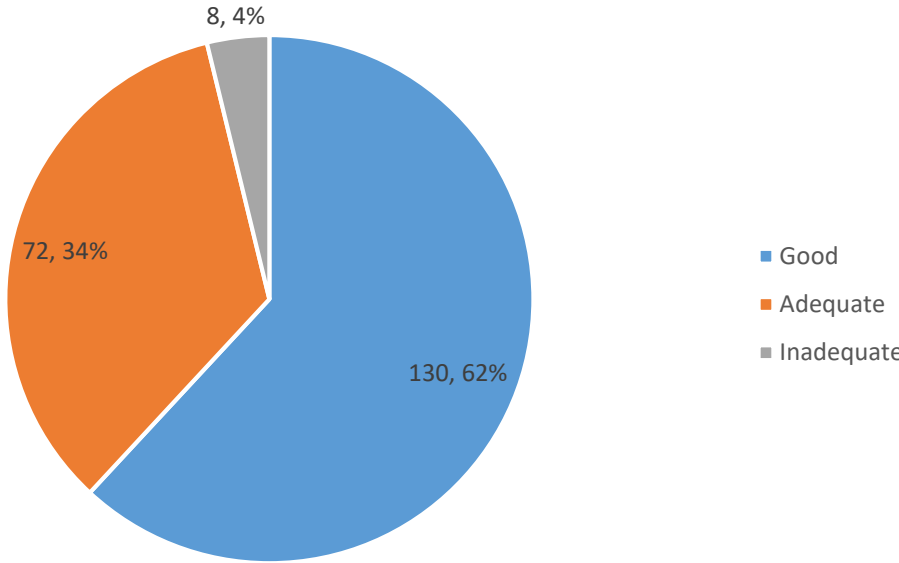


Form of funding received

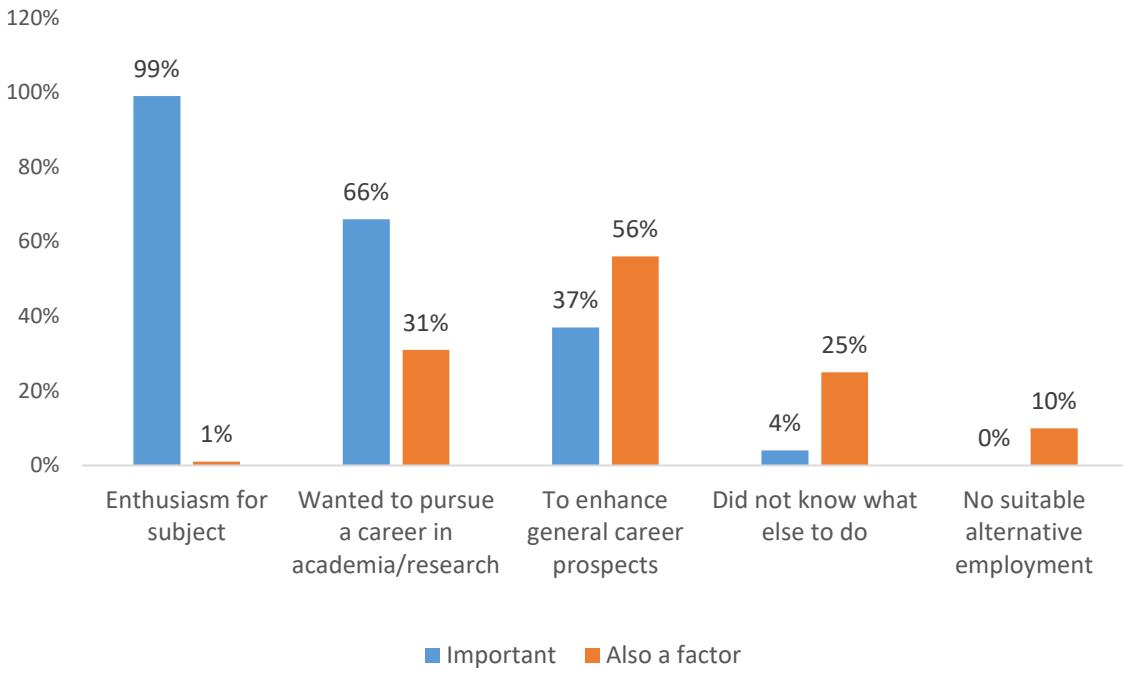


642 students were full time and just **3** part time.

Rating of Induction Programme (1st year students only – 210 responses)

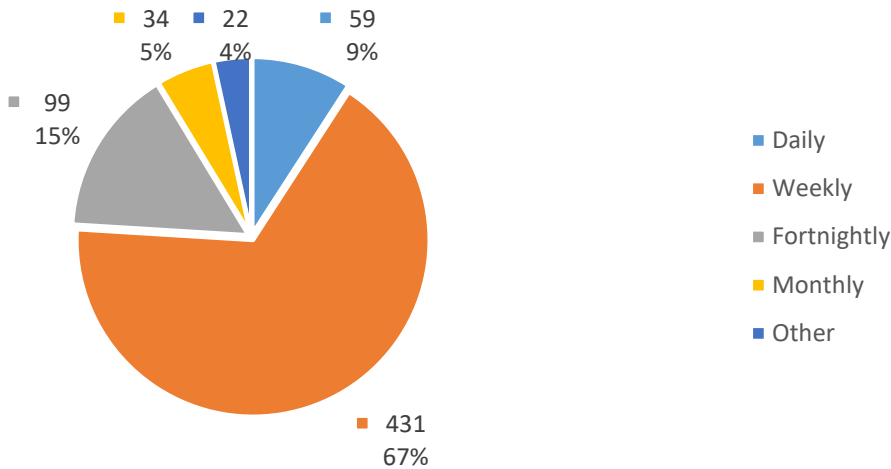


Reasons for undertaking a PhD (1st year students only – 213 responses)



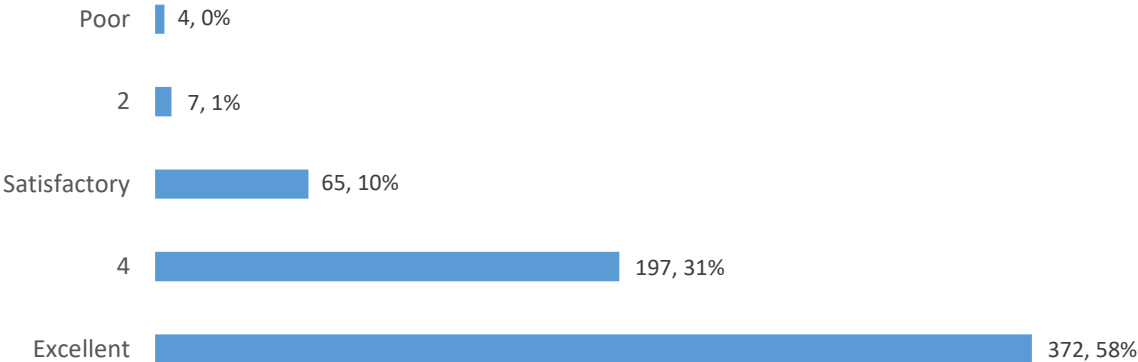
SUPERVISORY ARRANGEMENTS

Frequency of contact with supervisor



84% of students stated that they received help/advice from a second supervisor or other people in their department. Examples of those cited to be of help were Post Docs, other PhD students, collaborators and other members of the department.

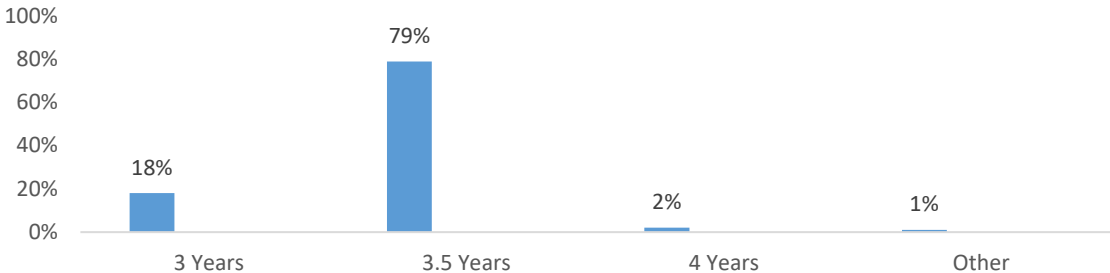
Usefulness of Supervision



Funding period

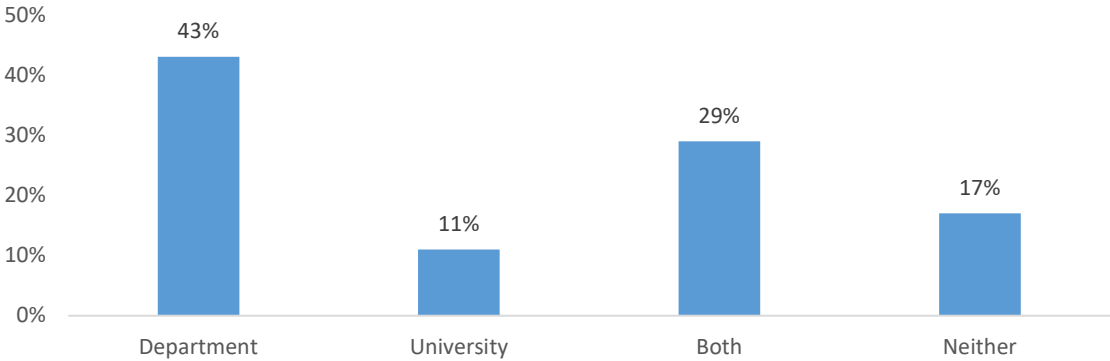
90% of students confirmed their funding period was discussed and agreed with their supervisor at the beginning of their PhD.

How long is funded period?



TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

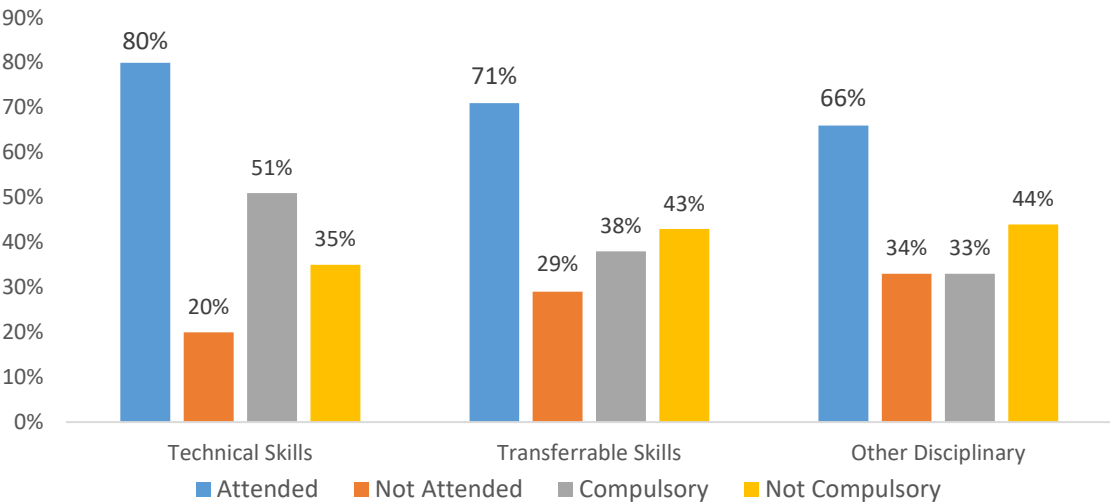


Attendance at group/departmental seminars

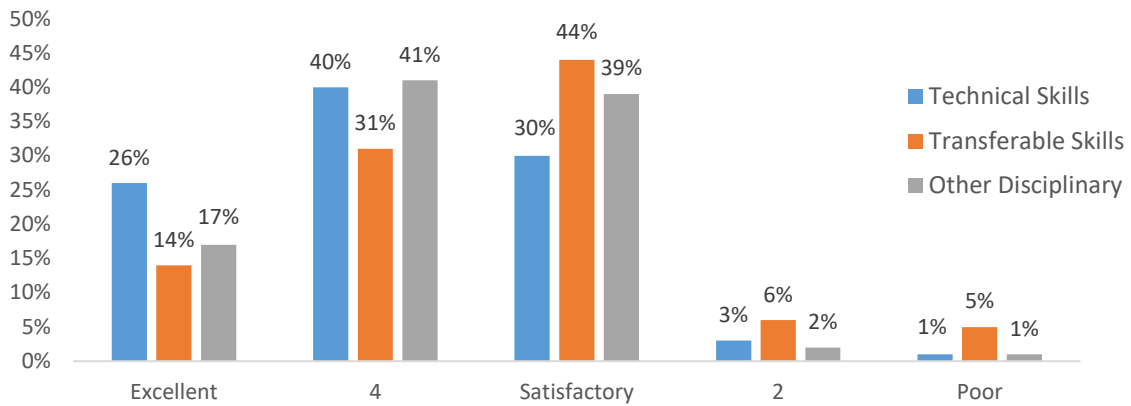


81% of students attended group/departmental seminars once a week or more.

Take up of technical, transferable and other disciplinary skills



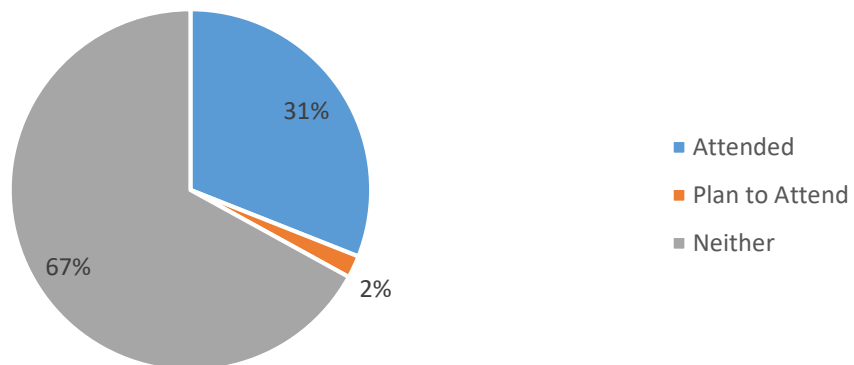
Usefulness of technical, transferable and other disciplinary skills training –



78% of students cited that their department had a nominated Postgraduate tutor with overall responsibility for co-ordinating their research training.

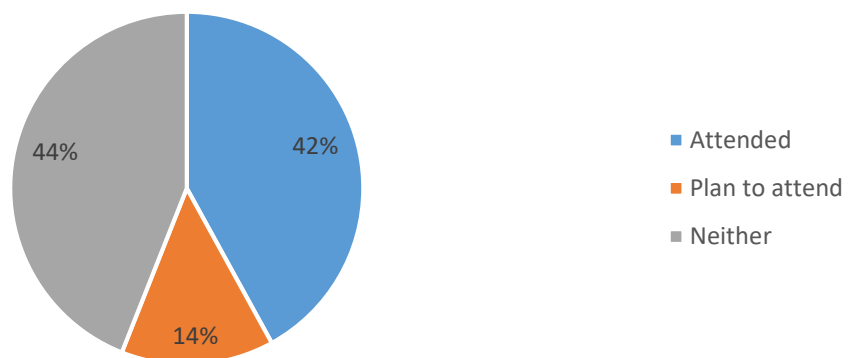
Astronomy students' attendance at the Introductory to Astronomy Summer School

249 Astronomy students responded to questionnaire

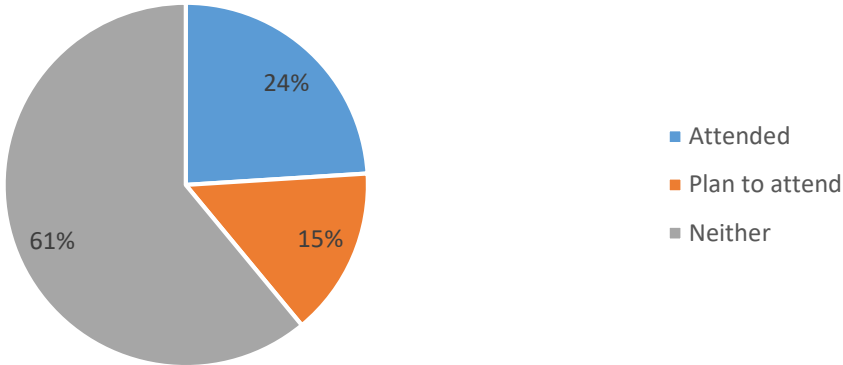


Solar students' attendance at Introductory to Solar System Science Summer School

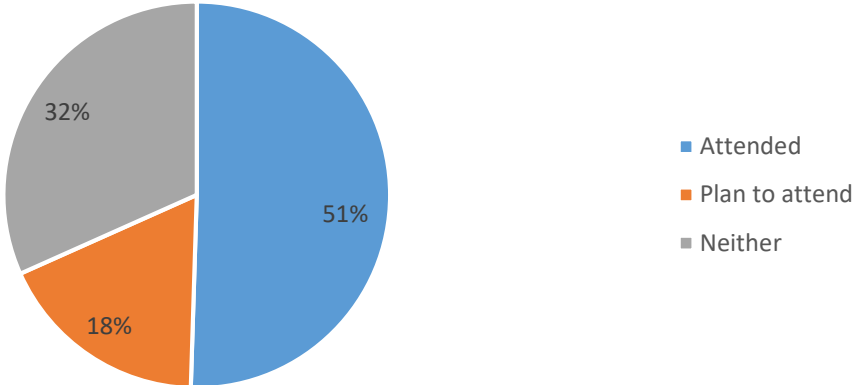
79 Solar System students responded to questionnaire



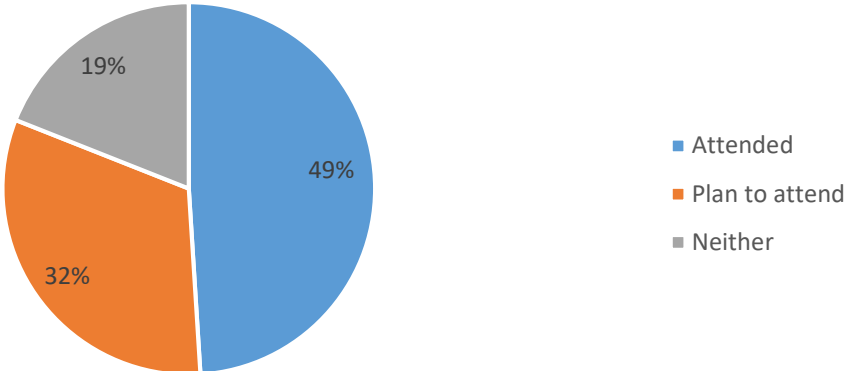
Solar students' attendance at the Advanced Solar System Science Summer School
79 Solar System students responded to questionnaire



Particle Physics students' attendance at BUSSTEPP – British Universities Summer School in Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics
79 Particle Physics Theory students responded to questionnaire

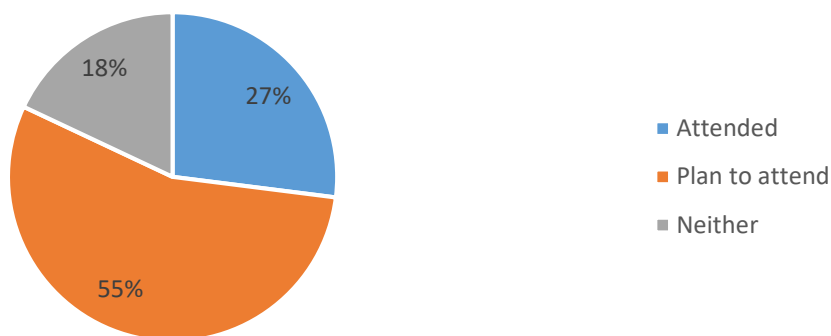


Particle Physics students' attendance at High Energy Physics Summer School (HEP)
151 Particle Physics Experimental students responded to questionnaire

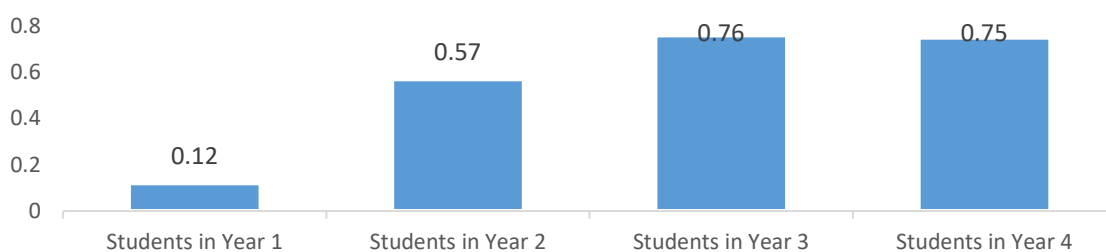


Nuclear Physics students' attendance at Nuclear Summer School

33 Nuclear Physics students responded to questionnaire



Average Number of Papers Published per student so far

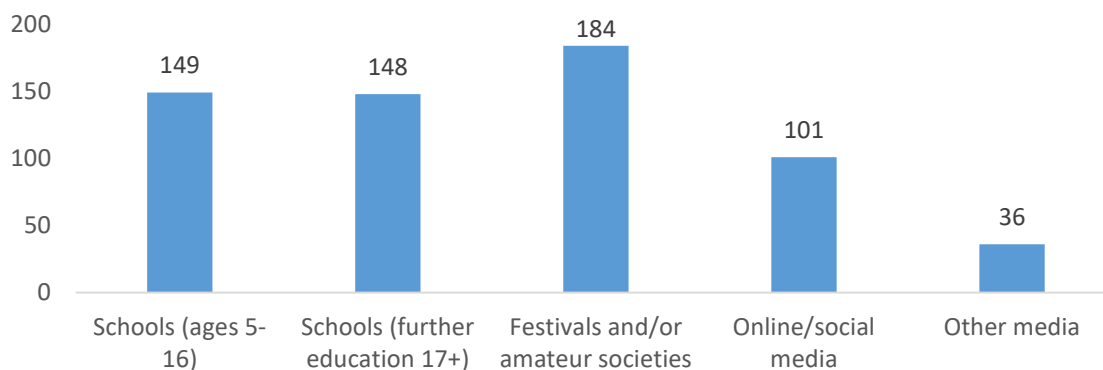


Year	No of Students	No of Papers Published	Average per student per year
1	640 responded	145	0.22
2	430 responded	283	0.65
3	221 responded	174	0.78
4	24	18	0.75

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

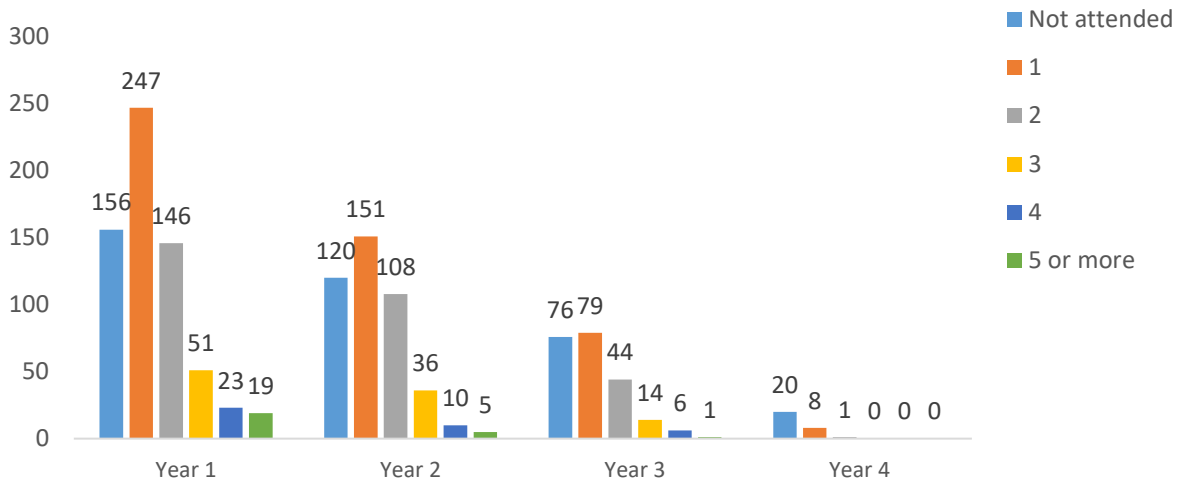
Communicated research to wider public audience

49% of students had communicated research to a wider public audience and many communicated to more than one audience.

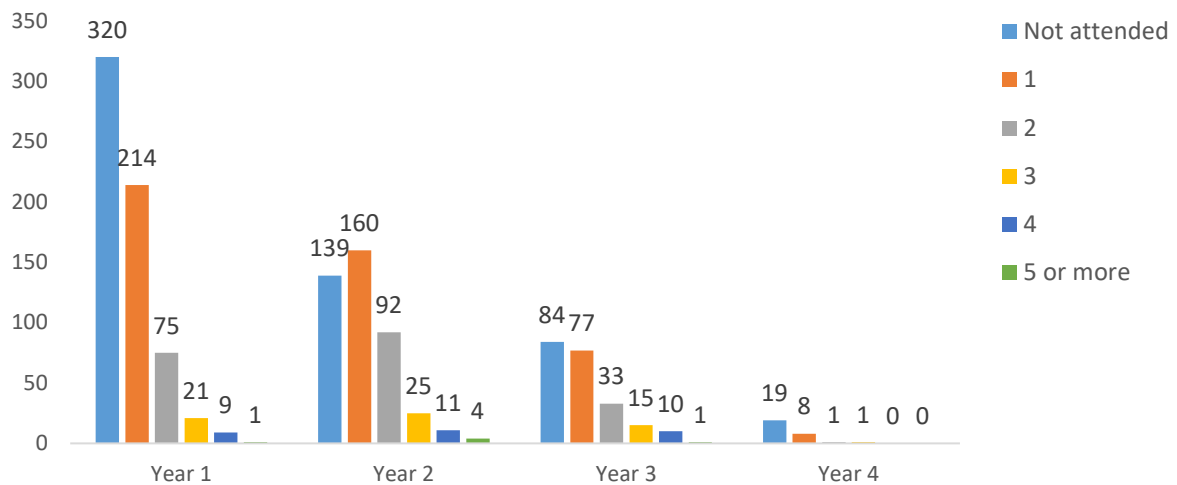


'Other' forms of public engagement students mentioned were blogs, talks, written articles, press releases, radio, television and personal interactions.

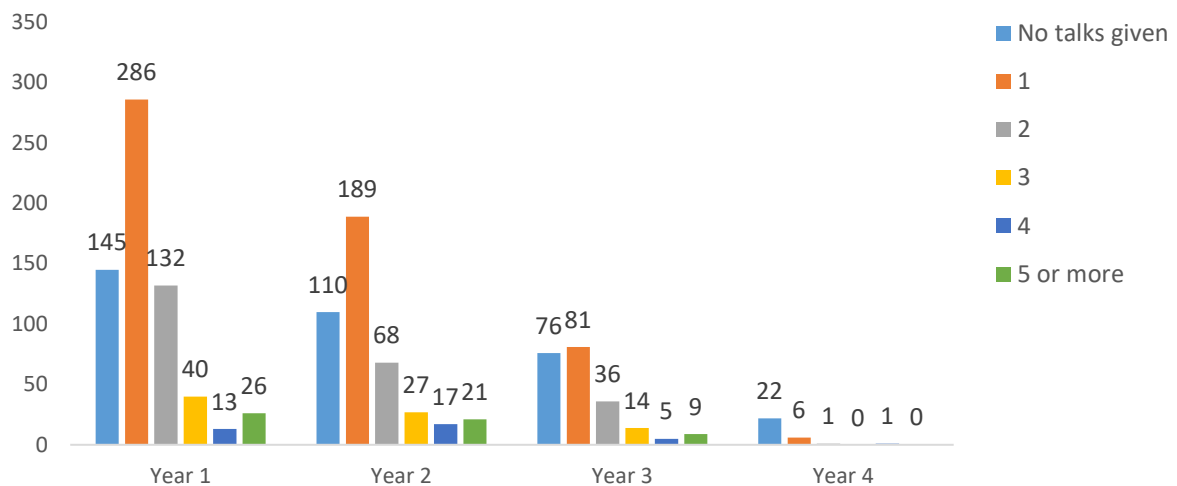
Attendance at UK workshops or conferences by year



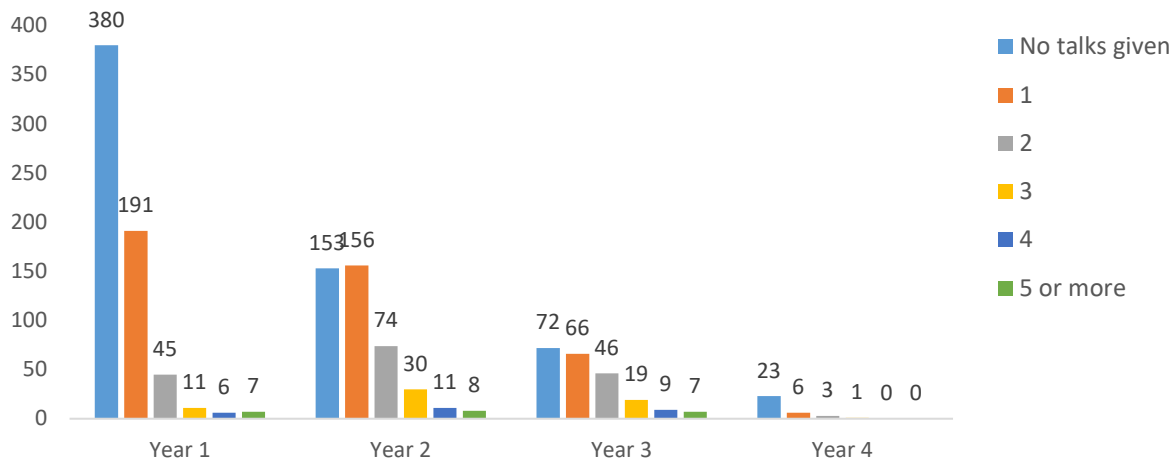
Attendance at overseas workshops or conferences by year



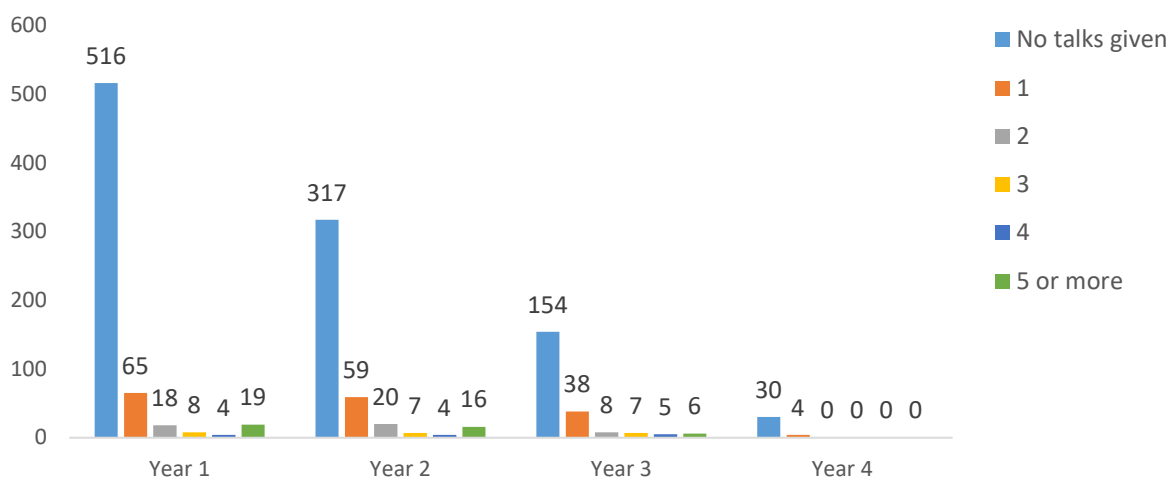
Research talks given within institution per year



Research talks given at conferences and or workshops per year

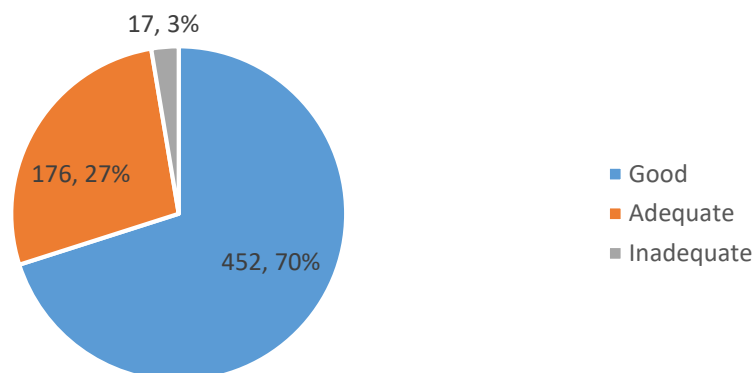


Research talks give at other external events



MONITORING

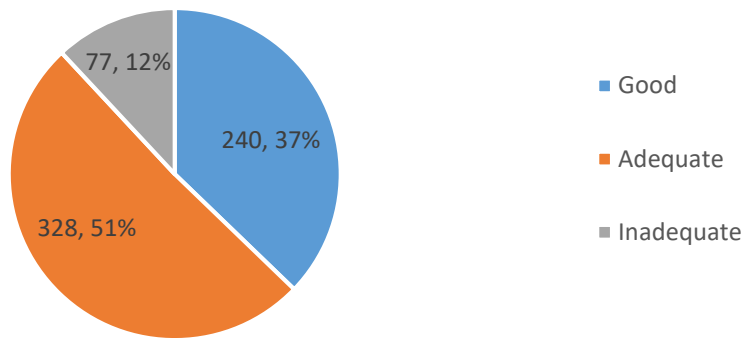
Rating of overall training



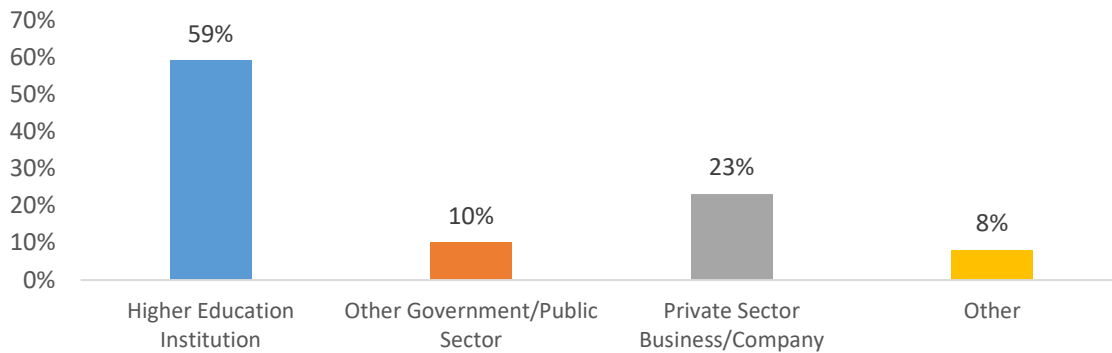
78% of students were required to submit a written progress report on their PhD in 2017. **23%** of students stated that their progress report was assessed by an interview with their supervisor, **67%** stated that the assessment was by interview with other staff. Other forms of assessments included; poster presentation, presentation/seminar with Q&A, completion of thesis and viva.

FUTURE CAREER

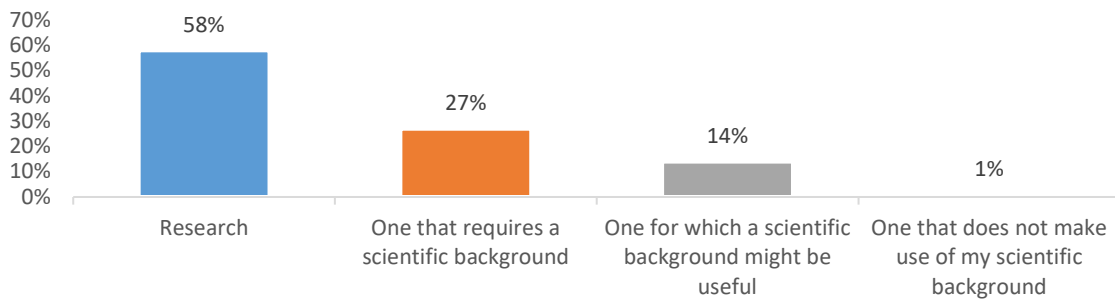
Rating of career guidance available during PhD



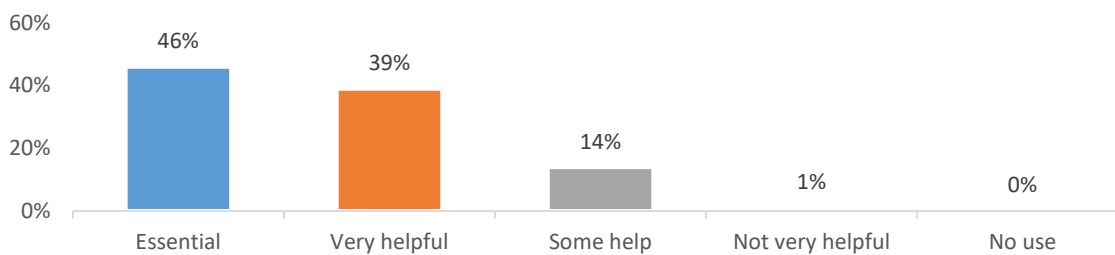
Organisation wish to work for upon completion of PhD



Sort of role intend to work in upon completion of PhD



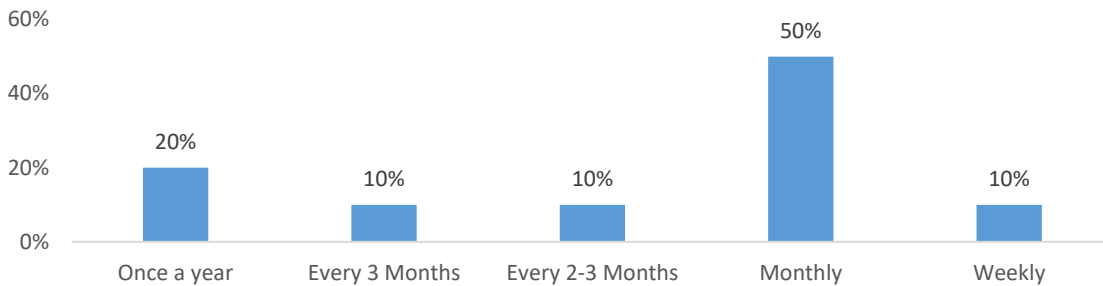
To what extent do you think your PhD will help you get a job?



INDUSTRIAL CASE STUDENTSHIPS

Frequency of contact with Industrial partner

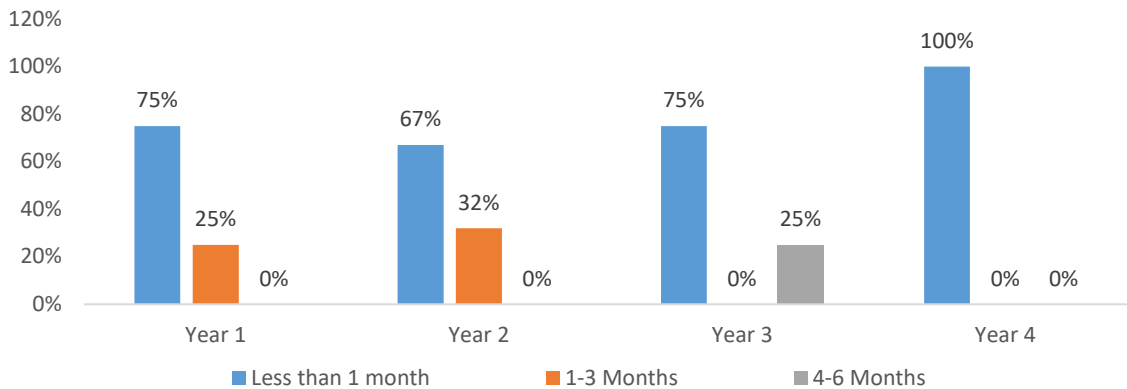
10 Industrial CASE students responded to the survey



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

Time spent on premises of Industrial partner per year

8 Industrial CASE students responded to this question on the survey

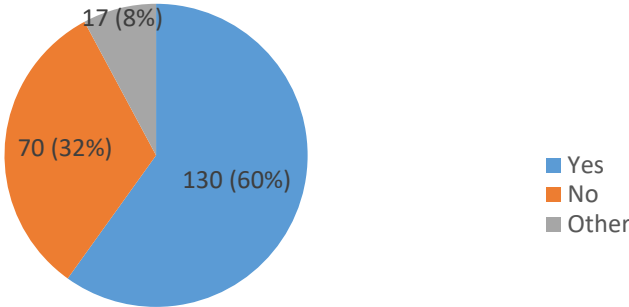


Students are expected to spend 3 months a year on average at their CASE Industrial Partner premises.

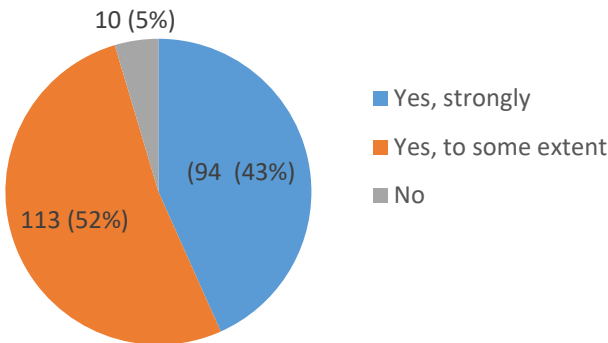
PHD SUBMISSION - Questions asked of 3rd and 4th year students only

There were 217 third and fourth year students who completed the questionnaire.

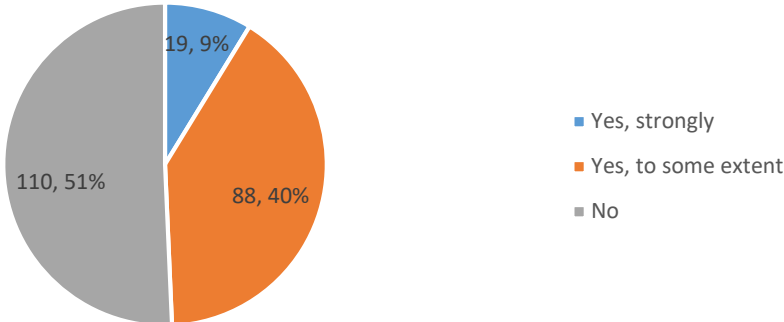
1. Do you think you have sufficient time within the funded duration of your studentship to complete your PhD, including write up?



2. Do you consider your institution actively encourages you to complete your PhD, including writing up, within the funded duration of your studentship?



3. Do you think your institution expects you to take longer than the funded duration of your studentship to complete your PhD, including writing up?



End of report