

FUTURES

A FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY

FUTURES 2023: A Festival of Discovery Work Package 5: Impact Assessment report

There was something to excite and inspire everyone. Everyone was so helpful and knowledgeable. The interactive elements were amazing and thought provoking.

VISITOR

For the sixth year running *FUTURES* successfully connected researchers with citizens across the South West of England with over **127,500 participants** and **366 individual researchers** involved in 26 different events. Greater numbers of people were involved than ever before (up from 72,000 in 2022) and audience feedback continues to be extremely positive. It is clear that participants value the insight they gain into what happens in universities and researchers benefit greatly from the opportunity to communicate their work and practice their engagement skills.



It was a great engagement opportunity for us and helped us reach audience groups we don't normally reach. I enjoyed the enthusiasm of the visitors to our stand, one even wanted a selfie with us! The organisation and support from the FUTURES team was really good.

RESEARCHER

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1 Management of Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment Work Package for *FUTURES 2023* (WP5) was led by the Deputy Head of Public Engagement at the University of Bath and coordinated by the Evaluation Officer in the University of Bristol's Public Engagement team. Evaluation planning, delivery, data analysis and reporting were supported by the SERIO Research Unit at the University of Plymouth; an external evaluation consultant (Hope Stone Research); and an evaluation assistant (Science Atelier Ltd).

Regular WP5 subgroup meetings were convened involving a representative from each Institution. Each Institution conducted the evaluation of its own activities using a common Evaluation Toolkit. This report concerns only activities delivered as part of Work Package 2 and does not cover Work Package 3 (Researchers in Schools). Evaluation of the impact of WP3 activities can be found in Deliverable 3.3 'FUTURES 22-23 WP3 Researchers in Schools report'.

2 Impact Assessment Methodology

FUTURES 2023 draws on a wide range of qualitative and quantitative assessment tools, along with metrics of participation numbers and social media analytics. The tools are developed from a number of key research questions as listed in Appendix 3. The approach to impact assessment builds on that used successfully since 2018, i.e. a range of digital and in-person approaches to capture feedback across the mixed delivery format of the programme. The underlying principle is to ensure that evaluation does not detract from participants' enjoyment of the experience but allows all those involved to give their feedback.



Figure 1: Impact Assessment methods were designed to be used in a wide range of scenarios

The following evaluation tools were deployed:

Quantitative:

- Eventbrite Registration Questions (asking about motivations to attend and how they found out about events) $n=1453$
- Post-event attendee feedback survey (sent to all those who registered for events via Eventbrite) $n=54$
- Attendee postcard questionnaires (distributed and collected at in-person events) $n=304$
- Opinion 'Walls' attendee self-completion questions at in-person events $n=247$
- Post-event researchers' feedback survey $n=57$

Qualitative:

- 'Snapshot' interviews conducted with attendees at in-person events $n= 81$
- Attendee observations at events (primarily in-person but some online) $n=95$
- Researcher debriefs during or at end of events $n=40$
- Partner debriefs during or after events $n=3$

Metrics:

- Organiser attendee and participant estimates
- Social media analytics on participation numbers and interactions (e.g. likes, comments, shares etc)

Evaluation tool templates and survey questions are included in Appendix 4 with the numbers of responses for each of the evaluation methods listed in Appendix 2. The overall public participant response rate from the combined methods for in-person & hybrid events was 59%.



Figure 2: A person completing an evaluation postcard at a FUTURES event

3 Activity Metrics

3.1 Reach: How many people interacted with FUTURES 2023?

Based on reported participation figures and online analytics a total of 127,512 people took part in the 26 different *FUTURES 2023* events; 3,928 participated in-person, 90,997 engaged with online activities, 22,000 witnessed public exhibitions and a further 10,500 heard *FUTURES On Air* radio broadcasts. One WP2 activity involved schools (the UOB Schools Research Fair) and 134 Key Stage 3 students and accompanying teachers from five secondary schools located in deprived areas of Bristol attended. A full breakdown of event attendance is given in WP2 Report on Activities.

Attendance type	Audience Members	Researchers Involved
In-Person	3,928	268
Hybrid	87	3
Online	90,997	47
Exhibition	22,000	64
Broadcast	10,500	3
Total	127,512	385¹

Table 1: *FUTURES 2023 Attendance figures*

Of those responding to the Public Survey, just over half (52%) said they took part with their family. 26% took part on their own and further 13% did so with friends, as illustrated in Chart 1.

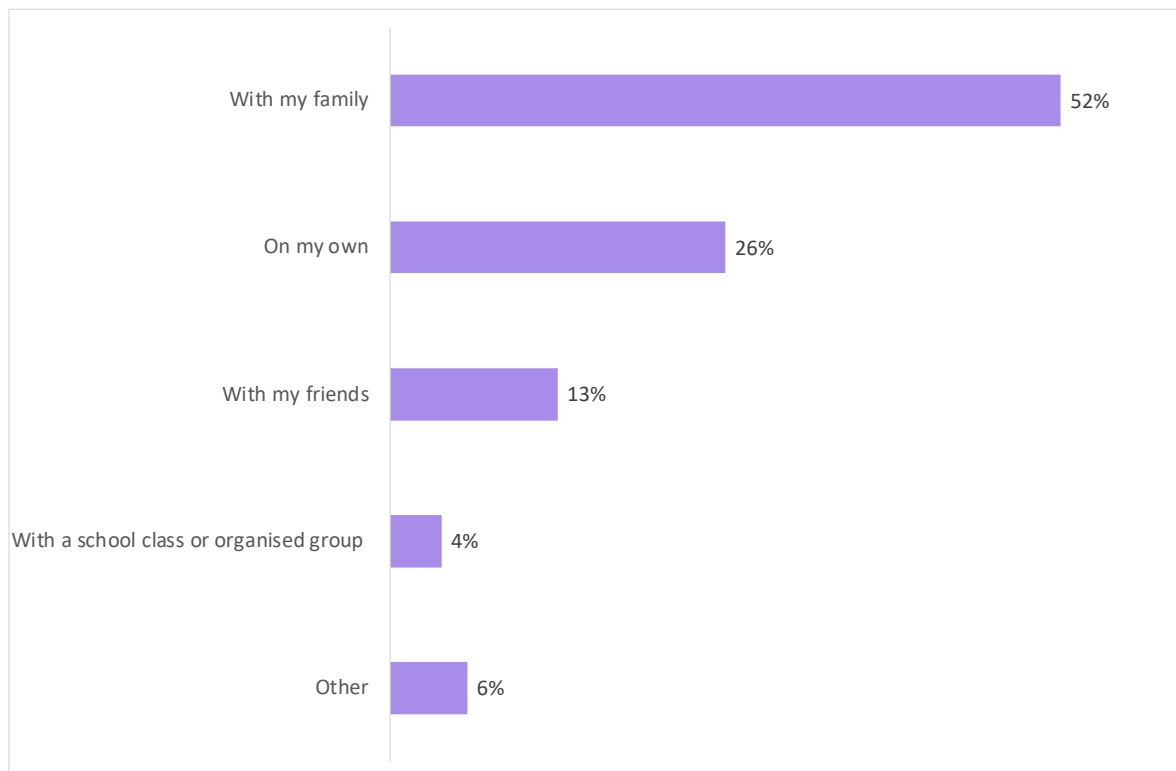


Chart 1: *Did you attend or take part in any FUTURES 2023 events or activities, either in person or online? (% of those who took part n=54)*

¹ Some researchers took part in more than one activity; hence the total is greater than the number of individuals involved.

3.2 How did people find out about FUTURES 2023?

Among those registering via Eventbrite most found out about the event they booked either via social media (41%) or word of mouth (22%), see Chart 2. It is likely that many of those who found out via word of mouth did so via social media or chat apps such as WhatsApp. Of those who mentioned an email newsletter, the vast majority cited the source being one of the participating universities (including Bristol University's MyWorld), with some mentioning listings websites such as Yuup.

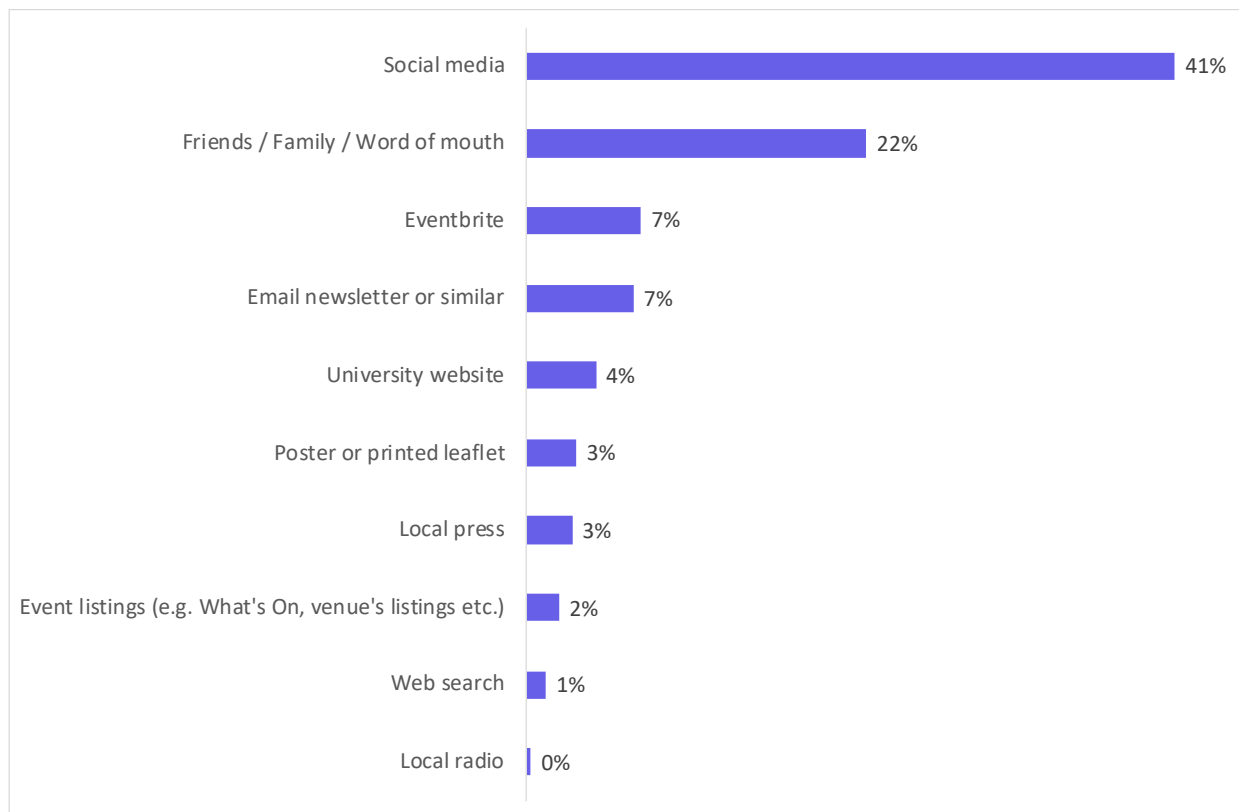


Chart 2: How did you hear about this event? (n=1453 who registered via Eventbrite)

3.3 Loyalty and new audiences

85% of those taking part in the Public Survey said they had not previously participated in *FUTURES* events. This suggests the programme is primarily reaching new rather than repeat audiences as only 9% of respondents said they had taken part in previous *FUTURES*. Of those who had not previously taken part, 18% had taken part in other events and activities organised by the participating universities² (although we don't know what activities these were).

3.4 Motivation to attend

That it might be good for their children was the primary motivator for people to book a place, with just under a third (32%) stating this reason. Similarly important (31%) was interest in the subject. In many cases multiple reasons were given, combining all of these elements. It is worth noting that although this edition of *FUTURES* is not formally connected to European research, 1% still said they were interested in this aspect of the programme. See Chart 3.

² Universities mentioned were Bristol and Bath

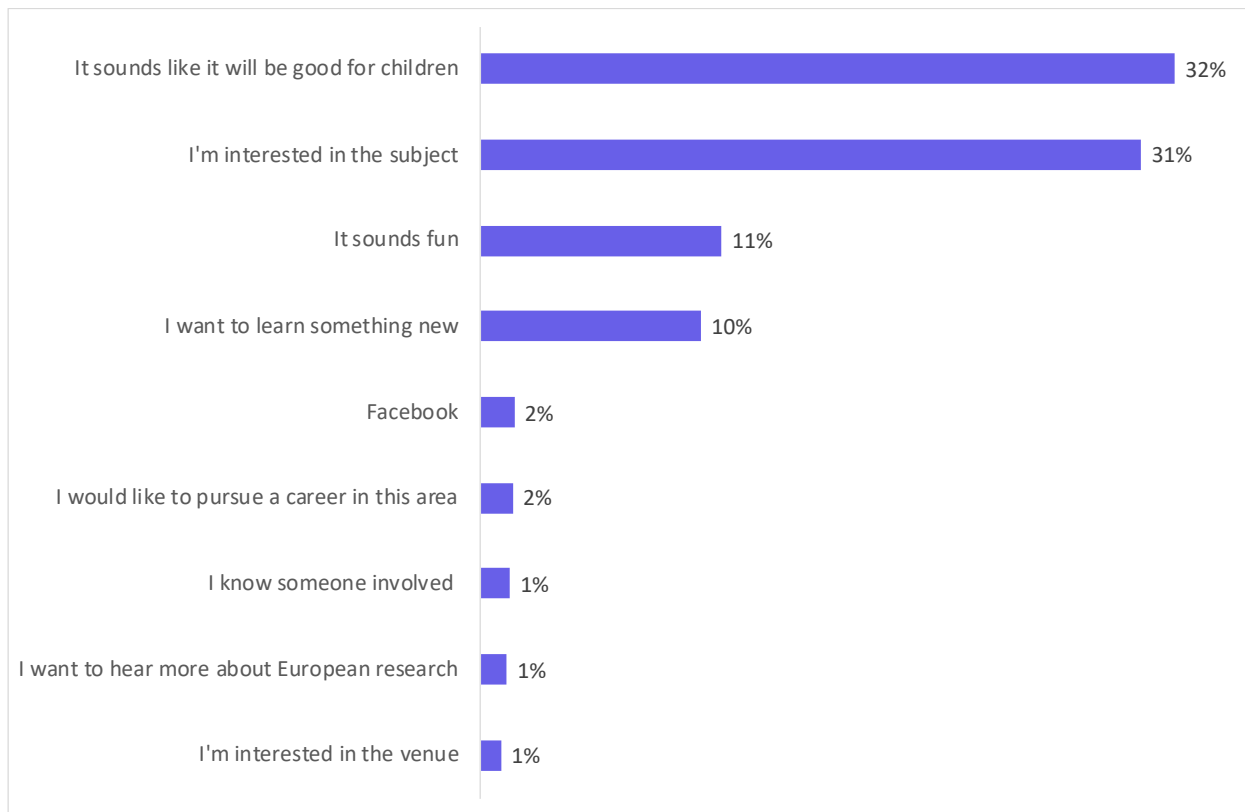


Chart 3: What made you want to attend the event? (n=1453 who registered via Eventbrite)

3.5 Audience Demographics: Who do we reach?

Where do participants come from?

Postcode data³ shows that audiences attended from a very large number of postcode areas, primarily in the geographical locations of the host universities. Based on the combined postcodes given by audiences, those of TR11, PL1 and PL6 were the most mentioned. (See Table 2). TR11 and PL6 both include wards where the average IMD⁴ fall in the bottom 10% of areas in England). A number of events in Plymouth and Falmouth took place in PL1 and TR11 respectively which may account for attendees from these postcodes, strongly suggesting that it is local people who are attending.

Postcode	No. Responses	Postcode	No. Responses	Postcode	No. Responses
TR11	39	BS16	10	PL7	8
PL1	20	TR10	10	BS13	7
PL6	14	BS3	9	BS4	7
PL2	11	BS5	9	EX2	7
PL3	11	EX4	8		

Table 2: Top audience postcodes (n=304 Postcards, n=54 Public Survey, n=358 Total)

³ The demographics in this section are based on two combined evaluation questionnaire sources. While we cannot be certain there are no duplicate responses it is unlikely that many if any completed more than one evaluation questionnaire.

⁴ Indices of Multiple Deprivation, see: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

Gender

67% of responses were from females, 30% male. The public survey response was more heavily skewed towards females (85%) than the postcard responses (63%) See Table 3.

	Responses	%
Female	215	67%
Male	98	30%
Non Binary/Other	9	3%

Table 3: Gender of attendees (n=268 Postcards, n=54 Public Survey, n=322 Total)

Age

Events appealed to a wide range of ages but with an apparent gap between 16-25. This age-group is likely to have been reached by the online events on Instagram (*Naturegram*) and Reddit (*Ask Me Anything*)⁵. However, it was not possible to collect demographic data from those platforms due to data protection considerations. Those aged under 16 are primarily from those attending with families. There are variations between survey samples; the Public Survey responses were skewed towards those aged 36 or older whereas the Postcard Surveys completed at events were done so by a mix of younger visitors and those of parent age (36-45). See Table 4.

Age	Responses	%
Under 16	60	20%
16-20	8	3%
21-25	13	4%
26-35	35	12%
36-45	72	24%
46-55	46	16%
56-65	36	12%
Over 65	46	16%

Table 4: Age of attendees (n=294 Postcards, n=52 Public Survey, n=294 Total)

Ethnicity

Those attending events largely self-identify as white (88%), but compared with the South West average of 95.4%, this represents a somewhat more diverse audience than the population as a whole. 6% of attendees identified as Black and 3% as Asian, which is a significantly higher proportion than the South West population as a whole. Within the three main urban areas where most responses came from, the distribution is less ethnically diverse than Bristol, around the same for Exeter but above the city average for Plymouth. See Table 5.

⁵ According to recent research on the demographics of Instagram users, the largest proportion, nearly one-third (32.2%), are in the 18-to-24 age group, as are roughly a quarter (23%) of British Reddit users Sources: www.oberlo.com/statistics/instagram-age-demographics & <https://techreport.com/statistics/reddit-statistics/>

Survey Responses	% of responses	% of Bristol Pop.	% of Exeter Pop.	% of Plymouth Pop.
White British / Irish / European / Other	287	88%	84%	93%
Black/ Black British	3	1%	6%	0.6%
Asian/Asian British	10	3%	5.5%	3.9%
Other/Mixed	14	4%	4.5%	2.4%
NS (Not Stated)	12	4%	-	-

Table 5: Ethnicity of attendees (n=327 Postcards, n=54 Public Survey, n=381 Total)

Household circumstances

While the majority (86%) of attendees responding to the Public Survey reported that they were either getting by or were living comfortably on their present income, a substantial minority (14%) said they were finding it difficult to some extent. See Chart 4.

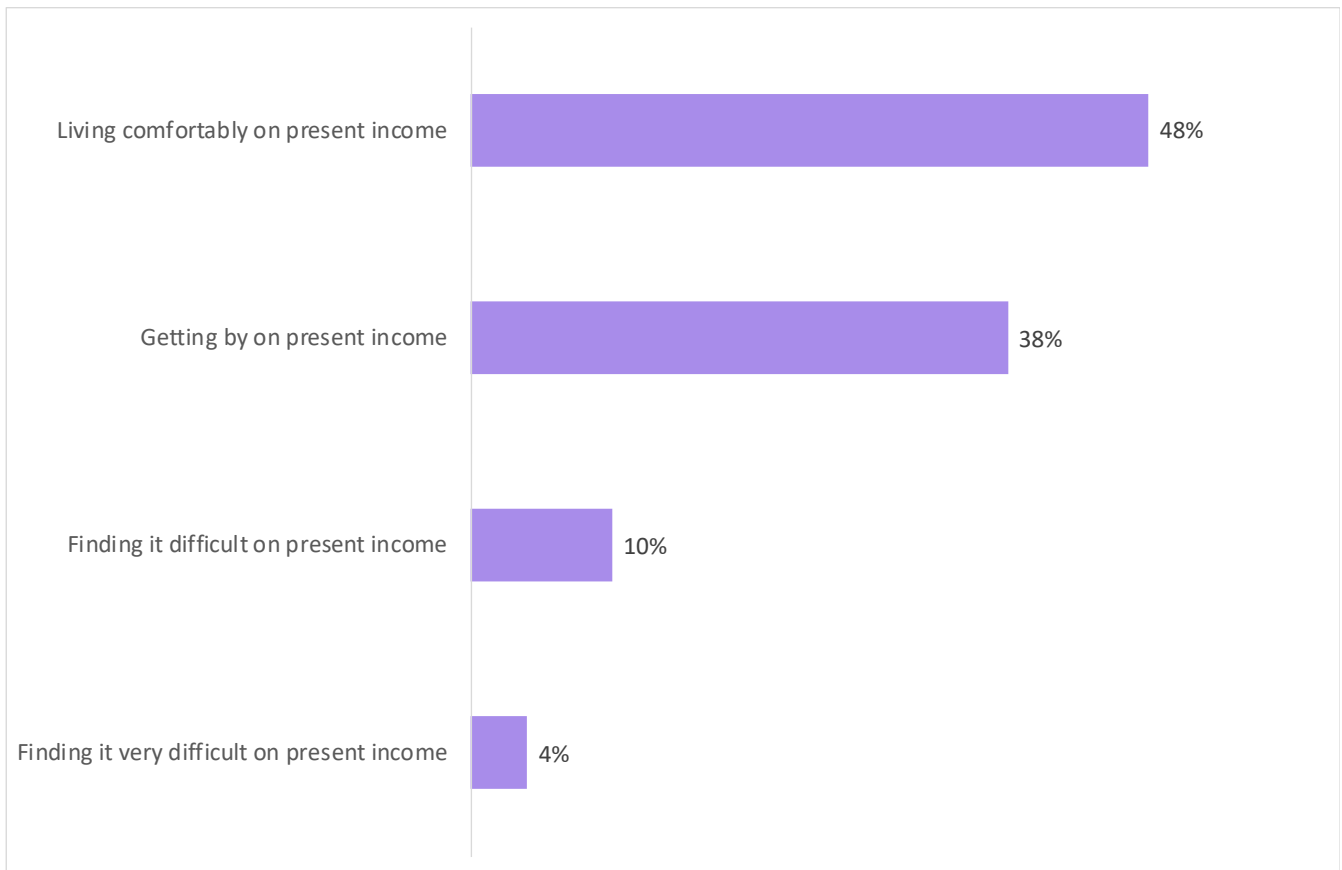


Chart 4: Which one of these phrases comes closest to your own feelings about your household's income these days? (n=48)

3.6 Researchers

366 researchers took part in *FUTURES 2023*, delivering 385 activity sessions (some researchers took part in more than one activity). Over half (53%) were from the University of Bristol and just under half (42%) were from the other consortium partners (Universities of Bath, Exeter & Plymouth and Bath Spa University), with a further 17 researchers representing 15 other institutions, including the Universities of Falmouth, Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham, Kent, Warwick, Wolverhampton, Durham, Aberystwyth, and UCL

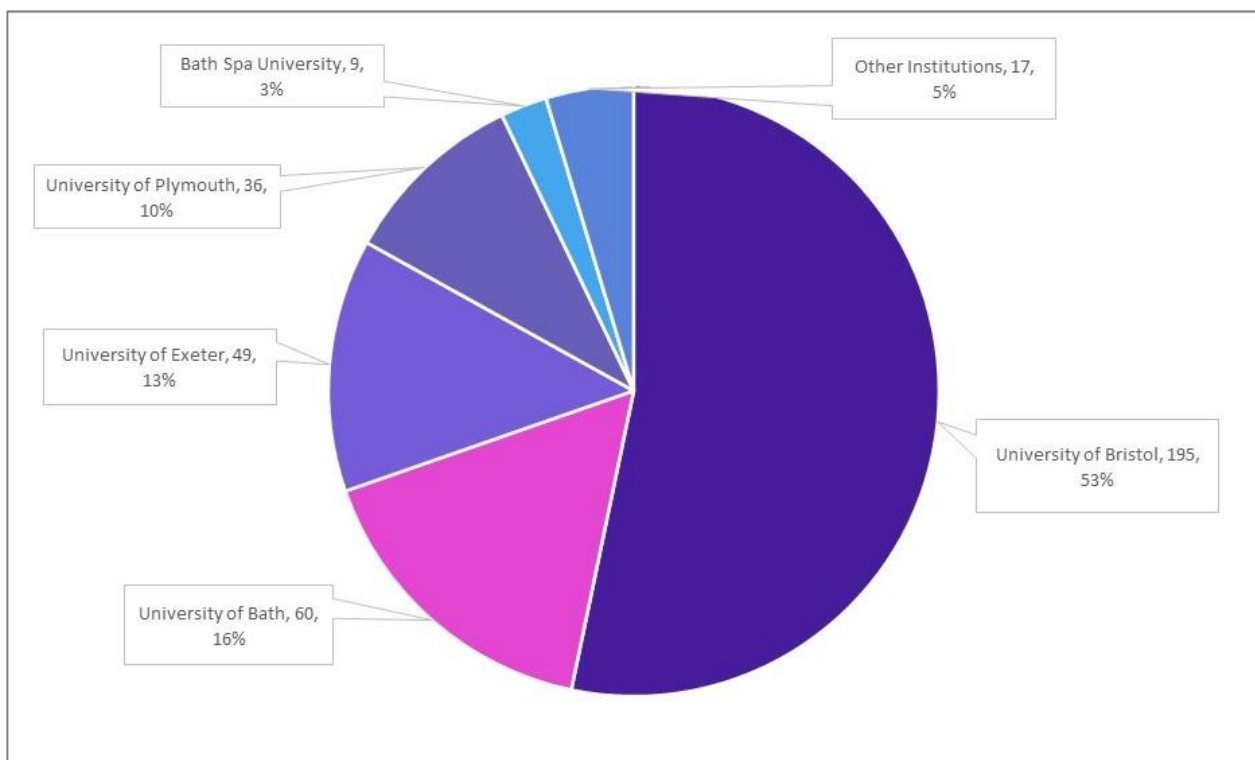


Chart 5: Number of Researchers from participating Institutions

57 researchers completed the post-event survey. The greatest number (22) were based at the University of Bristol, but with 17 from Plymouth and 13 from Exeter. There were also two from Bath and one from Bath Spa. Reflecting that, 40% of those responding to the survey had taken part in *FUTURES 2023* in the Bristol area, 30% in Plymouth and 25% in Exeter or Falmouth.

Gender balance amongst researchers was roughly equal in most institutions (see Appendix 1), with a slight skew towards more female researchers participating than male, which is in line with data from previous years and from other similar public engagement activities⁶.

A third (33%) of researchers responding to the post-event survey said they'd previously taken part in *FUTURES*, with the remaining 66% saying they had not done so. More generally, those taking part reported a range of previous experience in public engagement, from 9% who were doing it for the first time, to 46% who were very experienced (6 events/activities or more). There appears to be a considerably higher level of previous experience than in 2022, when 29% of researchers described themselves as 'very experienced'. See Table 6.

⁶ It has long been recognised that participation in public engagement activities tends to be greater by female researchers. See, for example the Wellcome Trust report: [Factors Affecting Public Engagement by Researchers \(2015\)](#)

Previous experience	%
No experience (0 events/activities)	9%
A little experience (1 or 2 events/activities)	23%
Quite a lot of experience (3-6 events/activities)	23%
Very experienced (6+ events/activities)	46%

Table 6: Before this year's FUTURES, what was your level of public engagement experience? (n=57)

3.7 Evolution of FUTURES

FUTURES has experienced some significant changes over the past five years. Table 7 provides a comparison of audience and researcher metrics for the five editions so far.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Audiences⁷						
Participation in in-person & hybrid events	1,906	3,334	1,440	4,282	4,050	4,015
Engagement with online activities, exhibitions & broadcasts	3,351	2,400	43,117	37,719	67,869	123,497
Total	5,257	5,734	44,557	42,001	71,919	127,512
Number of Activities⁸						
In-person/hybrid activities	19	16	-	19	17	19
Online activities	1	1	48	16	4	4
Broadcast activities	-	-	-	1	1	1
Public exhibitions	-	-	-	-	2	2
Total activities	20	17	48	36	24	26
Other Metrics						
Researchers involved	229	261	260	247	291	366
Universities involved	2	2	5	5	5	5

Table 7: Evolution of FUTURES 2018-23

The 2018 and 2019 programmes involved just the universities of Bath and Bristol, and while the number of events were similar to 2023, they were overwhelmingly in-person activities and therefore the overall reach was far more limited (5,700 in 2019 compared with 127,512 in 2023).

⁷ 'Participation' refers to live in-person and online events (e.g. via Zoom), with direct face-to-face or audio-visual contact between participant & researcher. 'Engagements' encompasses asynchronous social media & online activities, radio broadcasts, or exhibitions with passing footfall.

⁸ Event numbers may vary depending on how individual events were classified. For example, in 2020 each online Discovery Talk was classed as an individual event, whereas in 2021 a number of talks made up a single in-person event.

2020 saw two significant changes. First, the universities of Exeter, Plymouth and Bath Spa joined the *FUTURES* consortium, broadening the geographical reach significantly, including running events away from the main cities in smaller towns in Cornwall and Devon. Secondly *FUTURES* operated under the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. All activities moved online and there were many more of them (48 compared with 23 in 2019). This led to a huge increase in the numbers engaged, albeit in some cases in a more ephemeral manner. 2021 saw the return to in-person events on a similar scale to 2019. This edition included online events, which although on a smaller scale than in 2020, were still successful in drawing in large digital audiences. 2021 also saw the first broadcast event, which proved successful in attracting wider participation across the region via local radio stations.

As in 2022, in 2023 it was possible to offer an unrestricted in-person programme with 19 face-to-face events, similar to the 2021 and pre-2020 editions. Online events have continued in various formats – live, social media and pre-recorded, along with the broadcast radio & podcast programmes. The total number of events in 2023, 26, is similar to 2022 and 2018/19, but lower than the number of events in 2020/21, though this is partly due to how they were categorised.

2023 witnessed even bigger audiences than those in 2022. The total recorded audience to *FUTURES 2023* across all formats was just over 127,500, almost double the 2022 figure. The in-person audience in 2023 of 4,015 is similar to 2022, exceeding the original audience target of 3,920 for such events.

Looking at asynchronous reach, 2023 was by far the most successful edition of *FUTURES* yet, with 123,497 people engaging via social media, hearing a radio broadcast or viewing an exhibition. Much of this was driven by three events, one online (Naturegram, on the Instagram platform) that recorded just over 84,000 engagements and two other public exhibitions that were estimated to have been viewed by 12,000 and 10,000 people respectively. Overall, the numbers engaged in 2023 easily exceeded the annual target of a minimum of 260 researchers and 76,650 people involved.



Figure 3: A family enjoying hands-on activities at the Up Late event on the SS Great Britain

4 Impact objectives

4.1 Impact for citizens

Enjoyment of events

97% of Postcard Survey responses said they enjoyed the event they attended and verbatim responses support this unequivocal response.

Absolutely wonderful! Enjoyed 12yo, 8yo, 4yo and 2 adults. We all learnt loads! Thank you! More please! Makes me feel grateful for the uni and the students! UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

Enjoyed it. Friendly environment, helpful volunteers, encouraging presentation. UOB-23-9-TALES

Great time for all the family to enjoy and have fun. UOE-23-19-SHOP

I didn't really know what to expect. We really enjoyed the art and interactive activities. Wish there'd been more VR headsets. UOE-23-19-SHOP

I enjoyed being in a science job. I'm going to be a microbiologist when I grow up. BSU-23-5-BIO

We loved exploring this event. It was amazing. The boys loved the robot, and I enjoyed the bubbles. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

It was really well organised and good fun. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

Loved it! Very interesting! Should give out a bee at the end, or a pot of honey. BSU-23-5-BIO



Figure 4: Children discovering a new perspective at the Up Late event

Learning something new

95% of Postcard Survey responses said they had learnt something new because of attendance, with many verbatim responses supporting this finding.

Despite having worked at the university ten years, I still learnt new things, Steve was a engaging speaker. Thanks! UOB-23-30-WALK

Fun way to learn new things. UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR

Great activities for all ages. Learned loads! UOB-23-11-FAMILY

This was a great event for the whole family. We learnt something new. I was surprised what interested my children. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

Students' understanding of different concepts has changed. Seeing it from a different view point and expanding their knowledge. Teacher, UOB-23-7-SRF

Interest in research topics

When asked in the Public Survey, all respondents said all the events they attended were interesting. Other most common adjectives chosen to describe *FUTURES* events were *Inspiring* (70%), *Organised* and *Relaxed* (both 67%). See Chart 6.

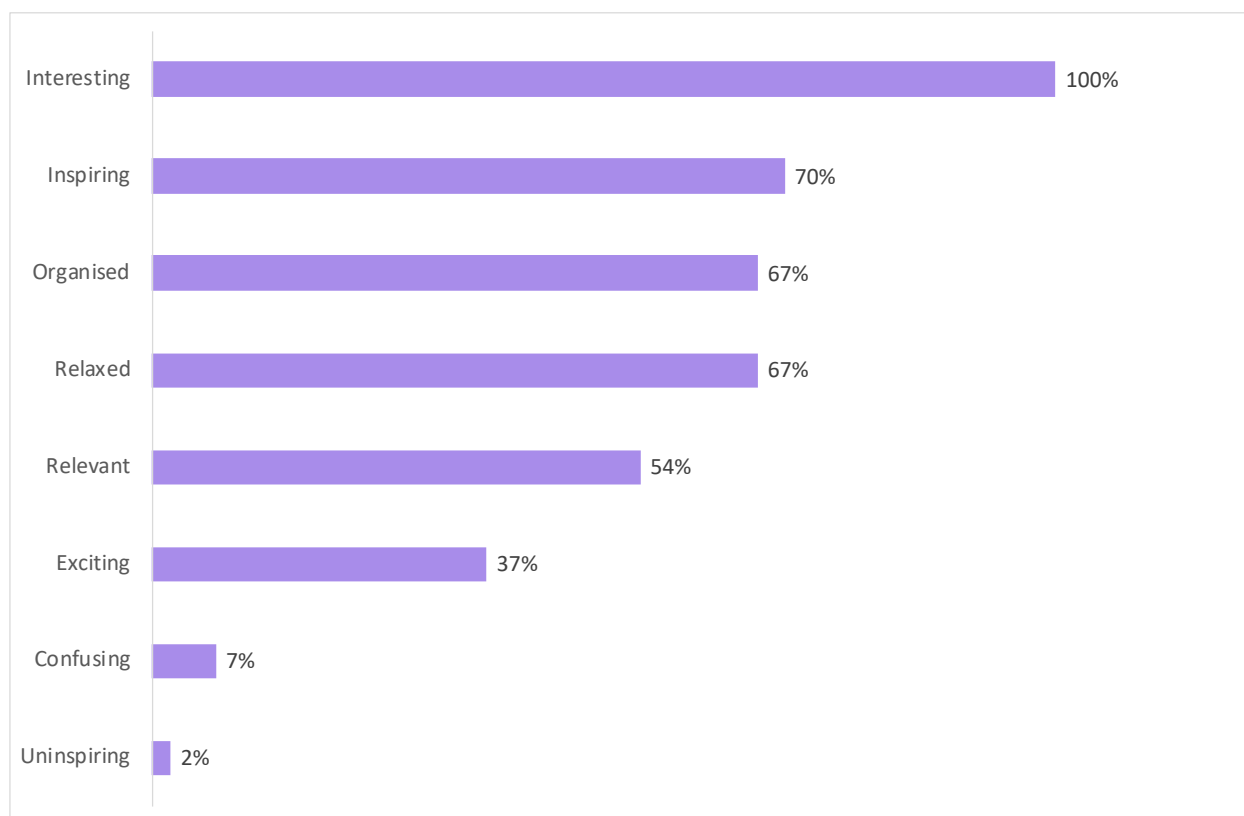


Chart 6: How would you describe the *FUTURES* events that you took part in? (n=54 Public Survey)

Verbatim responses confirm some of the above with attendees describing their experience in the following ways...

Extremely informative, inspiring talk regarding historic figures in Bristol. Will forward on to friends and family. UOB-23-30-WALK

Great event. Very inspiring and interesting. UOE-23-19-SHOP

Fascinating mixture of stands and topics. As a creative health artist, very relevant. UOE-23-19-SHOP

Curiosity and confidence

Most (79%) attendees said *FUTURES 2023* had made them more curious about university research, while 69% said it had helped them feel more confident in talking about science and other university research with friends and family. See Chart 7.

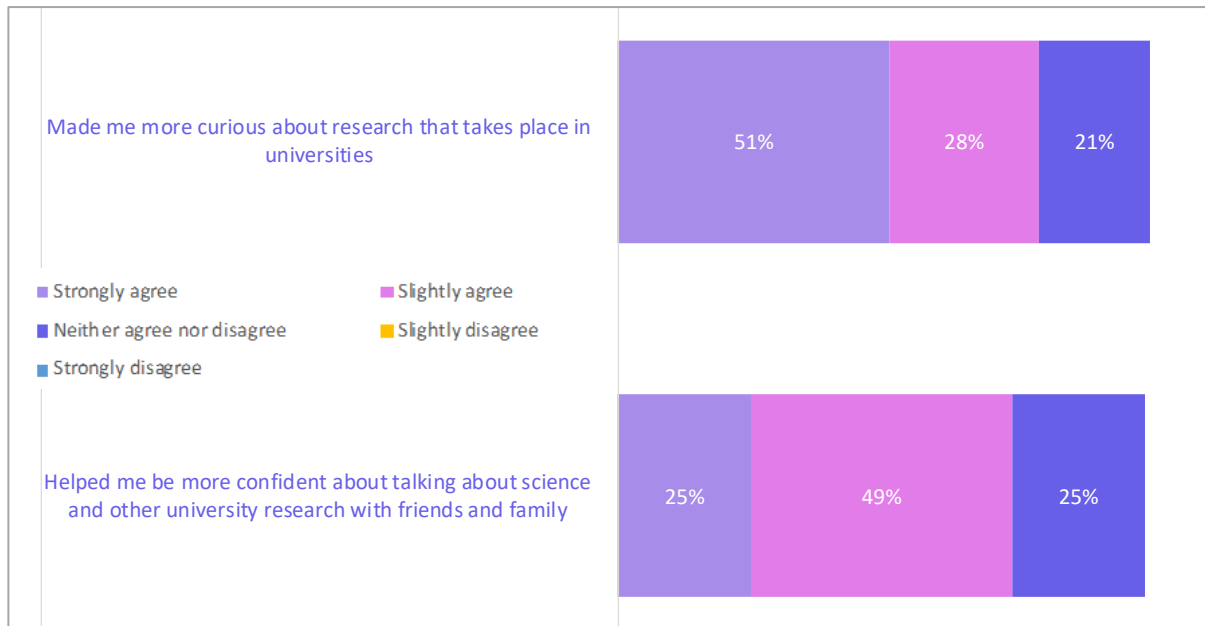


Chart 7: Attendance has... (n=53 Public Survey)

Further action

As a result of taking part in *FUTURES 2023* over three quarters (82%) said they had discussed ideas from event(s) with friends, colleagues or family who did not attend. Additionally, 33% said they had found out more about the topic or activity covered at the event/s they attended. While only 4% said they had attended other similar events since (likely due to the short amount of time elapsing between their attendance at *FUTURES* and completing the feedback survey), over the course of a year, this might translate into a good number wishing to return to *FUTURES* in 2024. See Chart 8. Although the question was not specifically asked, a number of respondents noted that they would be keen to attend more events like this in the future.

Great to meet the people doing the research. I would definitely attend future Futures. UOE-23-19-SHOP

I would like to do more research walks all through the year. UOB-23-30-WALK

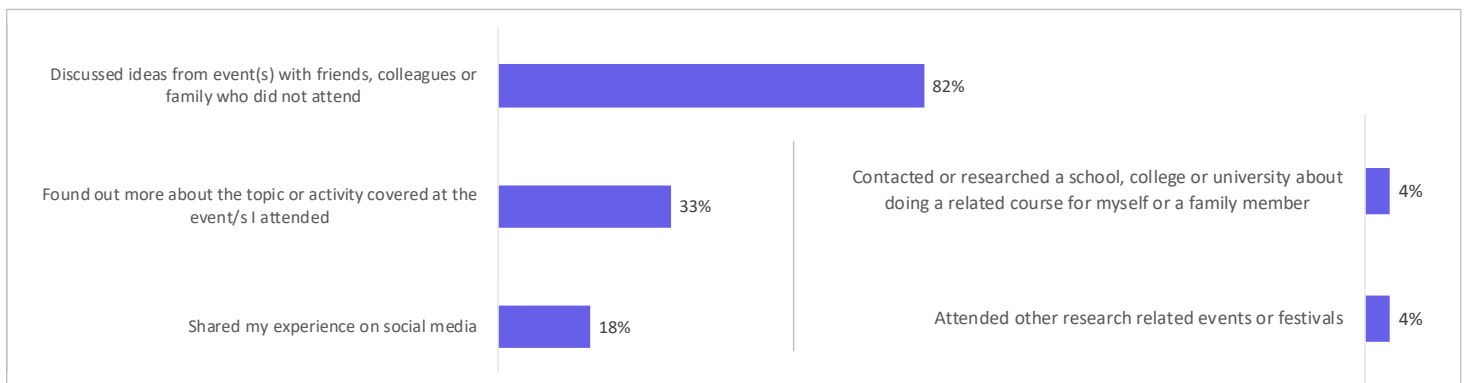


Chart 8: Which of the following have you done as a result of attending *FUTURES 2023* events? (n=45 Public Survey)

Research careers

24% of Public Survey respondents said they had a better understanding of research careers as a result of attending an event (See Chart 8 above). Nearly a quarter (22%) said they would consider a research career themselves⁹ and many more (72%) said they would recommend a research career to a friend or family member. Several teachers at the *School Research Fair* commented how it opened their students' eyes to the diverse careers that research offers.

I loved it! This was an eye-opening on what jobs in the future can be. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE [I took my] 16 year-old boy and he actually found it so informative, enjoyable and a gateway to where he would like to go in his future studies. UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR

A brilliant, informative range of subjects covered. A guide for future students embarking on the journey. UOB-23-9-TALES

It's let them see what's out there, expand their horizons and got them thinking about careers in science, and what's going on in Bristol. Teacher, UOB-23-7-SRF

At four events attendees were asked whether they thought a career in researcher would be interesting and would they make a good researcher? The majority of respondents are likely to be school-aged children as these events were targeted towards families or for schools. Three-quarters of them (74%) believed a career in research would be interesting, and over two thirds (69%) thought they could be a good researcher one day (see Table 8).

Event	Response	Do you think a career in research would be interesting?			Do you think you could be a good researcher?	
		Yes / Very / Quite	Maybe / Not sure	No / Not Very / Not at All	Definitely / Yes / Maybe	No / Not sure / Definitely not
UOB Schools Research Fair		36	11	4	11	4
UOB Up Late		12	1	1	31	19
UOP Voyage of Discovery		-	-	-	38	14
UOP Wild Tribe Festival		-	-	-	15	6
Combined		74%	18%	8%	69%	31%

Table 8: Research as a career. (n=203 school children & general public)

Better understanding of what takes place at their local university

As shown in Chart 9, 69% of respondents said participation had led to a better understanding of what research was taking place in their local university. Comments from Snapshot Interviews suggest that for some, knowing what universities do, was something new to them.

Didn't know about the rich content in the local area. UOE-23-19-SHOP

Didn't realise the public outreach. UOP-23-26-TOUR

Interesting to hear about all the research going on. Wouldn't know about it without events like this. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

⁹ Many answered Not Applicable, suggesting they were too old or established in other careers to think that switching to one in research would be an option.

Public awareness and understanding of university research

Nearly all (89%) of Public Survey participants said they had a better understanding of a research topic as result of attending a *FUTURES 2023* event. Over two thirds (69%) said they gained a better understanding of the research that takes place at their local university. Nearly half (46%) said they now had a better understanding of the value of research and researchers to everyday life. See Chart 9.

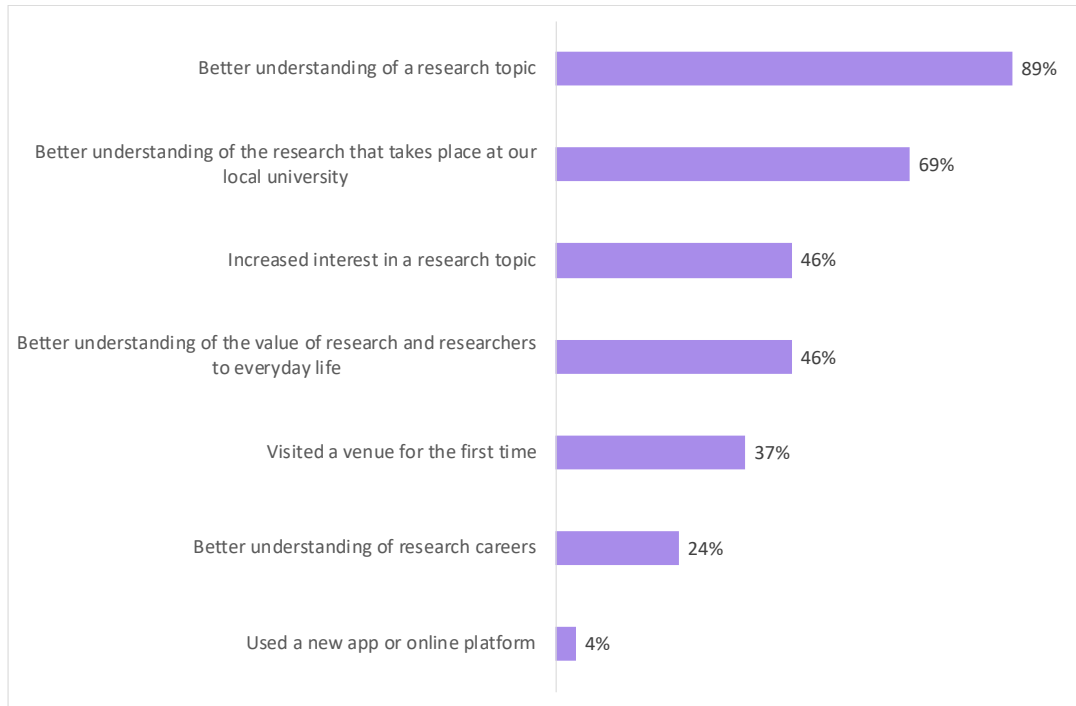


Chart 9: What (if anything) do you think you have gained from the *FUTURES 2023* event/s? (n=54 Public Survey)

Relevance of university research

Just over half (54%) of Public Survey respondents included the word *Relevant* in their summation of the events they attended (See Chart 6). This was corroborated by 93% of Postcard Survey responses saying yes to the question *Did this feel relevant to you?* Additionally, almost three quarters (73%) of Public Survey participants agreed that attendance at *FUTURES 2023* made them think that researchers are ‘people like me’, while even more (81%) agreed it had made them think university research is relevant ‘to my life’. See Chart 10.

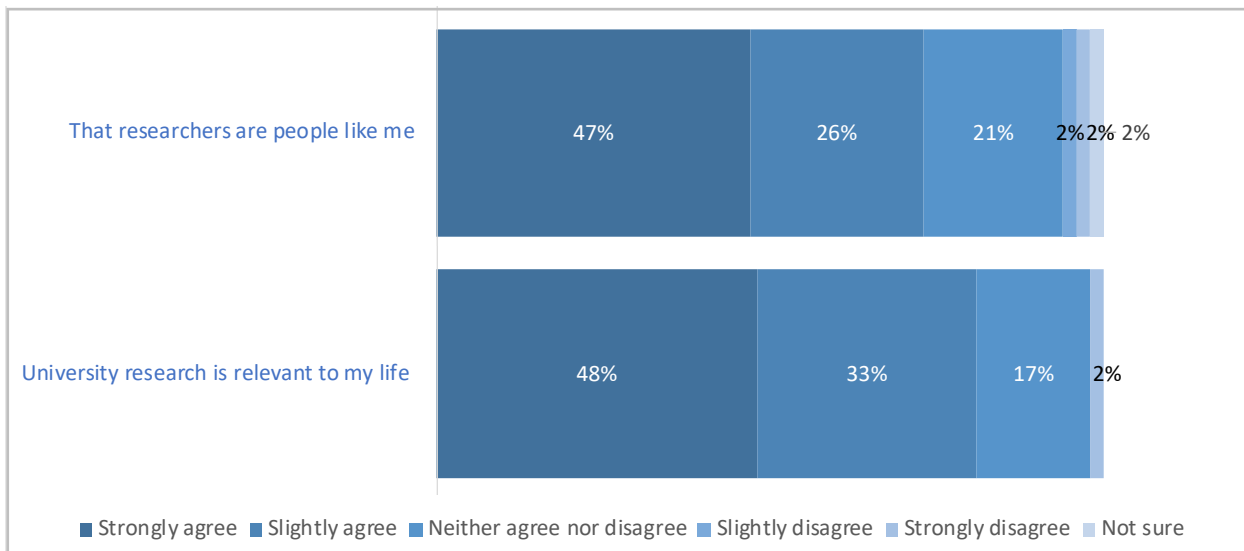


Chart 10: Attendance has made me think... (n=53 Public Survey)

Although the public acknowledged researchers were academically good there was no hint that this made them unapproachable, rather the opposite. Attendees considered that the researchers they met were easy to connect with.

All the people manning each stall were really easy to talk to. They all seemed really passionate and knowledgeable about their area of interest. Myself and my 10yo daughter learnt a lot!! Thank you :) UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

Cameron was very informative, conveyed info well and showed a real interest. UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR

Steve is a very engaging speaker! Loved the focus on women. UOB-23-30-WALK

Very worthwhile and fascinating talking to the researchers. My son is 12 and very interested in sciences and marine biology. Robotic dog is amazing! UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

How accessible research can be. How varied the topics and causes are. UOE-23-19-SHOP



Figure 5: Researcher discussing their work at the Holburne Up Late event

Universities' contribution to society

Nearly all (89%) Public Survey respondents felt the event they attended brought credit to the university running it. Only 7% said it brought little or no credit. Attendees taking part in the Snapshot Interviews were asked whether they learnt anything new about how universities contribute to society or their role in addressing future challenges. Among those who said they learnt something the responses were both wide ranging and covered both current and future challenges. Some examples include:

Learnt about their work on the problematic issues. UOBA-23-35-HOLB

Felt that every stall addressed future challenges by clearly explaining the context of their research. UOE-23-19-SHOP

Example of medical, AI, conservation, etc. all had real world implication sand practical impact. UOB-23-9-TALES

New materials like biodegradable plastics. Projects that affect people from the other side of the world. Solving issues I didn't know existed. UOE-23-19-SHOP

UoP research relevant to everyday life and for the future of our planet. Public Survey

Role of university research in the South West

85% of Public Survey respondents said university research was very important to the South West region with a further 7% saying it was quite important. The primary reason given focused on its role (and universities' part more generally) in bringing development and skilled work opportunities to the region.

It is important that ALL areas of the country have research activities and that they are relevant to local communities and economies. Public Survey

It is important to maintain research for the future of Bristol and its community. As well as keeping us up to date on future innovations and developments it will keep the profile of the city at the forefront of change. Public Survey

Makes the area a more vibrant, interesting and attractive place to live. Public Survey

The university research culture is the reason I moved to Cornwall. Without it, Falmouth would not be the exciting, inclusive, progressive place it is. Research culture has an impact on its local area and raises living standards for all of us. Public Survey

These responses indicate that there is an awareness of the economic benefits arising from university research, which may indicate (although not explicitly) that participants felt more positive about public funding of research, having attended a *FUTURES 2023* event.



Figure 6: Discussing new medical research at the SSGB Up Late event

4.2 Impact on researchers

Benefits for researchers

Researchers were very positive about their experience, to the extent that three quarters (75%) said they would take part in an event like *FUTURES 2023* again and all but five (out of 57) said they had benefited from taking part in multiple ways. The most cited benefit for researchers was being able to share their interest and enthusiasm for research (90%), along with trying out new ways of engaging with the public (58%) and gaining an understanding of the public's attitude to research. See Chart 11.

It's been really great, I am definitely going to do it again. Researcher Debrief

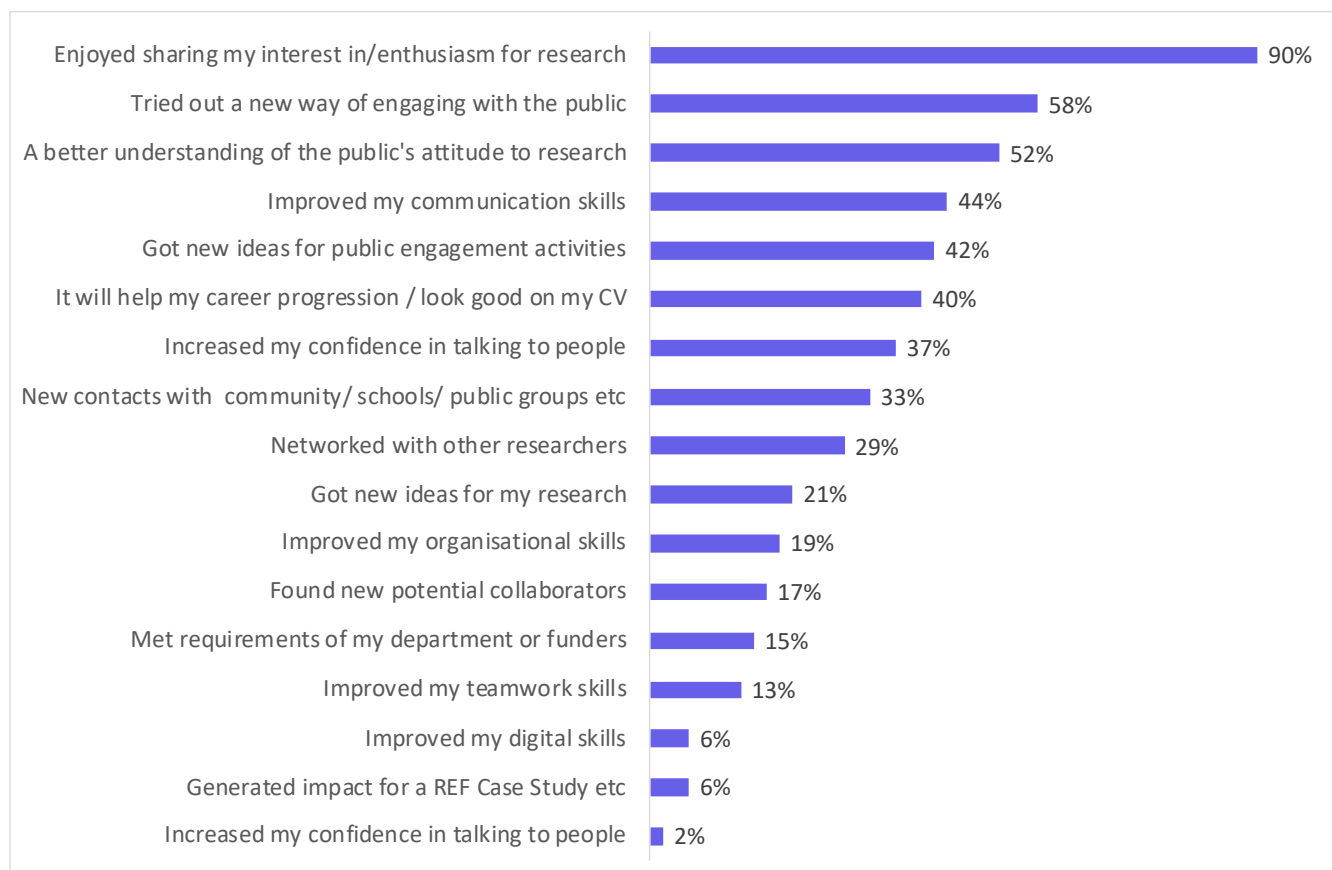


Chart 11: How have you benefited from taking part in *FUTURES 2023*? (n=57 Researcher Survey)

Examples of what researchers gained from taking part were given by almost all those responding to the survey, suggesting benefits that focused on developing their own skills, a chance to see their research from a different perspective and to have public input into the research process:

- Opportunity to improve their public engagement skills.

Communication skills, getting outside of research bubble, finding out what society really thinks, understanding level of knowledge/caring amongst public -- actually relatively indifferent. Researcher Debrief

Developing communication skills, developing public engagement skills, [which is] also helpful with engaging students in lectures. Highlighted university research as a part of the community. Researcher Debrief

- Having public input into their work.

Own feedback wall was very useful to gather to add to stats from online use qualitative data. Researcher Debrief

Always learn something when working with children and families. Researcher Debrief

- Opportunity to reflect on own research

Helps to engage with own research in a fun way, think why it is interesting, think about real life applications, connect with why do research. Researcher Debrief

Makes you more enthusiastic - regenerates interest and passion for research, remembering why you do research. Good for the project. Increases the public knowledge and engagement/participation in the project and study. Proves universities civic worth. Nice to see other stalls and researchers' work. Researcher Debrief

- Making connections with the public

One was a couple of women who'd been to Antarctica and seen whales, like been on a whale watching trip earlier this year, and really interested in whales and culture. And then a woman called her son, not Jonah but whatever the Islamic equivalent of that name is, and she was talking about how Jonah story exists in Islam, and she was really interested in finding out medieval versions of this poem. Really nice engagement. Researcher Debrief

Just the generosity and the enthusiasm to contributing, so I think public engagement should be a conversation rather than information drop. Researcher Debrief



Figure 7: Researcher with their display

Attitudes to Public Engagement

Taking part in *FUTURES 2023* had a substantial impact on researcher confidence to engage with the public with 60% saying it had made them more confident to some degree. None said they felt less confident as a result of participation. See Table 9.

<p><i>Table 9: How has taking part in FUTURES 2023 impacted your confidence to engage with the public? (n=57)</i></p>	Much more confident	23%
	A bit more confident	37%
	No change in confidence	40%
	A bit less confident	0%
	A lot less confident	0%

Connected with confidence was the likelihood of researchers wanting to participate in other public engagement activities as a result of their *FUTURES 2023* experience. Again, the response was very positive, with 77% saying they would be more likely to participate in the future as a result. See Table 10.

<p><i>Table 10: How do you feel about taking part in other Public Engagement activities after your experience at FUTURES 2023? (n=57)</i></p>	Much more likely to participate	37%
	A bit more likely to participate	40%
	Not sure	23%
	A bit less likely to participate	0%
	A lot less likely to participate	0%

Given this positive approach to public engagement indicated above, it is hardly surprising that nearly all (93%) believe that researchers have a moral duty to engage with the public about the social and ethical implications of their research.

Quite a high proportion (20%) felt that researchers who do a lot of public engagement are not well regarded by other researchers, perhaps reflecting the pressures on researchers to focus solely on their academic or teaching work. Somewhat more (45%) disagreed, although many (35%) felt unable to answer the question.

4.3 Impact on institutions, research and the public

Institutional impact

Although there was uncertainty among some researcher survey respondents (11%) about the level of credit *FUTURES 2023* brought to their university, the majority (88%) believed it had done so. See Table 11.

<p><i>Table 11: To what extent do you feel FUTURES has brought credit to your university? (n=56)</i></p>	A great deal	48%
	Somewhat	40%
	A little	0%
	Not at all	0%
	Not sure	11%

This had been achieved by:

- o Demonstrating who we are and what we do.

I hope so. I think the university should benefit just by contributing to the community. So doing an event here rather than the university was really good. We need to be seen in the city. I so love this place (venue). Researcher Debrief

- o Raising the public profile of the university and making local and community connections.

Positive response about the fact that the university considers creativity and imagination important. Researcher Debrief

Getting more people into the degree. People were shocked that University of Exeter does palaeontology. Researcher Debrief

Promotion of university and the research. Increasing accessibility. Raising awareness of Penryn Campus research and impact for the region. Researcher Debrief

Having events creates a better image of the university - people might consider going to university as a result of coming to event. Researcher Debrief

There were a lot of Cornish surfers. They really connected to researchers. Researcher Debrief

Credit to the research group

As with credit to the university, credit to research groups was for many (23%) hard to gauge. However, nearly two thirds (61%) of researchers felt *FUTURES 2023* had to some degree brought their research group credit. See Table 12.

<p><i>Table 12: To what extent do you feel FUTURES has brought credit to your Research Group. (n=56)</i></p>	A great deal	18%
	Somewhat	43%
	A little	9%
	Not at all	7%
	Not sure	23%

Impact on their research

Nearly three quarters (72%) of researchers agreed that public engagement improves the quality of their research, with just 2% disagreeing. See Table 13.

<p><i>Table 13: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...Public engagement improves the quality of my research. (n=55)</i></p>	Strongly agree	45%
	Slightly agree	27%
	Neither agree nor disagree	25%
	Slightly disagree	2%
	Strongly disagree	0%

Working with neurodivergent families was really helpful and insightful. Good to reflect on methodology. Researcher Debrief

We've had some really interesting responses. It's not all positive, which is really interesting for us to know and that's going to be useful for our research going forward because we're looking to introduce our creativity into schools as a way to help with mental health, so we need to know these things now. Researcher Debrief

Perceived impact on the public

Most (89%) researchers in the survey agreed that there was enthusiasm from the public to learn more about research, and none disagreed with this assertion. Additionally, most (84%) did not feel their research was too specialised for public audiences. See Table 14.

<i>Table 14: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement... My research is too specialised to make much sense to public audiences. (n=56)</i>	Strongly agree	0%
	Slightly agree	7%
	Neither agree nor disagree	9%
	Slightly disagree	14%
	Strongly disagree	70%

Most researchers felt the public in general and children in particular had benefited from attending *FUTURES 2023* events, ranging from simply having fun to learning about something new.

Created joy for many visitors, stimulated creativity. UOE-23-19-SHOP

Children's general enthusiasm about it. They were excited. Children really liked they could take home planted seeds. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

Fun when families come and siblings talk about things together and the whole family gets involved, chat while children get involved with activity. UOB-23-11-FAMILY

General enthusiasm from children. Children run to tell me about other plants they had grown. They loved the colourful plants and couldn't believe they were real. UOP-23-31-WILD

People have visited the stall because of recommendation by others. Such diversity and a lot of young people. It makes people happy and always good when people smile when people put on the headsets. Quote heard: "This is amazing and incredibly trippy!" UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR



Figure 8: Researchers gather participants' opinions at the Holburne Up Late event

Many felt both adults and children got a lot out of the events, through discovering new things and having conversations. Some also pointed out how the interaction was mutually beneficial.

Really smart children answering questions and asking smart questions. Nice, respectful and interested audience/public. UOP-23-36-VOYAGE

We had one girl gasping when we told them that this thing was made of mushrooms. It's a really good way of explaining and getting people to engage with science. UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR

Kids made interesting comments, like what they think is a great word and what they think is a terrible word [...] and then they've been talking about things like whether it would be warm and whether it be quiet, and they'll get getting quite kind of engaged in that kind of thing. So yeah, they seem to be like their brains seem to be working away on it. UOB-23-7-SRF

Meeting interesting/interested folk. Gaining new insights to my work and future directions. UOE-23-19-SHOP

There's definitely been a couple of young people who have said "Oh I thought this fair was for science and this isn't science", so we've been able to have those conversations with them about, you know, science can actually be really broad and maybe much broader and wider than what you were taught at school, it can include things like psychology and psychiatry. So that's been really interesting to have those conversations with them. UOB-23-7-SRF



Figure 9: A family discuss material science on board the SS Great Britain

4.4 Impact for partners

Less feedback was received from partners than in previous years. The small number of post-event debriefs that were carried out did show that those partners found the experience of working with researchers valuable. They noted that this brings something different and unique to their usual work:

We had a positive experience and shared many poignant conversations during the course of the evening. Artist, UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR

Working with researchers is special, is quite different. I learn from it. Host, UOB-23-9-TALES

It has been an absolutely awesome project and the reason being is because it's been just that little bit different. Something a bit more unique to bring to our street-based work. Youth Leader, UOB-23-37-NEXT

The NEXTCOMP activity, funded as a small pilot, where Composites researchers worked with youth charity Young Bristol to deliver several "Discover Composites" sessions at their 'Youth Club on Wheels' in very deprived areas of the city, was particularly impactful, as the club leader describes:

I know that most of these kids that we're working with, they wouldn't even think about doing a science project outside of school. Let alone if they'd even engage in science in school. So the fact that we've had these young people actually doing this stuff is absolutely fantastic. We've brought science to them made it fun, made it obtainable, that's great. UOB-23-37-NEXT

Young Bristol later reported that at least one young person has changed their education plans as a result of the session and will study A-Levels inspired by the topic rather than go to technical college.



Figure 10: "Mr Brunel" gets some advice from tobacco researchers at the SS Great Britain

5 Improvements and changes

5.1 Suggestions from Attendees

Attendees were asked in the public survey what improvements they would like to see for future events. See Chart 12. Over half (53%) of respondents suggested better publicity for events. Having events run over more days and with more time for activities were both mentioned by nearly a quarter (22%) of respondents, perhaps to give more flexibility for attendees.

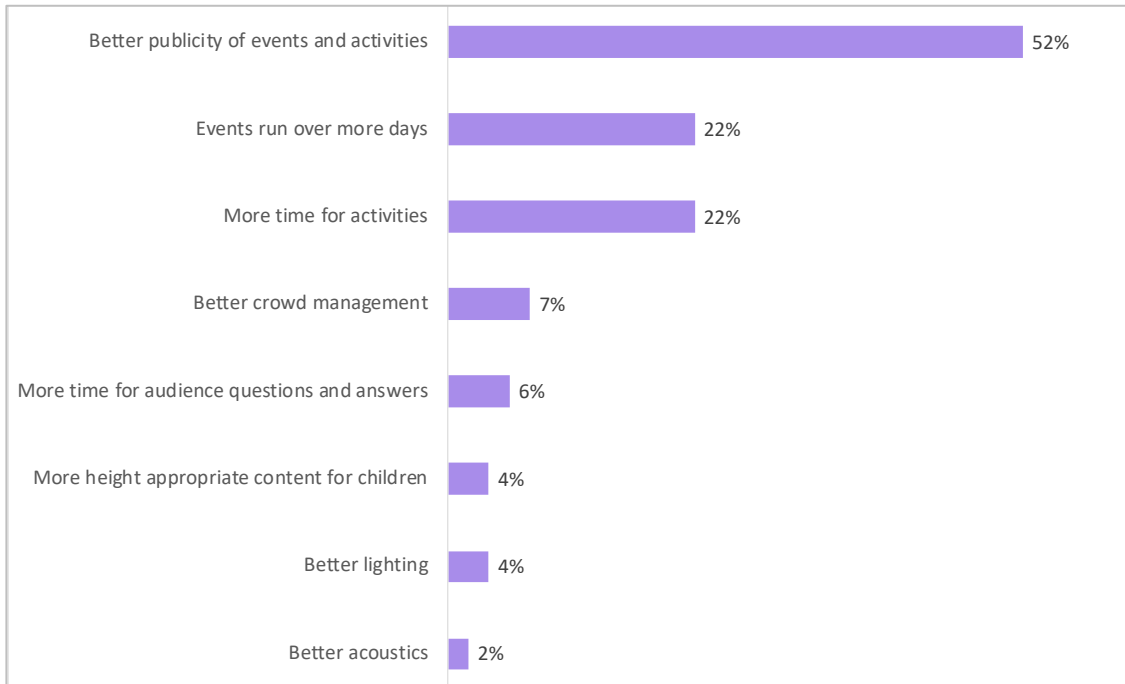


Chart 12: Suggested improvements. n=54 (Public Survey)

5.2 Suggestions from Researchers

Researchers were also asked about logistical improvements for future events. The most frequent response was to know in advance how much space would be available (44%), followed by having some form of wash up party or meeting (30%). See Chart 13.

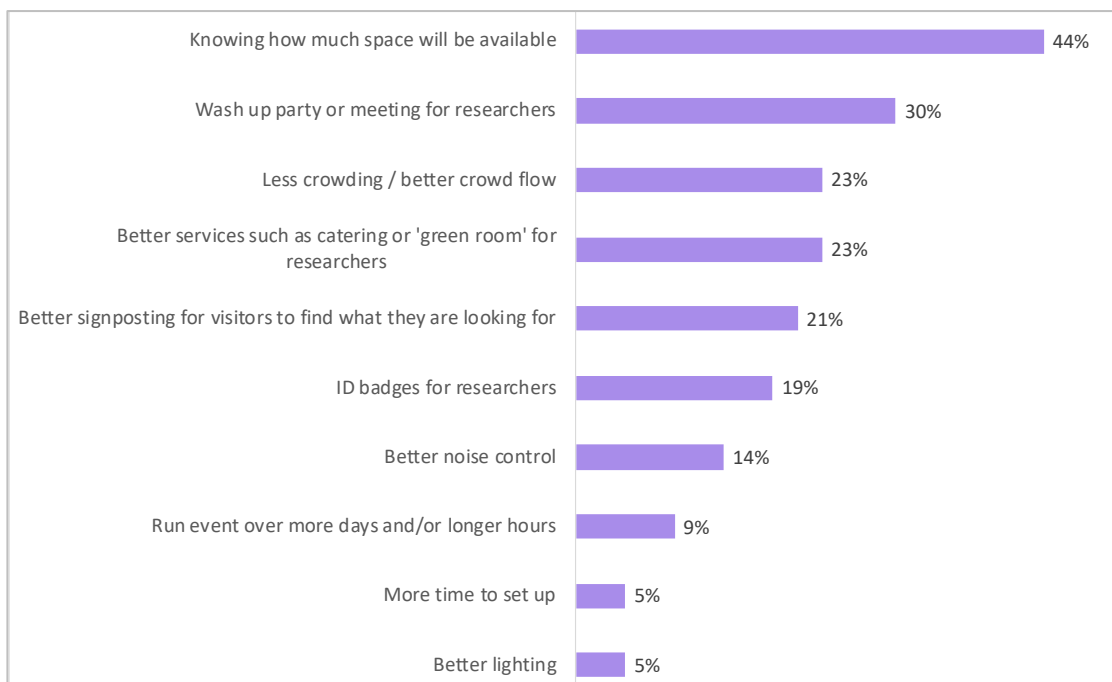


Chart 13: Suggestions on making FUTURES easier for researchers. n=43 (Researcher Survey)

5.3 Considerations for the future

- There seems to be a gap in the 16-25 age bracket attending in-person events. These young people may be too old for a family trip, do not see such events as relating to their interests or preferred mode of socialising and university students are not the funder's prime audience. However, 16 to 18 year-olds could be a prime target for recruiting future researchers. Although they are likely reached by online and digital events, additional thought could be given to what styles of in-person event most interest this audience and which partners (such as schools, colleges, and community organisations) the consortium might work with to attract them.
- FUTURES performs relatively well in appealing to non-white audiences but does have some way to go to fully represent the ethnic make-up of its host cities and reflecting the socio-economic and other aspects of diversity of the wider region. Continuing the productive approach of working with community partners would help to address this.
- Researchers report high levels of satisfaction through participation, but this year only a third were repeat contributors. It might be worth considering what pathways to ongoing engagement FUTURES could offer and how this can be supported, both for new entrants into public engagement and the development of those with more experience to contribute to more sophisticated activities at forthcoming FUTURES.
- FUTURES is seen to develop the public's curiosity and confidence in talking about research but without a legacy plan this change might be ephemeral. How can the relationships established at FUTURES between the public and researchers build into continued dialogue and sharing, rather than a one-off experience?
- The public very much see university research as an economic and business opportunity for the region. Could FUTURES better demonstrate this value added by showcasing business and economic outcomes arising from current and past research?
- The format of much of FUTURES is quite 'trade show'. Is it possible to consider more thematic, creative, experiential or immersive content and presentation. For example, the theme of the sea at Plymouth, or the alignment of Noah and the Whale at SS Great Britain but more creative, where the public get to feel what it is like to be in a lab, undersea or other environments connected to the research. Such an approach would require a creative producer to curate such an experience.
- Other possibilities could be to cluster themes of research so audiences can focus on their interests (similar to a market where stalls selling similar goods might be sited together) or have some form of video introduction into the world of universities and research prior to engaging, so visitors know what it is all about and why they are there, before the auditorium opens out into the public engagement space (similar to the 'Harry Potter Experience' at Warner Studios).
- Finally, if EU funding returns in 2024 or 2025 thought should be given to how this might impact the themes and presentation of research going forward.

5.4 Overall summary

Once again *FUTURES 2023* exceeded all its targets with activities reaching tens of thousands more people than was originally foreseen. The consortium succeeded in reaching many people who had not attended *FUTURES* before as well as people from communities who ordinarily have less opportunity to engage with university research.

Feedback from participants shows that *FUTURES* consistently provides enjoyable activities that inspire curiosity and interest. The main suggestions for improvement from attendees are that the consortium could better publicise and more flexibly schedule events to attract even more people. More researchers took the opportunity to be involved this year than foreseen, and they also generally reported that they would participate again in similar activities.

FUTURES' mixture of traditional and novel activities, in a wide range of physical venues and online platforms, spread across a large geographical area connected researchers with diverse audiences in many different ways. The sheer variety of research topics offered something of interest to any attendee and a myriad of ways to inspire the next generation of researchers.

For the sixth year in a row, *FUTURES 2023* successfully showcased university researchers and projects from the whole spectrum of the consortium's research activities to a wide cross-section of the population across the South West of England.

"The power of getting people in the same room with researchers is inspiring, you can't underestimate it. Talking together is really powerful and special."



6 Activity outcomes for individual events

6.1 Summary of events

Event Name	Activity Code	Lead Institution	Audience Total	Researcher Total
Biology in Action	BSU-23-5-BIO	Bath Spa	44	5
Family Fair	UOB-23-11-FAMILY	Bristol	237	23
FUTURES Walking Tour: Research Lives and Legacies	UOB-23-30-WALK	Bristol	39	1
NEXTComp Sessions with Young Bristol	UOB-23-37-NEXT	Bristol	30	3
Do Try This At Home 23	UOB-23-6-DTAH	Bristol	124	39
Schools Research Fair @ SS Great Britain	UOB-23-7-SRF	Bristol	134	48
Up Late @S.S. GB inc. Research Fair	UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR	Bristol	367	66
Researchers' Tales, Up Late @ SS Great Britain	UOB-23-9-TALES	Bristol	77	9
Test Tubes and Time Travel	UOBA-23-15-TTTT	Bath	87	3
Science Showoff	UOBA-23-16-SHOW	Bath	98	5
FUTURES Invention Challenge from Kids Invent Stuff on YouTube	UOBA-23-2-INVENT	Bath	5,218	1
Nature-Gram	UOBA-23-32-NATURE	Bath	84,118	1
Images of Research exhibition	UOBA-23-33-IMAGES	Bath	12,000	33
Holburne Up-Late	UOBA-23-35-HOLB	Bath	159	6
FUTURES Listening	UOBA-23-38-LIST	Bath	86	2
I'm a Researcher Ask Me Anything	UOBA-23-4-AMA	Bath	1,537	6
Pop Up Shop mural	UOE-23-19-MURAL	Exeter	10,000	31
Pop-Up Curiosity Shop of Science and Culture	UOE-23-19-SHOP	Exeter	1,114	55

Pop-Up Curiosity Shop of Science and Culture: Fairwinds	UOE-23-19-SHOP	Exeter	176	2
Pop-Up Curiosity Shop of Science and Culture Quiet Spaces	UOE-23-19-SHOP	Exeter	12	0
Futures on Air 23	UOE-23-1-ONAIR	Exeter/Bath	10,500	3
Plastic Oceans Walk and Talk	UOE-23-20-WALKTALK	Exeter	6	1
Hornets vs Bees Walk and Talk	UOE-23-20-WALKTALK	Exeter	12	1
Wonderful World of Fungi Walk and Talk	UOE-23-20-WALKTALK	Exeter	25	1
Pharmaceutical Side-Effects Walk and Talk	UOE-23-20-WALKTALK	Exeter	18	1
Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? Talk	UOE-23-22-ODD	Exeter	74	3
The Big Talk	UOP-23-23-BIG	Plymouth	29	3
Stories in the Stones Walking Tours	UOP-23-26-TOUR	Plymouth	51	1
Future Neighbourhoods	UOP-23-29-NEIGH	Plymouth	63	3
Wild Tribe Children's Festival	UOP-23-31-WILD	Plymouth	218	1
Voyage of Discovery	UOP-23-36-VOYAGE	Plymouth	859	28

N.B. No feedback was collected for the following events: Do Try This At Home 23 (UOB-23-6-DTAH: University of Bristol), Test Tubes and Time Travel 23 (UOBA-23-15-TTTT: University of Bath), Science Showoff (UOBA-23-16-SHOW: University of Bath), Images of Research 23 (UOBA-23-33-IMAGES: University of Bath), FUTURES Listening (UOBA-23-38-LIST: University of Bath) I'm a Researcher Ask Me Anything (UOBA-23-4-AMA: University of Bath), Nature-Gram (UOBA-23-32-NATURE: University of Bath), FUTURES Invention Challenge (UOBA-23-2-INVENT: University of Bath), Futures on Air 23 (UOE-23-1-ONAIR: University of Exeter), Pop Up Shop mural (UOE-23-19-MURAL, University of Exeter).

Quote abbreviations used in this section:

PS: Public Survey

SI: Snapshot Interview

PC: Postcard Survey

RD: Researcher Debrief

RS: Researcher Survey

OP: Online Poll

IF: Informal Feedback

OW: Opinion Wall

OB: Observation

TS: Teacher Survey

PD: Partner Debrief

6.2 Bath Spa University events

Biology in Action	BSU-23-5-BIO:	Bath Spa University	Audience n=44	Responses & data set n=17 Post card survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	17 out of 17		15 out of 17	17 out of 17
	<i>I enjoyed being in a science job. I'm going to be a microbiologist when I grow up. [PC]</i>			<i>I was so happy to be asked to show my daughter science in action. The scientists we met were passionate and interesting, and inspiring. Thank you! [PC]</i>
What could be improved?	Organisation/Venue	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>Better services such as catering or 'green room' for researchers, Wash up party or meeting for researchers. [RD]</i>			<i>It is quite hard to tailor a research talk to an audience with children, I think it went okay but this is challenging. It might help to share best practices with other researchers who do your events (you might already facilitate this).</i>

6.3 University of Bath events

Test Tubes and Time Travel	UOBA-23-15-TTTT	University of Bath	Audience n=87	Responses in data set
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
FUTURES Listening	UOBA-23-38-LIST:	University of Bath	Audience n=86	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
I'm a Researcher Ask Me Anything	UOBA-23-4-AMA	University of Bristol	Audience n= 1537	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience

Science Showoff	UOBA-23-16-SHOW	University of Bath	Audience n=98	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
Holburne Up Late	UOBa-23-35-HOLB	University of Bath	Audience n=159	Responses in data set: n=19 Snapshot Interviews
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	19 out of 19		15 out of 19	8 out of 19
				<i>How the world is very masculine, no protective footwear for women. Discussion about research and evolution. [SI]</i>
				<i>I have found out that the Tibet women are isolated during their period into huts. [SI]</i>
				<i>Found it interesting about all the women are discussed in the literary world. [SI]</i>

What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>Participant recommended more marketing and awareness through university to get people through the door. [OB]</i>	<i>Having more engaging and active activity. [OB]</i>		
		<i>An engaging activity for the adults that is not time consuming. Planting seeds was very engaging and found the activity and history engaging. [OB]</i>		
		<i>Having clearer idea of how many people are expected in order to have suitable number of materials for the activity. [OB]</i>		
Nature-Gram	UOBA-23-32-NATURE	University of Bath	Audience n= 84118	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience

Images of Research exhibition	UOBA-23-33-IMAGES	University of Bath	Audience n= 12000	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
FUTURES Invention Challenge	UOBA-23-2-INVENT	University of Bath	Audience n=4100	Responses in data set:
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?	Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?	
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience

6.4 University of Bristol events

NEXTComp Sessions with Young Bristol	UOB-23-37-NEXT:	University of Exeter	Audience n=	Responses in data set
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	<p><i>Oh massive. I mean every time we meet each other I feel completely energised afterwards. They're so kind of dynamic, enthusiastic, proactive, which is great. So that's amazing to work with people that bring that out in you.</i></p> <p><i>But from a kind of group learning kind of thing, it's been huge. It's really focused us in a way, there's nothing like the slight fear of, you know, it's a it's a challenging environment and it's like 'right, well what are we going to do if that goes wrong?'. So we're going to do this, we're going to have lots of different plans. We've got lots, lots of different activities we've developed, so many different</i></p>

				<p><i>activities that we weren't doing at all before.</i></p> <p><i>It's given us the impetus and the time. That's the key thing, we don't get like tonnes of time to work on something like this, and it's really given us that space and that thinking time to sit down and go right, how can we do this. Because we've done outreach before and engagement. We had a workshop already that we've done before, but this isn't like that workshop. This workshop is very different actually, we've changed how we do it. We bite-sized it and really tailored it for the kinds of kids we're working with. [RD/PD]</i></p>
Family Fair	UOB-23-11-FAMILY:	University of Bristol	Audience n= 237	Responses in data set: n=9 Postcards, n=3 Observations, n=4 Researcher Debrief, n=5 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	9 out of 9		8 out of 9	9 out of 9

	<p><i>Really excellent public engagement project. [PC]</i></p> <p><i>Very engaging and interesting for the next generation. Great work. [PC]</i></p> <p><i>Very interesting. Good fun. [PC]</i></p>			<p><i>I found the experience mind blowing. Thank you for teaching me something new.</i></p> <p><i>Very engaging and informative. Sparking interest in science</i></p> <p><i>Great activities for all ages. Learned loads! [PC]</i></p>
	<p><i>Fun when families come and siblings talk about things together and the whole family gets involved, chat while children get involved with activity. [RD]</i></p>			
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<p><i>A space for passive engagement from public (ie. with a robotic "home" showcase) which can lead on to more engaged interaction from researchers [RS]</i></p>	<p><i>Having a bigger sign to advertise what is happening and what people can do [OB]</i></p>		<p><i>It was a great engagement opportunity for us and helped us reach audience groups we don't normally reach. I enjoyed working with our great team and meeting people. I enjoyed (and was pleasantly surprised by) the enthusiasm of the visitors to our stand - a couple of visitors hugged us and one wanted to take selfies with us. The organisation and support from the FUTURES team was really good and it went very smoothly. [RS]</i></p>

				<i>I liked how organised and supported the event was, with lots of guidance on putting together risk assessments, and communications training. I think it helped to create a higher-quality activity. [RS]</i>
FUTURES Walking Tour: Research Lives and Legacies	UOB-23-30-WALK:	University of Bristol	Audience n=39	Responses in data set: n=28 Postcards, n=2 Observations
Numbers of participants reporting a positive experience	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	28 out of 28		28 out of 28	28 out of 28
	<i>Extremely informative, inspiring talk regarding historic figures in Bristol. Will forward on to friends and family [PC]</i>		<i>Quite a few comments about how people had walked or driven past buildings many times before, but never noticed them, and how nice it was to find out about what happened inside. [OB]</i>	<i>I learnt a lot of the history of Bristol. [PS]</i>
	<i>I loved it, thank you! Good balance of information, walking, and opportunity to chat a bit. [PC]</i>		<i>It is important to maintain research for the future of Bristol and its community. As well as keeping us up to date on future innovations and developments it will keep the profile of the city at the forefront of change. [PS]</i>	<i>Lots of information about important researchers especially women.[PS]</i>

What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
		<i>Would have been nice to have one or two researchers present to be able to give more details about certain research, especially HeLa Cell Line, at Henrietta Lacks Statue, and to answer in-depth questions. [OB]</i>	<i>Quite a lot of traffic noise at some stops. [OB]</i>	
Up Late @S.S. GB inc. research fair	UOB-23-8-LATEFAIR:	University of Bristol	Audience n=367	Responses in data set: n=21 Postcards, n=8 Snapshot Interviews, n=11 Observation, n=6 Researcher Debrief, n=1 Partner debrief, n=19 Public Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	20 out of 21		18 out of 21	20 out of 21
	<i>We loved it! Cannot wait to be back. Thank you! [PC]</i>			<i>Learnt about composites. Very interesting. [PC]</i>
	<i>Be a heart surgeon or cardiologist was so interesting and inter active, very well organised, people were very knowledgeable and friendly, explained everything so well. They were so busy it was obvious that others felt the same. [PS]</i>			<i>To take a 16 year old boy and he actually found it so informative enjoyable and a gateway to where he would like to go in his future studies. This is our second visit plus I thought it was really well put together in a lovely location. Well done. [PS]</i>

What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience ¹⁰
	<i>Make it clearer where toilets are [RD]</i>		<i>Nobody really explained what it is about and why they were taking part. [SI]</i>	<i>Amazing - far more people than we thought and they've been far more engaged than we thought they would be. [RD]</i>
	<i>More day-light in the venue. Access to catering could be good. [RD]</i>			
	<i>More publicity please. I would have attended more of the events with my family/friends but didn't know about them. [PS]</i>			
Researchers' Tales, Up Late @ SS Great Britain	UOB-23-9-TALES:	University of Bristol	Audience n=77	Responses in data set: n=26 Postcards, n=2 Snapshot Interviews, n=4 Observations, n=1 Researcher Debrief, n=3 Public Survey, n=1 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	25 out of 26		20 out of 26	24 out of 26
	<i>Enjoyed it. Friendly environment, helpful volunteers, encouraging presentation.[PC]</i>			

¹⁰ Note some issues highlighted here are the same for the SRF event as a number of researchers attended both.

	<i>Absolutely informative fun and great stories. [PS]</i>			
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
		<i>Could have a panel at the end to ask questions. [OB]</i>	<i>Funny and interesting for adults but not for some small children, who then left. [OB]</i>	
Do Try This At Home 23	UOB-23-6-DTAH:	University of Bristol	Audience n=124	Responses in data set
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience

6.5 University of Plymouth events

Voyage of Discovery	UOP-23-36-VOYAGE:	University of Plymouth	Audience n=859	Responses in data set: n=81 Postcard Survey, n=17 Snapshot Interviews. N=7 Observations, n=6 Researcher Debrief, n=12 Public Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	81 out of 81		73 out of 81	81 out of 81
	<i>Wow! I am so amazed! I am UoP graduate. I brought my children here to get away from electronics. Beautiful experience. [PC]</i>			<i>All the people manning each stall were really easy to talk to. They all seemed really passionate and knowledgeable about their area of interest. Myself and my 10yo daughter learnt a lot!! Thank you :) [PC]</i>
	<i>Brilliant and inspiring for all of us. Great refreshments! [PC]</i>			
	<i>We loved exploring this event. It was amazing. The boys loved the robot and I enjoyed the bubbles. [PC]</i>			<i>This was a great event for the whole family. We learnt something new. I was surprised what interested my children. [PC]</i>
	<i>It was absolutely amazing event for the kids. They loved every bit of it. The planting, robot, bubbles, everything. [PS]</i>			

What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
		<p><i>School's involvement - could have the event during the week and invite schools. [SI]</i></p>	<p><i>the event could benefit from better signposting for individuals with specific accessibility needs.[RS]</i></p>	<p><i>So many people so exhausting. [RS]</i></p>
	<p><i>Comment from parent: "Wasn't well advertised. Didn't realise it was happening" [OB]</i></p>			<p><i>Capacity and amount of people! No chance to drink water. [RD]</i></p>
				<p><i>Lack of wifi in the venue so I had to hotspot from my phone. [RS]</i></p>
				<p><i>One of our activities became hard to run in the middle of the day because there were too many children, and parents weren't supporting us in encouraging them to concentrate. We will stick to simpler activities next time, now we understand the context. [RS]</i></p>
				<p><i>One of the goals of attending the event was to try and recruit for a research project that is currently recruiting individuals aged 16-30 or 50+. This information was broadcast on looping slideshows on TVs behind our stand, and on flyers on our desk, however there was limited engagement from visitors in these age groups, as large queues of families with children presented a barrier to accessing our stand. [RS]</i></p>

Wild Tribe Children's Festival	UOP-23-31-WILD:	University of Plymouth	Audience n= 218	Responses in data set: n=1 Researcher Survey, n=1 Researcher Debrief, n=3 Observations
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	<i>Sweets going down well!! The grown plants as an example of what they can grow is exciting them. [OB]</i>			
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
			<i>Lot's of rain. Post-its got soggy. [OB]</i>	<i>There were points where people had to queue to do the activity which I could see was making some people impatient but that's just part of these events and shows how popular they were!! It's much better this way than it being awkwardly quiet. [RD]</i>
The Big Talk	UOP-23-23-BIG:	University of Plymouth	Audience n=29	Responses in data set: n=4 Snapshot Interviews, n=2 Observations, n=2 Researcher Debrief, n=4 Public Survey, N=2 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	4 out of 4 found it an interesting topic			4 out of 4

	<i>Participants are laughing along with the researchers and are asking questions and responding to things discussed. [OB]</i>		<i>One participant was amused to see their house on one of the film clips and told the researchers that they recognised the area. [OB]</i>	<i>Realising how the movie was made and how many communities were involved. [SI]</i>
	<i>I think it went very well. I think people were engaged, they had contributions. I think that's why this was designed, to have conversations.[RD]</i>		<i>It is important that ALL areas of the country have research activities and that they are relevant to local communities and economies. [PS]</i>	<i>Interesting and surprising, particularly the short films. [SI]</i>
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
		<i>Evening too short. If there was a YouTube channel I would lose myself in it 🙌[PS]</i>	<i>I would like the participatory part (invite to submit short film) to be open to all and accessible online after the event itself.[PS]</i>	
Stories in the Stones Walking Tours	UOP-23-26-TOUR:	University of Plymouth	Audience n=51	Responses in data set: n=6 Snapshot Interviews, n=3 Observations, n=3 Public Survey, N=2 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	6 out of 6 found it an interesting topic			6 out of 6
			<i>Great learning about the local area. [SI]</i>	<i>About the geology of what's on our doorstep. Inspired to tale others on the geo walk/tour</i>

			<i>Didn't know about the rich content in the local area. [SI]</i>	<i>Variety of research topics and careers. [SI]</i>
				<i>Learnt about biodiversity and plants in relation to geology. [SI]</i>
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
Future Neighbourhoods	UOP-23-29-NEIGH:	University of Plymouth	Audience n=63	Responses in data set: n=11 Postcards, n=3 Observations, n=2 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	11 out of 11		10 out of 11	11 out of 11
	<i>We need more events like this to get people together to help shape the future. [PC]</i>		<i>Accessible events. Approachable people makes us feel like a part of the community. [PC]</i>	
	<i>Katharine hasn't stopped engaging! Lots of fantastic conversations taking place. [OB]</i>			
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>I would have liked to see more chair and table space for people to really get the ideas onto paper. Floor felt awkward and uncomfortable. [PC]</i>		<i>More facilitators as it's a big space and hard to get engage with everybody. [OB]</i>	

6.6 University of Exeter events

Pop-Up Curiosity Shop of Science and Culture	UOE-23-19-SHOP:	University of Plymouth	Audience n=11,302 (includes mural n=10000)	Responses in data set: n=85 Postcard Survey, n=26 Snapshot Interviews, n=22 Observations, n=16 Researcher Debrief, n=3 Public Survey, n=14 Researcher Survey
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	84 out of 85		79 out of 85	77 out of 85
	<i>Great time for all the family to enjoy and have fun. [PC]</i>	<i>The VR was very good. I enjoyed the mix of art and science research. [PC]</i>	<i>Fascinating mixture of stands and topics. As a creative health artist, very relevant. [PC]</i>	<i>The idea that cyanotype printing can produce replicable art. [PS]</i>
	<i>I didn't really know what to expect. We really enjoyed the art and interactive activities. Wish there'd been more VR headsets. [PC]</i>			
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>Very good but location could be bigger. [PC]</i>	<i>Talks looked great but would have been good to find out the titles beforehand to plan the day. Couldn't go to any. [PC]</i>	<i>I had young children and it was a bit over their heads. Thanks. [PC]</i>	<i>Clearer mapping of spaces before the event. Understanding layout of the venue. [RD]</i>
	<i>Venue is not ideal for parking. They suggested Penryn Campus/maritime museum as a better place. [SI]</i>	<i>More interactive activities for younger children. [SI]</i>	<i>More chairs and more activities for adults. [PC]</i>	<i>Lunch (or at least some refreshments etc). More variety in music and related energy - continuous "calm" music kills the long-term mood/energy. [RD]</i>

	<i>More space. The interviewee was in a wheelchair and was struggling with the entrance doors. [SI]</i>	<i>All researchers could have a sign with the times they are away or when they will be back. [OB]</i>	<i>Some more written info on some of the exhibits please, for when leaders are talking to someone. [PC]</i>	<i>I felt for the workshop leader as there were just too many participants for a workshop that needed individual attention. I thought she did brilliantly considering that, and the helpers were all great, but just too many people. Also there was a miscommunication which meant we didn't get the message about what we needed to bring, so most people arrived without materials. [PS]</i>
	<i>Possibly move play to back of room away from main door to engage more people with the science first. [OB]</i>	<i>Central activities/events that anchor the day. [RD]</i>		
Walk and Talk	UOE-23-20-WALKTALK:	University of Exeter	Audience n= 61	Responses in data set: n=16, Snapshot Interviews, n=11 , bservations, n = 5
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	11 out of 11 found it an interesting topic			6 out of 6
	<i>Enjoyed the information provided on the topic of queen bees/hornets and the large amount of them. [SI]</i>			<i>Fungal diseases in humans. Surprised that it killed more people than malaria, Also keen to give his own talk if the opportunity arise. [SI]</i>
				<i>Clothing made of mycelium. This is something they had no knowledge of prior to event. [SI]</i>

What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>Better signposting for talks - felt that it was unclear where both in-venue talks and walk-and-talks occurred. [SI]</i>	<i>Portable microphone - It could be difficult for a larger group to always hear the speaker. [SI]</i>	<i>No reason to be in the area. More prompts to why we walked to an area. [SI]</i>	
Why do people believe in conspiracy theories?	UOE-23-22-ODD	University of Exeter	Audience n=74	Responses in data set: n==28 Postcards = 27 Observations, n = 1
Appreciation of Events	Did participants enjoy their experience?		Did they feel it was relevant to them?	Did they find out something new?
	25 out of 27 enjoyed their experience		21 out of 27 thought it was relevant to them	21 out of 27 found out something new
	<i>Really interesting discussion especially with audience points of view. Enjoyed the psychology aspect. [PC]</i>	<i>Loved the dramatic audience! [PC]</i>	<i>Super interesting and further thought required. Recommend another talk! [PC]</i>	<i>Interesting. What is a conspiracy theory? How do people research + form opinions? More questions than answers. [PC]</i>
What could be improved?	Organisation / Venues	Activities	Participant experience	Researcher experience
	<i>People came late which was distracting. [PC]</i> <i>Very annoying to have people coming in late due to confusion about the time. [PC]</i> <i>Maybe bigger room & clear cutoff time on ticket for entry. [OBS]</i>	<i>Some people mentioned a more balanced panel in terms of views (but this is challenging due to the topic) [OBS]</i>	<i>Longer than 1 hour needed[PC]</i> <i>The atmosphere was also hostile - I felt uncomfortable for the speakers! [PC]</i> <i>People said they wanted longer! [OBS]</i>	

APPENDIX 1: Gender balance of Researchers

INSTITUTION	Woman	Man	Non-binary / Prefer to self-define	Prefer not to say / Not specified
University of Bristol	99	59	1	36
University of Bath	37	23		
University of Exeter	22	19		8
University of Plymouth	16	13		7
Bath Spa University	3	2	1	3
Other Institutions	8	6		3
Grand Total	185	122	2	57

APPENDIX 2: Evaluation Response Data

Evaluation Tool	Number of Responses
Eventbrite Registrations	1452
Public Online Survey	54
Postcard Questionnaires	304
Online Polls	(not used this year)
Opinion Walls	247
Teacher Survey	1
Snapshot Interviews	81
Observations	95
Partner Debriefs	3
Ad-hoc Feedback	(none received this year)
Social Media Comments	(not used this year)
Total Number of Public Responses *	2,237
<i>Response Rate for In-Person & Live Events</i>	57%
Researcher Online Survey	57
Research Debriefs	40
<i>Researcher Response Rate**</i>	29%

* Some participants may have completed more than one form of feedback, therefore this is not the number of unique respondents.

** Some researchers may have taken part in both a debrief and survey

APPENDIX 3: Research Questions

The table below sets out the research questions used for the impact evaluation, the data analysed and the tools used to collect the data.

QUANTITATIVE IMPACT DATA		
Impact Objective	Data	Tool for collection
Number of attendees	Participant count – overall and at each event	Event registration Attendance counts
Type of participants	Participant demographics (including age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background etc.)	Event registration Event observation Postcard survey / pop-up poll Post-event online survey
Number of researchers involved	Researcher count and funding source / research project	Researcher sign-in sheets and pre-event information forms
Reach of awareness campaign (website, social media, print media)	Media circulation	Media contacts Universities Press Office cuttings
	Social media interactions	Google Analytics or similar online tools
Evolution over time of our ERNs 2014 - 2023	Numbers of attendees, researchers, events and venues involved	Comparison with previous reports (FUTURES 2018/19/20/21 and Bristol Bright Night 2014/15)
Numbers of participants reporting a positive experience at a <i>FUTURES</i> event	Participant opinions	Event observations Snapshot interviews Teacher questionnaire Postcard survey / Pop-up polls Opinion trees Post-event online survey Social Media analysis

QUALITATIVE IMPACT DATA			
Impact Objective	Subsidiary Research questions	Data	Tool for collection
Increased awareness among the general public of the importance of research and innovation and a more favourable general attitude towards its public funding	Has FUTURES raised awareness of the importance of research and innovation?	Participant opinions Researcher reflections	Event observations
	Do participants feel that the research presented was relevant to their lives?		Snapshot interviews
	Do participants feel more positive about public funding of research?		Postcard survey/Pop-up poll Opinion trees Sticker votes Teacher questionnaire Post-event online survey Researcher survey
Better understanding of the key benefits that research brings to society	Do participants report a better understanding of or an increased interest in a research topic?	Participant opinions Researcher reflections	Event observations
			Snapshot interviews Postcard survey/Pop-up poll Opinion trees Sticker votes Post-event online survey Researcher survey
		Participant opinions	Event observations

Reduction of the stereotypes about researchers and their profession	Do participants feel that researchers are 'people like me'?	Researcher reflections	Snapshot interviews Postcard survey/Pop-up poll Opinion trees Teacher questionnaire Post-event online survey Researcher survey
Better understanding of what research happens in South West England among the general public	Has Researchers' Night raised awareness of South West research and researchers? How do Bristol and Bath residents feel about South West research and researchers having taken part in FUTURES?	Participant opinions Researcher reflections	Event observations Snapshot interviews Postcard survey/Pop-up poll Opinion trees Post-event online survey Researcher survey
Increase in knowledge about and long-term take-up of research careers	Has Researchers' Night increased (or reinforced) awareness of research careers? Would participants be interested in taking up a research career or would they recommend it to another?	Participant opinions Researcher reflections	Snapshot interviews Opinion trees Sticker votes Teacher questionnaire Post-event online survey Researcher survey
Appreciation of events and intention to participate in future	Did participants enjoy their experience at FUTURES? Would participants attend a similar event in future?	Participant opinions	Event observations Snapshot interviews Opinion trees Teacher questionnaire Postcard survey Post-event online survey
What was the experience of researchers participating in Researchers' Night	What were the benefits for researchers? What was the impact on their research and institution?	Researcher opinions Partner opinions	Debrief interviews Researcher survey
What could be improved?	Organisation Venues Activities Participant experience Researcher experience	Participant opinions Researcher opinions Partner opinions	All tools
Overall success of activities	How successful in meeting the impact aims were the events? (Achievement of impact goals)	Participant opinions Researcher opinions Partner opinions	All tools

APPENDIX 4: Evaluation Tools

A4.1 Pre-event Registration Questions

- How did you find out about this event? (please choose all that apply)

[Checkbox Options]

Social media → What channel? Facebook / Twitter / Instagram

Eventbrite

Email newsletter or similar → Who from?

Event listings (e.g. What's On, venue's listings etc.)

Local press

Local radio

Friends, Family or Word of mouth

Web search

Poster or printed leaflet

University website

Other → Please Specify

- Why are you interested in attending this event? (please choose all that apply)

[Checkbox Options]

I'm interested in the subject

I would like to pursue a career in this area

I want to learn something new

I want to visit the venue

I want to find out more about research

I know someone involved

It sounds fun

It sounds like it will be good for children

Other → Please Specify

- Have you taken part in previous FUTURES events? (please choose all that apply)

[Checkbox Options]

Yes, at FUTURES 2022

Yes, at FUTURES 2021

Yes, at FUTURES 2020

Yes, at FUTURES 2019

Yes, at FUTURES 2018

No, this is the first FUTURES event I plan to attend

A4.2 Post-event Public Survey

FUTURES 2023 Public Feedback

Introduction



We hope you enjoyed the FUTURES 2023 event/s you took part in recently.

We are very interested in your feedback and hope you can answer some questions in the following survey, which will take about 10 minutes of your time.

(If you couldn't attend any events, then please let us know why; there are just a couple of quick questions to complete.)

The results will be used to help us improve events like this in the future and for a report to our funders.

Your answers will be completely anonymous. The data will be stored securely and kept for a maximum period of 2 years.

Thanks in advance for taking part. Please click 'Next' to start the survey.

***** By clicking 'Next' you confirm that you have read and understood the above information and consent to taking part *****

FUTURES 2023 Participation

Did you attend or take part in any FUTURES 2023 events or activities?

- Yes
- No

Event Attendance

In which of the following ways did you take part in FUTURES events? *(Select all that apply)*

- On my own
- With my family
- With my friends
- With a school class or organised group
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Have you attended any previous FUTURES events? *(If yes, please select all that apply)*

- Yes, FUTURES 2022
- Yes, FUTURES 2021
- Yes, FUTURES 2020
- Yes, FUTURES 2019
- Yes, FUTURES 2018
- No, I have not attended a FUTURES event before this year
- Not sure

Prior to FUTURES 2023, had you previously taken part in any events or activities (in-person or online) organised by one of the universities listed below? *(If yes, please select all that apply)*

- Bath Spa University
- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- University of Exeter
- University of Plymouth
- No

Event-specific feedback

Which FUTURES 2023 event/s did you take part in?

Did you take part in any of the following events in Bath? ** Required*

- Yes
- No

Images of Research exhibition (Railway Station | Wed 27 - Wed 18)

Holburne Up-Late: The Women of Bath (Holburne Museum | Fri 29)

'Test Tubes and Time Travel' self-guided walk (around Bath | Fri 29 & Sat 30)

Biology in Action! (Bath Spa Campus | Sat 30)

Events in Bath - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each event in Bath that you took part in.

[+ More info](#)

	How enjoyable did you find the event/s you took part in? * Required						Please explain why it was enjoyable for you
	N/A I did not attend this event	Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
Images of Research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Holburne Up-Late	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
"Test Tubes and Time Travel" walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Biology in Action!	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Events in Bristol - selection

Did you take part in any of the following events in Bristol? * Required

- Yes
 No

Family Fair (Cabot Circus | Sat 16)

Walking Tour: Research Lives & Legacies (central Bristol | Sat 16)

Up Late (SS Great Britain | Fri 29)

Dance Workshop (Great Eastern Hall, SS Great Britain | Fri 29)

Researchers' Tales (SS Great Britain Library | Fri 29)

FUTURES Listening (Knowle West Media Centre | Fri 29)

Science Showoff (Wardrobe Theatre | Fri 29)

Events in Bristol - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each event in Bristol that you took part in.

[+ More info](#)

	How enjoyable did you find the event/s you took part in? * Required						Please explain why it was enjoyable for you
	N/A I did not attend this event	Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
Family Fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Walking Tour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Up Late @ SSGB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dance Workshop @ SSGB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Researchers' Tales @ SSGB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
FUTURES Listening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Science Showoff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Events in Exeter & Falmouth - selection

Did you take part in any of the following events in Exeter or Falmouth? * Required

- Yes
 No

Pop-Up Curiosity Shop (Cornish Bank, Falmouth | Sat 30 & Sun 01)

'Plastic Oceans' Walk & Talk (Falmouth | Sat 30)

'A Pond Wandering' Walk & Talk (Falmouth | Sat 30)

'Hornets vs Bees' Walk & Talk (Falmouth | Sat 30)

'Wonderful World of Fungi' Walk & Talk (Falmouth | Sun 01)

'Pharmaceutical Side-Effects' Walk & Talk (Falmouth | Sun 01)

'Why do people believe in Conspiracy Theories?' talk (Phoenix Theatre, Exeter | Thu 05)

Events in Exeter & Falmouth - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each event in Exeter and/or Falmouth that you took part in.

[+ More info](#)

	How enjoyable did you find the event/s you took part in? * Required						Please explain why it was enjoyable for you
	N/A I did not attend this event	Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
Pop-Up Curiosity Shop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Plastic Oceans' walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'A Pond Wandering' walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Hornets vs Bees' walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Wonderful World of Fungi' walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Pharmaceutical Side-Effects' walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Conspiracy Theories' talk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Events in Plymouth - selection

Did you take part in any of the following events in Plymouth? * Required

- Yes
 No

FUTURES @ Wild Tribe children's festival (Soapbox Children's Theatre, Plymouth | Sat 16)

'Screening the Future: Urban Heritage through Film' - the Big Talk (Plymouth Athenaeum | Wed 27)

Voyage of Discovery (Guildhall, Plymouth | Sat 30)

Stories in the Stones walking tours (Royal William Yard, Plymouth | Sat 30)

Future Neighbourhoods workshop (The Plot, Plymouth | Sat 30)

Events in Plymouth - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each event in Plymouth that you took part in.

[+ More info](#)

	How enjoyable did you find the event/s you took part in? * Required						Please explain why it was enjoyable for you
	N/A I did not attend this event	Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
FUTURES @ Wild Tribe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
'Screening the Future' talk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Voyage of Discovery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Stories in the Stones walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Future Neighbourhoods workshop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Online Activities - selection

Did you engage with any of these online FUTURES activities? * Required

- Yes
 No

Futures On Air (podcasts & local radio broadcasts)

I'm A Researcher - Ask Me Anything (Reddit)

Do Try This At Home (downloadable activities on FUTURES website)

The FUTURES Invention Challenge (YouTube)

Naturegram (Instagram)

You can find links to these activities on our website: www.futuresnight.co.uk

Online Activities - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each online activity that you engaged with.

[+ More info](#)

	How enjoyable did you find the activity/ies you took part in? * Required						Please explain why it was enjoyable for you
	N/A I did not do this activity	Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
Futures On Air	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Ask Me Anything	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Do Try This At Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
The FUTURES Invention Challenge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Naturegram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other events

Would you like to give us feedback about any other FUTURES events that you attended?

- Yes
 No

Other events - feedback

Please answer the following questions for each other FUTURES event you took part in

	Event Name	Event Location	How enjoyable did you find the activity/ies you took part in?					Please explain why it was enjoyable
			Very enjoyable	Somewhat enjoyable	Neutral	Not very enjoyable	Not at all enjoyable	
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

Overall Event Quality

Generally, how would you describe the FUTURES events that you took part in? *(Pick all the words that apply)*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Uninteresting | <input type="checkbox"/> Organised |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confusing | <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed | <input type="checkbox"/> Formal | <input type="checkbox"/> Exciting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boring | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring | <input type="checkbox"/> Uninspiring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

If you selected Other, please specify:

How interesting did you find the research topics presented at FUTURES 2023?

- All were interesting
 Some were interesting
 None were interesting

Which topic did you find most interesting and why?

How could FUTURES events be improved for next year? (Select all that apply) If your suggestions for improvement relate to a particular event, please note that in the 'Other' box.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better publicity of events and activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Better acoustics | <input type="checkbox"/> Better lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better crowd management | <input type="checkbox"/> More time for activities | <input type="checkbox"/> More height appropriate content for children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events run over more days | <input type="checkbox"/> More time for audience questions and answers | <input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

If you selected Other, please specify:

How important do you think university research is to the South West region?

- Very important
 Quite important
 Neither important or unimportant
 Not very important

Not important at all

You said that university research is important to the South West, why do you say this?

You said you didn't think university research was important to the South West, why did you say this?

To what extent do you feel that the FUTURES 2023 event/s you attended brought credit to the local university?

- A great deal
- Quite a bit
- A little
- Not at all
- Not sure

Event Impact

What (if anything) do you think you have gained from the FUTURES 2023 event/s? *(Tick all that apply)*

- Better understanding of a research topic
- Increased interest in a research topic
- Better understanding of research careers
- Better understanding of the value of research and researchers to everyday life
- Better understanding of the research that takes place at our local university
- Visited a venue for the first time
- Used a new app or online platform
- Nothing
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

What, if anything, created the biggest impact for you or those you were with?

Would you consider a career in research for yourself?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Would you recommend a career in research to a friend or family member?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not applicable

Event Outcomes

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about FUTURES 2023

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Attendance has made me more curious about research that takes place in universities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance has helped me be more confident about talking about science and other university research with friends and family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance has made me think university research is relevant to my life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance has made me think that researchers are people like me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance has helped me better understand how public money is spent on research at universities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which of the following have you done as a result of attending FUTURES 2023 events? *(Tick all that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Shared my experience on social media	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussed ideas from event(s) with friends, colleagues or family who did not attend	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended other research related events or festivals
<input type="checkbox"/> Found out more about the topic or activity covered at the event/s I attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Contacted or researched a school, college or university about doing a related course for myself or a family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Any other comments?

Did you have any accessibility problems for any of the events you attended or wanted to attend?

Yes
 No

We are sorry that you experienced problems accessing events. Please describe any issues you encountered.

Is there anything else you would liked to have seen, heard or experienced at FUTURES?

Finally, a little bit about you

We are asking for this information because we want to find out whether FUTURES events are of interest to a diverse audience

What is the first half of your UK postcode? (e.g. BS3, BA21) Or, if you live outside the UK, in which country? * Required

What is your age? * Required

- Under 16
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- Over 65
- Prefer not to say

Are you...? If you prefer to self-define, please choose the 'Other' option and enter your answer * Required

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Which of the following do you most identify as? If you prefer to self-describe, please select the 'Other' option and enter your answer. * Required

- White British / Irish / European / Other
- Black / Black British
- Asian / Asian British
- Mixed Ethnicity
- Prefer not to say
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Which one of these phrases comes closest to your own feelings about your household's income these days? * Required

- Living comfortably on present income
- Getting by on present income
- Finding it difficult on present income
- Finding it very difficult on present income
- Prefer not to say

If you couldn't attend

We're sorry that you weren't able to take part in any FUTURES 2023 events this year. Please could you tell us why? *(Tick all that apply)*

- Changed my mind
- Something else came up
- Forgot about it
- Illness / Required to self-isolate
- Couldn't access the event (please give details below)
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

We are sorry that you experienced problems accessing events. Please describe any issues you encountered.

Do you have any comments about FUTURES you'd like to share?

Thank You

Thanks very much for taking the time to answer these questions!

If you have any questions about this survey or its purpose, please contact futures-project@bristol.ac.uk

For updates on futures editions of **FUTURES** follow us on:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FUTURES NIGHT

X (Twitter) [@FUTURES_night](https://twitter.com/FUTURES_night)

Instagram [futures_night](https://www.instagram.com/futures_night)

Or check out our website: www.futuresnight.co.uk

FUTURES is funded by [UK Research & Innovation \(UKRI\)](#) to celebrate the latest and most innovative research happening at a local and regional level.

The FUTURES Consortium brings together the Universities of Bristol, Bath, Bath Spa, Exeter and Plymouth to showcase South West research and researchers.



A4.3 Postcard questionnaires

FUTURES

A FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY

Please tell us what you thought of
the event or activity.

Did you enjoy it? YES NO

Did you find out something new? YES NO

Did this feel relevant to you? YES NO

Do you have any comments? YES NO

(on the activity, what you enjoyed, found out or anything else)

.....
.....
.....

Please complete both sides, thank you!

Please tell us a bit about yourself.

1. What is the first half of your postcode? (e.g. BS3)

2. What is your age?

Under 16 16 - 20 21 - 25 26 - 35 36 - 45

46 - 55 56 - 65 Over 65 Prefer not to say

3. Do you identify as...?

Female Male Non-binary

4. Which describes you best?

Asian / Asian British White British / European / Irish Other

Black / Black British Prefer not to say

Please complete both sides, thank you!

A4.4 Observation Template

FUTURES 2023

EVENT Observation Guide



Please use this template to record as much as possible about your observations.

These will help evaluate the effectiveness of the event as a whole and will not be used to judge individual performances.

Collated results will be used to improve the events next year and in our formal report to funders.

We are particularly interested in the following aspects:

- *Are participants enjoying themselves and having a positive experience?*
- *Are researchers enjoying themselves and having a positive experience?*
- *Is the event and its different activities running smoothly?*
- *Are there any problems or unforeseen issues?*

What to do

- Observe the general interactions at the event, and at individual activities within that event if applicable
- If the event is long, complete a number of observations e.g. 1 per hour
- Give a general impression of participants' overall reactions and experiences
- Note any interesting quotes from participants or researchers
- Comment on what aspects worked well and note anything that didn't work so well

For ONLINE EVENTS

- Observe if, when and why participants drop out or appear to disengage
- Note any technical problems
- Note any presentation or delivery problems encountered by researchers (poor sound, poor visuals etc.)
- Note any disruptive or abusive behaviour or dialogue

OBSERVATION NOTES <i>(complete one sheet per event activity)</i>		
Event / Activity:	Event Code:	
Date:	Time:	
Format of Event / Activity observed: <i>(presentation, research fair, group workshop, busking etc.)</i>		
Who is being observed <i>(participants, not researchers: how many, number in group, gender, age, other characteristics)</i>		
Enjoyment: <i>(are participants enjoying the activity and/or talking to the researchers?)</i>		
<u>Enjoyment of Activity</u> <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low Comments:	<u>Enjoyment of Talking to Researchers</u> <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low Comments:	
Engagement & Interactions: <i>(how are participants engaging with the activity and the researchers?)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> High Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Medium Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Low Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to engage <input type="checkbox"/> Neither hard nor easy <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to engage	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly one-way communications ○ Participants ○ Researchers <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly two-way interactions Comments:
Have you observed participants appearing to have...? <i>(tick all that apply and note their responses briefly)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discovered something new <input type="checkbox"/> Changed their mind about something <input type="checkbox"/> Been surprised by something	<input type="checkbox"/> Been inspired to find out more about a topic <input type="checkbox"/> Made a suggestion about the event / activity <input type="checkbox"/> Discussed something about university research Comments:	
Any particularly positive incidents or general feedback: → <i>e.g. actions or comments by participants, participants asking for further information, exchanging contact details with researchers, children creating something that they talk about, etc.</i>		
Any problems or unforeseen issues arising: → <i>e.g. difficult access, too noisy, crowded etc.</i>		
Suggestions for improvement / changes:		

A4.5 Snapshot Interview template

FUTURES 2023

EVENT Snapshot Interview + Vox Pop Guide



Please use this template to record any 'snapshot interviews' you get a chance to carry out with participants.

These will help evaluate the effectiveness of the event as a whole and will not be used to judge individual performances.

Collated results will be used to improve the events next year and in our formal report to funders.

We are particularly interested in the following aspects:

- *Are participants enjoying themselves and having a positive experience?*
- *How do participants feel about research and researchers having taken part in FUTURES?*
- *Has FUTURES increased (or reinforced) awareness of research careers?*
- *Has FUTURES raised awareness of the role of universities in research?*

What to do

SNAPSHOT INTERVIEWS

- Circulate around the event if appropriate (e.g. visit different breakout rooms) and observe different interactions if possible
- Ask participants (individually or in small groups) some or all of the questions in the interview guide at an appropriate time, e.g. at the end of the event, activity or when they move away from an event or activity
- Record their responses (audio/video record if possible) and note any interesting quotes on the form below
- For DROP-IN EVENTS ONLY, please also ask the 2 questions on the second side of the page

VOX POP INTERVIEWS (will be carried out by videographers at various events)

- Ask the questions highlighted by **[VP]**

SNAPSHOT INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP INTERVIEW NOTES *(complete one sheet per interview)*

Event / Activity:

Event Code:

Date:

Time:

Format of activity or event *(presentation, research fair, group workshop, busking etc.)*

Interviewee/s:

What (if anything) did you enjoy about this event / activity? *(tick all that apply from their answer)*

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting topic | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity to ask questions | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning with the kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding out what university researchers do |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to children | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun way to make academic research accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> Well thought out/designed event | <input type="checkbox"/> Something different to do |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning something new | <input type="checkbox"/> Hands on / interactive activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Nice venue | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/ good atmosphere |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interaction with researchers | <input type="checkbox"/> Changed my mind about a topic | <input type="checkbox"/> Good variety of activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i> → |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing → <i>Please tell me why not?</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring | |

Topics of Conversation: Did you talk to any researchers? *IF YES: What did you talk to them about?* *(tick all that apply from their answer)*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Topic | <input type="checkbox"/> the Researcher as a person | <input type="checkbox"/> Participants' opinions about research topic | <input type="checkbox"/> Research in the South West |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Researcher's working life | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Careers | <input type="checkbox"/> Participants' experience of research | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i> → |

Is there anything we could improve about this event / activity? *(tick all that apply from their answer)*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better publicity of events and activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Better crowd management | <input type="checkbox"/> Events run over more days/times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better acoustics | <input type="checkbox"/> More time for activities | <input type="checkbox"/> More time for audience questions and answers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> More appropriate content for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i> → |

Have you found out anything interesting or surprising today? *IF YES: What?*

[VP]

Have you discovered anything new about what researchers do, or the research that takes place at our local university? IF YES: What?

[VP]

PTO → → →

Did you learn anything new about how universities contribute to society or their role in addressing future challenges? IF SO: What?

[VP]

Do you feel that researchers are people like you? Please explain your answer

AT DROP-IN EVENTS ONLY

Have you attended FUTURES in previous years?

- 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 Yes, but don't know year Not Sure No

How did you find out about this event? (tick all that apply from their answer)

- Social media → *What channel?* Facebook Twitter Instagram Event listings (e.g. What's On, the venue's listings etc.)
 Eventbrite Local press Local radio University website
 Poster or printed leaflet Web search Friends, family or word of mouth Other (*please specify*) →
 Email newsletter or similar → *Who from?*

Why were you interested in attending this event? (tick all that apply from their answer)

- I'm interested in the subject To learn something new To find out more about research I know someone involved
 I would like to pursue a career in this area To visit the venue It sounded like it would be good for children It sounded fun
 Other (*please specify*) →

A4.6 Teacher Snapshot Interview template

FUTURES 2023

Teacher Snapshot Interview



To briefly capture teachers' opinions about the event in a quick chat

→ Record their responses below (audio/video record if possible) and note any interesting quotes

→ Please give teachers the online survey link for more detailed post-event feedback and encourage them to complete it.

SNAPSHOT INTERVIEW NOTES <i>(complete one sheet per interview)</i>		
Event / Activity:		Event Code:
Date:	Time:	Interviewee's role:
Context of event / school group / age of students:		
Did this event engage or inspire your students about research and/or research careers? If YES, how? If NO, why not?		
Do you have any suggestions for improvements or changes?		
Can you share any comments, quotes or feedback from your students about the event?		

Continue overleaf if required...

A4.7 Teacher Survey

FUTURES

Schools Research Fair Teacher Questionnaire



If you could take a few minutes to answer the following questions about the activity you took part in on 20-Oct-2023, we would be most grateful. Your responses will be used to help us improve future activities and in reports to our funders.

Please return this sheet via email to futures-project@bristol.ac.uk

What (if any) benefits were there for your students from taking part in this activity?			
What (if any) benefits were there for you as a teacher from taking part in this activity?			
What did your students enjoy most?	... and least?		
Do you think the activity raised your students' awareness of careers in research?	Yes, a lot <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, a little <input type="checkbox"/>	No, not at all <input type="checkbox"/>
If A LITTLE or A LOT, how did it do this?	If NOT, why?		
Do you think the activity raised your students' awareness of research taking place in South-West England?	Yes, a lot <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, a little <input type="checkbox"/>	No, not at all <input type="checkbox"/>
If A LITTLE or A LOT, how did it do this?	If NOT, why?		
Is there anything we could change or improve about the activity?			
Did you do anything else at school connected to this activity?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If YES, what did you do?	If NO, why not?		
Can you share any comments, quotes or feedback from your students about the activity?			

Thanks very much 😊

A4.8 Sticker Votes

For use at any events / activities involving school-aged children. Questions are based on the ASPIRES research into Science Capital.

All will need facilitation, explanation and encouragement from the event facilitator / organiser and support from teachers.

Event organisers should inform teachers & researchers beforehand that evaluation questions will be asked and ensure enough time is scheduled at the end of the activity.

Questions to ask: *[phrase first question age-appropriately]*

Do you think a career in research / working as a researcher would be interesting?

[Response options]

- Very Interesting
- Quite Interesting
- Not Sure
- Not Very Interesting
- Not At All Interesting

Do you think you could be a good researcher one day?

[Response options]

- Yes Definitely
- Maybe
- Not Sure
- Definitely Not

Sticker Votes (in-person)

→ Write or print questions & response options on large sheets of paper (see images) and give students small stickers to record their answers.



A4.9 Post-event Researchers Survey

FUTURES 2023 Researchers Survey

Page 1: About this survey



Thanks for taking part in FUTURES 2023 and for all your hard work before and during the event!

We would like to know what you thought of the event and how we can improve our support for researchers taking part in public engagement activities.

This survey should take around 10 minutes of your time. Your answers will be submitted anonymously, all data will be held securely and treated confidentially, and no responses will be attributable to any individual person.

If you have any questions about the survey or its purpose, please contact the evaluation leader for this project, Alison Rivett <<alison.rivett@bristol.ac.uk>>.

Thanks in advance for taking part, please click 'Next' to start the survey.

***** By clicking 'Next' you confirm that you have read and understood the above information and consent to taking part *****

Page 2: About you

Which Institution are you from? * Required

- Bath Spa University
- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- University of Exeter
- University of Plymouth
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

What is your current role at the University? * Required

- Undergraduate Student
- PhD / Masters Student
- Post-doctoral Researcher
- Lecturer / Fellow
- Senior Lecturer / Senior Fellow / Reader
- Professor
- Technical Staff
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Before this year's FUTURES, what was your level of public engagement experience? * Required

- No experience (0 events/activities)
- A little experience (1 or 2 events/activities)
- Quite a lot of experience (3-6 events/activities)
- Very experienced (6+ events/activities)

Have you taken part in FUTURES in previous years? (Tick all that apply) * Required

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In which year/s? (Tick all that apply)

- In 2018
- In 2019
- In 2020
- In 2021
- in 2022

Page 3: Activities

Which FUTURES 2023 event/s did you take part in?

Choose all the places where you took part in events (*Tip: selecting an option below will show all the events in that location/platform*)

* Required

- Bath area
- Bristol area
- Exeter or Falmouth
- Plymouth
- Social Media / other online activity
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please choose the events in (or near) Bath that you took part in

- Images of Research (Railway Station | Wed 27 - Wed 18)
- Holburne Up-Late: The Women of Bath (Holburne Museum | Fri 29)
- 'Test Tubes and Time Travel' self-guided walk (around Bath | Fri 29 & Sat 30)
- Biology in Action! (Bath Spa Campus | Sat 30)
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please choose the events in Bristol that you took part in

- Family Fair (Cabot Circus | Sat 16)
- Walking Tour: Research Lives & Legacies (central Bristol | Sat 16)
- Up Late (SS Great Britain | Fri 29)
- Dance Workshop (Great Eastern Hall, SS Great Britain | Fri 29)
- Researchers' Tales (Dance Workshop (Great Eastern Hall, SS Great Britain Library | Fri 29)
- FUTURES Listening (Knowle West Media Centre | Fri 29)
- Science Showoff (Wardrobe Theatre | Fri 29)
- Schools Research Fair (SS Great Britain | Fri 20)
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please choose the events in Exeter or Falmouth that you took part in

<input type="checkbox"/> Pop-Up Curiosity Shop (Cornish Bank, Falmouth Sat 30 & Sun 01)	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Plastic Oceans' Walk & Talk (Falmouth Sat 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> 'A Pond Wandering' Walk & Talk (Falmouth Sat 30)
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Hornets vs Bees' Walk & Talk (Falmouth Sat 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Wonderful World of Fungi' Walk & Talk (Falmouth Sun 01)	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Pharmaceutical Side-Effects' Walk & Talk (Falmouth Sun 01)
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Why do people believe in Conspiracy Theories?' talk (Phoenix Theatre, Exeter Thu 05)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please choose the events in Plymouth that you took part in

<input type="checkbox"/> FUTURES @ Wild Tribe children's festival (Soapbox Children's Theatre, Plymouth Sat 16)	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Screening the Future: Urban Heritage through Film' - the Big Talk (Plymouth Athenaeum Wed 27)	<input type="checkbox"/> Voyage of Discovery (Guildhall, Plymouth Sat 30)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stories in the Stones walking tours (Royal William Yard, Plymouth Sat 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Future Neighbourhoods workshop (The Plot, Plymouth Sat 30)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Please choose the social media / other online activities you took part in

[+ More info](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> Futures On Air (podcasts & local radio broadcasts)	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm A Researcher - Ask Me Anything (Reddit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Try This At Home (downloadable activities on FUTURES website)
<input type="checkbox"/> The FUTURES Invention Challenge (YouTube)	<input type="checkbox"/> Naturegram (Instagram)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Page 4: Your experience

Did you enjoy taking part in FUTURES 2023? * Required

- Yes, a great deal
- Yes, a little bit
- Not sure
- No, not very much
- No, not at all

What were the best things about FUTURES 2023 for you? (e.g. things that worked really well or that you really liked)

Did you encounter any problems, challenges or things that didn't work so well? If so, please describe them.

What could be done differently to make it easier for you next time? (Tick all that apply)

- More time to set up
- Knowing how much space will be available
- Knowing where to set up and when
- Better noise control
- Better lighting
- Less crowding / better crowd flow
- Run event over more days and/or longer hours
- Better services such as catering or 'green room' for researchers
- Wash up party or meeting for researchers
- ID badges for researchers
- Better signposting for visitors to find what they are looking for
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Would you take part in an event like FUTURES again? * Required

- Yes
- Not sure
- No

Why did you give this answer?

Page 5: Training & preparation

Did you attend a training session before FUTURES 2023? * Required

- Yes
- No

Which training session/s did you attend? (Please state title & date)

Overall, how useful was the training you received before FUTURES 2023?

- Very useful
- Quite useful
- Not very useful
- Not at all useful

Do you have any comments about the FUTURES training session/s you attended?

Did you receive any briefing materials before FUTURES 2023? * Required

- Yes
- No

How useful were the briefing materials you received?

- Very useful
- Quite useful
- Not very useful
- Not at all useful

Do you have any comments about the content or quality of the briefing materials?

Is there any additional support or training which could have been provided beforehand which would have helped you better prepare for or deliver your activity?

Page 6: Outcomes

Do you feel you have benefited from taking part in FUTURES 2023? * *Required*

- Yes
- No

How have you benefited from taking part in FUTURES 2023? *(select all that apply)*

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyed sharing my interest in/enthusiasm for research | <input type="checkbox"/> Found new potential collaborators | <input type="checkbox"/> Gained a better understanding of the public's attitude to research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generated impact for a REF Case Study or other similar purpose | <input type="checkbox"/> Got new ideas for my research | <input type="checkbox"/> Got new ideas for public engagement activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved my communication skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved my digital skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved my organisational skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved my teamwork skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased my confidence in talking to people | <input type="checkbox"/> It will help my future career progression / look good on my CV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Made new contacts with the community / schools / public groups etc | <input type="checkbox"/> Met requirements of my department or funders | <input type="checkbox"/> Networked with other researchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tried out a new way of engaging with the public | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

If you selected Other, please specify:

Why do you think you haven't benefited?

To what extent do you feel FUTURES has brought credit to your University?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A great deal | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat | <input type="radio"/> A little |
| <input type="radio"/> Not at all | <input type="radio"/> Not sure | |

In what ways has FUTURES brought credit to your university? *(Tick all that apply)*

- Demonstrates who we are and what we do
- Inspire future researchers
- Demonstrates how public money is spent
- Raising the public profile of their work
- Making local and community connections
- Raised research group profile internally
- Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

To what extent do you feel FUTURES has brought credit to your Research Group

- A great deal Somewhat A little
 Not at all Not sure

In what ways has FUTURES brought credit to your research group? *(Tick all that apply)*

- Demonstrates who we are and what we do
 Inspire future researchers
 Demonstrates how public money is spent
 Raising the public profile of our work
 Making local and community connections
 Raised research group profile internally
 Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Do you think the public benefited in any of the following ways from participating in FUTURES 2023? *(Tick all that apply)*

- Enjoyment and having fun
 Learning something new about the research we do
 Inspired them to think about working in research
 Demonstrated the value of public funding of research
 A fun day out for families
 Demonstrated the impact research can have on everyday life
 Demonstrated the impact research can have on the future
 I don't think the public benefited from participating in FUTURES 2023
 Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Page 7: Engaging with the public

How has talking part in FUTURES 2023 impacted your confidence to engage with the public? * Required

- Much more confident
- A bit more confident
- No change in confidence
- A bit less confident
- A lot less confident

How do you feel about taking part in other Public Engagement activities after your experience at FUTURES 2023? * Required

- Much more likely to participate
- A bit more likely to participate
- Not sure
- A bit less likely to participate
- Much less likely to participate

You said participation in FUTURES 2023 has made you less likely to take part in future public engagement activities. Why did you say this?

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Strongly agree
Public engagement improves the quality of my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is enthusiasm from the public to learn more about research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Researchers have a moral duty to engage with the public about the social and ethical implications of their research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My research is too specialised to make much sense to public audiences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Researchers who do a lot of public engagement are not well regarded by other researchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page 8: Thank you!

Thanks for taking the time to answer these questions 😊

We look forward to working with you on more public engagement events soon.

If you have queries about this survey or wish to withdraw your data at any time, please contact the evaluation leader: Alison Rivett
<<alison.rivett@bristol.ac.uk>>

For updates on future editions of FUTURES follow us on:

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A4.10 Researcher Debrief

FUTURES 2023

Researcher Debrief

FUTURES
A FESTIVAL
OF DISCOVERY

To note researcher responses immediately after (or during, if appropriate) events in a 10-20 minute informal chat. Please audio/video record responses if possible. **[VP] = Vox**

Pop question

Feedback will help evaluate the impact of the event as a whole and will not be used to judge individual researchers' performances. Collated results will be used to improve similar events and in our formal report to funders.

NB. A post-event survey will also be circulated to researchers after the FUTURES weekend.

Event Name:	Event Code:
Briefly, how do you feel the event/activity went?	
Were there any particular highlights? [VP]	
Were there any particular challenges? [VP]	
Do you think there will be any impact on your research? [VP] IF YES: What kind of impact, please describe?	
Do you think there were any benefits for you? [VP]... or the university more widely? [VP] IF YES: What are the benefits, please describe?	
Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?	
Debrief carried out by:	On date:

Continue notes overleaf if necessary...

A4.11 Partner Debrief

FUTURES 2023

Partner Debrief



Suggested questions to ask event partners after the event by email or informal conversation. Only ask the questions you think are appropriate and alter the wording as necessary.

Feedback will help evaluate the impact of the event as a whole and to improve future collaborations. Collated results will be used to develop similar events and in our formal report to funders.

Event Name:	Event Code:
Partner Name & Organisation:	
Briefly, how do you feel the event/activity went?	
Were there any particular highlights? IF SO PLEASE DESCRIBE	
Were there any particular challenges? IF SO PLEASE DESCRIBE	
Do you have any audience feedback that you can share?	
Did the event/s attract a different audience to your usual demographic? IF YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE	
How successful was this method of engagement? Please explain your answer	
Would you do something like this again? Please explain why / why not?	
What (if any) were the benefits for your organisation in working with Researchers / the University / FUTURES Consortium?	
Do you have any suggestions about how we could improve the event / format / organisation / communication etc.?	
Debrief carried out by:	On date:

Continue notes below if necessary...

A4.12 Online Polls

Not used in 2023

A4.13 Opinion 'Walls'

Not used in 2023

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