
Listening, Responding, Connecting

Liz Colquhoun and Neil Clark
MSc Clinical Management of Pain Programme



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BACKGROUND:

- Online learning has been described as convenient, effective and collaborative (Watson et al 2023).
- May result in student isolation and disengagement (Ahshan 2021) whilst the lack of a traditional in-person cohort can lead to a reduction in the feeling of community (Rim et al 2020).
- 2014/5 UoE 795 online students; 2021/22 UoE 2945 online student =370% increase.



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MSC CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF PAIN:

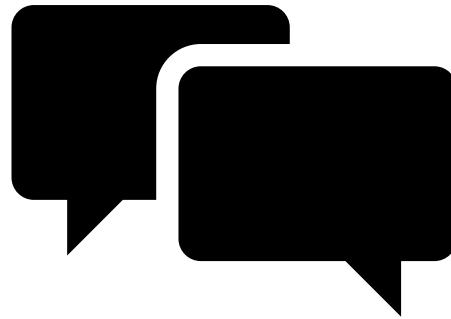
- Entirely online, asynchronous plus synchronous.
- Students from over 15 countries globally.
- Multidisciplinary programme.
- The 2024 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) highlighted that although the programme's scores were generally high, the theme of 'Community' scored 42.0%; a clear outlier amongst scores for the other themes of between 72.8% and 91.2%.



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STUDENT COMMENTS ON ONLINE EXPERIENCE:

“A pure online course is difficult for developing a sense of community...”

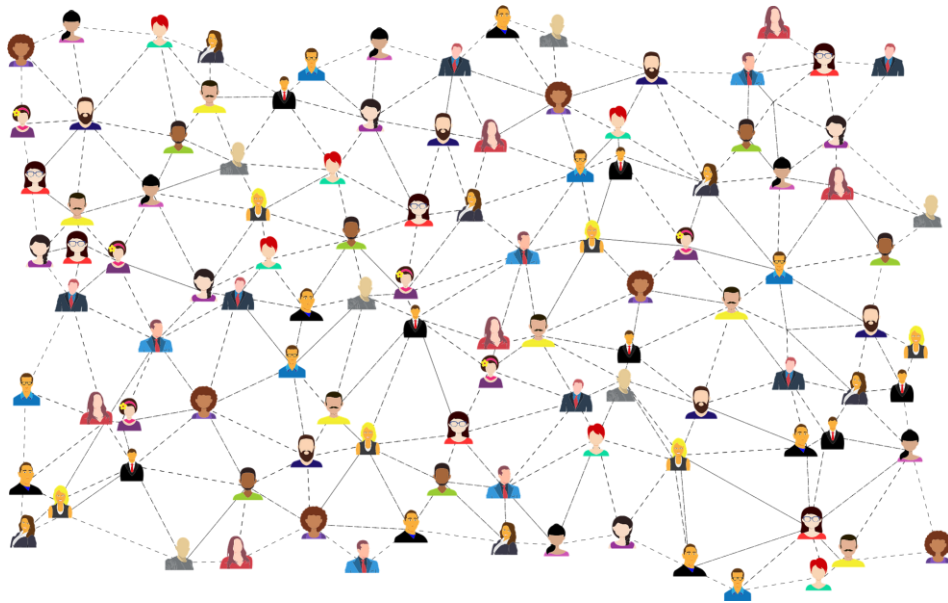


“Most of the time, you feel like you are alone.”



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PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS:



- The programme team aimed to address each of the component questions of the 'Community theme':
- Do you feel part of the PGT student community?
- Do you have a sense of belonging to the institution?
- Do you have sufficient opportunities to interact with other PGT students?

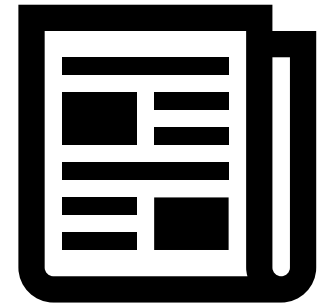
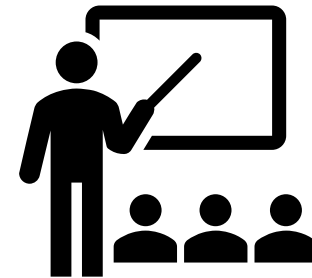
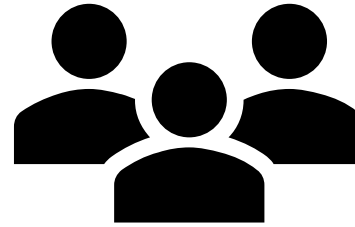


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COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

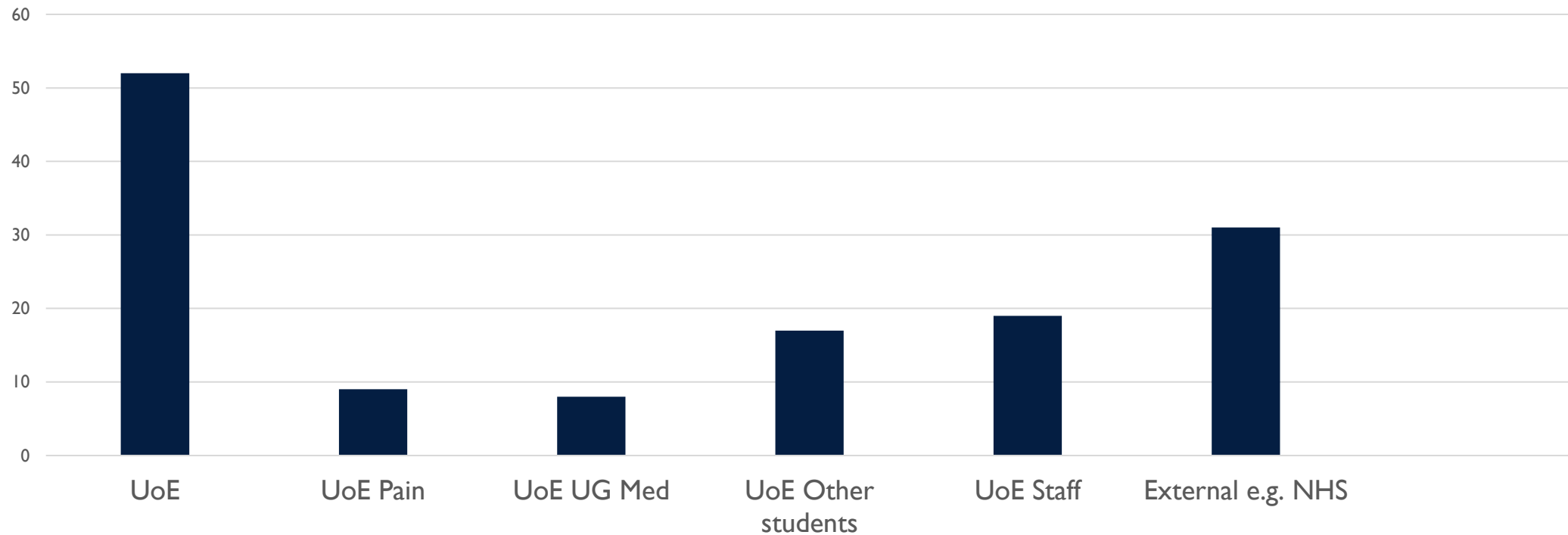
The programme focussed on three community building activities:

- Student-centred virtual sessions
- Guest speaker webinars
- Programme newsletter



GUEST PRESENTER - REGISTRANTS

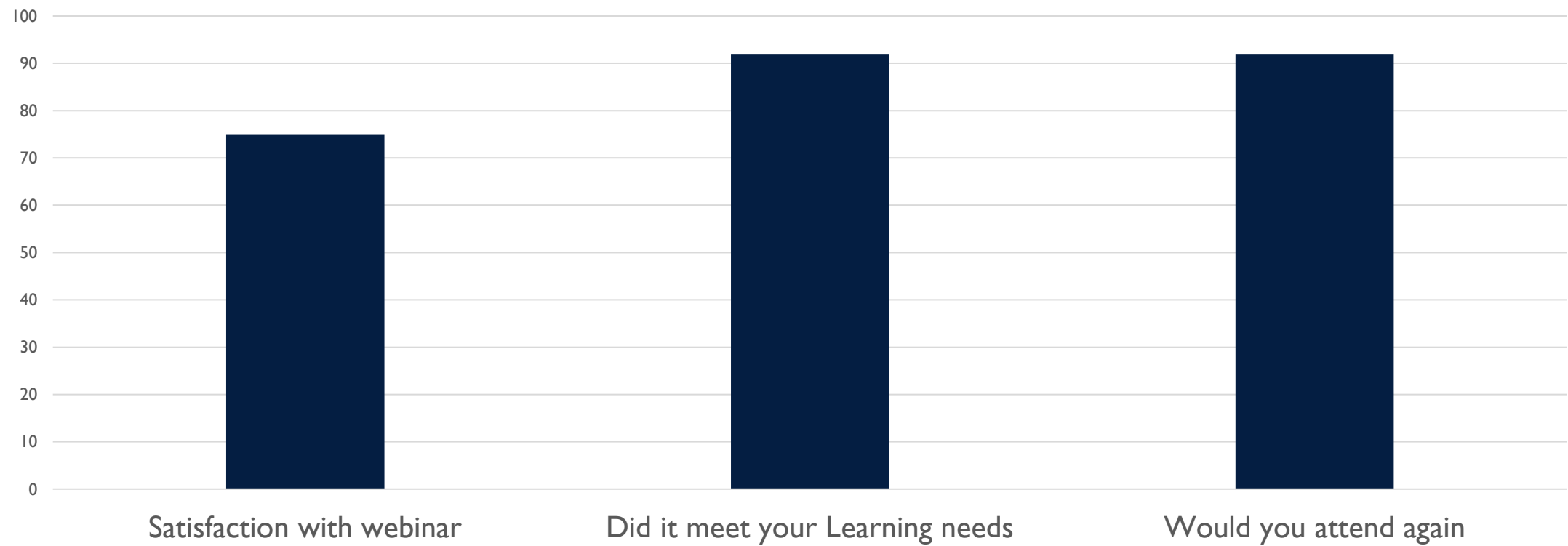
Total Registrants = 96



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GUEST – PRESENTER FEEDBACK

Guest Lecture - Satisfaction Survey



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STUDENT FEEDBACK:

“connecting with fellow students and university staff, making an online course feel less like an individual learning platform”



“.. direct contact with staff, faculty and other students gives a feeling of being part of the course/university”



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PTES RESULTS:



PTES FULL RESULTS PROGRAMME

Response Summary

76

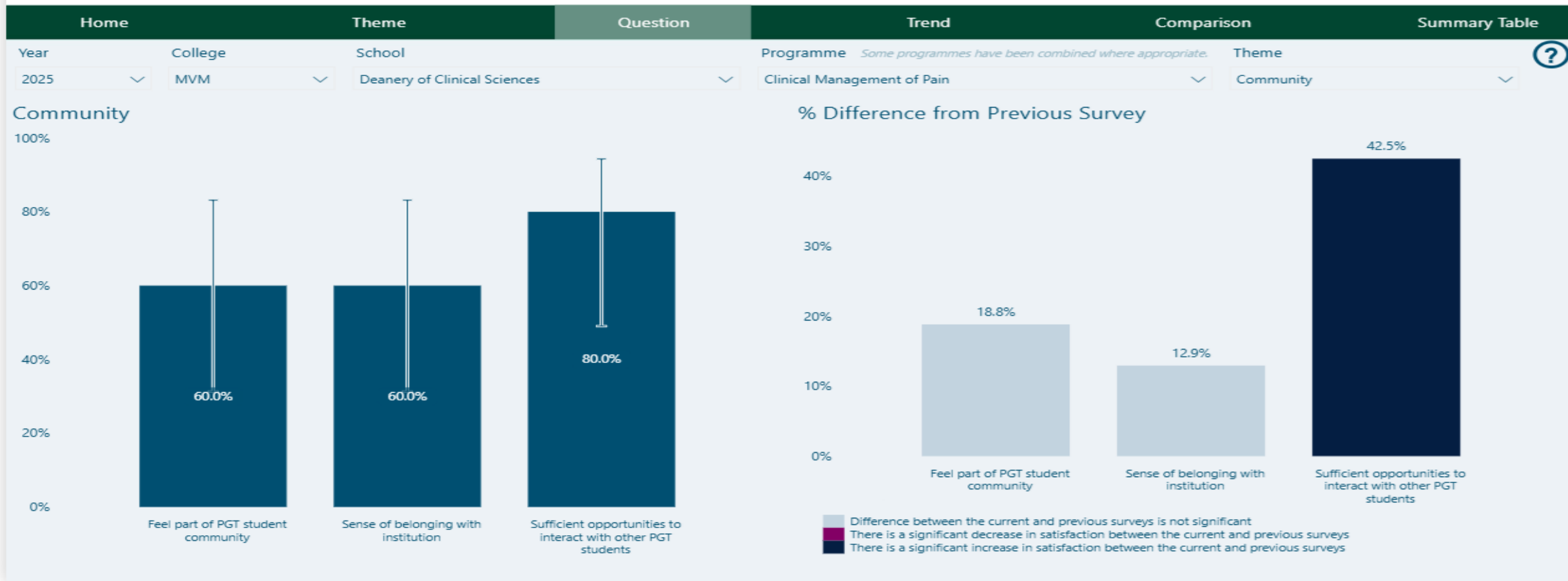
Population

10

Respondents

13.2%

Response Rate



PTES RESULTS:

% Difference from Previous Survey



SUMMARY:

- The medium of online learning can create a sense of isolation amongst students; however, carefully selected activities, targeted and specifically developed for your audience can begin to overcome some of the sense of isolation and “aloneness” that is often described by students.
- The activities that have been designed for the online masters in pain management programme offer some insight into the breadth of activities that might be useful in other settings and with other groups of students.



REFERENCES:

- Ahshan, R. (2021). A framework of implementing strategies for active student engagement in remote/online teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Education Sciences*. 11(9), 483.
- Rhim, H. and Han, H. (2020). Teaching online: foundational concepts of on line learning and practical guidelines. *Korean Journal of Medical Education*. Volume 32(3). 175-183.
- Watson, C. et al. (2023). Student and faculty perceptions of effectiveness of online teaching modalities. *Nurse Education Today*. Jan: 120.

