

CURRENT TRENDS IN TRAVEL

1 Staff Travel

A travel survey was conducted at University of Huddersfield in 2025 to collect data on staff commuting patterns. 210 staff (over 11% of the staff population) took part in the survey. Survey questions are provided as an appendix in pages 3-4.

1.1 Staff modes of transport

Based on the responses of staff to the statement, '*Please select your main mode of travel to/from campus each day of the week*':

- More than half of staff do not travel alone by car.
- Almost a quarter of staff participate in active travel (walking or cycling)
- Nearly 20% commute by public transport.

The table below provides a breakdown of this data.

| <i>Transport category</i> | <i>Main means of transport</i> | <i>Average weekly number of users</i> | <i>Proportion of total respondents (%)</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Active travel</u> | Bike/electric bike (e-bike) | 7 | 3.33 |
| | Walking/running | 43 | 20.48 |
| <u>Public transport</u> | Bus | 20 | 9.52 |
| | Train | 21 | 10 |
| <u>Private vehicle</u> | Single occupancy vehicle | 92 | 43.81 |
| | Taxi/lift | 2 | 0.95 |
| | Car share | 22 | 10.48 |
| | Other private transport | 2 | 0.95 |
| <u>Other</u> | Homeworking | 1 | 0.48 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>210</i> | <i>100</i> |

The proportion of single-occupancy car users (43.81%) has dropped since 2021, when it was 50.24%. On a similarly positive note, 23.81% of staff reported being pedestrians or cyclists, which is a very significant improvement on the 2021 figure (13.3%). Conversely, there is a drop in the use of public transport from 23.9% in 2021 to 19.52% in 2025.

1.2 Perceptions of cycling

The survey also provided some insight into the reasoning behind staff travel choices. The table below outlines staff responses regarding why they do not cycle to and from work.

| <i>Reason for not cycling</i> | <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>Proportion of respondents (%)</i> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Traffic/safety | 123 | 55 |
| Weather | 86 | 38 |
| Lack of changing/drying facilities | 23 | 10 |
| Distance/time | 106 | 47 |
| Lack of secure cycle parking | 15 | 7 |
| Cost | 24 | 11 |
| Mobility or fitness issue | 22 | 10 |
| Inability to ride and/or maintain a bike | 19 | 8 |
| Carrying heavy baggage/items | 57 | 25 |
| I don't want to say | 2 | 1 |
| Other | 34 | 15 |

Some of the reasons given under 'Other' include: '*I don't like cycling*', '*Dropping kids off/picking up from school*', '*Needing to get home to children in an emergency*', '*Massive hills*', '*My bike is elsewhere*', '*Don't have room to store a bike at my address*', '*Do not need a bike*', and '*Scared*'.

1.3 Suitability of public transport

When asked if the public transport options available within the region are adequate, the responses were split equally, with about 44% of respondents replying 'Yes', 44% replying 'No', and the remaining 12% replying 'Undecided'. The table below outlines staff responses regarding the main reason why available public transport options are inadequate.

| <i>What is the main reason for public transportation being inadequate?</i> | <i>Number of respondents</i> | <i>Proportion of respondents (%)</i> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bus stop or train station is too far from home/campus | 9 | 9.78 |
| Infrequent or inconsistent transport times | 30 | 32.61 |
| High cost of tickets | 19 | 20.65 |
| Bus/train departure times do not align with work hours | 8 | 8.7 |
| Unsuitable for caring responsibilities (e.g., school runs) | 6 | 6.52 |
| I need to carry too many things to/from campus | 3 | 3.26 |
| Other | 17 | 18.48 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>100</i> |

Some of the reasons given under 'Other' include: '*TransPennine route upgrade is making train travel from Leeds nearly impossible*', '*I don't enjoy them*', '*No direct service, so have (sic) to take 2 trains and last-minute cancellations/delays can significantly impact on journey time*', and '*Public transport is cramped, noisy, uncomfortable*'.

1.4 Other results

When asked if they would like a university car share scheme, the majority of respondents (68%) replied ‘No’, with only 14% saying ‘Yes’ and 17% undecided. Also, only 29% of respondents said they would be interested in using electric vehicle charging points on campus, with 45% replying ‘No’ and 26% undecided. These responses suggest a limited level of willingness to trust and/or participate in the university’s green transport schemes.

2 Student Travel

A survey was conducted in 2023 to find out how students travelled to and from campus. Over 1400 responses (representing over 10% of the student population) on students’ most common means of travel to/from campus were received.

| <i>Transport category</i> | <i>Main means of transport</i> | <i>Average weekly number of users</i> | <i>Proportion of total respondents (%)</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Active travel</u> | Bike/electric bike (e-bike) | 2 | 0.14 |
| | Walking/running | 452 | 31.81 |
| <u>Public transport</u> | Bus | 278 | 19.56 |
| | Train | 235 | 16.54 |
| <u>Private vehicle</u> | Single occupancy vehicle | 408 | 28.71 |
| | Taxi/lift | 24 | 1.69 |
| | Other private transport | 16 | 1.13 |
| <u>Other</u> | | 6 | 0.42 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>1421</i> | <i>100</i> |

Public transport accounted for a combined total of 36.1% of the responses combined, representing the most common form of travel. Active travel (walking and cycling) is the second most common at 31.95%. Single/low occupancy vehicle travel is around the 30% mark, indicating that over two-third of students do not travel alone by car.

Appendix

2025 survey questions

- 1) What type of staff member are you?
 - Postgraduate researcher
 - Support services staff
 - Affiliate
 - Students Union
 - Academic staff

- 2) Please input your postcode.
- 3) Please select your main mode of travel to/from campus each day of the week
 - Walking/running
 - Bicycle
 - Bus
 - Single occupancy car or van
 - Car sharing
 - Taxi
 - Train
 - Electric bike
 - Motorbike
 - Homeworking
 - Other public transport
 - Other private transport
- 4) If you do not cycle, what are your main reasons? You may select more than one option.
 - Traffic/safety
 - Weather
 - Lack of changing/drying facilities
 - Distance/time
 - Lack of secure cycle parking
 - Cost
 - Mobility of fitness issue
 - Inability to ride and/or maintain a bike
 - Carrying heavy baggage/items
 - I don't want to say
 - Other
- 5) Are you interested in using an electric bike (e-bike) for your commute to/from campus?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Undecided
- 6) If you answered 'Yes' to question 5 above, would you be interested in any of the following (you may select more than one option)?
 - Purchasing an e-bike
 - Participating in a free or reduced cost e-bike hire scheme
 - E-bike maintenance workshops on campus
- 7) Are the public transport options available to you adequate at present?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Undecided
- 8) If you answered 'No' to question 7 above, how is the public transport available to you currently inadequate?
 - Bus stop or train station is too far from home/campus

- Infrequent or inconsistent transport times
 - High cost of tickets
 - Flexibility of tickets
 - Bus/train departure times do not align with work hours
 - Unsuitable for caring responsibilities (e.g., school runs)
 - I need to carry too many things to/from campus
 - Other
- 9) If you drive, where do you normally park your car?
- On campus car parks
 - Off campus
 - Either
- 10) Would you be interested in a university car share scheme?
- Yes
 - No
 - Undecided
- 11) Do you currently own or lease an electric vehicle (EV)?
- Yes
 - No
- 12) Are you or would you be interested in using EV charging points on campus?
- Yes
 - No
 - Undecided
- 13) Is there anything else you would like to share about travel to the University?