



Supporting the Humanities:

Research promotion and facilitation in numbers.

Reporting Period 2023-24



**SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Overview: a unique scholarly environment

SAS creates a unique scholarly environment comprised of eight specialist national institutes and several centres of excellence in digital humanities and public engagement. The academic staff work in an interdisciplinary space focused on research promotion and facilitation, teaching and research, support by a professional services infrastructure. Activities focus on academic events organisation and management, library management, fellowship administration and publishing.

The ratio of (core) academic staff to students is 4:9, and student satisfaction levels are high.

Staff	224
Academic core (permanent)	56
Academic fixed term (pilot RPF projects & externally-funded research projects)	25
Professional services and libraries core (permanent)	105
Professional services fixed term (pilot RPF projects & externally-funded research projects)	38
Students	272
Postgraduate research	153
Postgraduate taught (across 5 programmes)	119
Overall satisfaction PRES (2023-24)	not run
Overall satisfaction PTES (2022-23)	88%

Overview: The School celebrated its 30th anniversary in June 2024

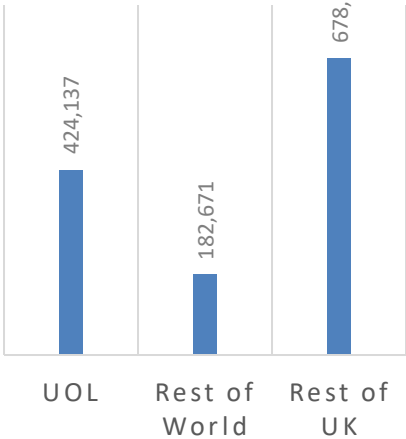
1994-2024 : 30 years of activities | 30 years of engagement | 30 years of data

Events

SAS organized more than **43 thousand** events over the past **30 years**

Over **1.28 million** people attended these events over the years, which featured **130 thousand** speakers

EVENTS PARTICIPATION



Fellows

Over **3.7 thousand** visiting fellows came to the School over the last **30 years**

On average, the School hosts in addition **700 fellows** (associated, honorary, affiliated) every year

Library Usage

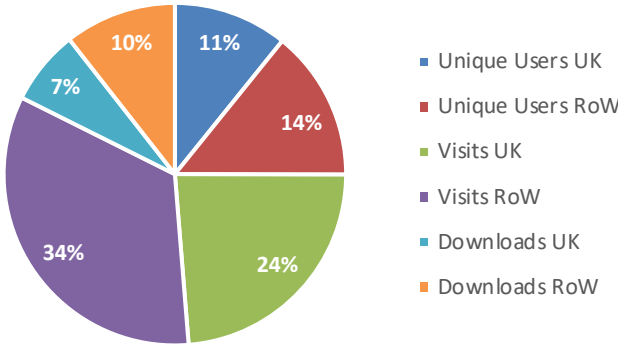
Over **5.7 million people** visited SAS libraries over the last **30 years**

Electronic resources were accessed over **7 million** times (avg. **656 thousand** a year)

Over **557 thousand** people have been registered to the libraries (avg. **20 thousand** a year)

Digital

Over **2 billion** page views of SAS websites were recorded over the last **30 years**



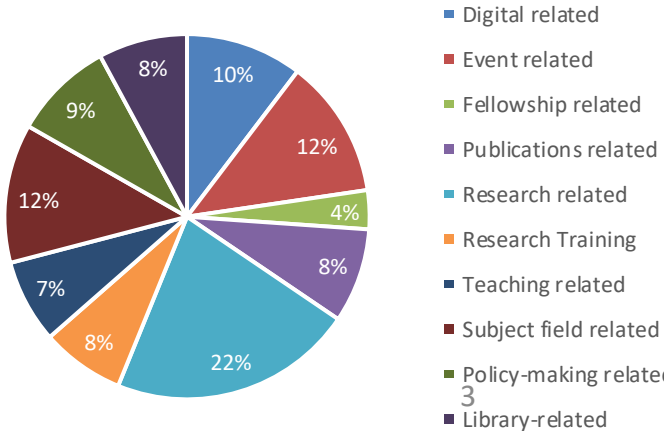
Students

Over **4.3 thousand** MA students graduated at SAS over the last **30 years**

Over **3 thousand** PhD students graduated at SAS over the last **30 years**

Networks and Collaborations

The School has over **400 networks**, collaborations, partnerships – actively supporting over 300



Full Press Release available [here](#)

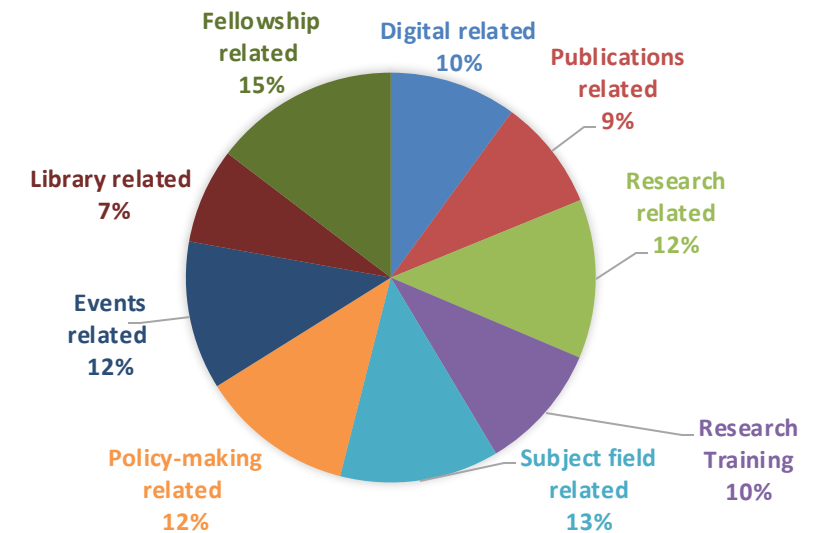
Overview: partnerships



In 2023-24, the School recorded nearly 60 key/strategic partnerships, which includes over 500 HEIs, over 200 non-HEIs. Examples include:

- *Collaboration on Ethical Responsibilities and 3D Practices in Cultural Heritage* focused on digital and policy-making activities, working with 25 other HEIs nationally and internationally, 8 public institutions, the Recollection Heritage, as well as the Wikimedia Foundation and the Sanrachna Foundation.
- *Collaboration with the British International Research Institutes (BIRI)* with which joint events, fieldwork, placements, research training and doctoral projects were organized and continued to be planned for 2024-25.
- *Decolonising the Discipline* is a collaborative initiative undertaken jointly by colleagues at the English Association, the Institute of English Studies, the University of East Anglia, the Postcolonial Studies Association and University English. *Decolonising the Discipline* invites academics from across English Studies in the UK to join us in building a network of decolonising practitioners through which experiences and ideas to effect practical change are gathered and shared.
- *The London AI and Humanity Project*, a collaboration between the Institute of Philosophy and Hong Kong University, to support large, high-impact interdisciplinary events on the impact of Artificial Intelligence.
- *Researching Internal Displacement Research*, a collaboration between the Refugee Law Initiative and five other specialized networks based at Pretoria University, South Africa, at Los Andes University (Colombia), at Lebanese American University, Lebanon), with London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK.

Key strategic partnerships - Activity types



The [pin map](#) showcases the geographical origins of a sample of our key partners, as recorded in 2023-24.

Overview: Being Human Festival

The Being Human Festival is our primary activity for the promotion of public engagement in research. The annual national festival showcases humanities research by creating opportunity to engage with the public through a wide variety of events and activities.

The festival is run by the School, with the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy.

The festival programme includes hundreds of free public events across the UK and online, delivered over a two-week period in November. Events include talks, performance, workshops, and exhibitions and are aimed at a wide range of audiences, including adults of all ages, young period, families and School children.

Events are often participatory and hands on, encouraging dialogue and interaction over themes such as food, dance as well as creative writing to make humanities research relevant and engaging.

Following the evolution of the BHF, respondents rated events highly, and found them entertaining, (73%), fun and thought provoking, (68%), with engaging speakers and presenters, (70%). Impact could be seen in respondents' feedback such as:

I learned so much about the unique position of Lancaster and its people at a specific time in history. It's inspired me to look further. (Decolonising Lancaster event)

Being Human Festival Instagram Account

Profile	Followers	Net Follower Growth	Published Posts	Impressions	Organic Engagements	Engagement Rate (per Impression)
Reporting Period	2,525	383	113	16,847	371	2.2%
1 Aug 2023 - 31 Jul 2024	↗ 17.9%	↗ 68%	↗ 73.8%	↗ 1.9%	↗ 3.3%	↗ 1.4%
Compare to	2,142	228	65	16,525	359	2.2%
31 Jul 2022 - 31 Jul 2023						

Being Human 2023 in numbers:

- **279** events and activities
- Over **13,000** people engaged
 - **96** lead organisers
 - **294** community partners...
- in **49** towns and cities across the UK
 - **122** venues
- Over **100k** page views and 23k unique users of BHF website



The School offers a wide range of fellowships including visiting, associate or honorary fellowships and at all career stages. Every year, an average of 750 fellows at every career stage are affiliated with the School.

Research Fellows: open competition; given workspace, actively produce R/RPF outputs, fixed term or permanent; often externally funded

Visiting Fellows: open competition, may be stipendiary, fixed term, not normally renewable (fixed maximum term (2/3 years), usually offered workspace, an expected RPF output (talk, publications, recorded either on website or annual reports or fellows' reports)

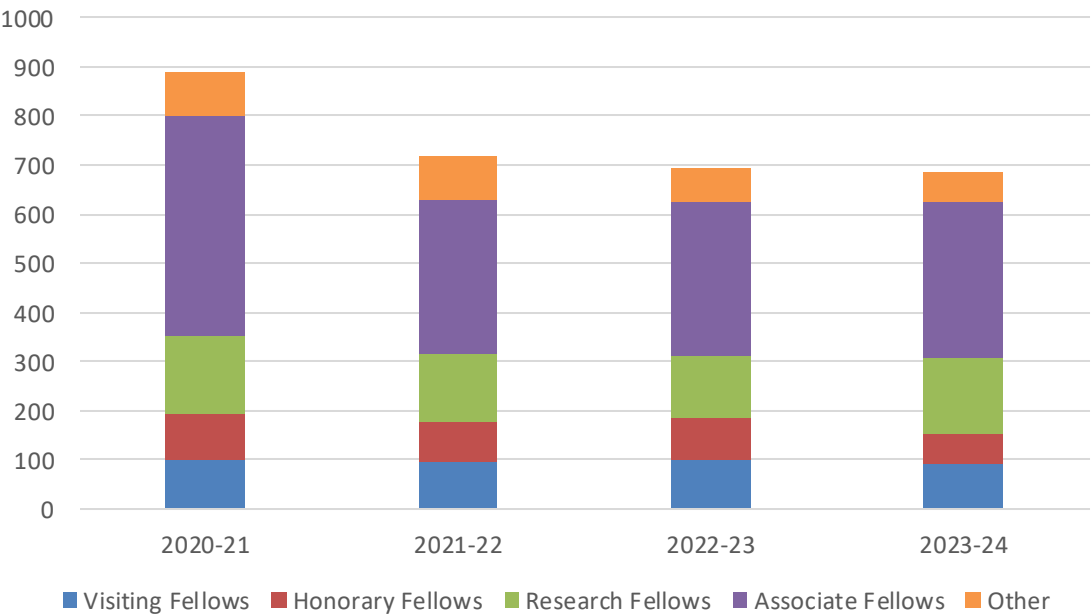
Associate Fellows: by nomination and institute academic committee approval, fixed term, active in their collaboration with the Institutes including being part of scholarly network; generally not given workspace

Honorary Fellows: senior Academic or equivalent with distinguished reputation, appointed by invitation

Other: special schemes that do not fall into the main categories

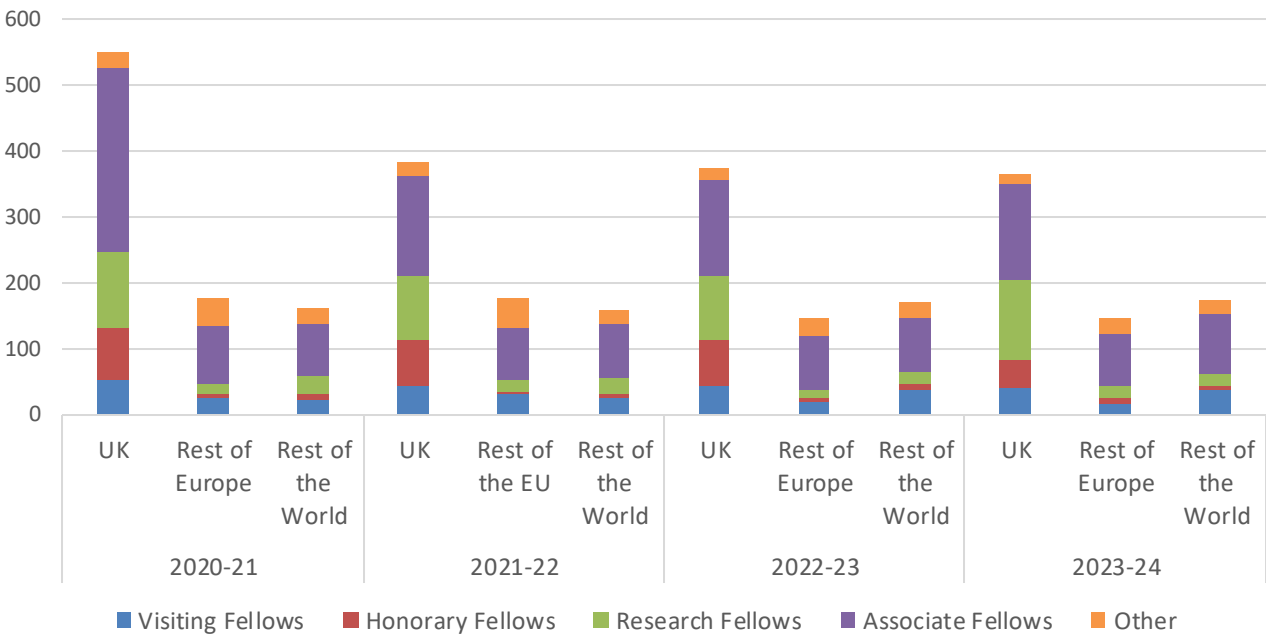
Our fellowship community

Number of fellows per type



The above charts do not include doctoral students, unless they have been awarded a named doctoral fellowship and as such would be reported under the visiting fellows' category. In 2023-24, 61 doctoral students were welcomed at the School.

Number of Fellows by geographical origin



The School Fellowship Schemes support the global research community showing a more even split between UK and overseas fellows: 49% based in the UK (371), 51% overseas (382), in 2023-24.

The [pin map](#) showcases the geographical origins of all **Visiting Fellows**, hosted between 2020 and 2024. This is an illustration of the reach of our fellowship community.

Fellowship Open Competition applications

In 2023-24, nearly 1000 applications (990) were submitted to Institute schemes to hold a fellowship at the School. This represents a 34% increase from 2022-23 which recorded 741 applications.

The number of overseas applicants has increased since 2022-23 by 6% while the number of UK applicants has increased by 58% from 393 in 2022-23 to 621 in 2023-24. 41% of the applicants were female, while 40% were male and 20% undisclosed their gender.

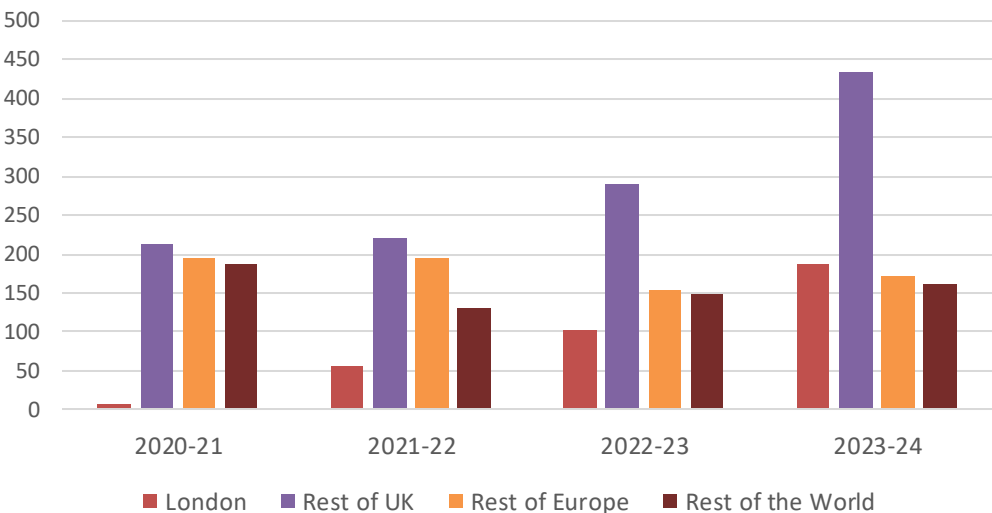
Half of the schemes were aimed at early-career researchers who applied in high number, with 635 applications submitted, from which only about 6% were appointed (39). Early career fellowships are mostly visiting fellowships.

The mixed schemes, which were for both early and mid career researchers (mostly research fellowships), received over 232 applications in 2023-24 and 21% were appointed (49).

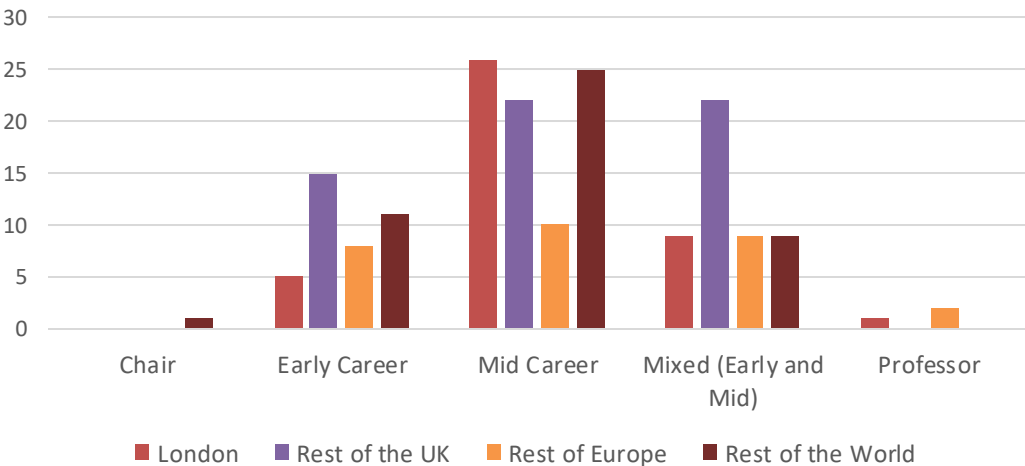
Out of the 112 applications submitted for mid-career fellowships, (mostly associated fellowship schemes, with a small number of visiting fellowship schemes), 77% were appointed (86).

In 2023-24, 18% of the applicants were successful (178 over 990). 57% were from the UK (inc. London), 17% from Europe and 26% from the rest of the world.

All Fellowship applicants per geographical origin



2023-24 - Number of Appointed fellows per geographical origin



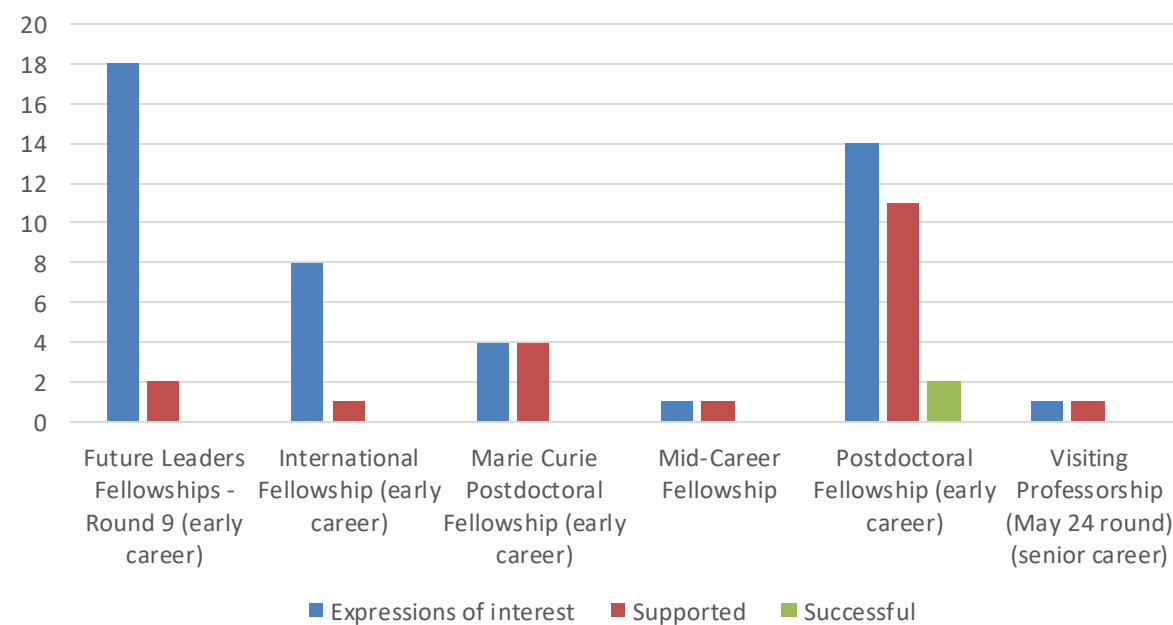
Externally-funded fellowship applications

The School supports academics at all stages of their career who wish to host their research via an externally funded scheme. Such schemes include the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowship, the British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Newton International Fellowship, the British Academy Visiting Fellowship. These schemes are all extremely competitive and mostly support early-career research.

In 2023-24, the School registered 46 expressions of interest compared to 30 in 2022-23 and 31 in 2021-22) from researchers from around the globe.

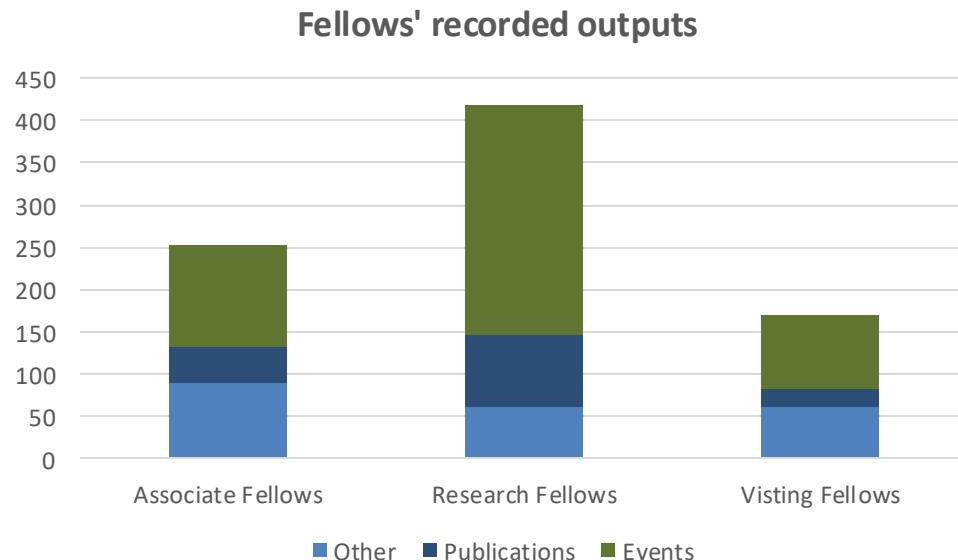
While the outcome of 4 applications is still outstanding, we can report that 2 of our British Academy Postdoctoral fellowship applications were successful, joining two other BA post-doctoral fellows who started in 2022-23.

Success Rate on Externally-Funded Fellowship Applications



Outputs and Impact of Our Fellowships

The School allows researchers, at any stage of their career, through its fellowship schemes, to expand their research while taking an active part in the School's activities. They either organise or contribute to internally or externally led events, they publish their research (inc. articles, monographs or online blogs), and/or they network within the School and wider community, they support research training or make a contribution to the teaching programmes. Over 500 outputs were recorded in 2023-24.



The School fellowship schemes allow our fellows to use their time as they need it, while championing the School's primary mission:

The 2023-24 Inns Courts Judicial Fellow at IALS highlights in his report: I spent a considerable proportion of my time at IALS making use of the resources of the excellent IALS library. I [also [met] other visiting fellows of IALS. I met two in particular: one from Australia and discussed the use of artificial intelligence in administrative decision making; and one from China and discussed empirical studies of judicial decision-making, revealing cognitive biases.

Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory: The Centre provided an intellectually stimulating environment conducive to scholarly pursuits. The dynamic exchange of ideas and insights engendered through interactions with fellow researchers, culminated in a collaborating workshop on Memory and Empire.

Fellow at the Warburg Institute: I discovered publications on the Alexander Romance in the Warburg Institute Library. By attending other Works in Progress lectures and listening to diverse scholarly approaches at the Warburg, I was mindful to emphasise cross-cultural concerns in my research. I wrote several drafts of an article and used these to give lectures and conference papers, including the Institute Work in Progress talk. I received excellent insights from the audience and will factor these into the finalised article.

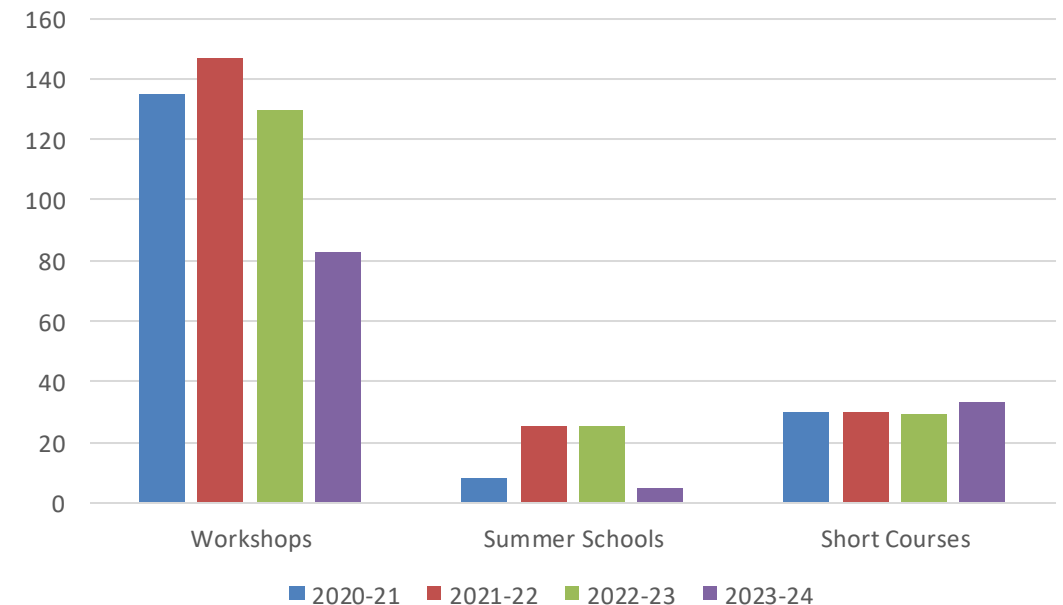


The School's research training programme draws on the research and teaching expertise of our institutes and our partners.

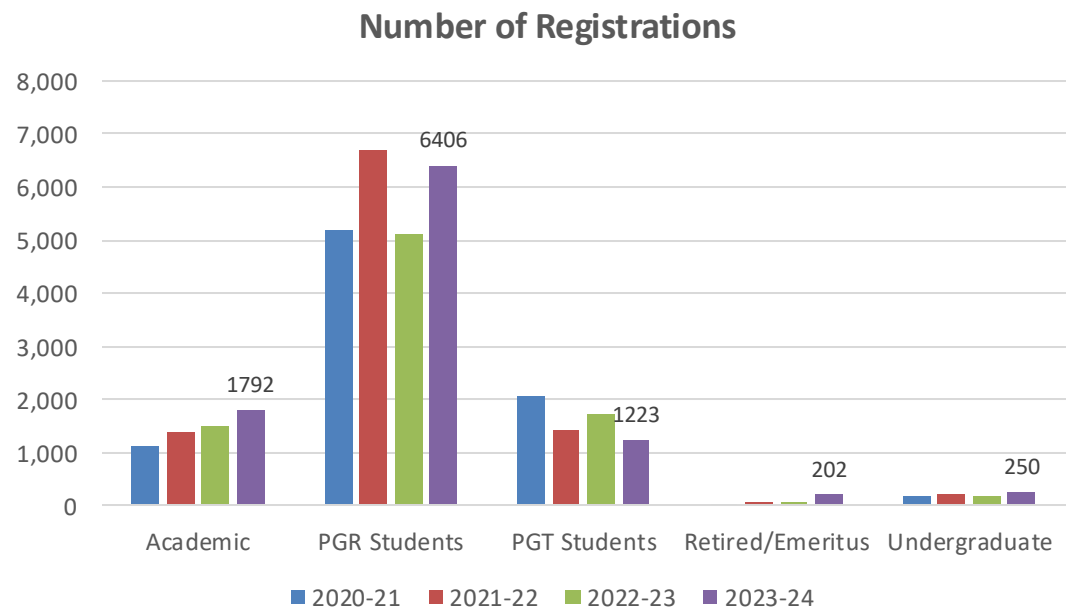
Training continues to be provided mainly online (80%). The School is investing further in online provision through ReSHAPED, our training portal, to be fully launched soon.

In 2023-24, the Research Training Programme is constituted of a centrally-led programme as well as events on specific themes, Summer Schools and Short courses organised by Institutes. 21% of the events are jointly organised with collaborating institutions, including the Centre for Publishing, UCL, the Oral History Society or Recollection Heritage (Sunoikisis Digital Cultural Heritage).

Research Training Events

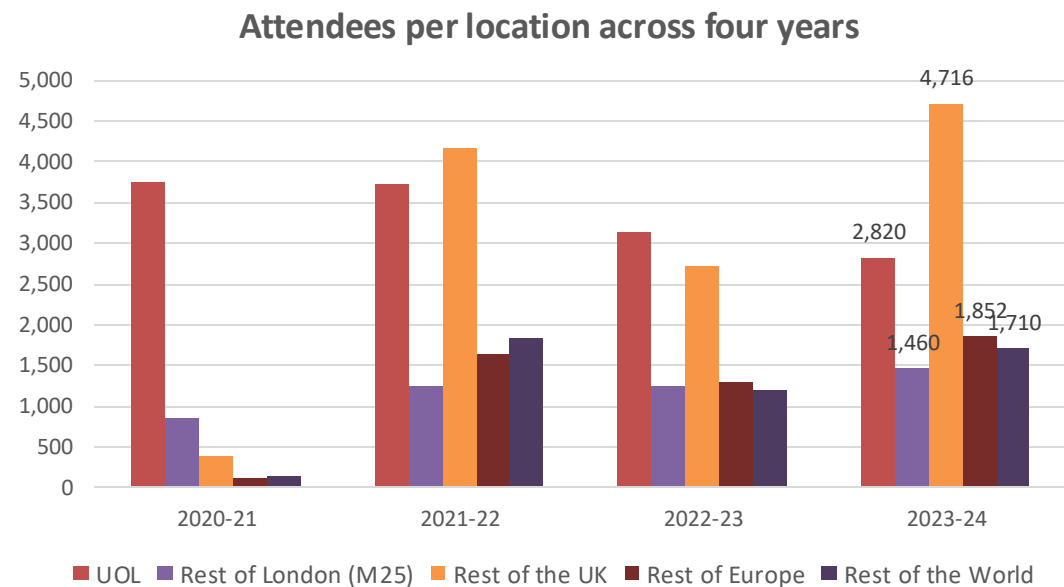


Research Training Participation and Reach



The transition to online provision continues to make it easier to participate remotely.

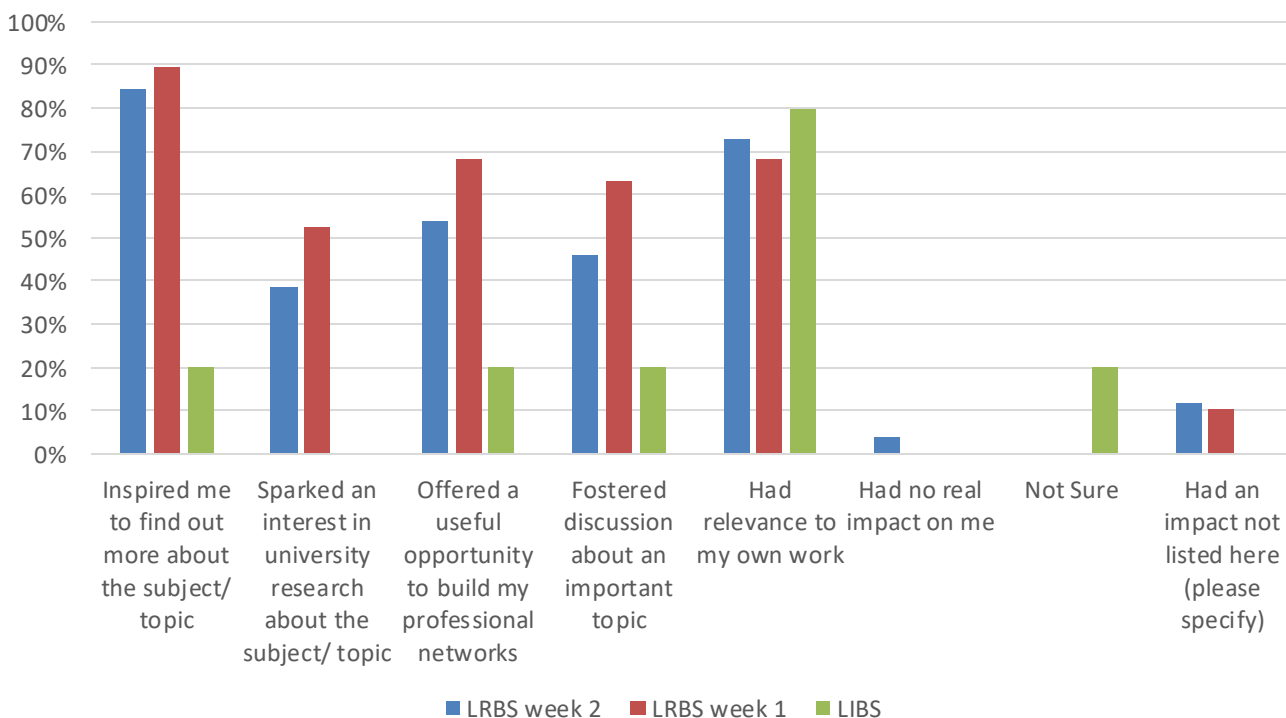
The [pin map](#) provides a sample of the registrants' geographical locations across the reporting period (2020-24). More detail is available from the linked map online.



The centrally organised training programme, which included 'Designing Presentations', or 'Writing Conclusions', as well as sessions on 'Effective Literature Reviews', recorded an average of 200 attendees per session in 2023-24.

Research Training Feedback / Impact

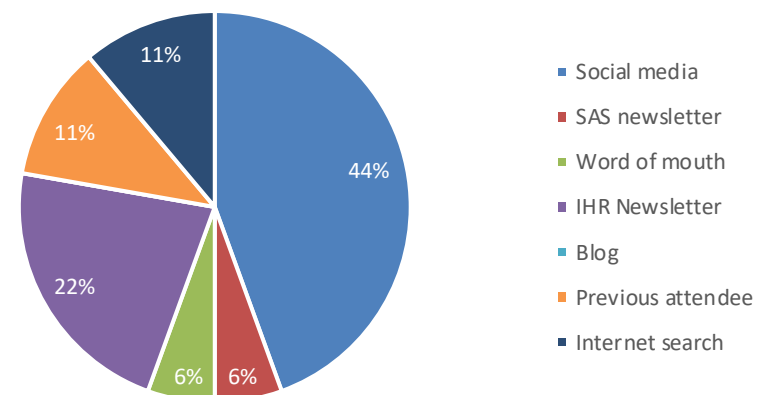
Impact Statement – (Sample based on IES Summer Schools surveys)



- *LRBS courses are the perfect courses for book lovers, also a non-academic one like me. This course gives me an entire year of reading and contemplating on my favourite subject.*
- *I feel more confident in what I had already learned now. I can use all that I have learned for a future job.*
- *I will investigate my own collection of books and pay more attention to the bindings.*

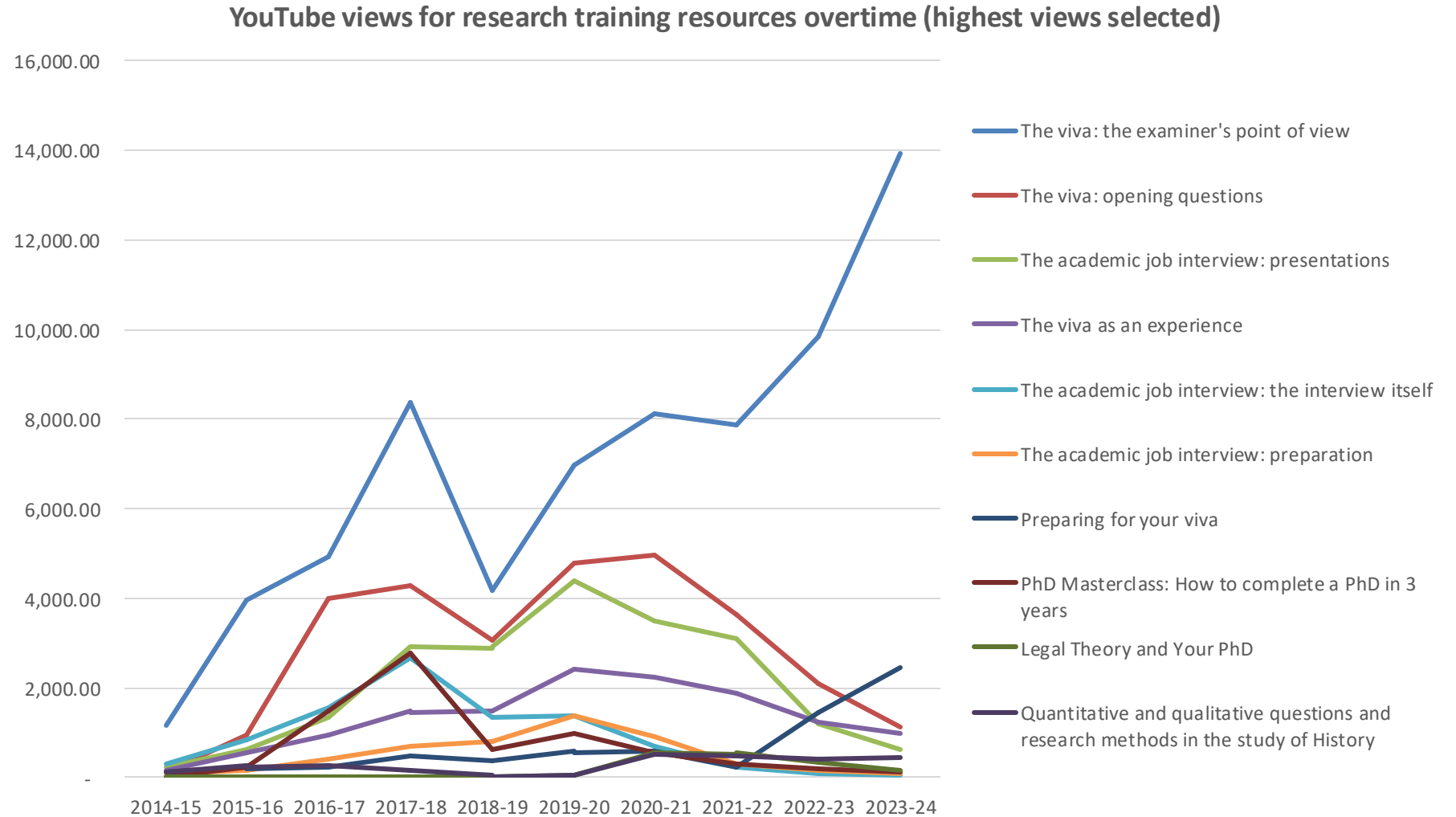
The IHR London Summer School also attracted some very positive feedback. 59% of the respondents attended because of the educational or professional relevance to them, while for 30% of the respondents, it was a keen interest – whether personal or leisure – that encouraged them to attend. 96% considered to attend the next event and 78% indicated that they would likely recommend the event to someone else.

How did you find out about the Summer School?



Research training: secondary audiences and long-term value

Podcasts of research training sessions, first posted in 2014, are still very much used today, providing a long-term and reliable resources which can be accessed at any time as an archived resource.

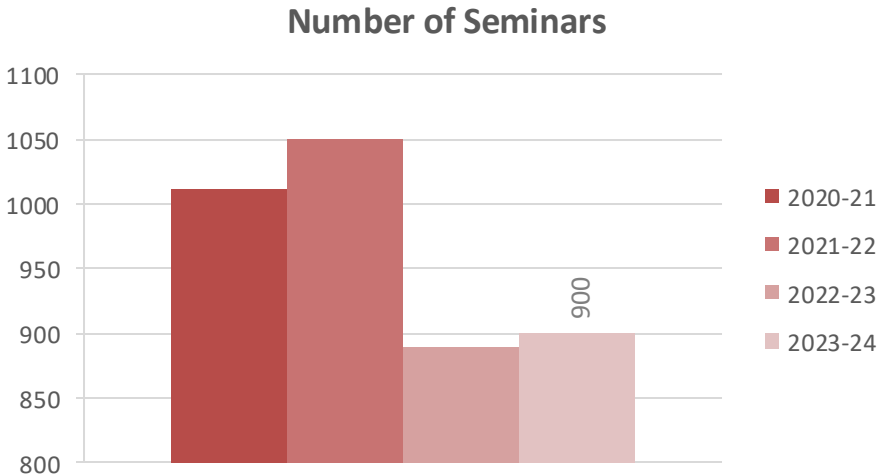
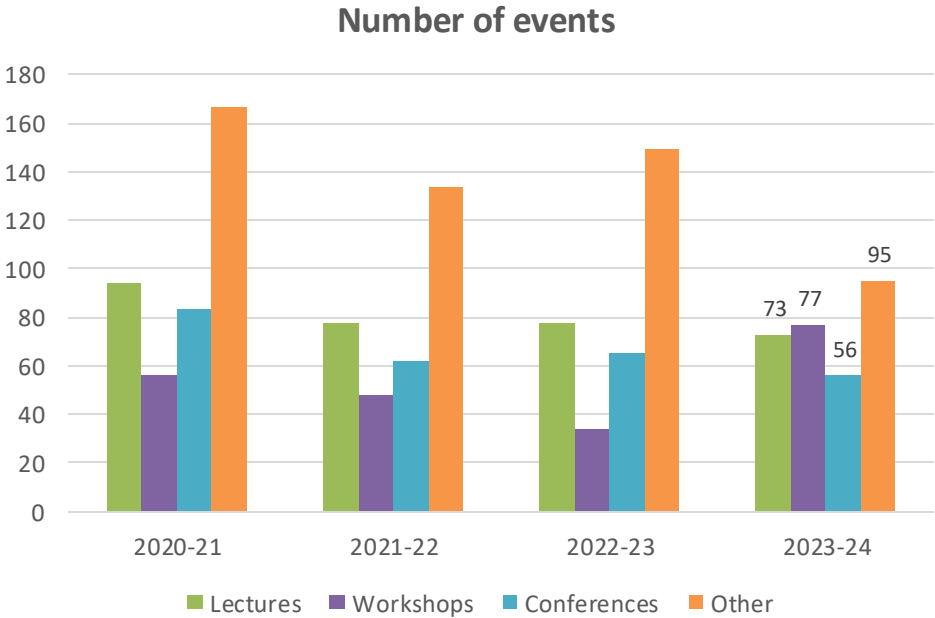




Our events connect researchers and practitioners across disciplines, sectors, and the public, and involves them in humanities research.

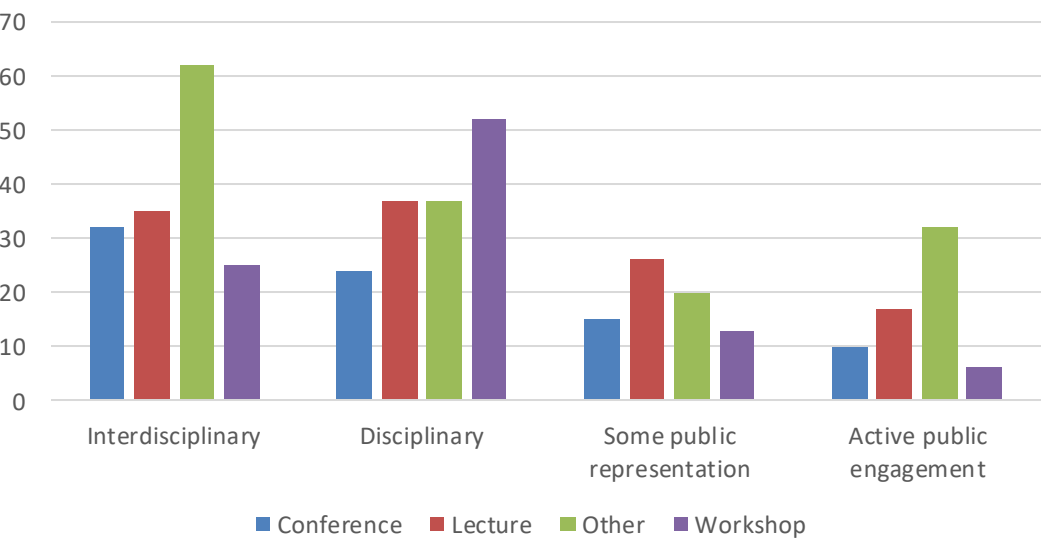
In 2023-24, the School organized 1325 events. By far the largest category of events continue to be seminars, largely self-organised within institutes and their disciplinary communities and supported by SAS with events professionals, space, and technology.

NB: data excludes Being Human Festival events (see slide in section one above). Other events include book launches, library tours, film discussions.

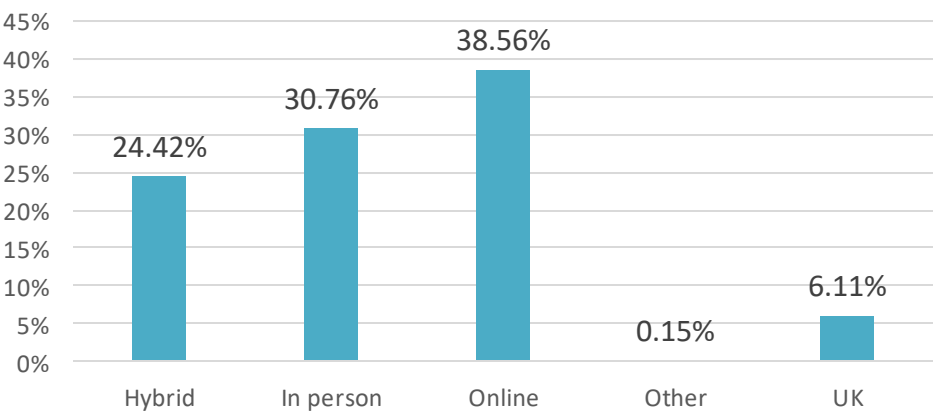


Events attributes

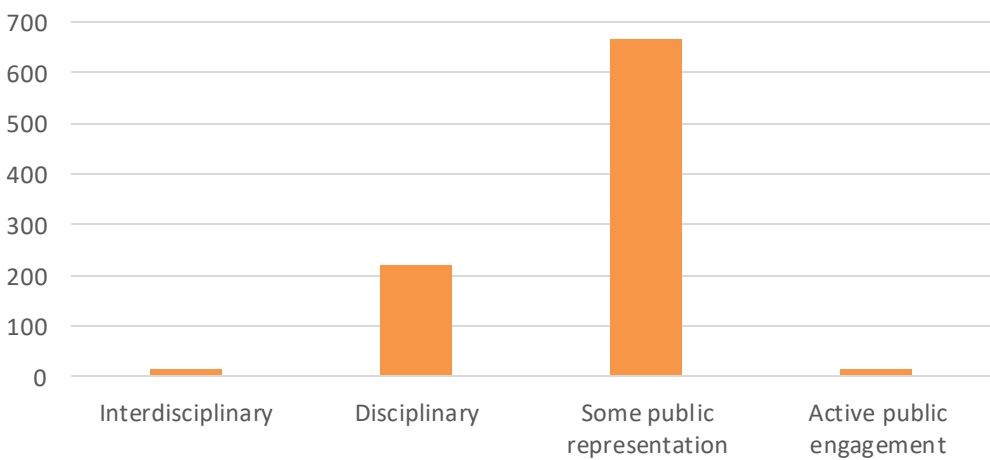
Events attributes (2023-24)



Events Location (2023-24)



Seminars attributes (2023-24)



The majority of events (78%) are disciplinary and have encouraged representation from the public*, such as the Food History series, at the IHR: convenor and founder, a food studies entrepreneur organises talks with academics, independent scholars, museum professionals and postgraduates from around the world to share their knowledge.

*definition: some representation of the HEI on local partnerships at senior management level, but with limited implementation capability.

Events audience and reach



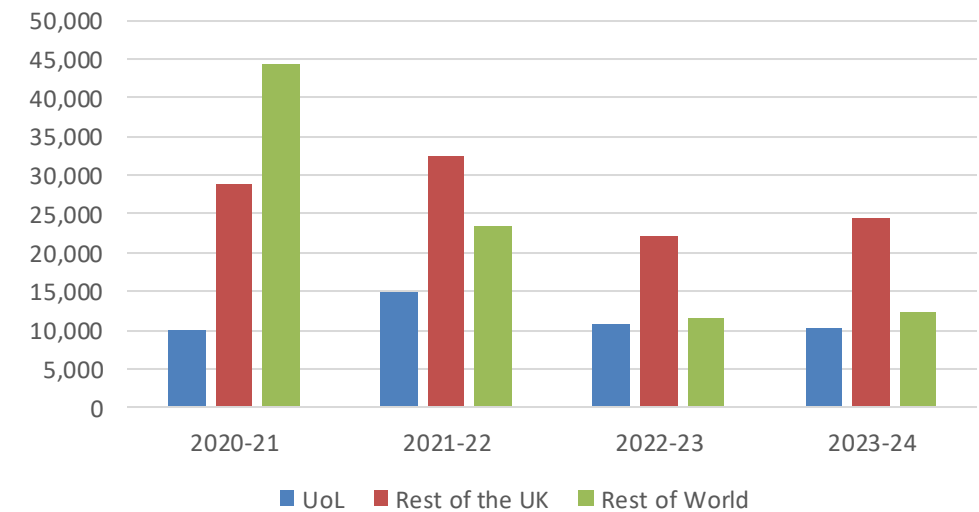
The majority of events are open to the public, attracting audiences across all career stages and sectors. As shown in the graph (Number of attendees by geography), participation from across the UK continues to be high (even with the gradual transition from online to hybrid events). In 2023-24, the School recorded nearly 50,000 people attending its events.

The School events have long-term value from continued availability on YouTube. In 2023-24, YouTube channel views were recorded at 142,693, with over 11k hours (watch time), with over 2.2m of impressions.* This included the video of BAFTA-winning actor, writer and director, Chiwetel Ejiofor who was awarded an honorary degree recognising over 25 years’ dedication to the dramatic arts across both stage and screen at the School’s graduation ceremony on 8 February 2024. The video received 773 views since it aired.

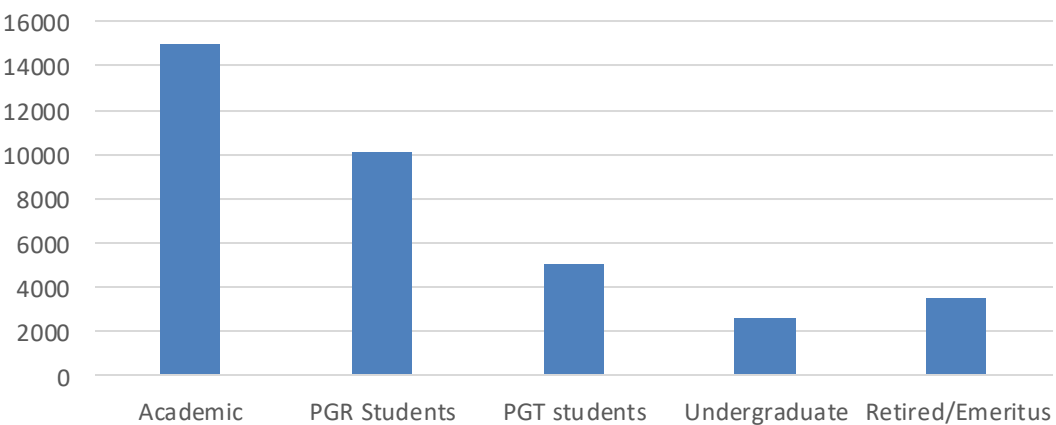
The [pin map](#) provides a sample of the registrant’s geographical location between 2020 and 2024. More detail is available from the linked map online

*YouTube impressions are the number of times a video’s thumbnail is seen on YouTube. YouTube limits impressions to thumbnail views only and doesn’t include video clicks or views. Impressions show the efficacy of SAS thumbnail to reach potential viewers.

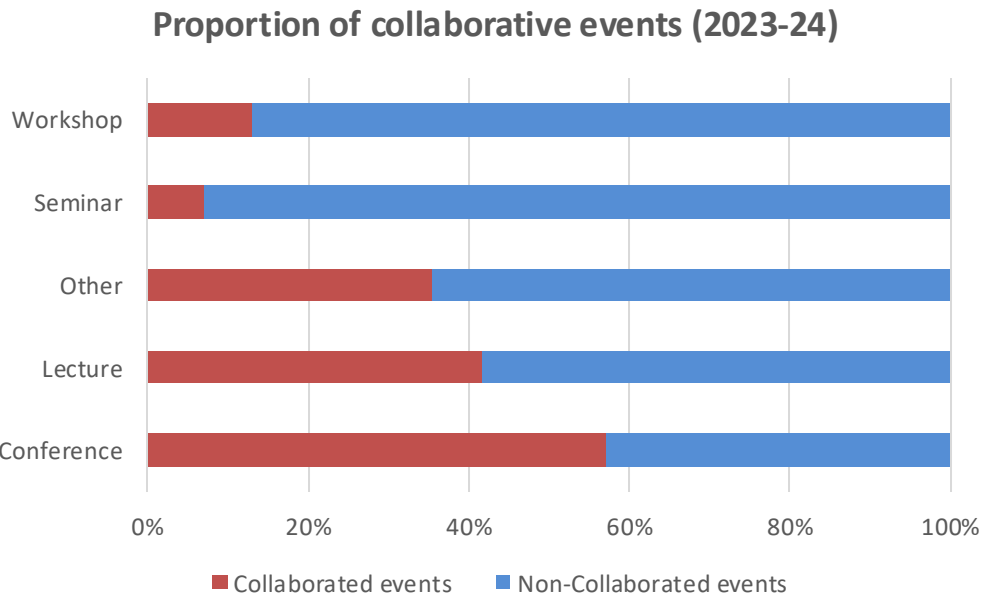
Number of attendees by geography



Registrations per career stage (2023-24)

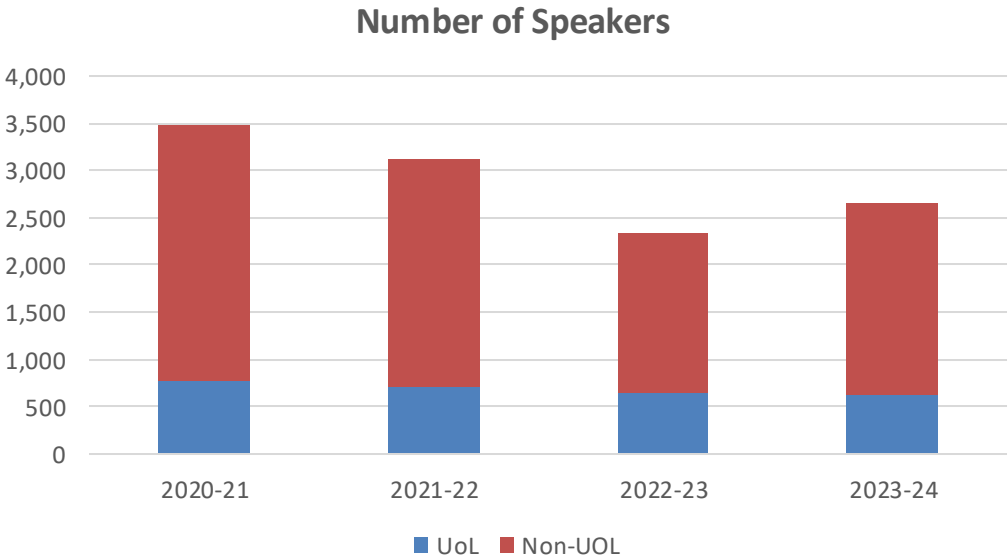


Events collaboration and speakers



14% of the School events programme was collaborative in 2023-24. Event collaborators included mostly HEIs, but non-HEI institutions as well (such as disciplinary societies, research groups, networks, artists, libraries, and private companies).

Event collaborators were predominantly from the UK, while circa 25% from overseas (including the University of Macau, or the Society of Dix-Neuviemistes).

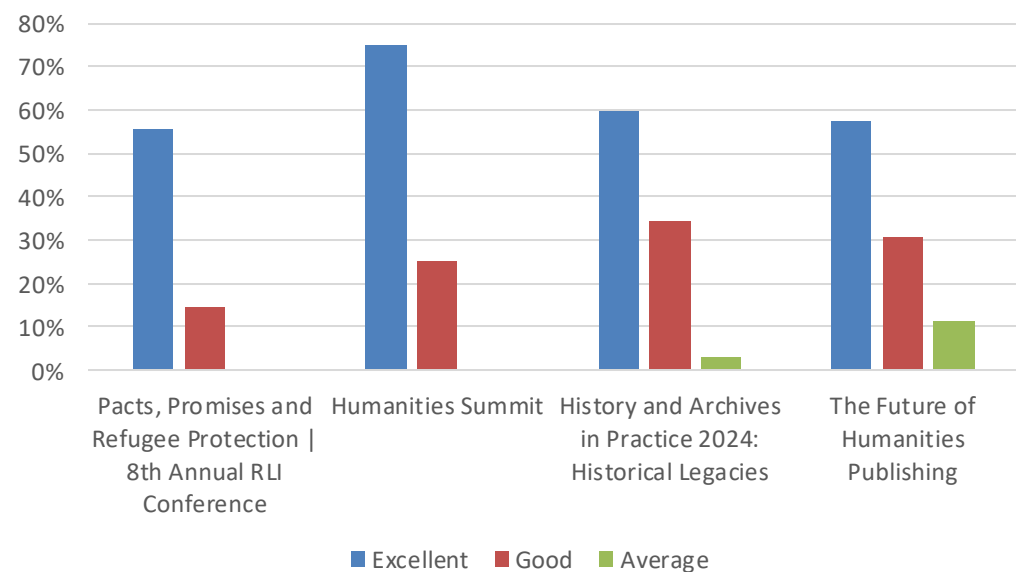


In addition to collaborative events, the School continues to host national and international speakers, supporting our position as a neutral platform to promote all the arts and humanities. In 2023-24, the School hosted nearly 3,000 speakers.

Speakers were mainly from the UK (45%), mostly from outside the University of London Federation (24%), 16% were from the rest of Europe, and 15% from the rest of the world.

Events Feedback/ Impact

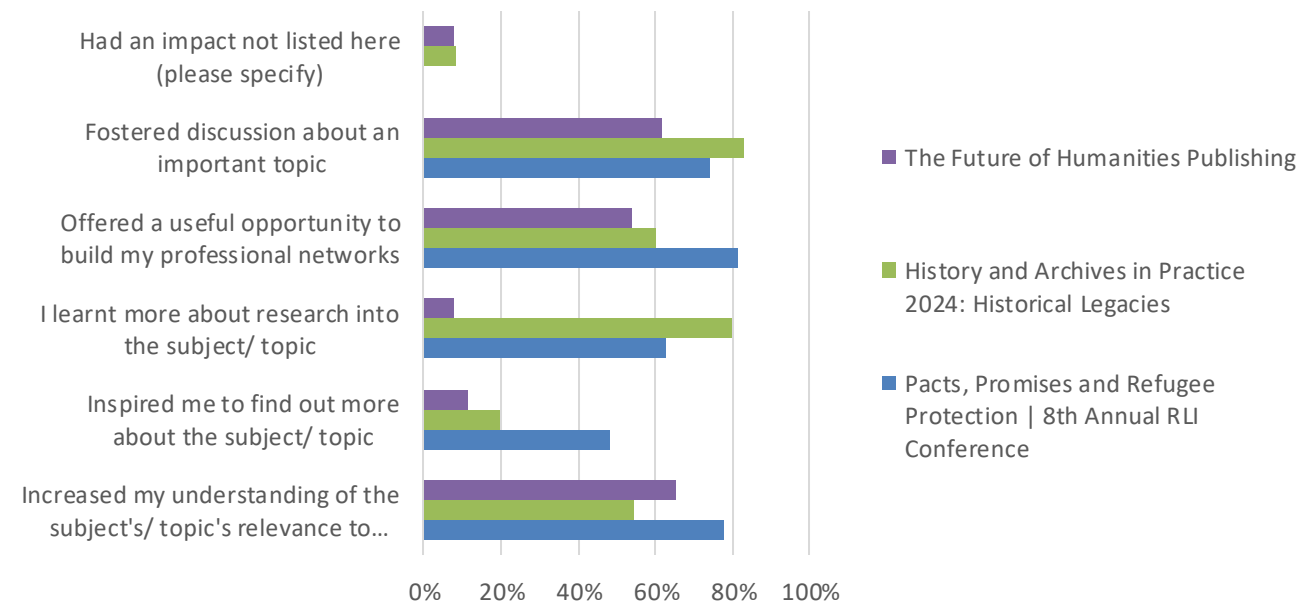
Events Feedback (sample) (2023-24)



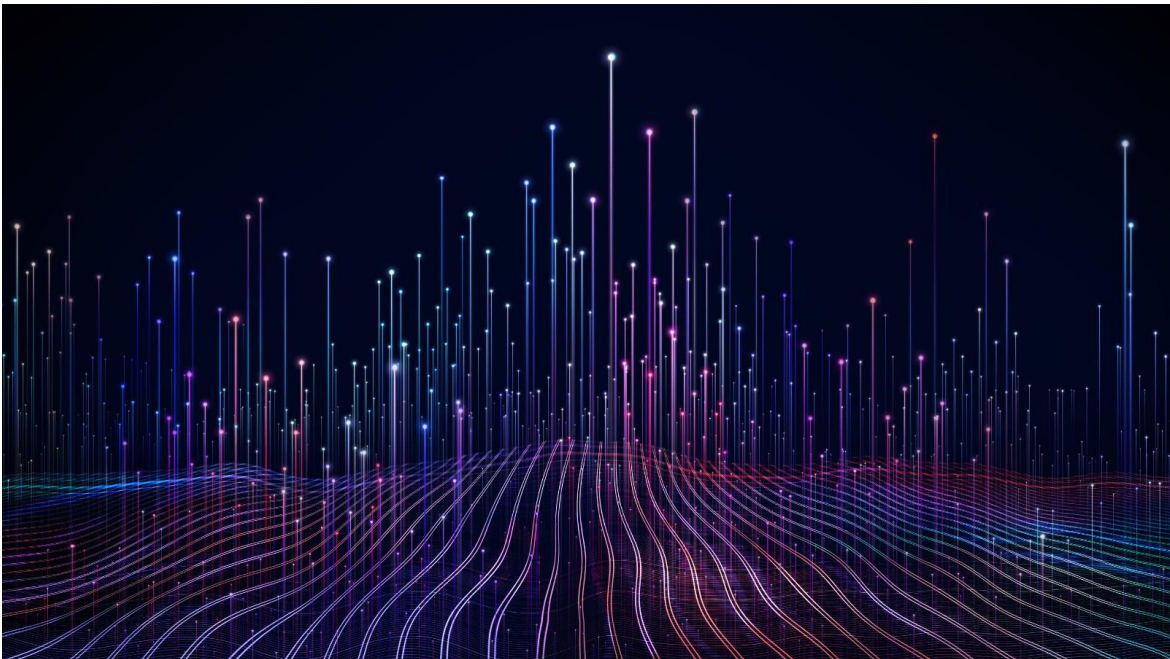
On average, 73% of the respondents to the feedback surveys had either educational or professional interest in the event, being relevant to their studies or work. Feedback from such high-profile events shows that respondents were very satisfied with the quality of the events and how the discussions were led. Comments include:

- *I find it important that events bring in people from across disciplines, across institutions and break down barriers between disciplines.* (IHR)
- *It is the most useful and stimulating conference in this field.* (RLI)

Impact Statement (Sample) (2023-24)



- *Great to see the School taking a national leadership position at a crucial moment.* (Humanities Summit)
- *These were definitely very important conversations, given the current climate in cuts and redundancies in the humanities and social sciences. Inspiring. I hope that a concerted campaign on many fronts will emerge from this conference. I am glad that SAS has begun to address the issues.* (Humanities Summit)
- *It was great to see a university press taking a lead on the future of humanities publishing.* (UOLP)



The School hosts and facilitates key resources supporting research and scholarship. In 2023-24, the School recorded over 120 resources across a range of types – main websites, project sites, databases, blogs and so on. (This is a decrease since the 165 recorded in 2022-23. This is due to an ongoing review of blogs and other websites which are being archived).

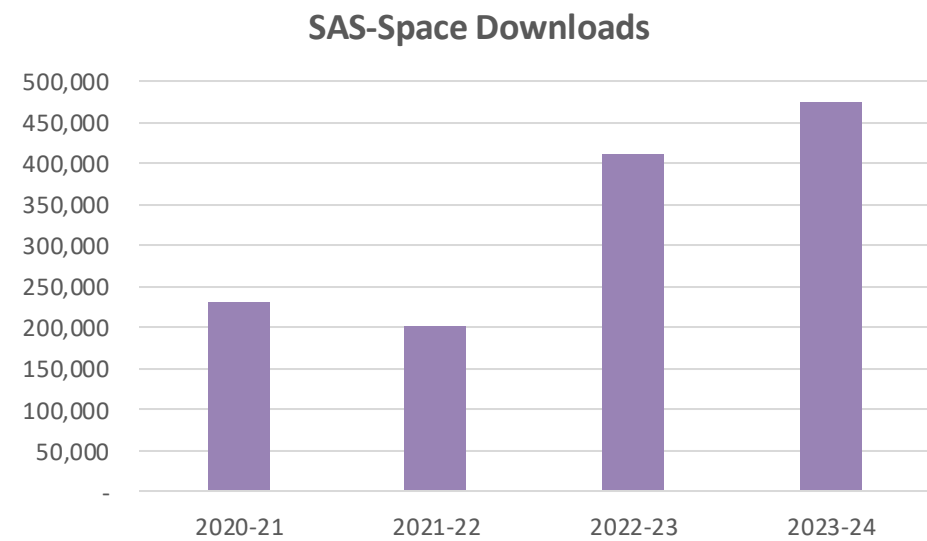
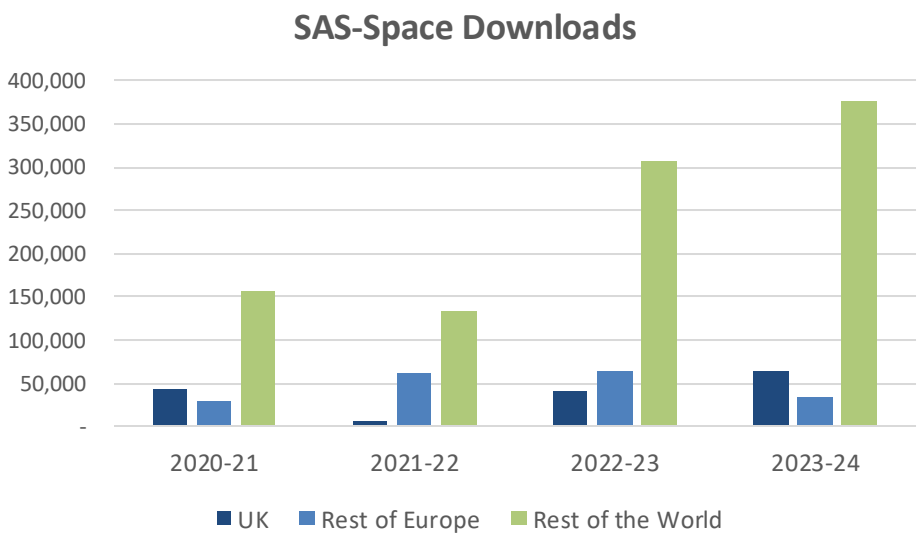
Core websites recorded over **4.2m** page views in 2023-24, showing **19% increase** since 2022-23.

Name of Resource	2023-24 Page Views
BAILII (hosted by IALS)	124,533,508
Layers of London (hosted by IHR)	1,552,510
Warburg Iconic Database	213,845
Directory of Research & Expertise (hosted centrally)	115,499
Humanities Digital Library (hosted by UOLPress)	41,884

The Press achieved the amazing milestone of reaching **1m downloads for its open access books** in March 2024, reaching countries including Costa Rica, Uganda and Nepal. (for the reporting period 2023-24, the number of downloads was recorded at 207,314). The new ‘Statistics’ [page](#) on the Press website shows downloads across its entire publishing programme as well as for individual books.

Digital resources : SAS-Space, institutional e-repository

SAS-Space is our principal online repository. SAS-Space is an Open Access repository, compliant with UKRI policies on Open Access. The mission of SAS-Space is to provide a stable, well-managed, permanent archive for digital scholarly and research materials of enduring value produced at, or in association with, the School of Advanced Study, University of London. SAS-Space is also the platform for digital collections, research projects, and archives of individuals, scholarly societies and other bodies associated with the School.

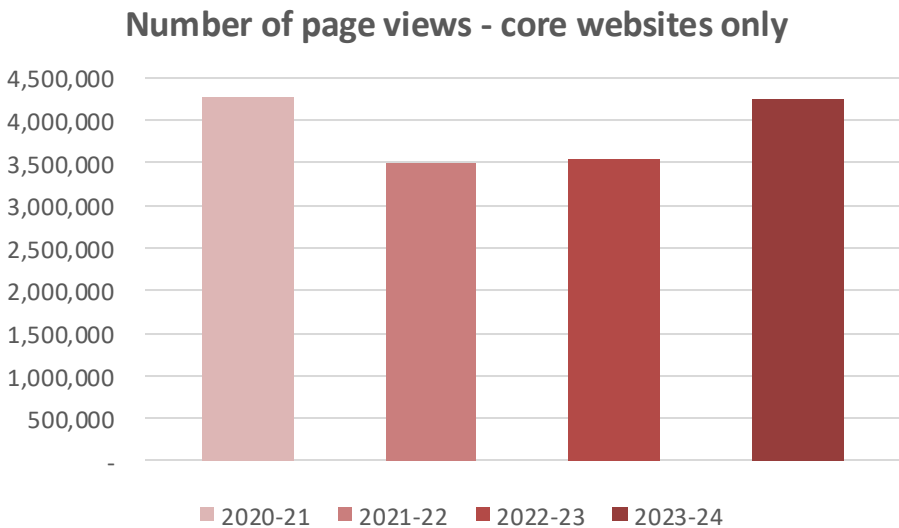


Usage of SAS-Space continues to be overwhelmingly from the rest of the world. We can however note a 55% increase in users from UK (from 41k in 2022-23 to 63.8k in 2023-24) and a 23% increase in users from overseas (from 306k in 2022-23 to 376k in 2023-24).

Digital audience #1: SAS websites

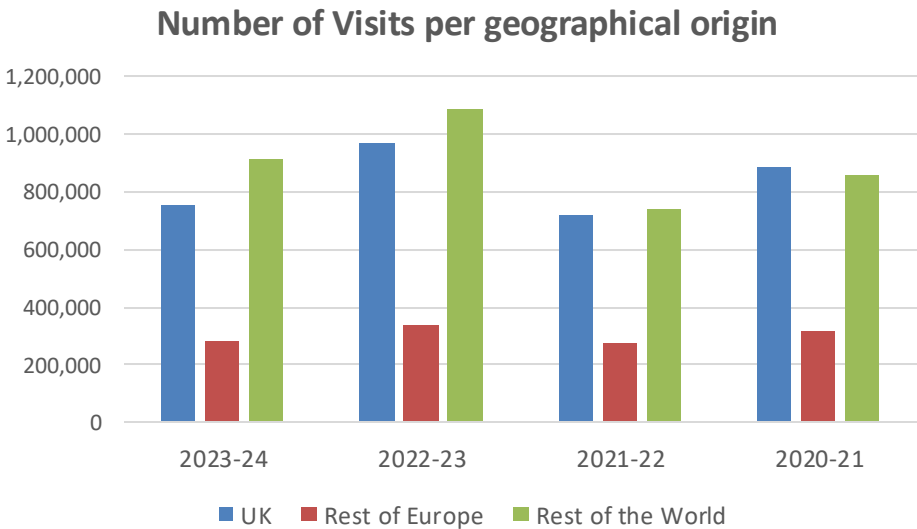
The number of page views to the SAS core websites (comprising the SAS centre, all institutes, and sites such as Being Human Festival and Refugee Law Initiative) increased by 19% since 2022-23 regaining on its 2020-21 high 4.2m record views.

UK usage represents 41% (1.7m) of the 2023-24 total, representing a 5% increase from 2022-23 (1.6m).

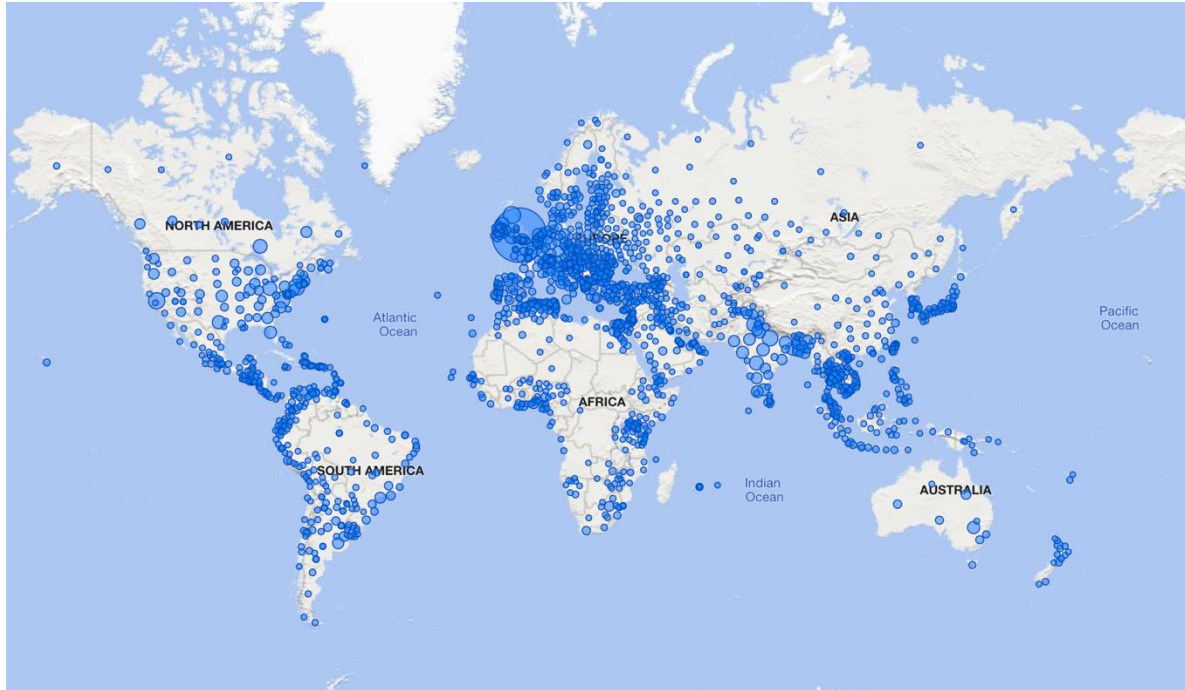


The School core websites host many different resources, from project updates and data, to training materials. The figures do not include the record views of all of the School blogs, or specific independently hosted resources.

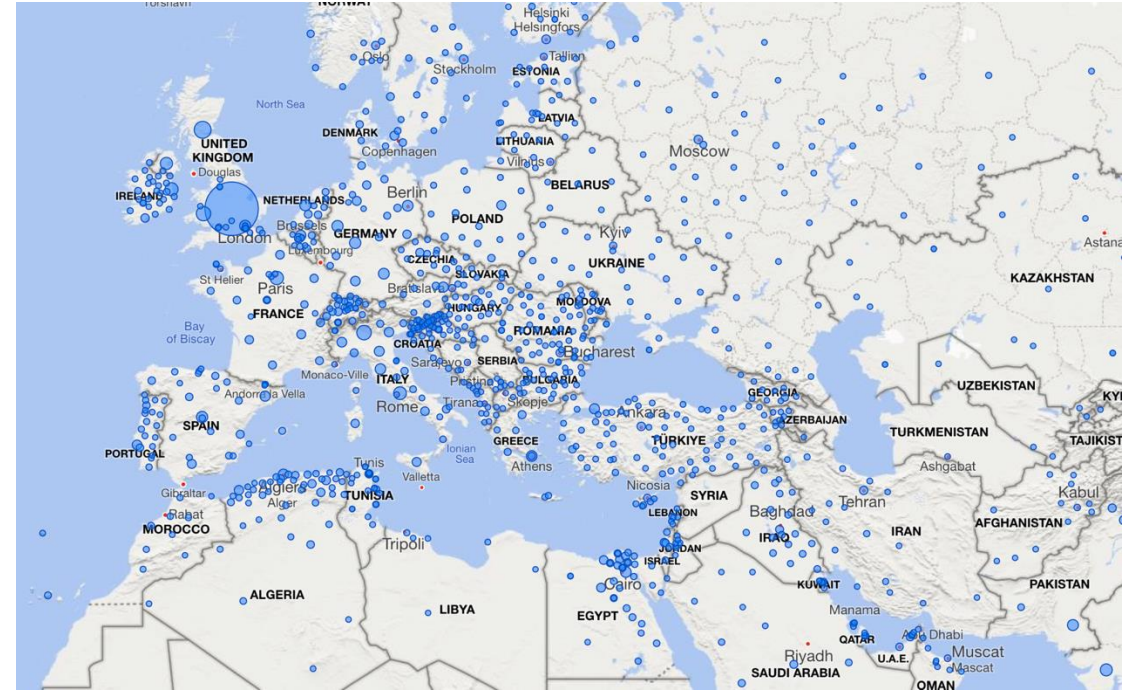
The number of visits confirms high UK usage with 39% of the 2023-24 total (1.9k).



SAS websites: Wide reach



These maps show the regions of users accessing the School's main websites. Its content reaches far beyond the UK. This does not include databases or blogs.



The region of England is showing the highest number of users, with 413,958 registered users having accessed the School websites.

Digital audience #2: social media

Social Media Platforms	Followers (current)	% change compared	Impressions recorded	% change compared	Engagements recorded	% change compared	number of Posts	% change compared
	2023-24	to 2022-23	2023-24	to 2022-23	2023-24	to 2022-23	2023-24	to 2022-23
Twitter	10,309.00	2%	257,794.00	-9%	6,787.00	-7%	241.00	-23%
Facebook	9,413.00	2%	6,080,497.00	-30%	1,539.00	-100%	96.00	-54%
Instagram	1,800.00	50%	809,099.00	193%	1,063.00	-21%	200.00	-17%
LinkedIn	8,260.00	22%	149,616.00	49%	9,166.00	120%	116.00	-51%

Impressions: number of times a user is served a Post/Tweet in their timeline or search results.

Engagements: number of times a user interacted with a Tweet/Post.

The level of engagement and impression measured from the School's social media posts promoting School activities, including its events programme, continues to show high impression and engagement rates in 2023-24, despite the reduction of posts. The figures do not include any of the institutes and projects' own social media platform performance.



Collections

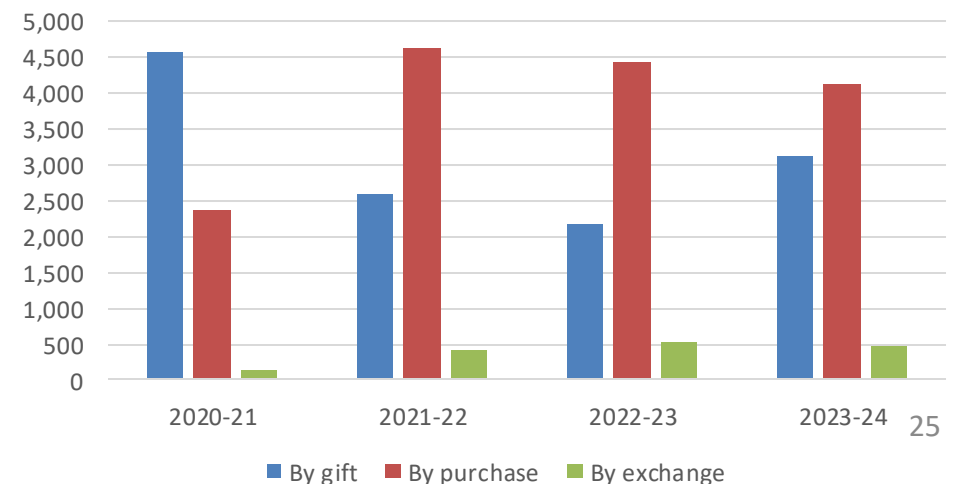
Since 2019-20, physical collections increased by 4% from 987,654 to over one million items. Electronic resources held by SAS libraries increased by 46% from 17k to over 25k in 2023-24. Electronic databases increased by 65% since 2019-20 (from 81 to 134) and electronic books more than doubled from 7,572 to 15,904 in 2022-23. (this represents a 13% increase since 2022-23 – which recorded 114,023)

Acquisitions recorded a 43% increase since 2022-23.

The four individual libraries provide a unique approach to their discipline and users. Post Covid, Library engagement has taken different forms:

- In 2023-24, 30 library training and induction sessions were held both online and in person, with over 600 people in attendance.
- Library space is used to host exhibitions. (June 2024, IALS hosted an exhibition on *Trans People and the Law*, in keep with with Pride month. The exhibition was both physical and virtual)
- IALS library offers a [podcast](#) on various platforms providing guide and resources.
- SAS libraries offer a graduate trainee scheme which allows trainees to explore their passion and take part in Institutes' events, such as the [History Day 2023](#), which brought together over 50 organisations.

Number of Acquisitions per type

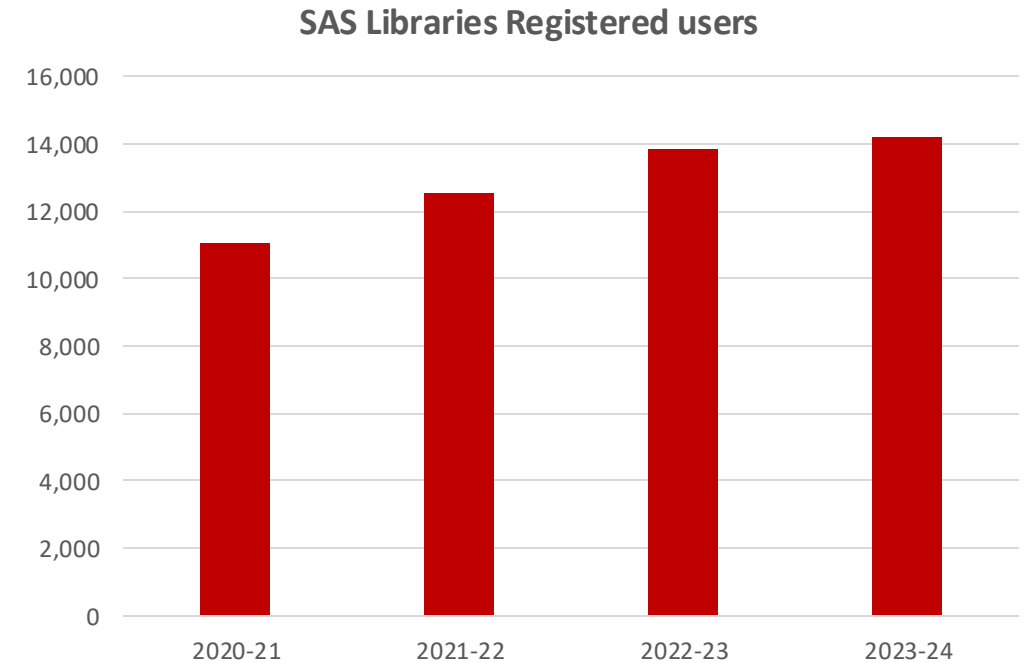


Libraries: overall membership

2023-24 confirmed the momentum regained since the post-covid period. SAS Libraries recorded 14,202 registered members in 2023-24, compared to 13,859 in 2022-23.

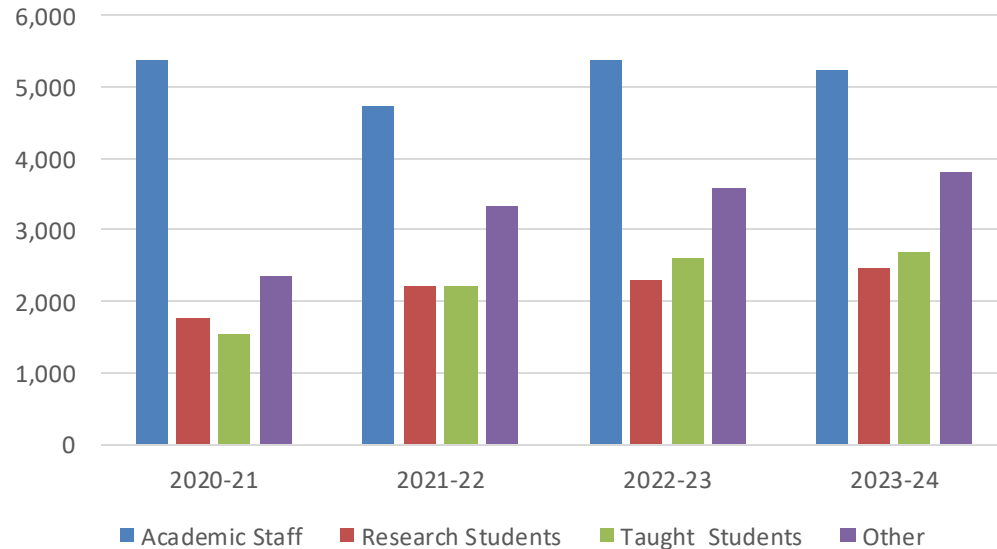
Since 2021-22, the number of registered members increased by 26% by 2023-24. Increase is mostly due to the 4% increase in taught students, the 7% increase in research students and 6% increase in other members (essentially from the public sector as well as independent) demonstrating the worth of public engagement with our library collections.

The SAS libraries hold very different collections, serve different research needs and are used in different ways. This means they are not directly comparable. On later slides we show membership levels and footfall for each library individually to indicate trends at a more granular level.



Libraries: geography of user base

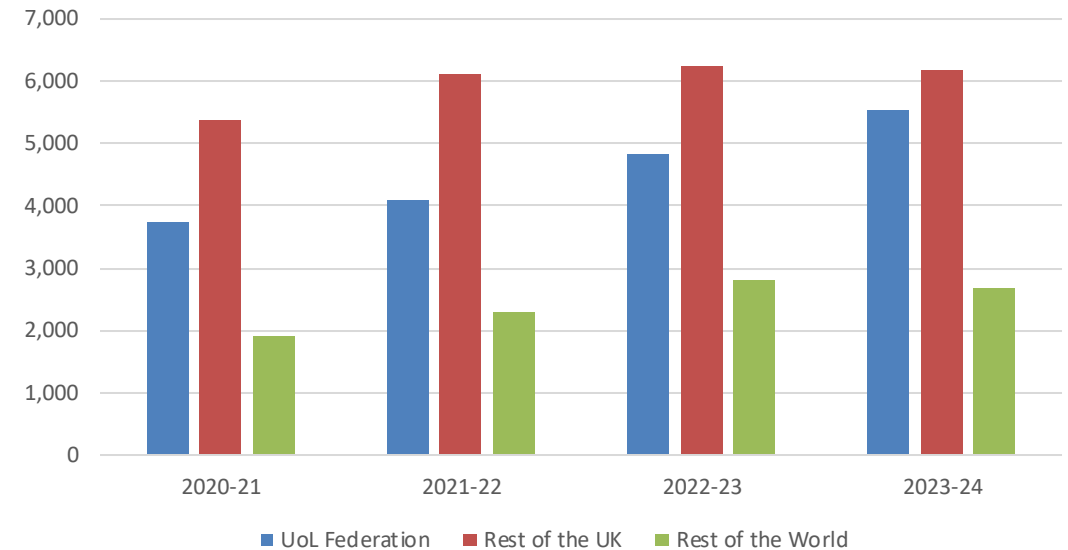
Number of Registered users per type



Total number of registered users increased overall by 4% (from 13.8k in 2022-23 to 14.4k in 2023-24).

Like the number of UOL federation visitors, as demonstrated on slide 30, which increased by 13% (from 71,555 in 2022-23 to 80,844 in 2023-24), the number of registered users from UOL federation also increased by 15% (from 4,830 in 2022-23 to 5,532 in 2023-24).

Number of Registered Users per geographical origin



Unlike the number of UK based (non-UOL) visitors which increased by 18% (from 22,507k in 2022-23 to 24,944k in 2023-24), as demonstrated on slide 30, the number of UK based (non-UOL federation) registered users decreased by 7% (from 6,231 in 2022-23 to 6,189 in 2023-24).

*Other users include Independent Scholars, non-HEI users from both the public and private sectors

Libraries user satisfaction

IALS Library Reader Satisfaction Survey 2024:

- 95.6% overall satisfaction rate (compared to 98.2% in 2023).
- High satisfaction ratings (above 90%) include research skills public training sessions (94.2%), helpfulness of staff (93.3%), study environment (92.4%), range of books (92.5%) and range of print journals (90%).

IHR Library reader satisfaction survey 2024:

- 92.3% overall satisfaction rate (compared to 94% in 2023)
- High satisfaction ratings (near or above 90%) include IHR Collections (94%), range of collections on open shelves (89.2%), helpfulness of staff (89%), study environment (89.2%).

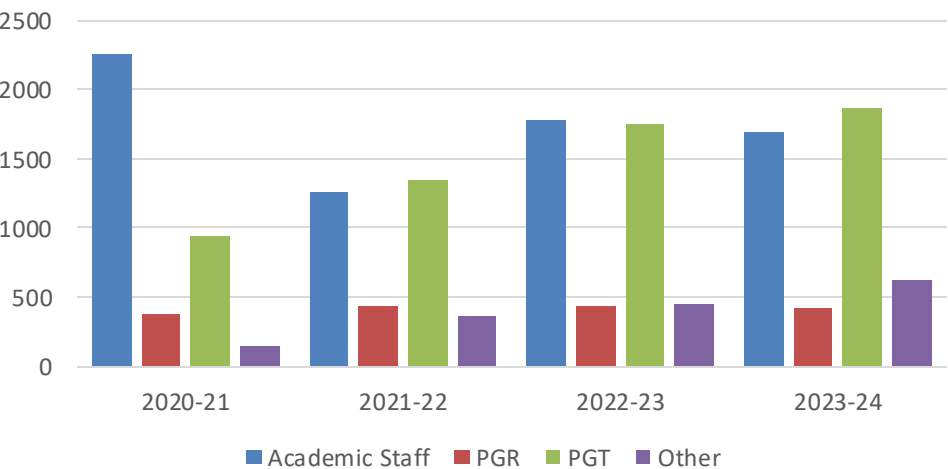
ICS Library Reader Satisfaction Survey 2024:

- 96% overall satisfaction rate (same as in the previous year).
- High satisfaction ratings (above 90%) include helpfulness of staff (98%), range of periodicals (94%), range of books (95%), accessibility (93%).

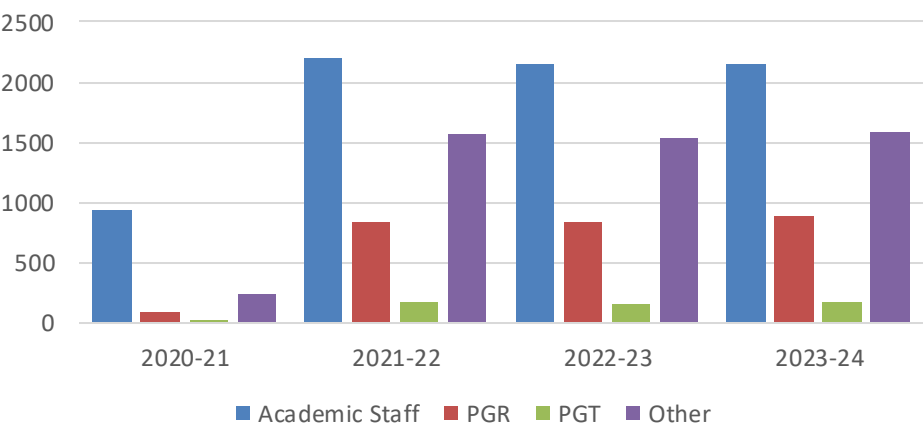
Warburg Library runs the Satisfaction Survey every other year. The next survey will be run in 2025.

Libraries membership

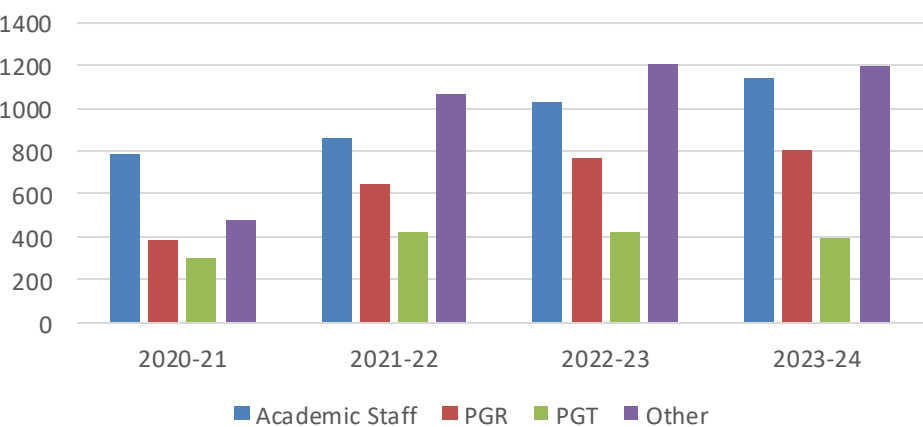
Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library



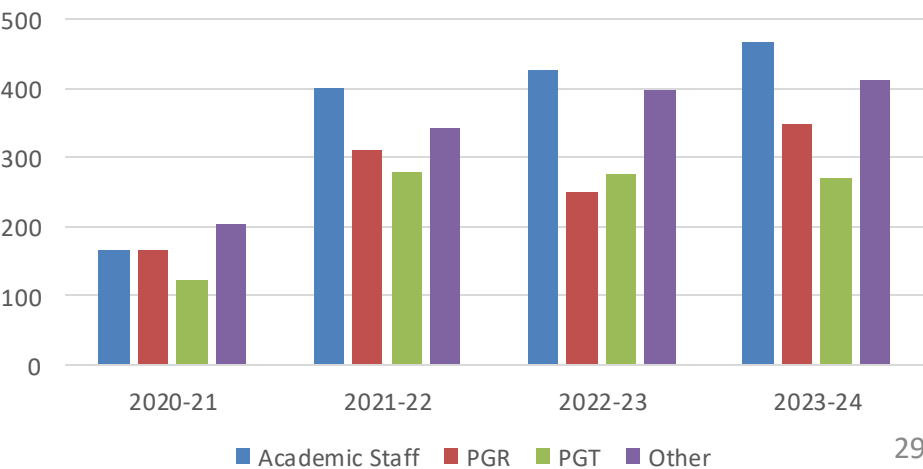
Combined Libraries at the Institute of Classical Studies



The Wohl Library of the Institute of Historical Research

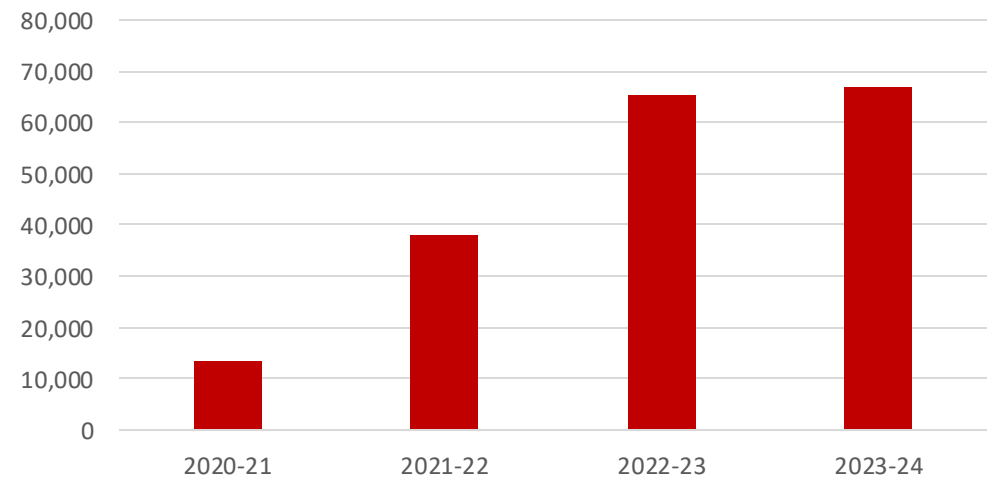


The Warburg Institute Library

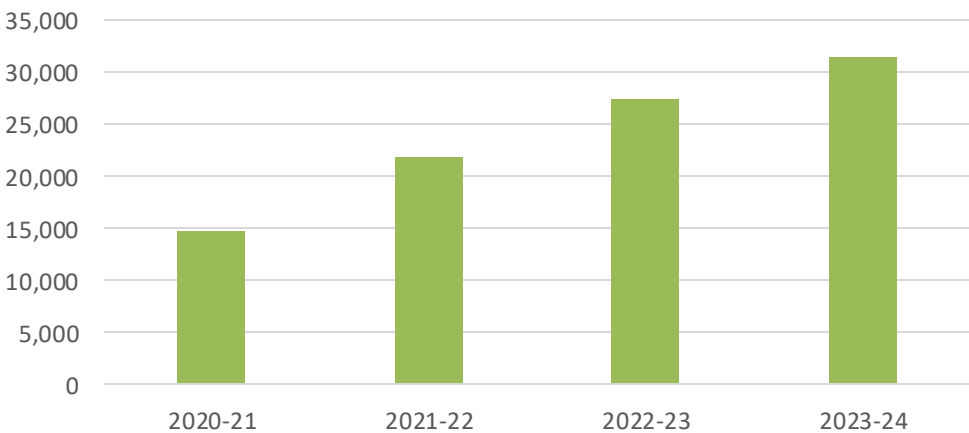


Libraries footfall

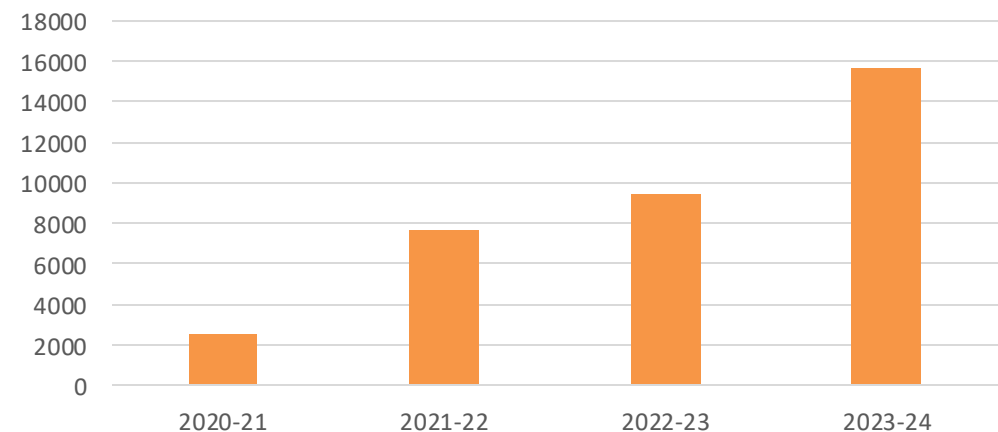
The Institute of Legal Studies Library



The Combined Libraries at the Institute of Classical Studies



The Wolf Library at the Institute of Historical Research



The **Warburg Institute Library** has not had a turnstile entry to the Library since March 2020 (after closing for the first Covid-19 lockdown). The number of Library users will be able from 2024-25, after the refurbishment work to the Warburg Institute's building has been completed.

Total footfall was registered at nearly 114k, 12% more than in 2022-23 which recorded 102k).