

The logo for AdvanceHE, featuring a small teal circle and a purple dot to the left of the text "AdvanceHE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**AdvanceHE**

A graphic consisting of three overlapping purple rectangular bars of varying lengths, stacked vertically. The text "POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font across the bars.

**POSTGRADUATE  
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE  
SURVEY**

**University of Warwick and  
the Russell Group  
Benchmark**

# Overall

## The research postgraduate experience at Warwick



The overall satisfaction of research postgraduates with their studies was 83%, based on 985 responses. Aspects of best practice (with most agreement relative to the benchmark), were institutional valuing of feedback and feeling part of a community. Support for academic skills and project management development were areas for improvement.

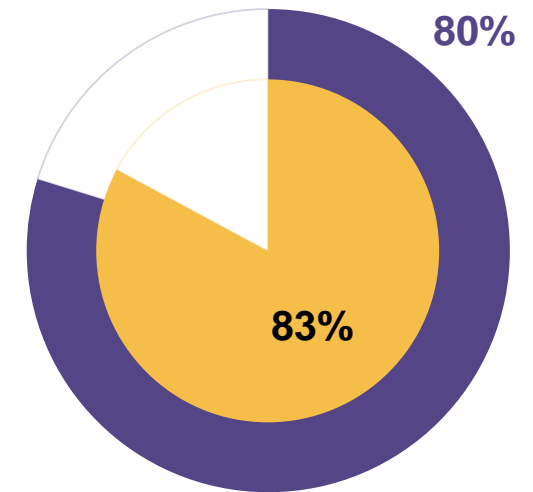


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

### Best practice

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of PGRs who agreed that **the institution valued their feedback** was 62% at Warwick, which was 6 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (56%).

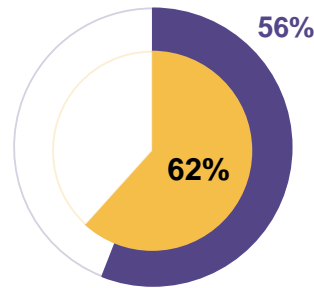


Figure 2: Institutional valuing of feedback

Figure 3 shows that 62% of PGRs at Warwick agreed that **they felt part of a community of postgraduate research students**. This was 4 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (58%).

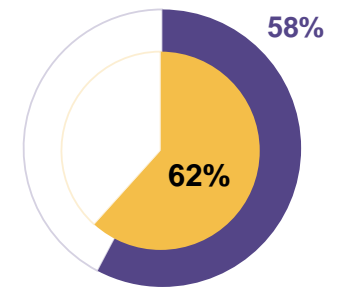


Figure 3: Feeling part of a community

### Areas for improvement

As Figure 4 shows, the proportion of PGRs who agreed that **the support for academic skills met their needs** was 72% at Warwick, which was 3 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (75%).

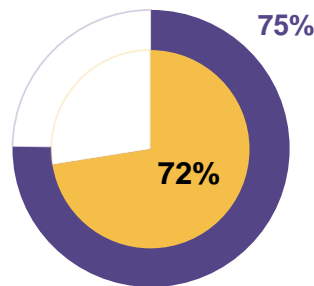


Figure 4: Support for academic skills

Figure 5 shows that 80% of PGRs at Warwick agreed that **their ability to manage projects has developed**. This was 2 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (82%).

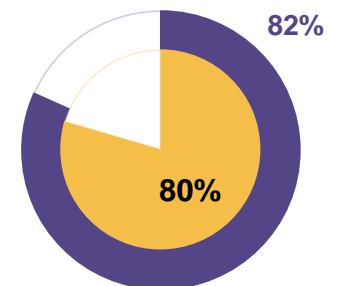
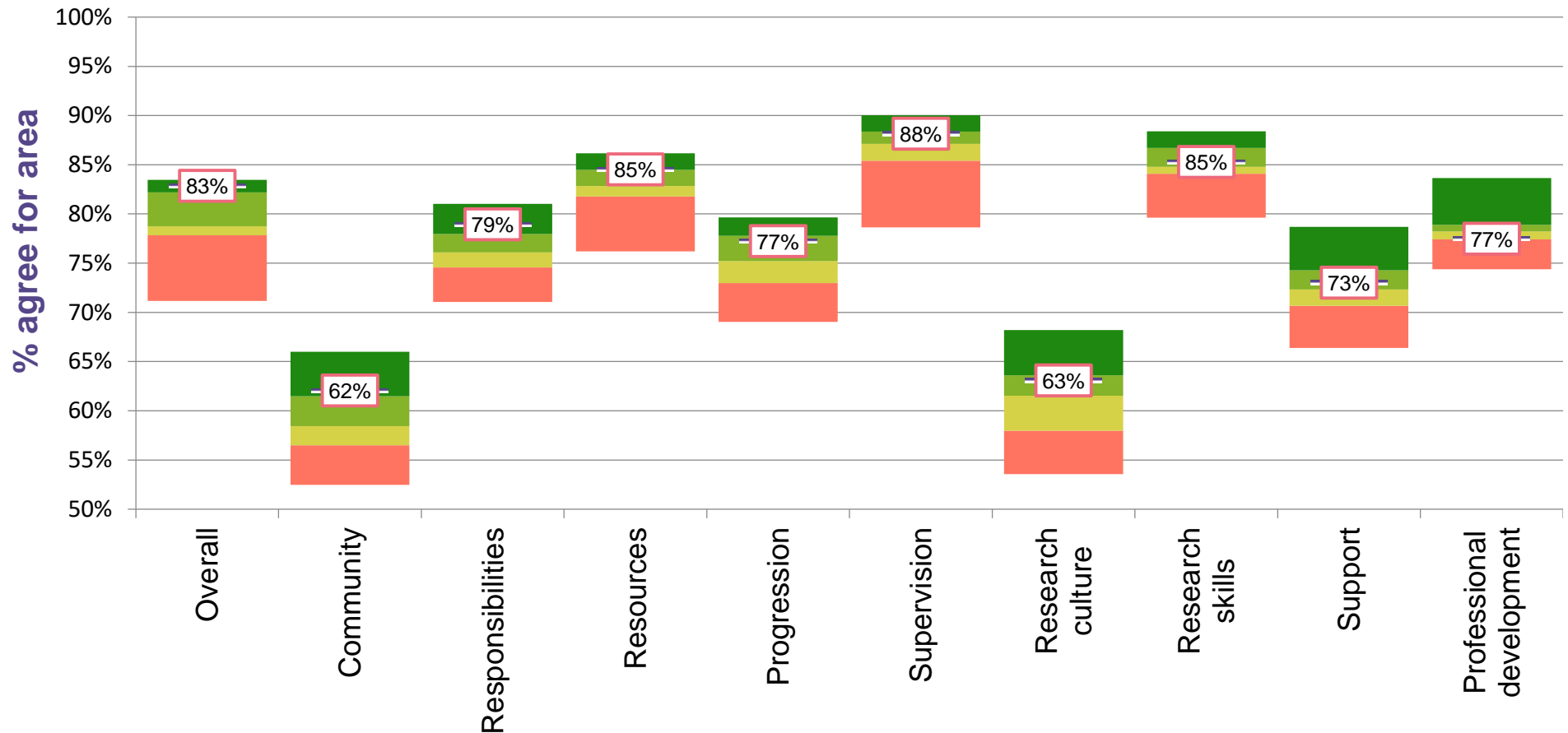


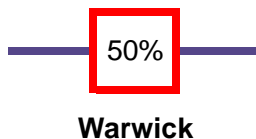
Figure 5: Project management development

# Warwick and the PGR experience benchmarked

The graph below shows the position of Warwick in relation to institutions in the Russell Group benchmark. With a score of 83%, overall satisfaction for Warwick was in the highest quarter. Across the different aspects measured by PRES, Warwick was mostly in the second quarter.



Key:

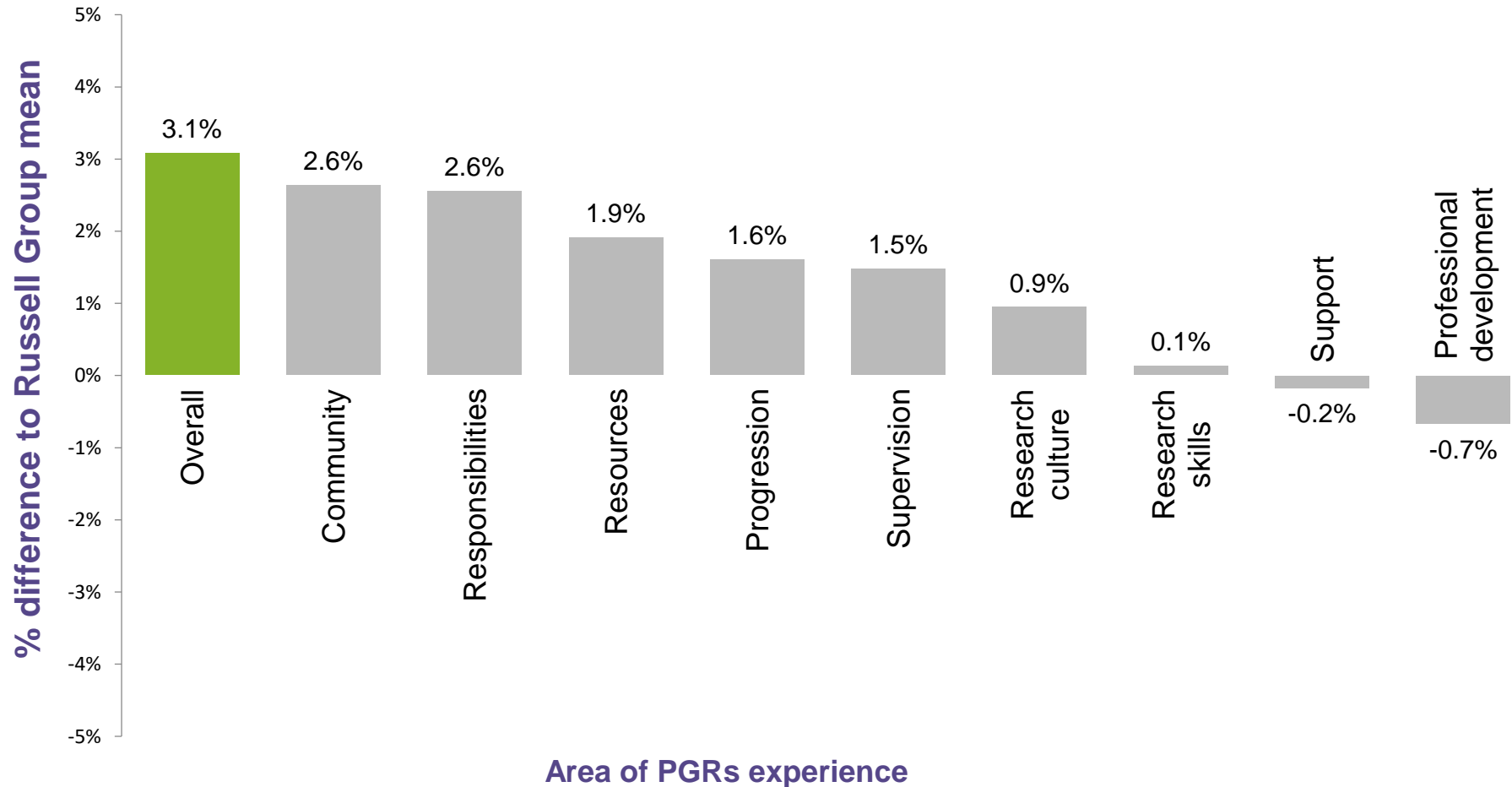


- Highest quarter: In the top 25% of institutions for this area
- Second quarter: Above average, but below the top 25%
- Third quarter: Below average, but above the bottom 25%
- Lowest quarter: In the bottom 25% of institutions for this area

(only institutions receiving 23 responses or over were included in the calculation of quarters)

# Warwick and the PGR experience benchmarked

The area research postgraduates at Warwick were most positive about was Community, with their agreement 2.6 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark. The area research postgraduates were least positive about was Professional development, which was 0.7 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark.



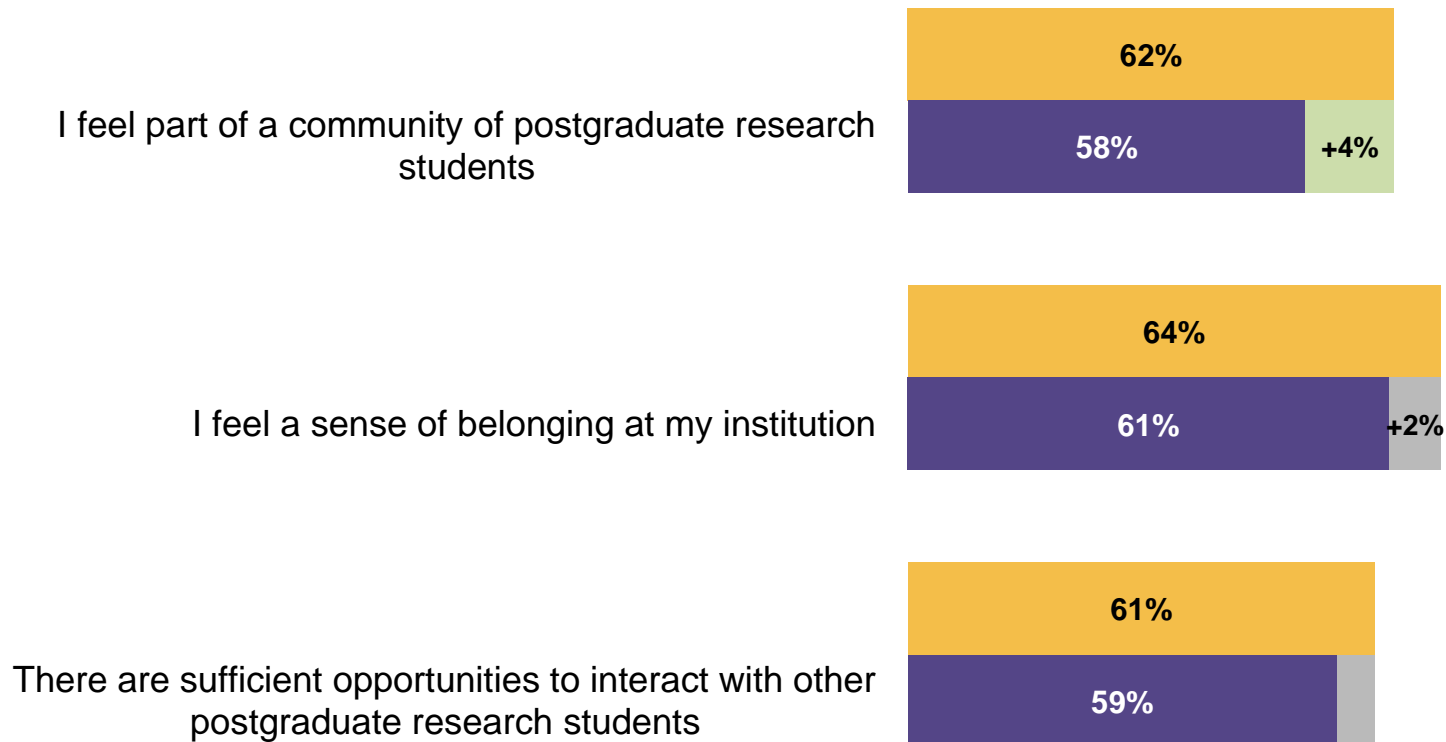
**Key:**

- Positive significant difference
- No significant difference
- Negative significant difference

# Focus on Community

Exploring further within the research postgraduate experience of Community, the statement that was most positive relative to the Russell Group benchmark, was 'I feel part of a community of postgraduate research students'. Of the 978 PGRs from Warwick who answered this statement, 62% agreed; this was significantly above the Russell Group benchmark by 4 percentage points.

Community

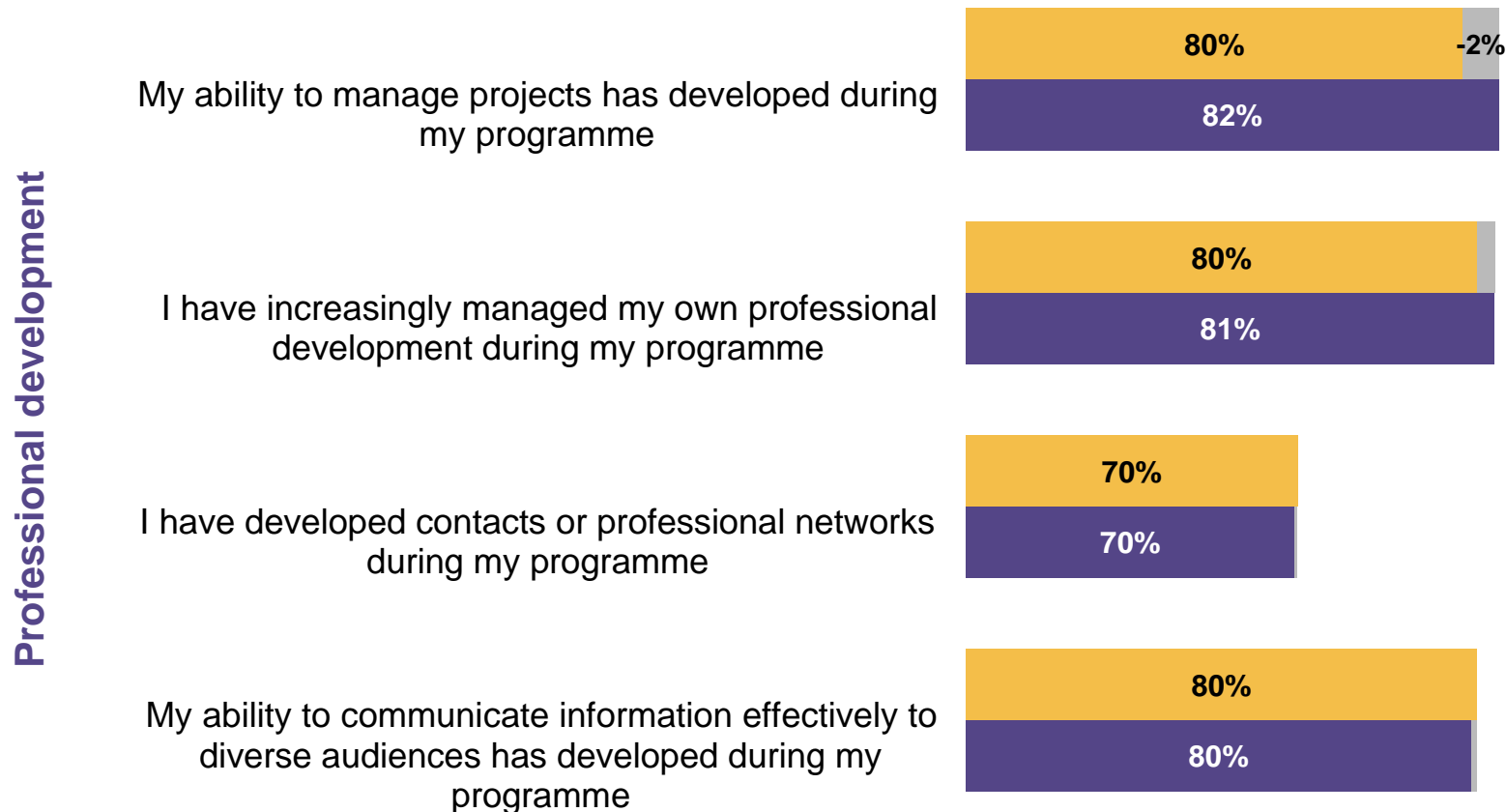


Key: ■ University of Warwick  
■ Russell Group benchmark

■ Significant positive difference  
■ No significant difference  
■ Significant negative difference

# Focus on Professional development

Exploring within Professional development, the least positive statement relative to the Russell Group benchmark, was 'my ability to manage projects has developed during my programme'. Of the 972 PGRs from Warwick who answered this statement, 80% agreed. This was below the Russell Group benchmark by 2 percentage points.

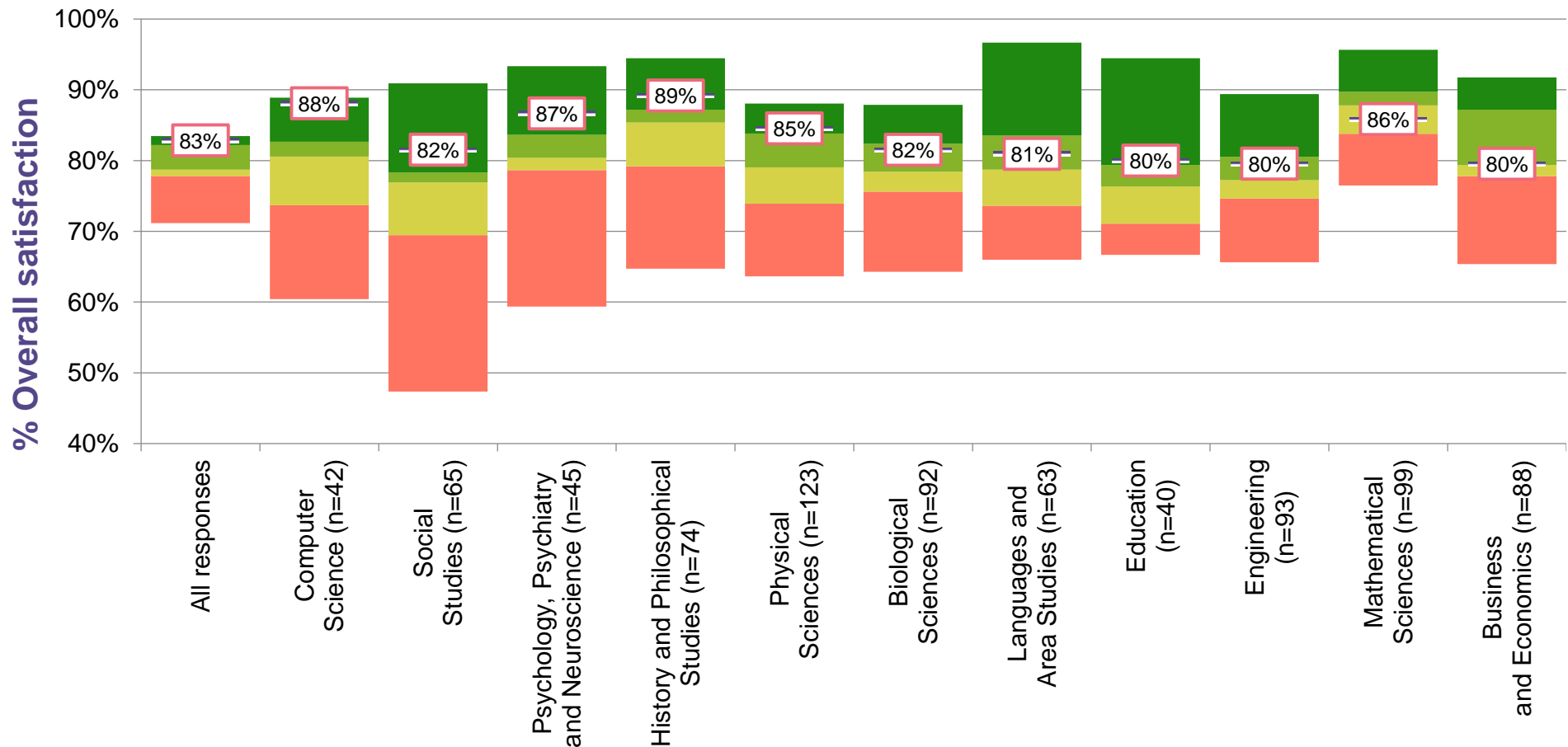


Key:

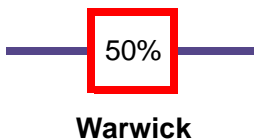
- University of Warwick
- Russell Group benchmark
- Significant positive difference
- No significant difference
- Significant negative difference

# Difference in PGR experience by subject

The graph below shows the position of Warwick in relation to institutions in the Russell Group benchmark, by CAH1 subject. Warwick was mostly in the highest quarter.



Key:

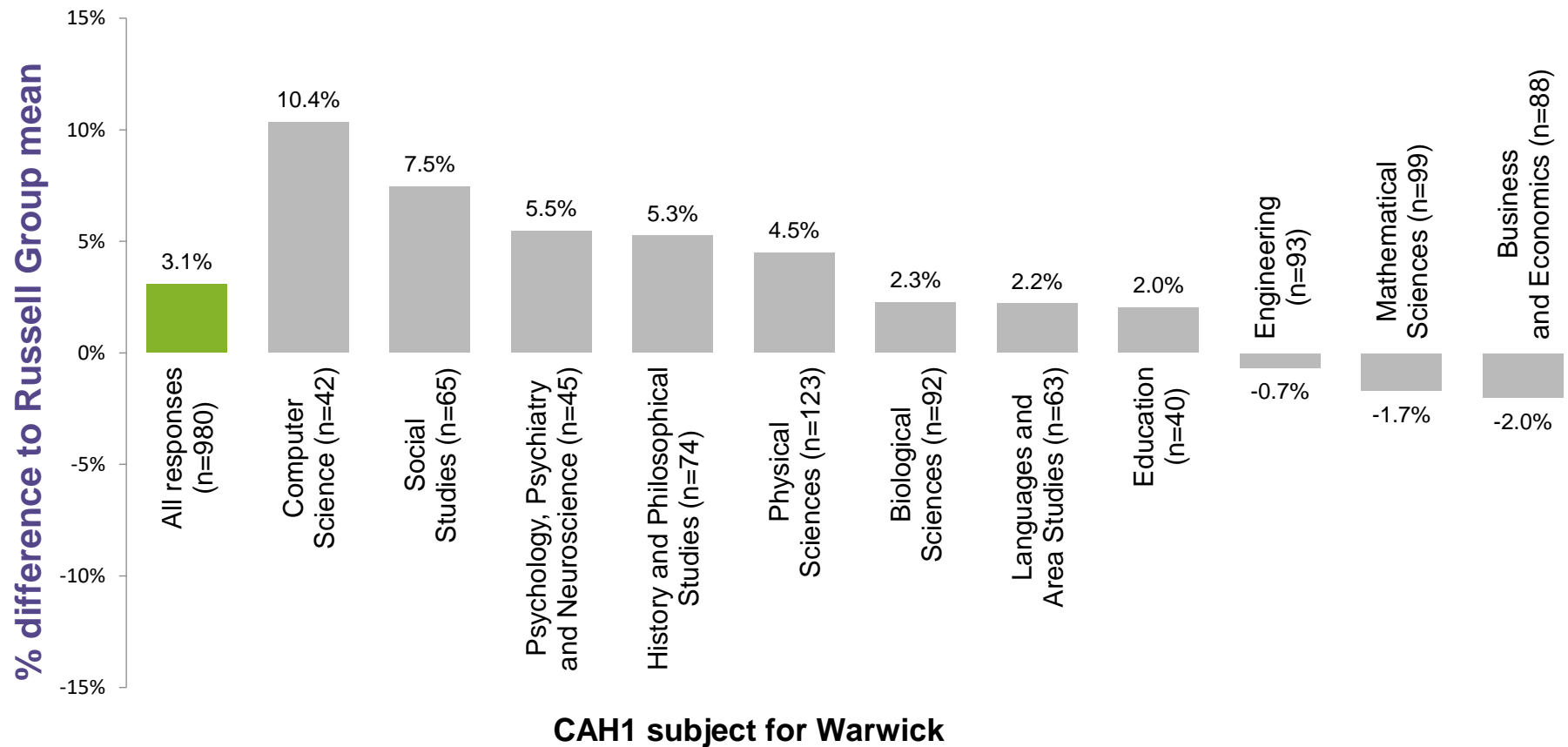


- Highest quarter: In the top 25% of institutions for this area
- Second quarter: Above average, but below the top 25%
- Third quarter: Below average, but above the bottom 25%
- Lowest quarter: In the bottom 25% of institutions for this area

(only institutions receiving 23 responses or over were included in the calculation of quarters)

# Difference in PGR experience by subject

Relative to the Russell Group benchmark, overall satisfaction for Warwick PGRs was highest in Computer Science (n=42); being 10.4 percentage points above the benchmark. The subject within which respondents were least satisfied overall was Business and Economics (n=88); which was 2.0 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark.



**Key:**

- Positive significant difference
- No significant difference
- Negative significant difference



# Focus on Subject

## Computer Science

The overall satisfaction PGRs in Computer Science had with their studies was 88%, based on 42 responses. Aspects of best practice were communication skills development and research skills development. The programme induction and development self-management were areas for improvement.

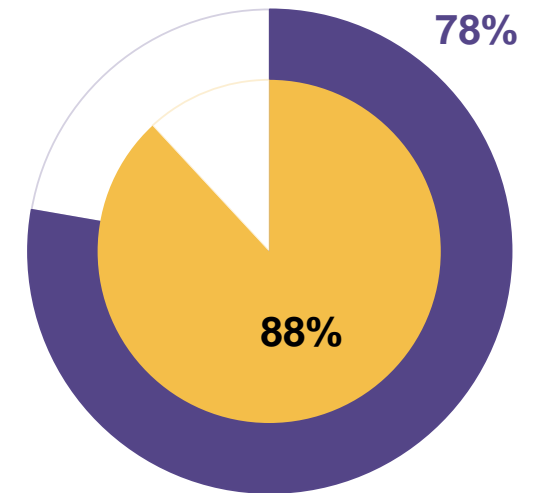


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

## Best practice

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of PGRs in Computer Science who agreed that **their ability to communicate information has developed** was 90% at Warwick, which was 11 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (79%).

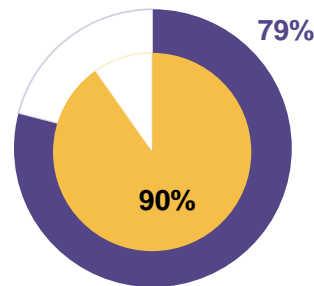


Figure 2: Communication skills development

Figure 3 shows that all (100%) PGRs in Computer Science at Warwick agreed that **their methodological skills have developed**. This was 11 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (89%).

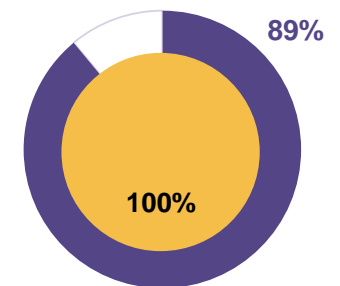


Figure 3: Research skills development

## Areas for improvement

As Figure 4 shows, the proportion of PGRs in Computer Science who agreed that **there was appropriate induction to the programme** was 62% at Warwick, which was 8 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (70%).

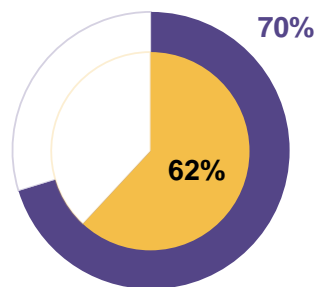


Figure 4: The programme induction

Figure 5 shows that 72% of PGRs in Computer Science at Warwick agreed that **they have increasingly managed their own professional development**. This was 6 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (78%).

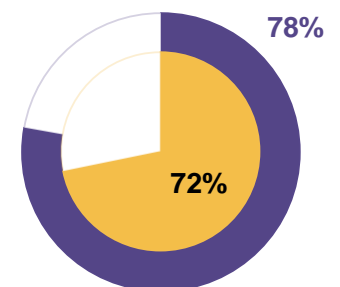


Figure 5: Development self-management

# Focus on Subject

## Business and Economics

The overall satisfaction PGRs in Business and Economics had with their studies was 80%, based on 88 responses. Aspects of best practice were on campus working space and communication skills development. The opportunities to interact and feeling part of a community were areas for improvement.

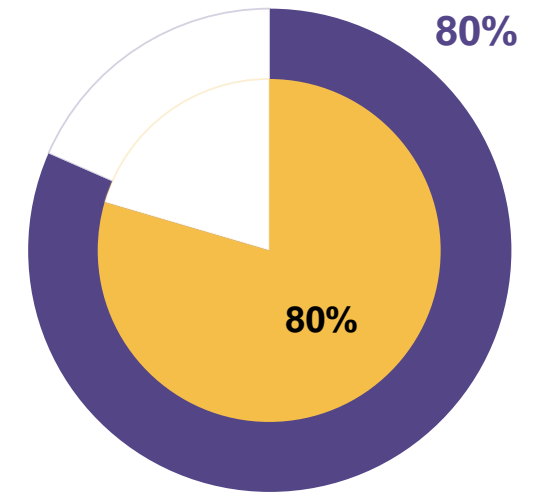


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

## Best practice

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of PGRs in Business and Economics who agreed that **they had suitable working space when on campus** was 88% at Warwick, which was 16 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (72%).

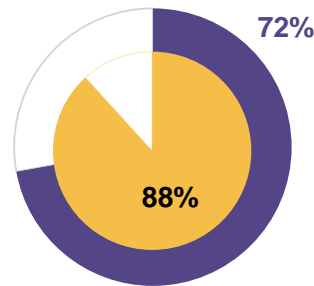


Figure 2: On campus working space

Figure 3 shows that 86% of PGRs in Business and Economics at Warwick agreed that **their ability to communicate information has developed**. This was 5 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (81%).

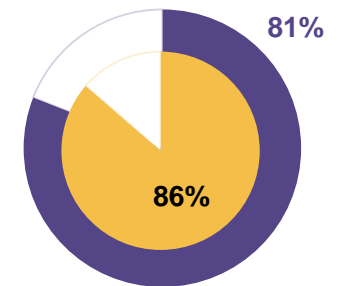


Figure 3: Communication skills development

## Areas for improvement

As Figure 4 shows, the proportion of PGRs in Business and Economics who agreed that **there were sufficient opportunities to interact with other PGRs** was 51% at Warwick, which was 13 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (64%).

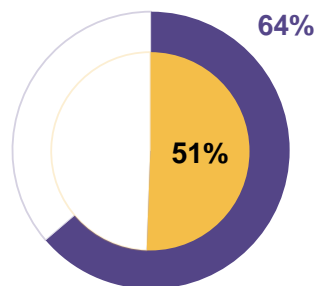


Figure 4: The opportunities to interact

Figure 5 shows that 55% of PGRs in Business and Economics at Warwick agreed that **they felt part of a community of postgraduate research students**. This was 11 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (66%).

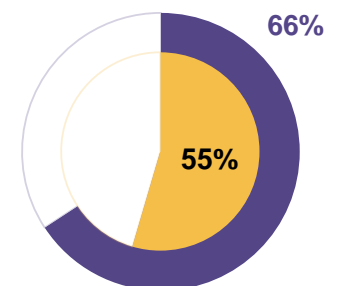
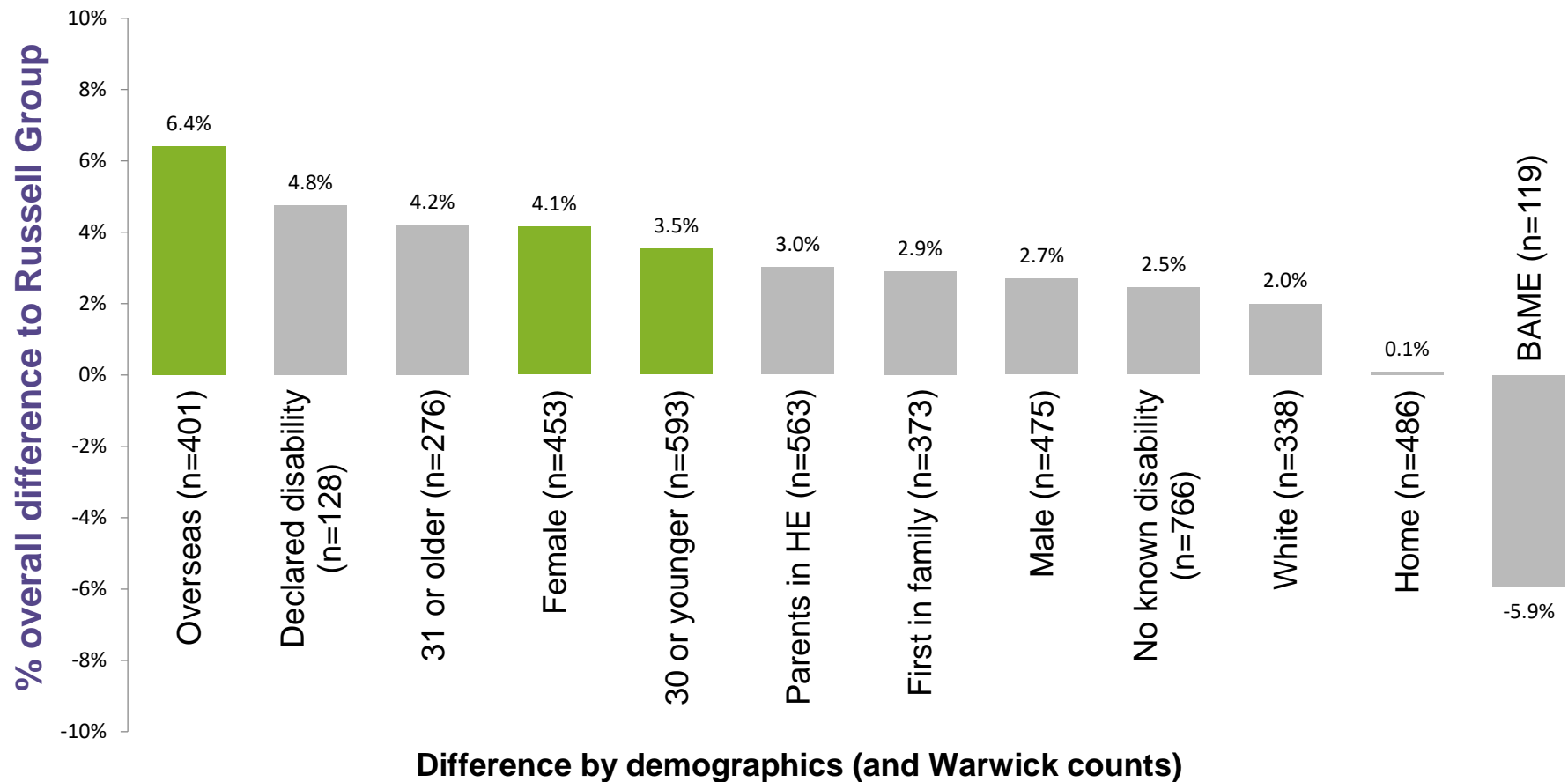


Figure 5: Feeling part of a community

# Differences in student experience

The graph below shows the difference in overall satisfaction between Warwick and the Russell Group benchmark, by background characteristics. Of overseas research postgraduates, those at Warwick were significantly more satisfied overall than the Russell Group benchmark, by 6.4 percentage points. Of black and minority ethnic PGRs, as a whole, those at Warwick were less satisfied overall than the Russell Group benchmark, by 5.9 percentage points.



**Key:**

- Positive significant difference
- No significant difference
- Negative significant difference

# Focus on Students

## Domicile - Overseas

For overseas research postgraduates, the overall satisfaction they had with their studies was 88%, based on 401 responses. Aspects of best practice were overall experience and institutional valuing of feedback. Project management development and the research seminars were areas for improvement.

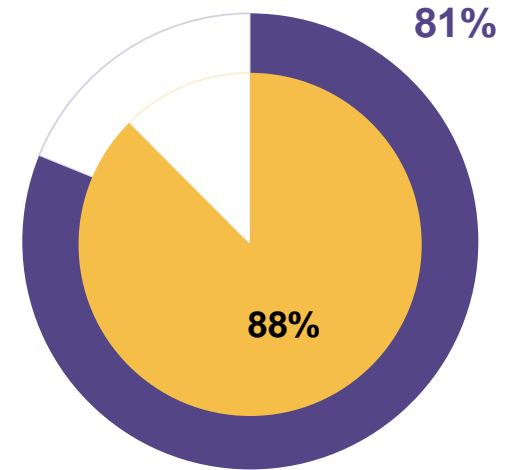


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

## Best practice

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of overseas students who they were **satisfied with their programme** was 88% at Warwick, which was 7 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (81%).

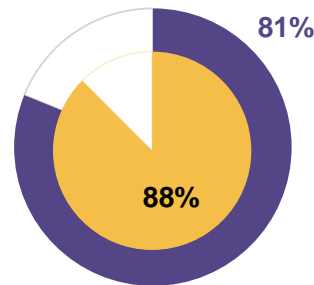


Figure 2: Overall experience

Figure 3 shows that 70% of overseas students at Warwick agreed that **the institution valued their feedback**. This was 6 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (64%).

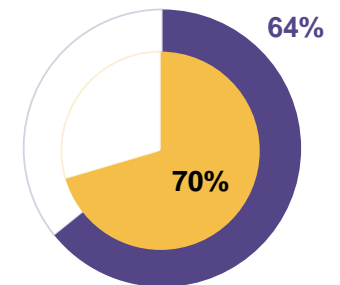


Figure 3: Institutional valuing of feedback

## Areas for improvement

As Figure 4 shows, the proportion of overseas students who agreed that **their ability to manage projects has developed** was 80% at Warwick, which was 3 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (83%).

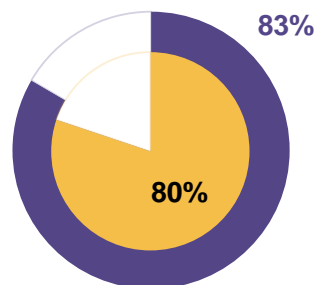


Figure 4: Project management development

Figure 5 shows that 68% of overseas students at Warwick agreed that **there was a good range of seminars**. This was 3 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (71%).

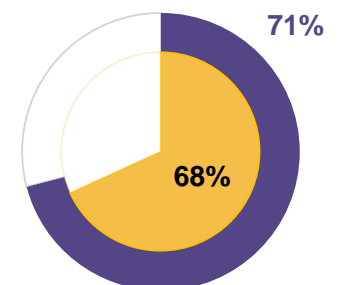


Figure 5: The research seminars

# Focus on Students

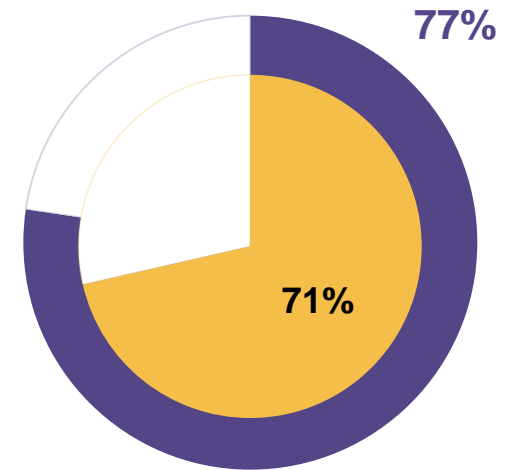


Figure 1: Overall satisfaction

## Ethnicity - black and minority ethnic

The overall satisfaction black and minority ethnic research postgraduates, as a whole, had with their studies was 71%, based on 119 responses. Aspects of best practice were research discussion amongst PGRs and support for using IT / resources. The understanding of assessment and awareness of how to raise concerns were areas for improvement.

### Best practice

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of black and minority ethnic students, as a whole, who agreed that **there were frequent opportunities to discuss research** was 68% at Warwick, which was 4 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (64%).

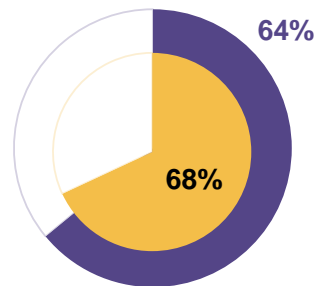


Figure 2: Research discussion amongst PGRs

Figure 3 shows that 84% of black and minority ethnic students, as a whole, at Warwick agreed that **the support for using IT and accessing resources met their needs**. This was 4 percentage points above the Russell Group benchmark (80%).

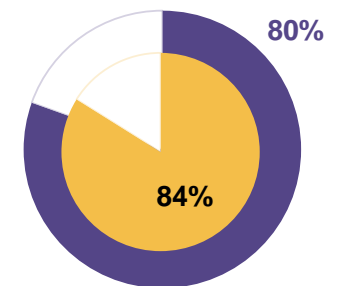


Figure 3: Support for using IT / resources

### Areas for improvement

As Figure 4 shows, the proportion of black and minority ethnic students, as a whole, who agreed that **the assessment procedures were clear to them** was 59% at Warwick, which was 8 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (67%).

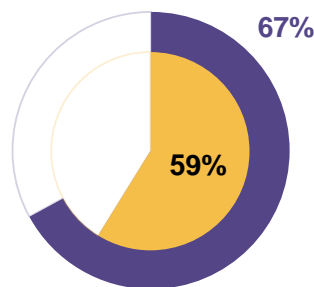


Figure 4: The understanding of assessment

Figure 5 shows that 68% of black and minority ethnic students, as a whole, at Warwick agreed that **they know who to approach if they had concerns**. This was 8 percentage points below the Russell Group benchmark (76%).

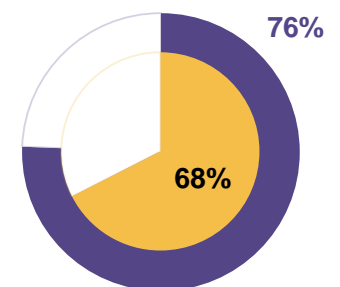


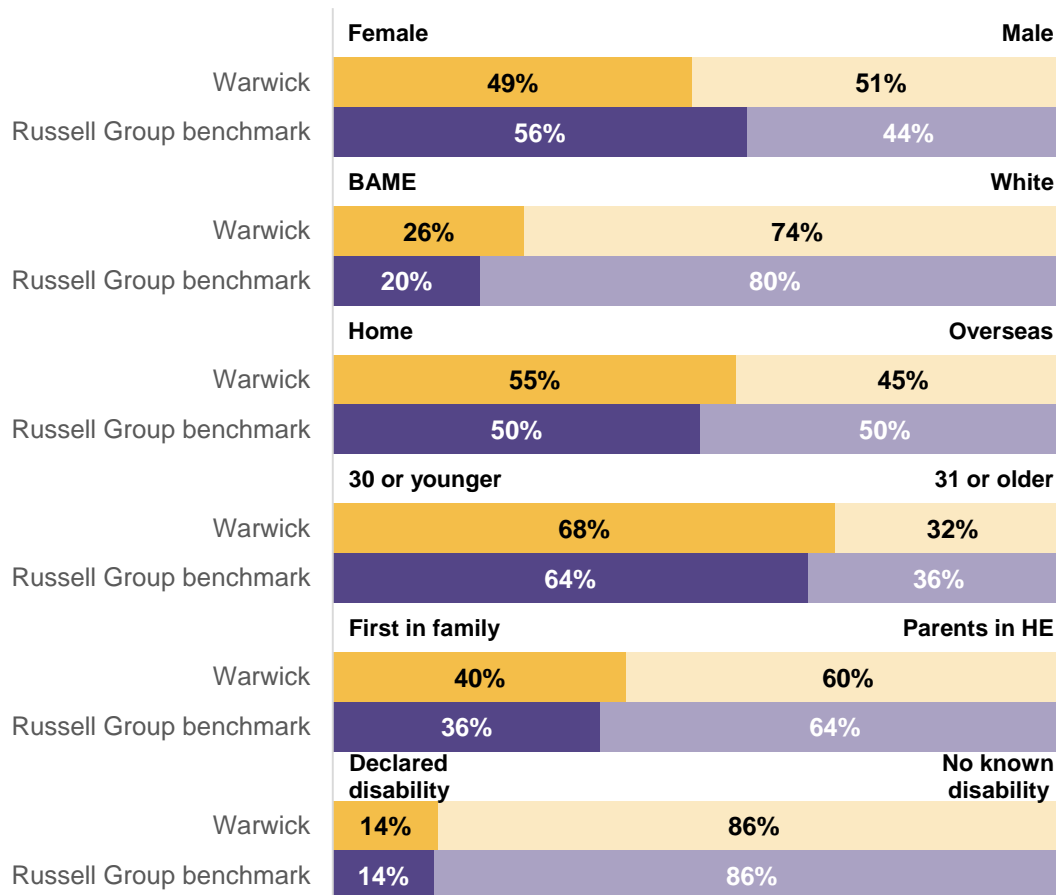
Figure 5: Awareness of how to raise concerns

# Student profile

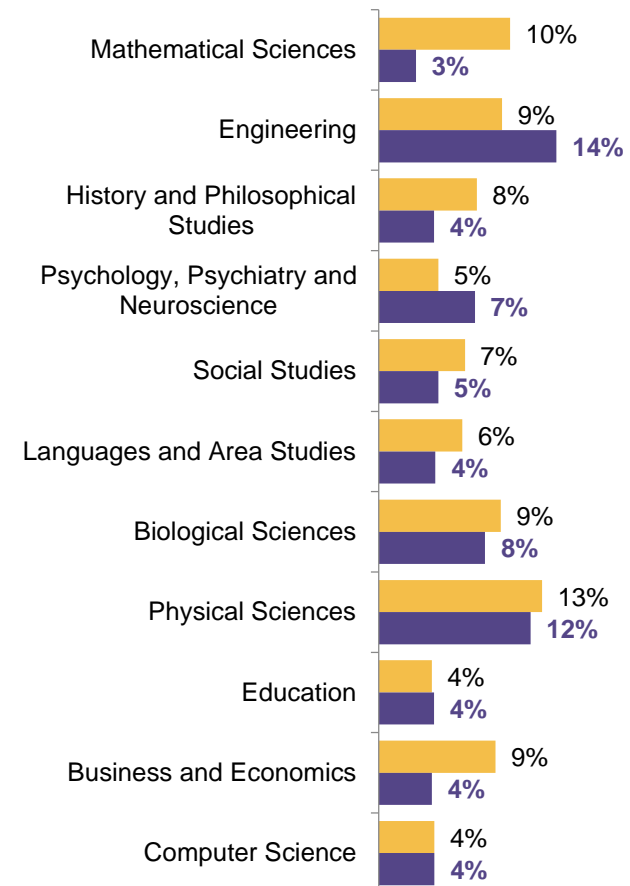
Key: ■ University of Warwick  
■ Russell Group

This page shows the profile of research postgraduates at Warwick compared to the Russell Group benchmark. In terms of demographic and delivery factors, the biggest difference was within sex. There were 49% of Warwick research postgraduates who were female, 7 percentage points fewer than the Russell Group benchmark (see Figure 1). By subject, the greatest difference was within Mathematical Sciences, Warwick having 7 percentage points more PGRs studying within this subject than the Russell Group benchmark (see Figure 2).

**Figure 1: demographic and delivery profile**



**Figure 2: Distribution of students across subject areas\***



\*only Warwick subjects benchmarked to the Russell Group benchmark are shown.

**For more information**

[surveys@advance-he.ac.uk](mailto:surveys@advance-he.ac.uk)

## The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey

PRES is the leading survey of Research Postgraduates in the UK and beyond, with 37,661 respondents in 2023 achieving a 30.2% response rate. 105 institutions were involved in the survey.

Any of your institutional results, including ranking position, may be communicated internally or published externally at any time. We ask you not to make external reference to any global or benchmarking group results until after the publication of the Advance HE sector reports in the Autumn.

### **Quarter methodology**

The quarters are based on all institutions that have, on average, 23 valid responses or over to the questions making up the survey area. Quarters are only reported when there are a minimum of 8 institutions within an area.

For more on how the differences and quarters have been calculated, please refer to the statistics guide in the 'Guides' workbook supplied alongside this report.

