

SHADOWING SCHEME 2023 IMPACT REPORT

July 2023
Cambridge SU



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	2
1. Overview	3
2. Scheme Design	4
2.1 Key Themes	4
2.2 Safeguarding	5
2.3 Working with Colleges	5
2.4 Working with Student Volunteers	6
2.5 Timetable and Events	6
3. Challenges	8
3.1 Scheme Capacity	8
3.2 Mentor Recruitment	8
4. Moving forward for next year	8
4.1 Day Structure	8
4.2 Student Workload	9
4.3 Room Provision	9
5. Evaluation	10
5.1 Survey Results	10
Future plans	10
Knowledge of Admissions	13
5.2 Perceptions of Cambridge	18
6. Shadow Applications and Selection	20
7. Attendee profile	21
7.1 Widening Participation Flags	21
7.2 Course Interest	21
8. Applicant Destinations 2021/22	22

FOREWORD

For the last two decades, the annual Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme has welcomed prospective students from underrepresented backgrounds to attend a residential in Cambridge and shadow a current undergraduate. In 2023, after 2 years of an online Scheme, we were very excited to return to an in-person Shadowing Scheme.

This report will detail how we designed this return to in-person, the challenges we faced and how we plan to move forward with the Shadowing Scheme long-term, as well as evaluating some of the data from participants that demonstrates the impact of the Scheme.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from both Shadows and Mentors, and we are incredibly grateful for everyone's participation. The Shadowing Scheme relies on the dedication and enthusiasm of current Cambridge students, and the fact that they give up time during an extremely busy term to be a part of our Scheme does not go unrecognised by us or by the Shadows; their dedication to access and outreach work is remarkable.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all of the University and College staff, especially Schools' Liaison Officers, who made the Shadowing Scheme logistically possible. There is work to be done to restore the institutional memory of an in-person Shadowing Scheme, and we are glad to do this with such a dedicated group. The delivery of the Shadowing Scheme would also not be possible without funding from the Cambridge Admissions Office..

Finally, a thank you to all of the SU staff who made the Shadowing Scheme run smoothly this year, particularly Frankie Kendal and the rest of the Activities Team. I know that, in their capable hands, the Scheme can only do better as we apply what we learnt this year; we're excited to think about how to work more with Colleges and better meet the needs of Mentors. We look forward to 2024 and beyond.

Neve Atkinson

Undergrad Access, Education and Participation Officer, 2022-2023

Frankie Kendal

Activities Coordinator (Access and Widening Participation Projects)

1. OVERVIEW

The 2023 Shadowing Scheme matched 92 prospective university students with 80 undergraduate students and invited them to attend a 3 day residential in Cambridge, staying in College accommodation and 'shadowing' their Mentor's day-to-day life. 'Shadows' attended Cambridge in 3 separate groups over 3 weeks, arriving on Thursday and leaving on Saturday. There was a range of available events from attending Mentor contact hours, SU-organised academic sessions, student life experiences, and a talk on Cambridge admissions.

As we hoped from a return to in-person, in comparison to 70% in 2022, an increased 79% of Shadows reported that they plan to apply to Cambridge. Many Shadows expressed how their perceptions of Cambridge had changed after the residential Scheme. One student noted that, "Prior to attending the trip, I felt like I wouldn't fit in due to my background but after staying for three days, I'm confident I will." Furthermore, 86% of attendees agreed they understood the Cambridge admissions process, compared to 41% before the Scheme began.

In order to inform improvements to the Shadowing Scheme over time, this annual report evaluates the delivery of this year's Scheme using data captured from participants before and after the Scheme, as well as feedback from stakeholders. Student Mentors and College staff were welcomed to feedback on the Shadowing Scheme and this report will display the steps we will take to enact suggested changes. The report also includes data from the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) to show the number of applicants and offers made to attendees of last year's Scheme.

The 2023 Shadowing Scheme Report will recognise the improvements that can be made for the next year's Scheme, whilst also highlighting the successes of the return to in-person. This review process enables us to continually develop the Shadowing Scheme to ensure it is beneficial for both applicants and University stakeholders. We remain committed to the underpinning principles of the Shadowing Scheme: to demystify Cambridge life and admissions processes, to enable students to make informed decisions, and empower them to make strong applications regarding their future aspirations.

2. SCHEME DESIGN

After 2 years of an online Scheme, 2023 provided the opportunity to return to an in-person residential Shadowing Scheme. The 2023 Scheme was designed following previous iterations whilst adapting to present needs and expectations in the University.

In the summer of 2022, the Activities Coordinator (Access and Widening Participation Projects) organised meetings and consultations with relevant past and present stakeholders. Previous organisers of the Scheme and current College Outreach Staff were consulted on how to bring back an in-person Shadowing Scheme in collaboration with students and the Collegiate University. The main takeaways from these discussions were to:

1. improve communication between SU staff and College staff
2. formulate clearer safeguarding procedures, and
3. prioritise managing student workload.

Our aim was to produce an up-to-date Scheme design for students, Shadows and collaborating staff, whilst remaining as student-led as possible. The experiences and opinions of current students were valued in providing insight into Cambridge life both through mentoring and producing sessions for the Shadows. Each year as we improve the Scheme, student feedback remains paramount to the running of the Shadowing Scheme; we are proud to empower access that is student-led.

2.1 Key Themes

Cambridge Students' Union is led by its members, including in access work. The Shadowing Scheme empowers current undergraduates to share their experiences of Cambridge and show the University from a student perspective. The overall aim of the Scheme is to demystify Cambridge and make it more likely that disadvantaged students will receive and take up offers at top Universities. To achieve this the Scheme is underpinned by four key principles:

- Ensure Shadows feel listened to and part of a community whilst attending
- Provide the opportunity for Shadows to develop their academic interests
- Enable Shadows to make informed decisions about University by demystifying ideas around life at Cambridge
- Support Shadows to make strong University applications through developing study skills and understanding of admissions processes

The following table illustrates how Colleges (including JCRs), student groups (including SU Campaigns and student societies), Admissions staff, and Mentors, (with support from SU officers and staff) fulfilled each aim through their involvement.

Aim	Mentors	Student Groups	Colleges	Admissions Staff
Community				
Academic Interests				
Life at Cambridge				
Skills & Applications				

2.2 Safeguarding

An in-person Shadowing Scheme provided a chance to review the safeguarding policies and processes for the Scheme and SU as a whole. Following NSPCC training for all staff organising the Scheme, we enhanced our safeguarding procedures with the SU’s designated safeguarding leads, made up of the SU’s Advice and Welfare Manager, Deputy CEO and CEO. We therefore had clear systems of escalation prior to and during the residential.

Mentors were approved by the Senior Tutors, given Enhanced DBS checks, and attended mandatory safeguarding training before they were accepted onto the Scheme. All Shadows and Mentors signed a Code of Conduct during the application process, and Shadows attended a safeguarding briefing upon arrival. All Mentors, Shadows, and other volunteers were briefed on our safeguarding procedures. There was a 24/7 emergency phone number that was staffed at all times and printed on wristbands given to Shadows, alongside an incident reporting form that could be used by all attendees.

Reflecting on the SU’s safeguarding, Dr Jonathan Padley, Chair of the Schools Liaison Officer Group noted that,

“It is good to read of the SU’s recent development of safeguarding procedures around this long-standing programme, which should hopefully help to secure it for the future.”

We are proud to provide rigorous and effective safeguarding measures that ensure all the attendees of the Shadowing Scheme are looked after, so they can make the most of the Scheme without worry.

2.3 Working with Colleges

Due to the Collegiate nature of the University, working with Colleges is essential to secure the logistics of the Shadowing Scheme and showcase an accurate depiction of College life. The SU collaborates with College Schools’ Liaison Officers (SLOs) to plan and deliver the Scheme, requiring regular and clear communication.

For SLOs, communication was formalised through attendance of the Schools Liaison Officer Group. The majority of participating Colleges provided guest rooms for visiting Shadows, all of which had to be on or very near to the main site. Four Colleges provided accommodation through 'room donation' where current students would give up their room for two nights and stay with a friend. There was no expectation to provide rooms in this way and we worked closely with Colleges to ensure room donation followed College and SU safeguarding policies (such as students having no access to their room during the residential).

As a central organisation, it is essential to coordinate with Colleges whilst acknowledging their differences. From the start of the 2023 Shadowing Scheme to its finish, the SU's relationship with College staff was strengthened, leading to greater collaboration in other projects and further security for the Scheme moving forward.

2.4 Working with Student Volunteers

JCR Access Officers are essential coordinators between the SU and Shadowing Scheme Mentors. Access Officers received specific additional training on how to coordinate the Mentors in their College, and received Enhanced DBS checks despite not all being Mentors, as suggested from SLO feedback. Primarily, the role of Access Officers is to liaise between students, the SU, and College staff; organising room bookings and meal vouchers, and coordinating Mentors to and from Scheme events.

For Access Officers, the Undergraduate Access, Education and Participation Officer sent out regular email bulletins and held Forums to discuss and update on the Scheme. This allowed Officers to influence and feed back on all elements of the Scheme, maintaining its student-led underpinning. A group chat was also created, allowing for instant communication throughout the residential days of the Scheme. We found all of these forms of communication were necessary, as they each held different purposes.

We also worked closely with student groups for the Shadow Seminars and the Society Showcase. For example, Cambridge Widening Access to Medicine Society ran interactive seminars each week which were well attended. These sessions gave an insight into Cambridge Medicine whilst being accessible for 16-17 year olds, as well as giving students a chance to teach. Many student societies were involved to showcase student life, coordinated by the SU Activities Coordinator (Societies). The full list of societies is: 93% Club, Amateur Boxing Club, BlueSci, Cambridge Boat Club, Cam FM, Climate Justice, Footlights, Juggler's Association, Newnham Boat Club, Pakistan Society, Pythons American Football Club, The Cambridge Student, Tiddlywinks, Welsh Society.

2.5 Timetable and Events

The timetable broadly followed that of the last in-person Shadowing Scheme in 2020. We are grateful to Emmanuel College, Queens' College and Churchill College who hosted formals for the Scheme over the three weeks, and to Newnham College for hosting the Quiz Night each Friday. The week ended with an Admissions Talk from Dr

Sam Lucy, the Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges, which gave insight into how the application process works and answered any questions.

New to the 2023 Shadowing Scheme were the aforementioned Shadow Seminars. Although matching between Shadows and Mentors is based on subject preference, this cannot always be exact. Shadow Seminars provided an insight into teaching for the most popular subjects (Law, Medicine, Maths, Natural Sciences) for all Shadows to attend. Therefore Shadows were able to attend the contact hours of their Mentors and Shadow Seminars for any subjects they were interested in. The Seminars were specifically designed for the Scheme, and Shadows reported that they had found them to be more accessible than some of the contact hours they had attended with their Mentors. The Seminars were a huge success and the 2024 Shadowing Scheme will expand their provision. We are grateful to all of the academics who volunteered their time to put on these sessions every week.

Below is the full timetable which ran three times overall. There is a plain-text version [here](#).

Thursday | Day 1

SU Lounge open
9:00-17:00 each day

Arrival
13:00-14:00

Welcome
Talk
15:00-16:00
*Emmanuel
College*

Meet your
Mentor
16:00-16:30
*Emmanuel
College*

College
tours &
settling in
17:00-18:30
Your College

Formal
Dinner
19:00-21:00
*Various
Colleges*

Try a ADC
'late show'^{*}
21:30
*Corpus
Playroom*

Friday | Day 2

Breakfast
8:00-9:00
Your College

Academic
time with
Mentor
Throughout
day

Lunch
12:00-
13:00
Your College

Shadow
Seminars^{**}
13:00-16:00
*Various
locations*

Lino &
Liberation
14:00-15:00
*University
Centre*

Societies
Showcase
15:30-17:00
SU Lounge

Dinner
18:00-19:00
Your College

Quiz
Night!
19:00-21:00
*Newnham
College Bar*

Free time
21:00-
onwards

Try a ADC
'late show'^{*}
21:30
*Corpus
Playroom*

Saturday | Day 3

Breakfast
8:00-9:00
Your College

Admissions
Talk
9:30-12:00
*Emmanuel
College*

Goodbyes
12:00

^{*}Use the discount code 'SHADOW' for 25% off tickets on student written drama

^{**}There are seminars for students interested in Maths, Law or Medicine

SHADOWING SCHEME TIMETABLE 2023



3. CHALLENGES

3.1 Scheme Capacity

The return to in-person required a smaller scale to rebuild a sustainable running of the Scheme. Some Colleges had not planned for the Shadowing Scheme as part of their yearly access provision and were unable to participate. Although the numbers were lower than the pre-pandemic Scheme, we were able to return to in-person confidently and provide the best experience for Shadows. Future Schemes will build upon this foundation and allow the capacity to expand whilst remaining sustainable.

3.2 Mentor Recruitment

Previous years had relied upon institutional knowledge of the Shadowing Scheme to recruit Mentors. The disruption of the pandemic, as well as fewer Colleges being involved, meant that fewer students applied to Mentor. This was primarily difficult when matching Shadows with Mentors studying subjects they were interested in. Despite specific promotion for Medics, Lawyers and Maths students, 60% of Shadows were matched with their Mentors studying their second or third choice subject. The impact of this was mitigated by Shadow Seminars, but ideally, as the Scheme grows, there would be a higher proportion of Shadows matched with Mentors studying their first-choice subject.

Regardless, the Shadowing Scheme still had more Mentors apply than were able to ultimately take part, and we are incredibly grateful to all the undergraduates who gave their time, energy and resources to support the Shadowing Scheme.

4. MOVING FORWARD FOR NEXT YEAR

Looking ahead to 2024, extensive feedback was carried out from Mentors, Shadows and College staff on how to streamline the Shadowing Scheme. Feedback forms were distributed to Mentors and Access Officers. Access Officer Forums were held before and after the residential for discursive feedback, which we also gathered from SLOs at the Schools Liaison Officer Group. We are appreciative of the rigorous feedback from Access Officers and previous organisers of the Scheme which we are taking forward from now.

4.1 Day Structure

The Shadowing Scheme has always run for three days, from Thursday midday to Saturday midday. This allowed for Shadows to be in Cambridge on days with contact hours and leave at the weekend. However, upon review, this created challenges with some Mentors having contact hours at pick up times on Thursday. This put more responsibility on other Mentors and Access Officers to accompany Shadows until their matched Mentor was free.

The 2024 Shadowing Scheme will be piloting a day structure from Sunday to Tuesday. Mentors should have no contact time on Sundays and will be able to pick up their Shadows, whilst also maintaining a connection with the weekend so parents can visit Cambridge if desired. Evening events may have to be altered depending on College formal provision, but this alteration seeks to make the Scheme more sustainable for organisers and student volunteers.

4.2 Student Workload

The mentoring aspect of the Shadowing Scheme requires that Shadows are accompanied at all times to ensure their safety in Cambridge. Whilst the SU puts on events throughout the residential, the differing locations of these events meant that Mentors were accompanying their Shadows across town. This was especially experienced by Mentors from further away Colleges. The Shadowing Scheme would not function without the incredible, voluntary work that Mentors provide, and it is essential we make this sustainable whilst maintaining the best aspects of the Scheme - such as Shadows attending contact hours and having access to real student experiences during term time.

After feedback from Mentors and Access Officers, a change in the events timetable will look to give Mentors more flexibility in their day whilst still providing a full and exciting experience for Shadows. Shadow Seminars and student life events will be run all afternoon from the SU building rather than Colleges and Departments, allowing Shadows to be dropped off and supervised by SU staff and volunteers. Mentors will be able to join sessions they want, or have the afternoon away from mentoring, picking up their Shadows again for dinner.

With this structure, Mentors will be expected to be with their Shadows for the first afternoon before a formal dinner, and the morning of the second day for free time and attending contact hours. Times outside of this are organised independently between Mentors and Shadows based on Mentor workload and Shadow interests. The SU Lounge was open for Shadows throughout all days for independent work if their Mentors were busy, a provision that Shadows took up each week. Mentors could contact the SU for support, or arrange with other Mentors. These provisions will continue, alongside the organised afternoon timetable, to give Mentors more control over their time over the three days.

4.3 Room Provision

Prior to the 2023 Shadowing Scheme, room donation was the primary way that Colleges provided rooms to Shadows. Returning in 2023, the majority of Colleges preferred a guest rooms model. This model was successful in providing on site, en suite rooms without students having to move out of their own accommodation. A guest room model creates a reliance on College conferencing departments for the Scheme capacity.

In future, we would like the Shadowing Scheme to be able to accommodate differences in provision between Colleges more flexibly, recognising that most Colleges

prefer a guest room model, but that room donation remains acceptable within our safeguarding policy. This should allow for the Scheme to maintain partnerships with room donation Colleges and expand its capacity in future.

5. EVALUATION

5.1 Survey Results

Shadows were surveyed before the Scheme started, and again once the Scheme had ended. 93 shadows completed the Pre-Scheme survey, and 88 completed the Post-Scheme survey. Shadows' self-identification with statements about future plans, knowledge about admissions, sense of belonging and perceptions of Cambridge before and after the Scheme are compared below.

Future plans

Figure 1: "I want to go to University"

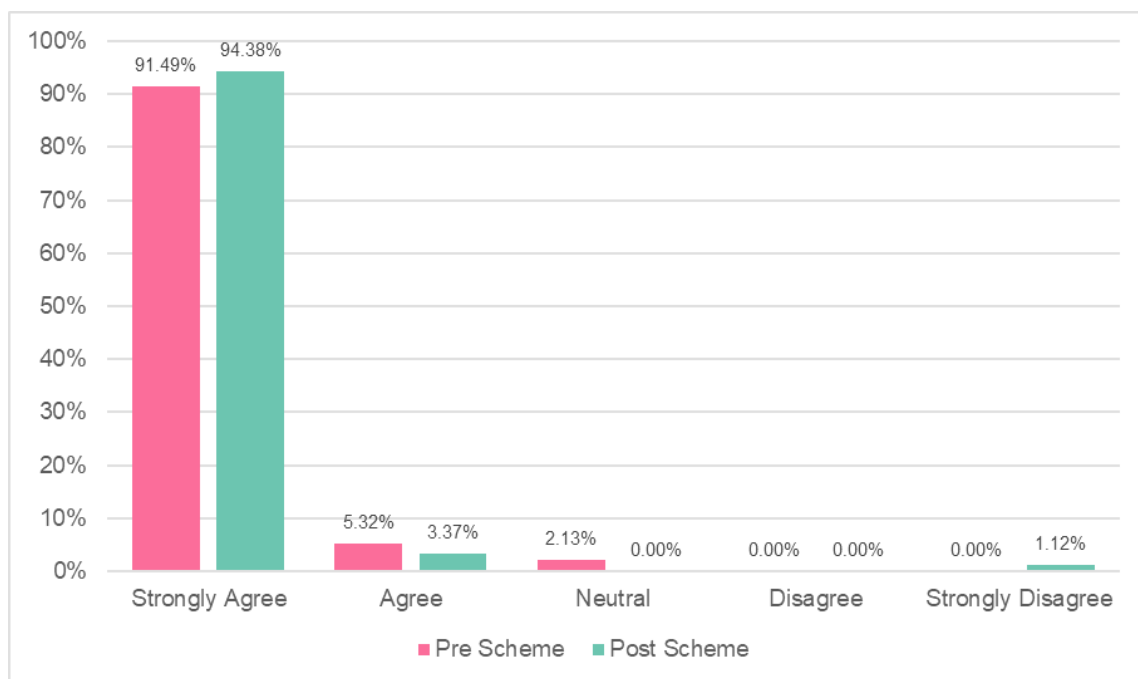


Figure 2: "I plan to apply to University"

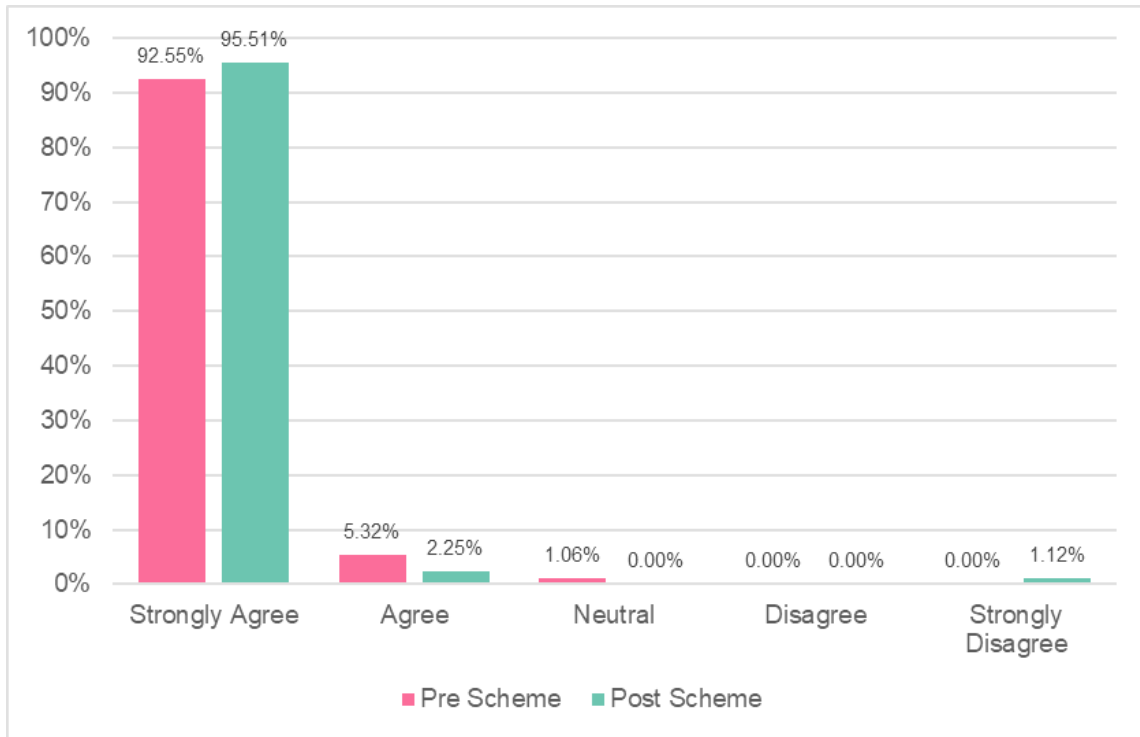


Figure 3: "I plan to apply to a top University"

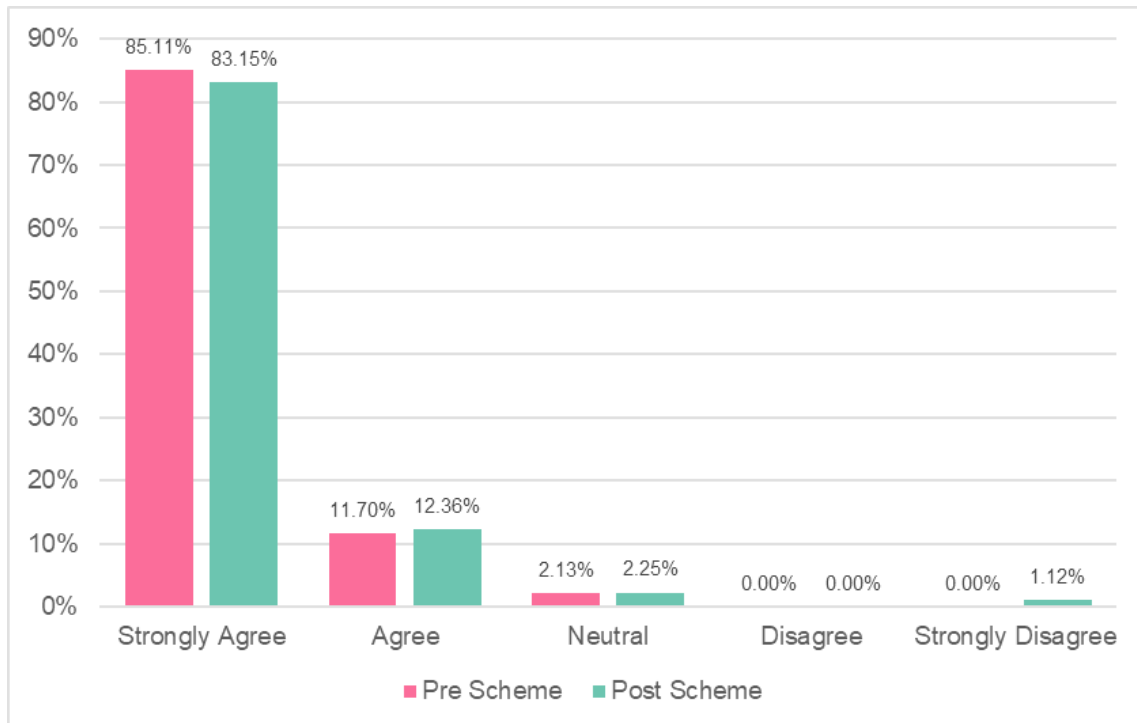
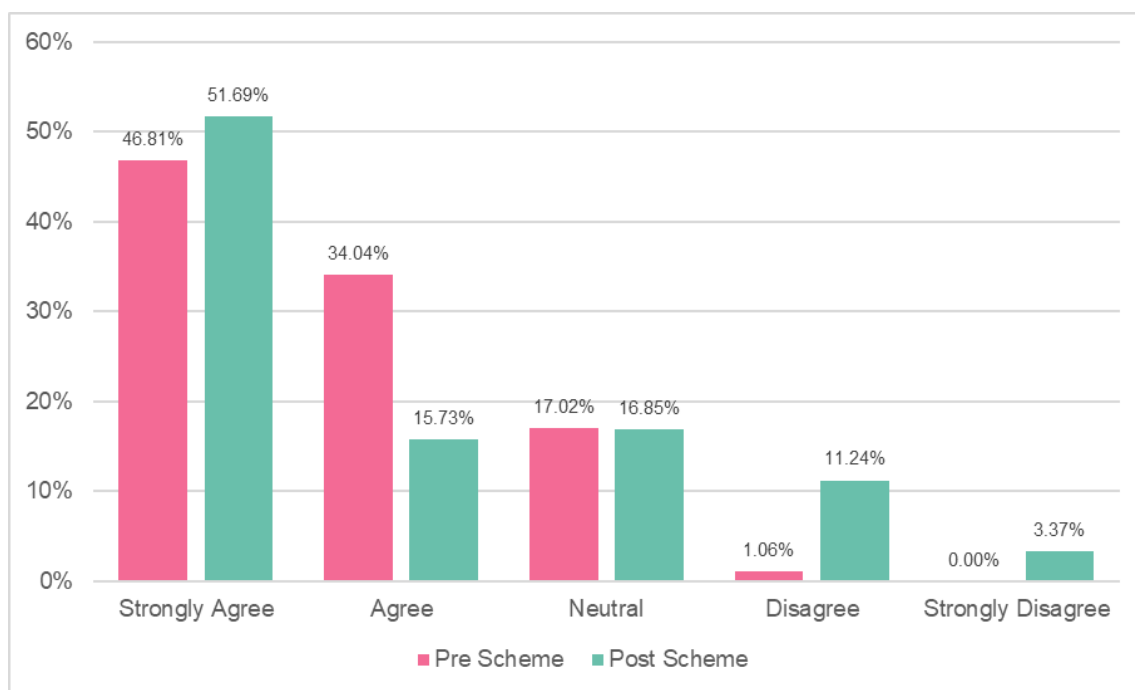


Figure 4: "I plan to apply to Cambridge"



The above data shows that the majority of attendees planned to apply to University (and a top university) before they attended the Scheme. After the Scheme, an increased number of Shadows strongly agreed they plan to apply to Cambridge. The first three responses indicate that raising aspirations is not the primary function of the Shadowing Scheme, as a high number of Shadows plan to apply to top universities before the Scheme.

It is important to note that more Shadows disagreed that they plan to apply to Cambridge after the Scheme than before. One of the core principles of the Shadowing Scheme is to allow students to make informed decisions about their future by demystifying Cambridge and Higher Education more broadly, and comments from the Shadows about this question demonstrate the reasons why they felt like Cambridge wasn't for them.

One Shadow said, "I enjoyed experiencing what student life would be like at Cambridge University; however, I have realised that Cambridge isn't for me". Attendees who shared similar feelings cited a preference for "a more modern university", or more strongly that "a faint air of elitism makes me reluctant to apply". Whilst this may seem counterintuitive for an access project, this feedback demonstrates that Shadows were able to understand the many nuances of the Collegiate University in their short time here and make an informed statement about their future.

Knowledge of Admissions

Figure 1: "I understand the UCAS admissions process"

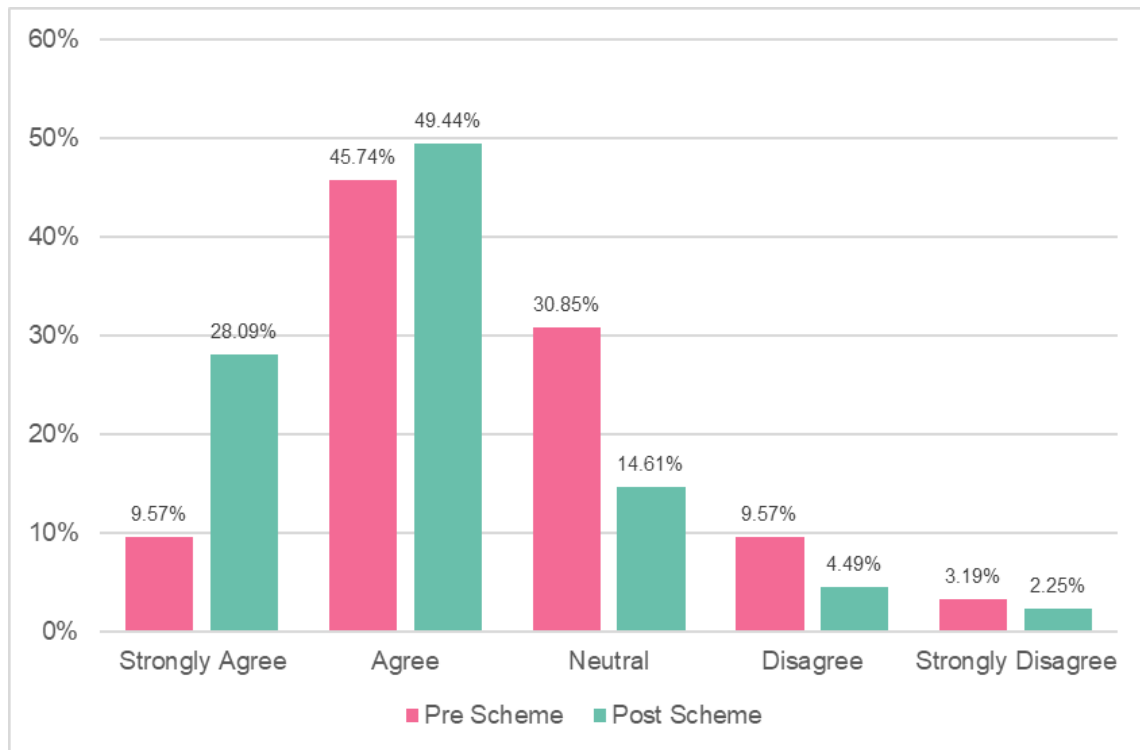
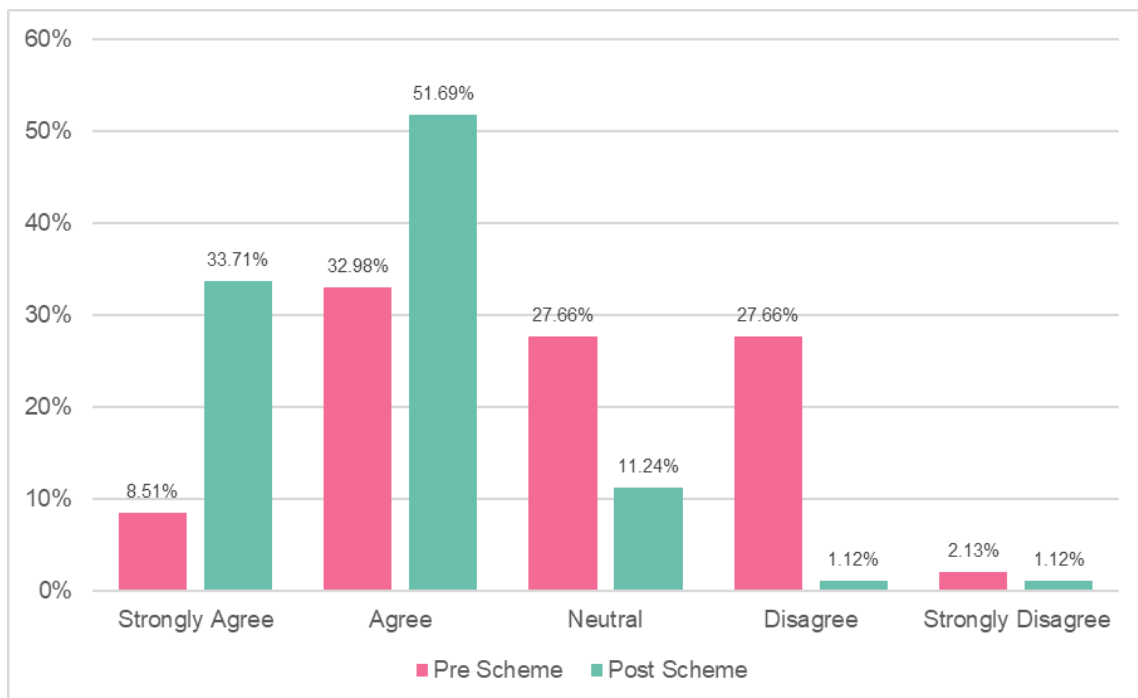


Figure 2: "I understand the Cambridge admissions process"



Shadows' understanding of admissions processes greatly improved after attending the Scheme, especially regarding the Cambridge admissions process. Following widening participation objectives, the Shadowing Scheme enhances knowledge of higher education and better equips students to make strong applications to University. It remains important that the residential Scheme ends with a mandatory admissions talk from a senior Admissions Tutor. We would like to give a special note of thanks to Dr Sam Lucy, who has been a long supporter of the Scheme and provided invaluable advice for the Shadows. In the Post-Scheme Survey, one Shadow wanted to show recognition to Sam, saying she "answered some very desperate questions of mine. I found this to be incredibly helpful for planning my pathway to university." Despite Sam's departure from her role, it remains important that the residential Scheme ends with a mandatory admissions talk from a senior Admissions Tutor.

Confidence and Belonging

Figure 1: "From what I know about Cambridge, I would enjoy studying there"

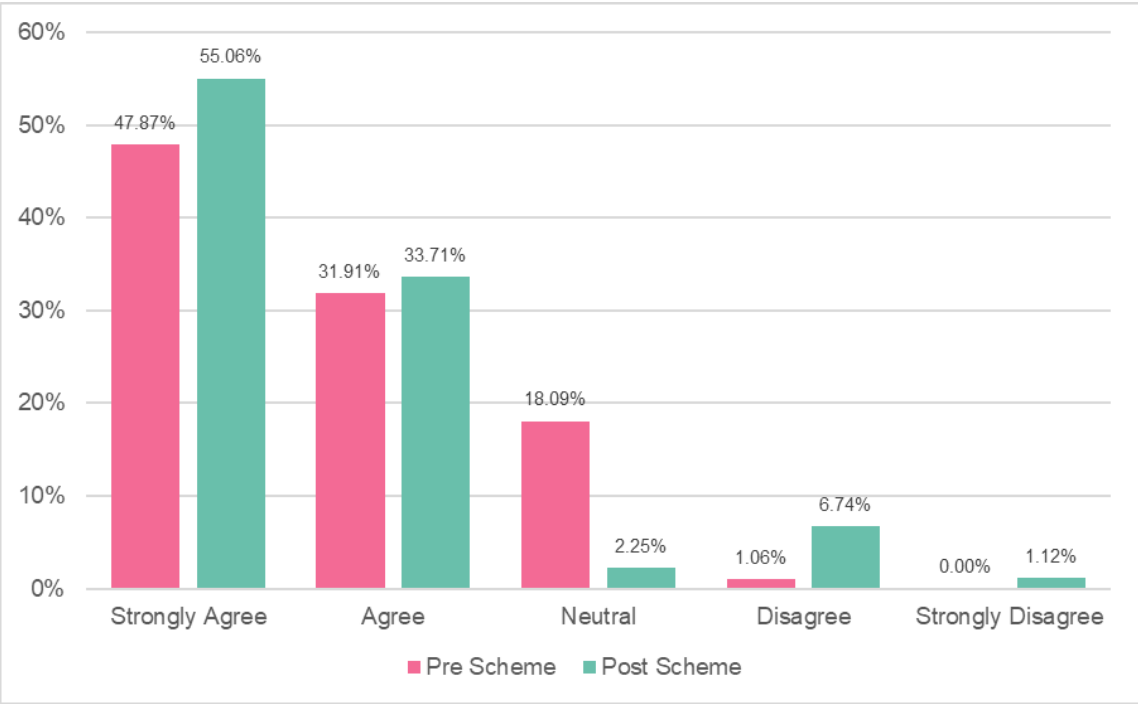


Figure 2: "I can see myself studying at Cambridge"

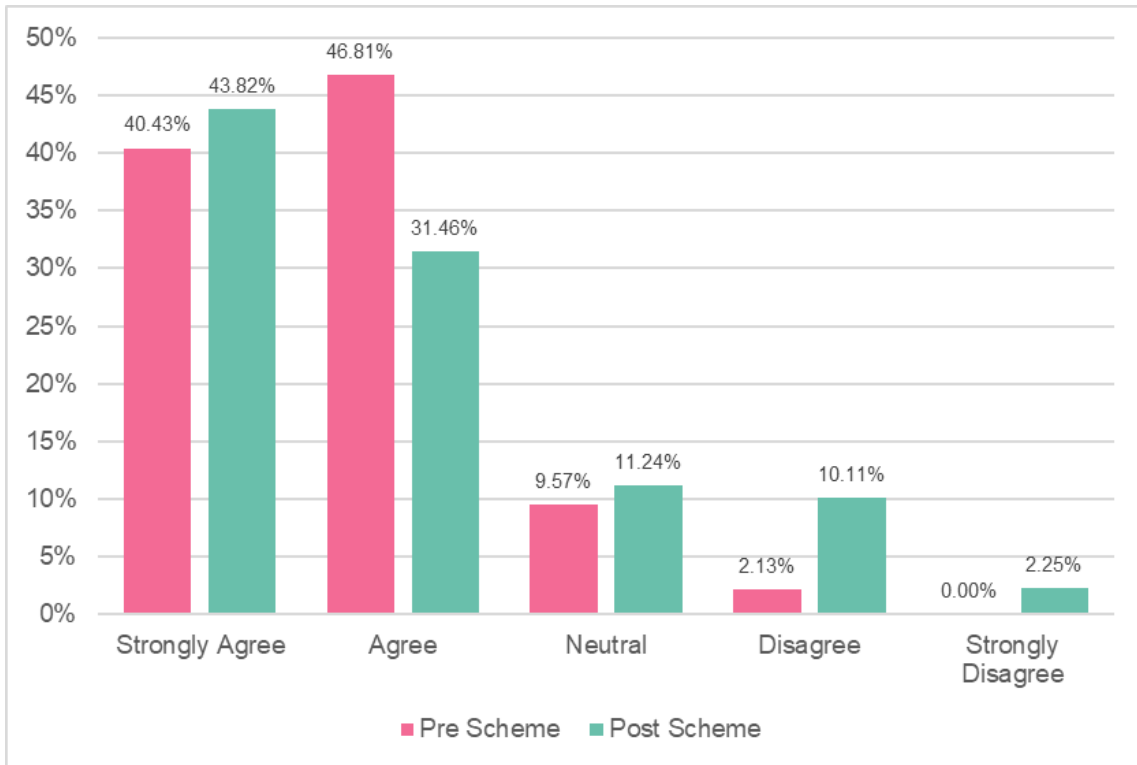


Figure 3: "I would be a strong applicant to Cambridge"

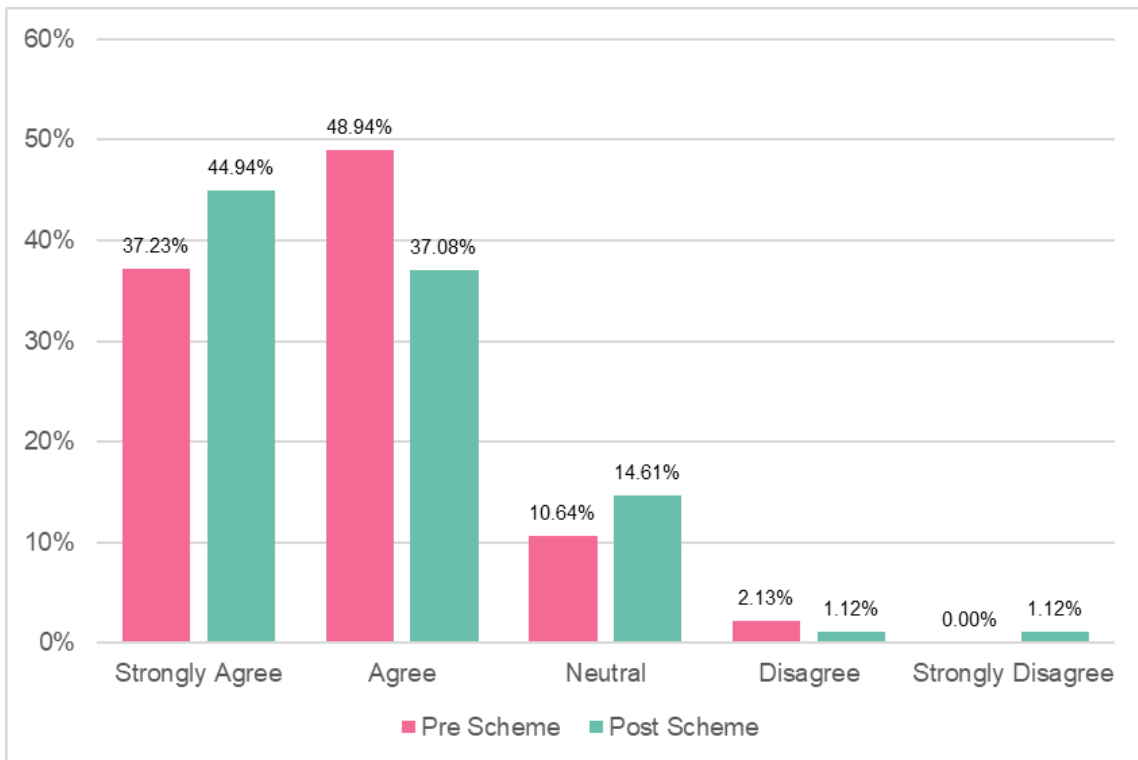
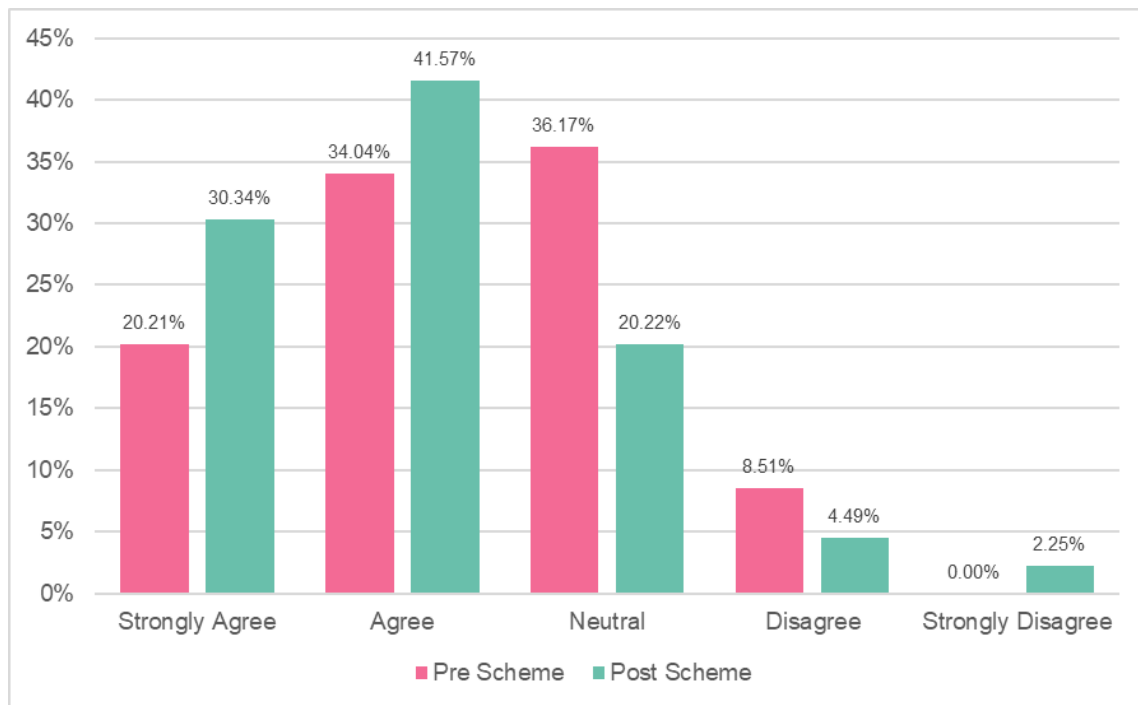


Figure 4: "I would fit in at Cambridge"

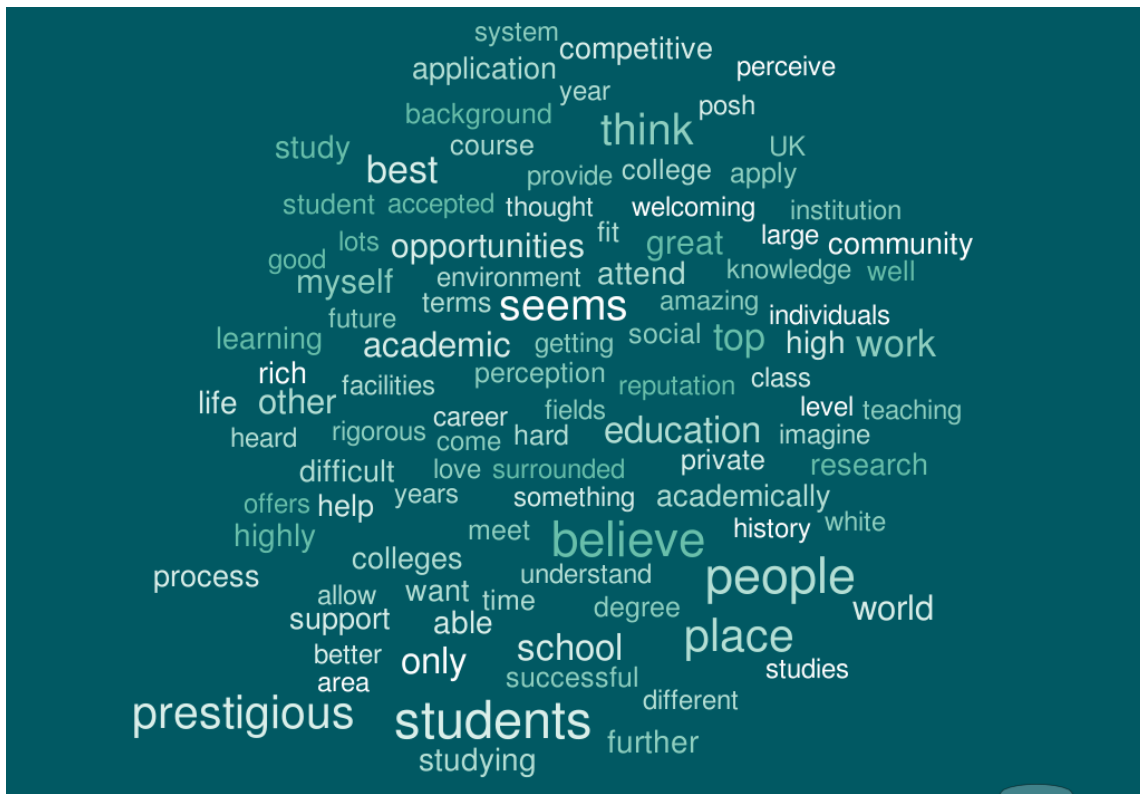


Overall, these figures show that after the Shadowing Scheme, prospective students were more confident in their opinion of Cambridge, with a trend towards agreeing they would fit in at Cambridge and would enjoy studying here. The data is still complicated and qualitative responses indicate the wide range of responses Shadows had. From Shadows who expressed a feeling of belonging, they noted how, since attending the Shadowing Scheme, they considered Cambridge "a place for everyone", especially "students who are similar to me". Other students wrote that they felt Cambridge was "really posh and I don't think I would fit in there". Neither of these experiences are objectively true, but rather indicate how the Shadowing Scheme gives prospective students an insight into the day-to-day of Cambridge life, for them to decide if it is the place for them. It is important to note that for those who did not feel they would fit in at Cambridge, over 50% cited perceptions of a lack of diversity and being in a minority position as reasoning.

5.2 Perceptions of Cambridge

Pre-Scheme

Common phrases used to describe perceptions of Cambridge, before visiting as a part of the Shadowing Scheme.



Plain text:

system, competitive, application, perceive, background, year, think, posh, study, best, course, UK, provide, college, apply, student, accepted, thought, welcoming, institution, good, lots, opportunities, fit, great, large, community, myself, environment, attend, knowledge, well, future, terms, seems, amazing, individuals, learning, academic, getting, social, top, high, work, rich, facilities, perception, reputation, class, life, other, heard, rigorous, career, hard, fields, level, teaching, education, imagine, difficult, love, surrounded, private, research, offers, help, years, something, academically, highly, colleges, meet, believe, history, white, process, allow, want, time, understand, people, support, able, degree, world, better, only, school, place, area, successful, studies, prestigious, students, further, different, studying

6. SHADOW APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

We received a total of 3865 applications for the 2023 Shadowing Scheme. This was almost triple the number in 2022 (1632 applications). In order to select participants, we firstly exclude those for whom we have not received the consent of their parent or guardian. This year 537 applicants did not receive the consent of a parent or guardian. We have noted WP flags among this group to monitor how much of an obstacle obtaining consent is. Of those failing to get consent, 12 were care experienced, 52 were young carers, 9 were refugees, 11 selected that they were estranged, and 151 were eligible for free school meals. We will be looking into how we can address this in future Schemes, including having more direct communication with parents.

Other ineligible applicants are then identified, including those attending independent schools, those who have not received a teachers' consent, those with family members who have attended Oxbridge, and those who will not have three or more A Levels or equivalent. These applicants are excluded unless there are specific circumstances that mitigate their academic profile. To be more precise with confirming eligibility next year, applicants without the correct combination of A-Levels for their chosen course (such as Further Maths A-Level to study a Mathematics degree) will also be excluded.

Eligible applicants with WP flags were then selected automatically. Remaining applicants are then selected based on a WP score, and an academic score, both determined by automatic algorithms. The academic score is determined by GCSE performance, which is then confirmed by a teacher, and the WP score by scoring a range of WP flags in addition to POLAR4 Quintile and FSM eligibility. First, applicants in the top quartile for both WP and academic score are selected and matched with a Mentor, and then applicants in the upper half for WP score and the top quartile for academic score are selected and matched. As the Scheme was a smaller capacity this year, the majority of students have top range WP and academic scores.

Shadows are paired primarily based on the courses they express an interest in, and secondarily on other preferences like a BME Mentor or same gender Mentor. We also consider their home region and extracurricular interests when matching. As with previous Schemes, we had a large number of applicants wanting to study Medicine, who tended to put other popular subjects as their second choice. 1074 applicants wanted a medicine Mentor (27% of all applicants), and 517 applicants wanted a Law Mentor (13%). Other highly applied subjects were Maths, Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. We also find that the highest scoring students (across attainment and WP flags) disproportionately select very popular subjects.

Aligned with wider efforts across the University, selection for the 2024 Shadowing Scheme will also better take into account other outreach schemes that applicants have attended. There is currently no data on how many applicants attended other

residential Schemes. Through closer collaboration with College SLOs we hope to prioritise those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit Cambridge.

7. ATTENDEE PROFILE

7.1 Widening Participation Flags

Of the 92 shadows surveyed, 58 were eligible for free school meals, 55 were first generation students, 6 were refugees, 1 had experience of local authority care, and 4 had caring responsibilities.

7.2 Course Interest

Percentages are calculated by their first choice course. When taking into account second choices, a wider range of courses were selected, such as Architecture, Classics, Education, Modern and Medieval Languages, and Veterinary Medicine.

Attendees by Course Interest	Percentage of Attendees
Chemical Engineering	3.3%
Computer Science	6.5%
Economics	3.3%
Engineering	8.7%
English	4.3%
Geography	1.1%
History	2.1%
HSPS	2.1%
Law	13%
Maths	6.5%
Medicine	40.2%
Natural Sciences	4.3%
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	4.3%

8. APPLICANT DESTINATIONS 2021/22

Using the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) we can now see the destinations of Shadows who participated in the 2022 Shadowing Scheme. The below table shows applications to Cambridge and offers from Cambridge for students in that cohort. The number of students applying and receiving offers, as well as applications and offer rates, is included for key groups of participants. POLAR4 Q1 and Q2 students are those from neighbourhoods with relatively low progression rates to Higher Education. IMD and TUNDRA measures have also been included to represent the OfS's move to new geodemographic fields. Those who are Free School Meal (FSM) eligible are from low-income households, and those who are First Generation would be the first in their immediate family to attend University.

	Participants	Applications	Offers	Application Rate	Offer Rate
Total	150	40	10	26.7%	25.0%
POLAR Q1	37	11	4	29.7%	36.4%
POLAR Q2	45	9	<3	20.0%	-
IMD Q1	55	13	<3	23.6%	-
IMD Q2	42	10	3	23.8%	30.0%
TUNDRA Q1	19	3	<3	15.8%	-
TUNDRA Q2	35	11	<3	31.4%	-
FSM eligible	78	23	5	29.5%	21.7%
First Gen HE	89	22	5	24.7%	22.7%

Although a small decrease, we are pleased to see a quarter of Shadows apply to Cambridge, alongside a similar offer rate. This follows the offer rate for all home students for the 2023 cohort of approximately 25%.

The two online Shadowing Schemes presented destination data that was equivalent to or above the application and offer rates of the overall home student population. Considering that the 2022 Shadowing Scheme was planned in-person and had to be quickly moved online, this data still shows the impact of the Shadowing Scheme despite logistical difficulties. We are glad to have returned to an in-person Scheme to truly give an immersive experience of Cambridge, but are proud of what was achieved with the online programmes and learning from virtual provisions.