



Activity name	Tranche 7 Campus Visit
Date	Sept 2022 – Aug 2023
Total number of students	~2565
Total number of target students	~747
Institutions involved <i>* Institutions that completed surveys</i>	ACE Schools Plymouth, All Saints Church of England Academy*, Bishop Fox’s School*, Bodmin College, Braunton Academy, Buckler’s Mead School, Callywith College, City College Plymouth*, Coombe Dean School*, Cranbrook Education Campus*, Discovery College*, Great Torrington School*, Hele’s School, Lipson Co-operative Academy, Marine Academy Plymouth, Notre Dame RC School*, Paignton Academy, Preston School Academy, Queen Elizabeth’s School*, Redruth School, Robert Blake School*, South Molton Community College, St Peter’s Church of England Aided School, Stoke Damerel Community College, Teign School, The Blue School, The Cornwall College Group, The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy, The Park Community School*, The Spires College*, Tor Bridge High, Torlands Academy, Torpoint Community College, Torquay Academy*, Truro and Penwith College, West Somerset College, Whitstone School*

Introduction

The Campus Visit gives students, both pre- and post-16, the opportunity to visit a local university or college for a tour of the campus and HE facilities. Visits are typically a day-long and often offer participation in several academic taster sessions as well. The Campus Visit aims to address the barriers to HE progression of a lack of Knowledge of HE and Geography. The activity intends to increase students’ understanding of student life, the different facilities on campus, and to experience HE in a local context.

The targets for these workshops were an ‘increase in understanding of HE and student life on campus for 60% or more of students’ and an ‘increase in experience and understanding of local HE context and provision for 60% or more of students’. The sessions were evaluated using post-activity evaluation surveys, including quantitative and qualitative questions.

Results

The following figures and tables show the response rates for these surveys.

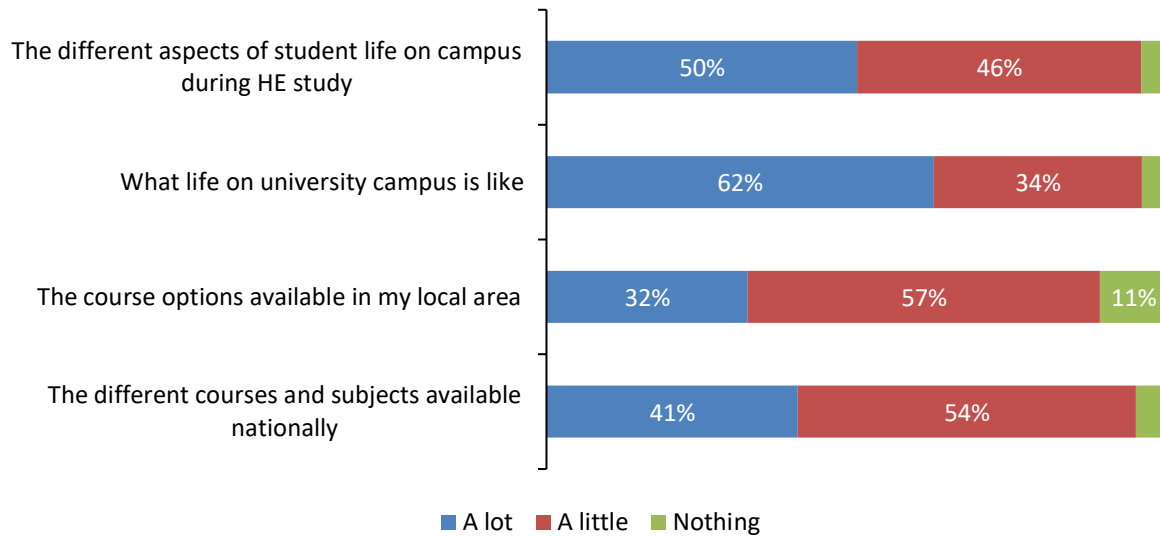


Figure 1. Students’ understanding of various aspects of HE study

The campus visits have increased students’ understanding of HE and student life as well as developed their experience of the local HE context and provision.

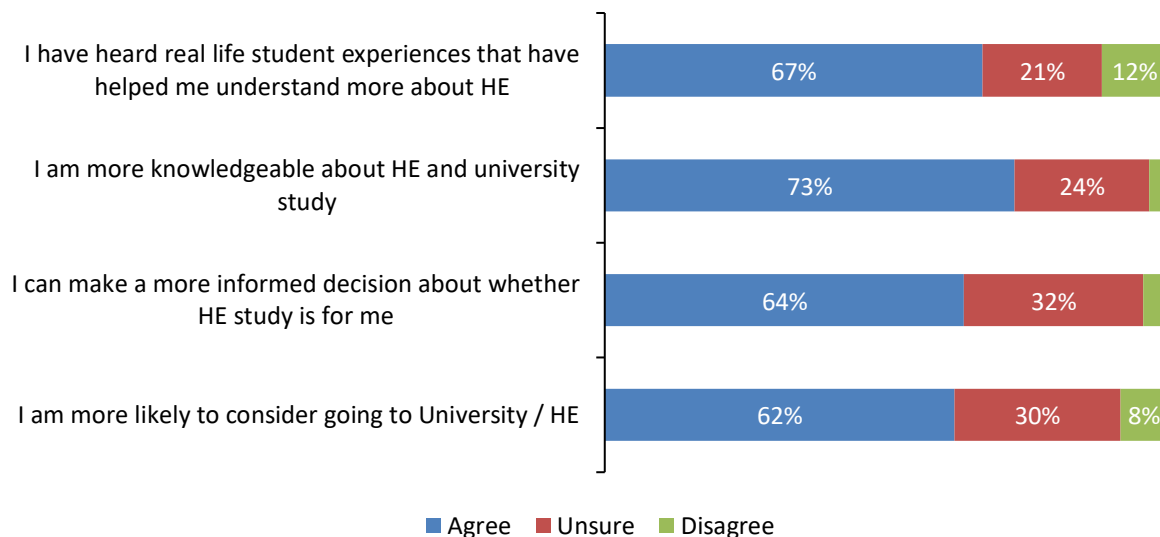


Figure 2. Students’ level of agreement to statements about the campus visit and talks

The campus visits have given students the opportunity to meet HE students, the chance to reflect on their personal options, and raised their aspirations for HE.

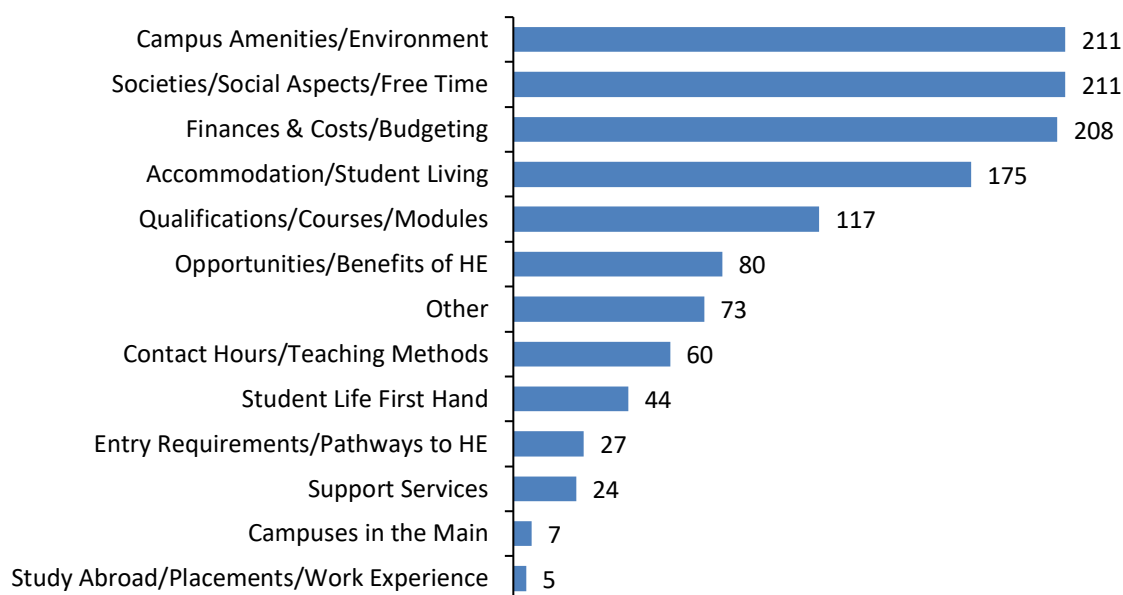


Figure 3. Number of responses about what students learnt about life on a higher education campus

The Campus Visit workshop gave students the opportunity to explore what life is like on a HE campus.

Table 1. Students' feedback on what they found the most useful thing they had gained from the day

Thematic category	Number of responses	Quotes from students
Learning about HE life	162	<i>"The understanding of HE and opportunities you have"</i>
Seeing the campus & facilities	84	<i>"A tour of the campus on a regular day so you can get a feel of real campus life"</i> <i>"The tour helped inform my decision"</i>
Finance & budgeting info	65	<i>"Money isn't really a problem and uni's can help with financial issues."</i> <i>"Learning about money, loans and grants."</i>
Course & subject info	41	<i>"There are more than just the mainstream subjects you are exposed to in school"</i>
General tips & info	28	<i>"That there is no need to worry about starting university, everyone feels the same"</i>
Education, entry & application info	26	<i>"I know a lot more about what is expected in things such as interviews and personal statements"</i>
Gaining personal insight	18	<i>"Helped me make an informed decision on my future"</i> <i>"More comfortable thinking about leaving home"</i>
Social life & activities info	16	<i>"You can socialise with everyone even if you don't do the same course"</i> <i>"The social side of university here at Exeter is valued as much as the academic side."</i>
Accommodation info	15	<i>"Knowing where to stay while at university"</i>

Hearing real life stories	15	<i>“Information from uni students directly and the opportunity to talk personally to them”</i>
Support services info	8	<i>“The amount of support available from financial to helping with writing essays”</i>

Students feedback shows that the campus visit has given them the opportunity to explore campus facilities, to experience what life is like for an HE student as well as increased their knowledge of HE.

Outcomes Achieved

Campus Visits have successfully achieved all three targets:

Table 2. Campus Visits – Outcomes achieved in T7

Barriers to HE progression	Short-term outcomes and targets	Indicators	Evidence
<i>Knowledge of HE</i>	Increased understanding of HE and student life on campus for ≥ 60% of students	Students can identify aspects of student life; and identify different facilities on campus	96% of students knew about the different aspects of student life on campus during HE study - Achieved 96% of students knew what life on university campus is like - Achieved
<i>Geography</i>	Increased experience and understanding of local HE context and provision for ≥ 60% of students	Students can identify local and national HE providers	89% of students knew about the course options available in their local area - Achieved

Conclusion

The target ‘increase in understanding of HE and student life on campus for ≥ 60% of students’ was exceeded with 96% indicating this. Similarly, the target of ‘increased experience and understanding of local HE context and provision for ≥ 60% of students’ was also exceeded with 89% of students indicating this. The evidence shows that the overall impact of campus visits has been positive and helped to address the students’ geographical location and lack of HE knowledge which may have been barriers to HE progression.