

# GRS SURVEY RESULTS

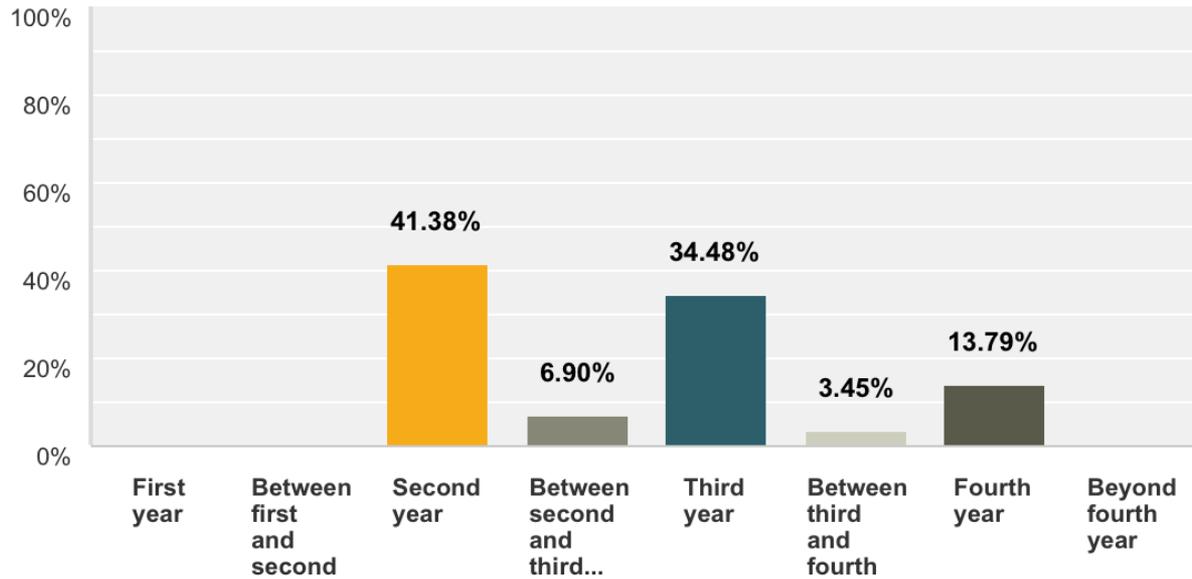
Term 1 Feedback 2015W

Compiled by Emme Lee

# Q1

## What year of undergraduate studies are you in?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0

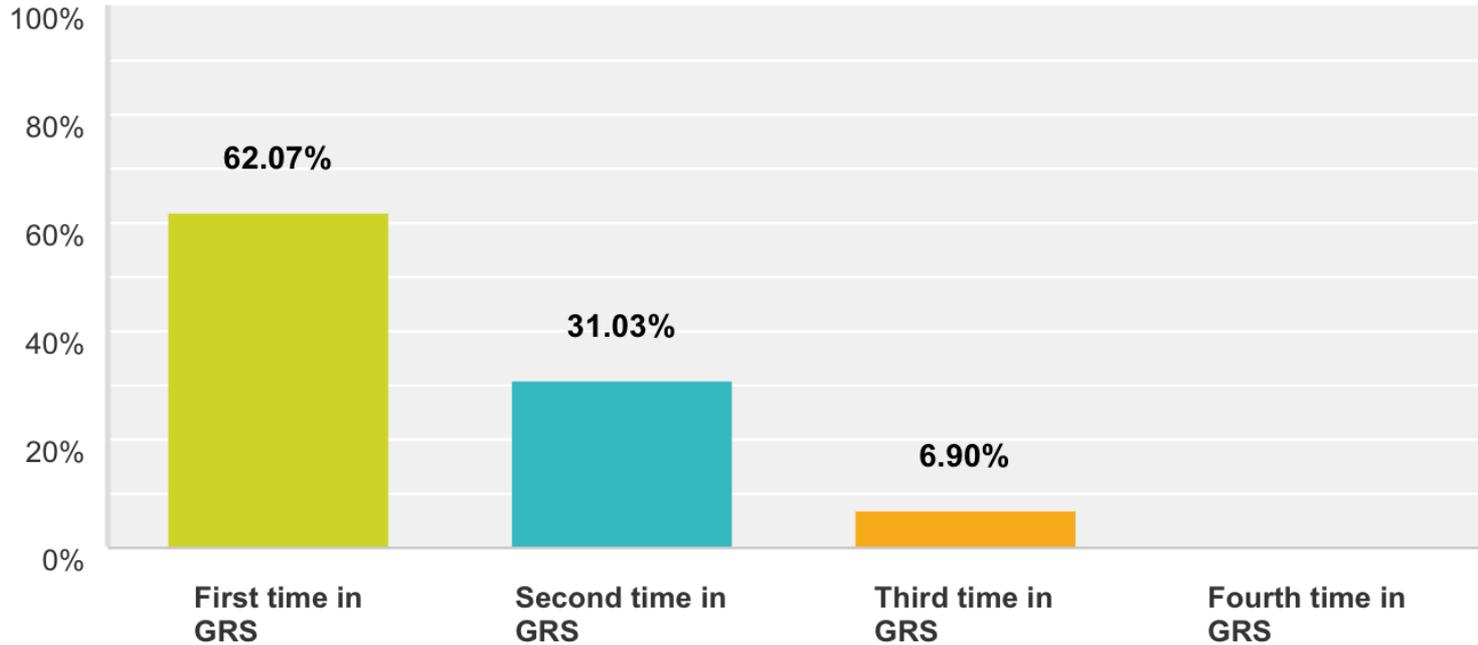


Answer Choices	Responses
▼ First year	0.00% 0
▼ Between first and second	0.00% 0
▼ Second year	41.38% 12
▼ Between second and third year	6.90% 2
▼ Third year	34.48% 10
▼ Between third and fourth	3.45% 1
▼ Fourth year	13.79% 4
▼ Beyond fourth year	0.00% 0
Total	29

# Q2

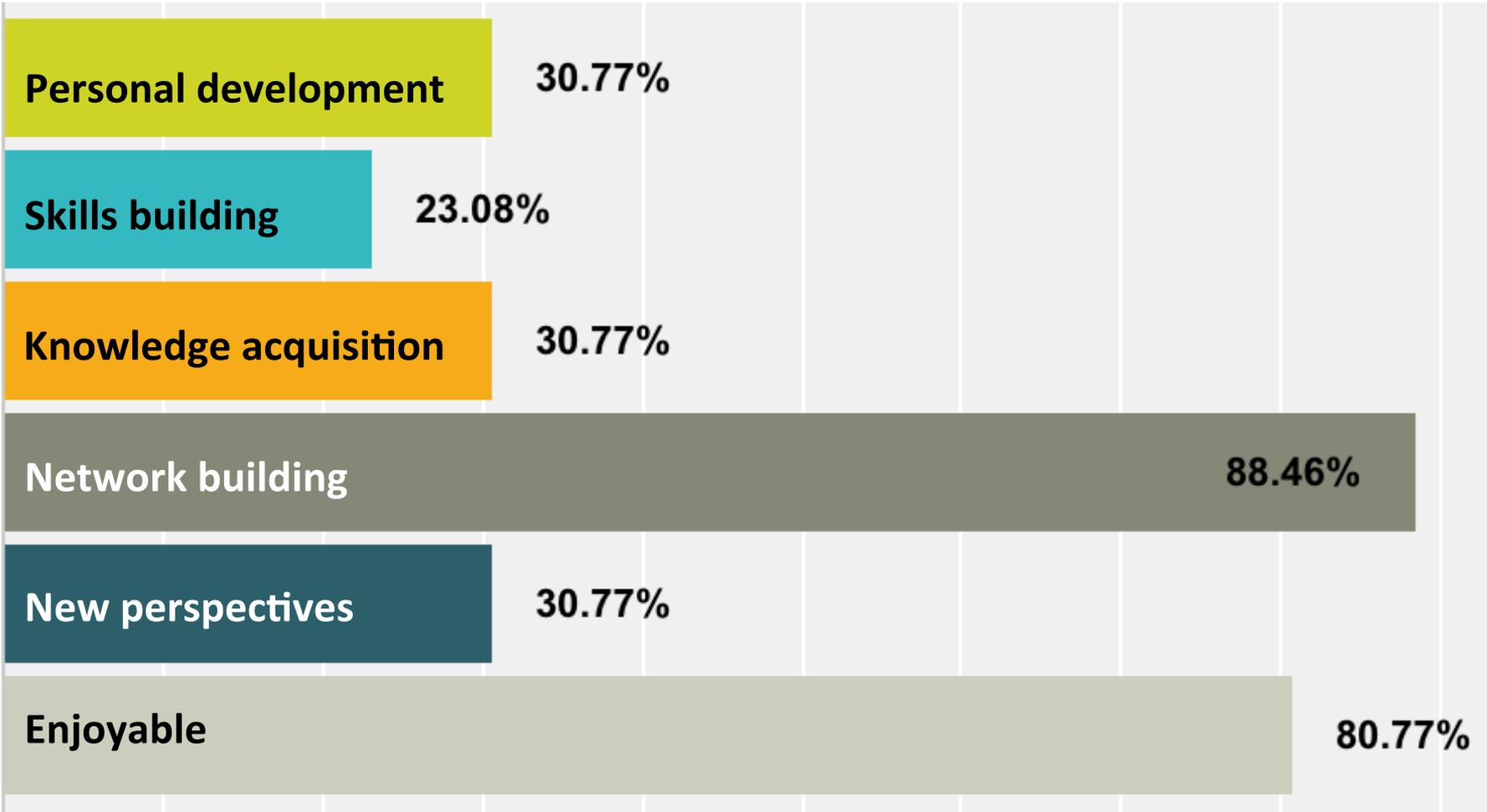
## Is this your first year of being enrolled in GRS? Or are you returning?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



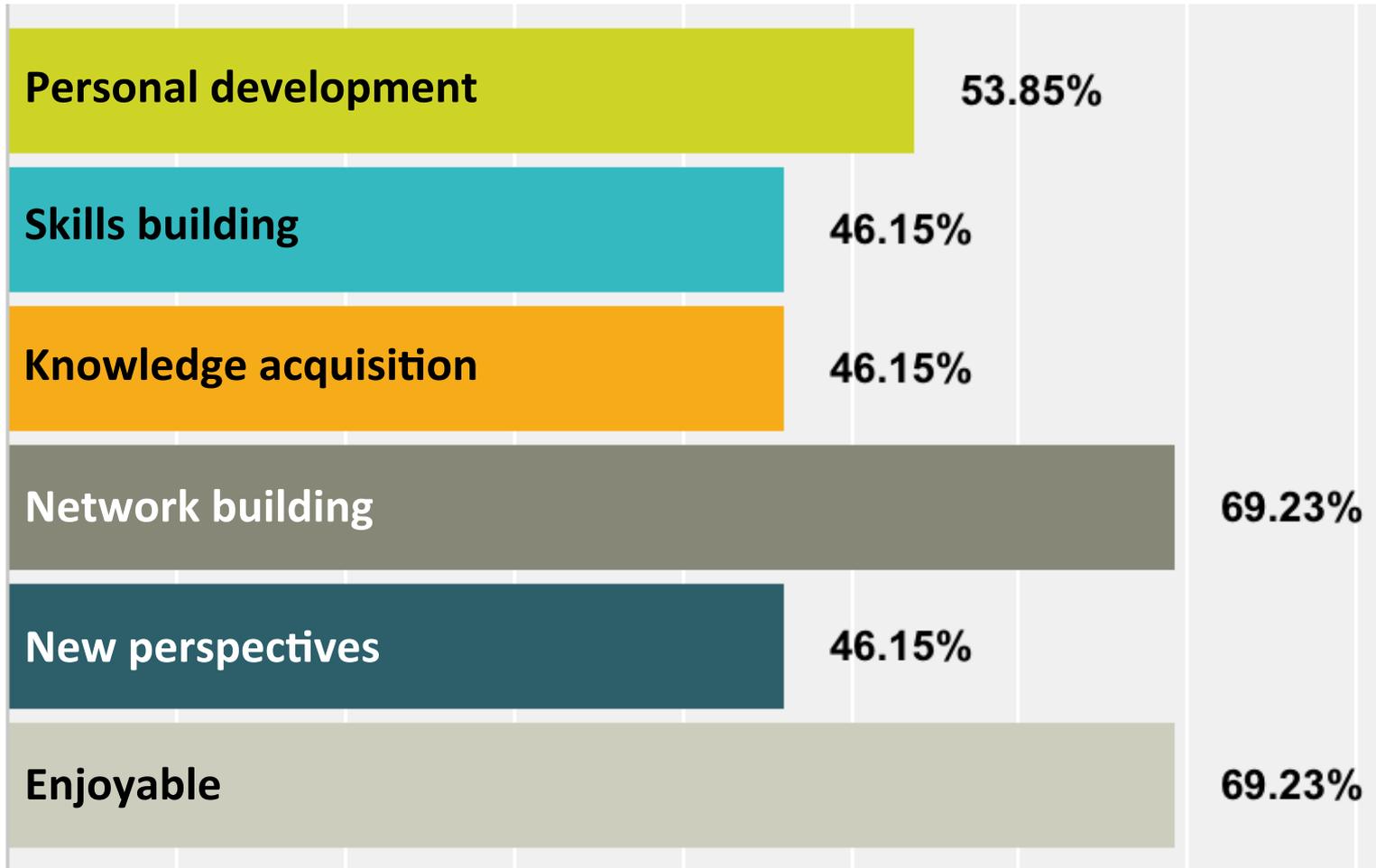
Answer Choices	Responses
▼ First time in GRS	62.07% 18
▼ Second time in GRS	31.03% 9
▼ Third time in GRS	6.90% 2
▼ Fourth time in GRS	0.00% 0
Total	29

# Q3 Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Walk of fame, networking & snacks with GRS (MCML foyer)

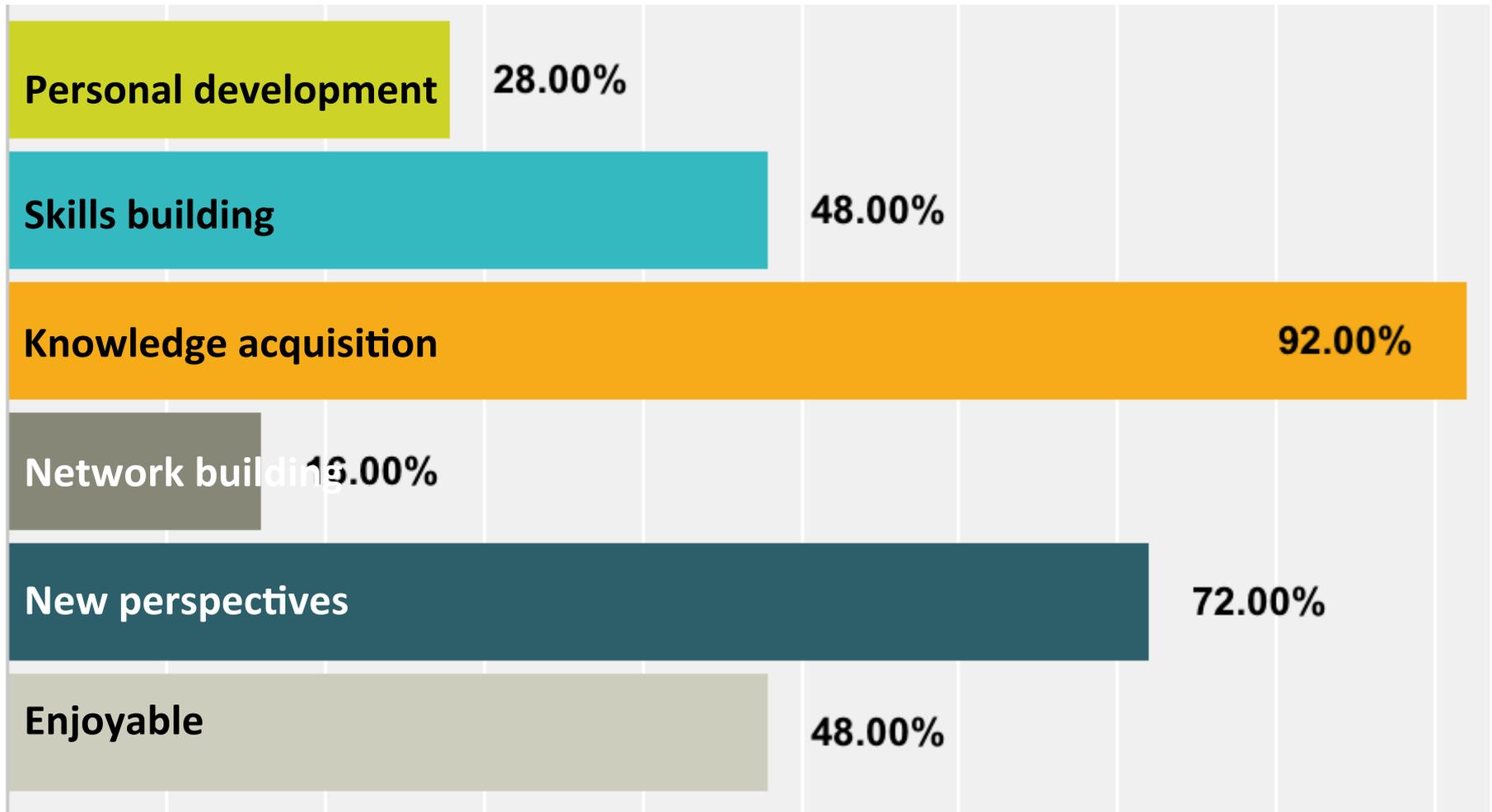


# Q3

## Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Day (Orchard Garden)

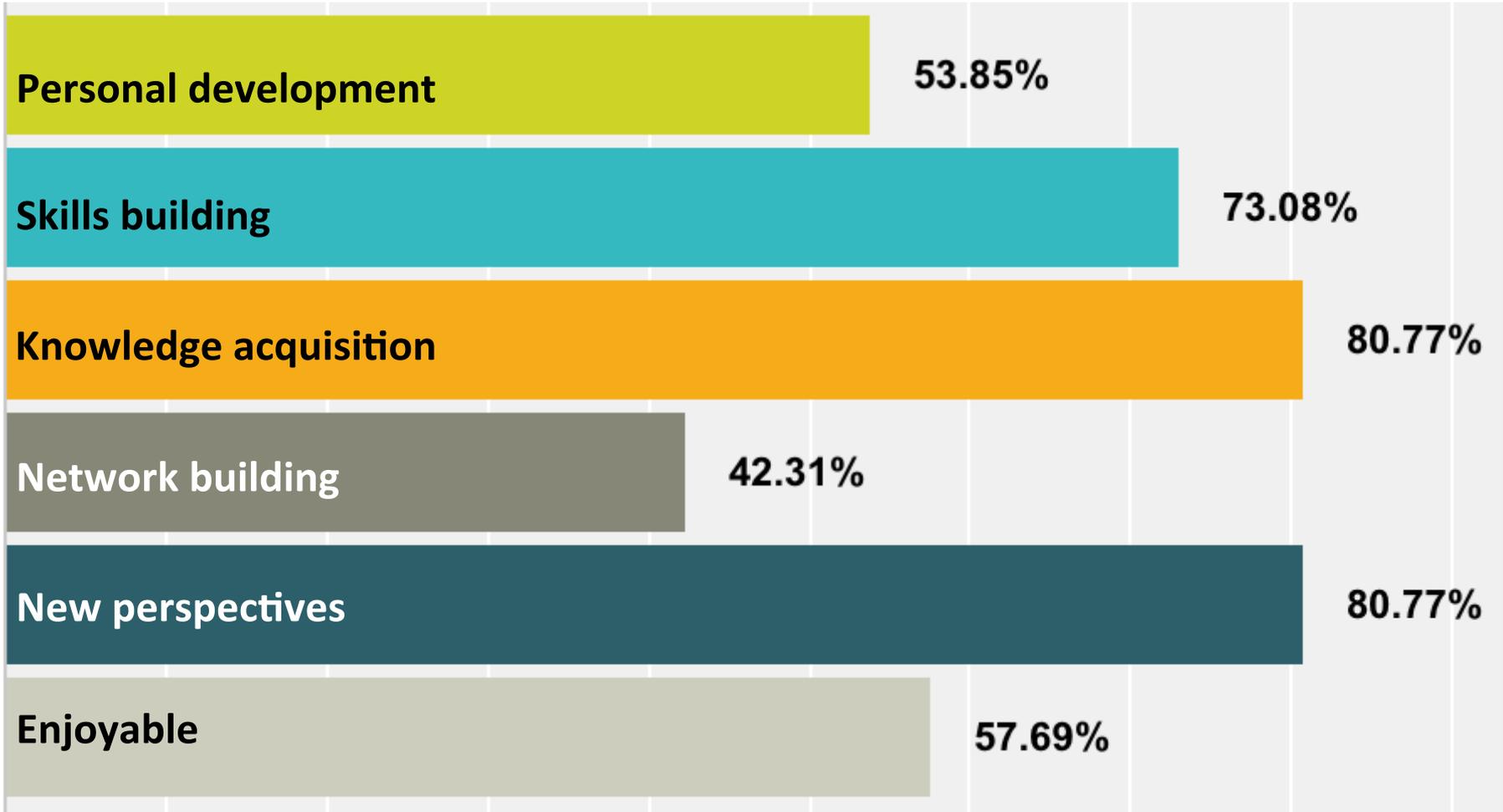


# Q3 Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Group discussions about “Business of Water” – Bakker paper. Prep for role-playing/debates



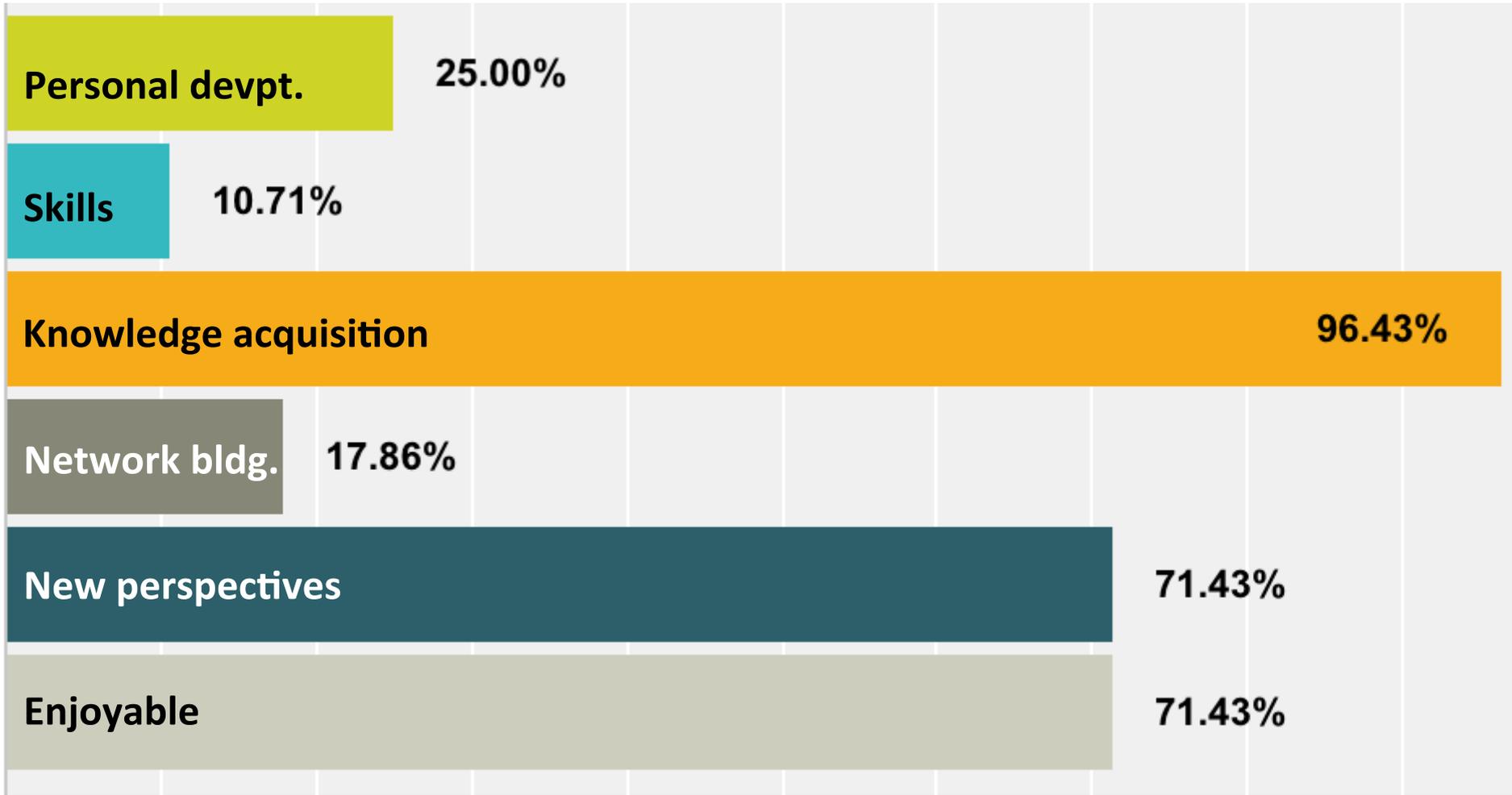
**Q3**

# Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Water Stakeholders scenarios & role-playing (star, diamond, hearts groups)



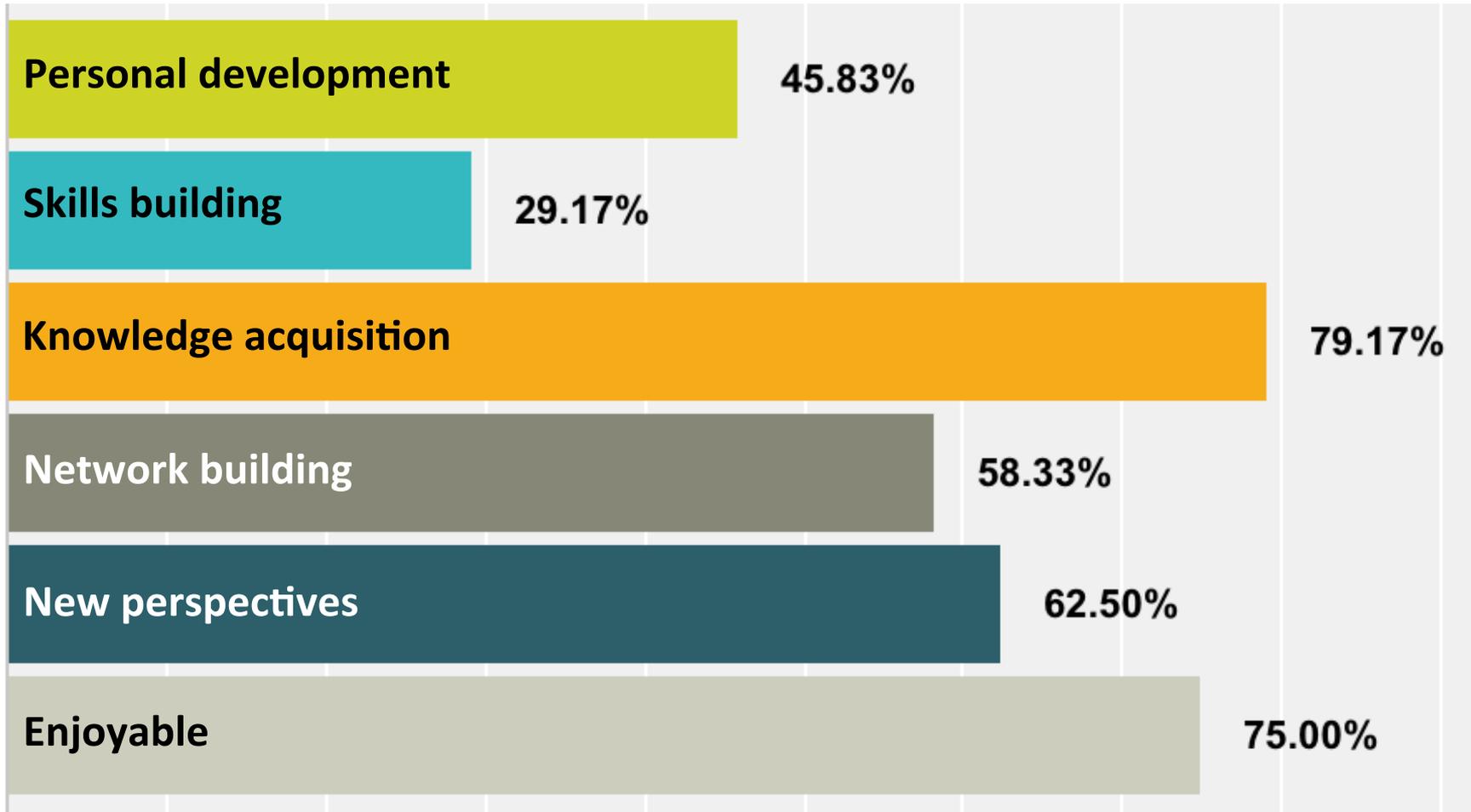
# Q3

## Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Federal Election discussion

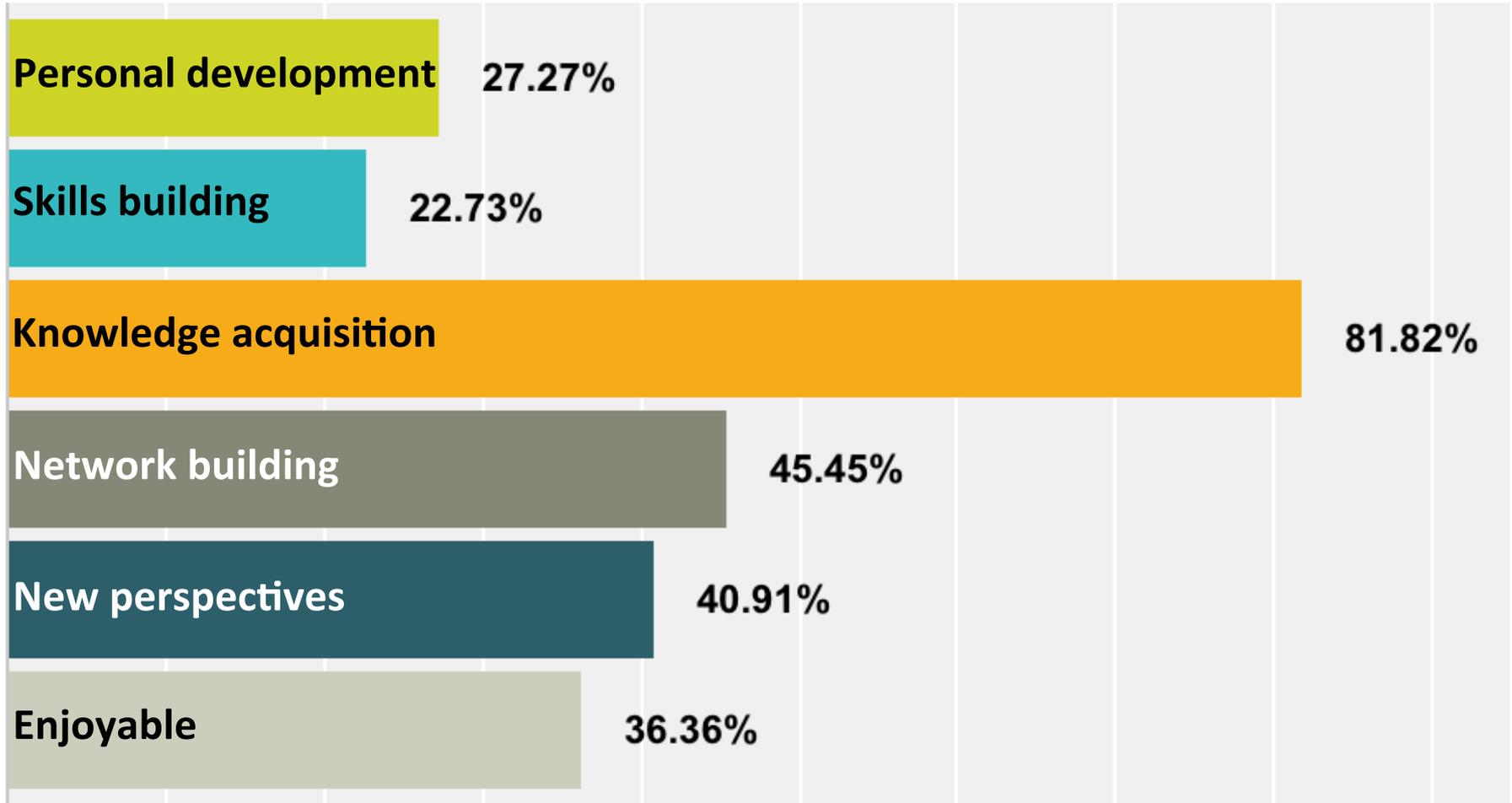


# Q3

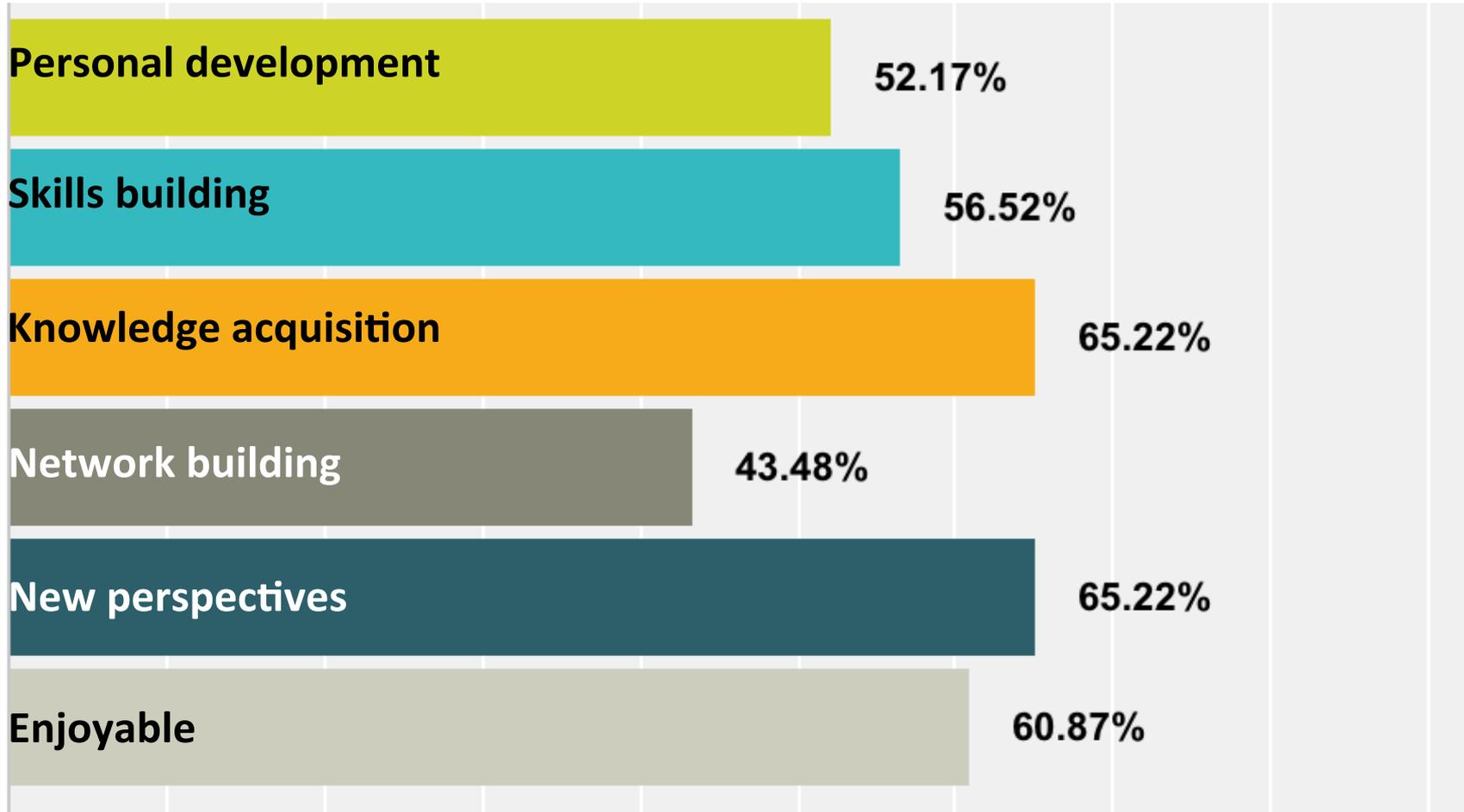
## Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Connecting with GRS Alumni



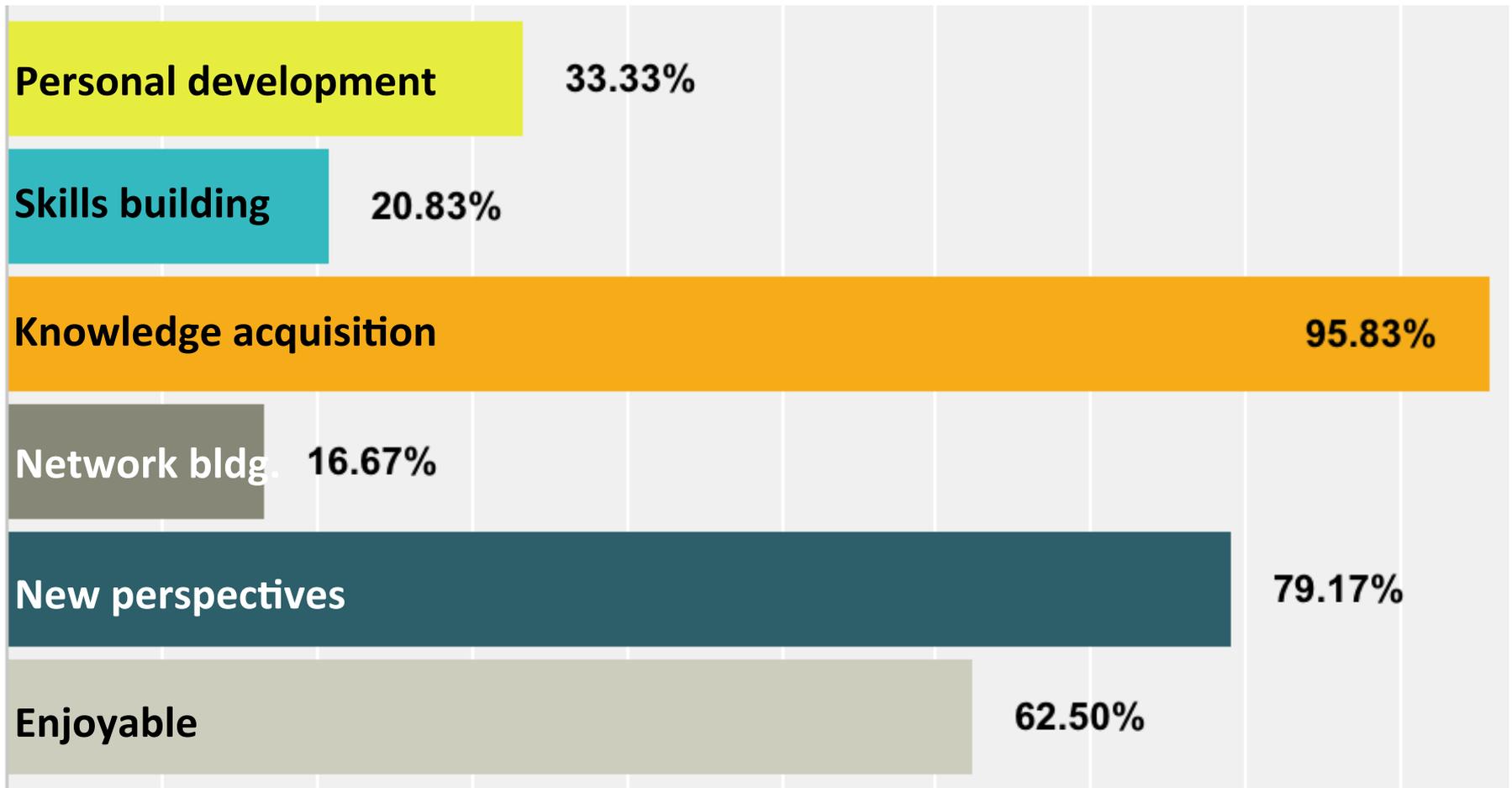
# Q3 Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Speakers from Community Learning Initiative and LFS Development Office



# Q3 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Career Development: skills, stories & discussion about planning for a career

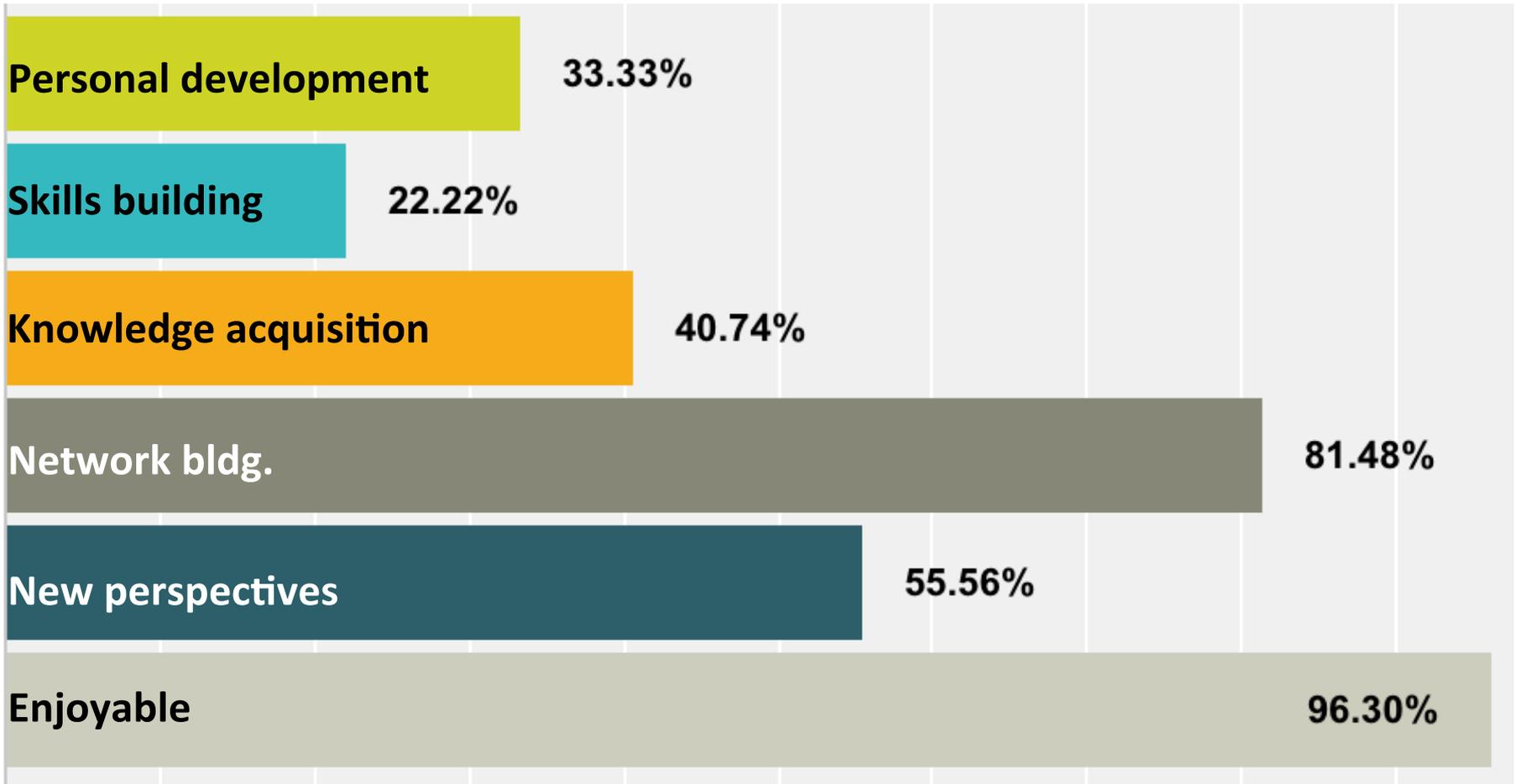


# Q3 Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Guest Lecture: Hans Schreier on Water and Agriculture



# Q3

## Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Posters and Potluck



# Q3

## Additional comments

- The first day was my favourite "class". Also, I love getting to hear the experiences/stories of GRS students and alumni throughout the term.
- The most memorable GRS class for me this term was the Sept 30th debate. It was a great chance to engage with the academic paper that we read about water resources in a new way and personalize our learning. I also liked the federal election discussion. In the future, it would be great to have more guest speakers attend class to present about current local or global issues (such as an upcoming federal election, a natural disaster, etc.). I think this adds a valuable perspective to the GRS class where students can connect classroom learning to their everyday lives and also become informed on current issues in an academic setting (as opposed to simply learning about current affairs through online sources). In this way, students in the class could have a starting point from which to take their own interests and connect them with what is happening in the world today.
- First, great course, lots of fun, and second, would be great if instructors can talk more about intern/exchange info, application deadlines, what to expect etc.

\*NOTE: With open-ended responses. Each response listed was made by one person.

# Q5. What would you like to see MORE of in GRS? (open-ended responses)

**PEER INTERACTIONS/DISCUSSIONS = 14 responses (bullet point = an individual's response)**

- Chances to collaborate with peers (smaller group discussions, collaboration with classmates with similar resources/regions & ideas)
- More peer interactions like the debate!
- Small group discussions
- Group work, partner discussions, more breakout activities with our resource/regional groups, more opportunities to share/hear from our fellow students about their international/volunteer/work/learning/travel experiences
- More discussions
- Whole-class discussions
- Discussion amongst students
- I would love to see more small debate/discussion sessions
- More networking
- I would like to see more of an opportunity to get to know my peers that are in the program. It is a bit tough to when there are great speakers that I would like to listen to, but also in the seating arrangement that we have
- More GRS events would be great to develop a sense of community
- Networking opportunities within the GRS faculty between the students
- I like discussions/readings about current issues
- More discussions about current events

# Q5. What would you like to see MORE of in GRS? (open-ended responses)

## **ACTIVITIES = 5 responses**

- I LOVE potlucks
- I liked the poster night too!
- Volunteer opportunities as a class
- Field trips!!
- Activities like the water discussion

## **SPEAKERS = 5 responses**

- Guest speakers, engagement with topical issues
- Specialized guest lectures
- Guest speakers, people with job opportunities for us
- I like guest lectures, using class time productively
- Documentaries

## **CAREER RELATED = 4 responses**

- More career planning would be useful
- I love the evenings where we hear from alumni, get told about skills and opportunities
- It would also be nice to have more time to talk with peers about their goals and passions and help each other find our own from their experiences.

# Q6. What would you like to see LESS of in GRS? (open-ended responses)

## TOPIC/ACTIVITY SELECTION

- A talk that isn't on agriculture, but more on the environment
- Academic readings
- Debate session
- Less 5 year planning

## DISTRIBUTION OF TIME

- Class lecture taking up the full 1.5 hours
- Class-long guest lecture. It would be nice to have at least 2 in a class, and time for discussion after
- Alumni night is useful, but the format isn't very efficient and drags on for a long time

## REPETITION

- As a returning student, I have found some of the skill building and networking sessions to be a bit repetitive and not overly beneficial to me (personally)
- Having the same lectures repeated yearly is hard to sit through

## NULL RESPONSE

- There was nothing that I didn't really enjoy

# Q7. What do you appreciate MOST about GRS? (open-ended responses)

## GRS COMMUNITY

- Diversity of backgrounds and the strong social “family”, in which students can ask one another for advice and help
- Open dynamic of the class, the people
- Meeting/learning from fellow GRSers
- The people and support
- Sharing food in class, talking to other students about their interests and experiences
- I like the opportunity to connect with my peers over our shared interests and learn from them about new interests
- The opportunity to see what other people are doing and inspiration for me
- The teaching team’s support and genuine interest in our experiences, learning and person
- The chance to listen to the stories about all the different opportunities out there, and the amazing experiences my fellow peers and alumni have been on
- I appreciate the open community of learners that GRS represents
- I really appreciate how supportive the instructors are to the students. I feel so incredibly supported, not only with reference letters but the interest they have in the students’ goals
- The hands-on help, guidance & advice on how to best prepare for our future endeavours
- Being with amazing people and learning about my degree

# Q7. What do you appreciate MOST about GRS? (open-ended responses)

## LEARNING FORMAT

- Ability to shape academic learning
- The variety of speakers and topics!
- The flexibility of assignments (blog posts or discussions etc.), variety of topics and guest speakers
- All the different learning
- Invited speakers
- That it was less structured, and new every class
- I also really appreciate how patient everyone is because sometimes the assignments, especially the career development one is difficult to answer and it's nice to have the flexibility to give it in
- How individual everyone's degree is, yet how we all have similar/overlapping interests. I love how open and broad GRS allows degrees to be
- The freedom to choose a variety of courses in different faculties

# Q8. What is your LEAST favourite part of GRS? (open-ended responses)

## LEARNING FORMAT

- Sitting and listening – I like when we can get involved!
- I feel that as a cohort of students we have an opportunity to build skills collaboratively and share knowledge within this small class, however, I do not feel we have had many opportunities to do so within our last semester (Term 1) session of classes.
- When presenters take up too much class time
- Blog posts
- Getting home late because class ends at 7 PM
- The time blocks some classes and activities

## NOT FITTING IN/OUTSIDER FEELING

- The sense of community, but a simultaneous feeling of not completely fitting in with the group sometimes (but perhaps this is an area for me to grow in)
- Being forced to mingle. I want to get to know my fellow GRS classmates, but we are just told to break out and talk. That is very intimidating and uncomfortable for some people
- I dislike how sometimes I feel disconnected with some of the other students in GRS. I know that it is my first year in the program but it would be nice to have some bonding time with them.

# Q8. What is your LEAST favourite part of GRS? (open-ended responses)

## TOPIC/ACTIVITY SELECTION

- I know it's necessary, but networking events
- I don't really have a part that I dislike, but I could have missed the stakeholders class

## NULL RESPONSES

- N/A
- Nothing

# Q9. What are your ideas for making GRS better? (open-ended responses)

## COMMUNITY BUILDING & NETWORKING

- I would suggest team-building opportunities, chances to get to know peers beyond just classroom experiences. Perhaps a contact list for students to get in touch and share ideas (email or Facebook as a platform). I've had this very successful with a previous cohort group where we could share interesting articles and upcoming events. I love the program and the teachers however I feel there could be more done to get GRS students to interact beyond just the 1.5 hour class each week.
- I would like to have the networking classes like our potluck and walk of fame to have more structure. For shy people like myself, we are forced to mingle with people, and it can make us feel very anxious. If we had games/activities that helped us to talk to each other, it would be a lot less intimidating and useful.
- It'd be really cool if there was a page on the GRS website that shows where all the GRS students currently not on campus are and what they're doing EG. Exchange/development/project/coop etc. Perhaps it could be a world map that has little pins stuck on it, and then you can click on them, and there's a short little bio
- Perhaps having some team building activities, even if they are 5 minutes at the beginning or end of class
- Split class into smaller segments and mix around classmates for more in-class networking opportunities

# Q9. What are your ideas for making GRS better? (open-ended responses)

## FORMAT

- It is great to have people come to speak, but it is hard to pay attention when presentations are longer than 10 minutes. I suggest that presenters in the future condense their presentations and leave more time for group discussion/activities. Students come to class to engage and learn from each other, not just to listen to someone speak.
- One big idea that I have for GRS is to change the poster and potluck portion. I feel like people's abroad experiences are so unique and inspiring, but the poster/potluck doesn't do them justice. I feel like people don't really like to talk and say the same thing over and over to poster visitors, and I just see people getting a bit burned out. I think it'd be great if maybe everyone did a 5 minute presentation to the class on the last class (or 2 classes) so everyone can really get a better sense of the awesome experiences people had.
- I would enjoy if we learned more during class through interesting lectures, maybe interspersed with short discussions in various size groups. I find discussions can be a bit tedious because of the large group size, and the fact that we all have similar opinions on many issues
- Putting it at a more obscure time

## TOPIC/ACTIVITY SELECTION

- More guest lectures. They are great.
- More potlucks!

# Q9. What are your ideas for making GRS better? (open-ended responses)

## CLARITY

- I also would like to hear about the blogs component too. I am very confused about how we are supposed to get our grade for discussion/blogs. I would also like to see the website updated more often. It can sometimes be unclear because it has not been updated in quite a while.

## REPETITION

- Pertaining to the networking sessions, I recognize that others have not before participated in these activities. Perhaps on such days there could be second options on these evenings for returning students?