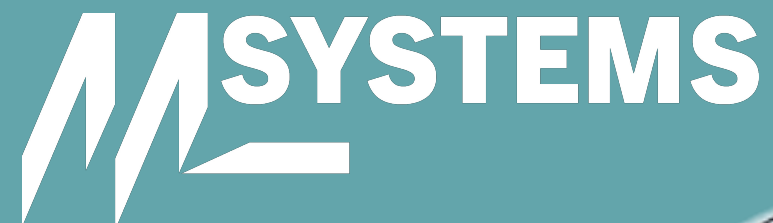




UK Research
and Innovation



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

informatics PhD

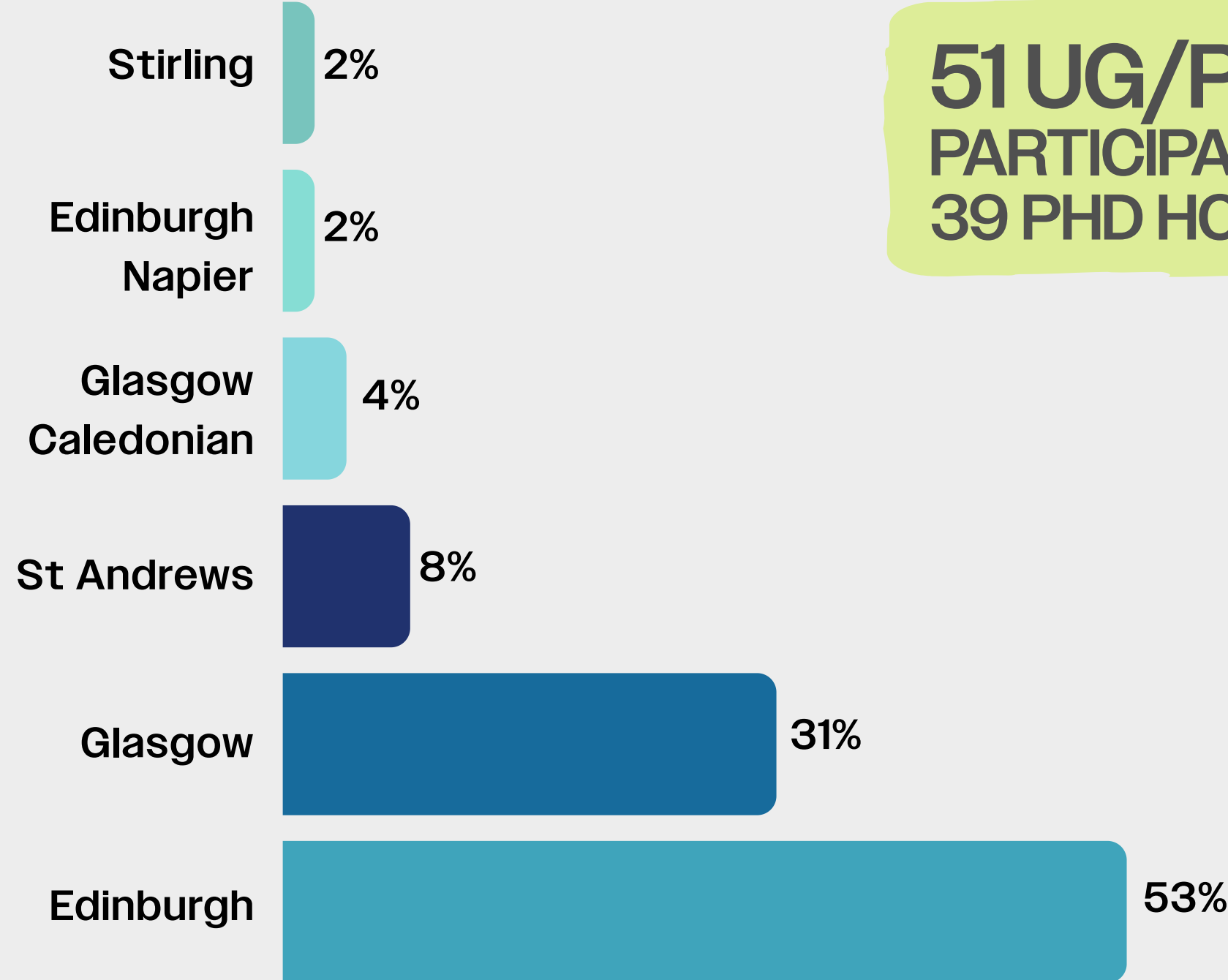
Shadowing

Scheme

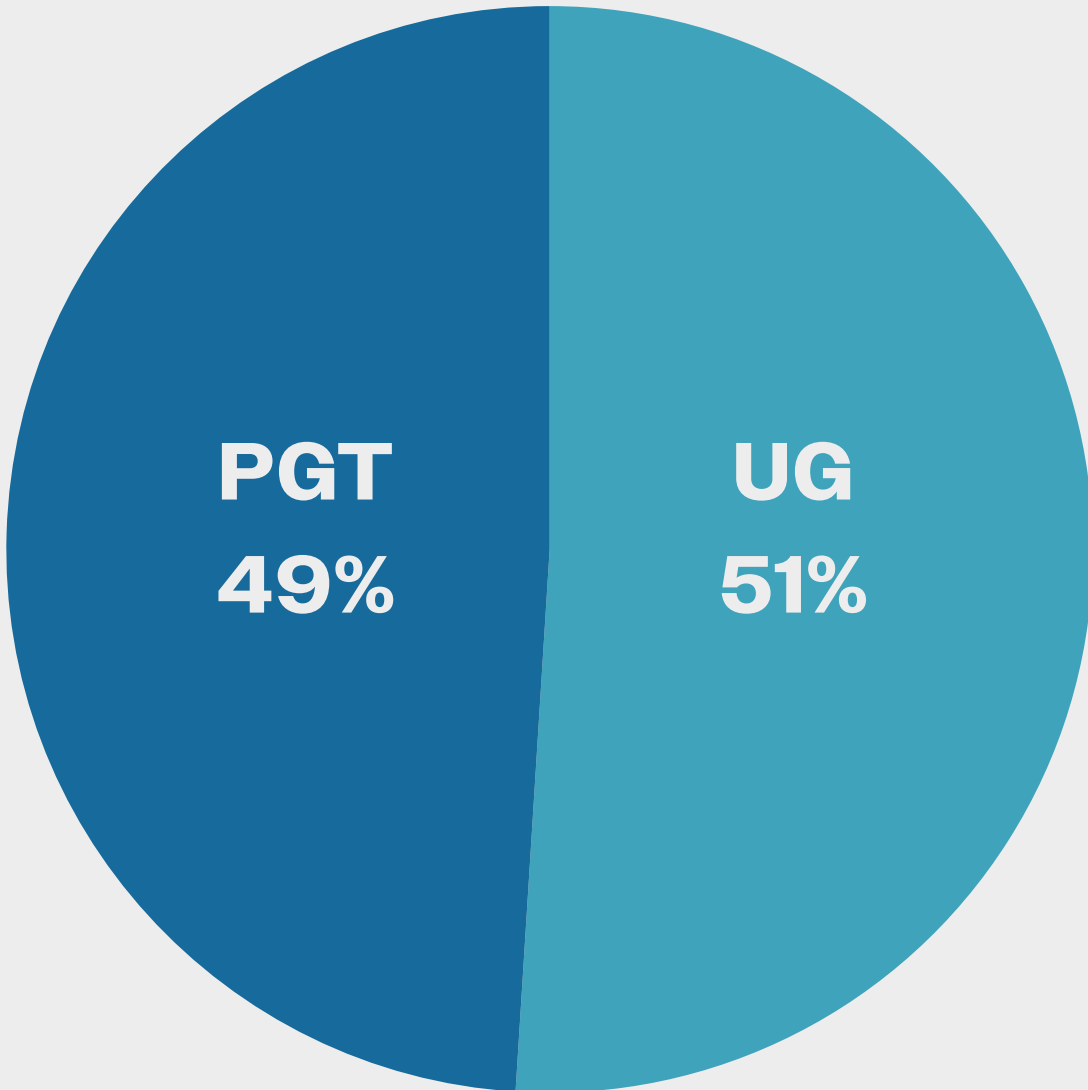
2025/26



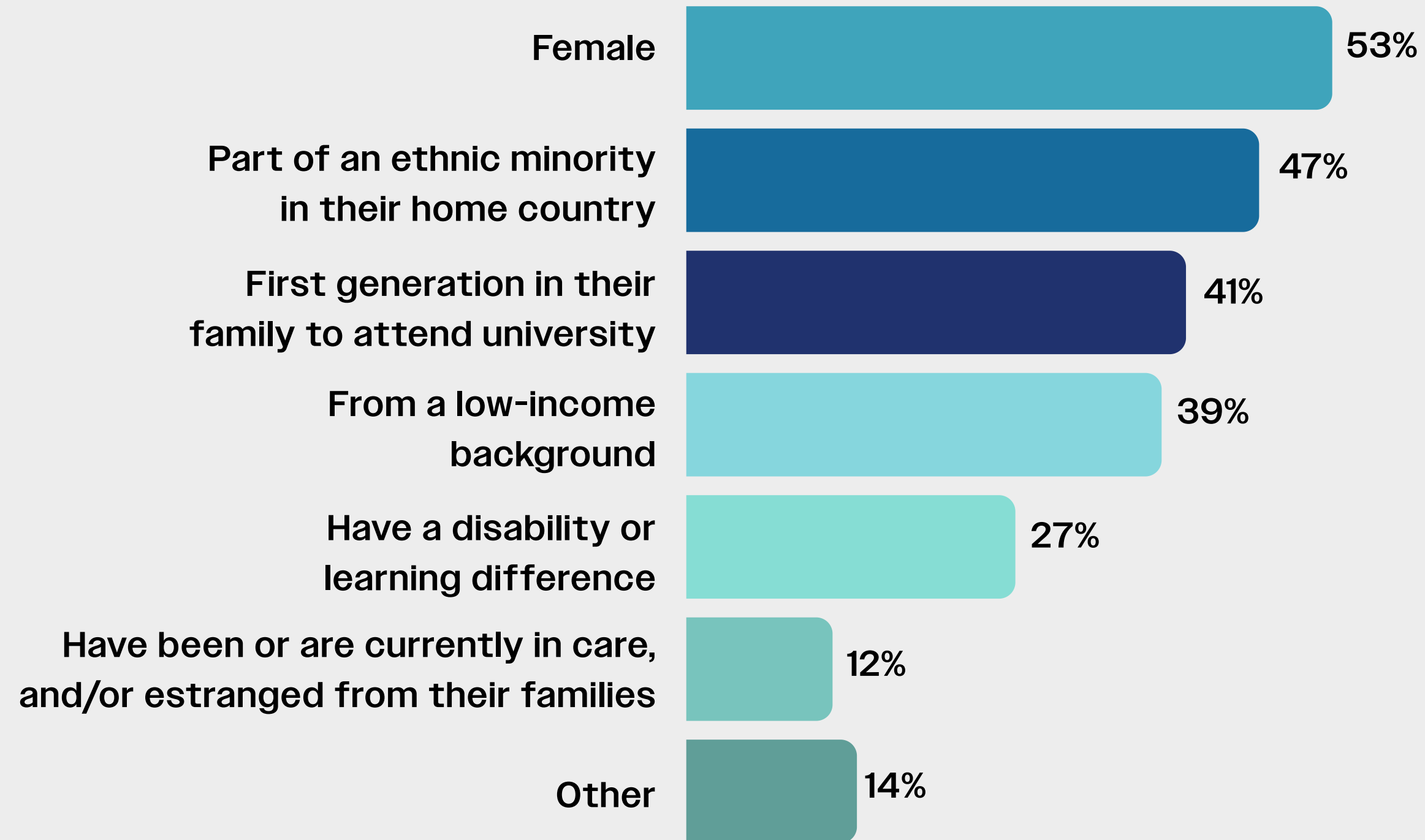
About the participants



51 UG/PGT PARTICIPANTS
39 PHD HOSTS

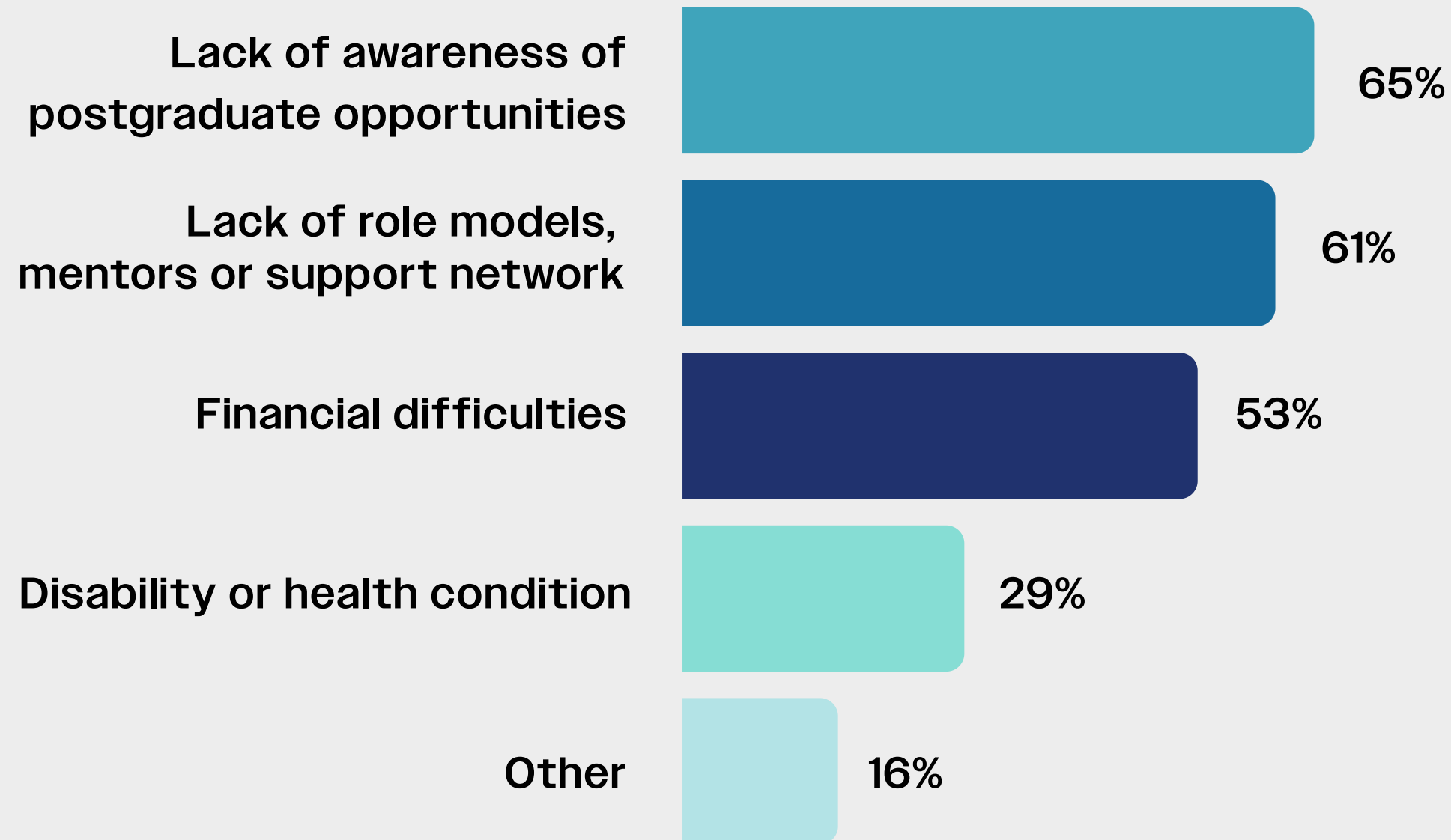


Underrepresented groups



42% BELONG TO THREE OR MORE OF THESE GROUPS SIMULTANEOUSLY

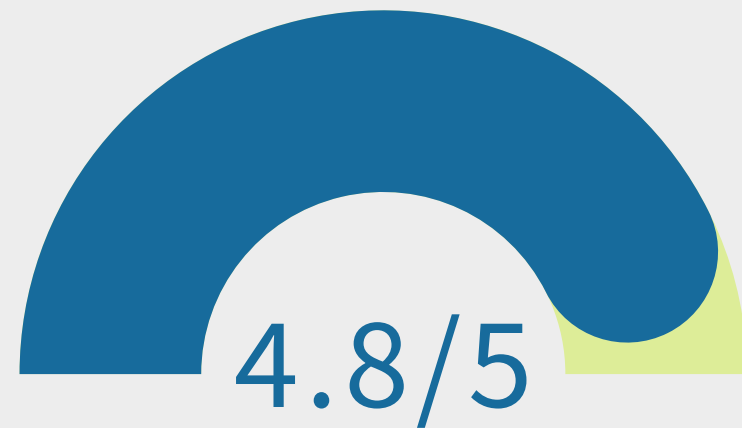
Barriers to postgraduate research



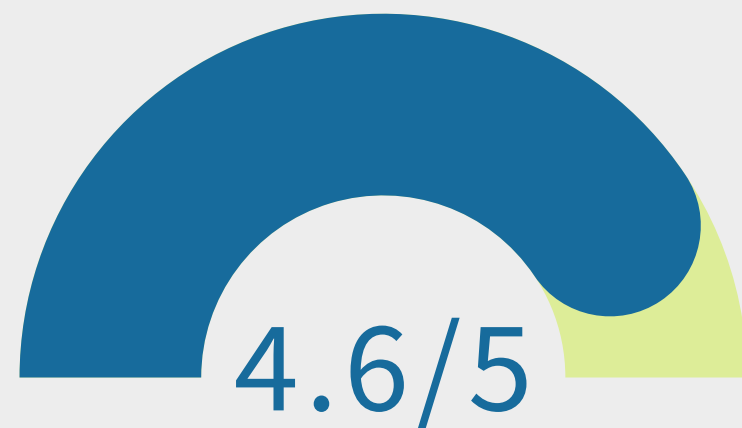
41% BELONG TO THREE OR MORE OF THESE GROUPS SIMULTANEOUSLY

Participant feedback

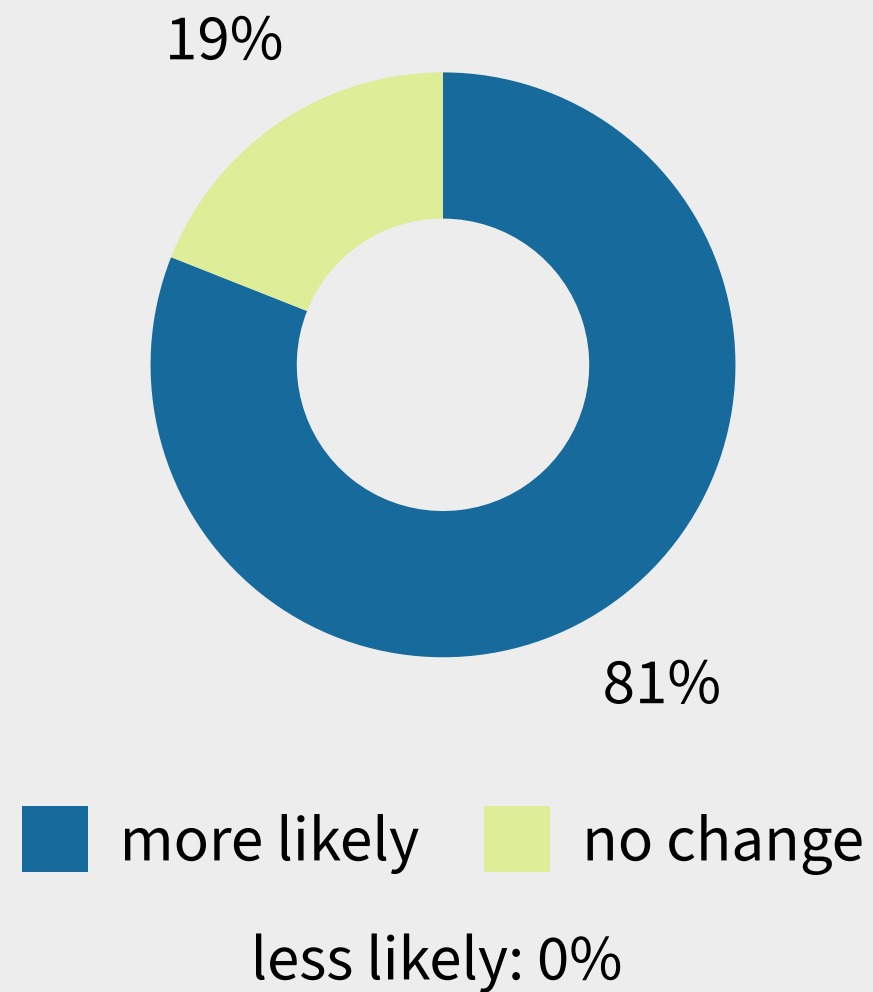
Overall satisfaction score



Do you feel like you now have a better idea of what PhD studies look like on a day-to-day basis?



After doing your shadowing visit, do you feel you are now more or less likely to apply for PhD study?



“
Shadowing a PhD student made research feel much more real and accessible, rather than something distant or abstract. Seeing what a normal day looks like and being able to ask honest questions really helped me understand whether a PhD is something I might want to work towards in the future.
”

Participant feedback

“

I met so many talented and amazing people during this journey...This scheme gave me the first taste of what a PhD life would be like. I gained a lot of confidence from being encouraged by everyone in Informatics, and I also got many valuable points of view from people in the field.

”

“

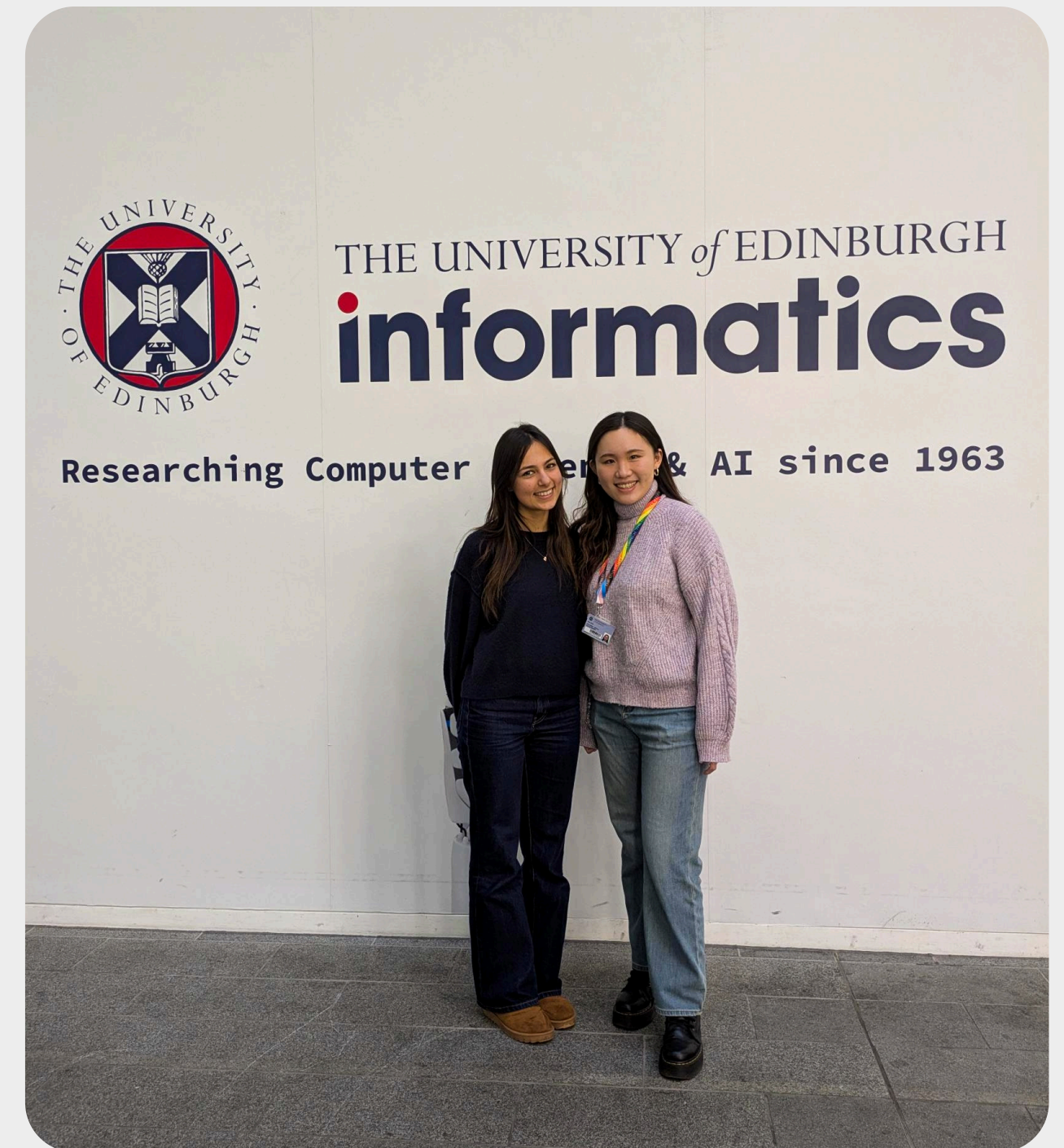
My visit to the School of Informatics was a fantastic experience, intellectually stimulating, welcoming, and full of inspiring people...I'm grateful for the opportunity and would highly recommend the initiative.

”

“

The scheme is very useful as it gives a quick snapshot into the life of a PhD student...I had many questions and assumptions, but this opportunity gave me the ability to investigate as much as I want, thus confirming my decision to do a PhD in future.

”



Participant feedback



“
A PhD is something I've always strived to do but never felt it was possible due to funding. The shadowing experience helped me realise that there are accessible routes, so I would highly recommend it to anyone that wants to do a PhD but feels like they can't.
”

“
My expectations were surpassed - I didn't expect Tech to be so much fun, and that all you need is motivation to learn and not to have been a coder from the crib!
”

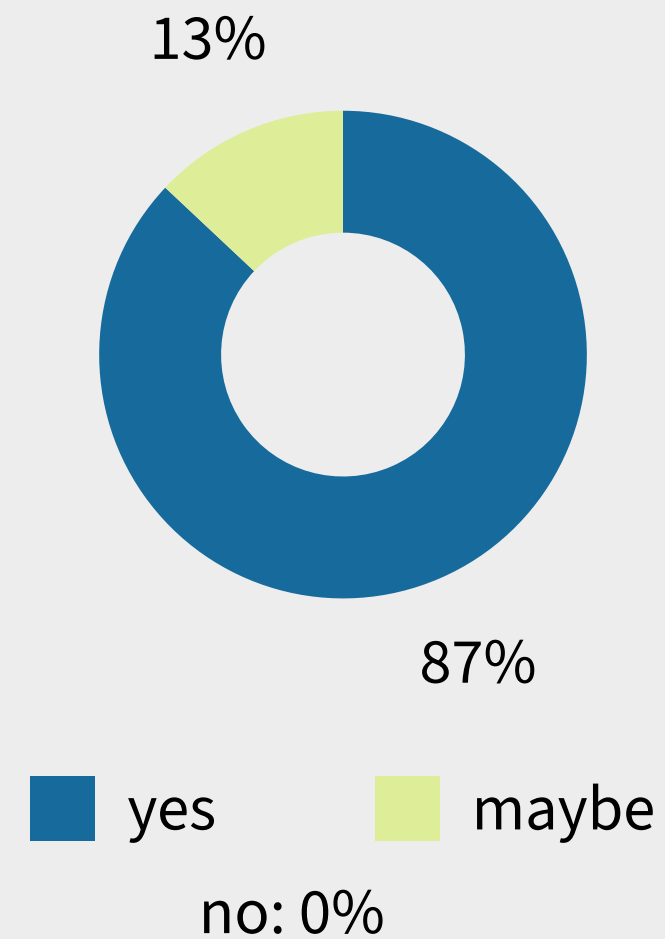
“
The whole experience was incredibly welcoming and supportive. The PhD student I shadowed took real care to explain their research patiently and clearly, which made it much easier to follow and enjoy.
”

Host feedback

Overall satisfaction score



Would you be keen on hosting more students if the scheme is repeated next year?

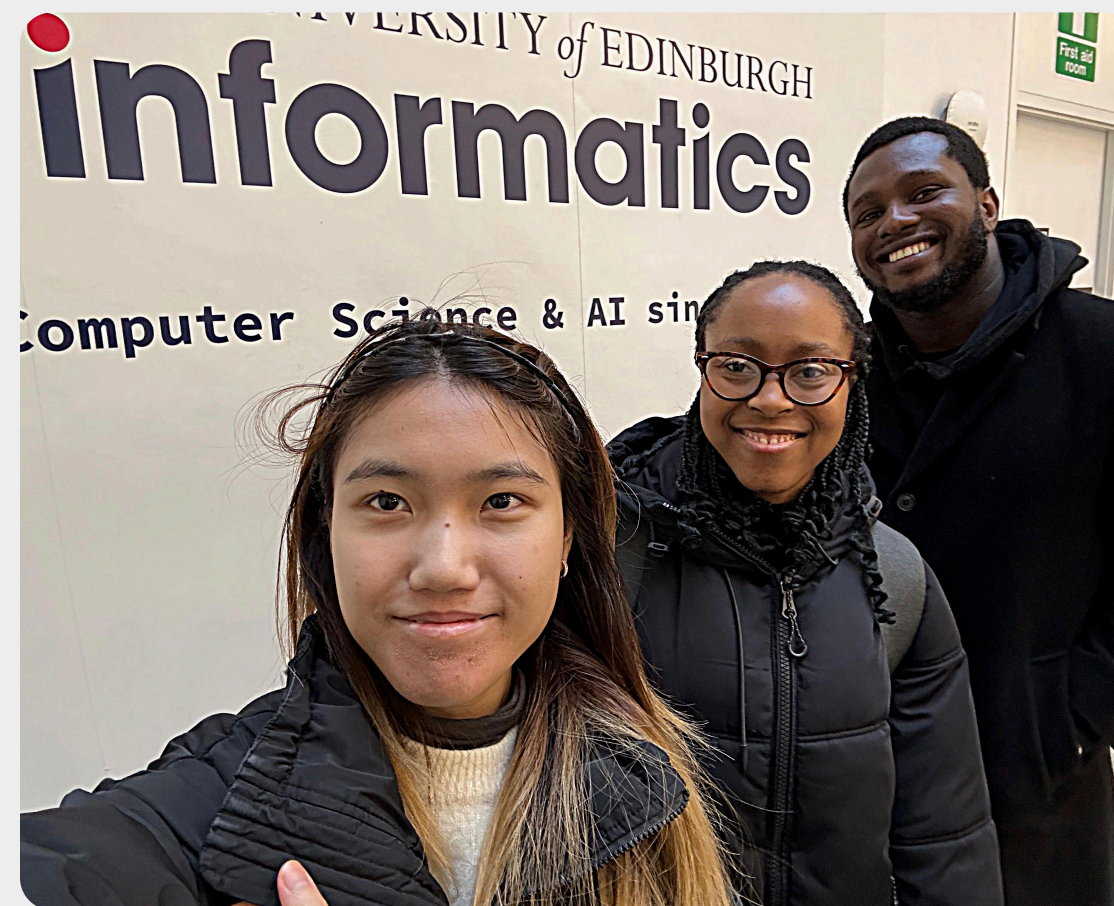
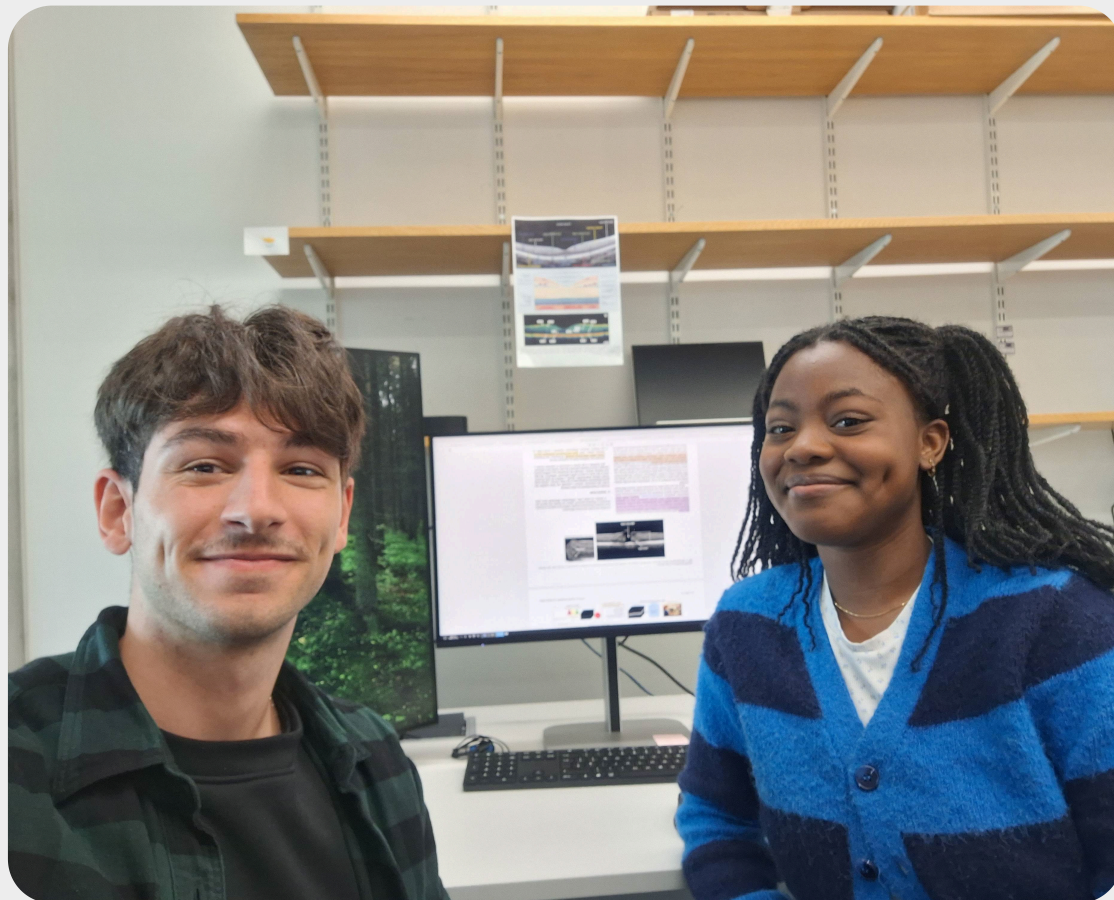


“
It's very rewarding to know that I may have had a positive impact on someone's future academic path!
”

“
It is important to give back to the community that has supported you!
”

Host feedback

“
It was a really
rewarding
experience to show
the shadowees my
daily life and
research. They
learnt a lot about
PhD life and I
dispelled many
stereotypes for
them!
”



“
I think the scheme is
a great opportunity
for anyone curious
about a PhD or
research career to
see what a real
day-to-day looks like
and to hear an honest
view of the pros and
cons of PhD life.
”

Host feedback

“
I really valued the chance to help demystify PhD life with the students. There are a lot of misconceptions that make the process seem intimidating.
”



“
At different stages of my career, I sought advice from those more senior to me. I am happy that, for a change, I was able to provide it for someone else.
”

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informatics

Thank you to
everyone who
took part!



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UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training
in Biomedical Innovation

