

# The surprising truth about who engages in a non-assessed, credit-free undergraduate conference and what they present

- Dr Christopher Little, Keele University, [c.w.r.little@keele.ac.uk](mailto:c.w.r.little@keele.ac.uk), @drlittle26

## AIM

- Discuss who engaged in an extra-curricular undergraduate research conference over the past 4 years.
- Share insights into the common and surprising characteristics of those who engage.

## BENEFITS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

- Develop discipline specific skills [1, 2, 3, 4].
- Provide a transformative space to explore disciplinarity [5, 6].
- Undergraduate research can have a positive impact on research and teaching roles [7].

## THE CONFERENCE

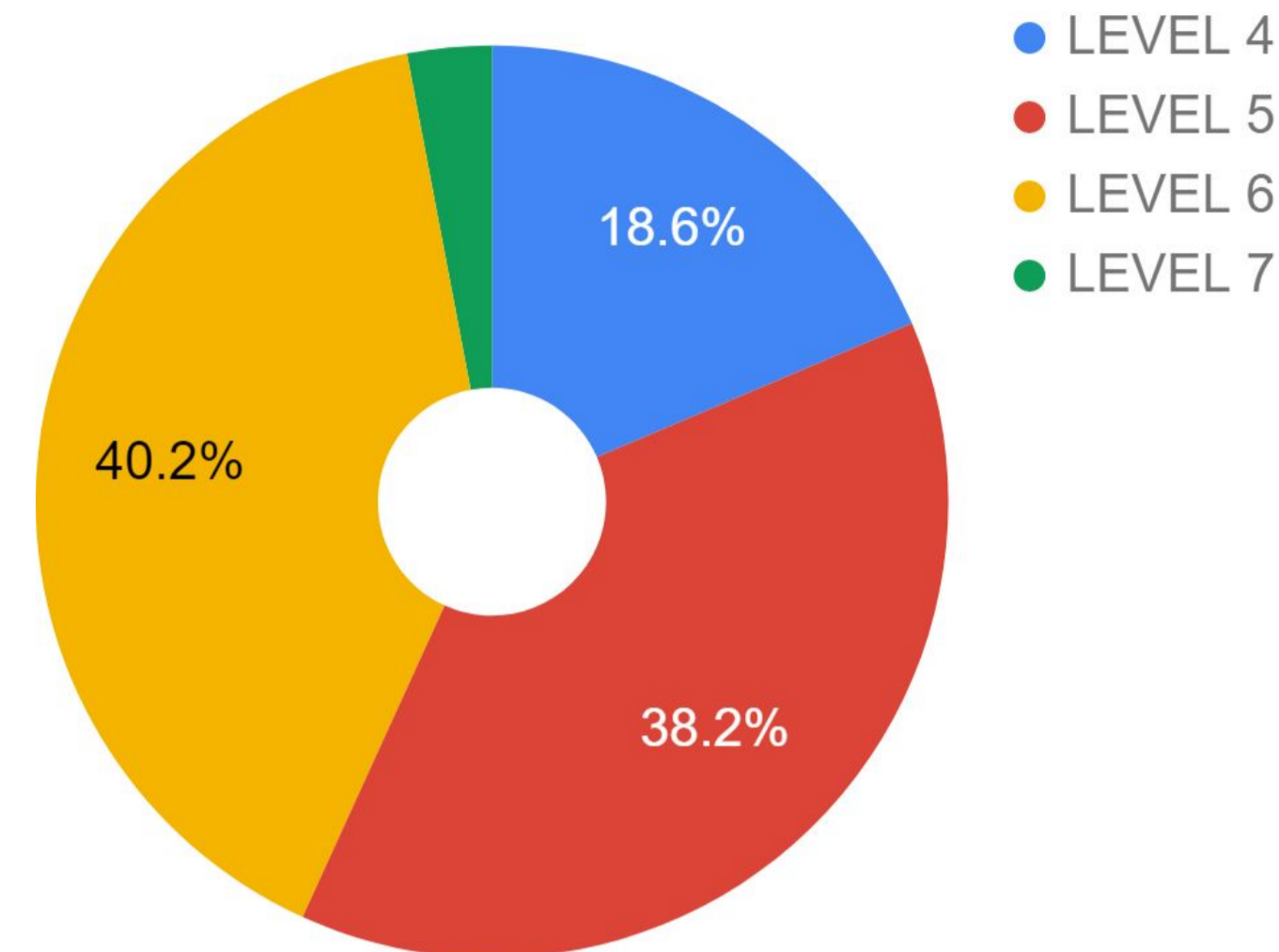
The *JADE Student Learning Undergraduate Conference*, established June 2016, known to students as JSLUG.

- Annual, unthemed, non-assessed conference open to all undergraduate students.
- 30-50 papers, 70-100 delegates.
- Abstracts, posters and papers published in Keele's *Journal of Academic Development and Education* (JADE).

## NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS

Year	Oral presentations	Poster presentations	Lightning talks	Total
2016	18	12	N/A	30
2017	18	6	N/A	24
2018	18	16	9	43
2019	18	20	8	46

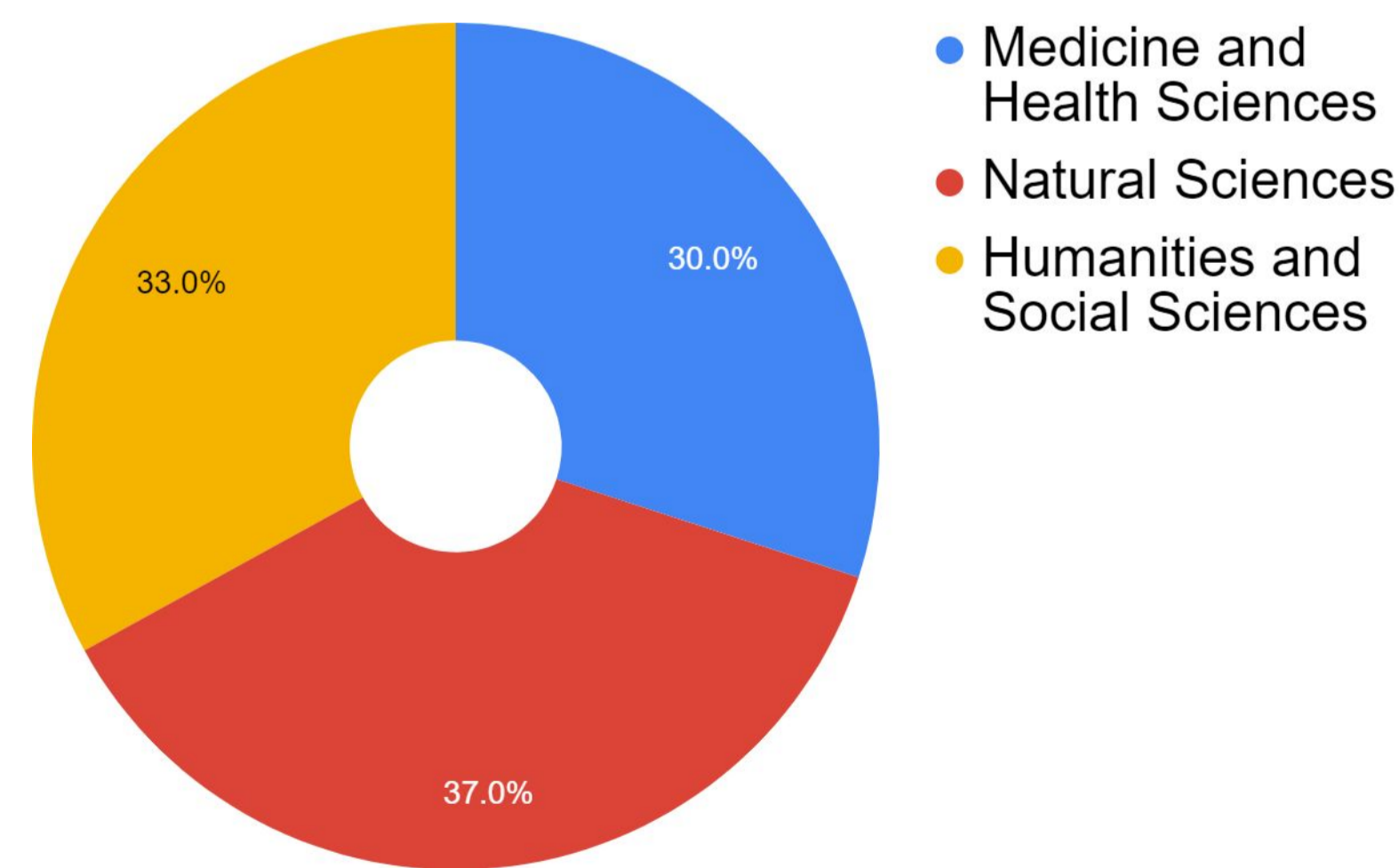
## PRESENTERS AND DELEGATES: UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL



- The above shows engagement across all levels of undergraduate study, including integrated 4-year Masters programmes.

## PRESENTERS AND DELEGATES: WHO ENGAGES?

- Presenters and delegates are recruited relatively evenly from the University's three faculties.



- Subject areas represented include Nursing, Medicine, Mathematics, Astrophysics, English Literature, Politics, Geology, Environmental Sustainability, Psychology and Law, amongst others.

## ENGAGING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

- This conference was an effective vehicle in engaging underrepresented groups above institutional benchmarks:

Category	JSLUG Average (%)	% of students at Keele
Disclosed disability	18%	6%
BAME ethnicity	40%	29%
Non-EU international students	21%	37%
POLAR 1	18%	15%

## CONCLUSIONS

This project found that UR conferences can:

- Recruit 'hard to reach' students at disproportionate levels.
- Engage all years of undergraduate study in an extracurricular research initiative.
- Encourage engagement in opportunities beyond the formal curriculum.

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