TRAVEL
SURVEY 2025
FEEDBACK
REPORT





# SURVEY METHOD AND SAMPLE

# RESEARCH METHOD



# Survey

- An online 15-minute anonymous survey to gather data on the commuting patterns and preferences of Surrey staff and students
- Survey launched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and closed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2025
- Survey link distribution:
  - Tailored section in a Sustainability story highlight. Available for staff and students, with direct link to survey
  - MySurrey spotlight for students
  - NetNews article for staff



### **Incentives**

• Two prize draws: One for students who were offered optional entry into a prize draw, giving them the chance to win one of three £50 Love2Shop vouchers and another one for staff who were also offered optional entry into a prize draw, giving them the chance to win one of three £50 Love2Shop vouchers

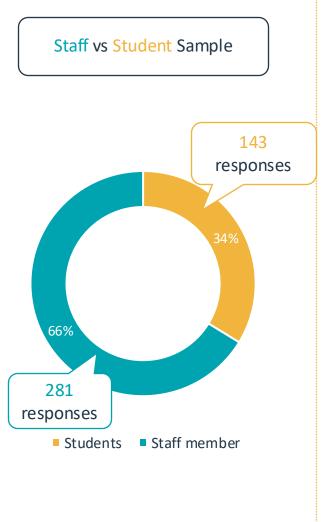


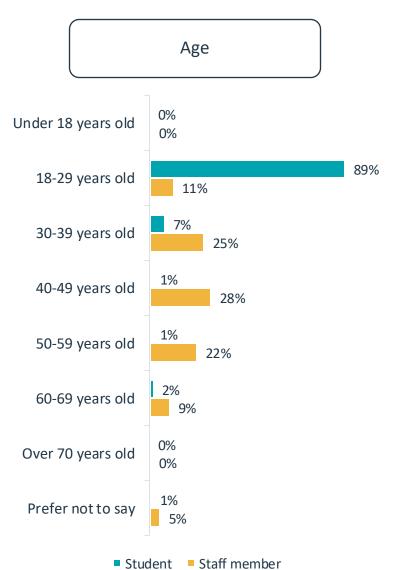
# **Interpretation of results**

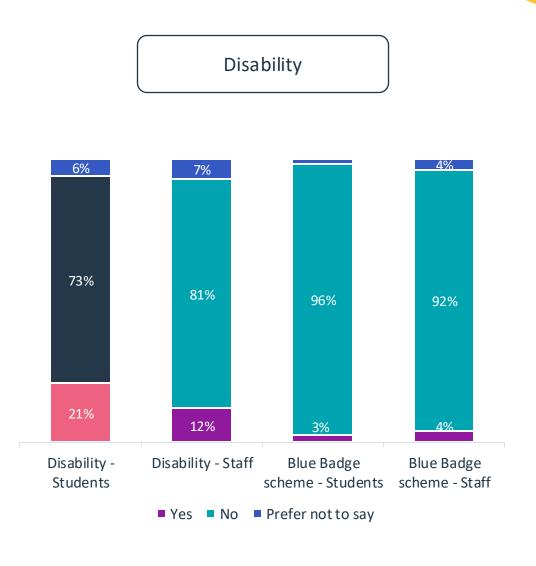
While the data is unweighted and not fully representative of the entire University of Surrey population, the sample size, 143 students and 281 staff members, is sufficiently robust to provide a useful indication of key trends and potential issues. Findings are indicative of trends within the sample rather than definitive population-level conclusions and should be interpreted as indicative rather than conclusive

# SURVEY SAMPLE



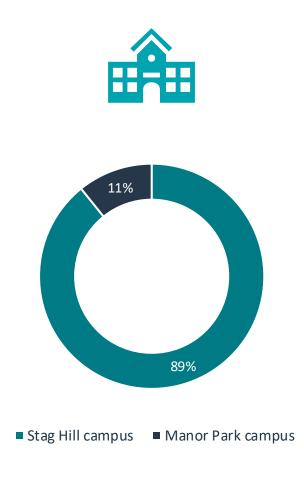






# SURVEY SAMPLE- STAFF









Q. Which campus are you mainly based at? Sample Size: Staff 278

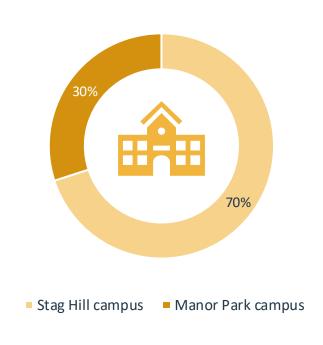
Q. What type of contract are you on? Sample Size: Staff 277

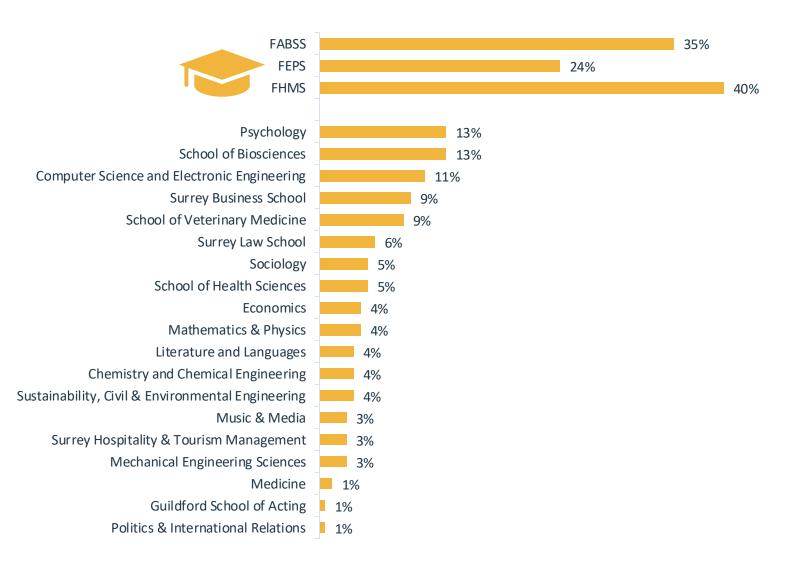
Q. What is your role at Surrey? Sample Size: Staff 279

Q. Do you have line management responsibilities? Sample Size: Staff 277

# SURVEY SAMPLE- STUDENTS







Q. Which campus are you mainly based at? Sample Size: Students 143

Q. Which faculty are you a member of? Sample Size: Students 141

Q. Which department are you a member of? Sample Size: Students 141

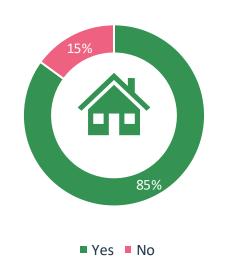
# WORKING FROM HOME

# WORKING FROM HOME



- Four out of five Surrey staff say they work from home indicating widespread adoption of a flexible work pattern
- The majority of those working from home (61%) reported that in a typical week work 2-3 days a week
- 11% say that they work from home less than 1 day a week
- When comparing the frequency of working from home between full-time and part-time staff, we see a consistent trend as both groups typically work from home 2 to 3 days per week





### In a typical week, how many days do you work from home?

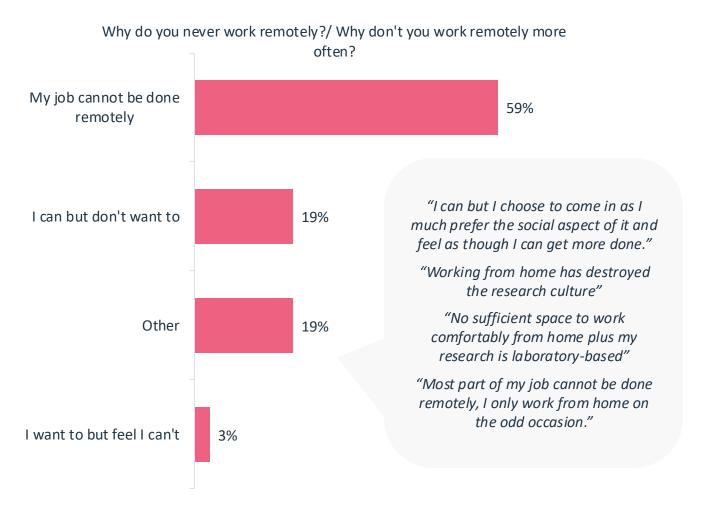


Q. Do you ever work from home? Sample Size: Staff 270

Q. In a typical week, how many days do you work from home? Sample Size: Staff 229







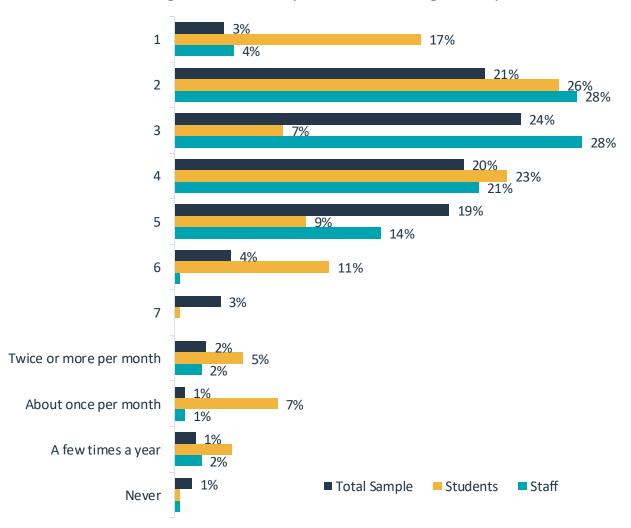
- 59% of staff who do not work from home (or do so rarely) said the main reason is that their job cannot be done remotely.
- The second most common reason is that they do not want to work from home
- Only 3% of staff said they want to work from home but can't



# FREQUENCY OF TRAVEL TO CAMPUS



# Average number of days a week travelling to campus



- Staff members travel to campus largely2 or 3 days a week
- Most of the students say that they travel to campus 2 or 4 days a week

# MODES OF TRAVEL USED TO COMMUTE TO CAMPUS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



	Total Sample	Students	Staff
Car: Drive Alone	58%	22%	76%
Walk / Wheel	36%	74%	17%
Train	29%	29%	29%
Bus	22%	41%	12%
Dropped off by Car	12%	13%	11%
Cycle	8%	8%	9%
Car: Lift Share	8%	9%	8%
Park & Walk	3%	2%	3%
Other	1%	2%	1%
E-Cycle – Personal	1%	0%	1%
Motorbike / Scooter (motorised)	0%	0%	1%

- Staff most commonly used car (driving alone), train and walk/ wheel to travel to campus in the last 12 months
- Students mostly
   walked/wheeled, took the bus
   or took the train to get to
   campus

# MAIN MODE OF TRAVEL USED TO COMMUTE TO CAMPUS



	Total Sample	Students	Staff
Car: Drive Alone	51%	15%	70%
Walk / Wheel	23%	52%	8%
Train	12%	14%	11%
Bus	8%	13%	5%
Cycle	3%	3%	3%
Car: Lift Share	2%	1%	2%
Dropped off by Car	2%	0%	2%
Park & Walk	0%	1%	0%

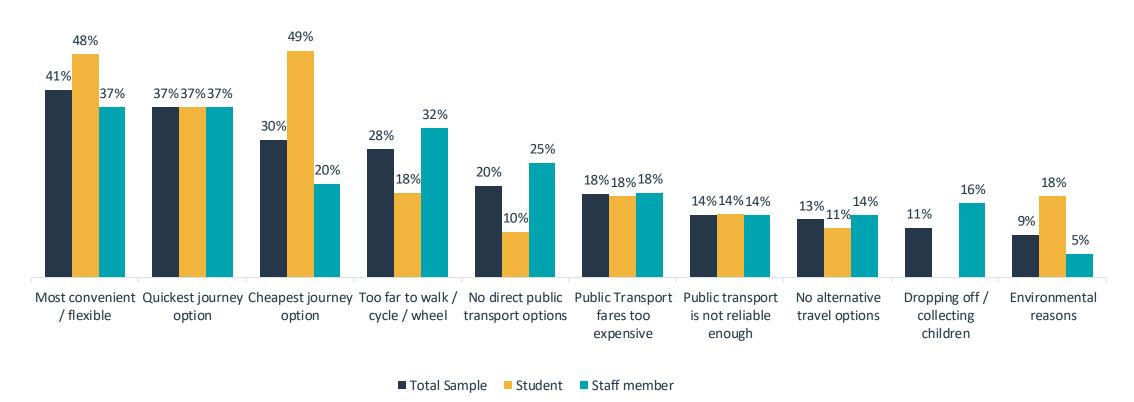
 When asked about their main mode of travel, the majority of staff (70%) said they drive alone, while most students (52%) said they walk or wheel

# TOP 10 REASONS FOR CHOOSING CURRENT MODE OF TRAVEL



- Both students and staff value convenience and flexibility in how they travel to campus
- For students, cost is just as important as convenience, while for staff speed of travel tends to be a higher priority than cost

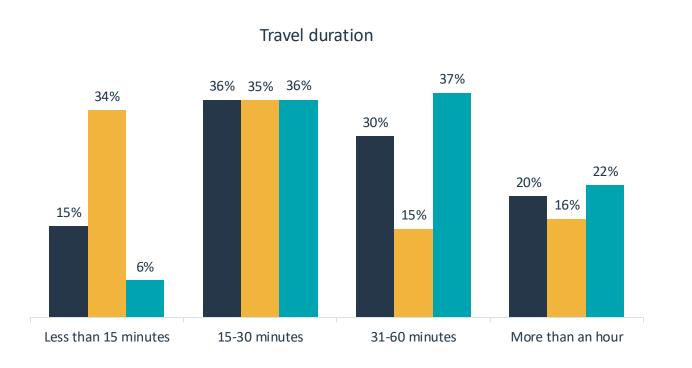
Thinking of your main mode of travel to the University, what are the primary reason(s) you choose to travel mainly by...



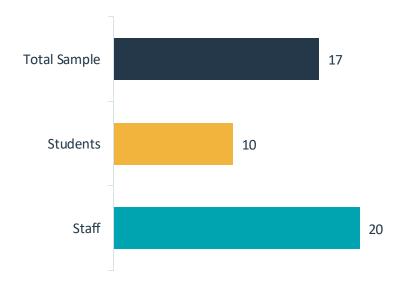
# TRAVEL DURATION AND DISTANCE



Most staff have a commute time of 15 to 60 minutes, whereas most students travel for less than 30 minutes,
 with 34% travelling for under 15 minutes







<sup>■</sup> Total Sample ■ Student ■ Staff

# CONSIDERATION OF OTHER MODES OF TRAVEL



### If feasible and accessible, what other forms of transport might you consider using

	Total Sample	Students	Staff
Train	40%	26%	47%
Bus	34%	44%	28%
Car: Lift Share	27%	31%	25%
Cycle	26%	39%	19%
Car: Drive Alone	20%	28%	15%
Dropped off by Car	13%	12%	14%
E-Cycle – Personal	11%	15%	9%
Park & Walk	10%	2%	14%
Park & Ride	9%	2%	13%
Scooter (non-motorised) or Electric	5%	9%	3%
Motorbike / Scooter (motorised)	4%	5%	4%
Other	1%	1%	2%

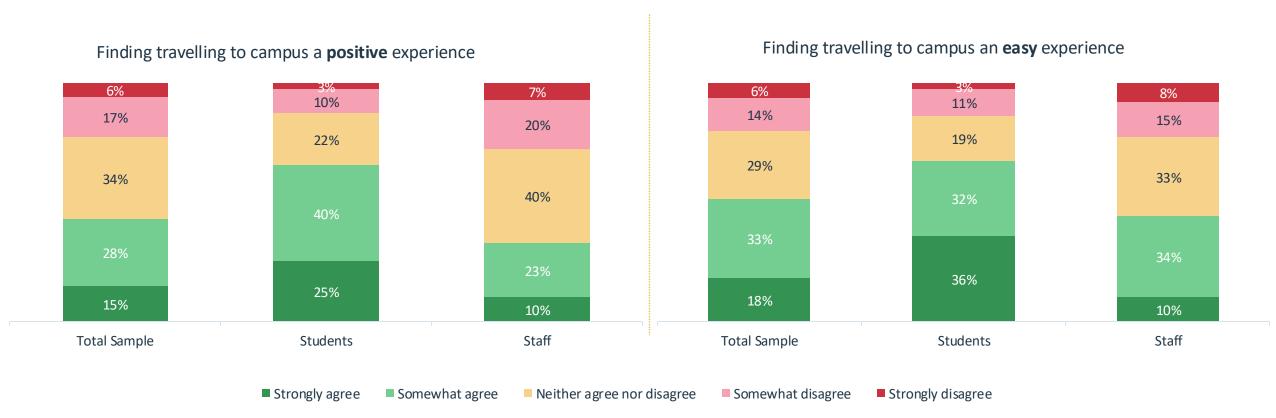
- Train and bus are the most commonly considered alternative modes of transport among respondents
- Students show a stronger
   preference for the bus, while
   nearly half of staff say they
   would choose the train if it were
   feasible and accessible

# TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

# TRAVEL EXPERIENCE RATING



- Overall, 43% of survey respondents say their travel to campus is a positive experience, and 51% say it is easy
- Among staff, only 33% say their travel is positive and 44% say it is easy, in contrast, students are more satisfied, with 66% describing their travel as positive and 68% as easy



Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I find travelling to campus a positive experience? Sample Size: Total Sample 378, Students 119, Staff 259

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I find travelling to campus an easy experience? Total Sample 377, Students 117, Staff 260

# REASONS TRAVELLING TO CAMPUS IS A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE — OPEN ENDED COMMENTS



**Top Reasons** 

Walking is enjoyable, refreshing, or beneficial

Time for self-reflection, planning, or mental preparation

Listening to music, podcasts, or radio

Pleasant scenery or nature on the route

Exercise / health benefits

Easy, short, or straightforward journey

Driving is relaxing or convenient

Campus environment is welcoming / attractive

"The scenic views whilst going to the university really appeals me."

"Pleasant driving route. Gives me time to reflect on journey."

"Time to myself to get ready for the day, or unwind at the end of the day, listening to what I want on the radio."

"Parking is easy to find, there are bus and train options for me"

"Since I stay at the university accommodation, campus is just a short walk away, which makes commuting easy and stress-free. I enjoy the walk - it's a great way to get some fresh air, clear my mind, and feel a part of the university atmosphere before starting the day."

"Nice to get out of the house and I get exercise with a 30 minute walk to the station. I enjoy meeting with colleagues"

"Nice views and sustainable"

"Gives me time to listen to podcasts and music"

"I find it meditative. I look at the nature as I walk there and listen to music. I have also seen a increase in my health and feel better in my body."

"It's a nice walk from where I live. There are street lights for when I have to walk home in the dark so I feel safe."

"I enjoy the walk to and from the station and reading on the train."

"It gives me time to process and plan the day, good exercise"

"I find traveling to campus a pleasant experience because it gives me a chance to enjoy fresh air and stretch my legs before starting my classes. Walking allows me to take in my surroundings, appreciate nature, and sometimes even clear my mind. It's also a great way to stay active, and I enjoy listening to music or a podcast while heading to campus.

Overall, the journey itself helps set a positive tone for the day"

"Nice countryside, weather usually not too bad, time to think, keeps me healthier"

"I like the view on the train. The walk to campus from the station is also quite nice."

"Generally a quick journey and driving gives me the option to do my food shop/gym/other activities en-route home."

# REASONS TRAVELLING TO CAMPUS IS NOT A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE — OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

66



# **Top Reasons**

Traffic & delays

Unreliable / Inadequate public transport

Parking availability & cost issues

Cost of travel (trains, buses, parking)

Remote work more effective than commuting

Stress, fatigue, and time lost commuting

Walking conditions: safety, weather, distance

Access needs / family or health barriers

"Traffic makes my journey twice as long as it should be, mostly once I get to the Guildford area and the slip road coming off the A3 to get to the University."

"The buses are always late. The traffic by tesco roundabout is shocking. Th whole area seems gridlocked, especially for those poor people that are trying to get on to the Surrey Research Park."

"Road works, pot holes and traffic jams can be issues. If the route is clear of traffic, it can be a pleasant journey through the Surrey Hills."

"It's pointless. I can do all of my work from home, where it is quieter, more comfortable, fewer distractions, don't need to pay to commute. If I go in I still just have all my meetings on Teams, so there is no benefit to traveling in to campus."

"I have to wake up at 5:00 AM to travel to Campus and be there on time. The only positive point is that it is nice and helpful to be with colleagues as we can discuss issues in person."

"I live too close to get a parking permit so pay to park elsewhere. There's no environmental benefit as I still have to drive. It presents a loss of income to the university and a higher charge to me - both parties lose out. I'd love to get the bus but this isn't direct so doubling my exposure to delay and cancellations."

"Trains are packed, unreliable and I find myself sweating on the walk to the station, and the walk from the station to campus."

"Commuting time is long and the campus is on a slight hill from the train staition. Also during winter time when it is dark, when going from campus to the back entrance of the trainstaition is quite scary as there is not much lighting and quite eerie when walking past the car park. There's no CCTV cameras either (???) when walking along the long brick wall of the public car park and I think I was followed once by someone creepy in the evening so had to run all the way to the train station in a bit of a fright. There's sometimes a car that parks in the corner of the brick wall to the car park and it looks a bit dodgy whether their intentions was so or not."

"The bike paths between Godalming and the campus are awful and there are often roadworks. The buses are completely unreliable and not frequent enough and are hideously expensive - the annual pass that used to exist got discontinued."

"Parking at Manor Park nursery car park has just been significantly reduced, making it challenging and stressful to park on site."

# REASONS TRAVELLING TO CAMPUS IS AN EASY EXPERIENCE — OPEN ENDED COMMENTS



**Top Reasons** 

Simple / Direct Route

Walking is Easy / Close Proximity

**Driving Convenience** 

Low / Avoidable Traffic Due to Trave

Familiar / Routine Route

Cycling and Cycle Paths

Public Transport (bus/train)

Easy Parking

"The scenic views whilst going to the university really appeals me."

"Pleasant driving route. Gives me time to reflect on journey."

"Time to myself to get ready for the day, or unwind at the end of the day, listening to what I want on the radio."

"Parking is easy to find, there are bus and train options for me"

"Since I stay at the university accommodation, campus is just a short walk away, which makes commuting easy and stress-free. I enjoy the walk - it's a great way to get some fresh air, clear my mind, and feel a part of the university atmosphere before starting the day."

"Nice to get out of the house and I get exercise with a 30 minute walk to the station. I enjoy meeting with colleagues"

"Nice views and sustainable"

"Gives me time to listen to podcasts and music"

"I find it meditative. I look at the nature as I walk there and listen to music. I have also seen a increase in my health and feel better in my body."

"It's a nice walk from where I live. There are street lights for when I have to walk home in the dark so I feel safe."

"I enjoy the walk to and from the station and reading on the train."

"It gives me time to process and plan the day, good exercise"

"I find traveling to campus a pleasant experience because it gives me a chance to enjoy fresh air and stretch my legs before starting my classes. Walking allows me to take in my surroundings, appreciate nature, and sometimes even clear my mind. It's also a great way to stay active, and I enjoy listening to music or a podcast while heading to campus.

Overall, the journey itself helps set a positive tone for the day"

"Nice countryside, weather usually not too bad, time to think, keeps me healthier"

"I like the view on the train. The walk to campus from the station is also quite nice."

"Generally a quick journey and driving gives me the option to do my food shop/gym/other activities en-route home."

# REASONS TRAVELLING TO CAMPUS IS NOT AN EASY EXPERIENCE — OPEN ENDED COMMENTS



**Top Reasons** 

Traffic Congestion / Roadworks / Delays

Public Transport Issues (Delays, Cancellations, Cost, Indirect Routes)

Long or Complex Journeys

Parking Availability and Restrictions

Health, Accessibility, and Physica Barriers

Poor Infrastructure / Safety Concerns

Lack of Direct Transport Links

"Traffic and the time it takes to do the journey is exhausting."

"My normal route would include Junction 10 of the M25 but with the roadworks its not feasible on the way here. Sadly there's no viable alternative to driving as it would take 1hr 45 each way by a combination of train and walking."

"traffic, roadworks and delays"

"General bad traffic, bad driving. Turning right at the Cathedral Roundabout to join the Perimeter Road from The Chase is sometimes dangerous because of queues, and traffic exiting the A3 often jumps or tries to jump out in front of you either going for a small gap or they're not looking!"

"Again, trains often delayed or cancelled"

"If the bus does not come I have to wait at the bus stop for a long period of time and the bus stops has no actual places to eat lean back so it flares up my health and pain conditions."

"traffic, roadworks, makes both biking and bussing in awful. The bus routes home mean I have to catch two buses. When there is traffic there is always a delay between the two campuses and another between Stag Hill and the Friary.

Some days it has taken 2 hours to travel the 4 miles home by bus."

"Train tickets are expensive Public transportation is unreliable Driving after a 9-10 hour day is exhausting"

"I would rather get the train but travel options from the station to Kate Granger building are limited. I have tried waiting for the bus but it adds a lot of time onto my journey and I have to walk part the way anyway. Walking also takes about 40 minutes which is too longer after a 40 minute train."

"I find it stressful not being able to rely on finding a parking space when looking for an alternative would make me late for teaching commitments. Unfortunately leaving home earlier is not an option due to family commitments and would make the job unsustainable. Alternative public transport would take me over 2.5hrs"

"It can be difficult to cross the roads, especially in the area around Guildford Park Avenue/ Guildford Park Road."

"Dark roads at night does not feel safe"

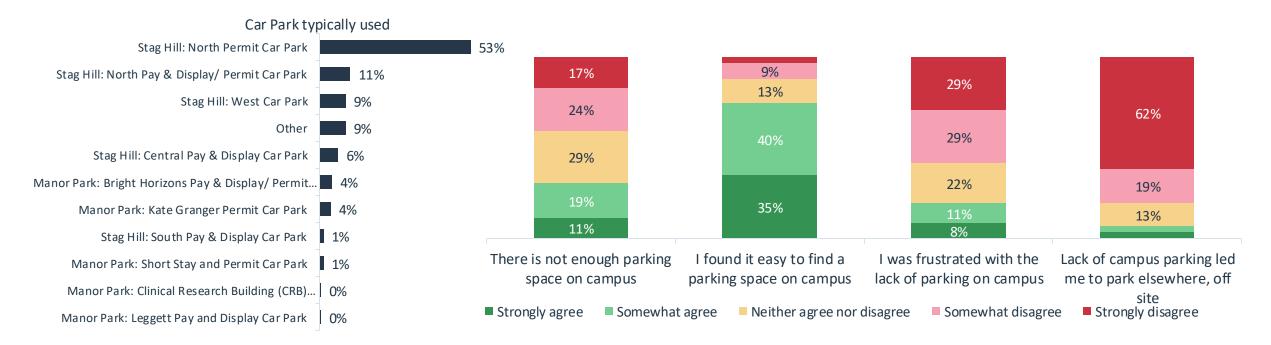
"Buses don't reach top of stag hill"

# TRAVEL BY CAR

# CAR PARK



- Stag Hill: North Permit Car Park is the most commonly used by car users.
- Parking availability is a concern for many staff and students who drive to campus:
  - 30% say parking availability is an issue
  - 75% find it easy to park on campus
  - 19% feel frustrated with the lack of parking spaces
  - 7% have had to park off-site due to no available spaces on campus



Q. Which car park do you typically park in when you drive to campus? Sample Size: Total Sample 232

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? There is not enough parking space on campus Sample Size: Total Sample 231

Q. I found it easy to find a parking space on campus Sample Size: Total Sample 234

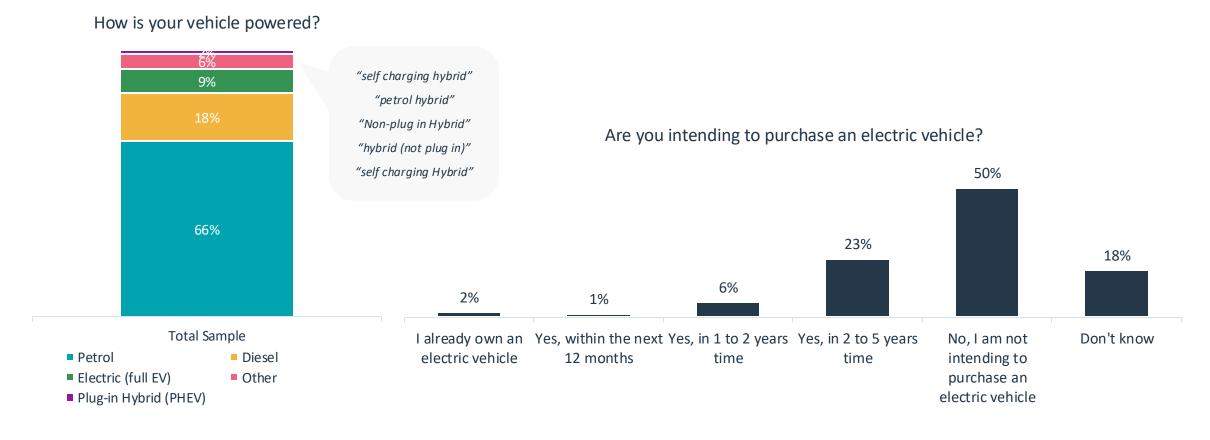
Q. I was frustrated with the lack of parking on campus Sample Size: Total Sample 229

Q. Lack of campus parking led me to park elsewhere, off site Sample Size: Total Sample 229

# CURRENT CAR AND EV INTENTION PURCHASE



- 84% of staff and student vehicles are powered by petrol or diesel
- 30% say they intend to buy an electric vehicle in the future

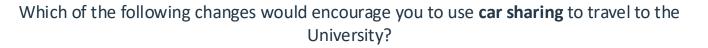


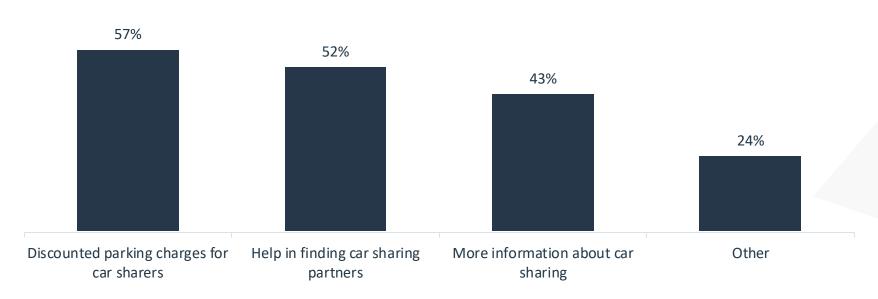
Q. How is your vehicle powered? Sample Size: Total Sample 234

# CAR SHARING IMPROVEMENTS



• Discounted parking charges and help finding car-sharing partners are the changes that would encourage most staff and students to car share when travelling to campus





"I cannot consider car share at the moment due to childcare requirements."

"I do not know anyone else who comes from my area"

"It would need to be something very specific, like someone I know well living nearby and working the exact same schedule as me. Otherwise, the inconvenience wouldn't outweigh cost savings."

"Flexibility of attendance to improve chances of finding someone to share with."

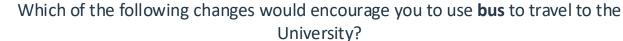
"I live really far from Guildford"

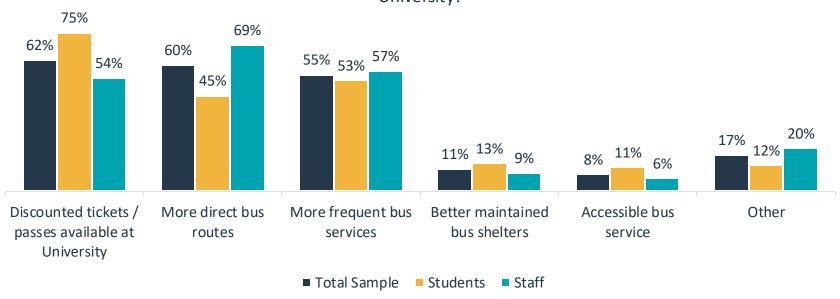
# TRAVEL BY BUS

# TRAVEL BY BUS IMPROVEMENTS



 Travel by bus would be more appealing if discounted tickets were available, and if bus routes were more direct and services more frequent





"I used to take the bus (which I quite like) but it gets stuck in traffic and takes a long time."

"More reliable bus service"

"Services that are on time and not always being cancelled."

"Pls can the buses on time because most of the time they don't and it is very inconvenient plus if the tickets were cheaper for students like one single ticket then I think the bus fare profits would increase too."

"More bus services that are on time and having proper seats at bus stops instead of those high up rails you can't even sit on properly. Truly a really uncomfortable experience, my chronic pain issues immediately flare up unfortunately."

"A free shuttle service for students to go back and forth to manor park"

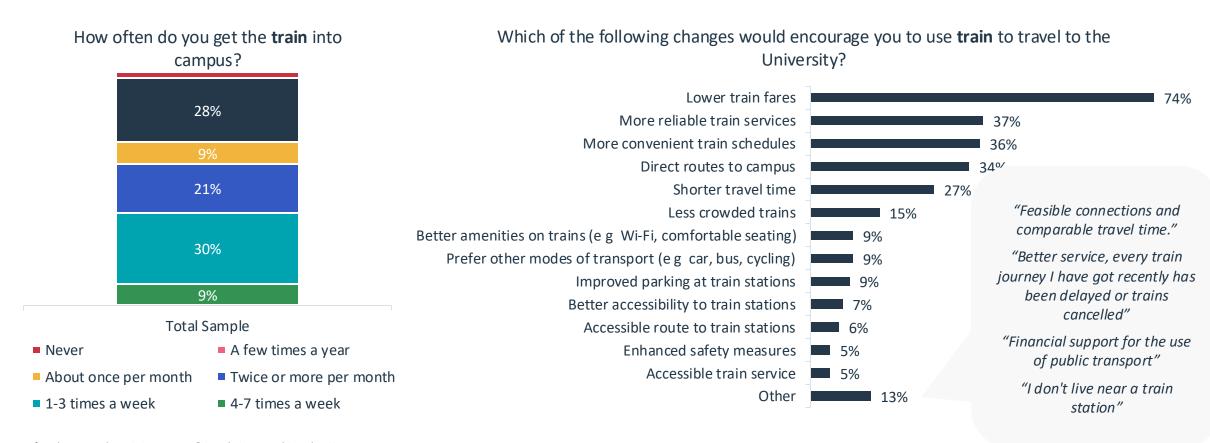
"the bus was £160pa, not it is over £300!"

# TRAVEL BY TRAIN

# TRAVEL BY TRAIN FREQUENCY AND IMPROVEMENTS



- 30% of all respondents take the train 1–3 times a week
- Lower train fares are by far the most important change that would encourage more staff and students to travel to campus by train



Q. How often do you get the train into campus? Sample Size: Total Sample 109

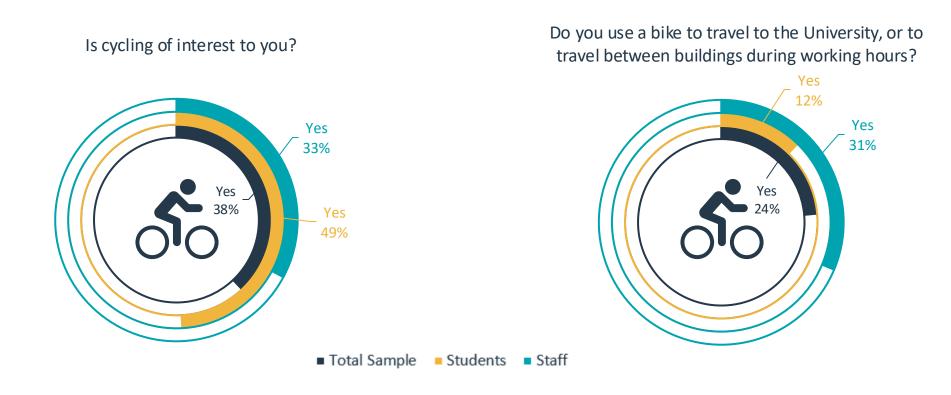
Q. Which of the following changes would encourage you to use train to travel to the University? Sample Size: Total Sample 266



# INTERESTED IN CYCLING AND USAGE



• While 49% of students are interested in cycling compared to 33% of staff, only 12% of students currently use a bike to travel to or around the University, whereas 31% of staff do



Q. Is cycling of interest to you? Sample Size: Total Sample 369, Students 116, Staff 253

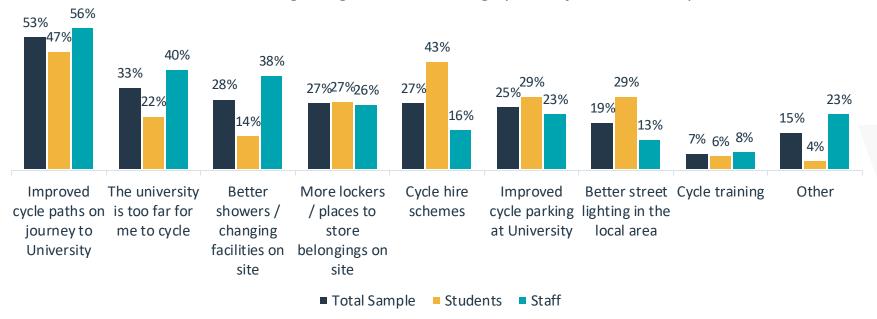
Q. Do you use a bike to travel to the University, or to travel between buildings during working hours? Sample Size: Total Sample 140, Students 57, Staff 83





- Improved cycle paths on the journey to university and better shower and changing facilities are the changes staff say would help them cycle more
- Students say that improved cycle paths and cycle hire schemes would encourage greater cycling

### Which of the following changes would encourage you to cycle to University more?



"At the moment Beryl is more expensive than my bus fare."

"I used to cycle and love it (flexibility/health) but stopped as it is too dangerous"

"More bikes in the cycle schemes"

"Since my cycle was stolen from the campus, better bike security - such as secure bike lockers or monitored parking would definitely encourage me to cycle more."

"There must be helmets available"

"More ramps to the side of steps"

"Cycle paths completely separated from road traffic"

"Cycle hire at train station to use it to get from station to campus"

"Clearer paths for walkers and cyclists"

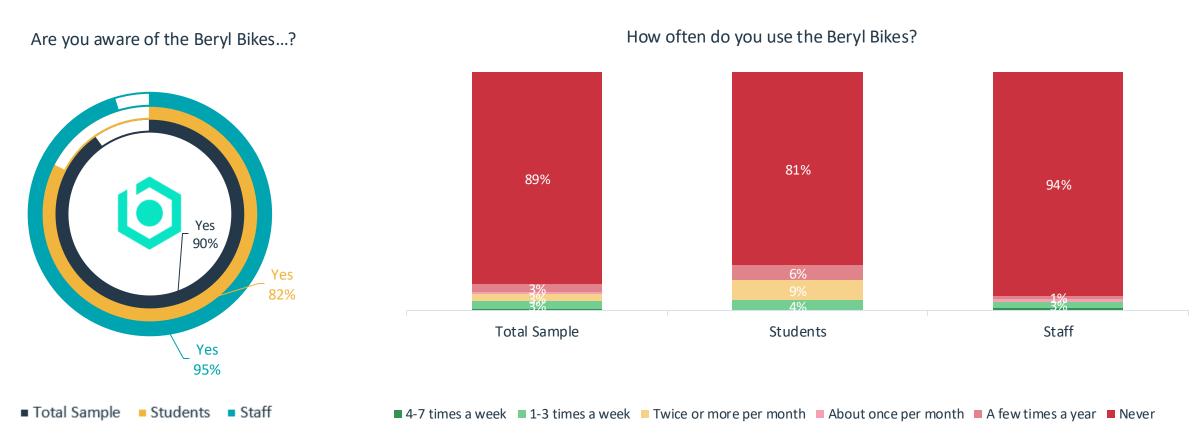
"E-bikes to try for a while before buying"

"Discounts on Beryl bikes"

# BERYL BIKES



- Awareness of Beryl Bikes is high among both students and staff, but most respondents have never used them
- Only 9% of students report using Beryl Bikes twice or more per month



Q. Are you aware of the Beryl Bikes that are positioned around both campuses, as well as Guildford Town Centre? Sample Size: Total Sample 141, Students 57, Staff 84 Q. How often do you use the Beryl Bikes? Sample Size: Total Sample 127, Students 47, Staff 80

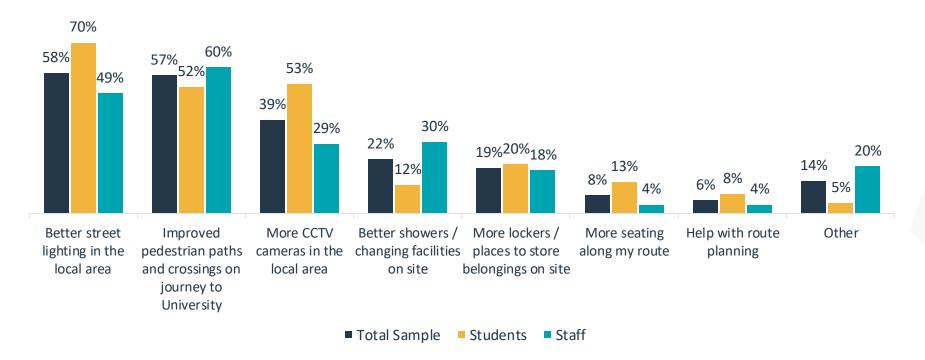
# WALKING/ WHEELING

# WALKING/ WHEELING IMPROVEMENTS



 Better street lighting in the local area, improved pedestrian paths and crossings on journey to University and more CCTV cameras in the local area would make walking/wheeling safer and more convenient for staff and students

Which road improvements would make **walking or wheeling** to and from campus safer or more convenient?



"Working with residences of Scholars walk to maintain the path and hedges. Reopening the path between the back of Wates entrance and Speirs which seems to have been completely mothballed and allowed to grow over"

"Walking routes from the train station are our students' first contact with the campus. They all need investment, especially crossing the council car park toward the rear station entrance"

"Yorkies Bridge, there is an alternative walking route from station to Stag Hill on Station View Road. to get to Yorkie's Bridge one has to climb up a dirt hill and through bushes. Could the university help make this a formal path with steps and cut back"

"better access in and out of the manor park campus as the junction leading upto tesco past the hospital gets quite congested in the afternoon and could be waiting for up to an hour to exit"

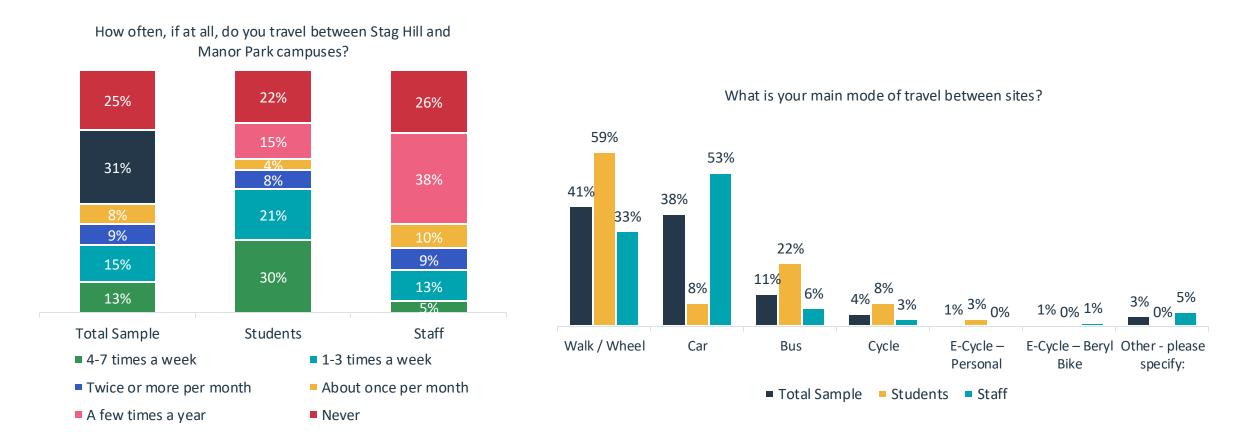
"Many routes from the train station are inaccessible to my wheelchair. The pavements are uneven and over crowded and I have ended up in the road with oncoming traffic which frightens me"

# TRAVEL BETWEEN CAMPUSES

# TRAVELLING BETWEEN SITES FREQUENCY AND MODES OF TRANSPORT



• Three quarters of staff and students travel between the two campuses. Most students (59%) walk or wheel, while most staff (53%) drive



Q. How often, if at all, do you travel between Stag Hill and Manor Park campuses? Sample Size: Total Sample 367, Students 114, Staff 253

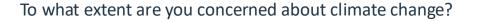
Q. What is your main mode of travel between sites? Sample Size: Total Sample 117, Students 37, Staff 80

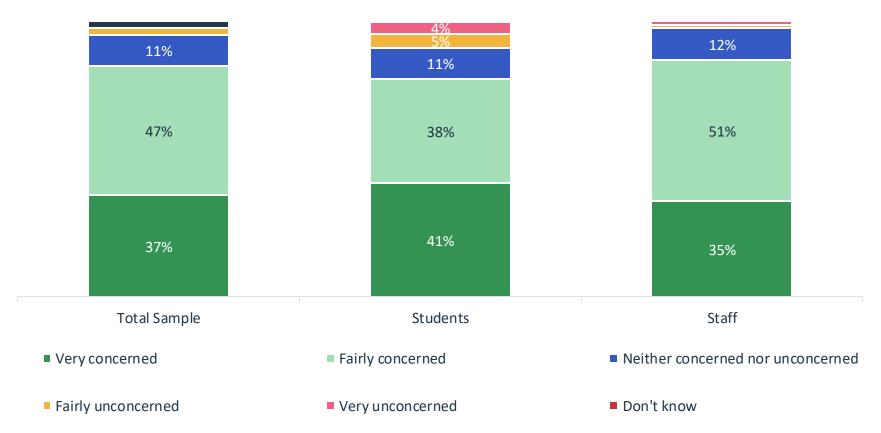
# CLIMATE CHANGE

# CLIMATE CHANGE



• 83% of all travel survey respondents say that they are very or fairly concerned about climate change





# SUMMARY

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (1/3)



### **Flexible Work Patterns**

- Flexible working is widely adopted among staff, with 80% working from home at least occasionally
- Most (61%) typically work remotely 2–3 days per week, a trend consistent across both full-time and part-time employees
- Among those who do not work from home, the main reason (59%) is that their job cannot be performed remotely. A smaller portion (only 3%) would like to work from home but are unable to

# **Travel Frequency and Modes**

- Students most commonly travel to campus either 2 or 4 days per week, while staff typically come in 2 or 3 days
- Over the past year staff primarily used cars (driving alone), trains, and walking/wheeling. Students most often walked/wheeled, took the bus, or used the train
- When asked about their main mode of transport, 70% of staff said they drive alone, while 52% of students said they walk or wheel

### **Travel Priorities and Commute Times**

- Convenience and flexibility are top priorities for both groups
- Students place equal importance on cost while staff value speed more than cost
- Commute times differ: Most staff travel for 15–60 minutes. Most students travel under 30 minutes, with 34% under 15 minutes

# **Alternative Travel Options**

- Bus and train are the most considered alternatives to current transport methods
- Students lean more toward using the bus, while nearly half of staff would consider the train, if it were more accessible and reliable

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (2/3)



## **Travel Experience**

- Overall, 43% of respondents say their travel is a positive experience, and 51% say it is easy
  - Among staff: 33% say it's positive and 44% say it's easy
  - Among students: 66% say it's positive and 68% say it's easy, indicating higher satisfaction
  - Those who find their journey easy and pleasant often appreciate the enjoyable, refreshing walk, which provides time for self reflection, planning, and mental preparation, as well as the scenic routes, health benefits of exercise and the convenience of driving when traffic is light and parking is available
  - Traffic, delays, roadworks and unreliable transport are the main reasons staff and students say their journey to campus is not easy and pleasant

# **Driving and Parking**

- The North Permit Car Park (Stag Hill) is the most commonly used car park in the campus
- 30% say parking availability is an issue, however only 7% have had to park off-site due to no available spaces on campus
- 75% find it easy to park on campus, but 19% feel frustrated with the lack of parking spaces

### **Electrical Vehicles**

• Most vehicles (84%) are petrol or diesel-powered, but 30% of respondents intend to buy an electric vehicle at some point in the future

### **Car Sharing**

Discounted parking and support in finding car-share partners would encourage more staff and students to car share

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (3/3)



# **Public Transport**

- 30% of respondents use the train 1–3 times per week
- Lower train fares are the most effective incentive to increase train usage
- Bus travel would be more appealing with discounted fares, more direct routes, and increased frequency

# **Cycling**

- Interest in cycling is high, 49% of students and 33% of staff, but actual use is lower: Only 12% of students cycle to or within campus, compared to 31% of staff
- While awareness of Beryl Bikes is high, only 9% of students use them at least twice a month
- To support more cycling: Staff call for better cycle paths and improved showers/changing facilities. Students prefer improved cycle routes and cycle hire schemes

# Walking/ Wheeling

- Walking/wheeling is a key mode, especially for students
- Safety improvements such as better lighting, pedestrian crossings, and CCTV are priorities for both staff and students

# **Campus Travel**

• Three-quarters of respondents travel between campuses. Most students (59%) walk or wheel, while most staff (53%) drive

# **Sustainability and Climate**

• Climate concern is high: 83% of respondents say they are very or fairly concerned about climate change, highlighting an opportunity to support more sustainable travel behaviours across the University community



