

Societies and You Survey at the BICS Awards

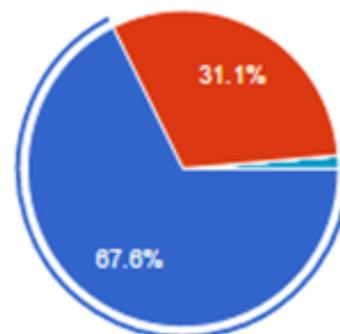
75 people responded

College Breakdown of responses

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Cork Institute of Technology | 5 |
| Dublin City University | 10 |
| Dublin Institute of Technology | 7 |
| Galway Mayo Institute of Technology | 3 |
| Institute of Technology Tallaght | 4 |
| Institute of Technology Tralee | 5 |
| Letterkenny Institute of Technology | 2 |
| Mary Immaculate College | 4 |
| Maynooth University | 3 |
| National College of Ireland | 3 |
| National University of Ireland Galway | 11 |
| Royal College of Surgeons Ireland | 0 |
| Shannon College | 0 |
| University College Cork | 7 |
| University of Limerick | 10 |

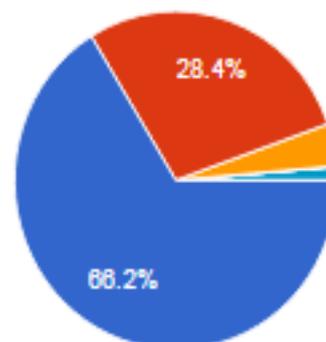
In your opinion, did your society achieve the goals you all set at the start of the year?

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Yes completely | 50 | 67.6% |
| To a significant degree | 23 | 31.1% |
| Somewhat | 0 | 0% |
| No, but they were overly ambitious | 0 | 0% |
| Not at all | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 1 | 1.4% |



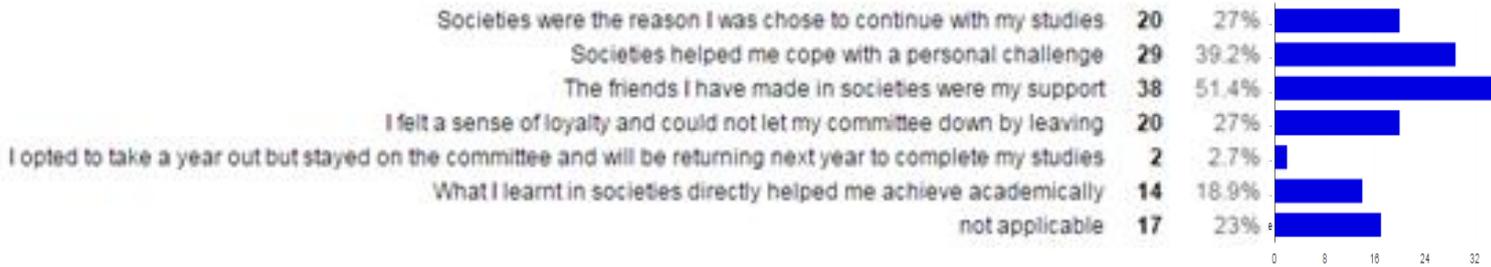
Did you achieve your personal goals and objectives?

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Yes, completely | 49 | 66.2% |
| To a significant degree | 21 | 28.4% |
| Somewhat | 3 | 4.1% |
| No, but they were overly ambitious | 0 | 0% |
| Not at all | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 1 | 1.4% |

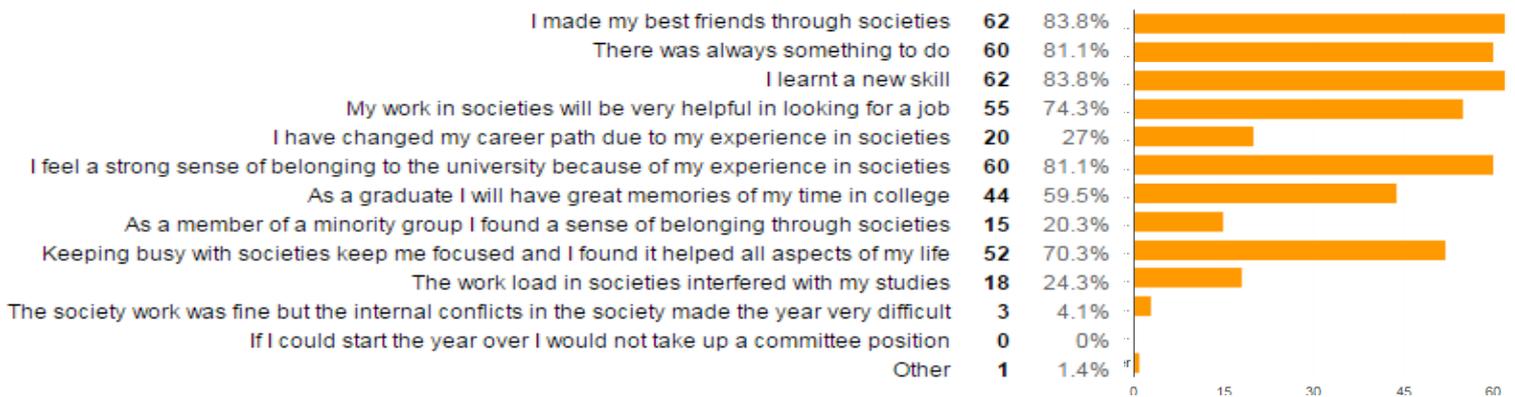


If at any stage during the year you contemplated leaving the college, or felt yourself under significant pressure personally or academically, to what degree did your involvement in societies help you cope?

Societies contribute significantly to retention and 77% surveyed identified reasons that societies helped them cope and challenges.



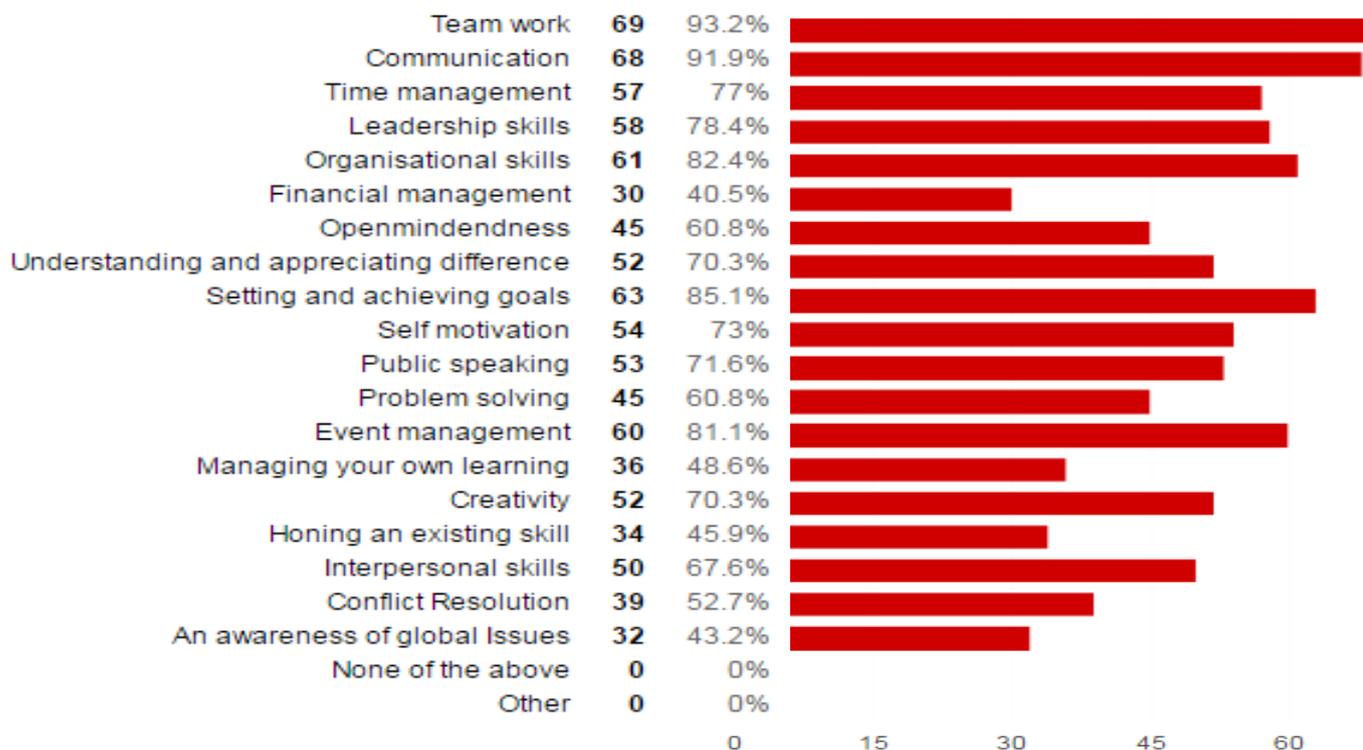
Because of your involvement in Societies, how many of the following statements apply to you?



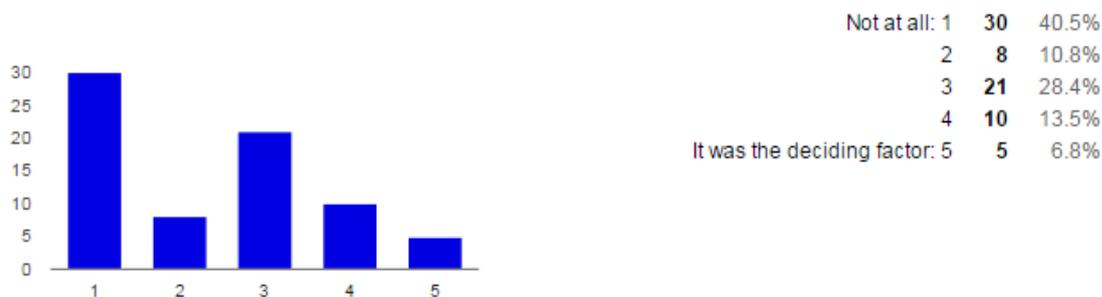
The participants identified numerous positive outcomes from their involvement in societies, from making friends, learning new skills to helping future employment prospects. They also identified the importance of societies for college loyalty and fond memories. Societies also contribute to creating supportive communities and helping members of minority groups feel a sense of belonging, this is very important as colleges are committed to attracting new students outside their traditional catchment area.

It is also worth noting that 24% of students found that societies interfered with their studies and 84% learnt a new skill some of them listed below. This might prompt those in society administration to find ways to support students on committees to learn time management and the most efficient ways to balance their studies and extra-curricular activities as part of society training. It may also reflect on how learning is viewed and that our students do not see the value of their learning through their extra-curricular activities. Certainly something worth exploring for BICS

What skills did you develop as part of societies?



Prior to enrolling, did your knowledge of societies your choice of college in any way?



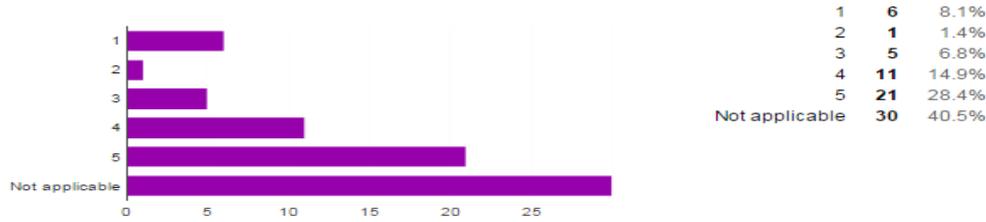
This is an interesting question as 70% of participants felt that knowledge of societies had in some way influenced their choice of institution and 5 students even identified it as the deciding factor. Now this is something worth mentioning to your college administration.

If any colleges would like to undertake their own survey I am happy to share the template with you just e-mail me (Riona) on chairperson@bics.ie. This is the second year we have undertaken this survey in NUI Galway as part of our society leadership programme see our report from last year at the link below. This year's results will be posted to www.socs.nuigalway.ie

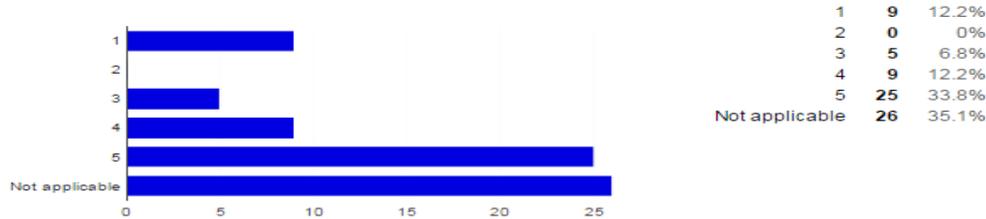
<http://www.socs.nuigalway.ie/download/file/43400/NUIG%20Leadership%20Programme%202015x.pdf>

See below some feedback on the participant's views on the society training they received in their institution.
Rate each type of training you received from 1 - 5, (1 being unhelpful, 5 very helpful) DO NOT Rate training you did not receive choose Not Applicable.

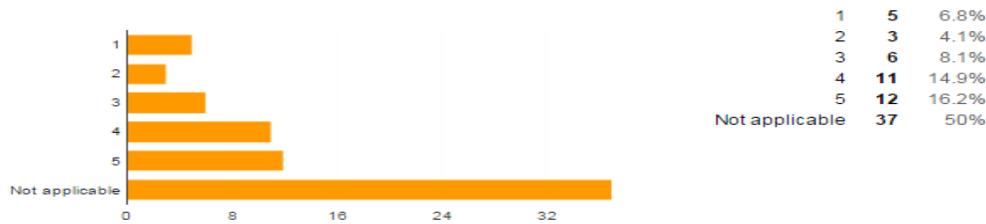
One to one with the Societies Officer [Society Training]



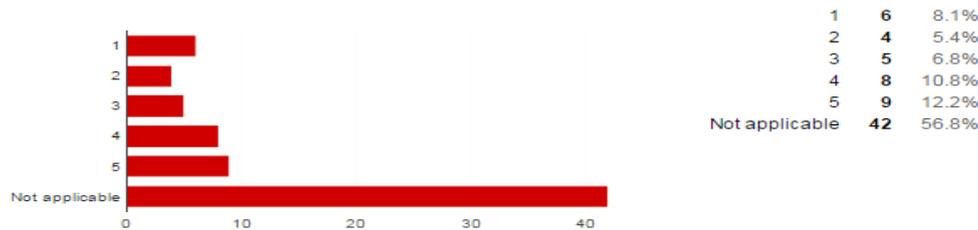
One to one with a member of the Societies Office staff [Society Training]



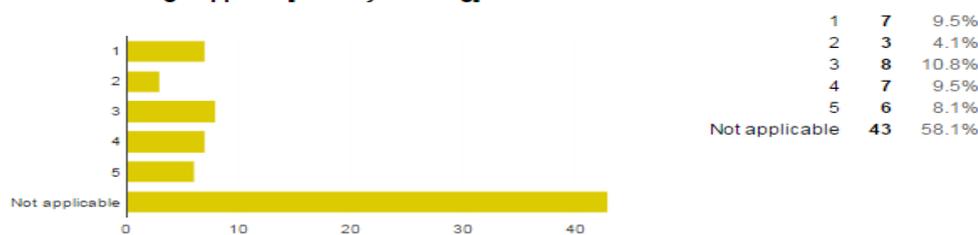
Additional training during the year [Society Training]



Guide books [Society Training]



On-line training supports [Society Training]



From an experienced committee member [Society Training]



I did not avail of any training and learnt on the job [Society Training]

