

Student Travel Survey 2020

Analysis

UoN



Analysis of Student Travel Survey 2020

1. Background

The annual Student Travel Survey was available for completion from 2nd December – 16th December 2020. An email invitation was sent to each student (university email address), inviting them to take part in the survey via Toluna on-line software, managed by Marketing; with reminders sent after 7 days via eComms and social media. The survey was condensed in comparison to previous years, this was felt necessary due to COVID and the impact on study arrangements – however new sections were included on studying from home and the Voi eScooter scheme.

725 students participated in the survey.

2. The Results

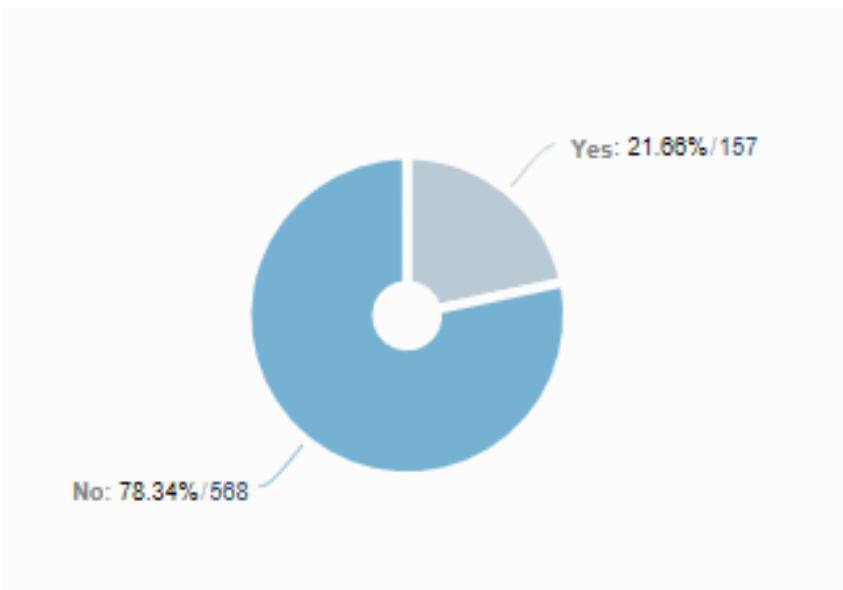
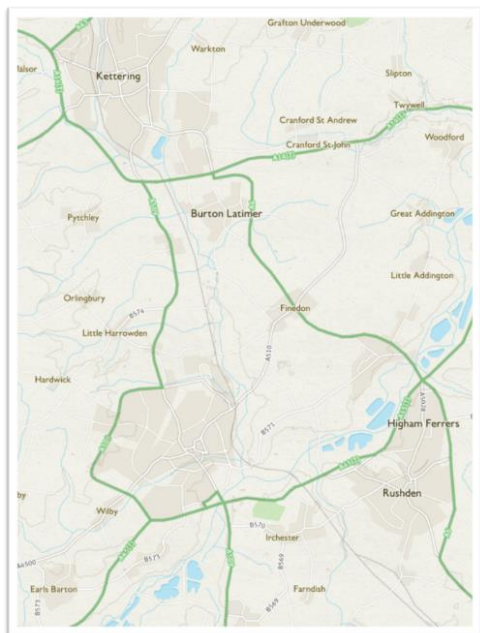
Key Findings

- 28% of students are studying from home, with 21% travelling to UON on foot and 16% still using a Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) – however it should be highlighted that this is significantly lower SOV figure than staff, and students have commented they are leaning to private vehicles instead of the bus during the pandemic.
- To increase sustainable travel students would like to see: improved cycle ways, better lighting, cheaper public transport fare and more frequent/direct buses.
- The majority of students prefer to attend university for their studies, comments included: study from home is difficult due to distractions and WiFi issues, face to face sessions are more engaging and easier for group work, students miss the on-site facilities and the general university experience.
- The students were asked about the Voi eScooter scheme, many have not yet been on site so have not used them. Of those that have, they use them to get between campus and the town centre. Positively, over 70% said the eScooters have created new journeys for them as opposed to replace another transport mode such as walking.

Section 1 (Q1-3): Questions About A Potential New Uno Bus Route

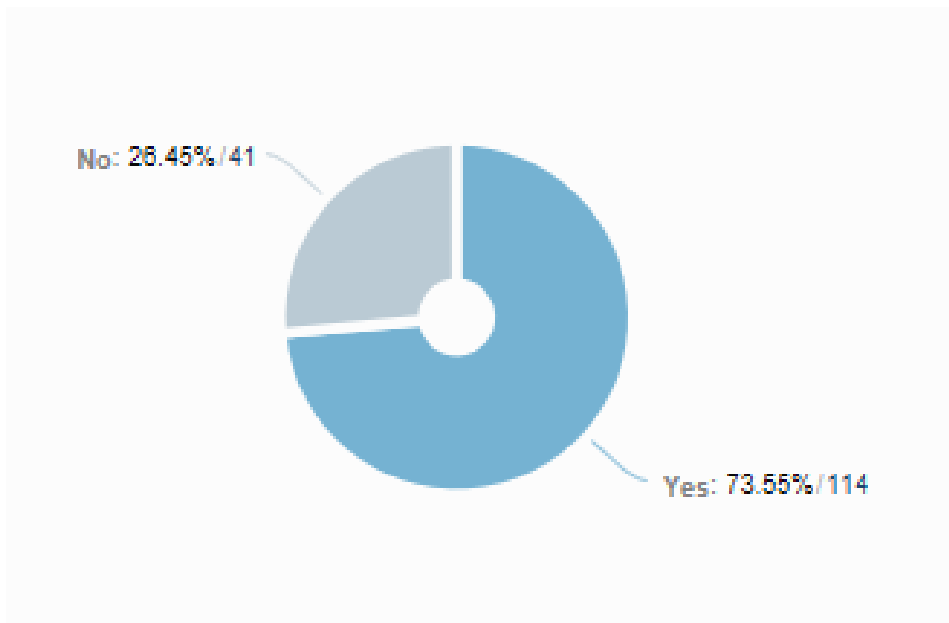
Q1. Is your home in this geographical area? (Map of A45 & A14 covering Earls Barton, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Burton Latimer and Kettering).

Answered by 725 respondents.

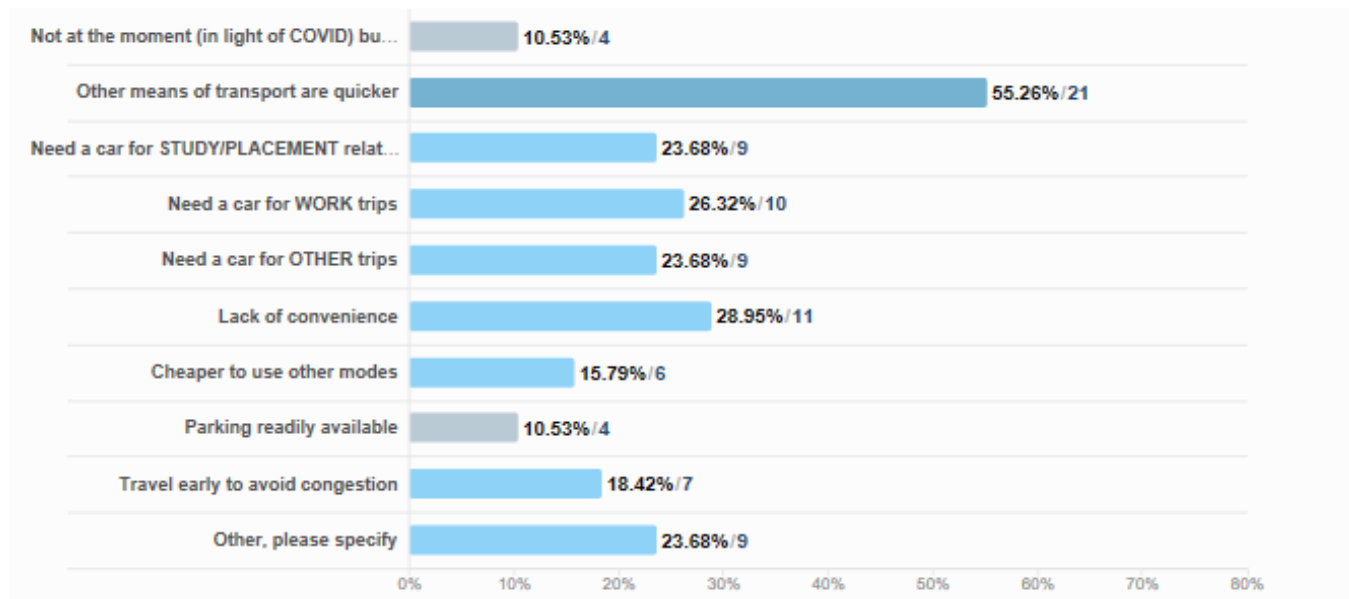


Q2. If yes, would you consider using a newly designed Uno service to travel between your residence and the university if the timetable met your needs.

Answered by 155 respondents.



Q3. If you would not, please tell us the reason for your choice? Answered by 38 respondents.



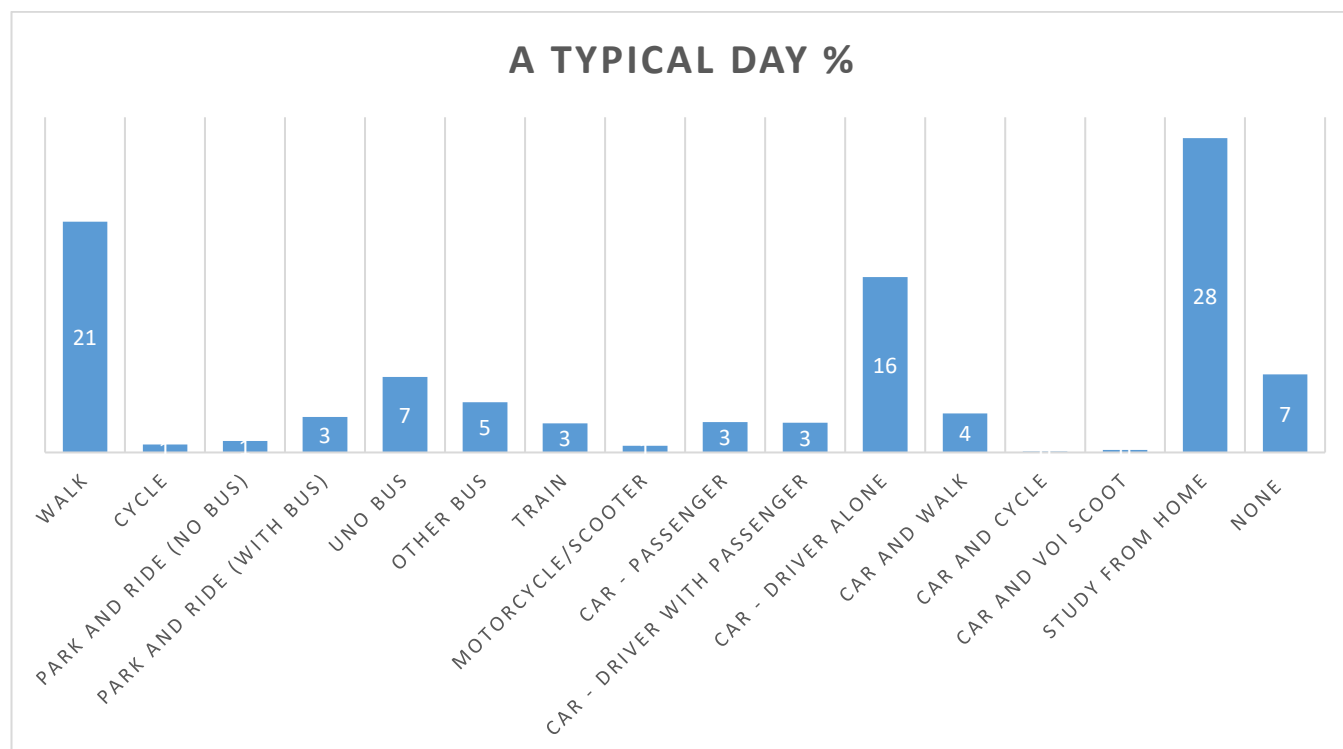
Section 2 (Q4-10): Main Survey

Q4. Please tell us your term time postcode. Answered by 609 respondents.

Q5. In a typical week, how do you normally travel to the university?

Answered by 559 respondents.

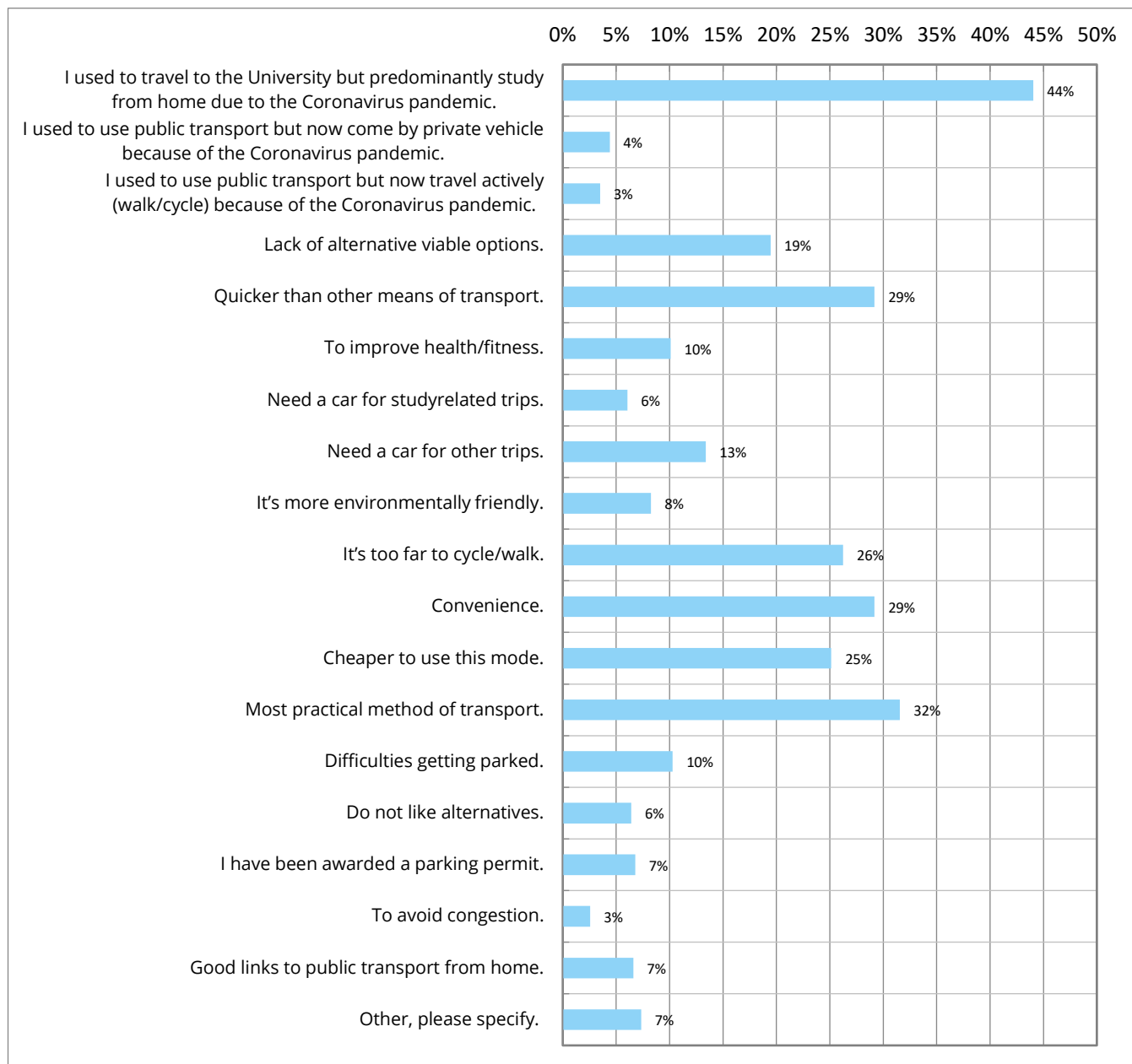
The average was calculated to show a 'typical' day below:



The actual daily data is shown in the table below:

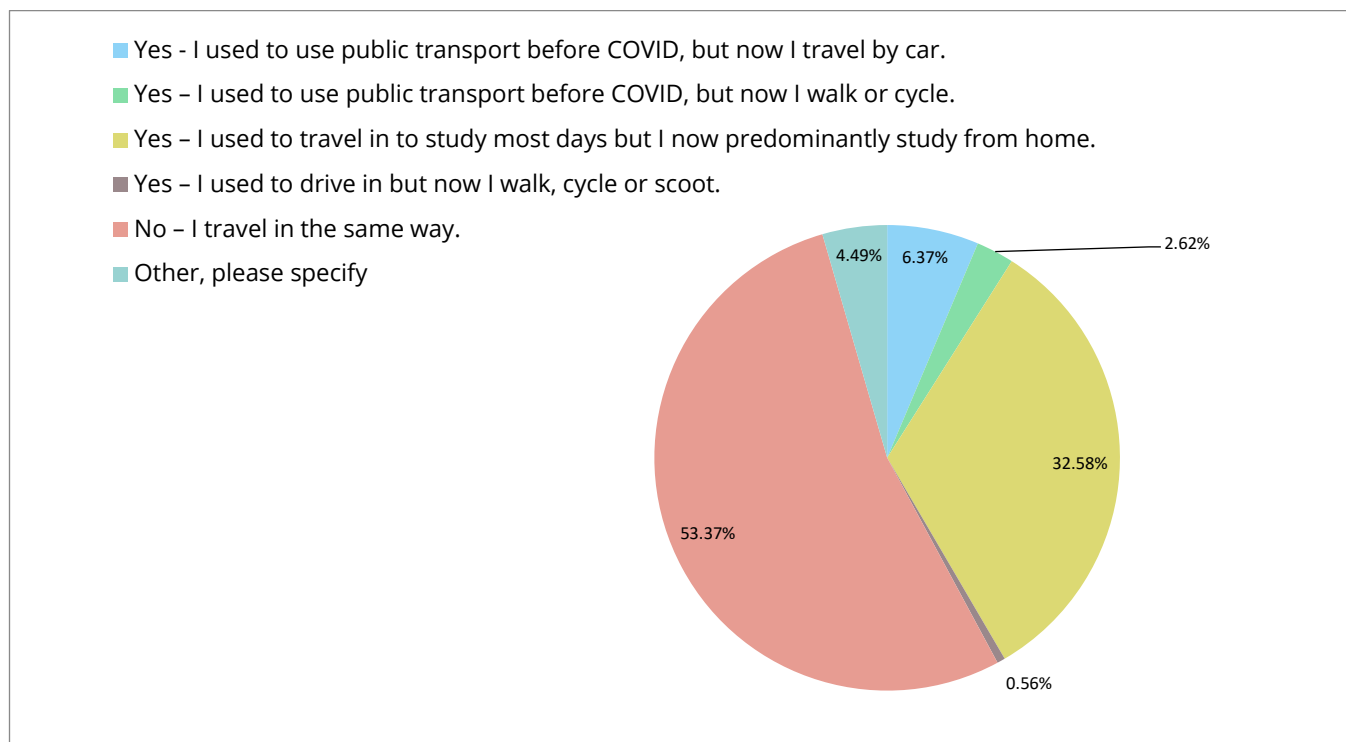
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	On average	%
Walk	118	116	105	122	116	115	21
Cycle	8	2	2	5	3	4	1
Park and ride (no bus)	7	5	6	7	4	6	1
Park and ride (with bus)	17	18	20	17	17	18	3
Uno Bus	40	40	34	38	37	38	7
Other bus	23	24	24	28	27	25	5
Train	13	14	13	18	15	15	3
Motorcycle/scooter	4	3	4	4	2	3	1
Car - passenger	19	18	11	19	9	15	3
Car - driver with passenger	18	15	12	17	12	15	3
Car - driver alone	88	97	86	89	79	88	16
Car and walk	21	22	19	21	15	20	4
Car and cycle	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Car and Voi scoot	1	0	2	1	2	1	0
Study from home	159	141	159	165	162	157	28
None	5	46	52	41	51	39	7
Totals	542	561	549	593	551	559	100

Q6. Thinking about your main mode of transport (the one you use the most), why do you travel by this mode? (Please tick all that apply). Answered by 545 respondents.



Q7. Has the coronavirus pandemic changed your travel behaviour?

Answered by 534 respondents.



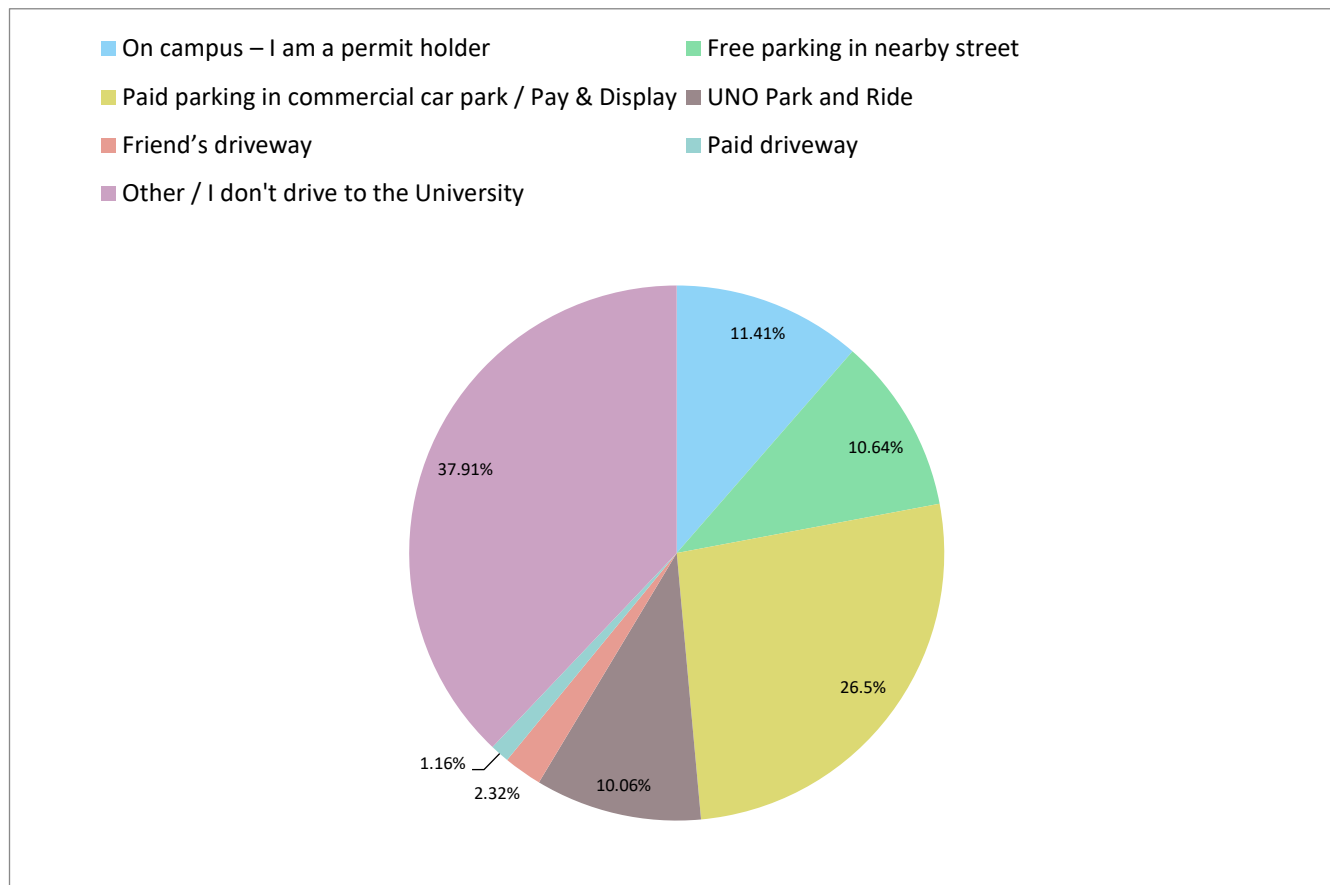
Other, please specify...

24 responses.

Comment	No.
I don't travel to the university/ I study from home	8
First year at UON	6
I have not yet arrived in the UK, I am still taking classes online from my home country	2
I am still having face to face lectures every day because of my course	1
I feel uncomfortable travelling using public transport now hence why I prefer doing all of my lectures online.	1
I live at the university	1
I still take the bus/public transport	1
I used to drive in once per week. Now I am almost completely online and will travel in once in the year, still by car	1
I used to live on Northampton and walk/use public transport, but now I live further away and drive when lectures are not online	1
I usually walk	1
Mixed, some lessons are still on campus. On these days, I drive in (car pool with another student from cohort).	1

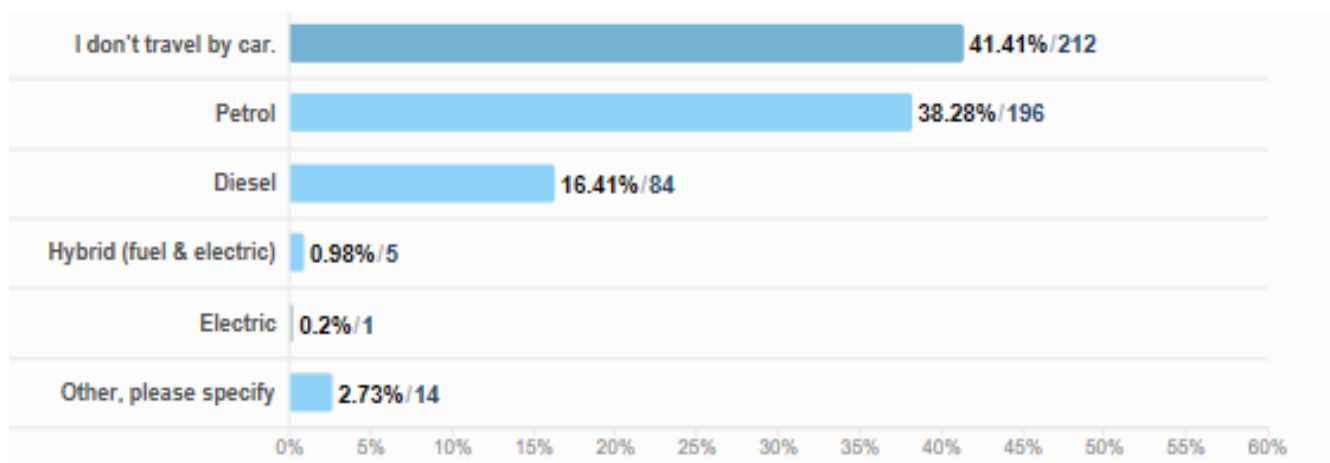
Q8. Where do you park most of the time when at the University?

Answered by 517 respondents.



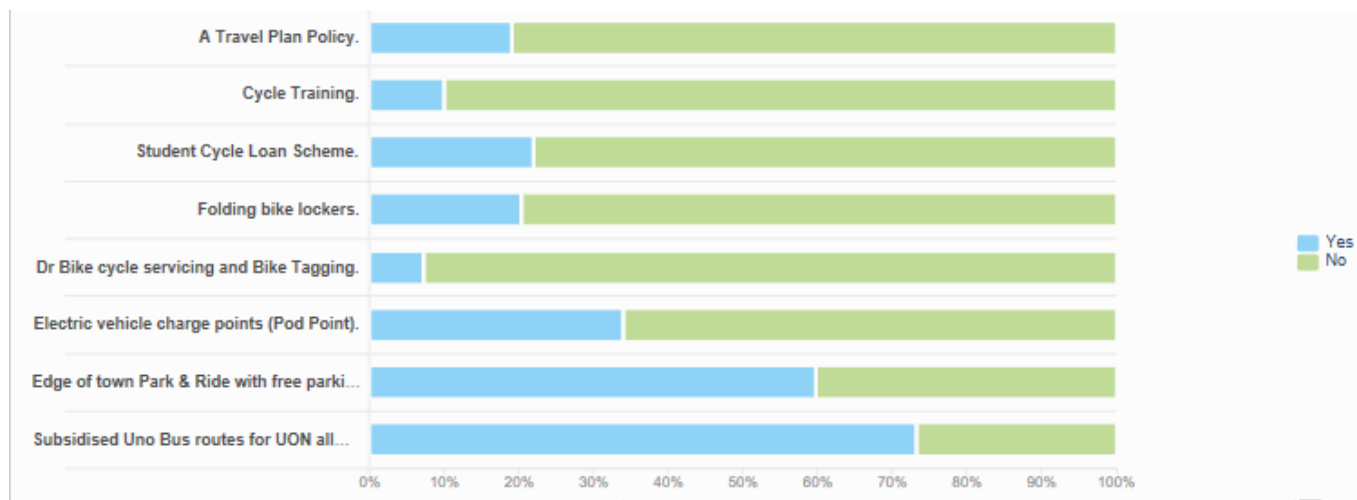
Q9. If you travel to the University by car, please indicate your vehicle fuel type (indicate predominant use, if access to more than one vehicle).

Answered by 512 respondents.



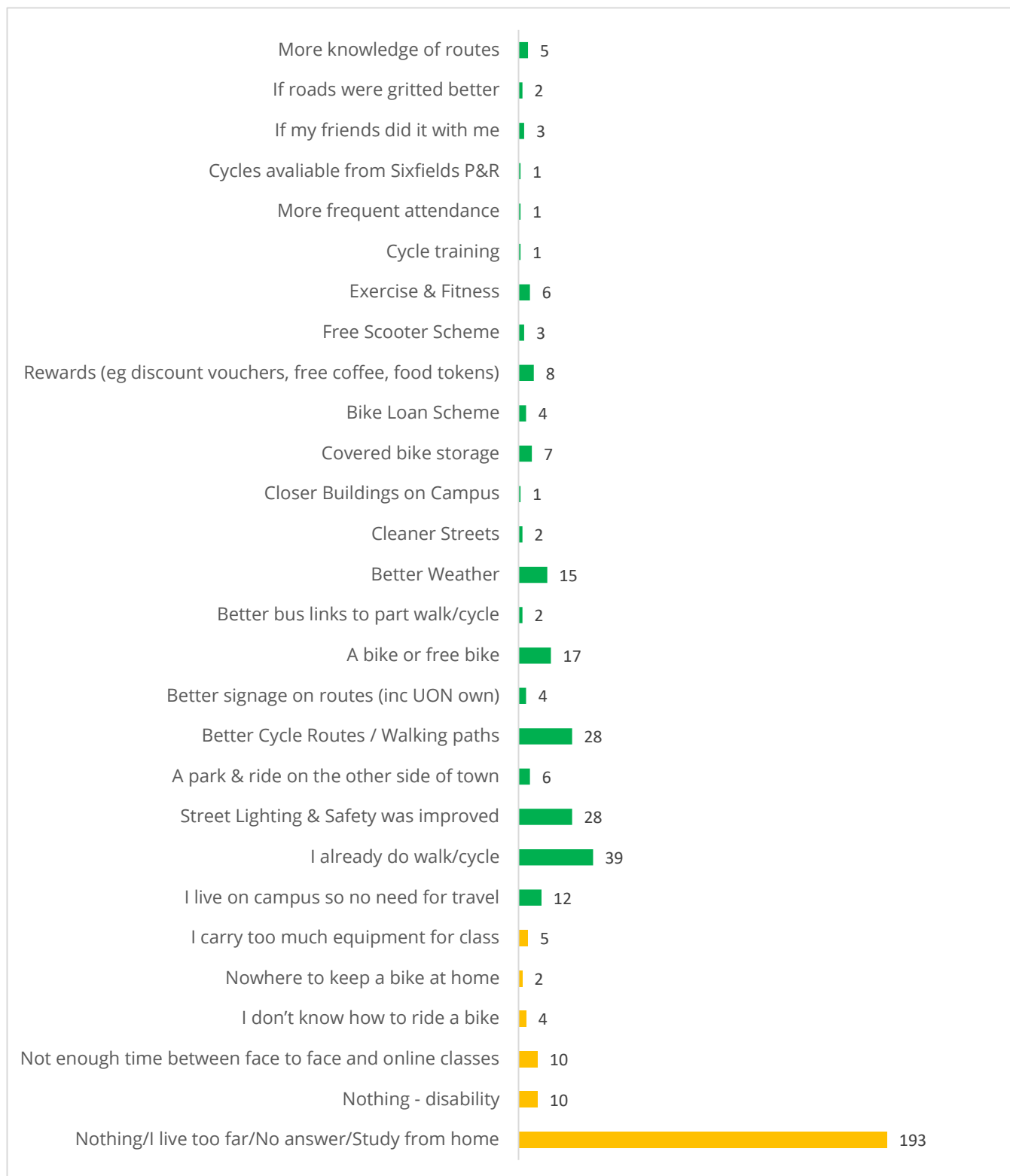
Q10. The University has implemented several measures to support students in getting to and from the University. Are you aware that the University has the following?

Answered by 497 respondents.



Q11. What would encourage you to walk or cycle to get to/from the University (all or part of the journey)? If you already walk or cycle what improvements would you most like to see?

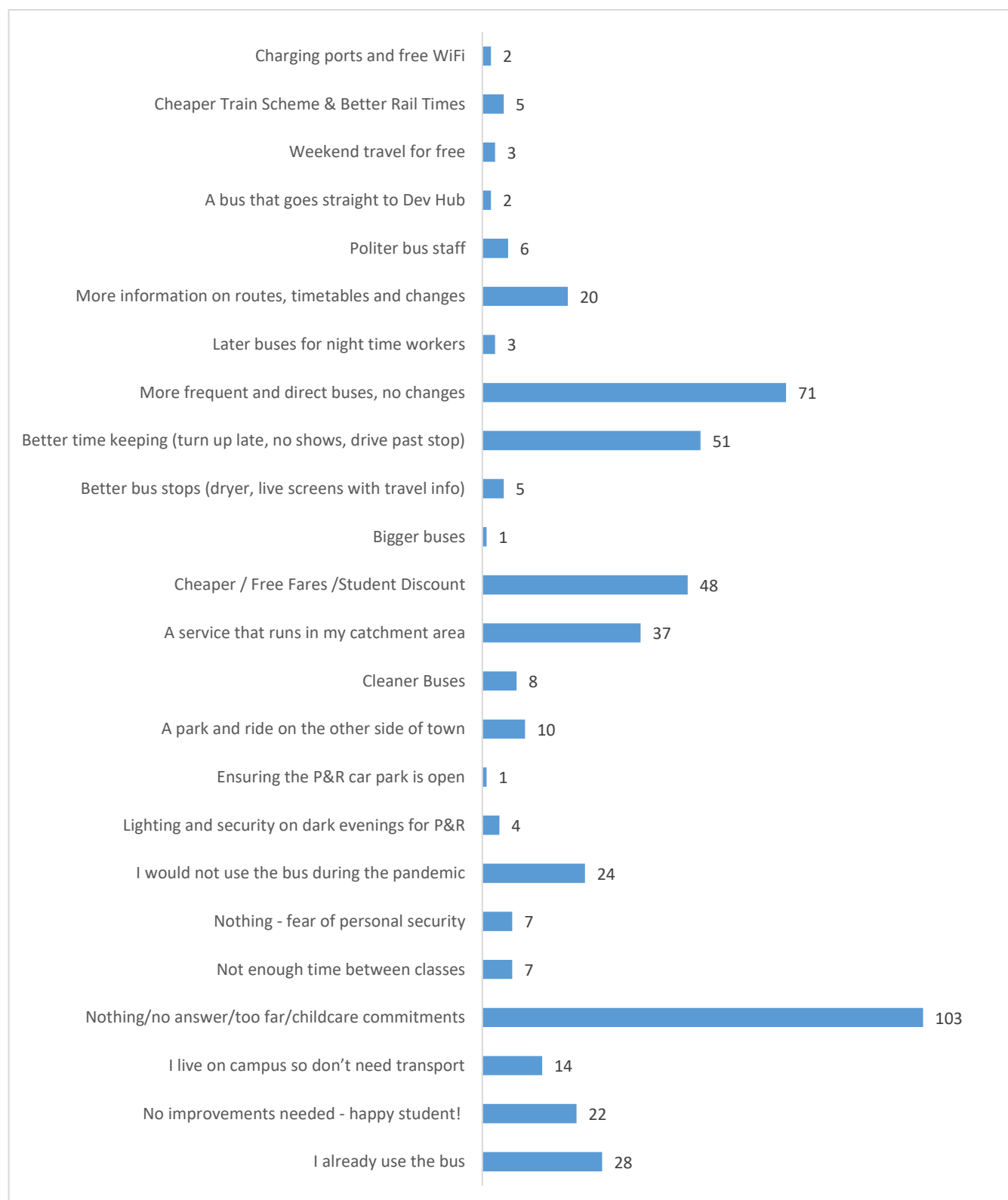
Answered by 447 respondents.



The main response to this question was 'nothing, it's too far, I have other commitments', however, for many of us we look at the journey as a whole and not components, it may be a last mile solution would encourage people – this should be considered as a more specific question in future surveys, it was a suggestion by 8 respondents. Improvements those that would cycle would like to see were: better/ safer routes.

Q11. What would encourage you to use public transport to get to/from the University (all or part of the journey)? If you already use public transport what improvements would you most like to see?

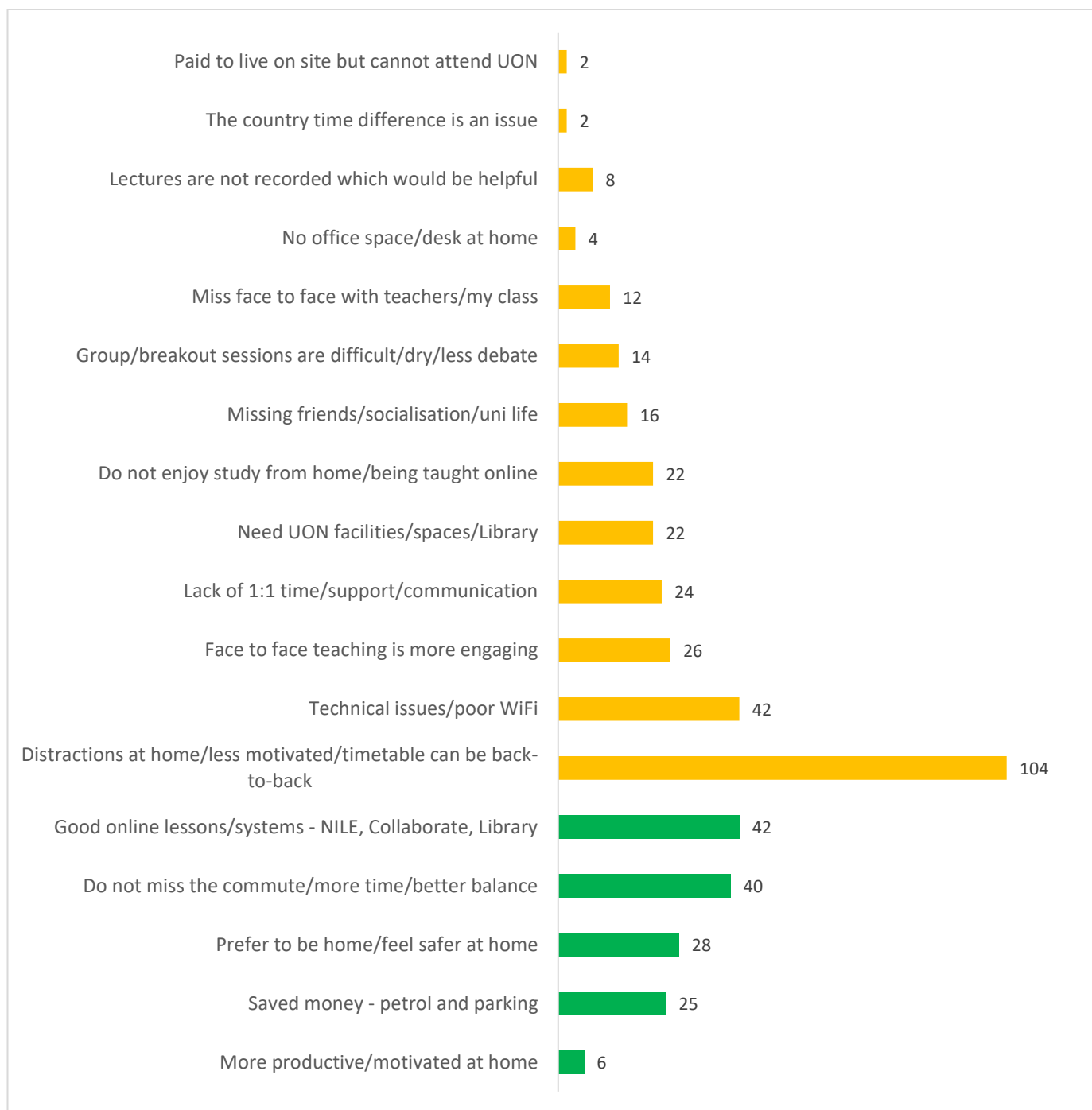
Answered by 421 respondents.



The main response to this question was 'nothing, it's too far, I have other commitments', however, encouraging people to break their journey down to components may also work here. However, in the main, students would like to see: more frequent and direct buses and better time keeping.

Q12. Are you able to work from home? If so, what has worked well and what has not worked well?

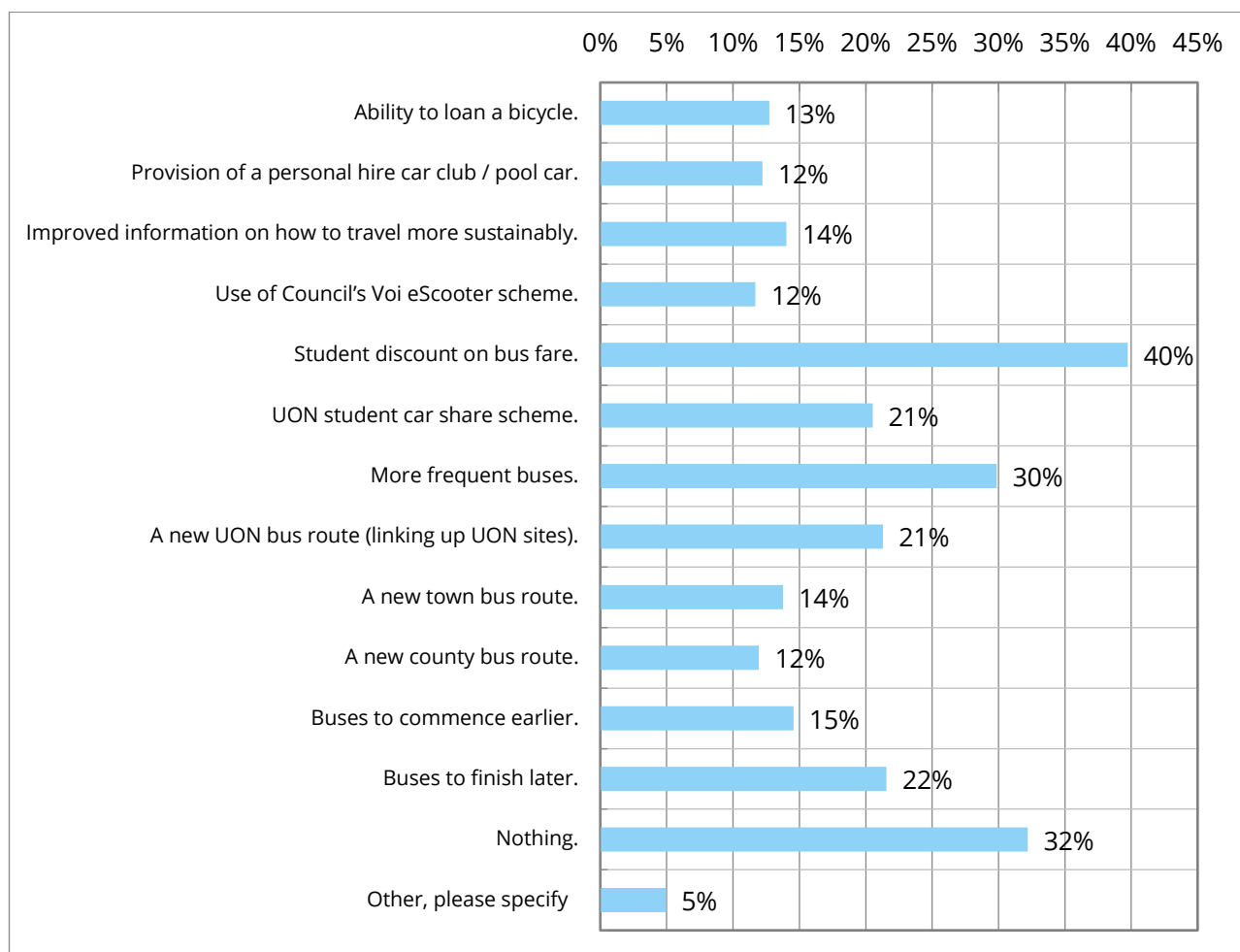
Answered by 350 respondents.



The overwhelming comment here from students was that they find it difficult to concentrate at home as there are a number of distractions, either at their permanent home address or shared accommodation. They also commented their home or halls WiFi is not up to scratch. Students also miss attending University for the face to face teaching, peer support/work facilities and social experience.

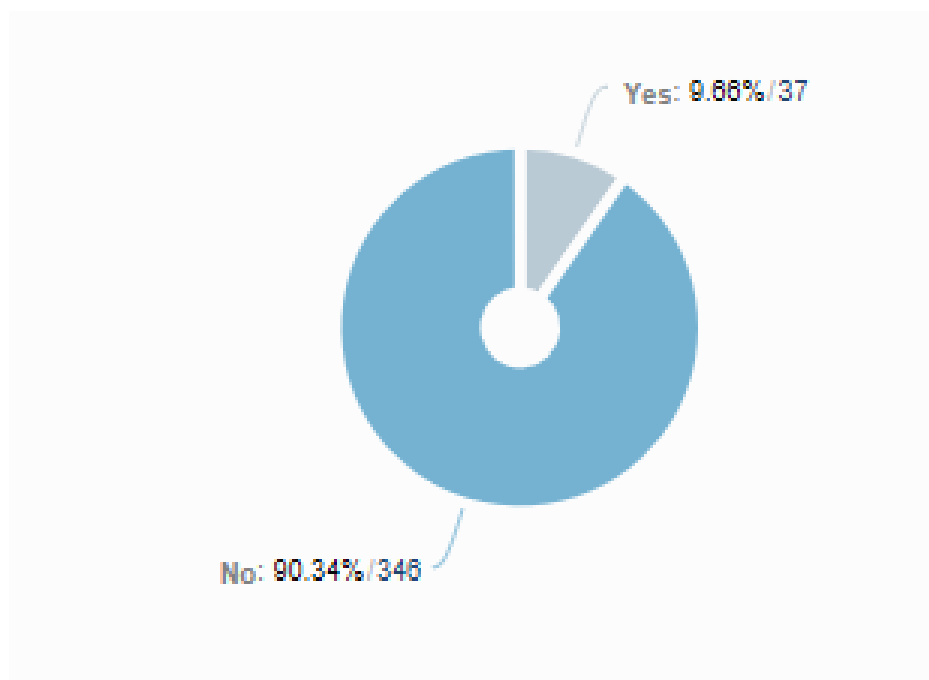
Q14. Whilst travelling at/for work, would any of the following help you travel sustainably? (Please tick all that apply).

Answered by 385 respondents.



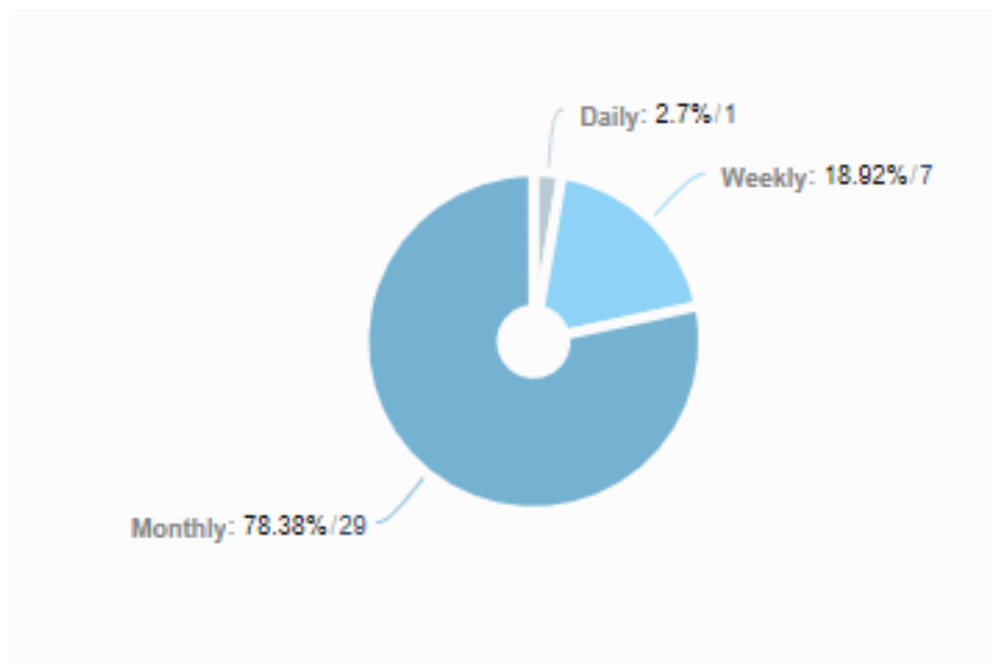
Q15. Have you used the Voi Scooter scheme?

Answered by 383 respondents.



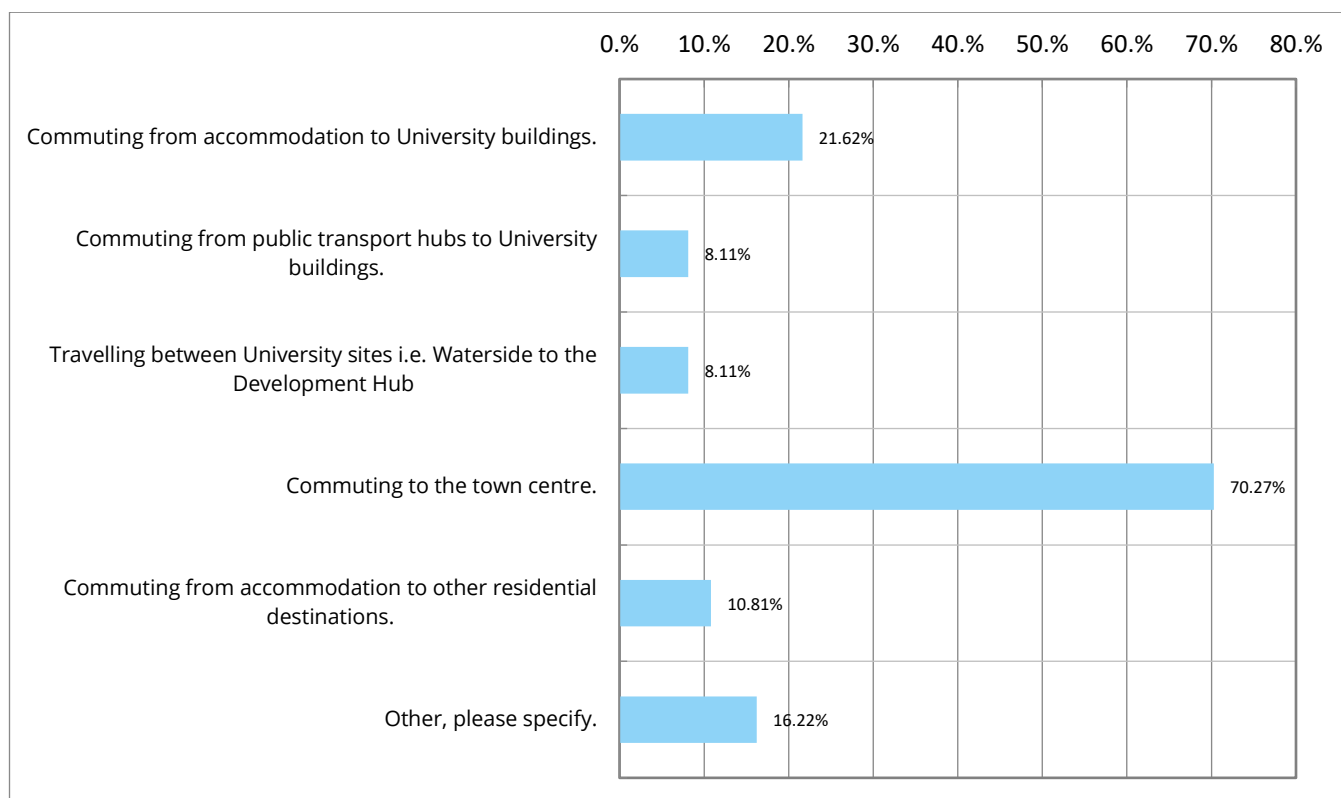
Q16. On average, how frequently are you using the scheme?

Answered by 37 respondents.



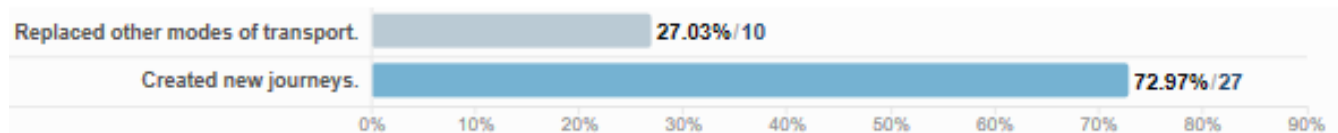
Q17. What journeys are you using the Voi eScooters for? (Please tick all that apply).

Answered by 37 respondents.



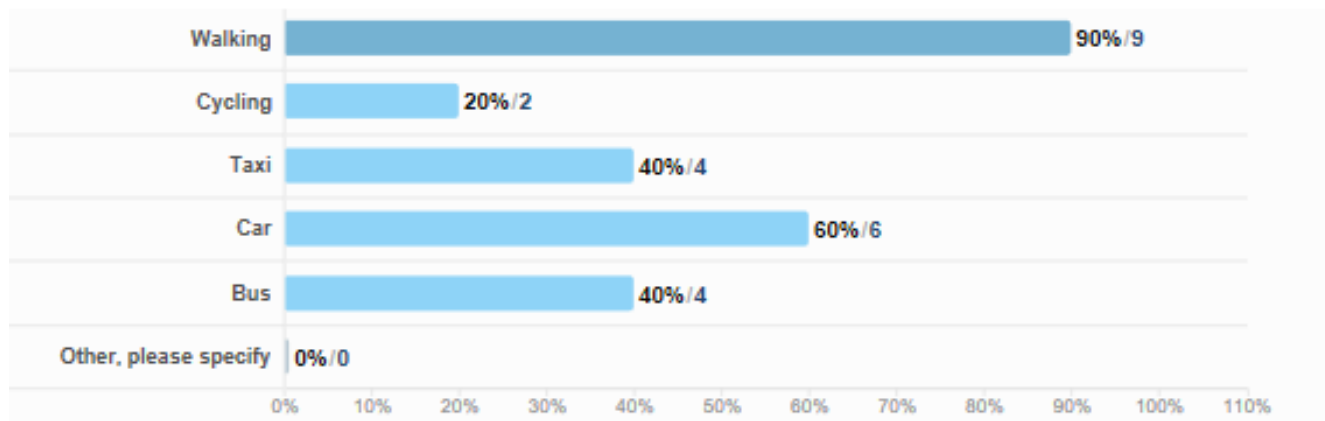
Q18. Have the Voi eScooters replaced other modes of transport for existing journeys or created new journeys?

Answered by 37 respondents.



Q19. Which mode of transport have the Voi eScooters predominately replaced for your journeys? (Please tick all that apply).

Answered by 10 respondents.



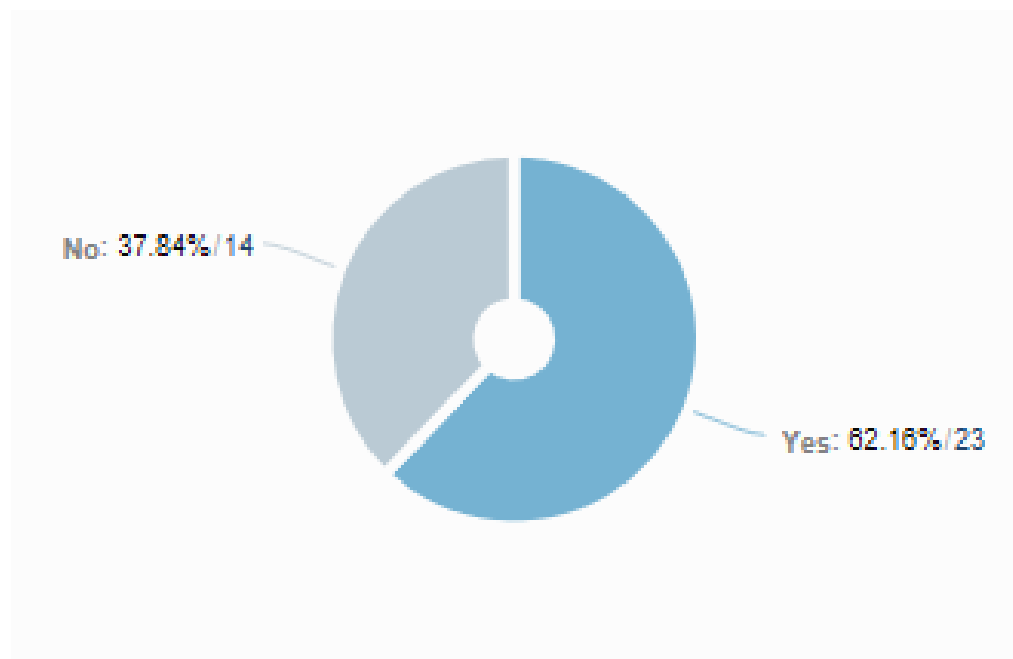
Q20. What are your reasons for using the Voi eScooters instead of other modes of transport?

Answered by 10 respondents.

Comment	No.
Because I can use it alone.	1
Convenient.	1
Don't have to struggle for parking in the Town Centre. Quicker than having to catch the bus. Freedom and Fresh Air.	1
Its quick and cheap and fun to use.	1
It's easy to find one when walking to a destination, so if I do not want to walk I can just ride of them.	1
More convenient.	1
Quicker than walking.	1
Social distancing is possible. But the scooters are scary, I don't like riding them on the road,	1
There were some available and my friend and I thought it would be fun to give them a go.	1
They are convenient and quick.	1

Q21. Can you get to all of your desired destinations by Voi eScooters?

Answered by 10 respondents.



Q22. Please list which destinations you can't currently reach by Voi eScooter (either a building or business or street name). Answered by 12 respondents.

Comment	No.
Brackmills	1
St James Retail Park (Aldi & McDonalds)	1
Lawson Crescent	1
Lidl-Towcester Rd, Northampton NN1 1BQ	1
Abington	1
Blackthorn	1
Certain roads as they are out of the red zone	1
Development Hub - you cannot pass the 40mph sign	1
Placement locations	1
Places that are too far as they are expensive	1
Sixfields	2

Q23. Please provide a comment on your experiences of using the Voi eScooters.

Answered by 34 respondents.

Comment	No.
Fun/ good/ handy/ easy	19
Misused / scary/ dangerous	4
Expensive/ payment system needs to be more flexible	4
Quick /Fast	5
Can't use as you need a provisional driver's license / takes too long to setup	2
Scooters are left parked in the way	2
Cheap	1

Conclusion

In conclusion, 2020 has encouraged new ways of work/study that consequently promote a flexible travel approach. For many this is well received with aspirations of it continuing long term to benefit their work/life balance, however for our students the vast majority would prefer to be on campus to utilise the resources and get the most out of their university experience.

Students will return to campus post Covid-19 and the university will need to continue with its strategy to encourage sustainable transport options in order to meet Travel Plan targets and plans to decarbonise the university. This will need to be well balanced with any increase in car parking availability in light of staff working from home.

There are a number of improvement requests from students that the university could assist with: improved cycle and footways, better lighting, changes to Uno buses including more frequent travel and trips to the Development Hub, student discount on public transport and recording virtual lectures.

This report does not conclude all findings, there is more that can be done with the data and actions from this survey can be used to inform the 2021 Travel Survey content. The university should consider the student feedback and outline to students what we are working on to meet their requests.