ARTS AND SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

ASGC Event Interest Survey Report

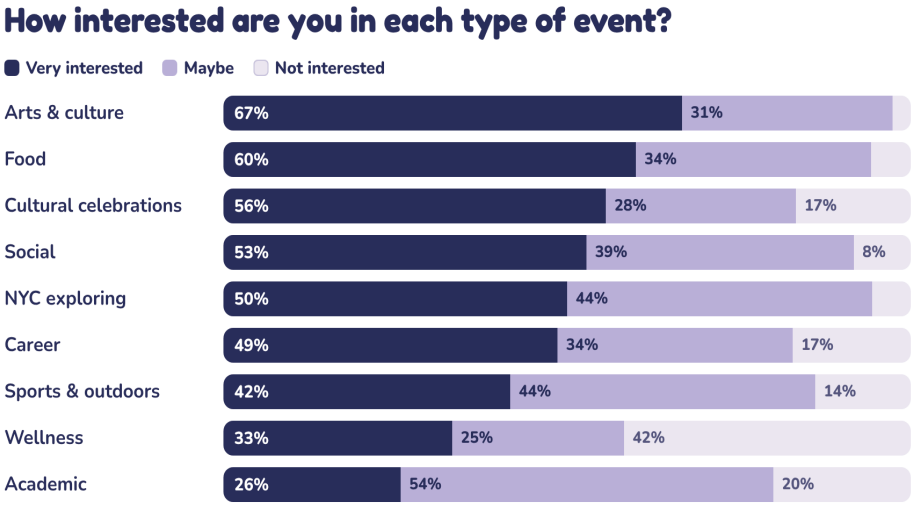
Executive Summary

From Sep 26 to Oct 22, 2026, the survey was opened 55 times and received **36** complete responses (22 MA, 13 PhD, 1 unspecified). Blank and abandoned submissions were removed.

Students are most interested in **arts and culture** (67% very interested), food (60%) and cultural celebrations (56%), and **Broadway shows** were the most-requested idea. Interest in wellness events was lowest, with 42% not interested. MA and PhD students differ most on career events, which 68% of MA students but only 8% of PhD students are very interested in.

The main barriers to attending are **schedule conflicts** (58%), hearing about events too late (50%) and events selling out (47%). Cost and distance matter far less. Most students want to hear about events through the **ASGC newsletter** (81%). Based on these results, we recommend prioritizing arts, food and cultural events, announcing events at least two weeks ahead, using a ticket lottery for popular events, and varying event times. The survey will stay open to gather more responses.

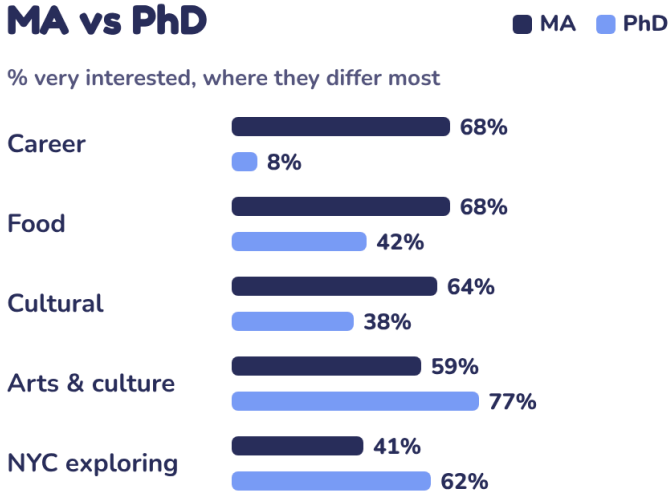
1. Event Themes



Interesting Finds:

- Most students are at least open to every event type, except Wellness. Wellness(yoga, mindfulness) received the worst overall reception, with 42% not interested.

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- MA and PhD students want different things. Career events are a top pick for MA students, but not for PhD students. PhD students lean toward arts and culture and NYC exploring. However, I don't think we are allowed to have MA/PhD-only events (need to check school policy).
- Broadway shows and musicals were the most-requested idea.

2. Event Logistics

Question	Top answers (% of respondents)
Why students skip events	**Schedule conflict: 58%** heard too late: 50% sold out: 47% didn't know anyone: 28% cost: 17% too far: 8%
How far they will travel	**On or near campus: 66%** Within 30 min by subway: 60% Anywhere in NYC: 60% Day trips: 51%
Preferred event size	**No preference: 47%** Small, under 20 people: 42% Medium, 20 to 50: 39% Big mixer, 50+: 11%
How they want to hear	**ASGC newsletter: 81%** GSAS newsletter: 50% Instagram: 39% Department emails or reps: 36% Friends: 25%

3. Student ideas

Students suggested specific events they would attend:

- **Arts:** Broadway, MoMA, the Frick Collection, comedy shows, glass blowing
- **Social:** trivia or game night with prizes, Uno tournament, rock climbing at Vital (2 mentions), live music, a pet café
- **Food:** Chinatown and Jackson Heights food tours, coffee tasting
- **NYC:** the Met Cloisters (2 mentions), Botanical Garden, Bronx Zoo, Harlem and the Apollo
- **Career:** alumni who are hiring, a venture capital networking event
- **Wellness:** one respondent, a personal trainer, offered to lead a workout class

4. Recommendations

- **Prioritize arts, food and cultural events:** Broadway shows and NYC food tours match the most-requested ideas.
- **Announce events earlier:** Aim for at least two weeks' notice in the ASGC newsletter.
- **Make popular events fair:** Use a ticket lottery instead of first come, first served, and add capacity for a second session when possible.
- **Vary the timing:** Spread events across weekday evenings and weekends each month so working students can attend.
- **Make it easy to come alone:** Try low-effort events like a game night with prizes, or a "Friday Friend Day" with single tickets and randomized seating so people meet someone new.
- **Plan career events for MA students:** Pair them with arts and NYC outings, which PhD students prefer.

5. Future Steps

36 responses (22 MA, 13 PhD) is a small share of GSAS students, so the survey will stay open to collect more responses. To increase participation, I plan to:

- **Share results as they come in:** Post updated results in the bi-weekly ASGC newsletter so students see their input being used.
- **Offer a prize:** Hold a raffle, or give leftover ASGC merch (caps, pens, carabiners) to everyone who completes the survey. Entries would go through a separate form so responses stay anonymous.
- **Post flyers:** Put up flyers with the survey QR code in the nous cafe.
- **Work with department reps:** Ask each rep to share the survey with students in their department, as part of their role as a link between ASGC and their department.
- **Ask at events:** Share the survey link with attendees after each ASGC event.