

IoPPN Youth Awards 2025

Evaluation Report



About the IoPPN Youth Awards 2025

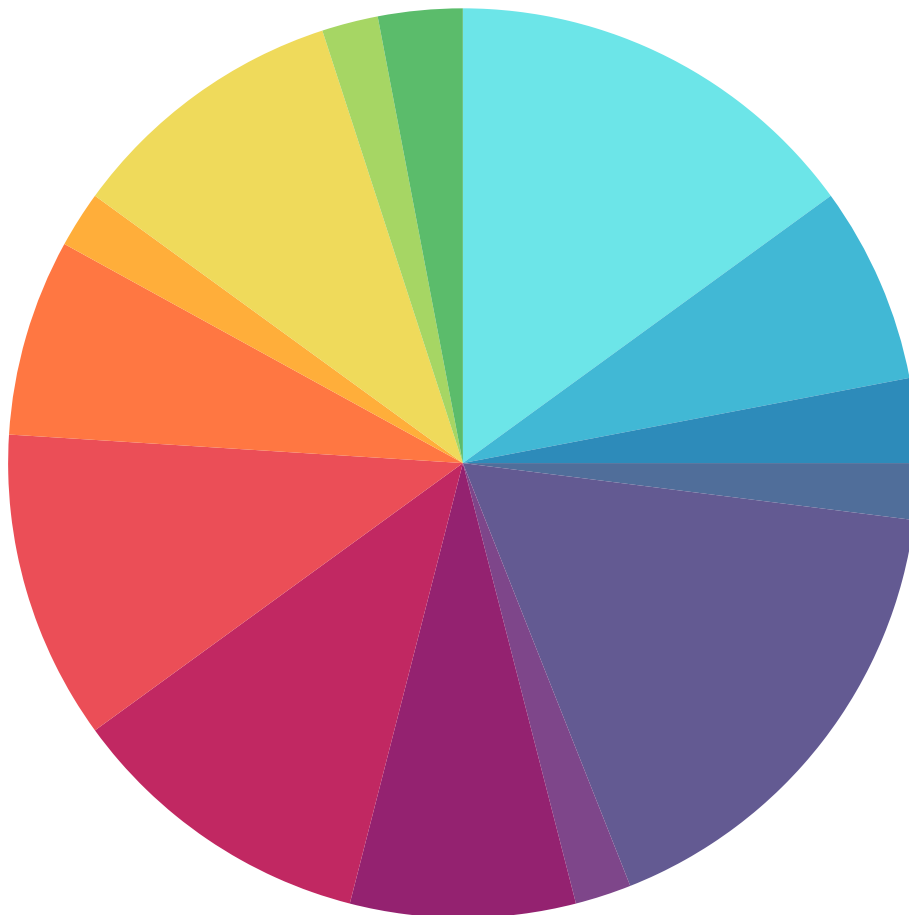
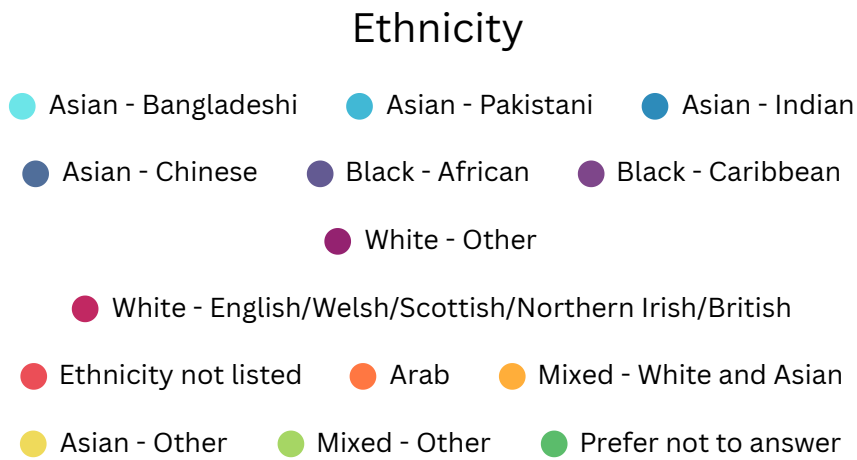
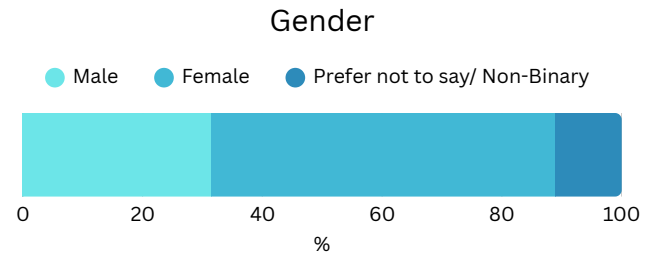
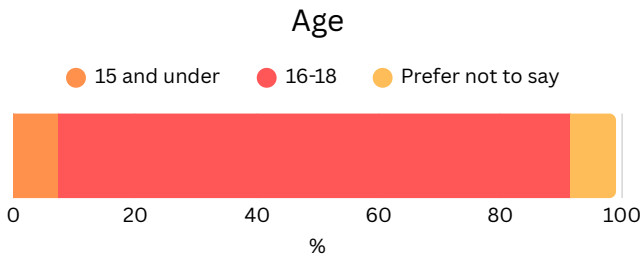
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) has offered various Youth Awards since 2013 that aim to encourage young people from the local area to stay in higher education and develop a career in science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM).

This year, 78 successful applicants received an award in one of the following departments:

- Biostatistics and Health Informatics
- Neuroimaging
- Psychology
- Social, Genetic, Developmental Psychiatry Centre
- Women's Mental Health (HSPR Department)

Successful applicants participated in work experience in one of the departments outlined above between July-September 2025. In addition to covering materials relevant to the department, workshops covered topics such as introduction to university, academia and research, as well as science communication, Q&A with academics and health professionals. Successful applicants were awarded with £50 book vouchers and a certificate of attendance.

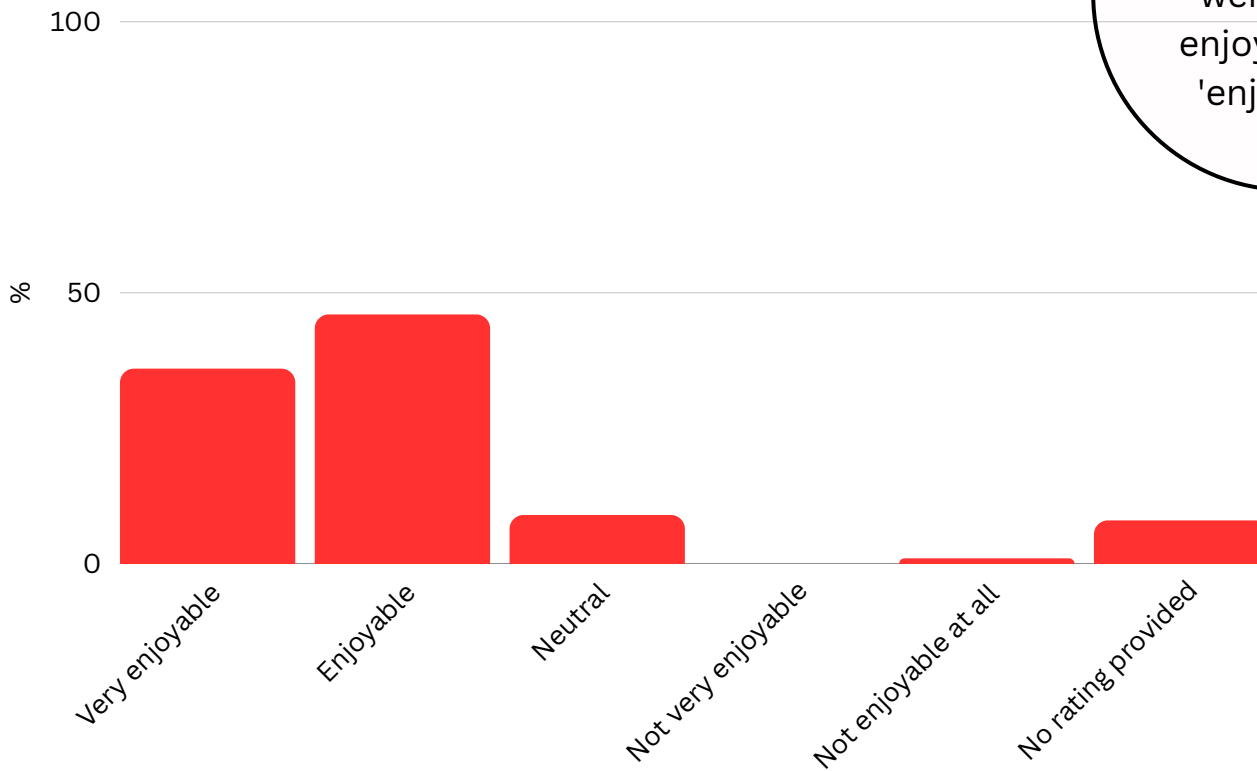
About the students:



NB: Data collected from voluntary feedback forms (N = 54). 'Prefer not to say' and 'Non-binary' groups for gender were combined because the numbers were too small and potentially identifiable.

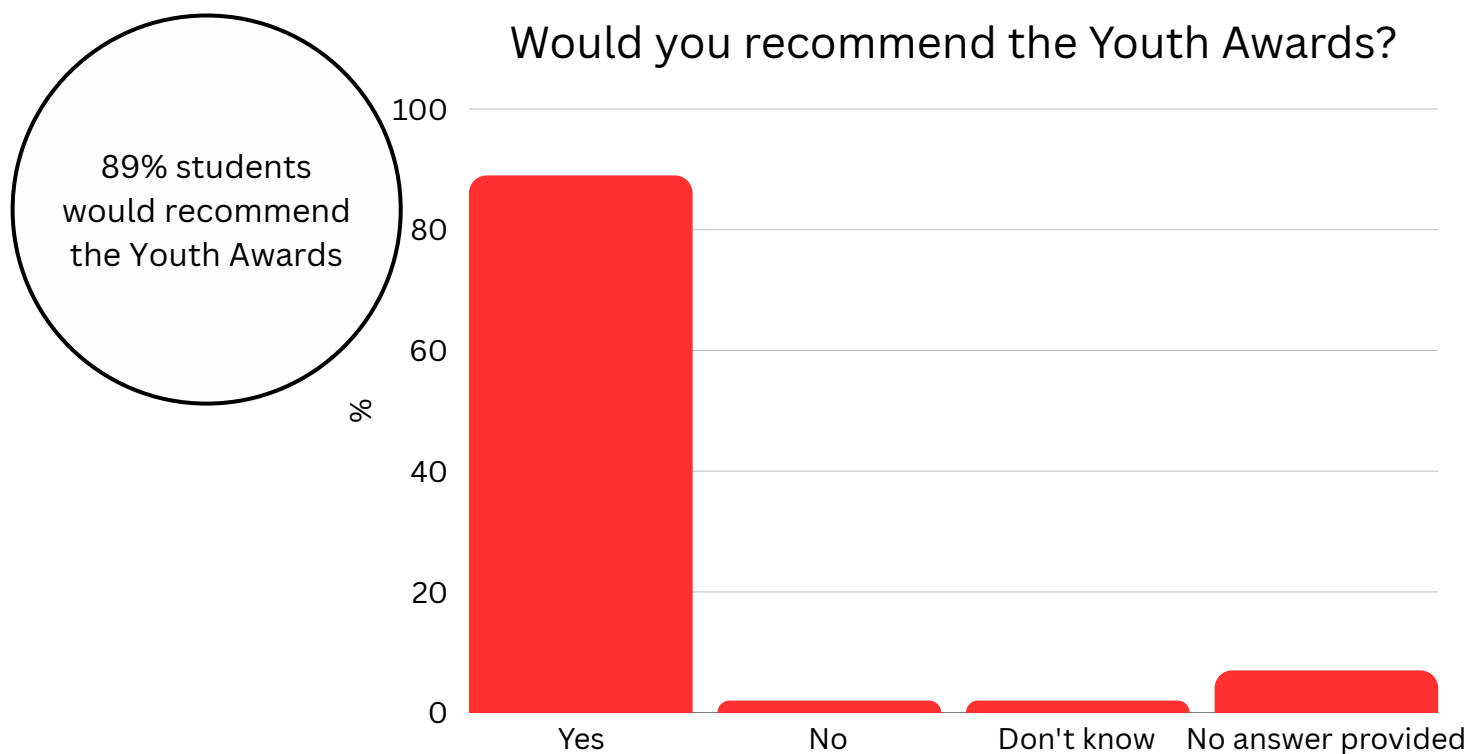
Feedback on this year's Youth Awards:

How would you rate the Youth Awards?



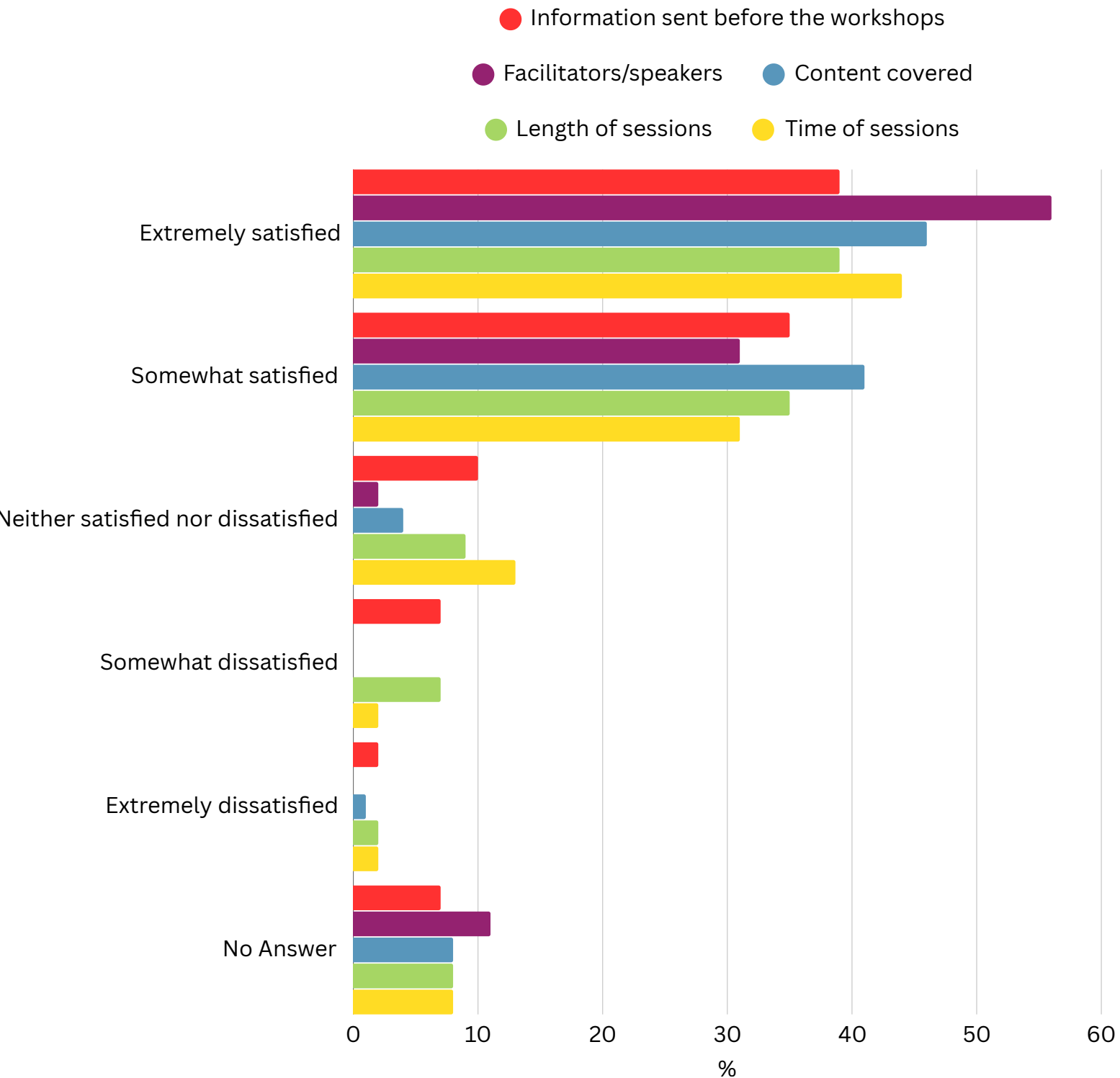
82% of students said the awards were 'Very enjoyable' or 'enjoyable'

Would you recommend the Youth Awards?



89% students would recommend the Youth Awards

Feedback on this year's Youth Awards: Satisfaction with...



NB: Data collected from voluntary feedback forms (N = 54)

Feedback on this year's Youth Awards: Positive feedback

The amount of diverse lectures and activities we were exposed to. Meeting new people who were also interested in the same depth and way as I.

Doing practical work and the play dough brain was really fun.

The people involved, very welcoming and provided lots of information. Overall structure of the day was manageable and engaging.

The sessions were very insightful and inspiring. The researchers were all very obviously passionate about their work and that created a great environment.

Practical sessions in the lab and observing research of phd students, as well as providing an overview of university life.

The opportunity to freely explore code and try different things.

All the different speakers who came to talk about their jobs and their research. Being able to explore the labs and banks.

The speakers were great and there was an effort made to introduce us to students studying our interests.

It was engaging and interactive and gave insight into research.

I liked how we had hands on workshops for example putting in the EEGS and i also liked how we saw the MRI scan in action.

Practical elements of MRI/EEG Scans and seeing rat MRIs.

The activities were really interesting and it was really cool to be lectured by academics on topics like machine learning.

Lots of information provided about future careers.

The content covered was new and interesting.

Feedback on this year's Youth Awards: Most helpful aspects

The freedom to ask questions and for help with the casual environments. Having access to an array of information from different areas of the IOPPN.

I learnt more about the specific topic I was to study and learnt valuable information from the talks.

Getting to speak to researchers in my dream careers in person and learn from them. Getting to see what actual neuroscience and psychological research looks like.

Insight into different psychology careers and the presentations were useful.

I found the variety of speakers helpful opening my eyes to different career paths and the different activities.

The talks and talking to different uni students.

How life is like as a researcher and in academia. Options in different fields within neuroscience and psychology.

Information about psychiatry and clinical psychology and learning about the anatomy of the brain.

Coding experience.

Good for my cv.

Learning about neural networks and machine learning.

Programming in R and AI.

Helpful for personal statement.

Interesting extra knowledge about psychology, gave me a sense of how university lectures felt like.

Learning about life at kings. Being involved in a meeting.

Being able to talk with the researchers and phd students and the opportunity I had to shadow a real MRI based study and be involved in the EEG demonstration.

That resources such as presentations are available after the session so I can make notes on what interested me / work on code from practicals at home if i want to.

Feedback on this year's Youth Awards: How to improve

I wish there was more advertisement for the Youth Awards because it was difficult to find.

Telling us the timetable for every day.

More practical things and more group work.

Can be longer than just 2 days, more topics involved.

Make it a bit shorter and slightly less sitting down (more interactive).

A map of where the awards take place- i spent lots of time searching for the ioppn.

More tours of the different buildings.

More time to reflect on what we had learnt and apply it to what we already know.

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