

Report on PhD students and Postdocs at APC

Biennale 2022, June 1-3

Presented by Magdy Morshed (Cosmology group, 1st year PHD)
On behalf of PhD students and postdocs at APC

Statistics from the answers and General opinions about the labs

Goal and Results

Following a motivation from the Conseil de Laboratoire, working conditions and environment has been probed, with the idea of improving them and collecting suggestions from students.

All postdocs and PHD students at APC received an invitation to take a part in :

- Google Form
- PhD seminar

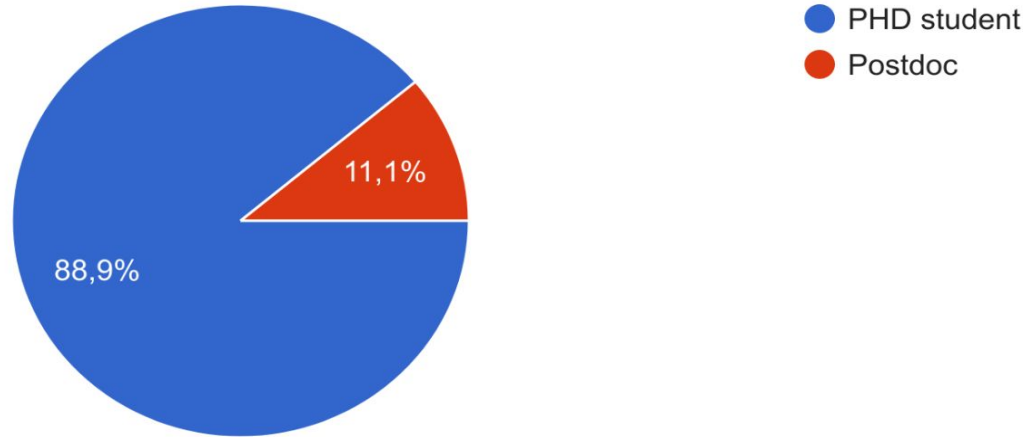
To freely expose their view and ideas

All the results are regrouped in this presentation

Occupation at APC of the students

Occupation at APC

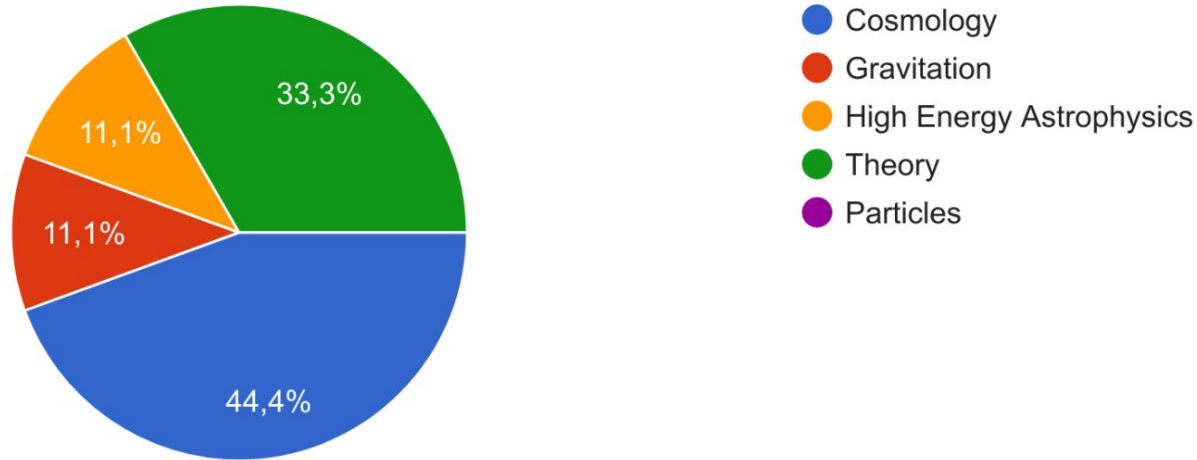
18 réponses



Research group distribution at APC of the students

Research group

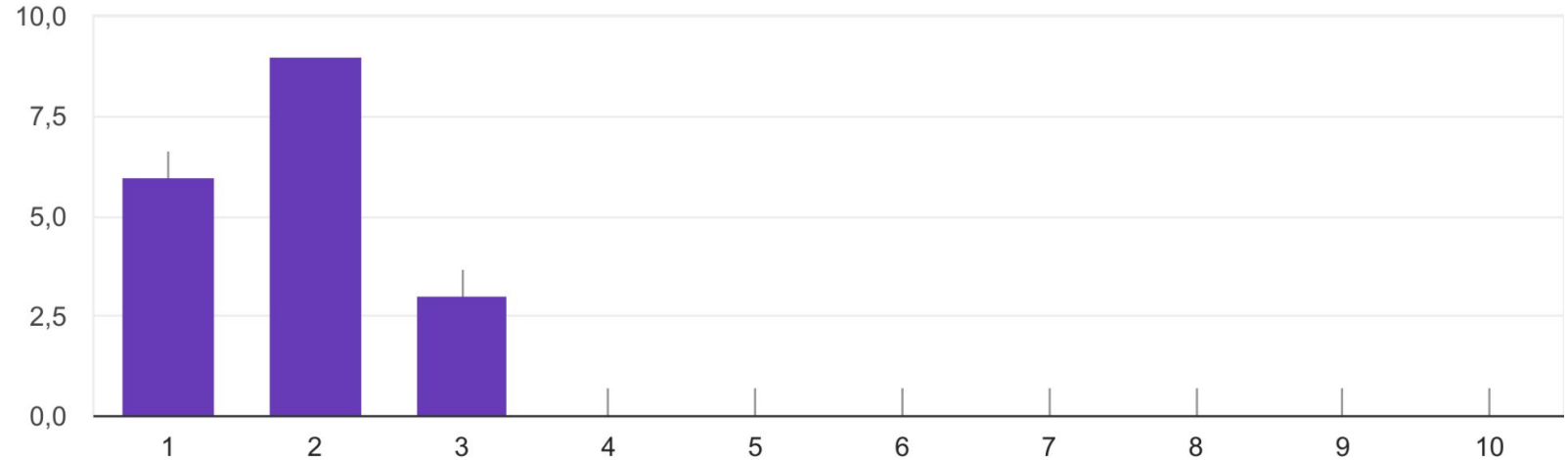
18 réponses



Time at APC at APC of the students (in years)

For how long have you been at APC ?

18 réponses



Answers to “What attracted you the the lab?”

Some of the answers (representative to all answers submitted)

- “Professors of good reputation”, “Strong research group”
- “In Paris”
- “Big lab”
- “For the PHD subject that was proposed”
- “Its involvement in many projects”
- “The team, diversity of research”
- “This is where I found a PhD project, but I also liked the life in the lab and among the PhD students”

Answers to “Why did you join the lab?”

Some of the answers (representative to all answers submitted)

- “Thesis subject of interest”, “Fit for the project”
- Continuation of internship
- “Interesting research opportunities well aligned with my studies”
- “Very good working atmosphere”
- “Competent advisors”
- “International environment and the possibility to continue my research in a similar field”

Answers to “Is it up to your expectations ?”

Some of the answers (representative to all answers submitted)

- “Yes” ! (Almost all answers)
- “The working conditions are reasonable and the atmosphere good among PhD students.”
- “Thematics too diluted amongst different groups” (seminars too technical) **(developed afterwards)**
- “Not exactly”

Answers to “What could the lab do to be more attractive ?”

More communication towards master programs

Library open all week

Better website : better now as we have information about research groups (maybe not mobile phone friendly), more useful/clear, **pushing more what is done by the different teams**

Language courses for international students **(see later slides)**

More common rooms, more activities (hiking day)

General Results from PHD seminar

Good atmosphere among students, but need of more informal meetings **(developed afterwards)**

More collaboration with other researchers needed, more people in person **(developed afterwards)**

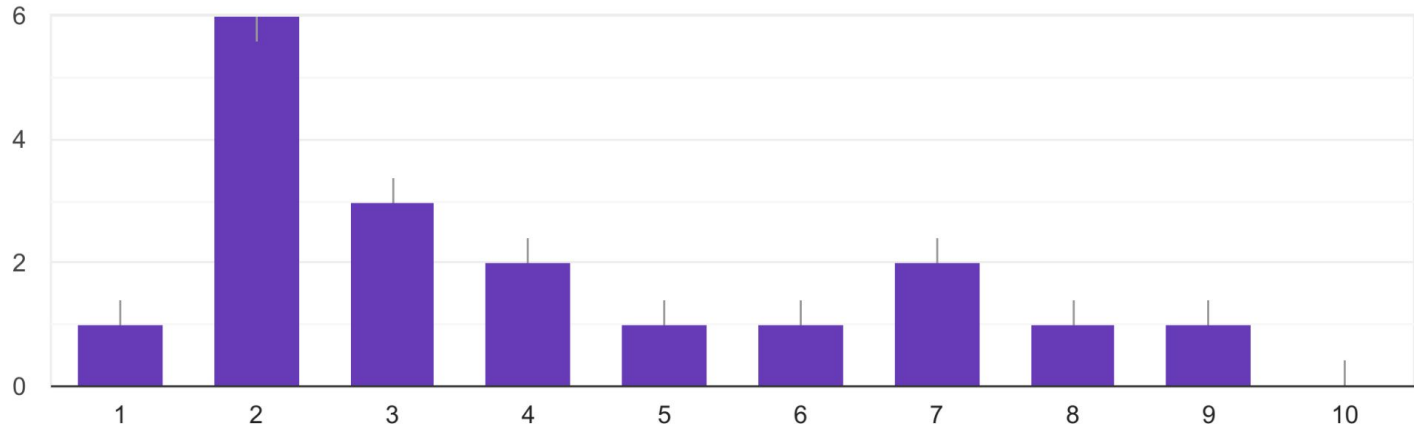
Involvement of PHD students in the lab

A few participation graphs : APC colloquia

(1: Never, 10 Always)

How often do you participate in the APC colloquia

18 réponses



Students remarks about the APC colloquia (and seminars in general)

APC colloquia not well followed : “too technical”

APC is a big lab, too many specific subjects in seminars, which can make their assimilation difficult (**often the last 20 min are really difficult to understand**)

-> more emphasis on vulgarization/presentation during seminars

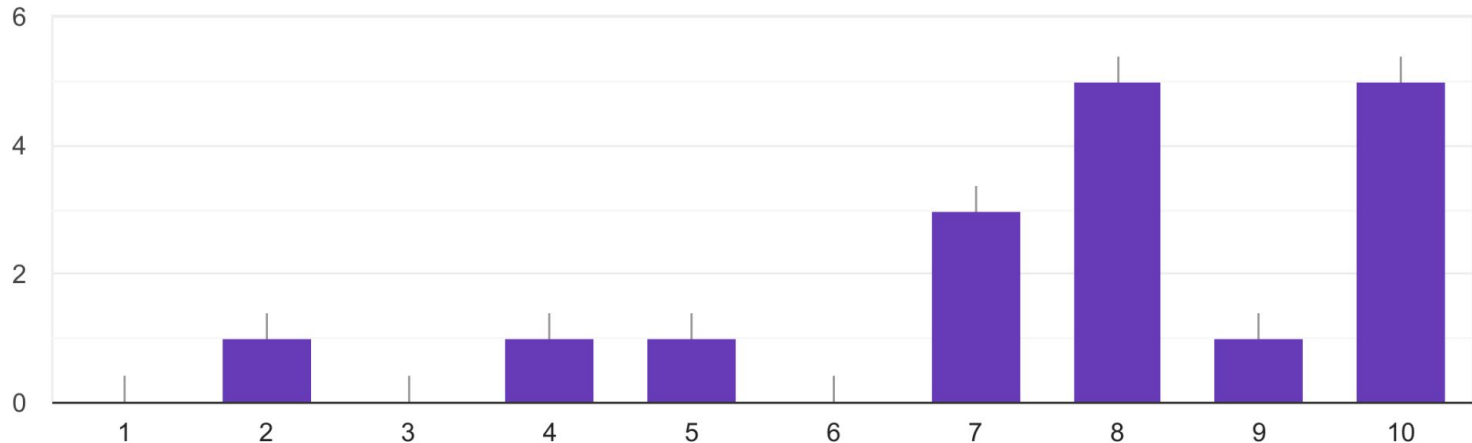
Difficult to achieve balance between specialists/not specialists

Idea : The speaker presenting could have a “pre-seminar” for PhD/postdocs, more informal (coffee, etc.)

A few participation graphs : Group meeting (1: Never, 10 Always)

How often do you participate in your group meeting ?

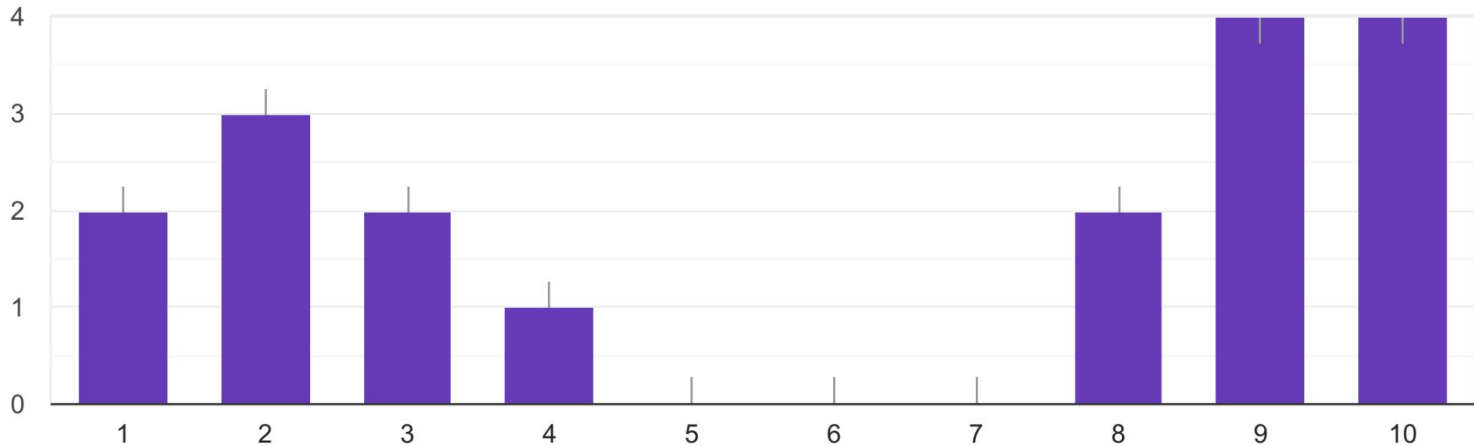
17 réponses



A few participation graphs : PhD seminar (1: Never, 10 Always)

How often do you participate in the PhD seminar ?

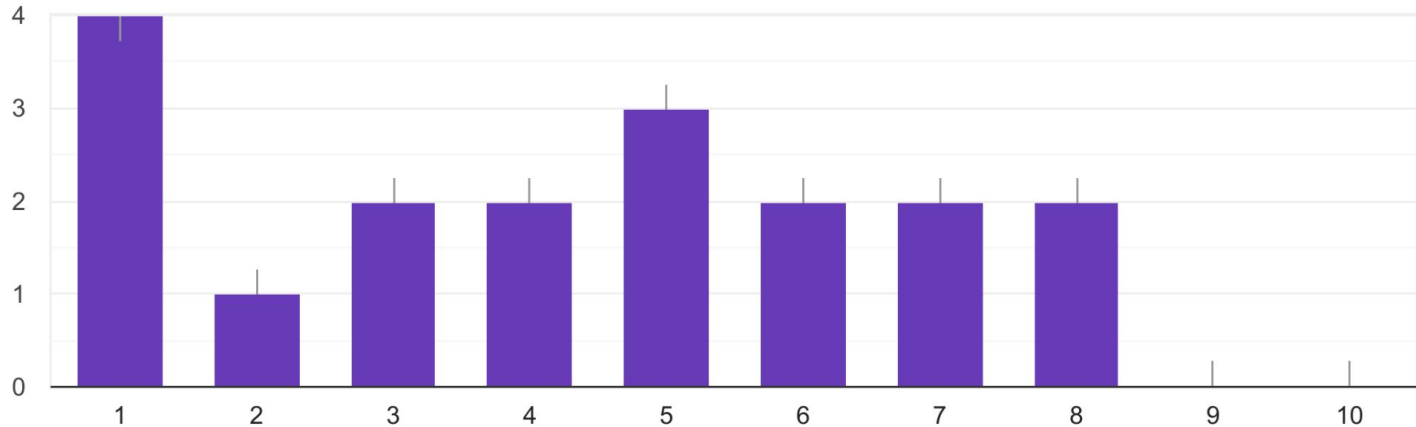
18 réponses



A few participation graphs : Other lab meetings (jeudi de l'APC, etc.)

How often do you participate in the other different lab meetings ?

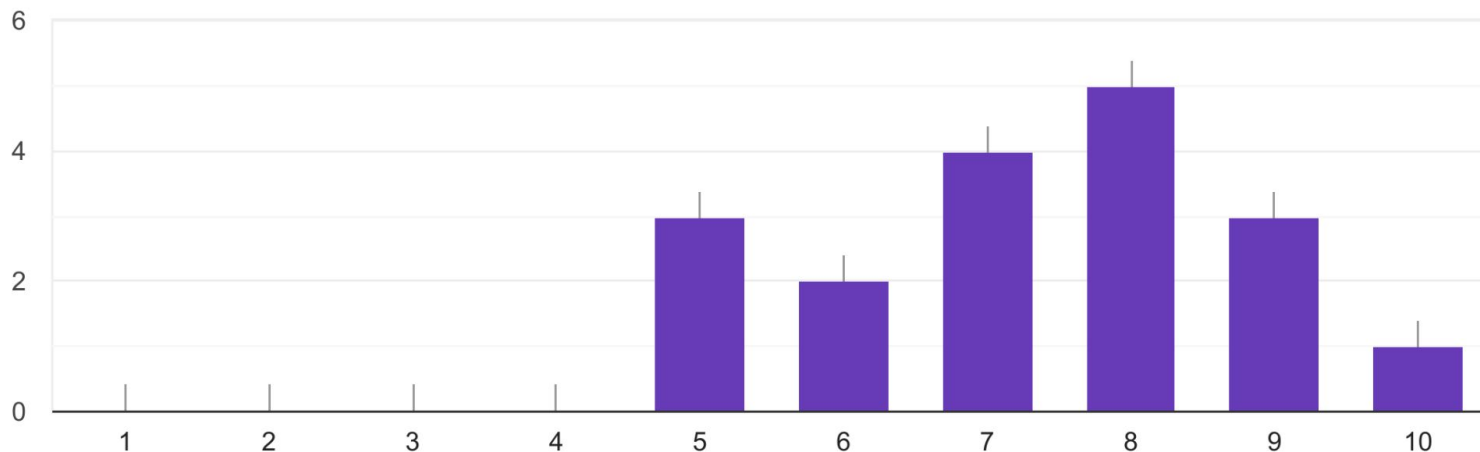
18 réponses



How happy are students with scientific life (10 : very happy, 1: very unhappy)

Are you happy with the scientific life of the lab ?

18 réponses



Remarks and suggestions on scientific life at the lab

More weekly group activities to discuss (such as journal clubs, book clubs etc.).

More informal (maybe not weekly) meetings including different groups from APC (like a pizza friday or coffee thursday for example) to discuss interesting scientific developments in other fields.

More participation of members to group meetings

More collaboration/relations with other researchers from the lab

Other remarks on scientific life at the lab

More interactions between different research groups

Some people complain there isn't a strong "community feeling" within thematic group : “most people work alone and are rarely seen”

-> Revive "community events" such as the PhDay, the Christmas dinner, etc.

(more in the next slides)

Students suggestions about informal meetings

Café labo -> informal meeting to learn what other people do in the lab ; **lack of knowledge of what other people** are doing (with croissant and coffee and tea provided)

Example : 20 min informal presentation every 2-3 weeks, from different groups

- > No Zoom allowed, makes it too formal
- > For doctoral students, with researcher

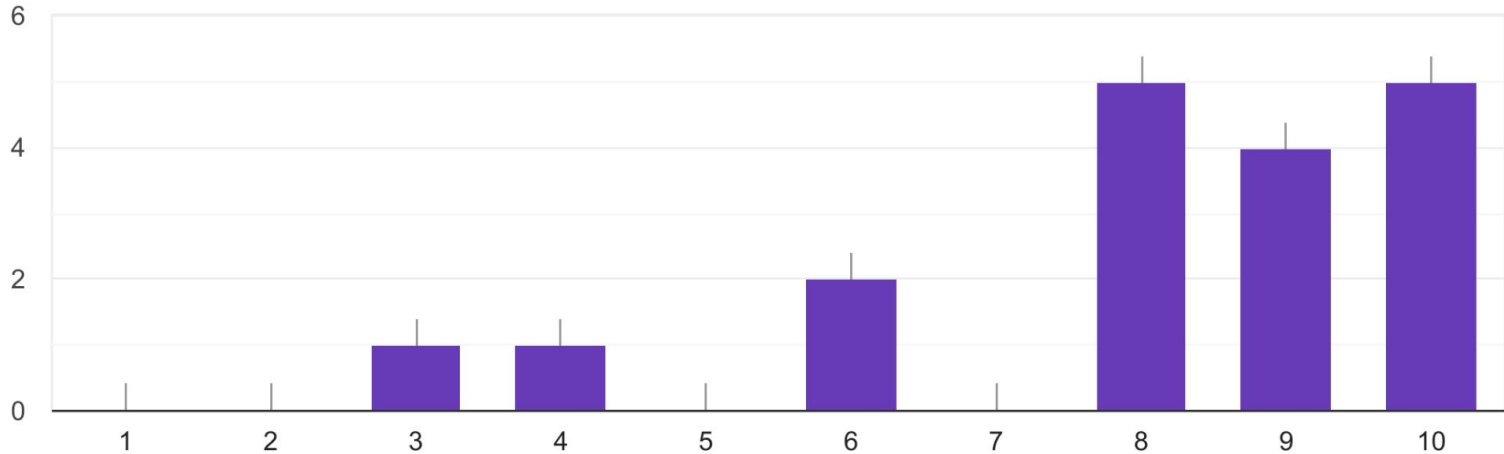
Café “précaire” : just breakfast together for students (PHD, postdocs, interns, etc.)

Working environment survey

How happy are students with their surrounding research team (PhD advisor) (10 : very happy, 1: very unhappy)

Are you happy with your surrounding research team, eg your PhD advisor ?

18 réponses



Answers to “What would you change with your surrounding research team?”

Feeling of loneliness on several answers

“The APC research team is very strong, except for my team, I am pretty much alone.”

(more in the next slide)

A little more advice on the conferences to attend / groups to visit

Answers to “What would you change with your surrounding research team?”

More time in person at the lab (rarely at their offices)

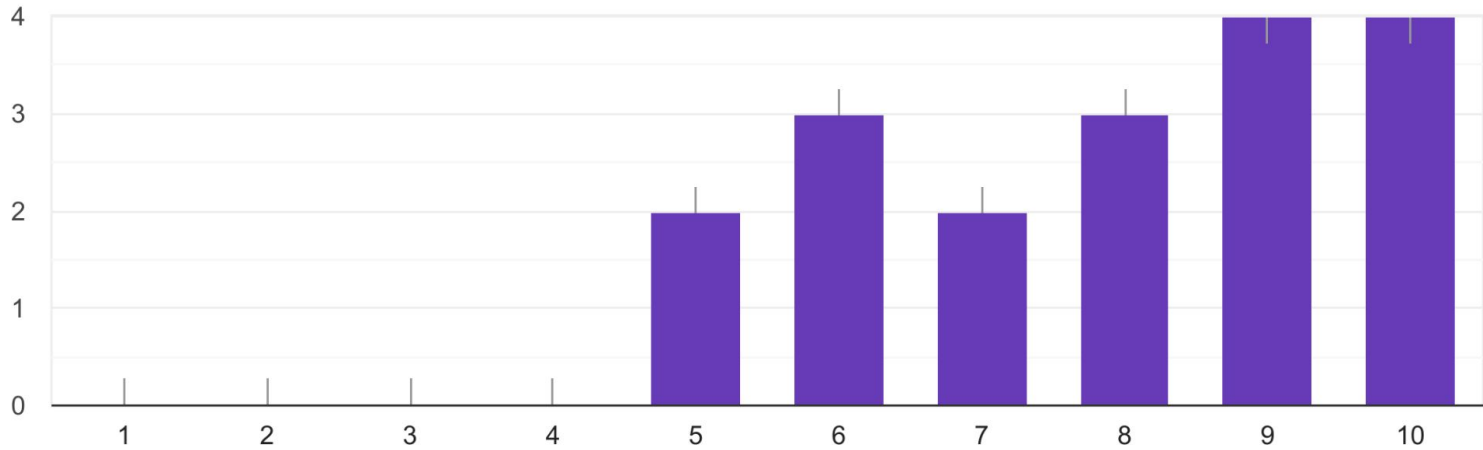
-> Rarely have occasions to speak with them in person and meetings have to be well planned in advance (should be more spontaneous)

-> Senior people should be more at the office -> most didn't go back to their pre-COVID schedule

How happy are students with their office (10 : very happy, 1: very unhappy)

Are you happy with your office ?

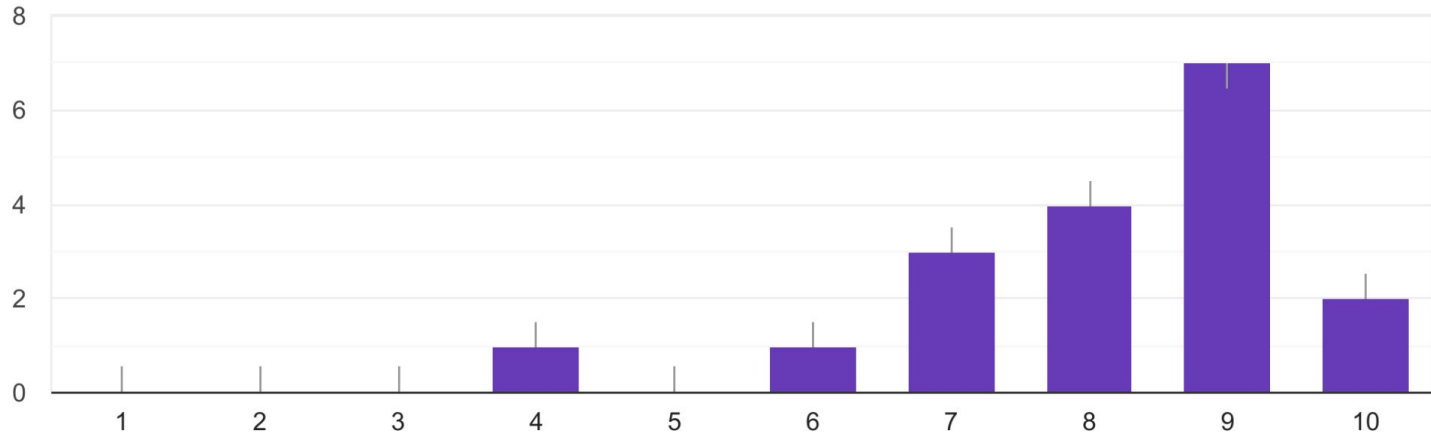
18 réponses



How happy are students with the lab working equipment in general (10 : very happy, 1: very unhappy)

Are you happy with the lab working environment/conditions in general ?

18 réponses



Students remarks and ideas about the lab equipment and office

Better equipments (screen, keyboard, etc.) -> old screens only, without HDMI connection (only VGA) ; (if change, HDMI cables to be provided)

Improve the door lock - some offices are pain to open

Heating problem (heating on during spring, need to fix radiator, thermostat not working, no air circulation, more ventilators in office ?)

The windows -> integrated shades forces us to turn on the light in summer

Chairs could be more ergonomic

More regular cleaning of the floor

(More plants in offices)

Students remarks and ideas about the lab equipment and office

No pumping room (general lack of equipment for motherhood period)

Not many women at the lab (especially in permanent staff)

-> Difficult to exchange about navigating the career + personal life business

Lot of students in March-June -> not enough keys for everyone

Give researchers who mainly work at home a shared office, or at least to make more copies of the office keys.

Answers to “What would you change with the lab working environment/conditions in general ?”

Daily coffee break in the fourth floor for everyone at the same time -> For more spontaneous interactions

Daily vegetarian option at the canteen

Coffee/tea and the coffee machines covered by the lab (or at least partially covered), to fund students needs

A better coffee machine

Other general remarks

Other remarks from the PhD seminar and Google Form

First day of PhD -> make PhDay ? **What do we do for new PhD students and new postdocs ?**

Welcoming day from the lab (from students) ? -> Do we do more ? Invite PHD and their supervisor ?

Lunches with PhD students are extremely nice.

Other remarks from the PhD seminar

Language course for international students

-> better French course (make information clearer to find, "french class already existing are terrible") ; other languages courses might be taught as well

Other remarks from the PhD seminar - Information

Informations on PhD (deadlines, administration, etc.)
missing on posters in offices (PhD representatives)

More informations about the roof

-> To organize seminar/after seminar/pot de thèse

Thank you for your attention !
