

'Your Futures Roadshow' Report

5 December 2024

Executive Summary

The Student Experience division led the first-ever [Your Futures Roadshow](#) - a week-long series of events for current (outgoing) home and international students on a Master's degree from 15th to 19th July 2024, in partnership with Student Opportunity, Student Visa team, Unitemps, Warwick Enterprise, Warwick Sports, Sustainability, Residential Community, the Library, Alumni and the Student Union.

A total of 24 online and in person events were held throughout the week, offering opportunities for students to seek inspiration from recent alumni, obtain practical support on various career pathways, visa transition, accommodation beyond university etc., and opportunities to chill and connect with peers.

We received a total of **772 registrations from 321 unique students**. This represents students of **42 nationalities (including the UK) from 67 courses across 23 academic departments**. The actual attendance is about 420, noting that attendance was not taken for some drop-in sessions.

The 'Drinks Reception: Inspire and Connect' session on Thursday evening was certainly the highlight of the week. It was attended by approximately 100 students. The session featured a panel discussion with four alumni currently working in the UK and two current students who have recently secured jobs. The panellists shared their experiences, tips, and strategies for job hunting in the UK. The discussions lasted for an hour and included a Q&A session, allowing students to ask numerous questions. Members of the career team were present as well, giving expert opinions on most recent trends such as the use of AI in job applications and interview preparation. Students also had the opportunity to network with each other over food and drinks.

The events were highly valued by students who attended. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 93% of students feeling valued by the University, and 100% stating that the event should be an annual occurrence for future cohorts.

Evaluation:

The events are evaluated against the Student Experience Strategic Framework on Student User Experience, which focuses on services and opportunities being coherent, relevant, distinctive and engaging.

'Your Futures Roadshow' successfully integrated a diverse array of services and opportunities in a coherent manner. All the events are user-focused and designed from the students' perspective. The events featured a seamless mix of **career services, entrepreneurial support, visa advice, wellbeing, networking opportunities, and practical tips for life beyond university**, issues that are highly relevant to students at the current stage of their journey. Various university departments and stakeholders collaborated to ensure that the services were interconnected and comprehensive, distinctive to the needs of PGT students. Clear communication through bespoke student newsletters, social media, and offline

marketing ensured that students were informed of the events in good time and had a thorough understanding of the available opportunities to engage, enhancing the overall coherence of the events.

Students were also invited to leave a message to the incoming students with their top tips. We received over 120 messages and will make these 'message cards' available to new arrivals in the Welcome Week 2024/25.

The high registration numbers indicate a demand for continued specific support and activities during the summer for current PGT students. The positive feedback and number of turnouts highlight the effectiveness of such collaborative initiatives in enhancing the overall PGT student experience.

Next Steps:

100% of the students who participated and provided feedback expressed that this type of holistic support should be embedded as a business-as-usual activity for future cohorts, and that some sessions should be made available earlier.

Going forward, we will continue to work with various stakeholders, most notably Student Careers, to embed some of the tailored career support sessions in Term 3 and the summer. We will also invite other service providers who do not routinely interact directly with students to host workshops from Term 3 and explore more opportunities for outgoing international students to make use of peer-based support offered by International Student Ambassadors and/or alumni.

Echo Zhou & Pranav Pammi

Student Experience Division

Detailed Report

1. Introduction

'Your Futures Roadshow' was a week-long series of events organised by the Student Experience Team, in partnership with Student Opportunity, Warwick Presents and various university departments. Held from 15th to 19th July 2024, the programme was tailored for outgoing Postgraduate Taught (PGT) students, both home and international. This **first-of-its-kind event featured 24 different activities**, including online sessions, in-person drop-ins, networking events, and sports activities.



The purpose of the Roadshow was to celebrate the end of the students' taught courses and provide essential support as they transition to the next stage of their lives. The event included sessions on career development, visa and accommodation advice, wellbeing, and opportunities to connect with peers and recent graduates.

Objectives of the Event

The main goals of the "Your Futures Roadshow" were to:

- Celebrate the completion of the taught courses for PGT students and help them understand the next steps.
- Facilitate connections among peers and recent graduates.
- Share success stories and gather insights to help recruit and support future PGT students.
- Encourage early engagement with the alumni team.
- Provide practical support for career planning, visa applications, and finding off-campus accommodation.

2. Planning

Planning for 'Your Futures Roadshow' began just 1 month before the event, with careful coordination among various university departments and external partners. The aim was to identify the needs of outgoing PGT students and design a programme that addressed these needs comprehensively.

Key steps in the planning process included:

- Conducting focus groups to understand what students needed and wanted from the event ([International Student Roundtable](#)).
- Collaborating with different university departments to offer a range of relevant and practical sessions.
- Scheduling a mix of online and in-person sessions to cater to different preferences and schedules.
- Securing venues and making logistical arrangements for in-person activities.
- Working with Alumni and WBS to identify and confirm attendance of recent alumni.
- Promoting the event through various channels to ensure maximum student participation (newsletter, social media, offline marketing, etc).

Stakeholders Involved and Their Roles

The success of the 'Your Futures Roadshow' was due to the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, each bringing their expertise and resources:

- **Student Experience Team:** planned and coordinated the overall event, managed logistics, and ensured smooth execution.
- **Warwick Presents:** provided branding and promotional support to attract and engage students.
- **Student Opportunity:** offered career support sessions, including CV writing, interview skills, and job market insights.
- **Student Visa Team:** hosted sessions on post-study visa options and provided individual consultations.
- **Unitemps:** shared information on finding part-time and full-time work opportunities. Iterated the importance of gaining UK work experience.
- **Warwick Enterprise:** held a drop-in session to answer any questions regarding starting their own business in the UK.
- **Warwick Sports:** Offered two badminton rock-ups during the event week to promote student wellbeing.
- **Sustainability Team:** led a session on embedding sustainability in career choices.
- **Residential Community:** provided de-stress craft event to ensure students have some time away from their busy schedule of dissertation.

- **Library:** hosted drop-in sessions and offered resources for academic and career development.
- **Alumni Team:** engaged recent graduates to share their experiences and insights during the event.
- **International Student Ambassadors:** assisted in delivering sessions and provided peer-based support and helped organising the event.

With the combined efforts of these stakeholders, 'Your Futures Roadshow' successfully addressed the diverse needs of outgoing PGT students, providing them with valuable resources and support for their future endeavours.

3. Sessions offered and Attendance

Day	Time	Event Title	Description	Format	Registered	Attended
Monday (15th July) Online	13:00-14:00	Preparing for the UK job market (non-graduate scheme jobs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing information on the current UK market and how to approach - Platforms to apply and how to utilise career services provided by the university - How to be work-ready - Getting UK experience and how this could lead to permanent jobs - Graduate Jobs 	Online	114	50
	14:30-15:30	Unitemps - Getting UK work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to find a part-time or a full time (contract) through Unitemps and making the most of temp work - Sharing of lived experience from those engaged with Unitemps roles 	Online	88	40
	16:00-16:30	CV and Cover letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how to tailor your CV and Cover letter for UK graduate jobs - Information on booking 1-2-1 in-person sessions on Wed. 	Online	69	45

Tuesday (16th July) Online	12:00-13:00	Moving Out & Next Home	<p>Tips for moving out, handling deposits, and avoiding common pitfalls.</p> <p>Resources & tips on finding houses after university, how to avoid accommodation scams</p> <p>Tips for moving your personal belongings to your new accommodation.</p> <p>Transfer support, storage companies, Etc</p>	Online	75	30
	14:00-14:30	Maximising your Warwick Award	Guidance on completing the Warwick Award in the remaining time of their studies and leveraging it for career advancement.	Online	N/A	<5
	15:00-16:00	Study, work and your visa - Online Q&A session	Information on post-study VISA options, application processes, and timelines. Transition between Visas. When can you work full time. Graduate route visa. Skilled Worker visa.	Online	N/A	<5
	15:00 – 16:00	PG Tips	Take a break from your studies with free refreshments, to meet other postgrads, and to share tips on postgrad life.	In-person	N/A	<5
Wednesday (17th July) In-person	10:00-16:00	Student Networking / workshop Zone	Space for students to network, hand out, get drinks and snacks, dip in and out throughout the day	In Person	N/A	20-30
	10:00-12:30	CV checks and 1-2-1 sessions	Individual sessions for detailed CV checks and personalised advice	In Person	N/A	9
	13:00-14:00	Visa Q&A (2 ISAs)	Any visa related questions	In person	N/A	7

	14:00-14:30	Tackling rejections and imposter syndrome	Strategies for dealing with job rejections	In Person	22	6
	13:30-15:30	Board games & Chat	Professional networking	In Person	67	Approx 30
	15:30-16:00	How to ace interviews	Tips and strategies for succeeding in job interviews	In Person	30	9
	16:30-17:00		Information on mock interviews provided by central careers team			5
	13:00 – 16:00	Meet with Alumni team	Warwick Art Centre – drop in to talk to Alumni team (as part of graduation ceremony)	In Person	20	5
	13:00 – 16:00	Got a business idea? Support we offer	Exploring the opportunity to convert your ideas into reality (drop in)	In Person		5-8
	17:30 – 19:00	Rock up and play – Badminton	Take a break from studies and play Badminton!	In Person	20	20
Thursday (18th July)	13:00-13:45	Every Job is a Climate Job	Be the change and embed sustainability in everything that we do!	Online	27	14
	14:00-14:30	Adapting to Professional Work Cultures	Understanding different workplace cultures, professional etiquette, and soft skills.	Online	31	7
	15:30-16:30	Global Career Opportunities	Exploring career opportunities abroad, preparing for international job markets – China, India, rest of the world	Online	76	30
	17:30-19:30	Drinks Reception:	Alumni Insights: Hear strategies and experiences from our panel of peer and	In person	165	98

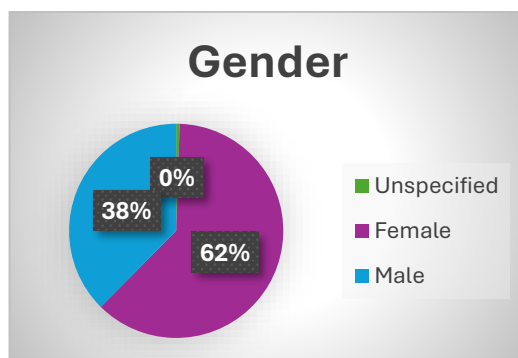
		Inspire and Connect With drinks, high tea and cake, finger food	recent graduates, providing valuable perspectives on career experience. Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers from other departments, expanding your professional network.			
Friday (19th July)	13:30-15:00	Visa Q&A (2 staff members)	Any visa related questions	In person		<5
	17:30 – 20:00	De-stress Craft	Snacks, drinks, chats and craft activities to de-stress	In person		<5
	17:30 – 19:00	Rock up and play – Badminton	Take a break from studies and play Badminton! Make sure you pre-book and signpost to future opportunities (booking app)	In Person		20

Total attended (approx): 420

4. Demographics and event feedback

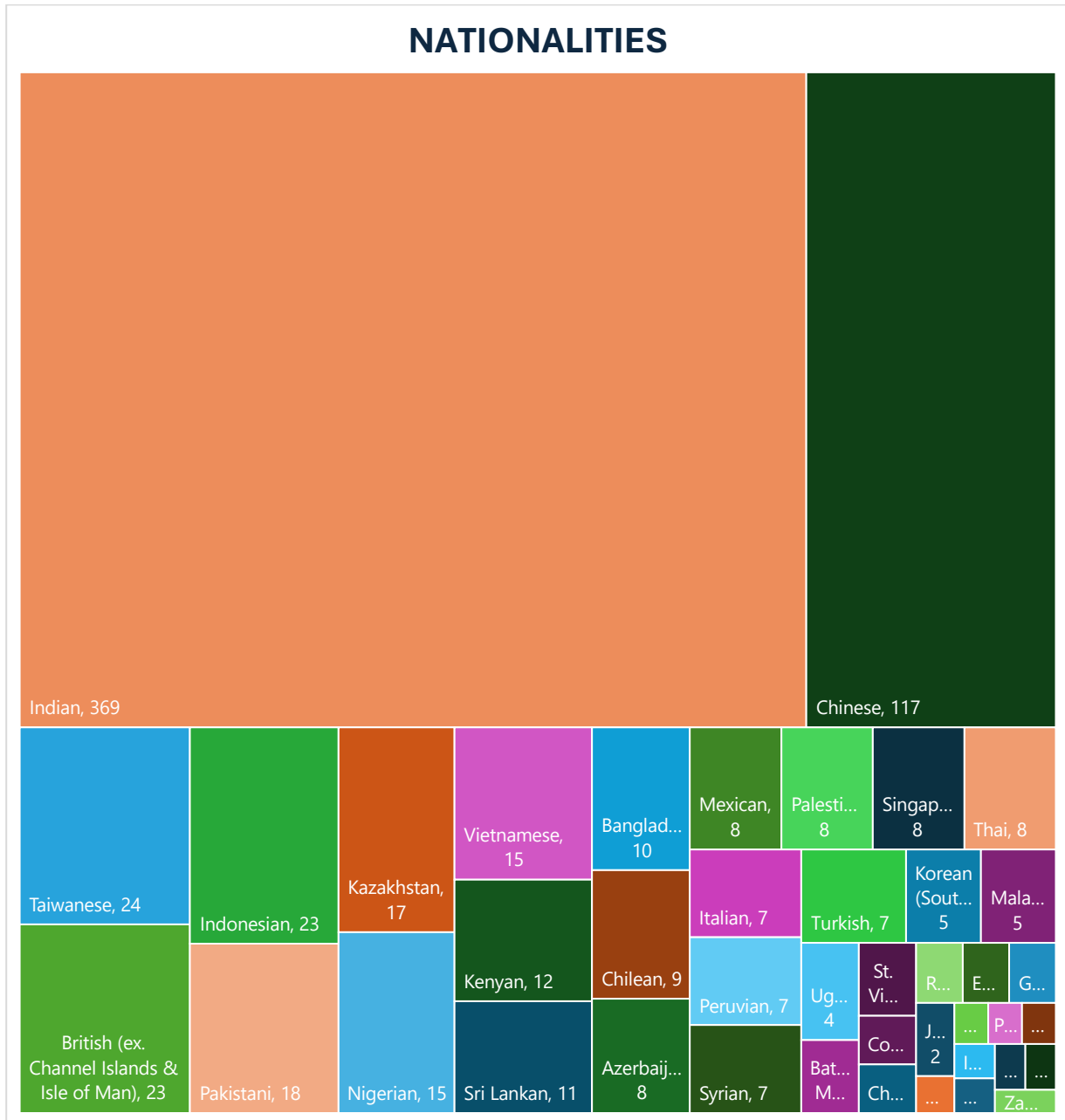
Demographics (based on registration on MyAdvantage):

- Total registrations:** The event had a total of **772** registrations (not including drop-ins, rock-ups), with **321** unique students.
- Gender Representation across all session registrations:**
 - Female: 478
 - Male: 290
 - Unspecified: 4



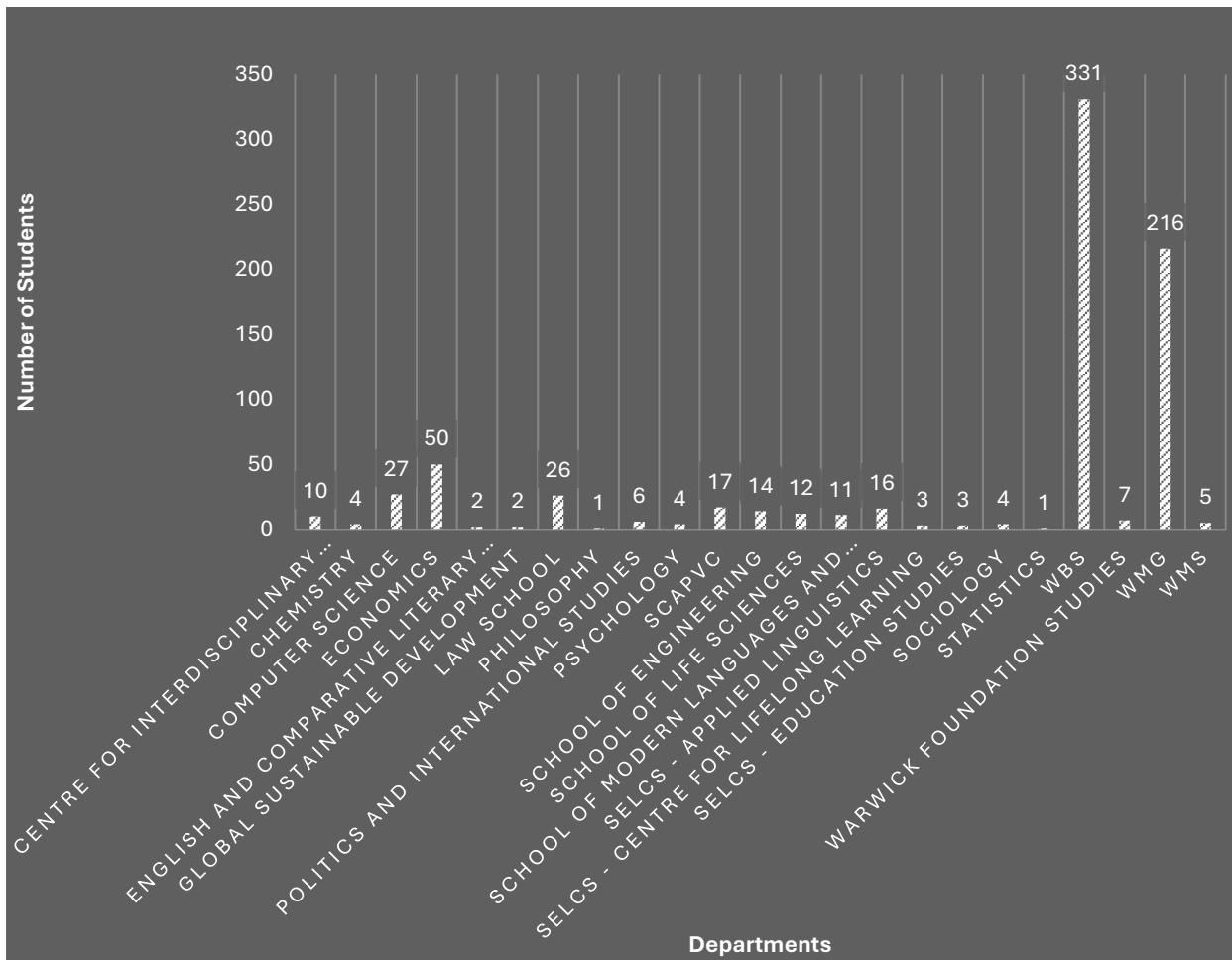
3. Nationality:

- The registration represented **42 different nationalities**, highlighting the event's success in engaging a diverse range of international students alongside home students.



4. Departments:

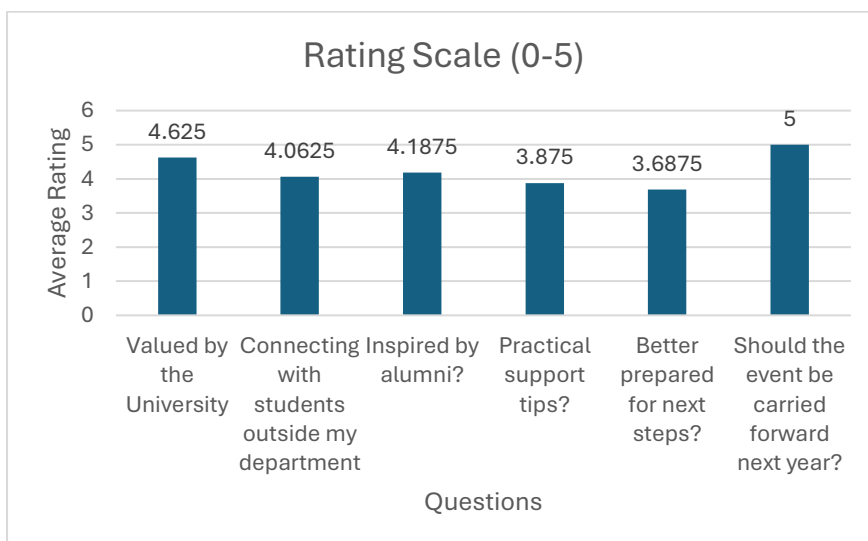
Students from **23 different departments** registered to attend the event, indicating broad appeal across various academic disciplines.



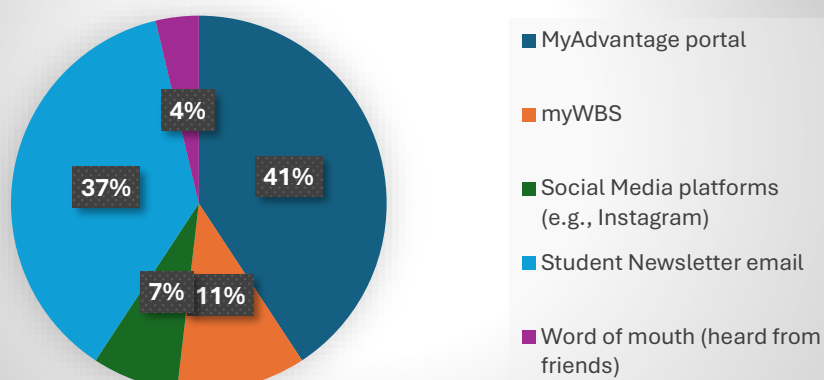
5. Courses:

The event drew registration from **67 different courses**, showcasing its relevance to a wide array of academic programmes.

6. Event Feedback



How did the students hear about the event?



5. Student Feedback

1. Overwhelmingly positive feedback

- **High satisfaction rates:** students provided positive feedback about the event and many students highlighted the value of the event and expressed their preference for having such initiatives during their final stages of their PGT journey. 100% attendees recommended this event should be carried forward in future years.
- **Timeliness and relevance:** students felt that the sessions were timely and directly relevant to their immediate needs. The career support and guidance provided at this critical juncture were particularly appreciated. Some students felt some of the sessions could have been offered earlier.
- **Practical benefits:** the practical nature of the sessions, including tips for job applications, CV writing, and interview preparation was frequently mentioned as highly beneficial.

2. Enhanced understanding of university services

- **Increased awareness:** the sessions provided the students with the opportunity to understand the various services they have access post-graduation.
- **Ongoing support:** the awareness reassured students about the ongoing support available to them, highlighting the university's commitment to their long-term success

3. Sense of being valued and supported

- **Positive sentiment:** one significant outcome observed in the feedback forms was the strong sense of being valued and supported by the university.
- **Impactful sessions:** this sentiment was particularly strong among those who attended the networking sessions (Student Networking and Drinks Reception) and other offline career workshops where the practical advice and personalised support left a lasting impression.

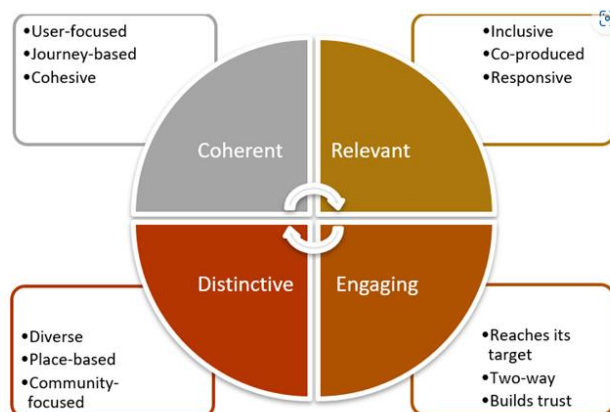
4. Sustained impact

- **Crucial support:** Students had expressed a strong desire for the sessions to be embedded as a business-as-usual activity for future cohorts, as it benefits students in a crucial time in their master's journey. The event also acted as a catalyst to better advertise the university services after graduation. Some students expressed a preference for this type of support to be made available earlier and during term time.
- **Alumni engagement:** Students had expressed a strong desire to include more events where in the university invites alumni to speak about their experiences and how they navigated the job market at different points of their student journey, and not just at the start of the course. Students are really focused on knowing the strategies used by recent graduates to successfully land a job. The involvement of WBS alumni and students also enabled better cross-department experience sharing.
- **Offline feedback:** The networking session also played a crucial platform to get find hand information regarding events. One student said, 'events like these would have made my Bachelor's journey easier'. Students in general were thankful to the university to organise such an event in the final stages of their master's journey
- **Peer support by the International Student Ambassadors:** The networking and peer support session on Wednesday proved to be a highly beneficial event for several students. During the session, the Ambassadors assisted two students with their job applications, offering valuable tips and strategies and enabled them to take a small step forward in their job application journey. Additionally, the networking event provided students with insights into the competitive nature of the UK job market, highlighting common challenges faced by all students. It emphasised that everyone is in the same situation. The session also introduced the students to the various career-related services offered by the university.



6. Alignment with SE Strategic Framework

The evaluation of “Your Futures Roadshow” demonstrates its alignment with Warwick’s Student Experience Strategic Framework for delivering an excellent and inclusive student experience in the four themes: **Coherent, Relevant, Engaging, and Distinctive**.



Coherent

Theme: The range of wider services and opportunities should be made coherent from a student user perspective.

‘Your Futures Roadshow’ successfully integrated a diverse array of services and opportunities in a coherent manner, all designed from the student’s perspective. The event featured a seamless mix of **career services, visa advice, networking opportunities, and practical living tips**. Various university departments and stakeholders collaborated to ensure that the services were interconnected and comprehensive. Clear communication through newsletters, social media, and offline marketing ensured that students had a good understanding of the available services, enhancing the overall coherence of the service available to students at this specific point in their student journey.

Relevant

Theme: The wider student experience reviews and caters to students on different study levels and modes of study, for different demographic groups and is made consistently relevant.

The event catered to a diverse range of students, making it highly relevant. It attracted registrations from **42 nationalities, 23 departments, and 67 different courses**, demonstrating its wide appeal across different demographic groups. Sessions were tailored to address specific needs, covering essential topics such as job market readiness, visa options, and moving out tips. By incorporating student feedback through focus groups and surveys, the event ensured that its content remained responsive and relevant to current student needs.

Engaging

Theme: The design, presentation, and communication of Warwick’s total ‘offer’ to its current students is consistently engaging.

'Your Futures Roadshow' was designed to be consistently engaging for students. The event featured **interactive sessions, including Q&A, panel discussions, and informal networking opportunities**, which kept students actively involved. The variety of formats, **including online sessions, in-person drop-ins, and sports activities, catered to different preferences and ensured broad participation**. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants indicated high levels of engagement and satisfaction, reflecting the effectiveness of the event's design and presentation.

Distinctive

Theme: The student experience should be distinctive and contribute to the University's reputation for excellence and innovation.

'Your Futures Roadshow' provided a distinctive experience that contributed positively to Warwick's reputation for excellence and innovation. As a **first-of-its-kind event**, it offered a unique blend of **career support, visa advice, sport sessions, de-stress events practical advice, and networking opportunities; all in one, distinguishing it from other typical university events**. The inclusion of alumni in panel discussions and networking sessions provided students with valuable insights and practical advice, enhancing the event's distinctiveness. The high turnout and positive reception underscored the event's impact and its contribution to Warwick's reputation for providing comprehensive and innovative student support services.

7. Conclusion

Overall, the "Your Futures Roadshow" primarily focused on career development, wellbeing, practical aspects of transitioning out of university and planning the next steps. The team collaborated with multiple departments and organisations, including Student Opportunity, the Visa Team, Unitemps, Warwick Enterprise, Warwick Sports, Sustainability, the Residential Community, the Library, and Alumni. The high registration and participation numbers indicate a strong demand for career support, practical support and networking activities during the summer among students. The positive feedback and strong turnout highlight the effectiveness of such initiatives in aiding students' professional development and overall wellbeing during this transitional period.

The week-long event effectively aligned with Warwick's Student Experience Strategic Framework for delivering an excellent and inclusive student experience. The event was coherent, relevant, engaging, and distinctive, meeting the diverse needs of PGT students during a key transitional stage of their student journey. This alignment not only addressed immediate student needs but also reinforced Warwick's long-term commitment to providing comprehensive and innovative support services, thereby enhancing the overall student experience.