

Alumni Learning Experience Survey Report

December 2022

Why the 'Alumni Learning Experience Survey' ?

In the past 15 years, over **1700 learners***, **mentors, researchers, and staff members** have been hosted and supported by the **Learning Planet Institute**, formerly known as the **Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CRI)**.

As the Learning Planet Institute is transforming to become **more impactful and financially autonomous**, learning from our past is cardinal to do better in the future and continue to attract new students, scientists, teachers, partners and funders. In this context, the **'Alumni Learning Experience Survey'** is the first step for us to determine :



How we can contribute to the **transformative potential of our alumni's work**;



How the alumni can **help us grow and rise** to the challenges of our time.

**Learners include Bachelor, Master, PhD, DU diploma, Summer School participants...*

The Team



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Master AIV 2016
PhD 2020



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Master Learning
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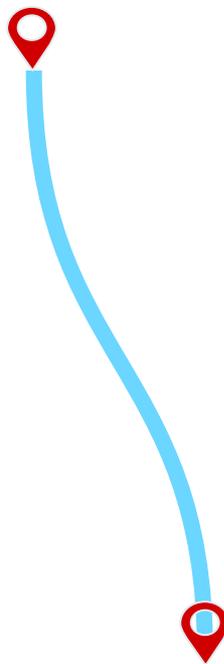
Research Methods

'Alumni Learning Experience Survey'

April to June 2022



63 Questions



6 Categories



VISION &
BIG PICTURE



COURSES



METHODOLOGY



SKILLS



MENTORING
& SUPPORT



COMMUNITY

3 Focus Groups

October 2022



Key figures

Total Alumni *

1300 



51% **49%**

32% PhD (2007)*

52% Masters

37% LiSc (2004)*

12% LeSc (2014)*

3% DiSc (2019)*

16% Bachelors (2011)*

Survey Responses

309 



50% **45%**

27% PhD

55% Masters

41% LiSc

12% LeSc

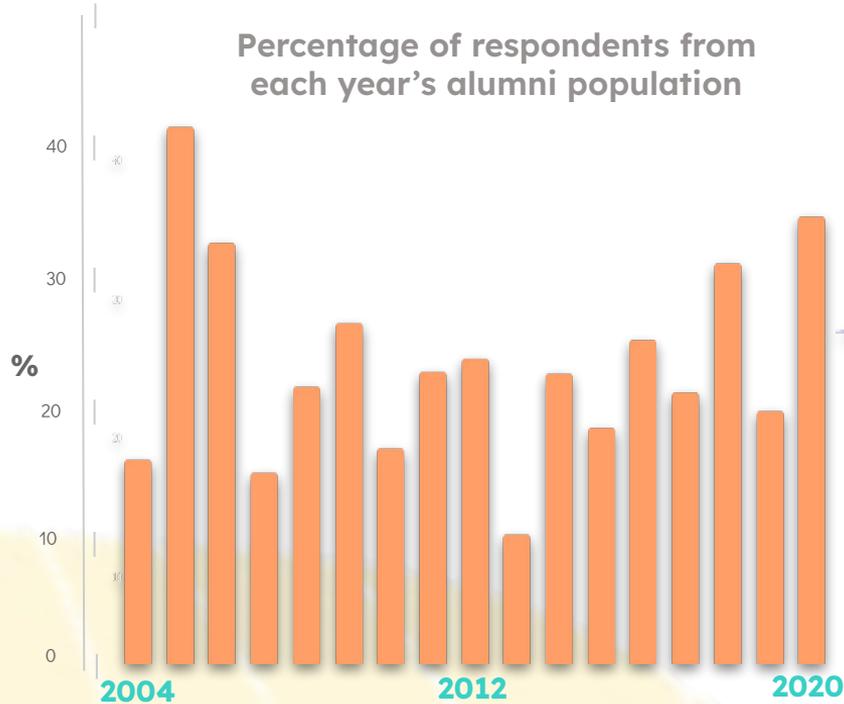
2% DiSc

18% Bachelors

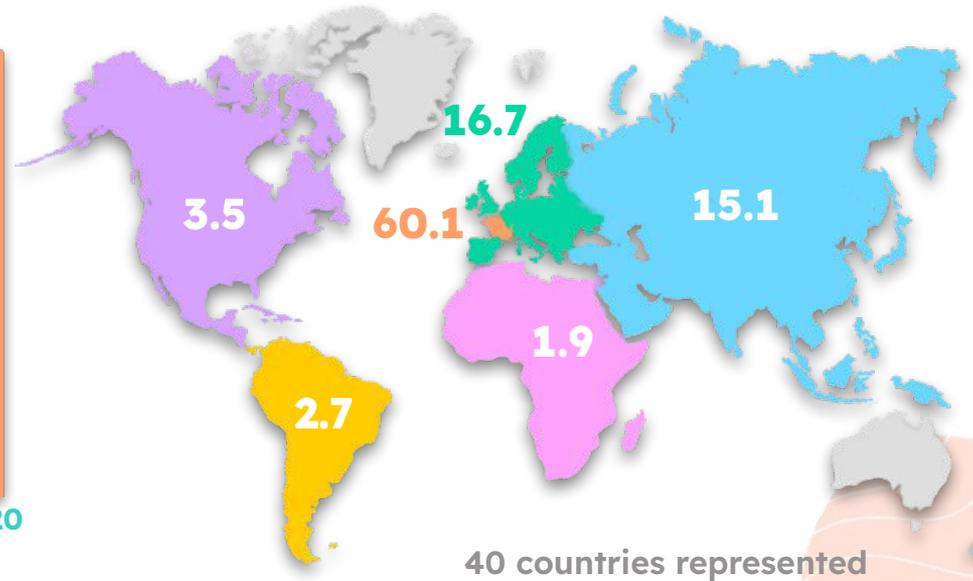
* Alumni graduating through 2019

Survey Cohort

Percentage of respondents from each year's alumni population



Percentage of respondents by continent %



Overview of the survey's six categories



VISION & BIG PICTURE

Philosophy and values of the Learning Planet Institute, unique features of the organization (e.g. interdisciplinary and problem-solving approaches).



METHODOLOGY

Learning and teaching practices, impact of the Learning Planet Institute's specific methods on alumni's personal and professional lives (e.g. learning by doing, peer-to-peer methods).



MENTORING & SUPPORT

Levels and quality of guidance received by learners at the Learning Planet Institute, material, administrative and financial support.



COURSES

Curriculum structure, content and adaptability, enjoyability of the classes, workload, requirements, quality of teaching, etc.



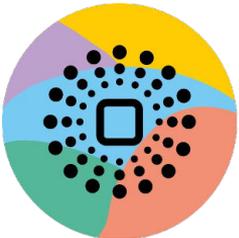
SKILLS

Skills which were developed by the combination of vision, methods, mentoring and courses, self-declared strengths and weaknesses of Learning Planet Institute graduates.



COMMUNITY

Quantity and quality of interactions of learners with teachers, researchers, professionals and other learners, levels of collaboration networking opportunities, etc.



VISION & BIG PICTURE

Better elsewhere

LPI is better



Average: 8.4
N = 237

Although all categories scored very high, alumni valued above all unconventional ideas and interdisciplinarity.

Positive: 73.5%

"Very unique ecosystem fostering responsible science, diversity and inclusivity."

"I love the freedom CRI allows its students to explore different fields. This, combined with the practicality of its vast network and general "Can-do" attitude, is incredible."

"I loved the informal atmosphere involved with any interaction at FdV. I always felt welcome to be myself, ask questions, try things, try crazy things."

"It has a great vision on science and society, and education, that is really forward-looking."

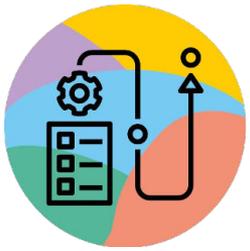
"I want more mini cri's all over the world."

Negative: 16.2%

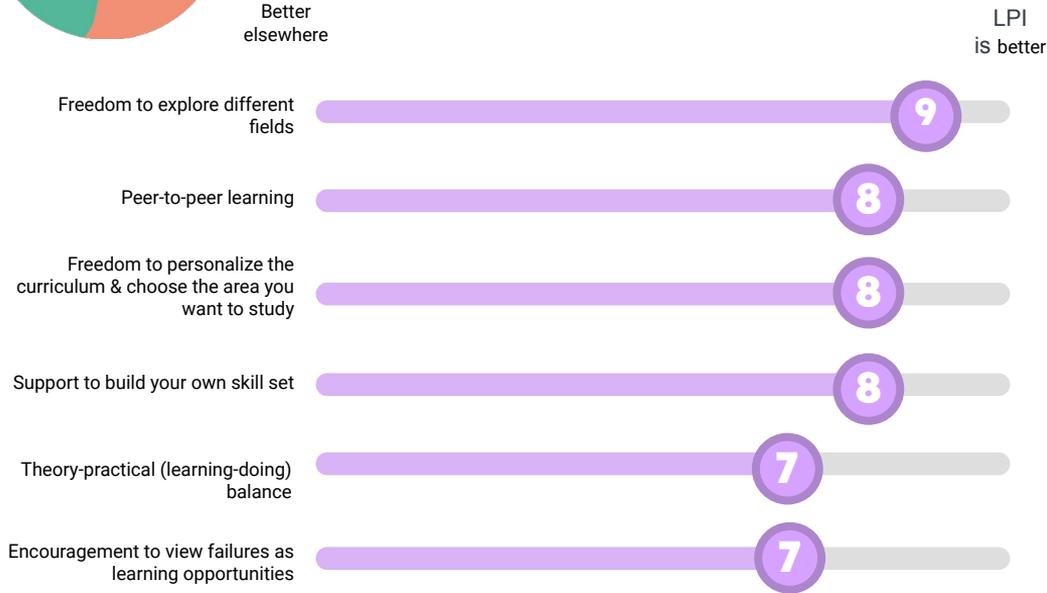
"Don't feel involved in the vision arrived excited, left pretty jare."

Neutral: 10,3%

N=68



METHODOLOGY



Average: 7.8
N = 214

Freedom to explore different fields is considered by alumni the main advantage to the LPI's methodology.

Positive: 63.6%

"I am glad that CRI was my first point of entry into academia, as it encouraged my curiosity in different fields"

"Hands-on learning in AIV internships was very well balanced with theoretical, collective projects together with fellow students throughout the year."

"The ability to explore diverse disciplines was really exciting and had a big impact on my future career."

"The overall educational set-up and the approach of CRI are quite innovative and benefits student in self-directed learning."

Negative: 18.2%

"Short internships (3 months) were too short do to a nice project."

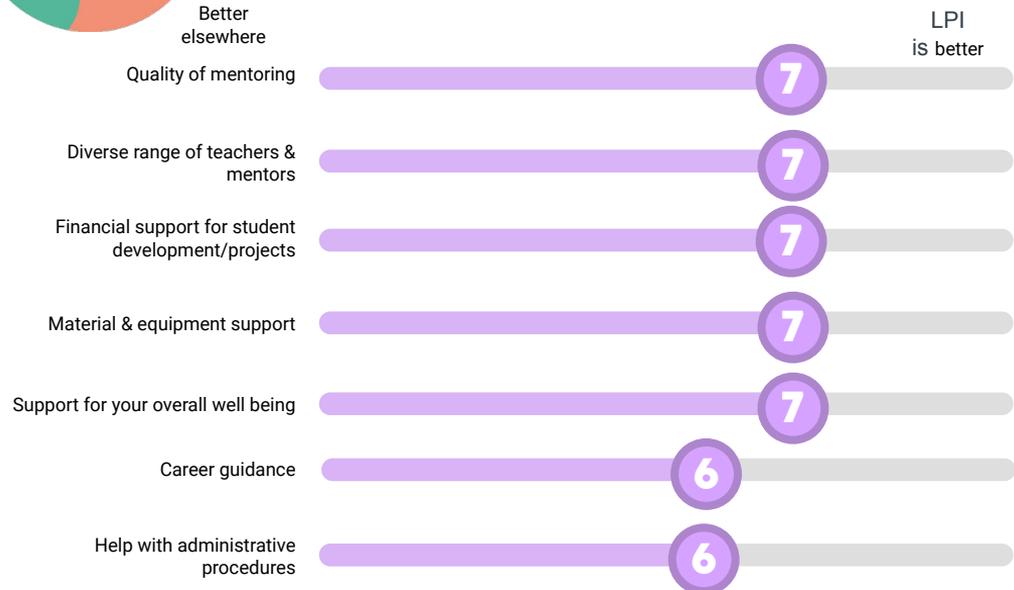
Neutral: 18,2%

N=44



MENTORING & SUPPORT

N=48



Average: 7.4
N = 208

Most of the indicators on mentoring were scored 7 out of 10, showing that alumni were somewhat satisfied with the support they received throughout their studies, leaving a margin for improvement.

Positive: 83.3%

"Top-down vs bottom-up mentoring. In my opinion, the CRI and its mentoring is unique in helping to sprout, and then support and foster student-lead initiatives."

"As a pregnant woman at the time, I found the teachers very supportive and helping throughout the year!"

"People of competence and generous to offer their time and advice are a real asset of CRI."

"In my opinion, the CRI and its mentoring is unique in helping to sprout, and then support and foster student-lead initiatives."

"In my most difficult moments (when I was filled with fear and self-doubt), they were always there for me."

"Awesome mentors. Curious teachers. Superb learning environment."

Negative: 10.4%

"I wish we would have a mentor to direct me a bit in my career path. Because I came from different culture and country, sometimes I was shy or lost."

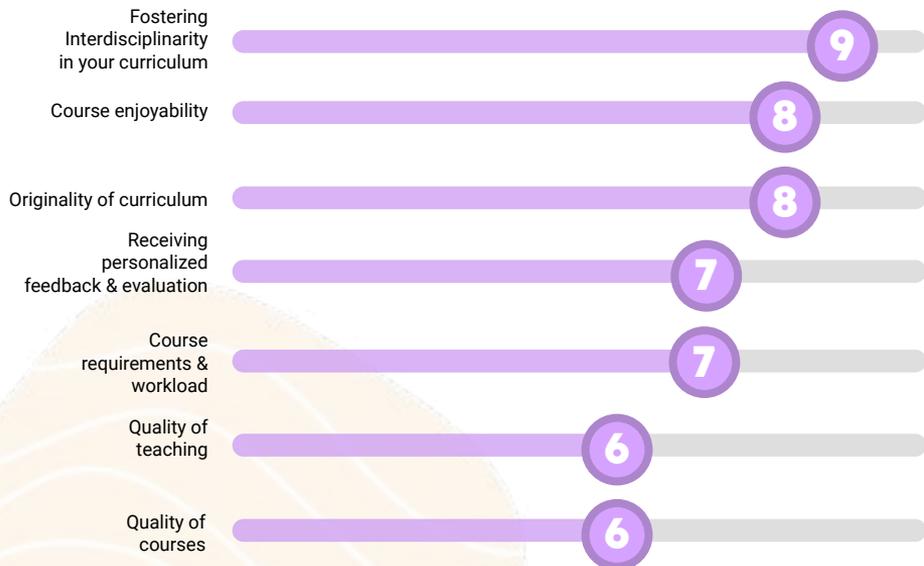
Neutral: 6,1%



COURSES

Better
elsewhere

LPI
is better



Graduates particularly enjoyed their curricula's interdisciplinarity, and found the courses to be both enjoyable and original.

Average: 7.3
N = 220

Positive: 70.3%

"J'ai adoré les défis chimie, les semaines de projet thermodynamique ou ingénierie. Ce sont vraiment les moments qui m'ont le plus préparé à la vie professionnelle et académique."

"To me, the most impactful practice was giving students the resources to organize their own courses"

"The courses design are truly based on freedom to pursue one's intellectual interests and emphasize on team works"

"Courses were quite enjoyable. The "learning by doing" approach was especially great"

"Very innovative and smartly designed courses, that emphasized learning and group-work as much as grades and performances."

Negative: 16.2%

"The program is ambitious but the quality of courses is definitely uneven."

Neutral: 13,5%

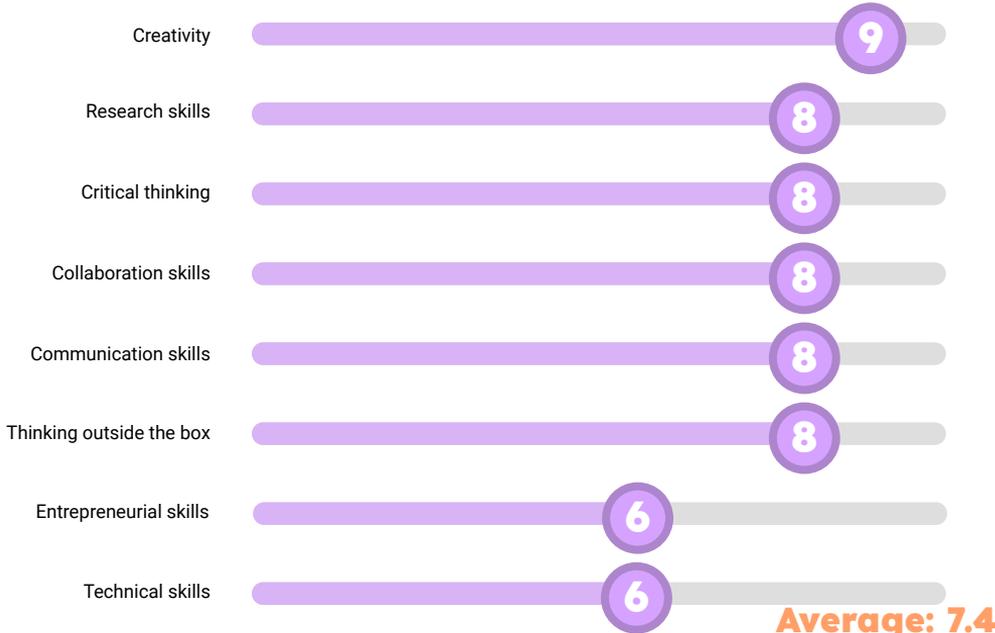
N=68



SKILLS

Better elsewhere

LPI is better



Average: 7.4
N = 211

N=31

Positive: 74.2%

"I appreciate a lot that conferences were counted as learning hours during the PhD program. This, combined with the individual travel budget, gave me a very welcome freedom to be creative and have and empowered me to build my skills in the way outrageous ideas, and that I wanted to."

"The most important thing that CRI gave me was critical thinking, audacity to be creative and have and co-create with others."

"After my stint at CRI and completing a PhD in a field entirely new for me, I am now confident in my adaptability and quick learning skills."

"Open projects are a great way to develop your skills. Thanks the CRI/FdV for that!"

"I obtained good research skill and then published very good papers."

Negative: 9.7%

"Difficult to go back to somewhere more conventional and be more consistent with what is usually expected in the "real world" though."

Neutral: 16,1%

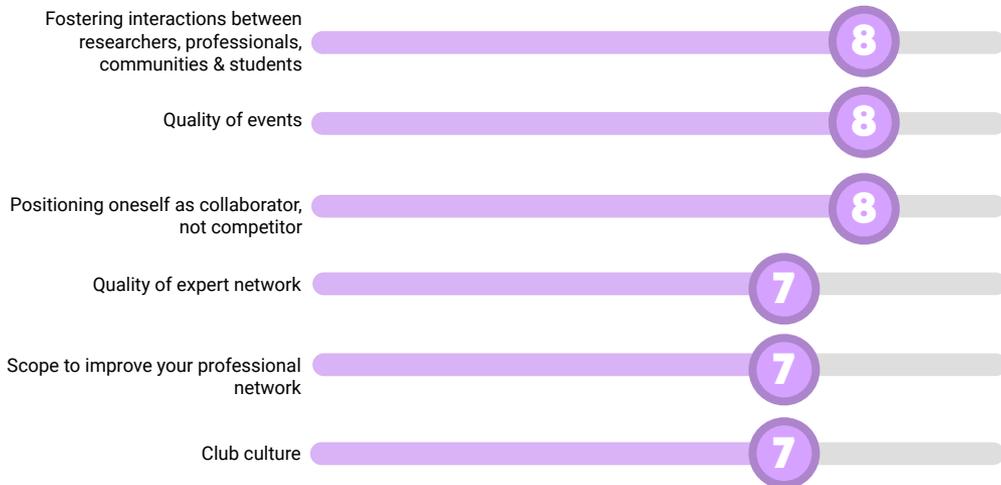
Alumni found that the LPI helped them strengthen their Creativity, Research, Critical thinking, Collaboration and Communication skills.



COMMUNITY

Better
elsewhere

LPI
is better



Average: 7.4
N = 205

Alumni highly appreciated interactions between researchers, professionals, communities & students, as well as events and the general spirit of collaboration.

N=28

Positive: 73.5%

"The network building skills that I learned at CRI were key to my career. At CRI, my identity as a scientist developed because I felt recognized as such by a network of peers, internal and external to the CRI"

"Overall I think the CRI is pretty well connected and there is a genuine interest in creating bonds between communities."

"The CRI was a unique place. Being able to randomly talk and meet new people, studying late in the learning center with the class, all of this contributed to creating our little family."

"Large community of open-minded people. What best can you expect?"

"I miss the CRI clubs!"

Negative: 10.4%

"There should be focus on applying for and interviewing with jobs in French companies, as I went into this area completely unprepared.."

Neutral: 6,3%

In brief...

The results of the 'Alumni Learning Experience Survey' is a testament to **graduates' strong attachment** to the Learning Planet Institute. Scores and testimonies illustrate the **lasting impact** that alumni's experiences on campus had on their **personal and professional lives**.

Additionally, it allows us to **take note of how we could improve** to offer our future learners stronger mentoring and career guidance, to better foster their technical and entrepreneurial skills, and support the development of their professional networks.

This survey was the first step towards the Learning Planet Institute reconnecting with its alumni community and leaves us convinced that rekindling the flame between the Institute and its alumni carries great potential.



Let's work together to take on the challenges of our time

If you have ideas, a testimony to share or wish to get involved, feel free to contact us at :
fundraisingteam@learningplanetinstitute.org