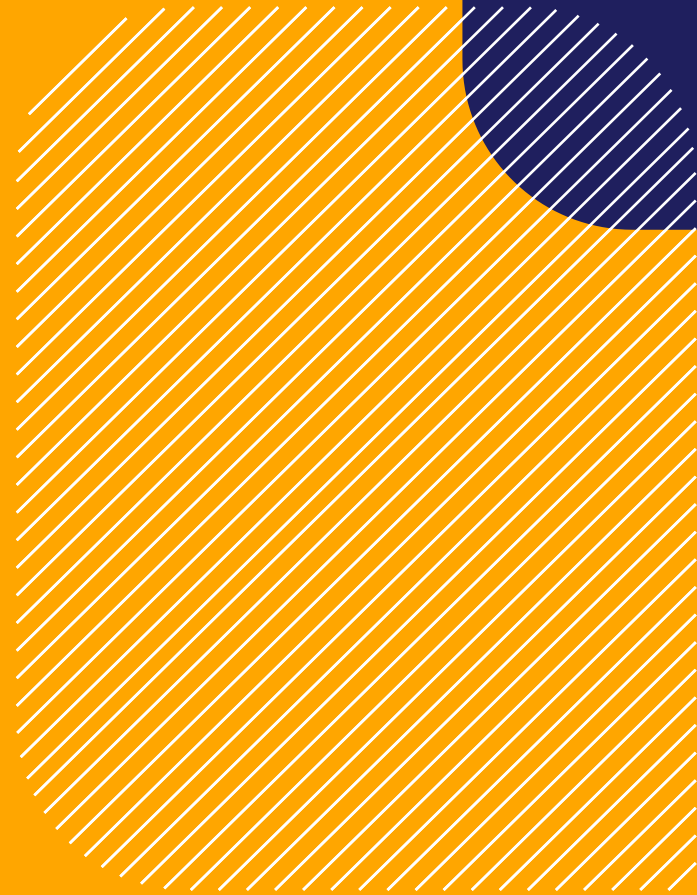


Student Sentiment



December 2023

As the UK's largest online student community, we witness daily the valuable exchange of support and advice among young people. Learning from their experiences guides us in providing meaningful support.

We have the opportunity and responsibility to amplify students' voices, sharing their perspectives with those like you who aim to support them. By listening to students and collaborating across sectors, we strive to make a genuine impact on their lives.

Although traditionally a quiet time of year, the festive week still saw a 13% rise in users on site with more than 1.2 million visitors between 24-31 December as applications stay high on their agenda and as our December poll reveals, revision was too.



Highlights in this update

- Peer to peer connection remains top reason for students coming to our site.
- Amongst the festivities, revision remained the key focus for Year 12& 13 students over the Christmas break.
- With the first semester complete, feelings among first year students polled were varied, with almost one in five saying they were considering leaving.
- 44% of respondents in our TSR Asks survey said they were interested in using podcasts to support their learning, and a third would use them to explore future careers.
- We share new insight around league tables and their influence on university choice in our new insight summary.

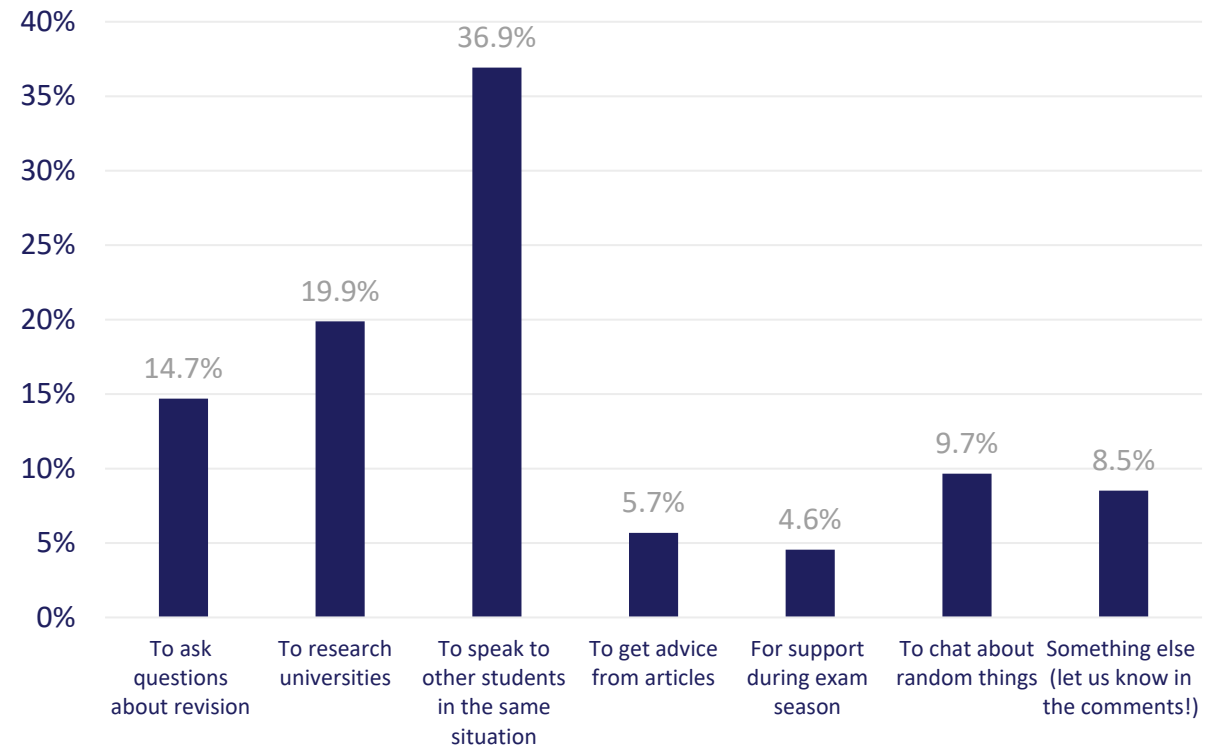
What's the main purpose you use TSR for?

The results of this poll reveal a diverse range of motivations driving individuals to use The Student Room; with 36.9% of respondents indicating that they favour the site as a means of connecting with others navigating similar academic situations.

A further substantial proportion (19.9%) turn to The Student Room as a valuable resource for researching universities – both results highlighting the importance of utilising The Student Room to connect and guide prospective students through their academic journeys and the university application process.

Students seeking revision support is also prevalent, with 14.7% of respondents saying they use the site to ask questions on revision tactics and advice, again, from others who are currently going through the same process or have already done so.

“The Student Room has provided me with very useful information regarding my university choices, as well as life as a university student. It helped me decide to go for Psychology.”



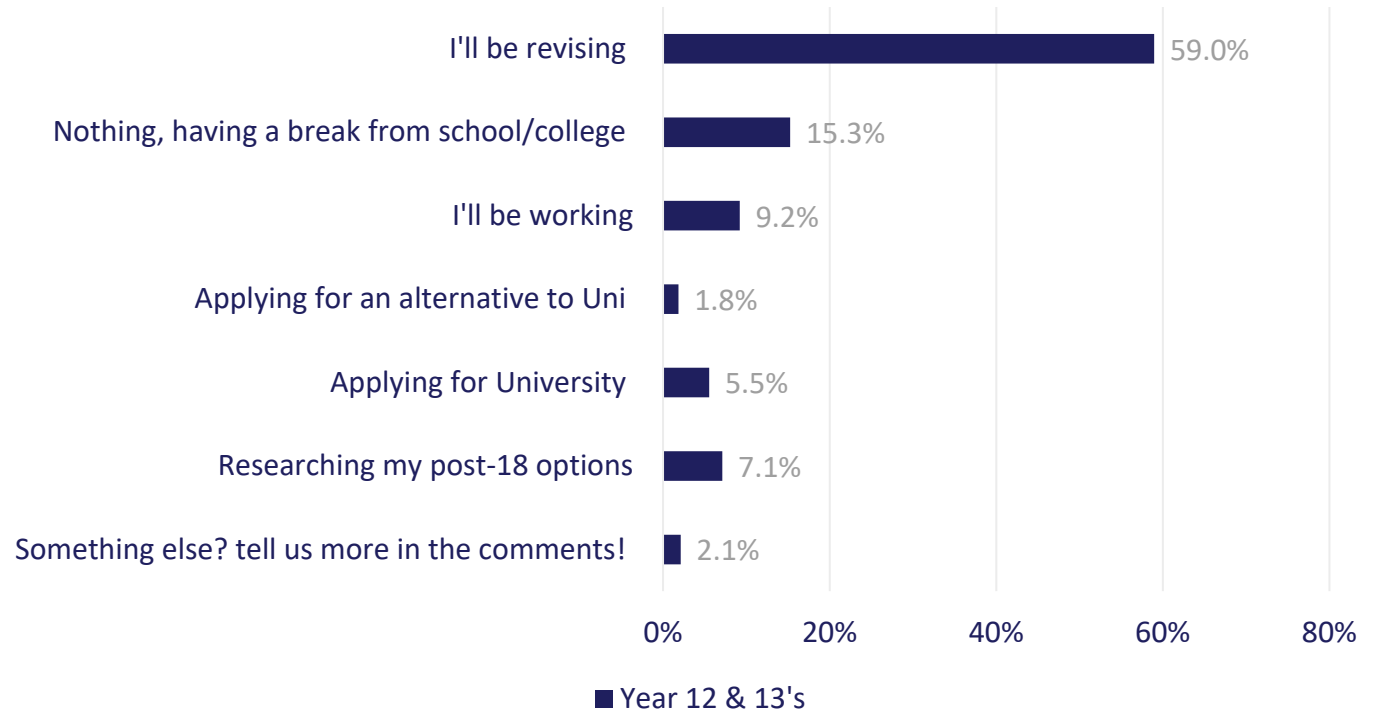
176 votes (Single response). Promoted 1 Dec 2023 - 11 Dec 2023

Year 12 & 13's: How do you plan to focus your time over the festive break?

For the year 12's and 13's on site say they are prioritising revision over the festive break, taking a strong lead at nearly 60% of votes, preparation is well underway for their mock exams in February with our data backing this, by showing a clear increase in users utilising the resources available on The Student Room.

On site the [Grow your Grades](#) pages were up 91% on pageviews YoY for December as students continue to share their study journeys.

The [study help and revision](#) landing page was also in our top five most viewed articles on site last month as students took time away from festivities to look for advice on how to revise, motivation tips and more.



[380 Votes](#). (Single response) Promoted 11 – 15 Dec 2023

"I will be absolutely on the grind. I'm trying to finish my NEA documentation as soon as I can in December (it's due in for February but we have mocks in Feb so priorities!), revision for said mocks, finishing off my EPQ, doing STEP prep (anticipating an offer from Imperial for CS but who knows?!) and then catching up on various bits and pieces of work because I've missed a few lessons for interview, Olympiads and a bunch of other stuff.

I've literally got no time to rest! I've finish my first EPQ draft but I wanna finish by the first week of January so that I can get more free time in school (I literally have 50 minutes in a week at the moment so stretched to the limit!)."

"I have mock exams in about a week, I don't understand why people are stressing so much over them if they don't go towards predicted grades or university. They're just to see where ur currently at. I get if its to do with confidence but I feel like I'm missing smt bc yes I am stresses but I don't feel like its the end of the world if I get Cs as I haven't been revising much atm. During our mocks, you also get study leave so idk why people are stressing over Christmas and trying to revise everything now rather than splitting it up. Am I missing smt?"...

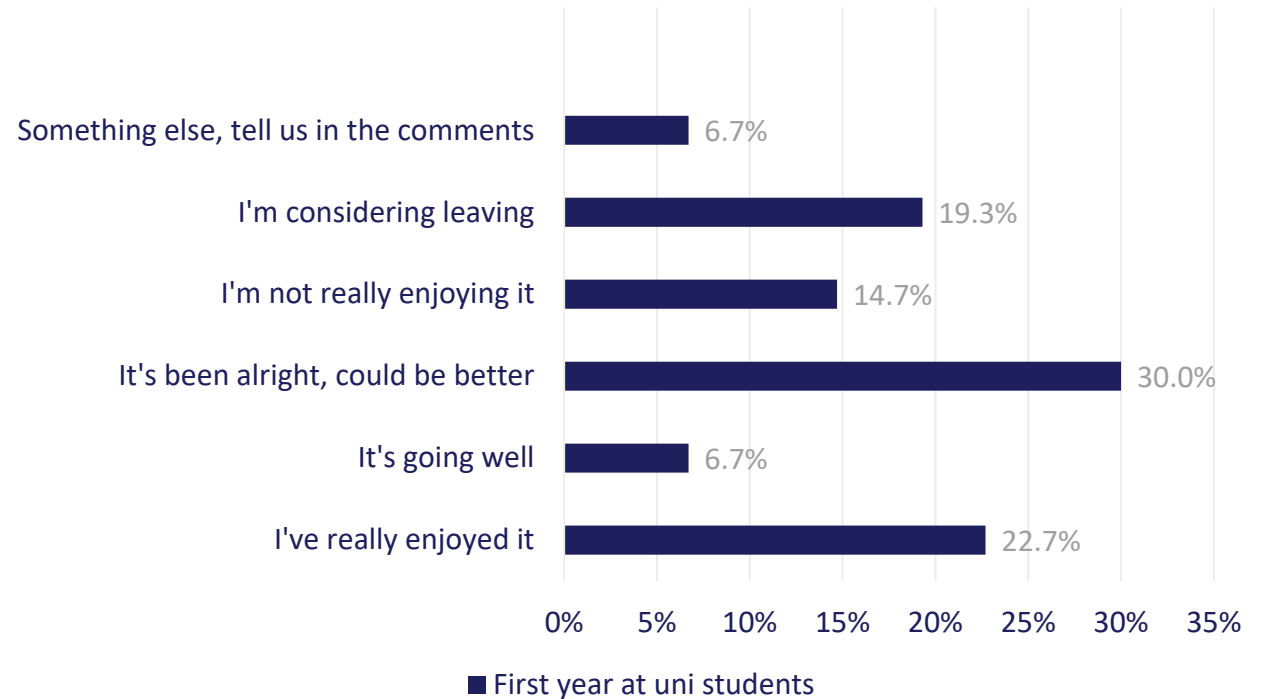
"I think some people feel mocks reflect what they will actually get in the real exams and if they do not get the grades they need then they have failed (which isn't true). Last minute revision isn't as effective as splitting it up and revising it over a longer period of time."

1st Years: How has the first semester at University gone for you?

As the first semester has wrapped up for the majority, feelings among 1st year university students were varied.

Close to one-third (30%) of respondents said that they felt their first semester was 'alright, but could have been better', however, the second highest number of votes was for 'I've really enjoyed it' at 22.6% showcasing just how mixed the impact of each individual's experience can be.

Notably, a total of 34% of votes were for 'I'm considering leaving' and 'I'm not really enjoying it', begging the question, what support do these students need to ensure they are still getting the value out of their education and university experience? This is where the role of an Official Rep can be beneficial, helping to address these concerns on the site, signposting them to relevant support and using their first-hand experiences to alleviate concerns where possible.



150 Votes. (Single response) Promoted 15 – 21 Dec 2023

"I'm not enjoying [my course], so I wanted to switch to a combined degree...but my uni wouldn't let me as the normal course is very full. They offer some optional modules - and I have taken those. In addition to that, I don't meet the entry requirements for the normal course despite my contextual offer.

I decided to keep going but to try and do as well as possible in first year to maybe have a chance of transferring into the course at second year, at this uni or another "good" uni as the current one is RG. I don't want to repeat first year as I have already taken a gap year. It's semester one and I've done my best to get a first, but I haven't been able to. Instead I've been getting grades around the 67-68% mark. I'll try to get 70% next semester to improve my chances. My A Level grades were only BBC though.

Is it possible that some unis might accept a second year transfer with a high 2:1 in first year in a semi related course, even if entry requirements aren't met? or is it too unlikely and I should just give up, enjoy first year since it doesn't count and take it easy? if I've got no chance I'd rather just use this year to make memories."

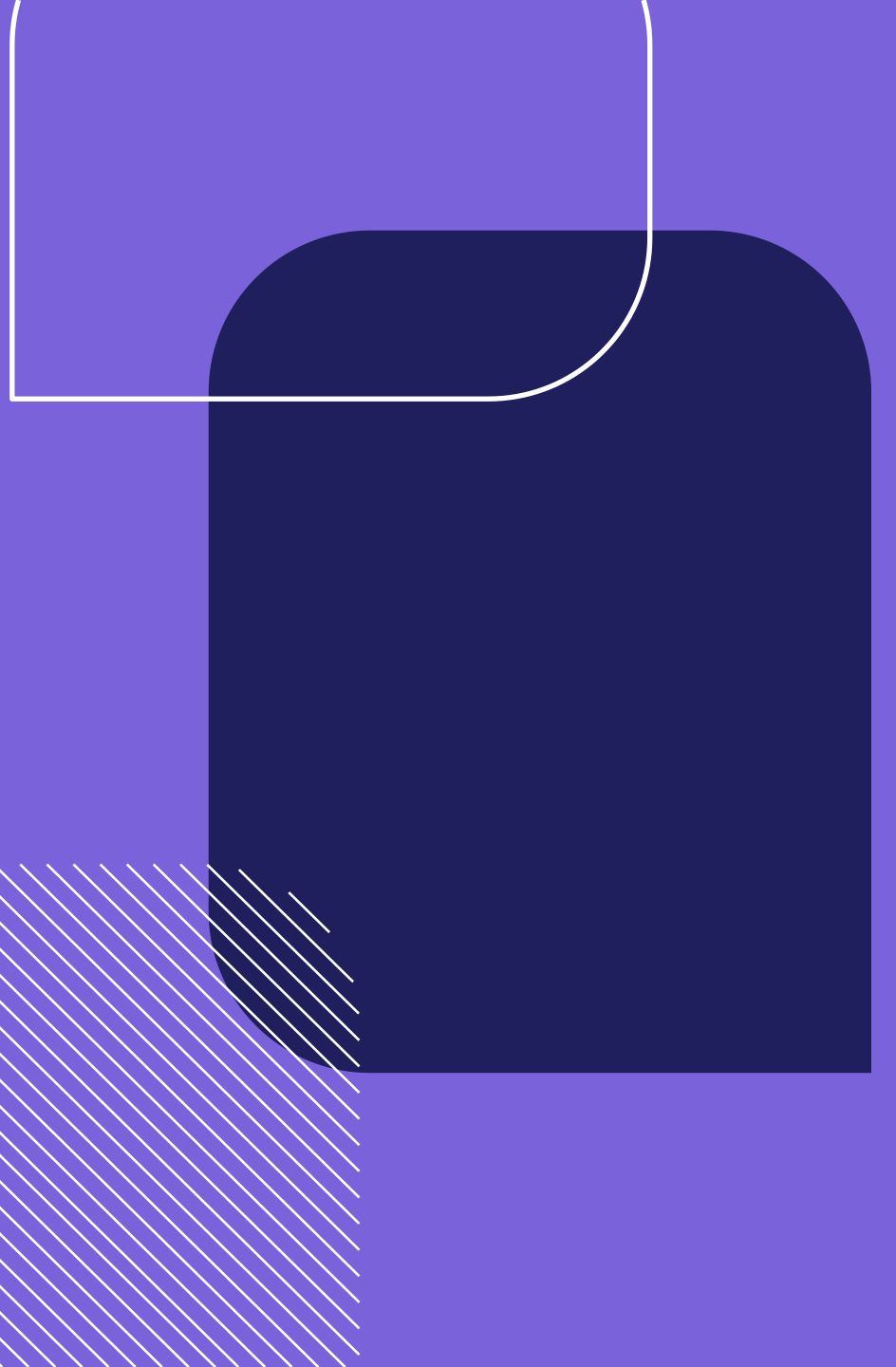
"Doing nursing- pondering why I am bothering when looking at pay. Going out to 1st placement and mixed bag- every nurse I have spoken to has said not to enter this profession. Time tax etc. deducted not much better off than a band 2. Uni itself just feels like a box-ticking exercise and overall so far, I feel why we are at uni for this- rushed/not very confident lecturers."





The Student Room
Insight

Summaries

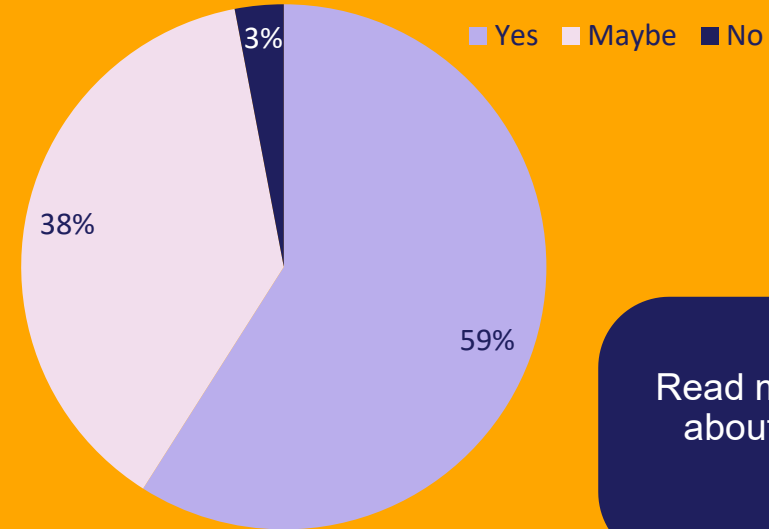


Most respondents (97%) would consider using a league table from The Student Room

We asked our audience about their use of league tables in the decision-making journey, and as part of this we wanted to explore whether they would value a Student Room league table. Respondents were open to the idea and keen to understand student views and experiences. The open comments showed they trusted The Student Room and felt the information provided by the site would be free from bias.

Methodology: Online survey of The Student Room members
Audience: 2024 and 2025 entry prospective UGs aged 16+
Fieldwork: 3rd – 6th November 2023
Base: 702 respondents

Q: If the Student Room had its own league table, would you use it? (Single response)
Q: Please tell us why (Open question)



Read more how students feel about league tables in our summary, [here](#)

“I trust the Student Room as it had a range of opinions, from real students - not just professors/marketers trying to make their uni seem appealing!”

“I am a frequent user of The Student Room and put a lot of stock into the trustworthy, first-hand experiences published on the site.”

“Because I trust the Student Room and I have already used league tables in the past”

Podcasts are of interest to prospective undergraduates to support their learning and development

44% were interested in using them to support their learning (for their current and/or future studies), and a third would use them to explore future careers.

Additionally, a quarter (25%) of respondents were interested in using podcasts for their University decision making, increasing to almost a third (31%) of 2025 entry undergraduate respondents (compared to 20% of 2024 entry), potentially indicating a greater appetite for podcast use earlier in the decision-making process.

2025 entry undergraduate respondents were also more likely to be interested in using podcasts more generally (73%) than 2024 entry undergraduate respondents (60%).

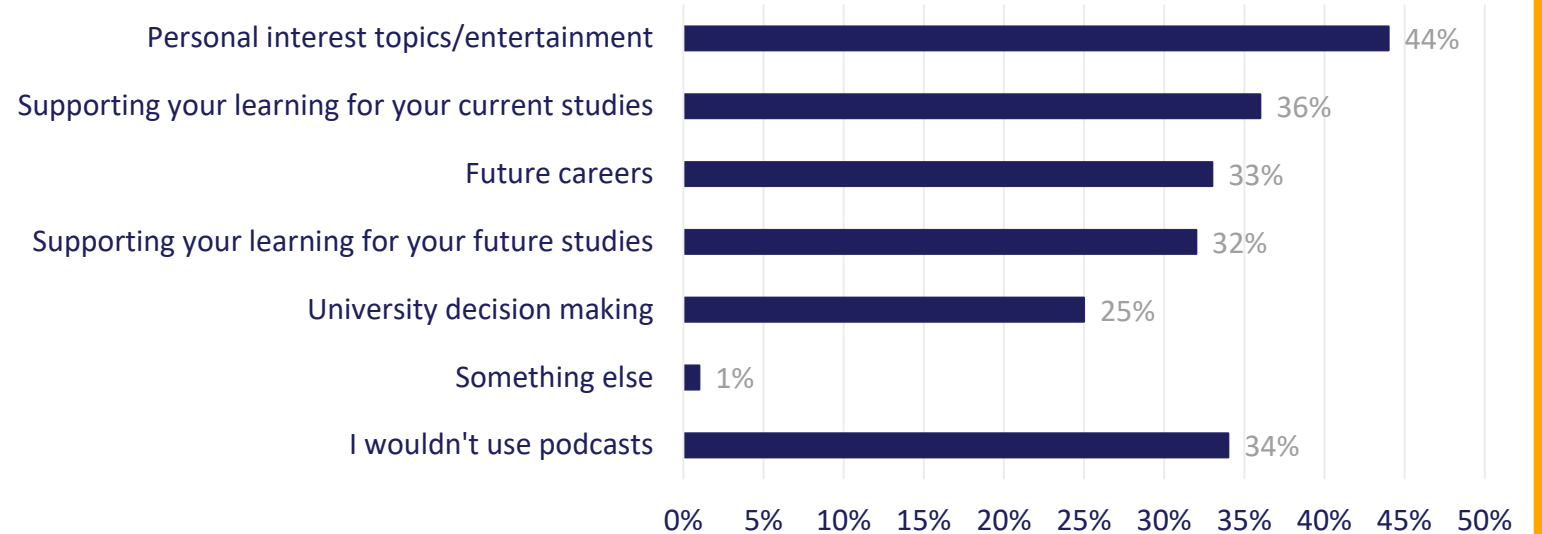
Methodology: Online survey

Audience: 2024 and 2025 entry prospective UGs aged 16+

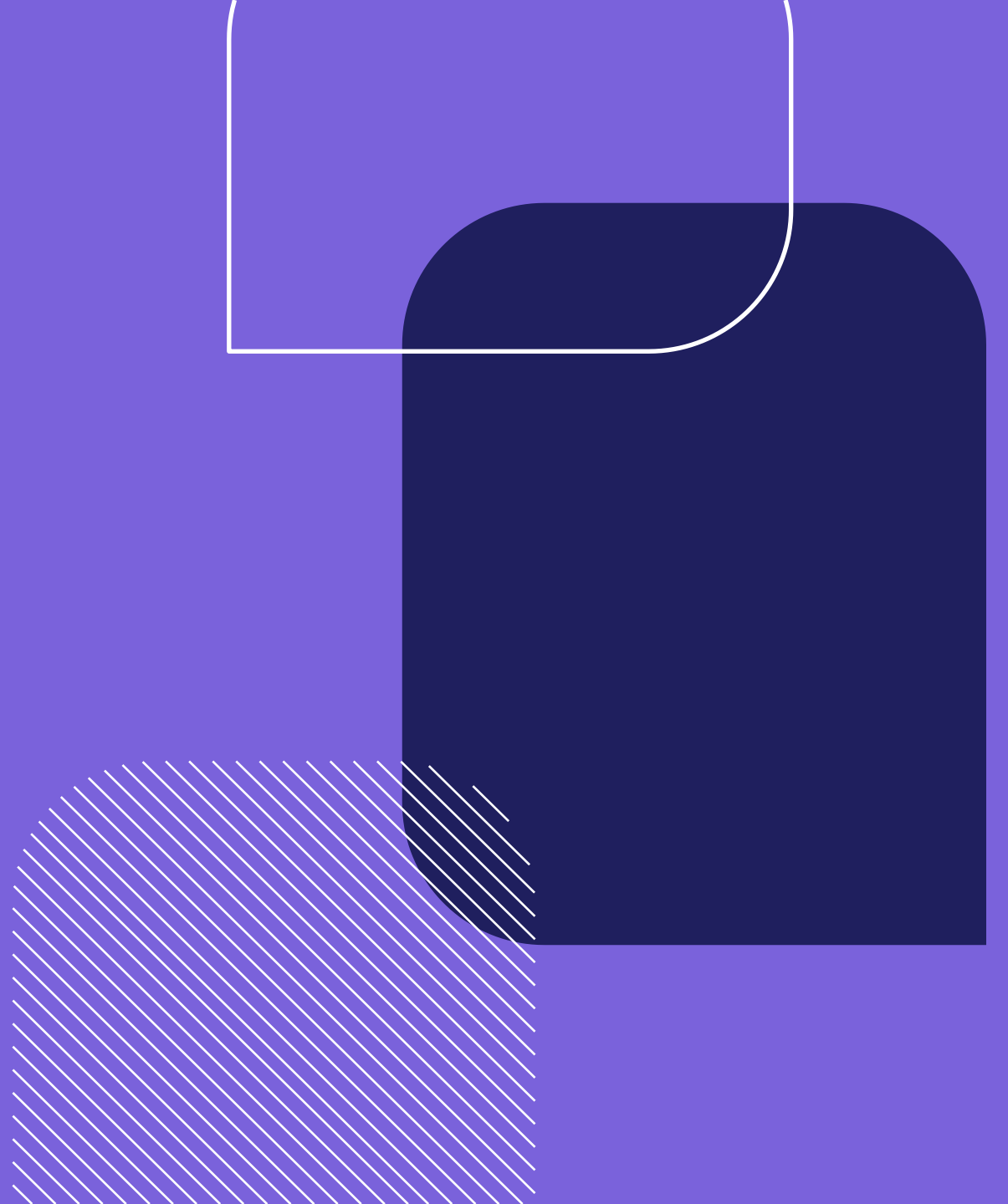
Fieldwork: 1st - 4th December 2023

Base: 414 respondents

Q: Would you be interested in using podcasts for any of the following? Please select all that apply



Product news



**December
registrations on
site**

2,593
Year 11

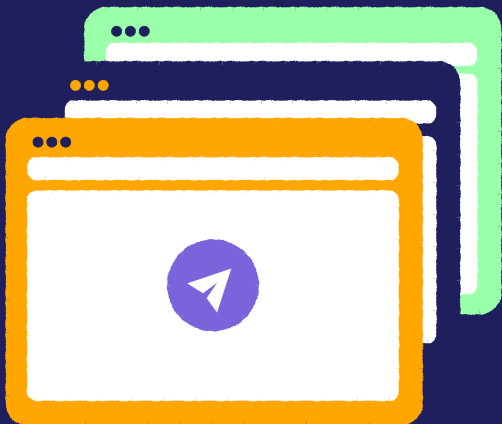
3,353
Year 12

6,383
Year 13

Uni guide – reviews now open

Throughout the year, whether it be in the application window, conversion window or Results season, student voice plays a major part in supporting applicants with their uni decisions.

Student reviews offer some of the most authentic descriptions of life at a particular university. That's why we are requesting new reviews to be made on our sister site, the Uni Guide, so current students and recent graduates can help a whole new cohort of future undergraduates. And that's where we need your help...



One university who shared it via their own 'What's on' email last year received over 1000+ reviews or ratings across the different review areas! Assets available here:

<https://tsrmatters.com/product/uni-guide-reviews-2024/>

The Student Room
Uni Guide

WIN an iPhone 15

Review your uni and be entered into our draw to win the latest iPhone

Get started