

Student Travel Survey 2013

In order to quantify and work towards reducing 'Scope 3' CO₂ emissions and assist with creating a viable travel plan the College has conducted two surveys to gather information on staff and student travel behaviour. This includes travel to, between, and from the College campuses, and off site travel for College related work.

The Student Survey

The online service Survey Monkey was used to deliver the survey consisting of 31 questions. The survey was advertised using posters around halls of residence and College buildings, and via Felix, the student newspaper. Participants had the opportunity of being entered into a draw for an online shopping voucher as encouragement to complete the survey. The main focus of the survey was daily commuting and the different modes of travel used.

The questions covered 4 areas:

1. Participant details
2. General travel behaviour
3. Distances travelled
4. Other behaviours affecting travel

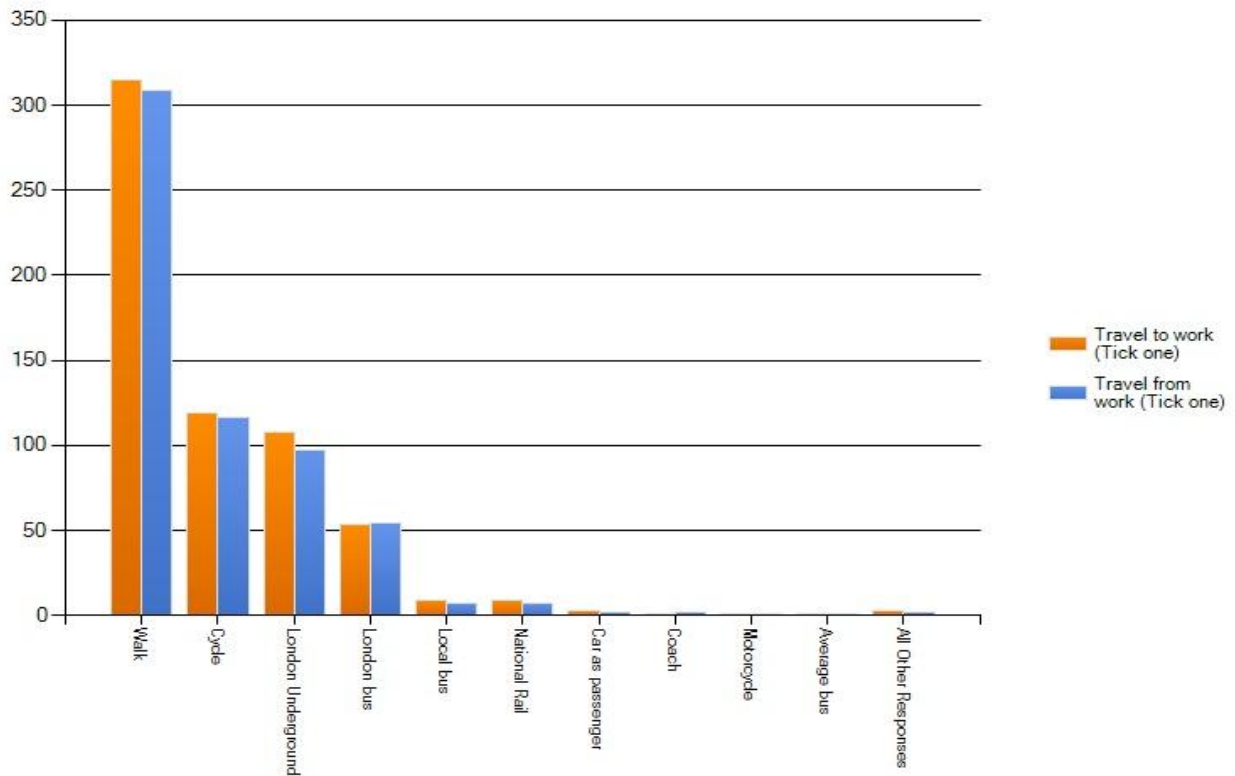
Participant details

The survey was taken by 769 students, the majority of whom were undergraduates studying in the Faculties of Engineering, Medicine or Natural Sciences. Most students who answered the survey are living in Halls of residence at South Kensington or Evelyn Gardens, and their main place of study is South Kensington Campus. The survey captured what most participants described as their usual and regular travel, and this was made 5 times per week by over 90% of people.

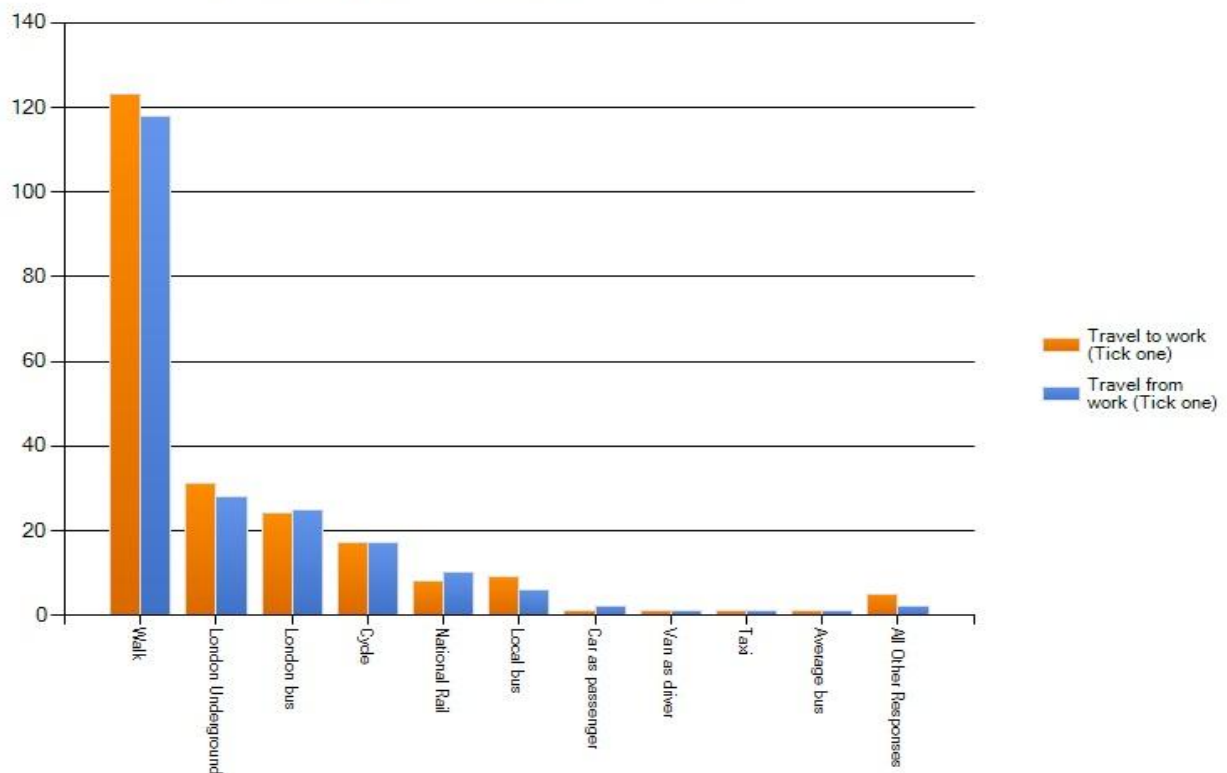
1. General travel behaviour

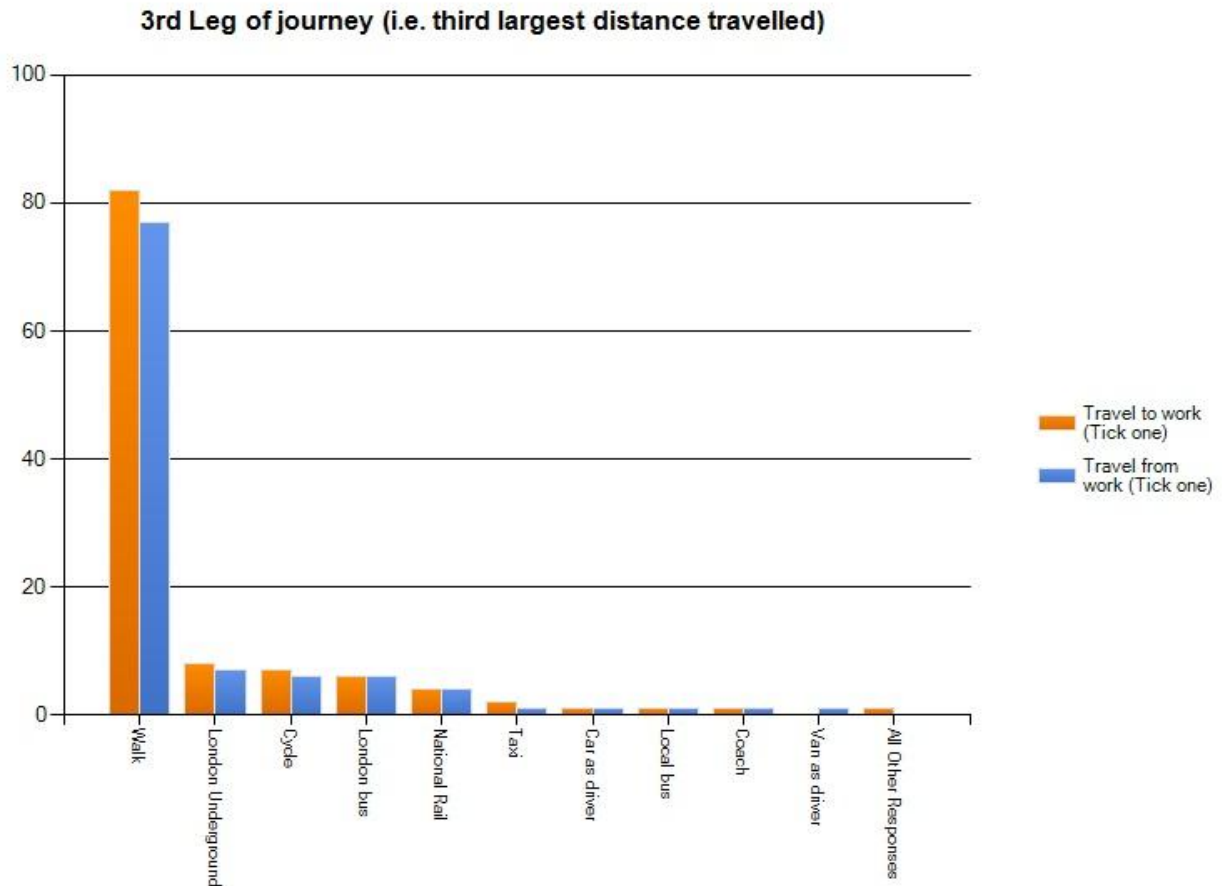
The three main modes of transport students use, combining all legs of their journey, are London Underground, cycling or walking. London buses also feature as the next most common mode of transport used for travelling to and from their place of study. Although very few students drive to the College, the results show that of those who do, the majority lift-share with at least one other person.

1st Leg of journey (i.e. largest distance travelled)



2nd Leg of journey (i.e. second largest distance travelled)





2. Distances travelled

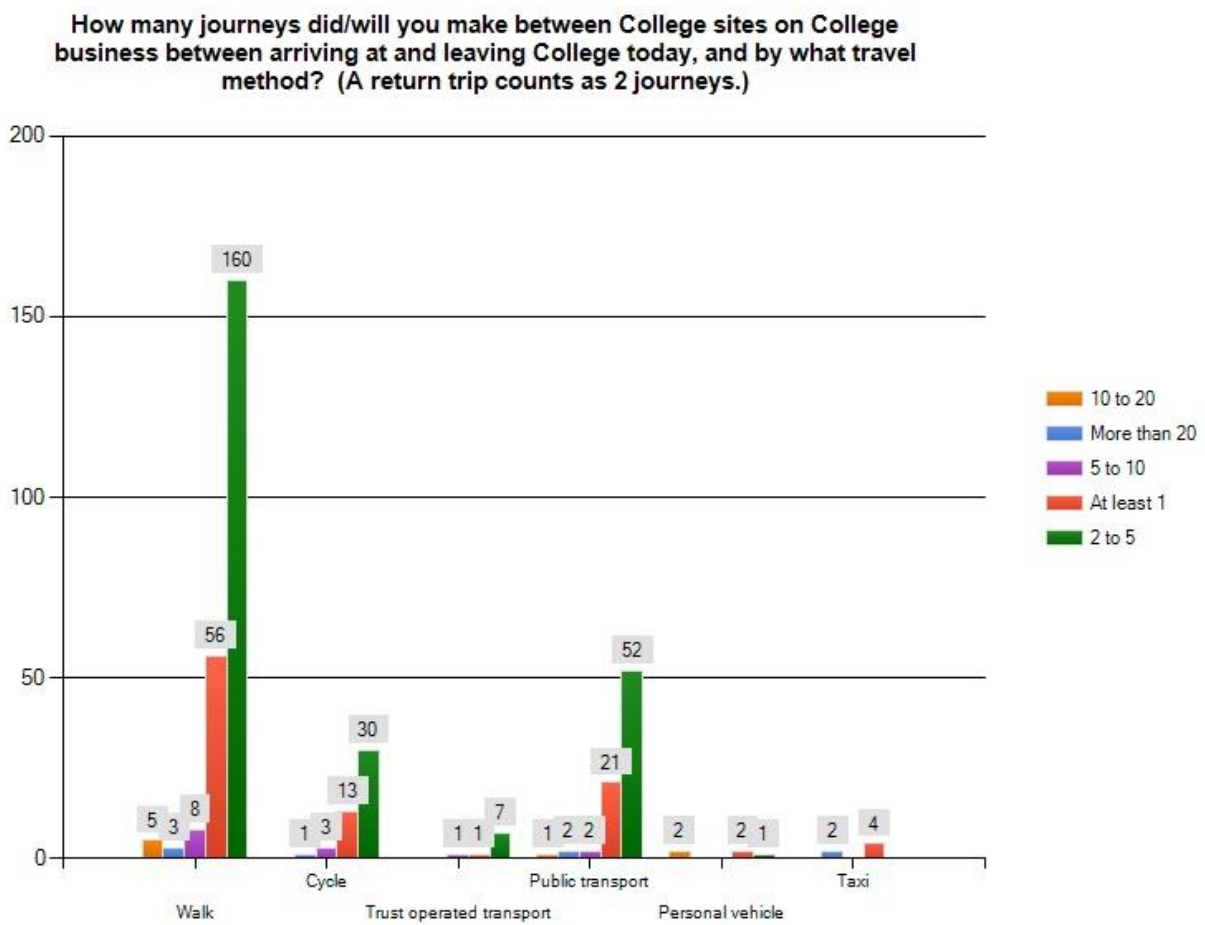
As stated previously, most of the students who responded to the survey live in the halls close to the South Kensington site, which is also the main place of study. As a result, around 70% of participants have a journey time of 30 minutes or less. Even so, around 12% of students have a journey of over 45 minutes to get to their usual place of study each day, and we cannot ignore the need for inter-campus travel that may take up a significant amount of time with the many sites the College has across London.

Nearly half the participants make their journeys in the rush hour, although with the majority walking, or cycling this shouldn't have a particular impact on journey time. Although over half of participants have a free journey to their place of study due to the methods of travel, more than 30% spend £2-£5 or more per day on travelling for study purposes. Even students who live in halls not in South Kensington but who study in South Kensington are within about 3 miles of their place of study. These make up the majority of the London Underground or bus travel among the participants.

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Other behaviours affecting travel

The majority of participants do not tend to travel between College sites. A significant number however, do make up to 5 journeys during their working day and either walk, cycle or use public transport to do this. Even those who made more than 5 journeys between college sites also walked or used public transport.

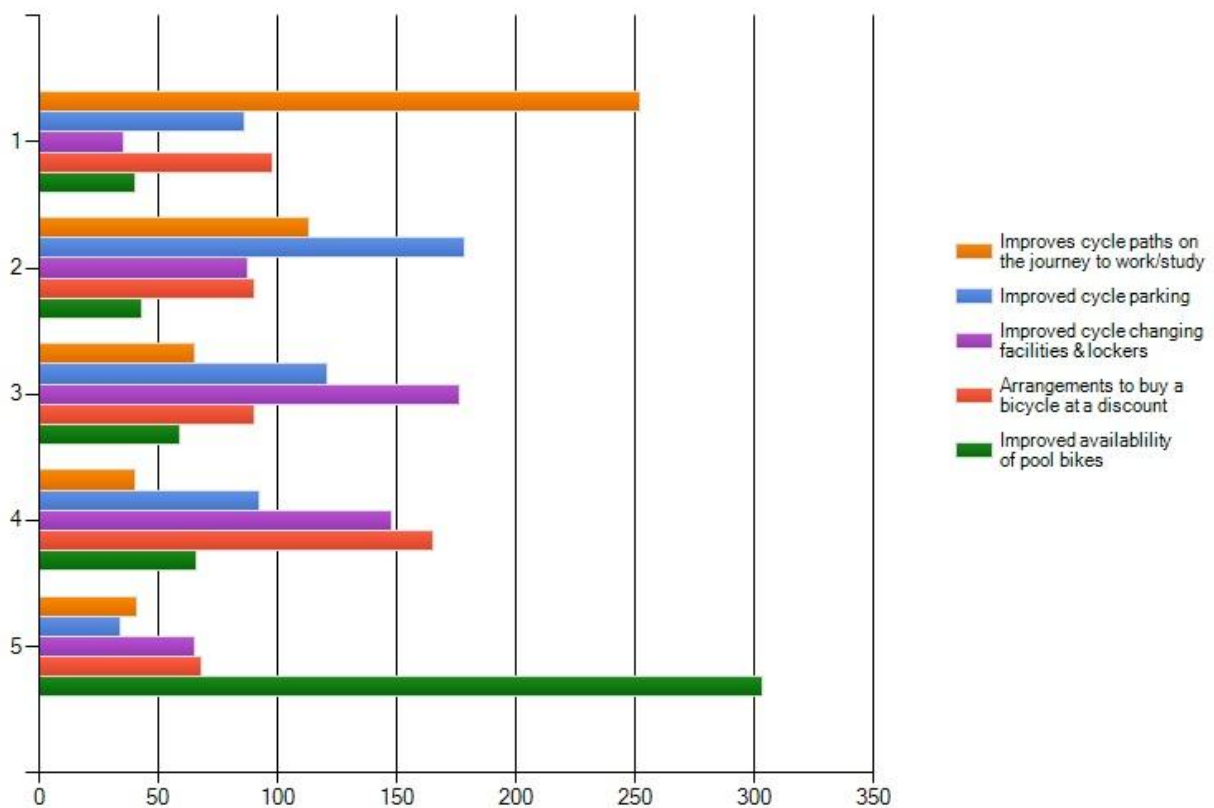


A very similar pattern to the above was true of those who travelled off site on College business, with the majority either walking or using public transport.

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Participants were also asked what they would consider to be important factors in encouraging cycling to work or between sites. The majority considered improvement to cycle routes and paths was of the highest priority, followed by improved arrangements for cycle parking and changing facilities. The availability of bikes didn't seem to be of high importance to most.

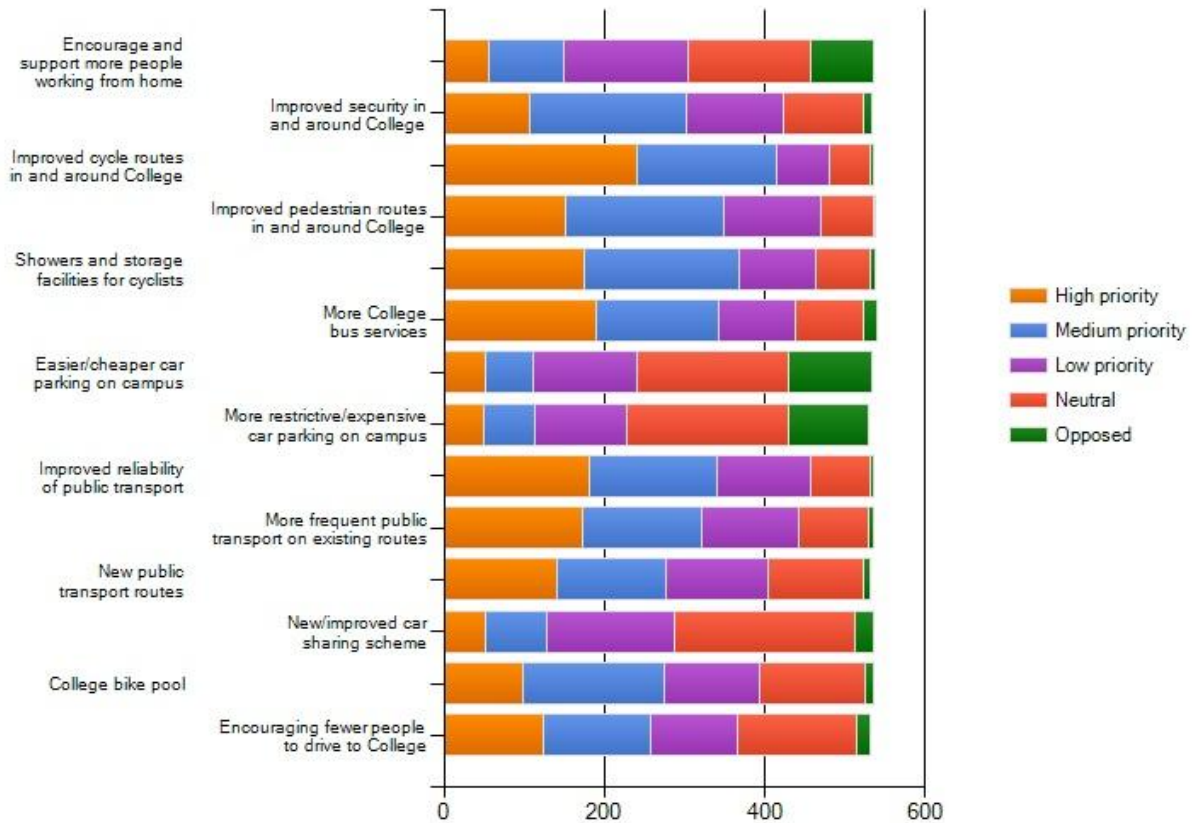
Which of the following changes would encourage you to cycle to the College, or if you already cycle, which of the following would you most like to see at your place of study? Please rank in order of importance.



The main things students considered to be important in shaping the College's transport policy overall were more College bus services, and improving cycle routes, showers and storage facilities for cyclists (as mentioned above). Improving the reliability/ frequency of public transport also scored strongly as a high priority. Although making any changes regarding public transport may not be possible for the College, improving cycling facilities and inter-campus buses may be areas that could be worked on.

The strongest opposition was to the option of easier or cheaper car parking on campus, and encouraging fewer people to drive to college was of high or medium priority to more than half of the participants despite the fact that few people drive to or from the College.

How important do you think the following should be in shaping the College's transport policy?



Improvements for next survey

Although distances used by the various forms of transport were collected to calculate the CO₂ emissions, some participants skipped these questions. An amendment to the question format in the next survey (compulsory questions and closed response fields) could ensure this question is answered which would assist with data analysis.

Although this year's survey reached some students, this only represents a small proportion of the whole student body. Further ways of distributing the survey to more students is being worked on for next year.

The survey is to be conducted on a two yearly basis from now, alternated with the staff survey, to ensure participants don't get survey fatigue and that we receive fresh, accurate responses.