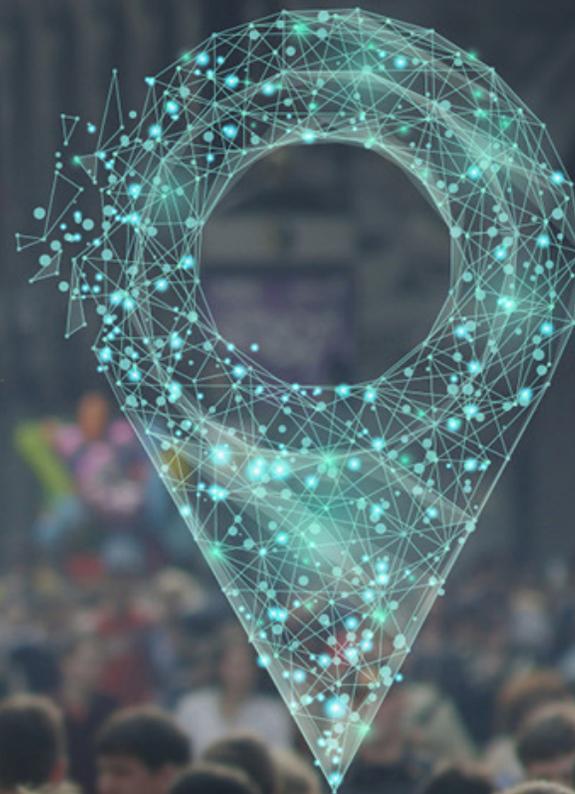


Alumni Questionnaire 2021

Results Summary



Contents

1) Questionnaire Summary

2) Questionnaire Responses (by section)

- About HDR UK
- About the Alumni network
- About our online presence
- About you
- Final questions



Questionnaire Summary

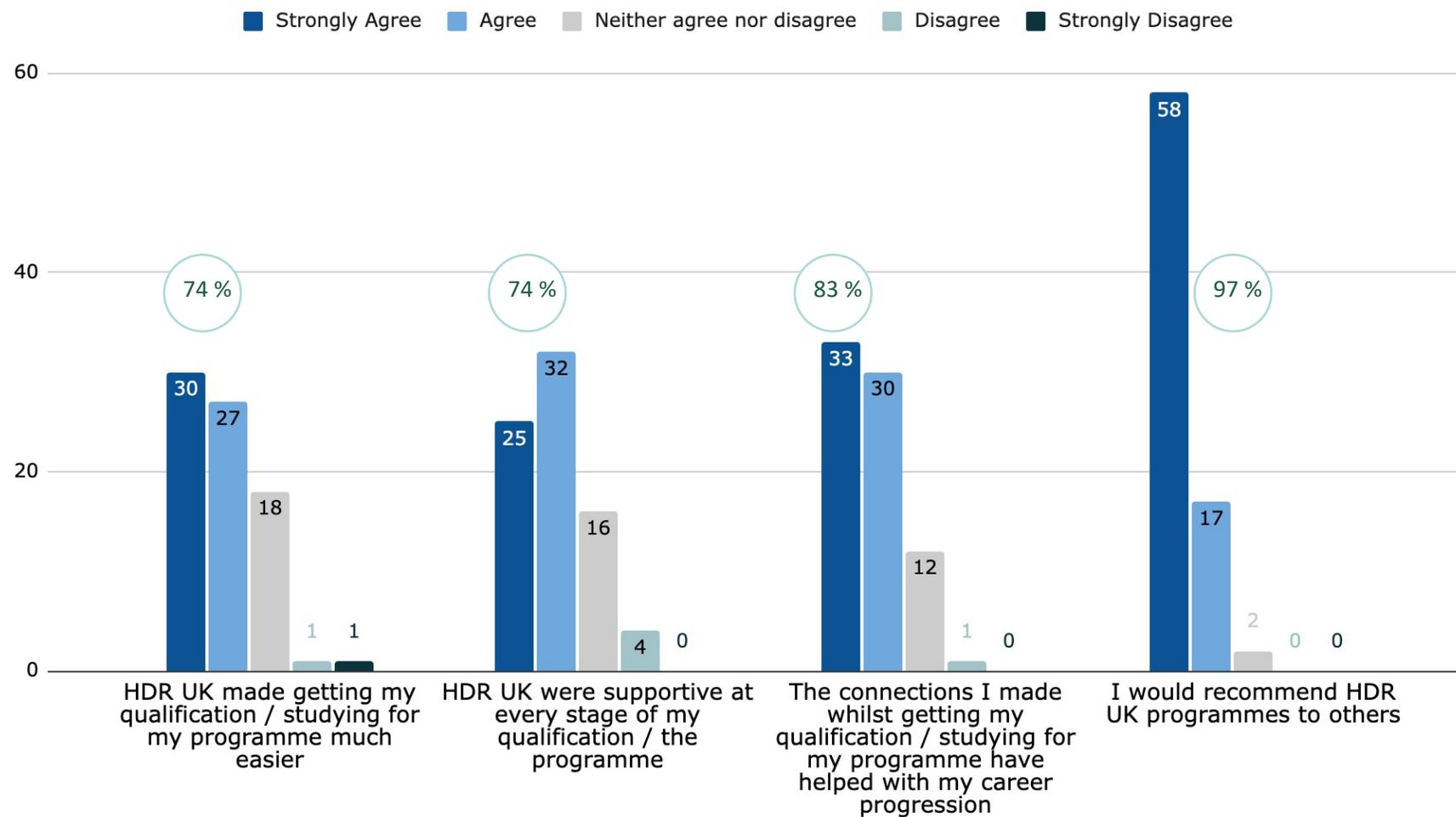
- The questionnaire was open from 8th November 2021
- 80 responses were received between 9th Nov and 21st Dec
- Feedback was invited from alumni across 4 student groups: Fellowship, Internship, MSc and PhD.
- Feedback was gathered with 15 fixed response and 3 open-ended questions
- The fixed response questions used a 5 point likert scale either ranging from:
 - ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’
 - ‘Very interested’ to ‘Very uninterested’
 - ‘Very useful’ to ‘Not useful at all’
- Each bar chart shows the number of respondents who gave a particular answer
- Where relevant, the % of favourable answers (e.g. ‘Strongly Agree’ and ‘Agree’ responses added together) is shown like this 

Questionnaire Responses

About HDR UK



Q1. To what extent do you agree / disagree with the following statements?



The percentage of people who answered favourably ('Strongly Agree' or 'Agree') here was 74%, 74%, 83% and 97% respectively across the four statements.

Q1. Additional Comments (1/2)

The free text comments below and on the following page are presented in three sections – positive, neutral and less positive. These and all comments in this report are provided verbatim.

Positive

- HDRUK provided funding for my MSc - if not for the funding I would not have the connections or qualifications I currently do.
- I had an amazing experience. I further developed my understanding of statistics and developed many new skills. Additionally, I increased my knowledge about what health data science is and its impact on the health outcomes for groups of individuals.
- I participated in the back internship programme which helped broaden my knowledge of the health data industry as well as giving me the opportunity to meet and engage with a variety of professionals in the field. I was able to apply my knowledge to support the development of a project, all the experiences combined helped me achieve my current position as a graduate data scientist.
- I received a scholarship from HDR UK which had a big impact for me.
- This programme has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am 100% being prepared for a career in the health sciences. The programme is designed in an excellent way to give me not only the skills I need, but also the push to explore expanding my own area of interests surrounding the data science and the health sciences.
- Wonderful networking opportunities. Thank you.

Q1. Additional Comments (2/2)

Neutral

- I never spoke directly to anyone from HDRUK when applying for the programme
- I'm still early on in my HDRUK studentship, so for now it is a bit hard assess the extent to which HDRUK will eventually help me with getting my qualification.
- I'm a recipient of a HDRUK scholarship and hence not in the programme
- My course director (Cambridge) forwarded this survey, I am current student, so I skip this section: "Although many of the questions seem aimed at alumni, you could skip those that are impossible to answer yet"
- Not sure if that is the right survey for me, I did not even know that I was alumni

Less positive

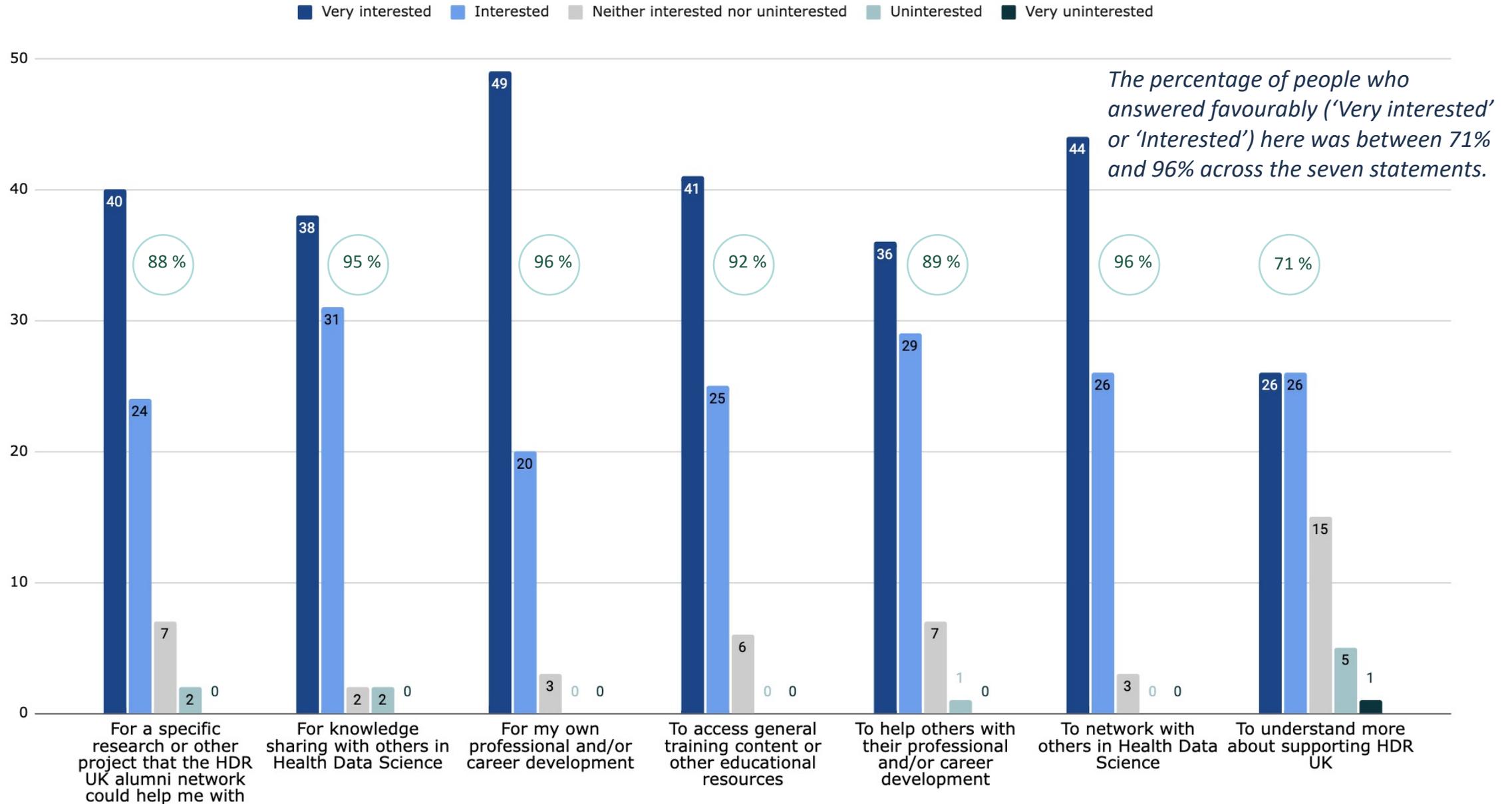
- The Fellowship programme was truly a great opportunity and I made the most of it to develop new skills and collaborations. As I was not affiliated with the substantial HDR UK sites, I did not receive much support from HDRUK itself. I did not really feel part of HDRUK. During my final year, which hit during the peak of the pandemic, I received little guidance or encouragement from HDRUK and felt quite isolated.
- I'd like to see more support for inter site transfers. HDR UK is supposed to be a single virtual institute

Questionnaire Responses

About the Alumni network



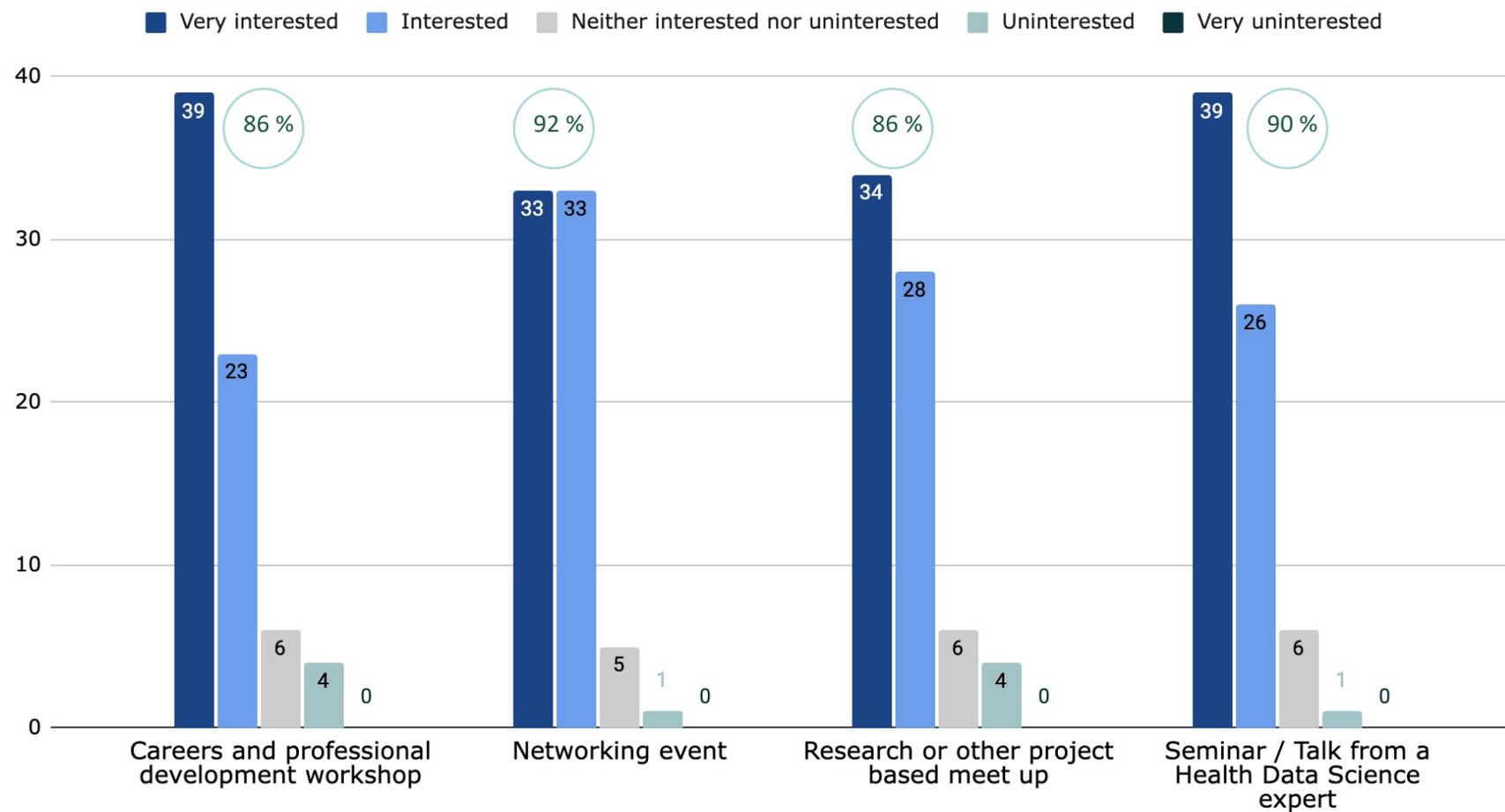
Q2. How interested would you be in each of these potential benefits of HDR UK's alumni network?



Q2. Additional Comments

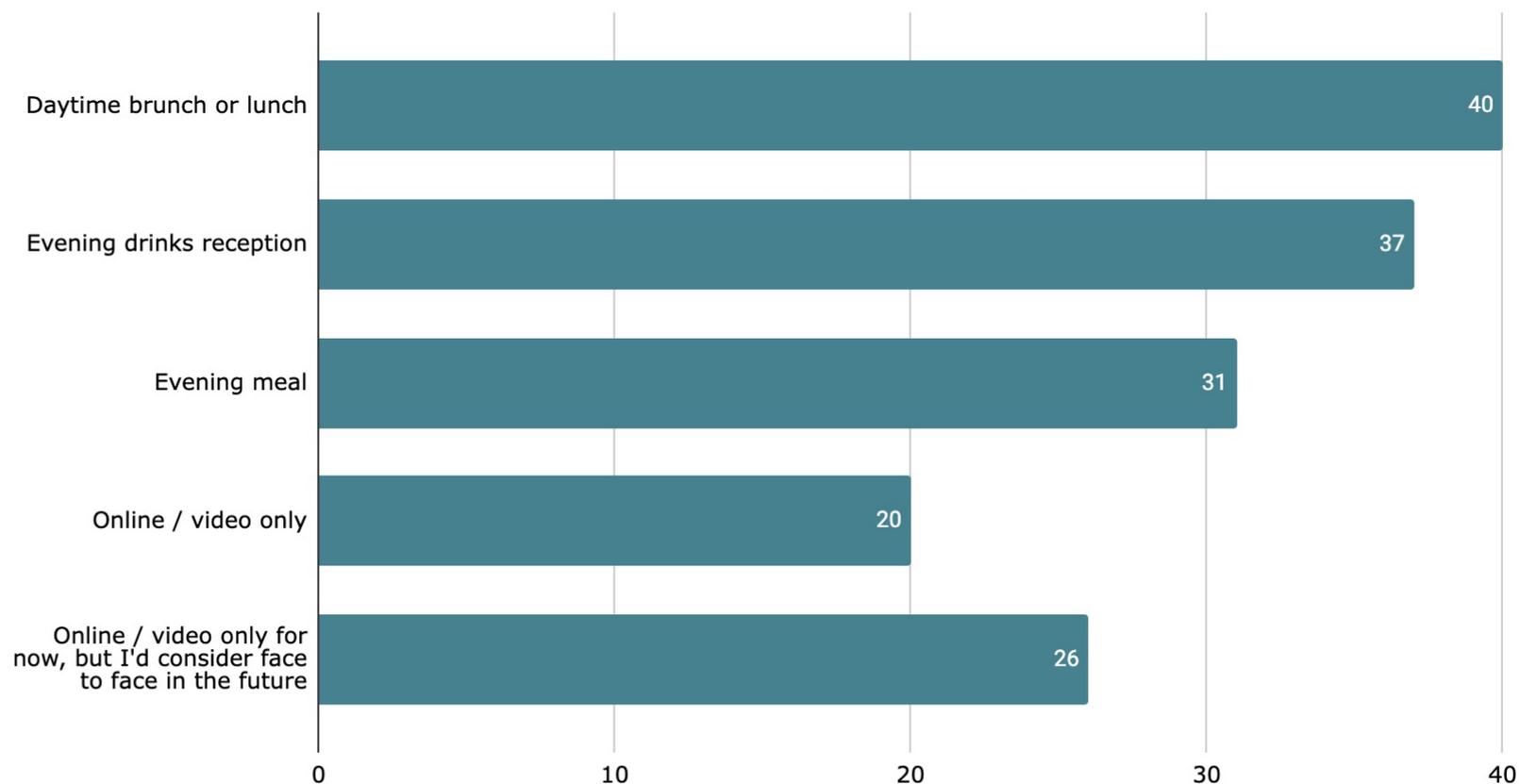
- One thing I think is really missing in career / professional support generally for graduates is that there is *so much* focus on large employers at university careers services: big corporates and public sector employers. I can imagine this being the case with healthcare careers. I think it would be VERY beneficial for there to be more linkage and outreach with SMEs. I have worked at 4 companies (2 in healthcare) - all of them were SMEs, no bigger than 250 employees. I don't think I'm particularly interested in working with larger companies or public sector - my career growth so far has been from small companies. The start-up scene in the UK is great for tech jobs for data scientists (I have worked in start-up) - a lot more is happening in healthtech now around London, Cambridge, etc. HDR UK accredited programmes would be great source for grads. Something I think would be a shame is that I do a data scientist role not in healthtech afterwards - I really would like to, but healthtech companies are so poorly linked up with careers services (or may be too snobby about PhDs or pure sciences grads, even compared to highly quantitative Health Data Science programmes). HDR UK could be a great bridge to such companies. I am interested in entrepreneurship and would like to start my own tech (healthtech) company in future so linkages with entrepreneurs would also be great.
- Finding jobs is tricky - so any support in that would be amazing!
- To understand more about supporting HDR UK - I support HDRUK or HDRUK support me? I did not understand the question.

Q3. How interested would you be in participating in these potential HDR UK Alumni events?



The percentage of people who answered favourably ('Very interested' or 'Interested') here was 86%, 92%, 86% and 90% across the four statements.

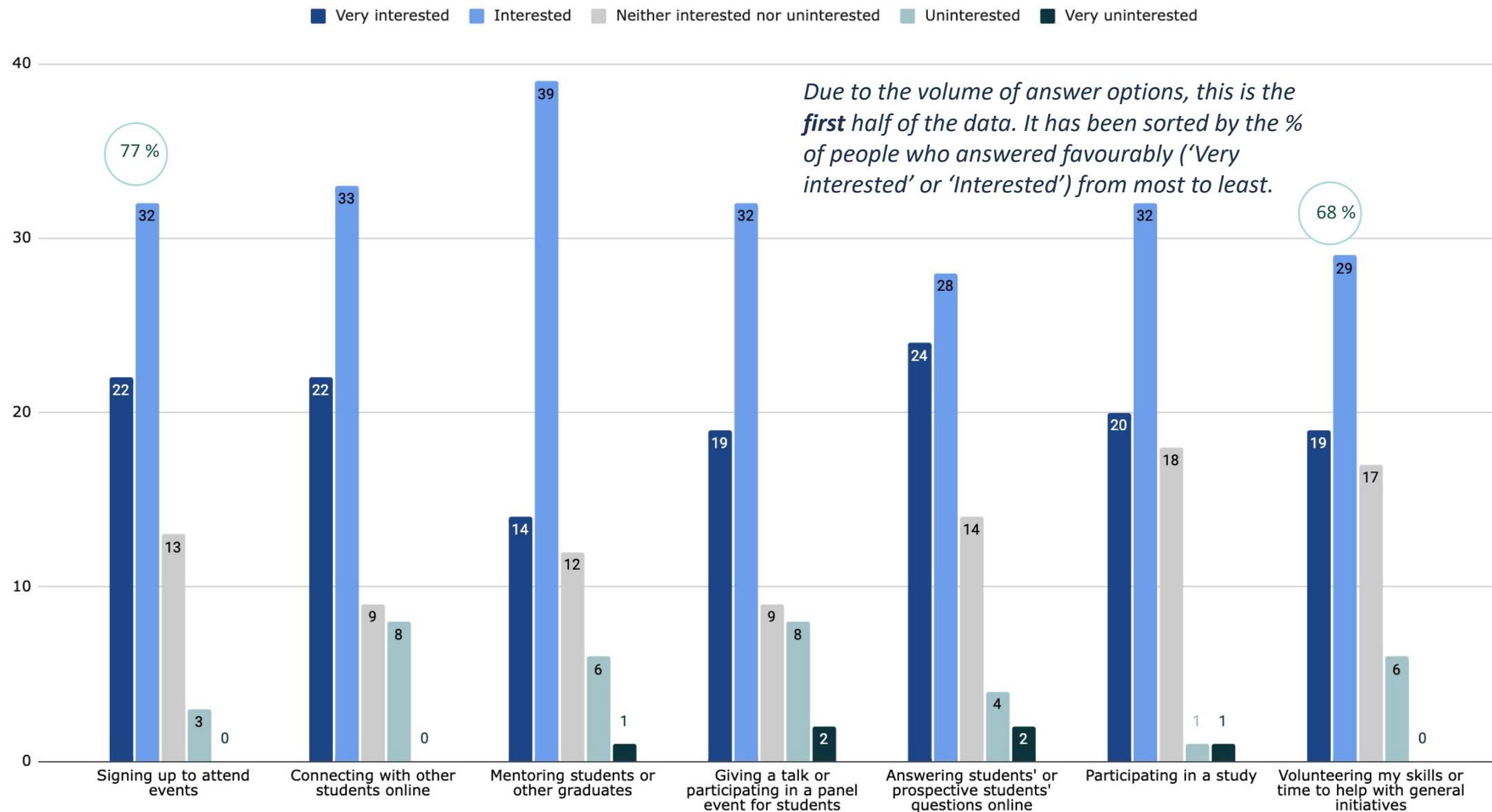
Q4. If you were interested in attending a HDR UK alumni event, which of these options would you prefer? (Please select up to 3)



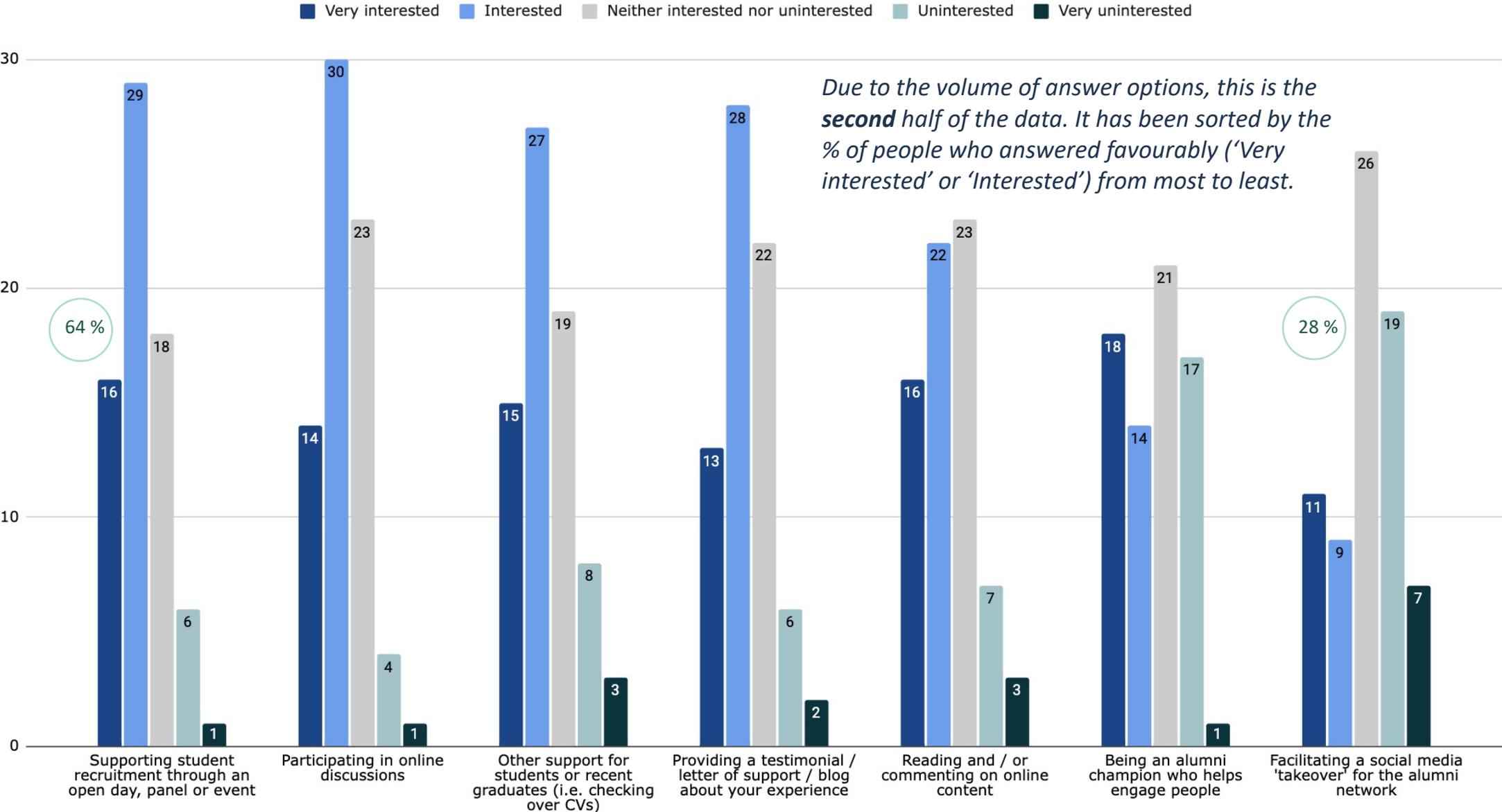
The four 'Other' answers given were:

- 1. Depends how local it is. If substantial travel is required, I would prefer online*
- 2. Any of the options are fine by me*
- 3. Face2face only if it is not always London!*
- 4. Enough advanced warning to be able to travel (especially if it is in London, as advance train tickets are so much cheaper!)*

Q5 (1/2) There are a number of ways to get involved in HDR UK's alumni network. How interested would you be in each of the following?



Q5 (2/2). There are a number of ways to get involved in HDR UK's alumni network. How interested would you be in each of the following?

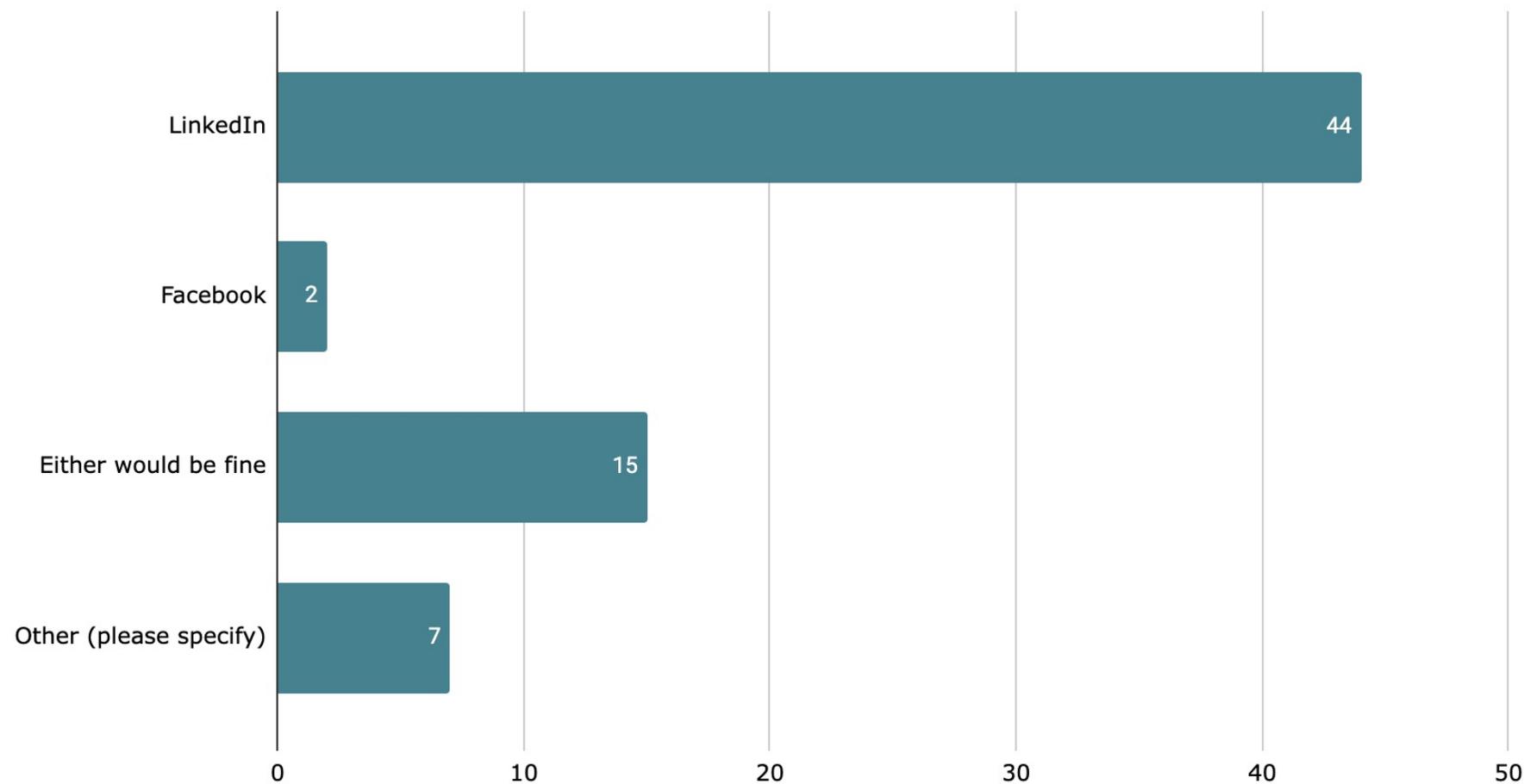


Questionnaire Responses

About our online presence



Q6. Where would be the most convenient and engaging place for us to host HDR UK's alumni network online?



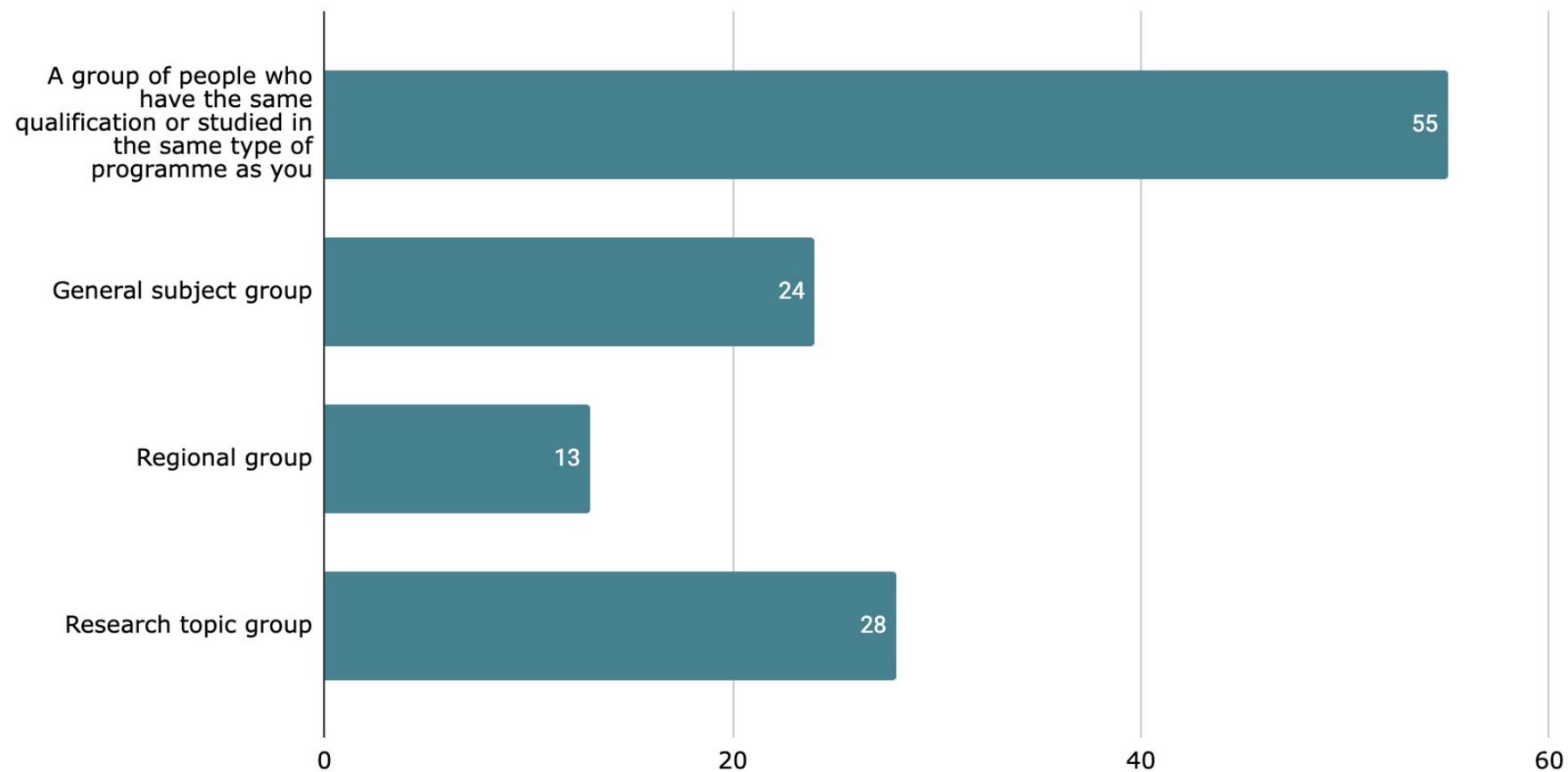
*The responses show **87%** selected LinkedIn (combining 'LinkedIn' and 'Either' answer options).*

The 7 'Other' responses are detailed on the next page.

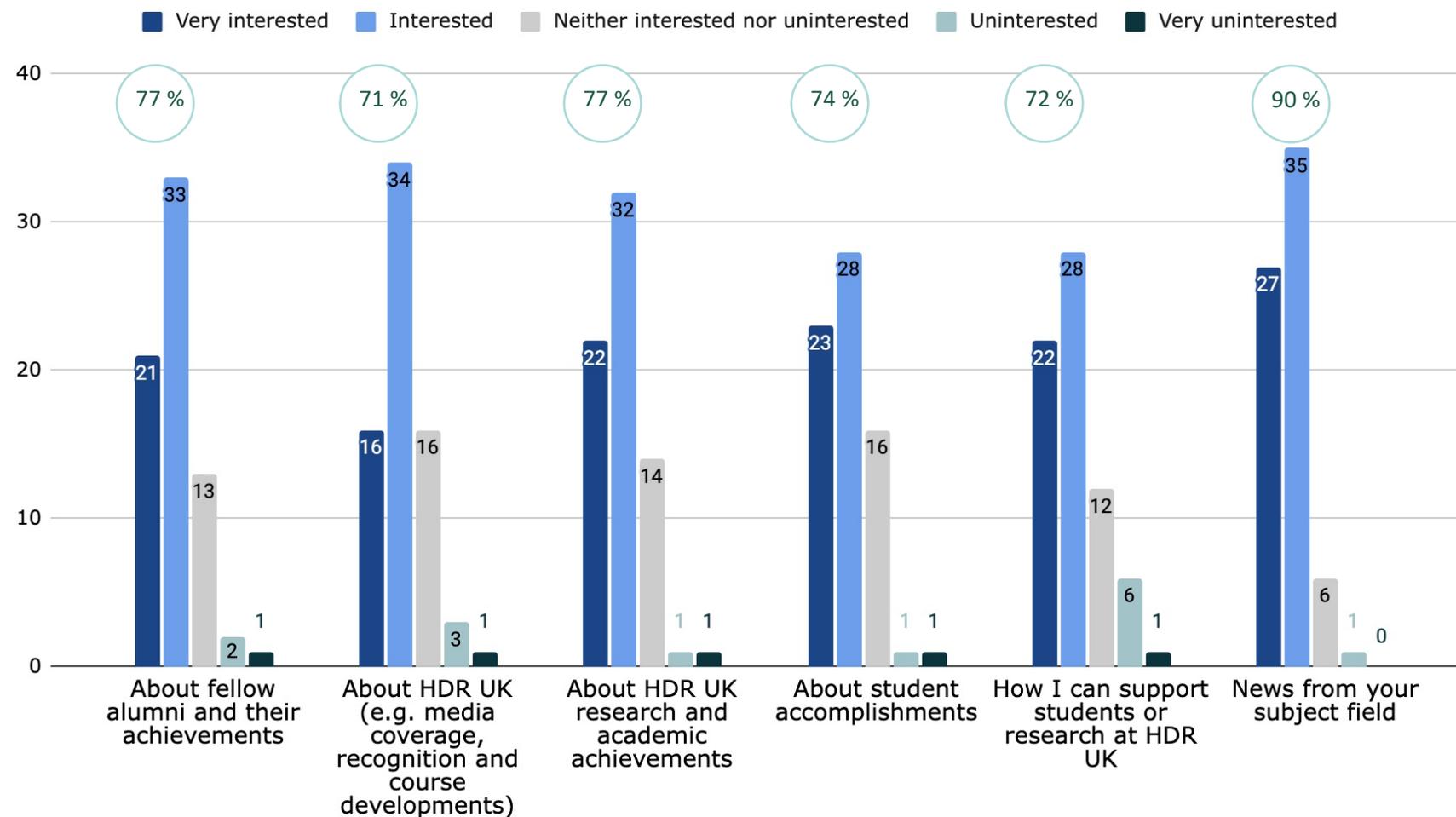
Q6. 'Other' responses

- Twitter
- I don't really engage with the options provided. Twitter?
- Twitter? though maybe that doesn't work for things like this... For me facebook is for my private life, and linkedin is rarely something I look at.
- On the HDRUK website
- Definitely not Facebook. Also LinkedIn is something I don't do, so if these are the only options - count me out.
- It would be great to start engaging people through the instagram
- Neither

Q7. Which of these groups would you be most keen to connect with within HDR UK's online alumni community? (Please choose your top one or two options)

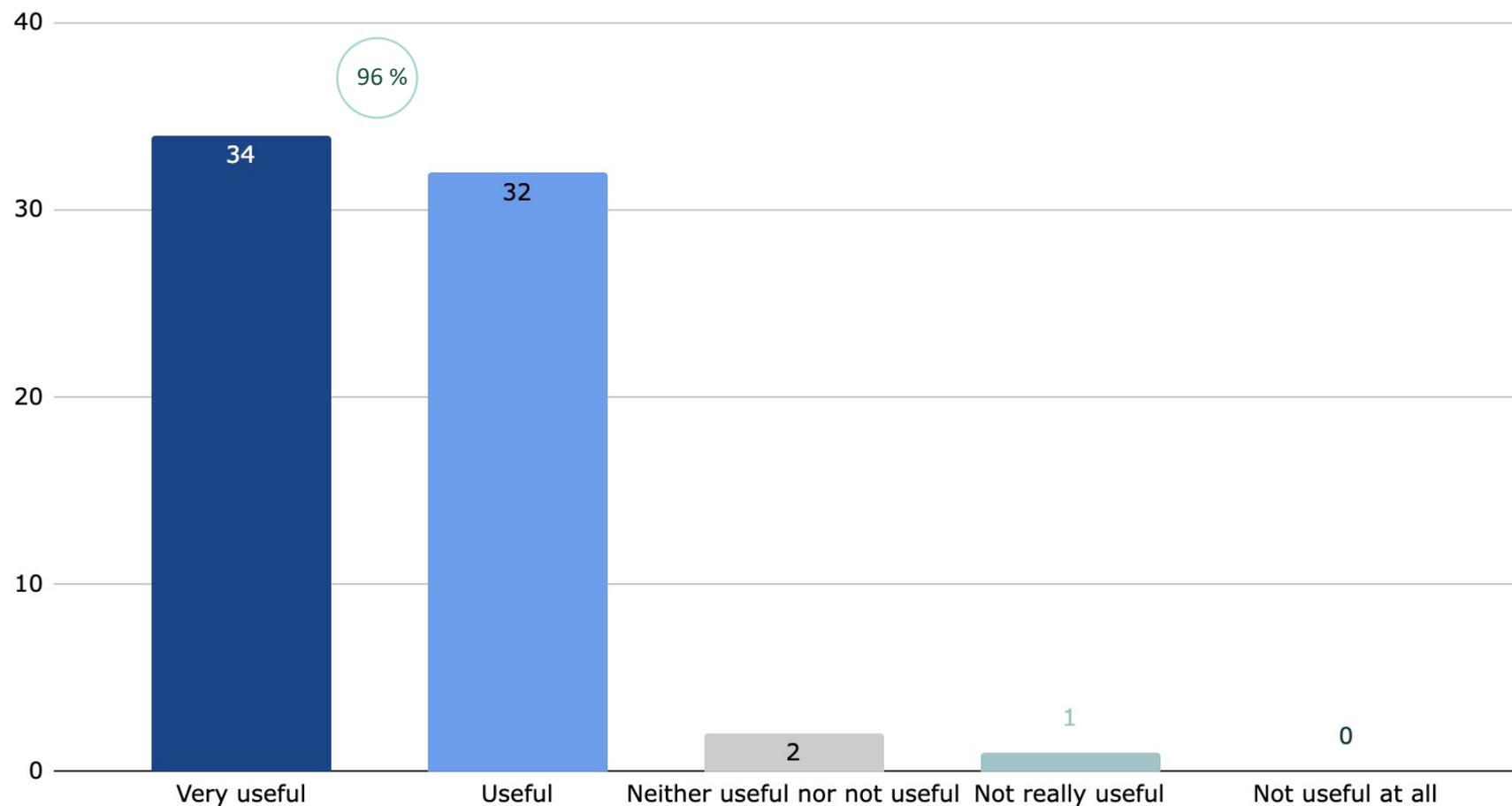


Q8. How interested would you be in receiving information about each of the following:



The percentage of people who answered favourably ('Very Interested' or 'Interested') here ranged from 72% to 90% across the six statements.

9. Based on what you've read so far, how useful do you think HDR UK's alumni network would be?



The percentage of people who answered favourably ('Very useful' or 'Useful') here was 96%.

Q9. If you would like to expand on your answer, please do so here...

- Admittedly, I am no longer working in the UK so some of the support for students and in-person events will not be possible with my schedule. A small amount of updates on other alums is welcome though.
- Provide an opportunity for networking and meet up
- I can't see much which really catches my interest - majority is focused on low-hanging fruit (mailing lists and newsletters about achievements). The best experiences with others at HDR UK events have been to work in a group to plan a research project.
- I think this could provide a useful opportunity to further knowledge within topics of interest as well as making connections across the field of health data science.
- The people I've met through HDRUK so far have been a great peer support network.
- An alumni network has the potential to develop one of HDRUK's biggest advantages when it comes to supporting early career researchers: the ability for researchers from different institutions around the UK to share their experiences, research and views. It would also make me feel more integrated to HDRUK as an institution.

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (1/6)

The 40 free text comments below and on the following pages are presented in seven overarching categories.

General advice about the alumni network

- Publishing opportunities and things alumni can actively get involved in.
- A mentoring programme for undergraduate students interested in health data research.
- Possibly assigning incoming students to potential alumni for mentorship
- Share information on available vacancies and training opportunities
- Make sure discussion flows regularly and organise events for alumni
- Good if it were informative with career support but a friendly welcoming group
- Make it geared towards advancing our careers
- Focusing on the interests of the members would be a great 👍 for success in the Alumni groups

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (2/6)

General advice about the alumni network (continued...)

- A relaxed open engaging forum. No pressure
- Divide the alumni group into subject areas or areas of interest
- Look at other organisations who have done something similar and understand what works well and what doesn't work well
- For the 2021 internship, please could the network be set up as soon as you can? I would really like to connect with my co-interns :)
- High engagement

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (3/6)

Communication - General

- Encourage information sharing and discussions and networking
- The most important point to make this as valuable as possible is to be dynamic. Regular communication/surveys with members of the group can help ensure that benefit is being provided to members.

Communication - Specifics

- Informative email subject lines - sometimes they HRD UK ones get lost for me for some reason
- A slack group could be a convenient way to stay connected
- Face to face opportunities
- You cannot network on zoom!
- In person meetings
- Possibly a news brief/newsletter via email with ongoing information, updates, events etc?

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (4/6)

Advice about events

- Roughly identifying the research topics, skillset or careers of the alumni attending an event so that others can judge whether to attend or not (in the case that they cannot attend all events).
- Hosting hands-on sessions and workshops not only talks, discussions, and presentations
- Discussion Forums
- Enable people to make deeply relevant connections - for that it could be a mix of activities to offer, e.g. regional alumni events, specific interest area events, etc.
- Make events more engaging and consistent.
- Alumni events where its easy to speak to other people would be really valuable in expanding individuals' network
- See what events were rated highly while we were actively involved with HDR UK - organise these and we (I) will come.
- Such a laudable idea. Preplan events and release event dates as early as possible, involve alumni or their representatives in the planning and finally, keep an updated, responsive and if possible, interactive profile.

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (5/6)

Inclusivity

- Please ensure to connect alumni members through every possible means and use the connection for prospective HDR UK members.
- Connecting everyone in an equal way despite of the continent they might be as of now and where they belong (ie. beyond UK's residents)
- Inclusivity
- Spaces for just students or younger professionals that might feel intimidated to speak to large groups of people with much more experience
- Make it an inclusive space
- Ensuring that members of an alumni group are able to easily communicate with individuals positioned higher up the HDRUK hierarchy to convey ideas and suggestions.

Q10. What one piece of advice would you give to us to make the alumni group really valuable? (6/6)

General advice about the programmes

- Make the group more engaged during the course.
- Offer more training for the technical challenge. I came as a nursing student and I think that meant I had a lot more ground to cover than others with more technical qualifications
- Perhaps hold a session or two during MSc programmes to familiarize students with the HDRUK better

Neutral

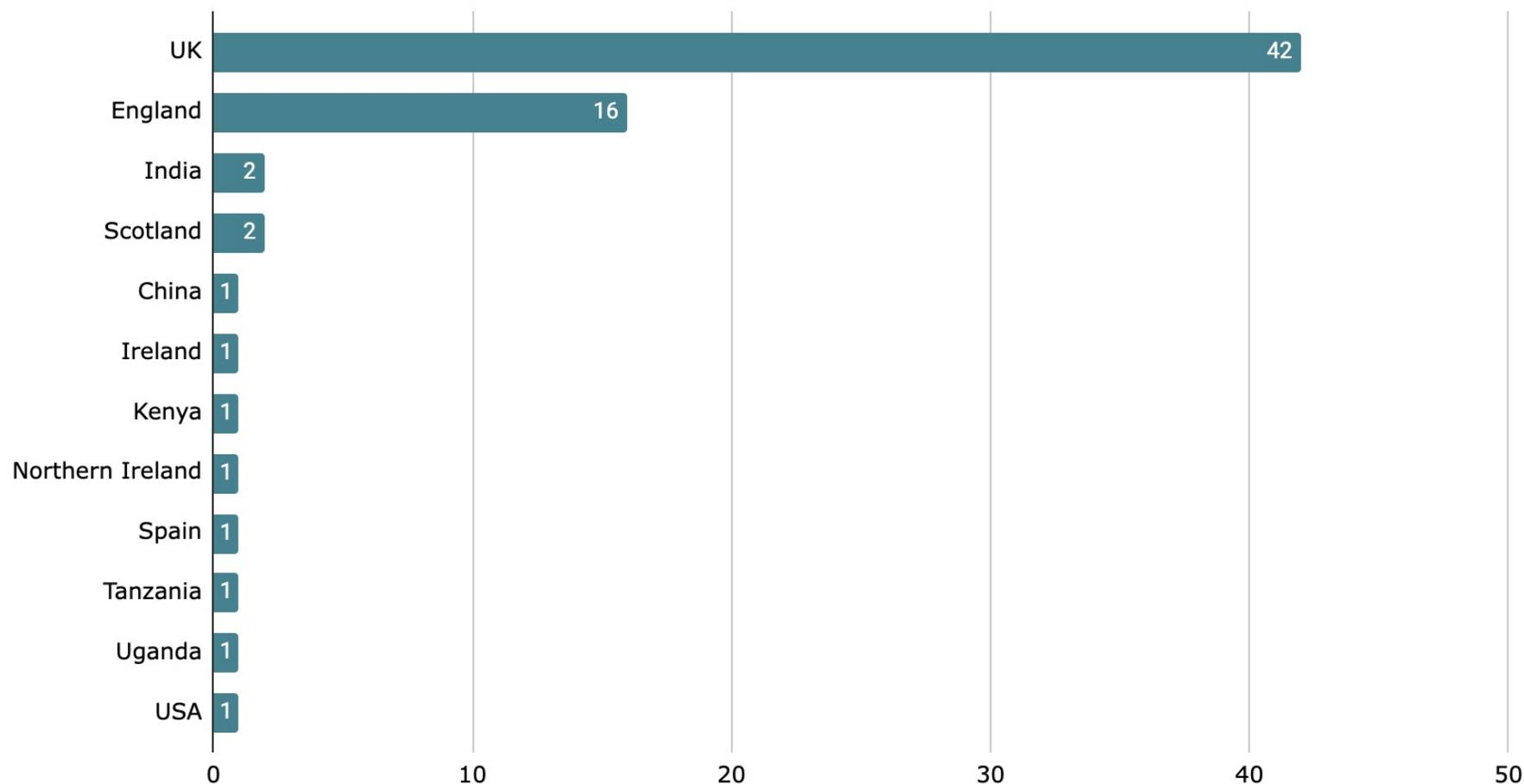
- N/A (I'm currently studying for an MPhil sponsored by HDRUK, and so not an alumnus yet.)
- I'm not sure

Questionnaire Responses

About you

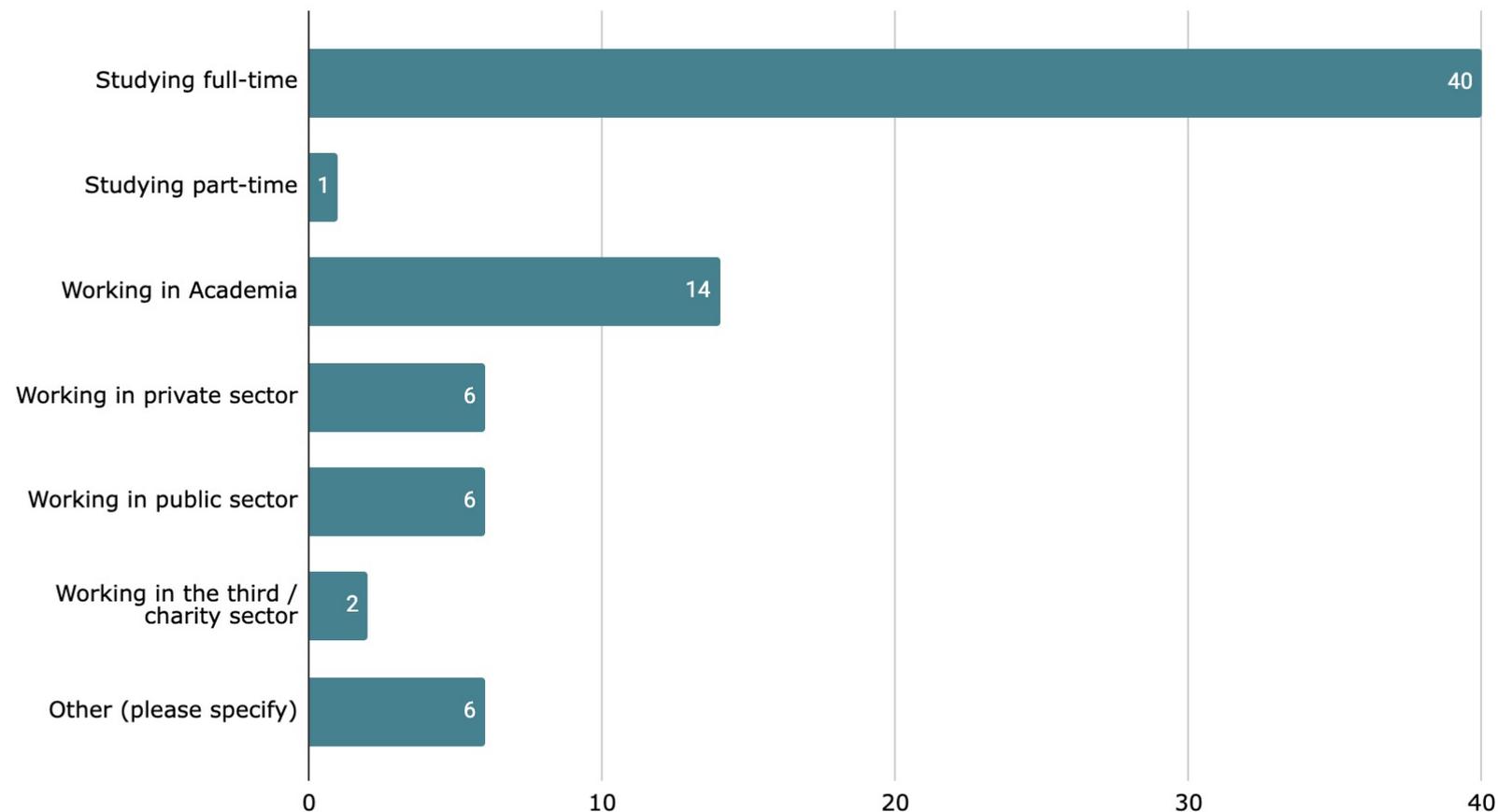


Q11. Please specify which country you are based in? (Where you spend most of your time)



If the UK, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland answers are combined, it shows 61 out of 70 responses (87%) were UK based.

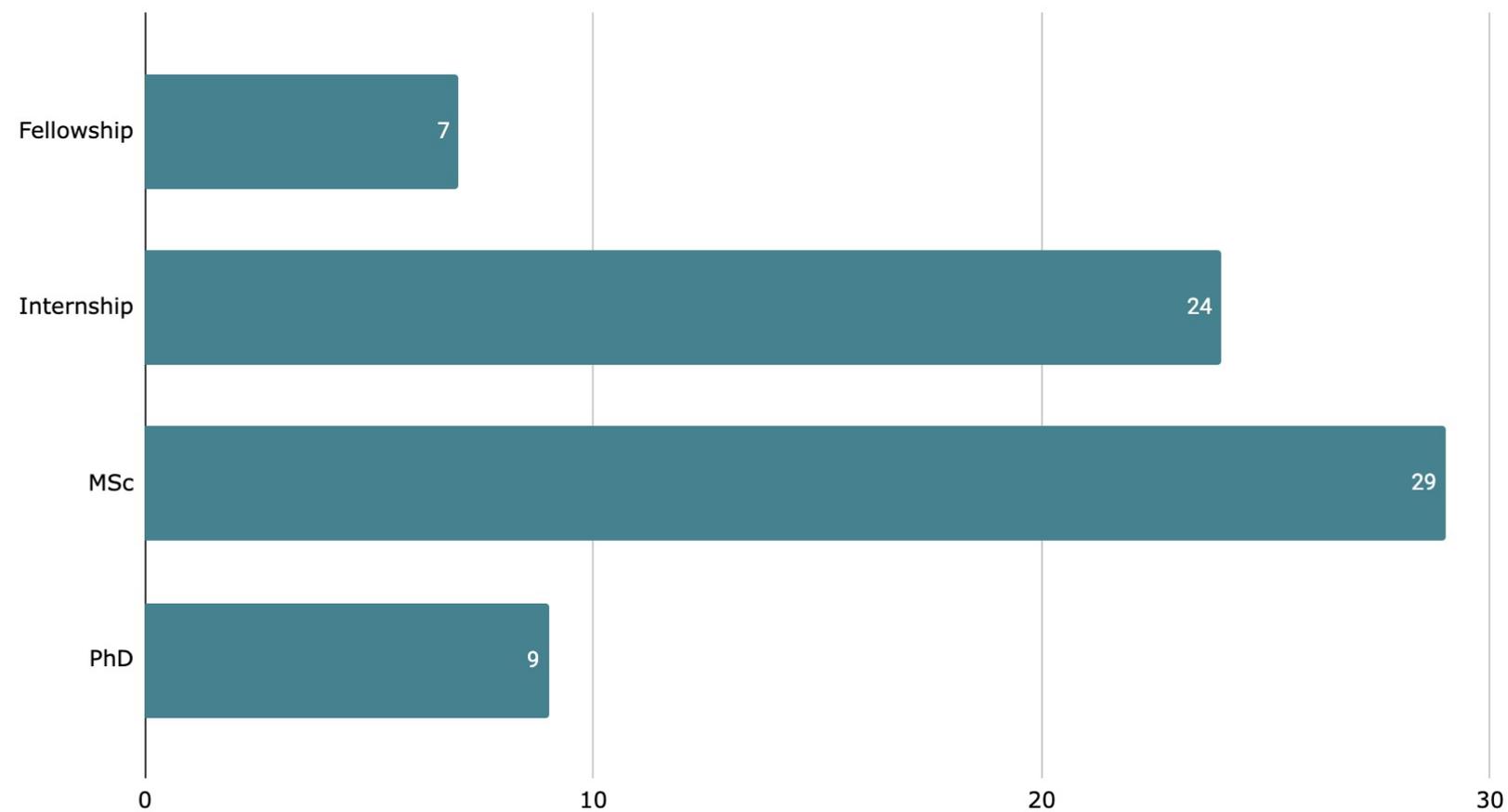
Q12. Please tick all that apply to your current role(s)



The six 'Other' answers given were:

- 1. Looking for a job*
- 2. Taking a year out after studying*
- 3. Searching for work opportunities*
- 4. PhD*
- 5. Working for a research Organisation*
- 6. Currently on a break between studying and employment*

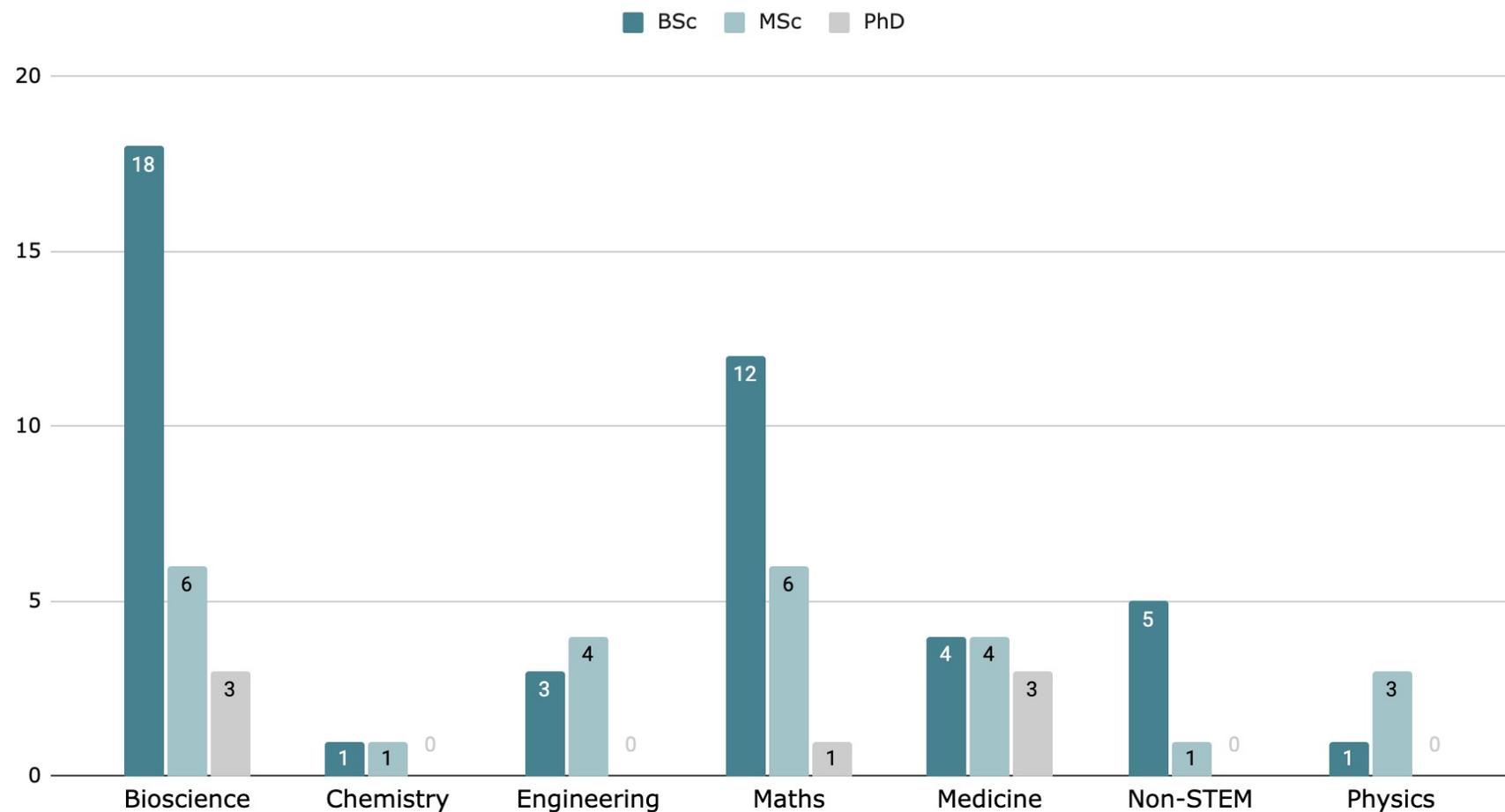
Q13. Please indicate here which HDR UK programme you took part in:



Two additional answers were given in the comments section of this question:

1. *MRes*
2. *MPhil*

Q14. Please select the highest qualification you achieved before embarking on the HDR UK programme selected above.



16 other responses were provided and are detailed on the next page.

Q14. Please select the highest qualification you achieved before embarking on the HDR UK programme selected above. 'Other' answers.

- Pharmacy MPharm
- MEng Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering
- MSc Statistical Data Science (to be specific)
- Nursing
- Was a penultimate year Biotechnology student
- PhD Pharmacy
- I studied psychology at The University of Liverpool and graduated with an upper-second class degree.
- Economics (quantitative)
- CompSci BSc
- I am an intercalating medical student. I have completed 3 years of medical school at Queen's University Belfast and I am now currently doing my masters at the University of Oxford.
- Completed four years of medicine but had no degree.
- Not yet graduated
- MSc Clinical Research.
- BSc in Data Science with a Minor in Statistics
- Bachelors/Masters Computer Science

Final questions

A written summary of the last four questions has been provided below. The detailed (personal) data has been provided separately as a direct download from Survey Monkey.

- **Q15** – 68 respondents (85%) provided an email address for future contact.
- **Q16** – 27 respondents (39%*) said they would be happy to be contacted for a short call about their responses.
- **Q17** – 62 respondents (89%*) said they would be happy to be contacted about getting involved with the HDR alumni network.
- **Q18** – 57 respondents (80%*) said they are happy for their answers to be added to the HDR UK alumni database.

**Refers to 'Yes' responses given as a % of all responses. Does not include those that skipped the question. 10, 9 & 8 people skipped these three questions respectively.*

HDRUK
Health Data Research UK

Thank you

Any questions?

