

Can we co-design training and development for PGRs?

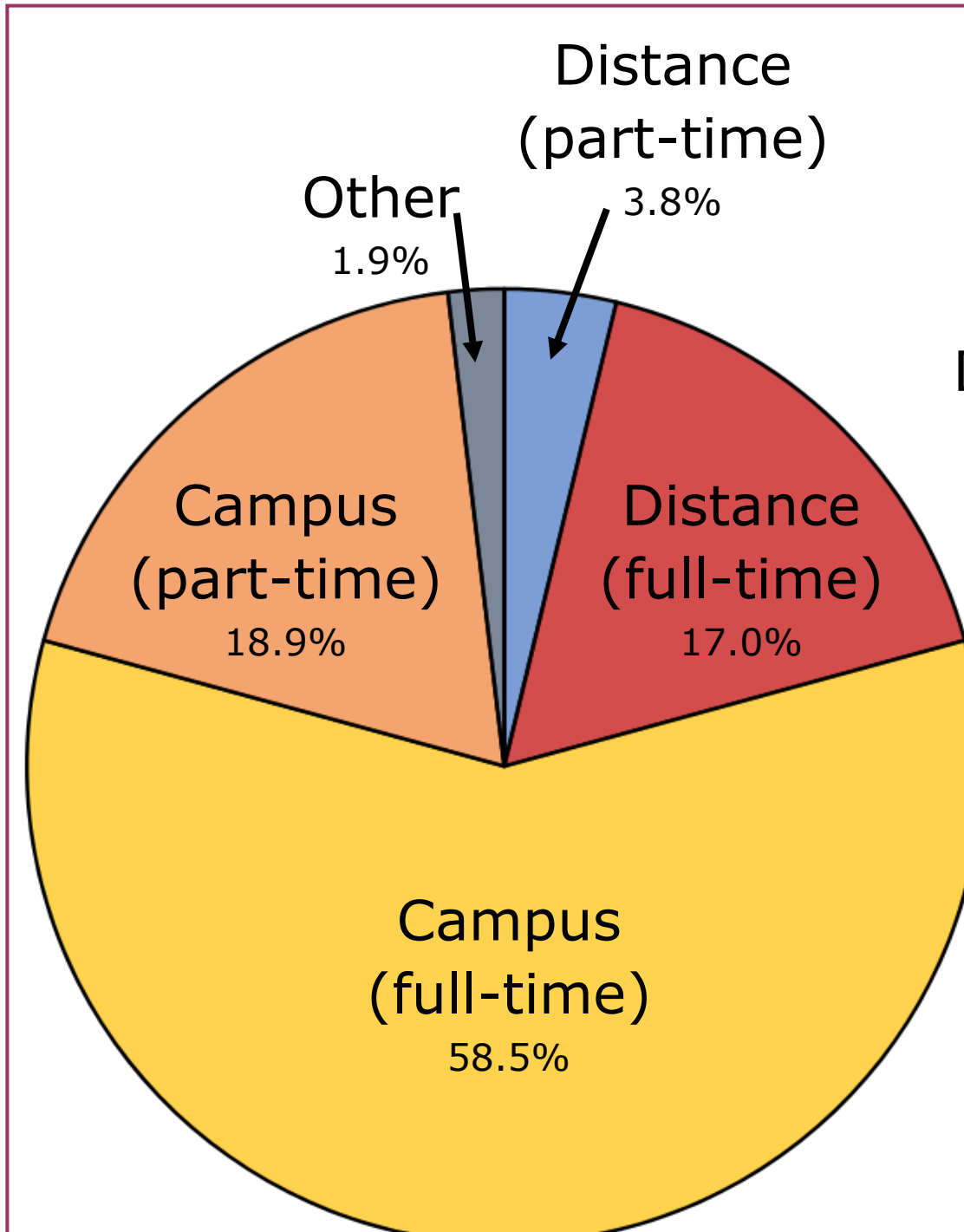
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Review of training and development opportunities offered by the UWS Doctoral College*

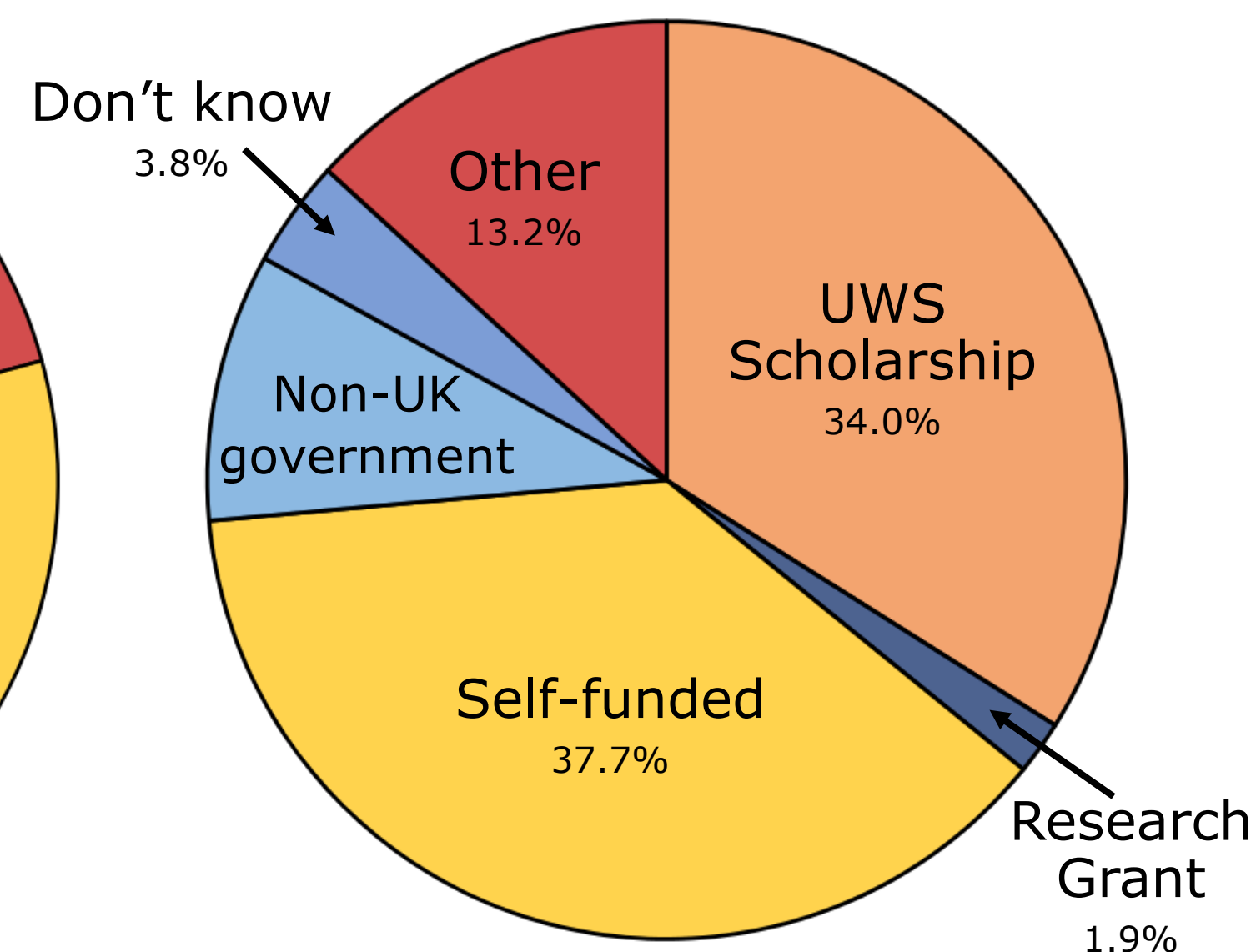
- Do PGRs engage with training and development opportunities?
- What barriers do UWS PGRs face to engage with training and development opportunities?
- How do training and development opportunities align with the RDF?
- How can we engage more PGRs (considering location and cohort diversity)?
- How can we foster PGR communities from the start?



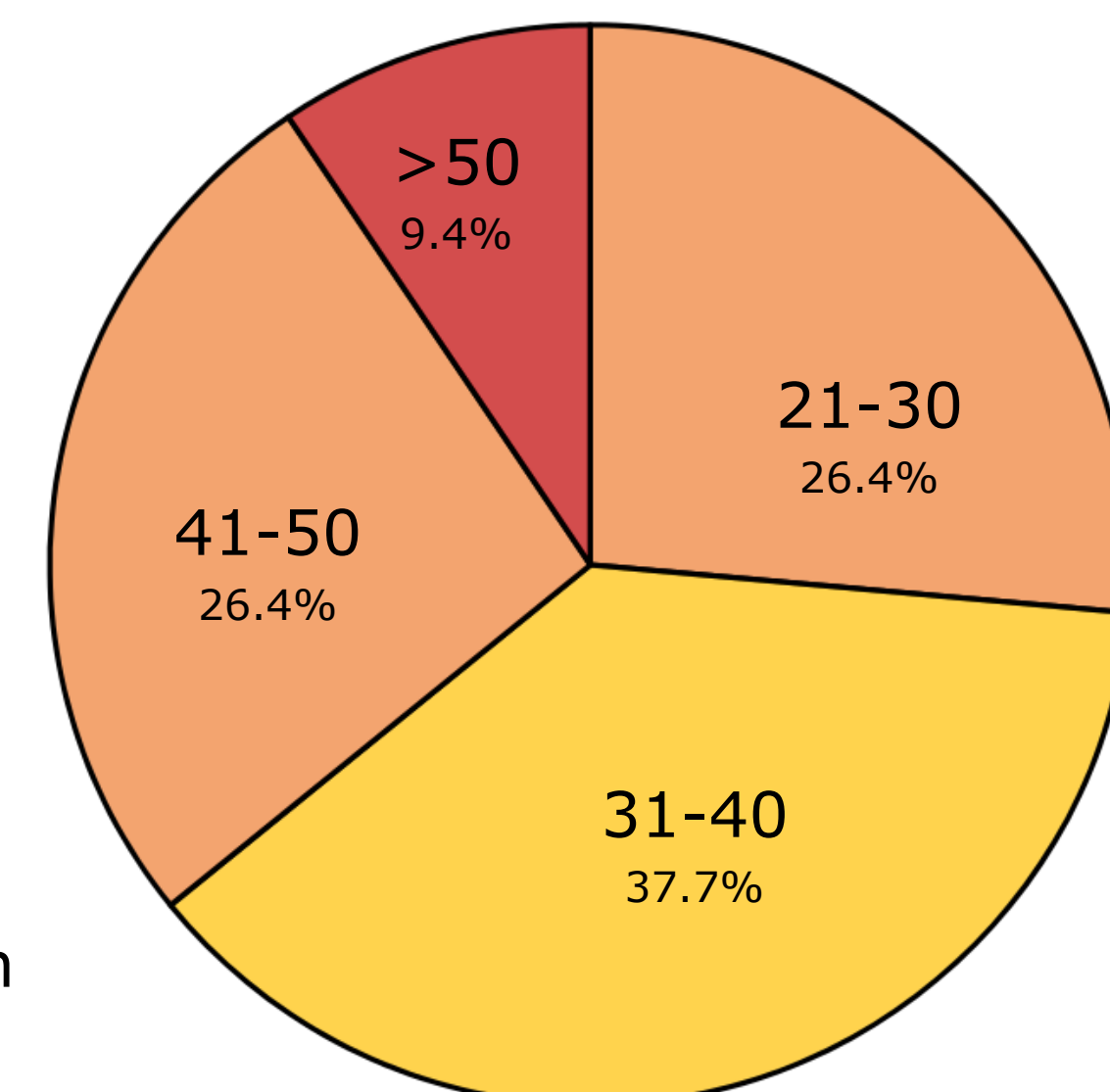
UWS campus locations



Type of study

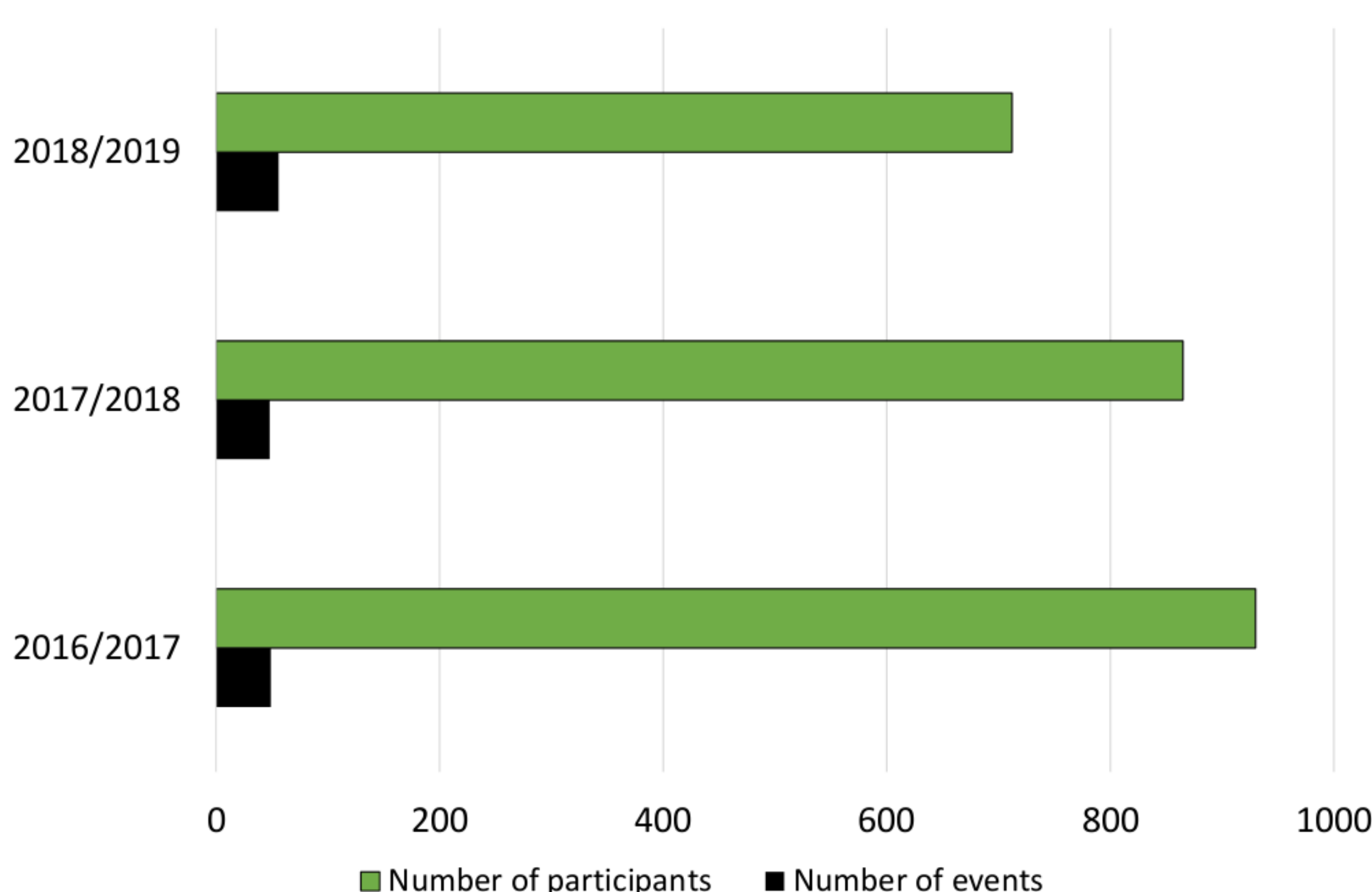


Funding



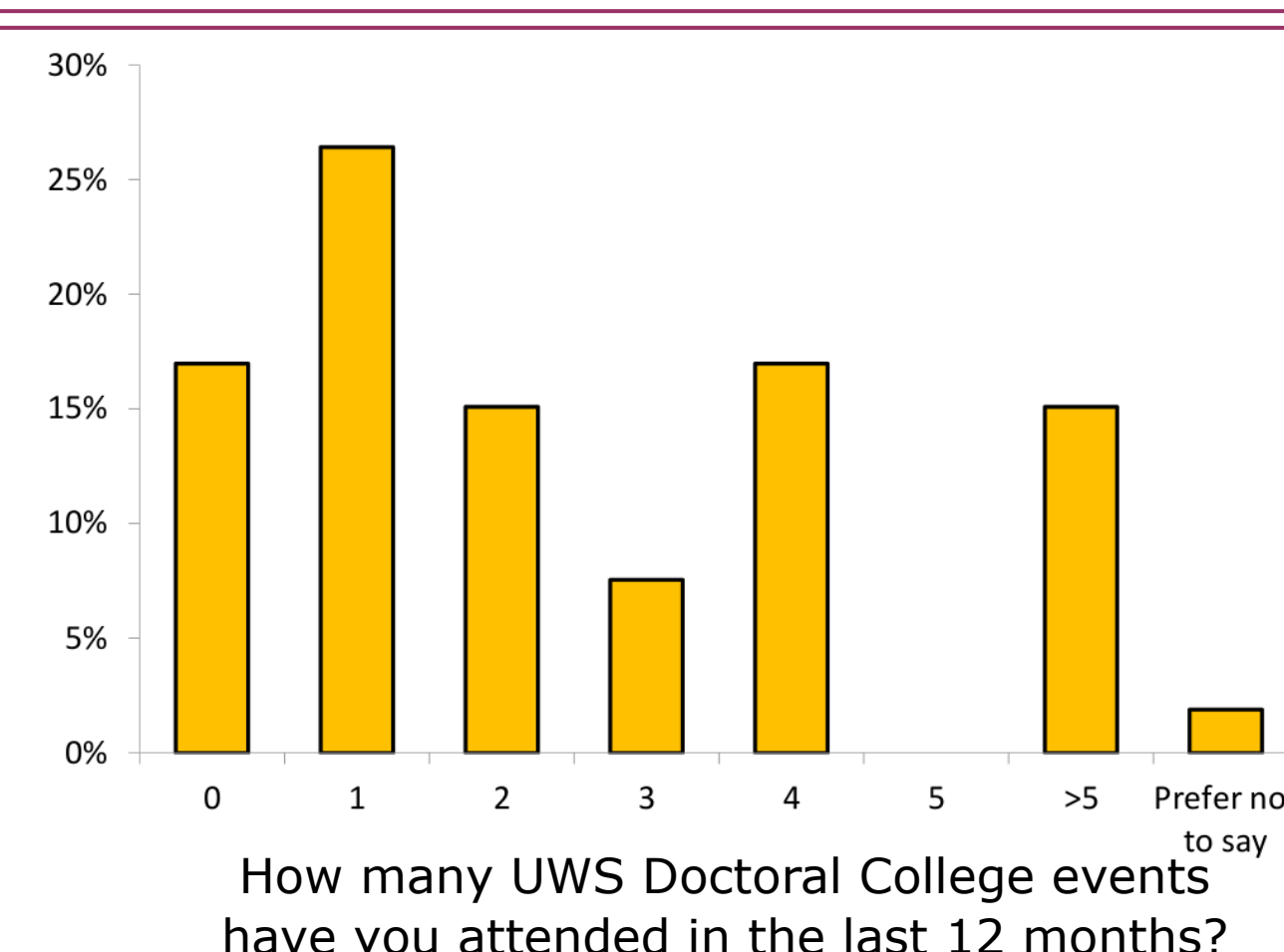
Age (years)

PGR survey respondents

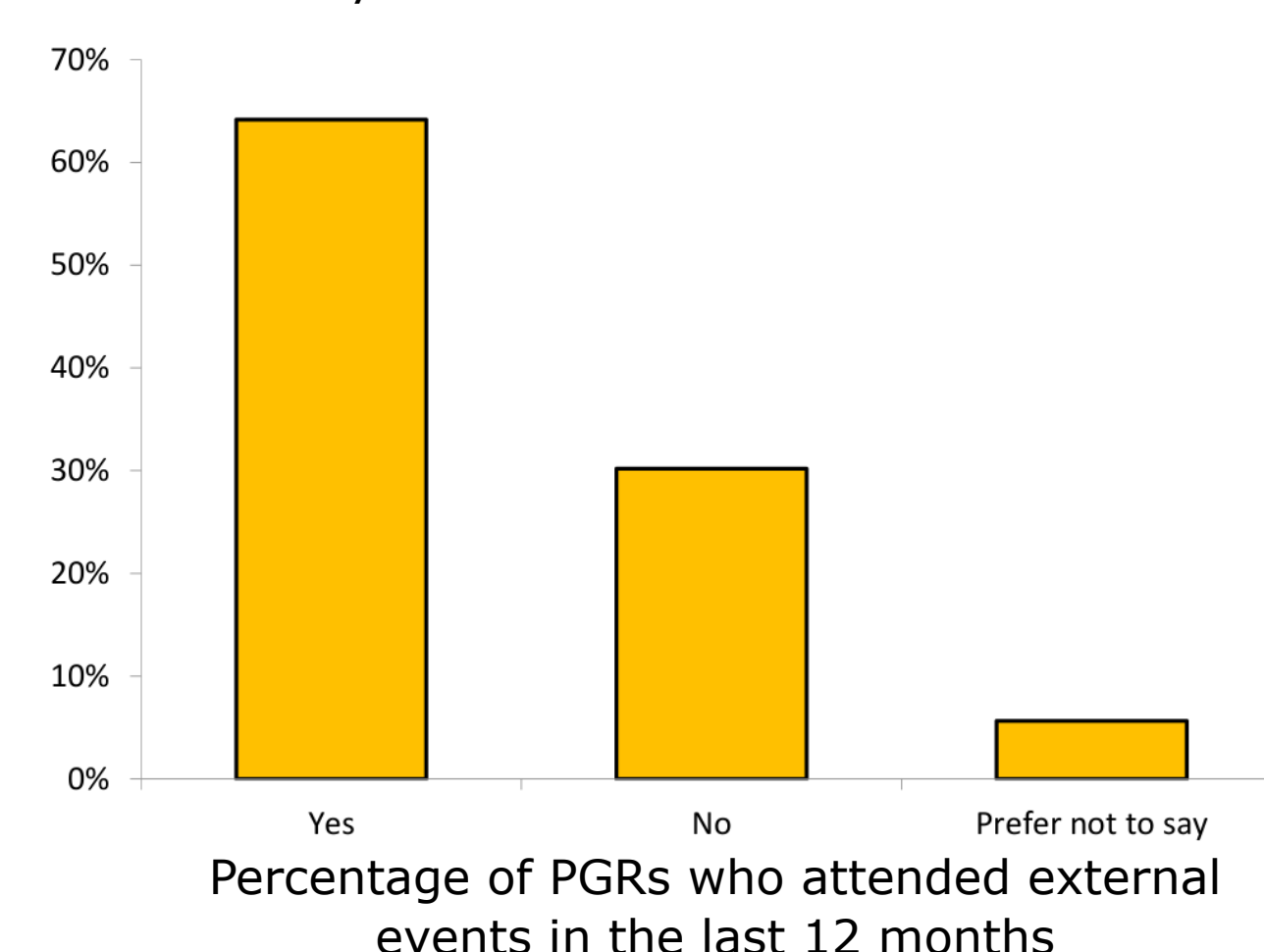


UWS Doctoral College Events

Events



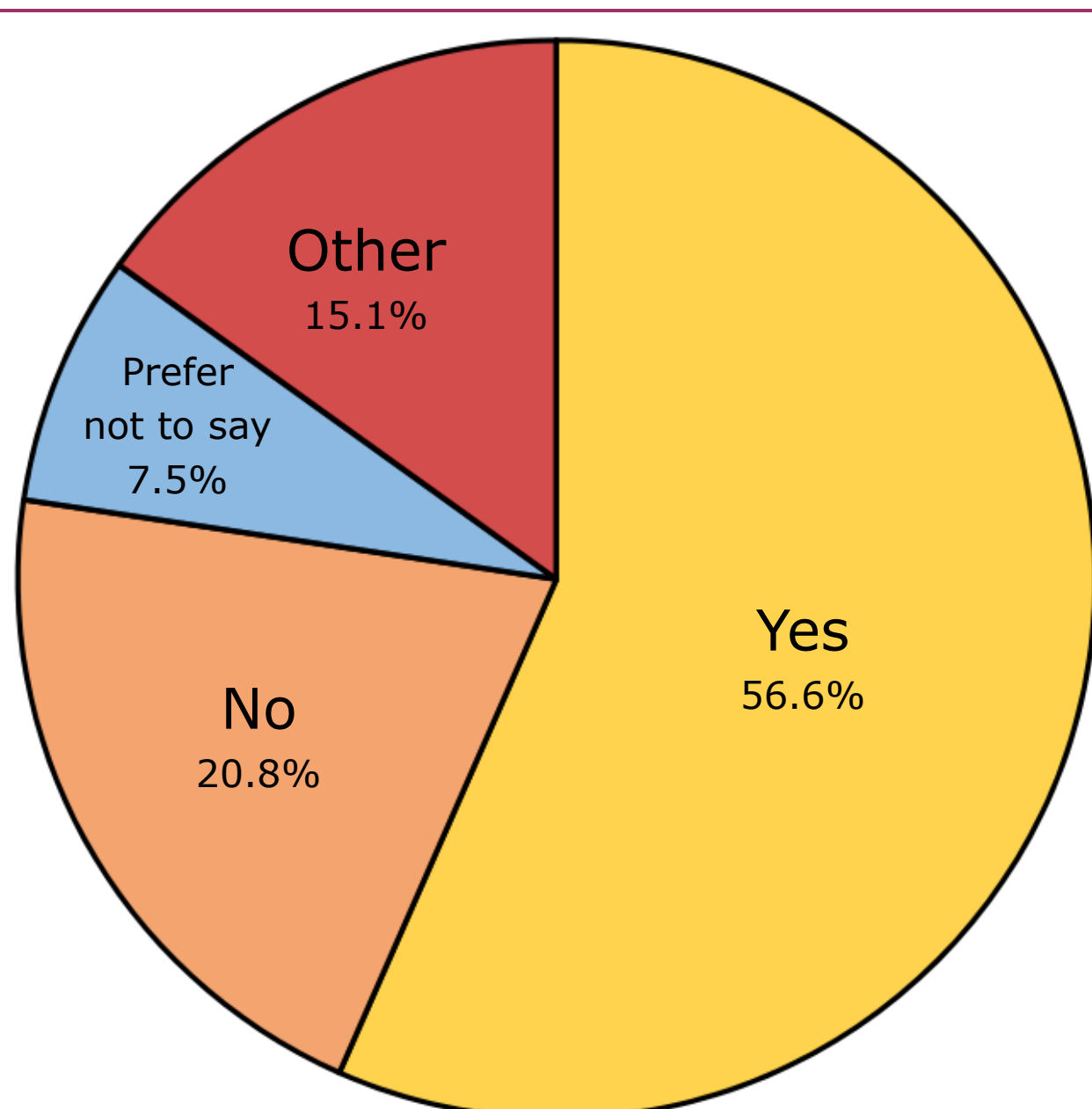
How many UWS Doctoral College events have you attended in the last 12 months?



Percentage of PGRs who attended external events in the last 12 months

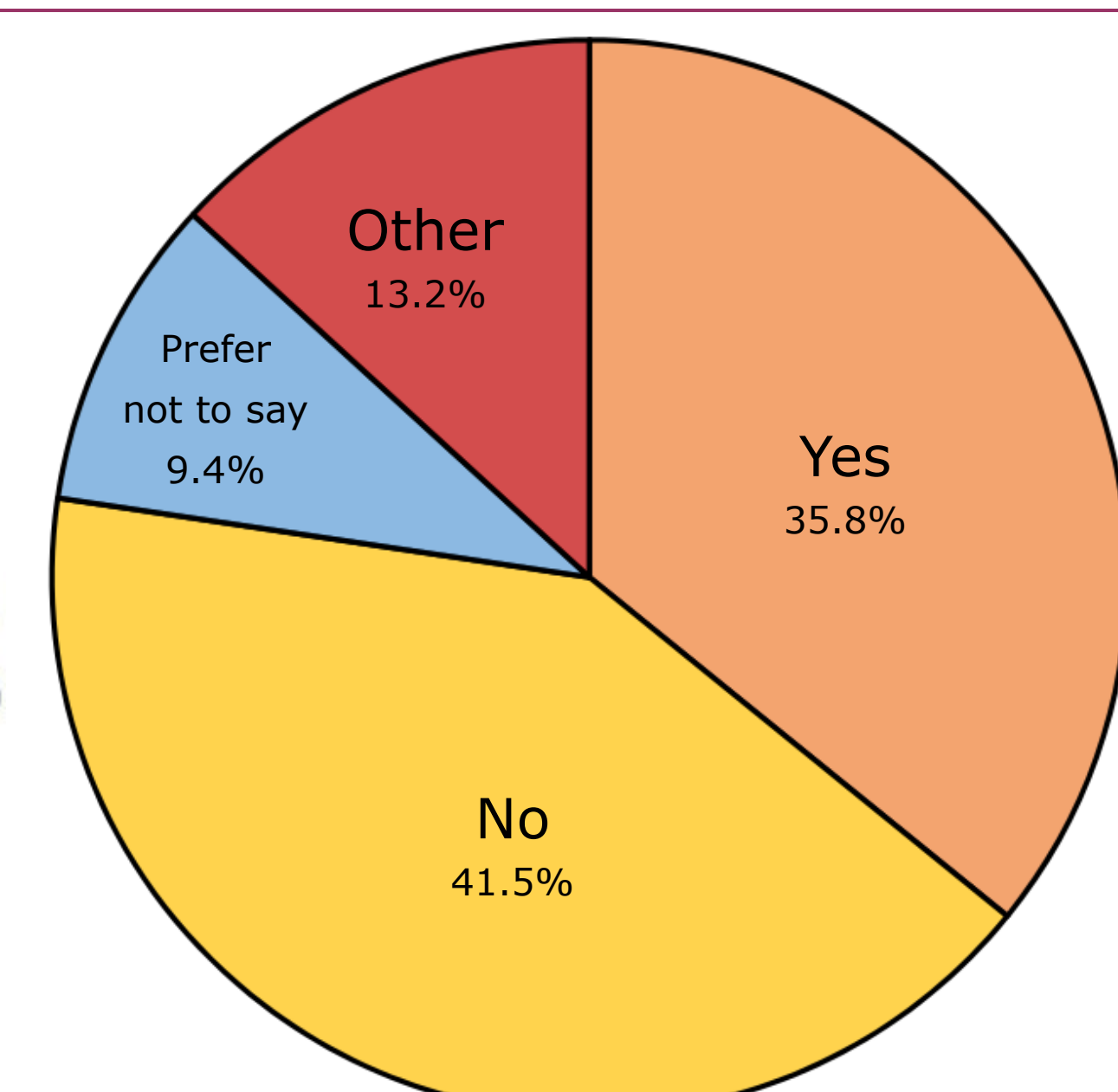


Barriers



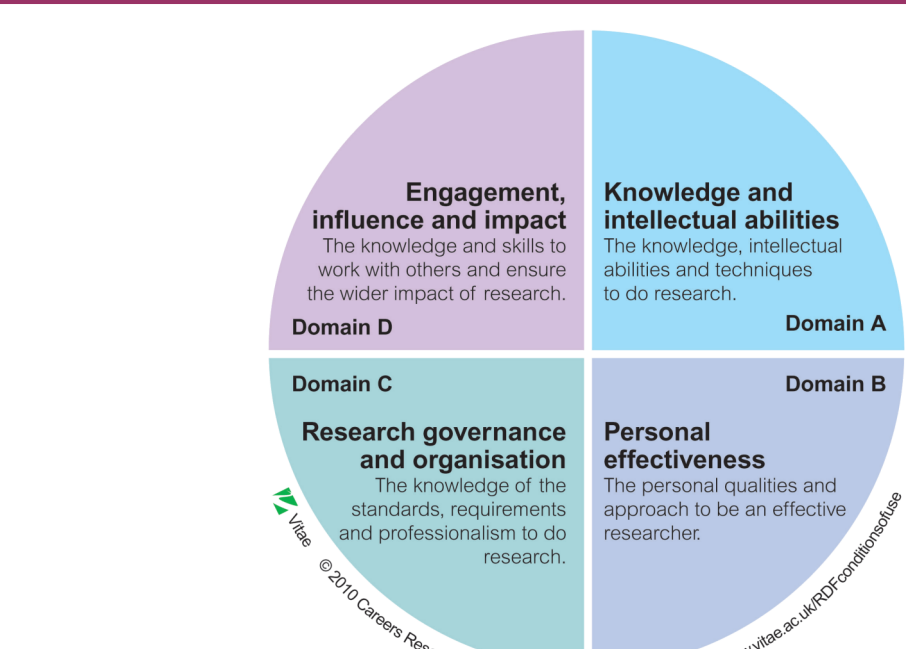
Do events hosted by the UWS Doctoral College enhance your PGR experience?

Events feedback



Do you feel part of the researcher community at UWS?

Community



- RDF is mentioned by 2 survey participants
- RDF alignment is mentioned but no mapping for events as they are advertised
- No session for PGRs to learn more about the RDF or how to use it for their development

RDF

Retrospective co-design of training and development is possible

- Regular review of training and development opportunities
- Regular sharing of practice
- Regular review of PGR experience
- Implementation of review outcomes with RDF and best practice

Findings

Community:

- Foster community from the start
- Regular social events
- Campus focused events
- PGR Experience month

Removing barriers:

- Deliver more events via VC
- Offer VC design training
- PGR Moodle for training and development with resources
- Continue to offer web-based training from other providers

Future events:

- Core events to align with PhD journey
- Better communication across UWS to advertise School events more broadly
- Student-led events (PGR experience month)
- RDF Introduction for PGRs and staff

PGR Welcome days		
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Introduction & Welcome	School Welcome	International / Part-time / Distance PGR information
Managing your PhD	School introduction	Introduction to Researcher Development
Round tables	Campus tours	PGR Festival (information stalls)
Panel with more experienced PGRs	School social event	Social event for all PGRs

Next steps

***More info about the review:** First, an analysis of courses on offer and how they align with the Concordat to support Researcher Development and the Researcher Development Framework. Second, an analysis of the numbers of PGRs attending training was undertaken and, where available, the feedback gathered was analysed. Third, a survey was sent to all UWS PGRs to gather more insights into their experiences of study and their views about the training opportunities available to them. The review was also informed by a number of visits to other Scottish HEIs in an attempt to understand processes and structures other graduate schools have adopted.