

Prison Education Project

HMP Edinburgh, Scotland

Spring 2025 Impact Report

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Mission & Impact at a Glance

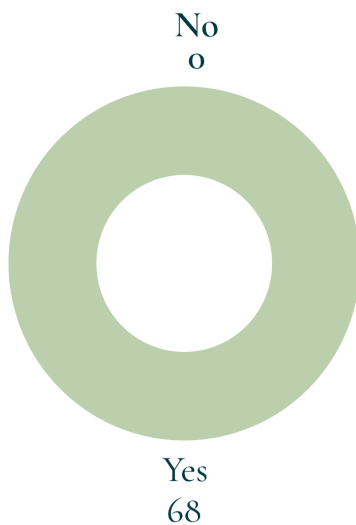
Mission Statement: The Prison Education Project aims to educate, empower, and transform the lives of incarcerated individuals, with the goal of creating a "Prison-to-School Pipeline" to provide in-custody students with the cognitive tools and skills necessary to be productive citizens. PEP has expanded educational opportunities for the in-custody population in 57 correctional facilities throughout California and beyond. With the assistance of 5,000 university student and faculty volunteers, PEP has serviced approximately 15,000 in-custody students in these facilities since 2011. PEP is the largest volunteer-based prison education program of its kind in the United States.

68 Students, 10 Classes, 31 Teachers, ~1:2 Student to Teacher Ratio

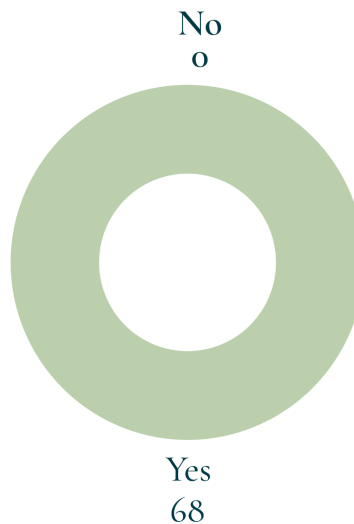
The following survey data are from courses that were taught during the Spring Semester of 2025 at His Majesty's Prison in Edinburgh. Upon completion of the course, in-custody students were given post-course surveys to complete, which asked the following three questions, and for general course comments.

Overall Student Responses

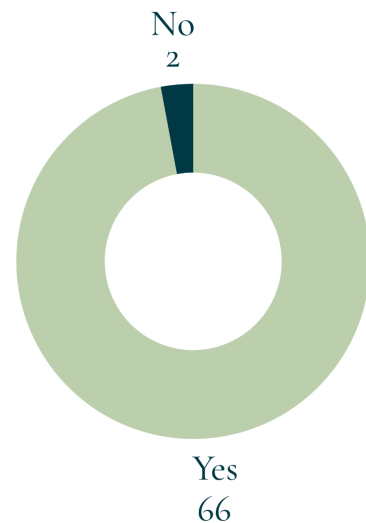
Did this course increase your interest in the subject matter?



Did this course inspire you to further your education or vocational training?

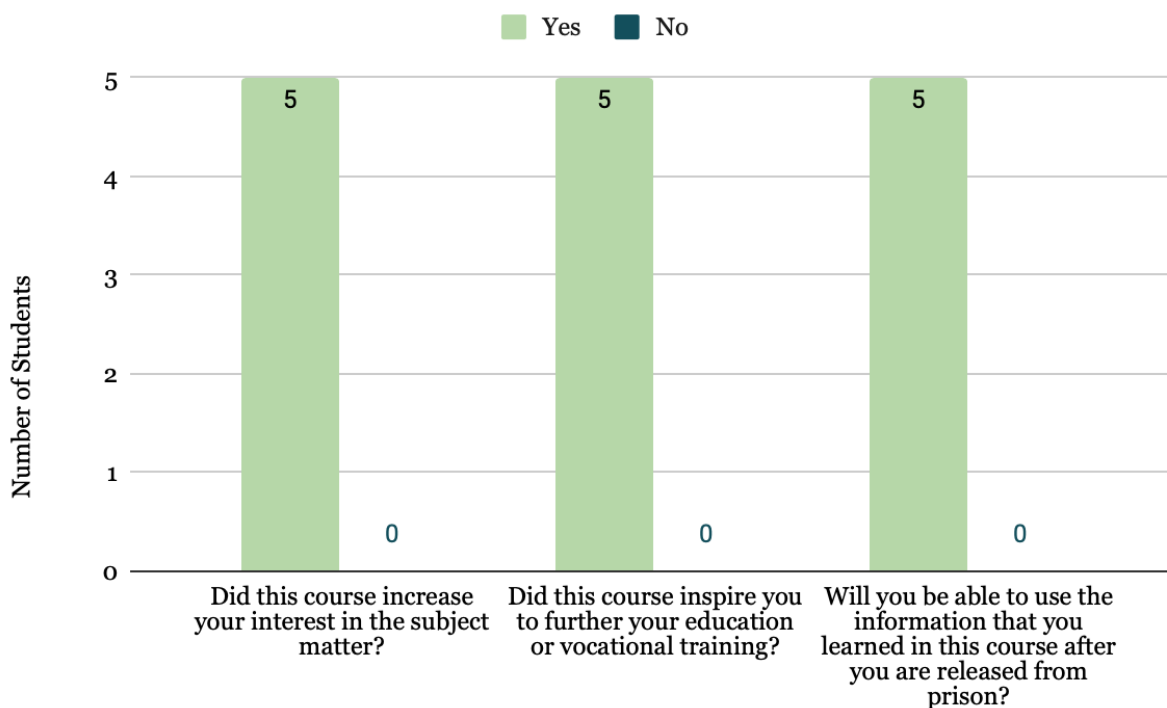


Will you be able to use the information that you learned in this course after you are released from prison?



Creative Expression and Debate

Course Learning Goals: To teach in-custody students the dynamics of Self-Expression, Creativity, and the Fundamentals of Artistic Practice.



Student Comments

“Great service and conversation. Great discussions. The delivery was outstanding.”

“Was enjoyable, looked forward to coming. Felt comfortable to express my ideas. Was listened to. Made welcome.”

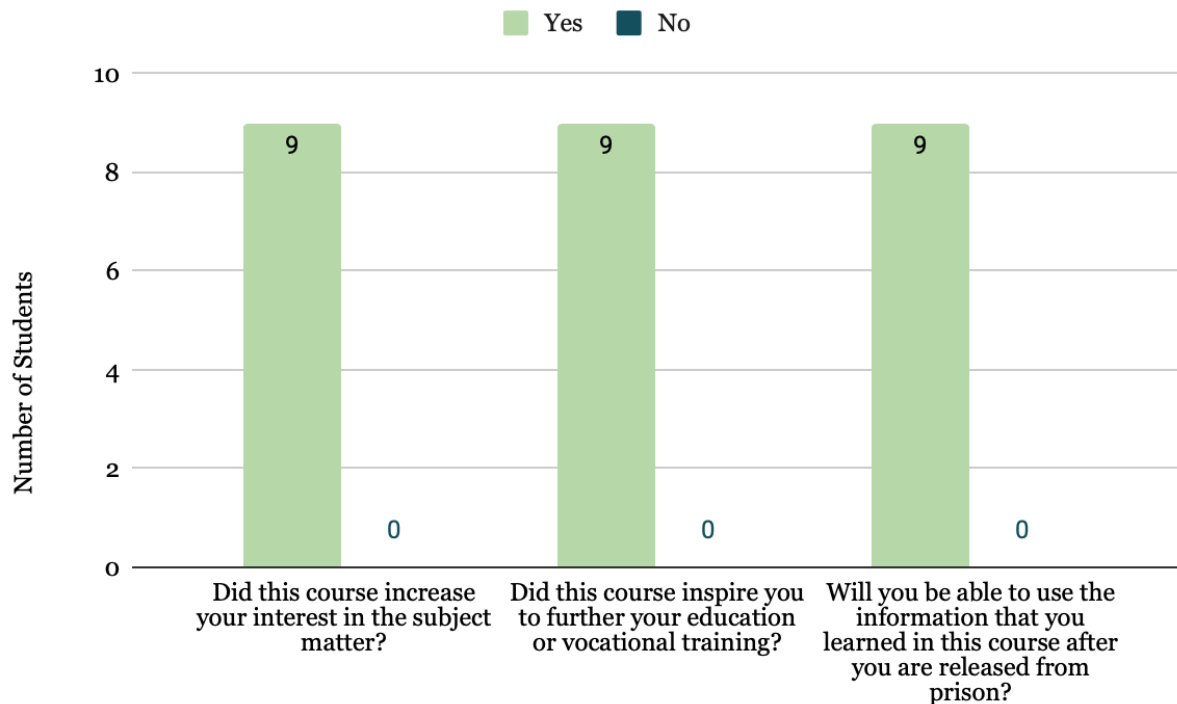
“An excellent course to develop critical thinking and oral argument skills. Many thanks to [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] for their skillful instruction/moderation. We appreciate your time and effort.”

“Thought provoking, well laid out to initiate debate.”

“It has been great to debate. PEP have been amazing specially [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] they are fantastic at what they do big up to everyone at PEP. Thank you.”

Introduction to Financial Literacy

Course Learning Goals: To introduce in-custody students to the fundamentals of Money Management & Financial Literacy.



Student Comments

“The course was inspirational and very interesting. I learnt a lot about using things to my benefit. The presenters [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] were excellent at their presentations and their honesty. This has inspired me even more to improve and do better myself. I would like to work with PEP Scotland if I possibly can.”

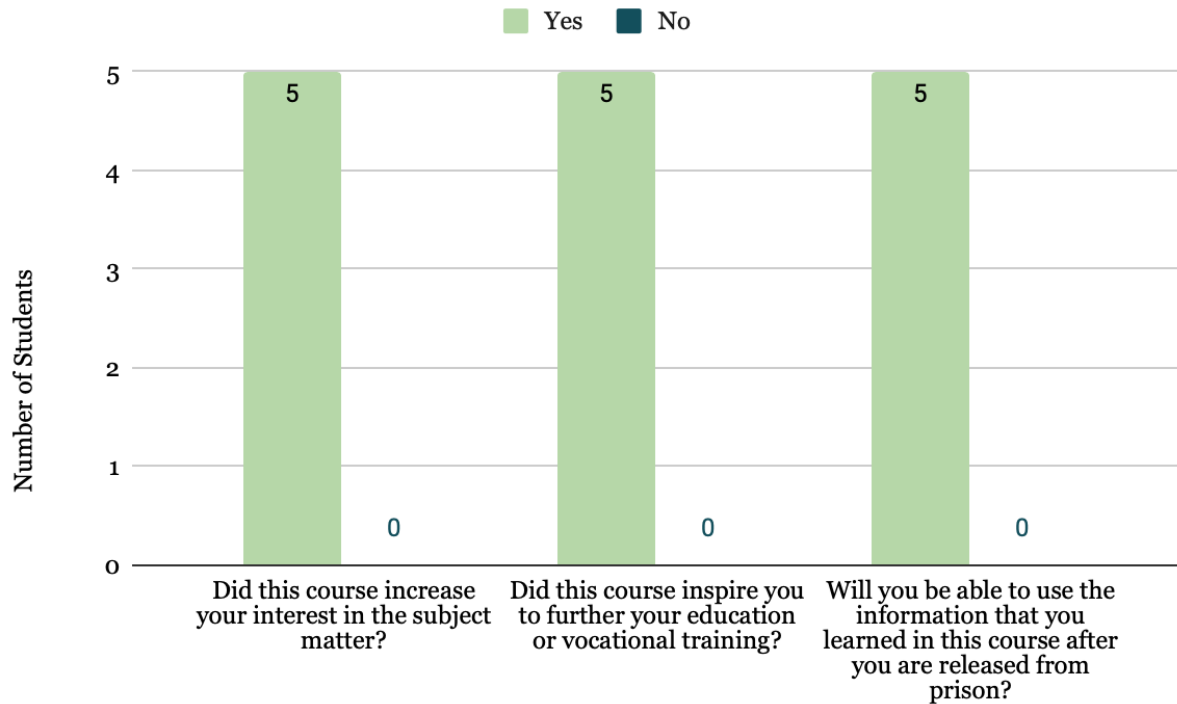
“I found the course to be very informative on the subject matter, and the facilitators were very professional.”

“Really supportive and encouraging to realise there is always light at the end of the tunnel. And you can reach your potential.”

“Amazing, great energy. Thank you so much! Learned a lot and feeling super inspired going forward.”

Introduction to College

Course Learning Goals: To introduce in-custody students to the process of applying and succeeding in college.



Student Comments

“Courses was great. Guys worked well together. Great sense of humor. Take time to know every person individually as they are. Hope they come back to HMP Edinburgh.”

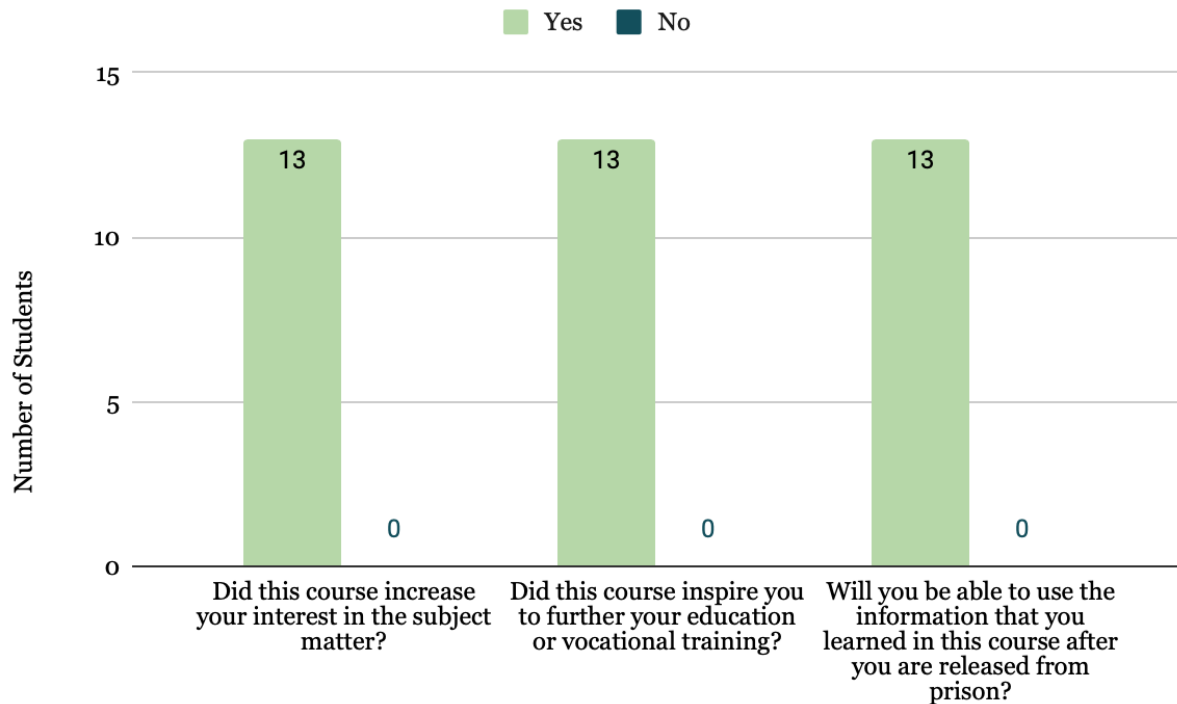
Good course increased my knowledge in how to go about getting to college, also helped to motivate to take education further.”

“Good. Helpful”

Can provide the environment to focus. Or change interests & help identify what to consider and what is achievable. By yourself. ‘Worthwhile’.”

Introduction to Soft Skills

Course Learning Goals: To introduce in-custody students to the importance of soft skills.



Student Comments

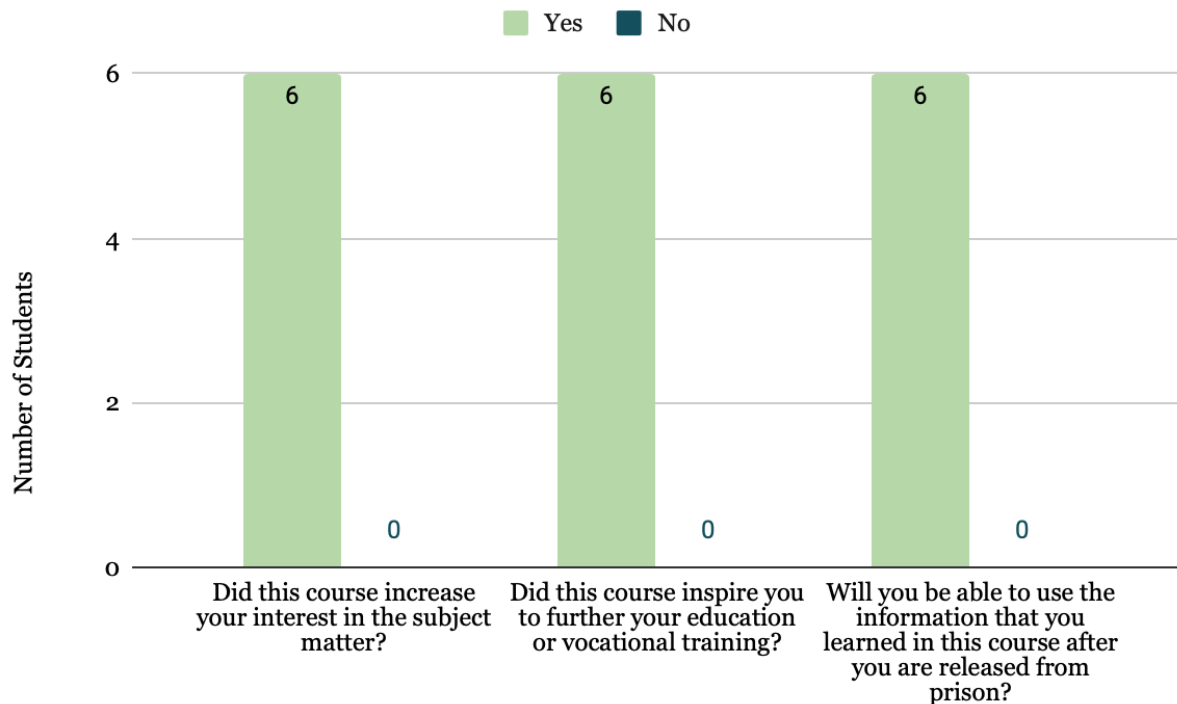
“PEP are a wonderful organisation and I am very grateful for the time you guys have taken to come visit us and share your knowledge, skills, and lived experience. The positivity, sensitivity, and empathy shown by [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] was refreshing. The buzz created in the hall after the class was fantastic. The course was great, it would have been great to have hand-outs, but overall I would score a 10/10. Fantastic. Thank you.”

“Wasn’t sure what to expect. It has been an eye opener to some things and an increase in knowledge for others. “Small talk” “Conflict” “humor” are all works that I will take away and use in class + life in general. When you consider ‘small talk’ and look around a room, it is now so easy to spot someone who needs a bit of ‘small talk’ to get involved. [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2]—you guys are amazing and inspirational! I think for the students especially, as they can relate—you have been in their situation. I really hope they all take something away from this. Thank you!”

“A good idea, will hopefully help people integrate without the name calling and fighting. We're all eventually aiming to be free at some point.”

Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Learning Goals:



Student Comments

“It was excellent and very enjoyable. For such a short course it covered a lot of things. An excellent introduction.”

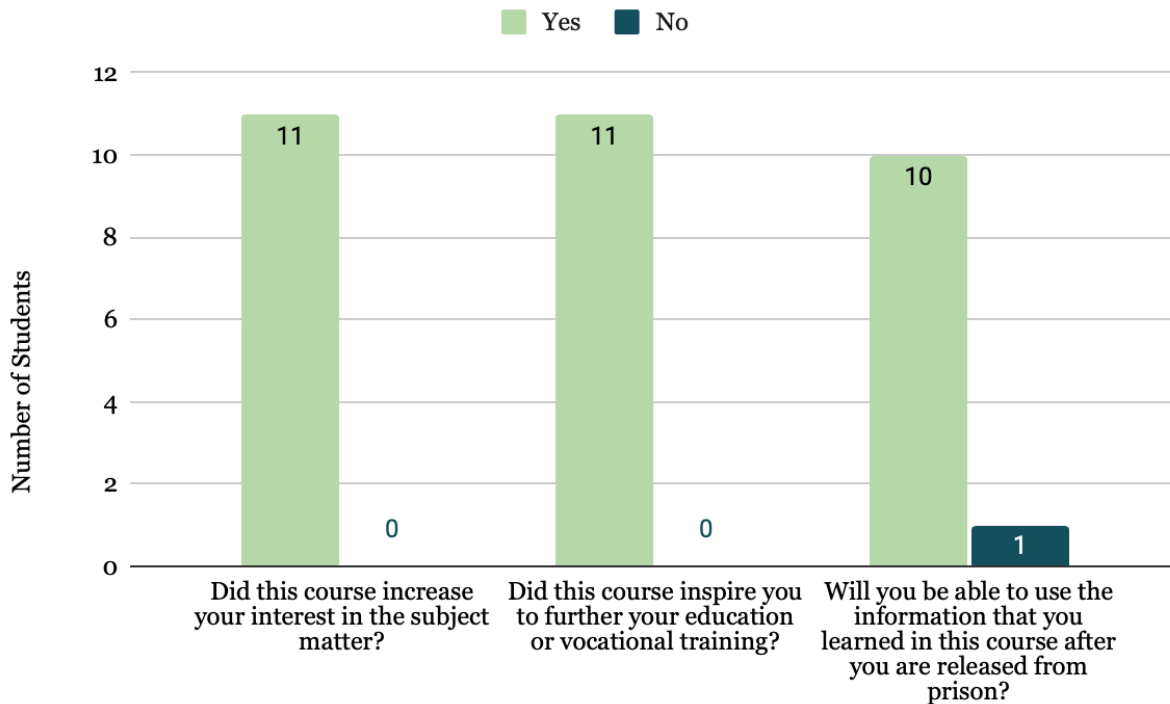
“Super enthusiastic! Super empathetic! Super informed! Just super.”

“Before spending the week with [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] I had intended to pursue some form of career in facilitating adult education. I do not think that I can pay them a higher compliment than to say that they have given me no end of further encouragement and hope around just how worthwhile it is. Especially in the carceral setting.”

“Excellent structured course. Both tutors were very empathetic. A relaxed setting with tutors quickly getting all the guys involved. Covered a great deal of language and concepts in a professional manner.”

Introduction to Self-Empowerment

Course Learning Goals:



Student Comments

“I really enjoyed this course as someone who suffers with emotions ect, it has helped me to be able to look deeper into myself. And you guys have made me feel comfortable with being able to take part as that's something I do struggle with.”

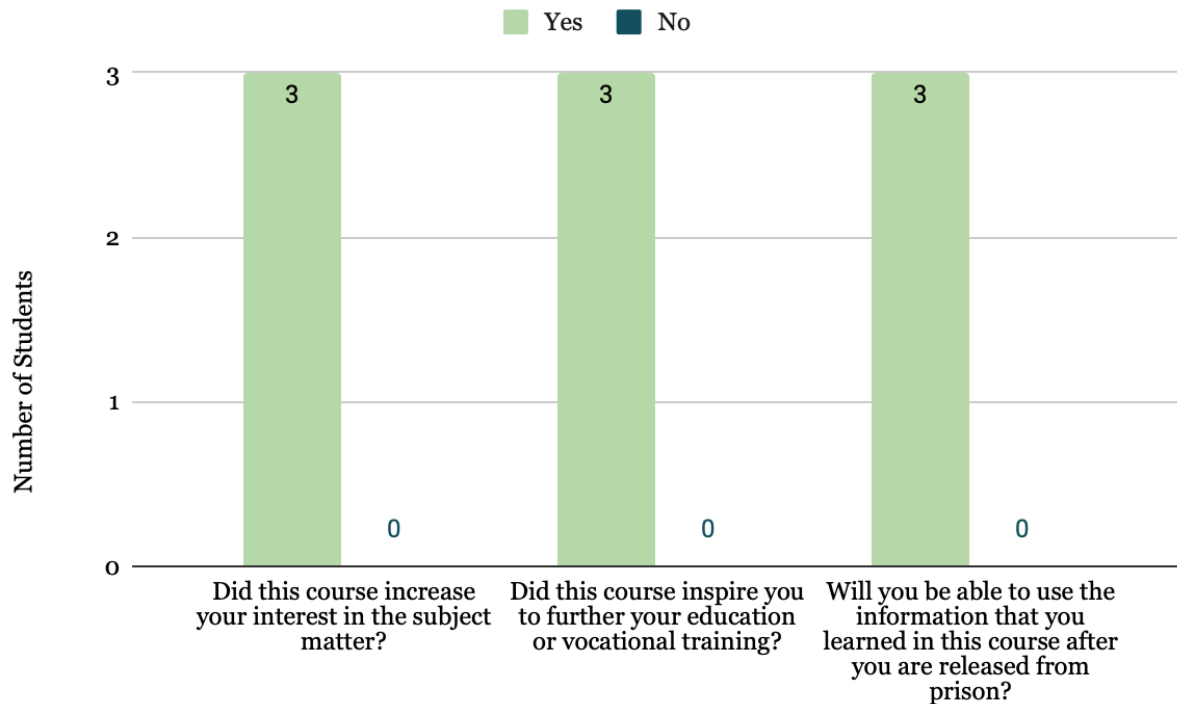
Opened my mind up to thinking differently and approaching situations with a different mindframe. Continuing on keeping my values and putting them into my everyday. [Instructor 1], [Instructor 2], [Instructor 3] are absolutely great at what they do and are a precious asset to PEP. Promotions around to the 3 of them.”

“Thought provoking, delivered excellently. Have been on many courses but this was the most enjoyable. The facilitators were down to earth, endearing, built great rapport and delivered the course whilst still maintaining a relaxed environment. This really felt on another level.”

“Very informative and thought provoking, made me feel more autonomous and self-empowered in just a few days.”

Introduction to Autobiography Writing

Course Learning Goals:



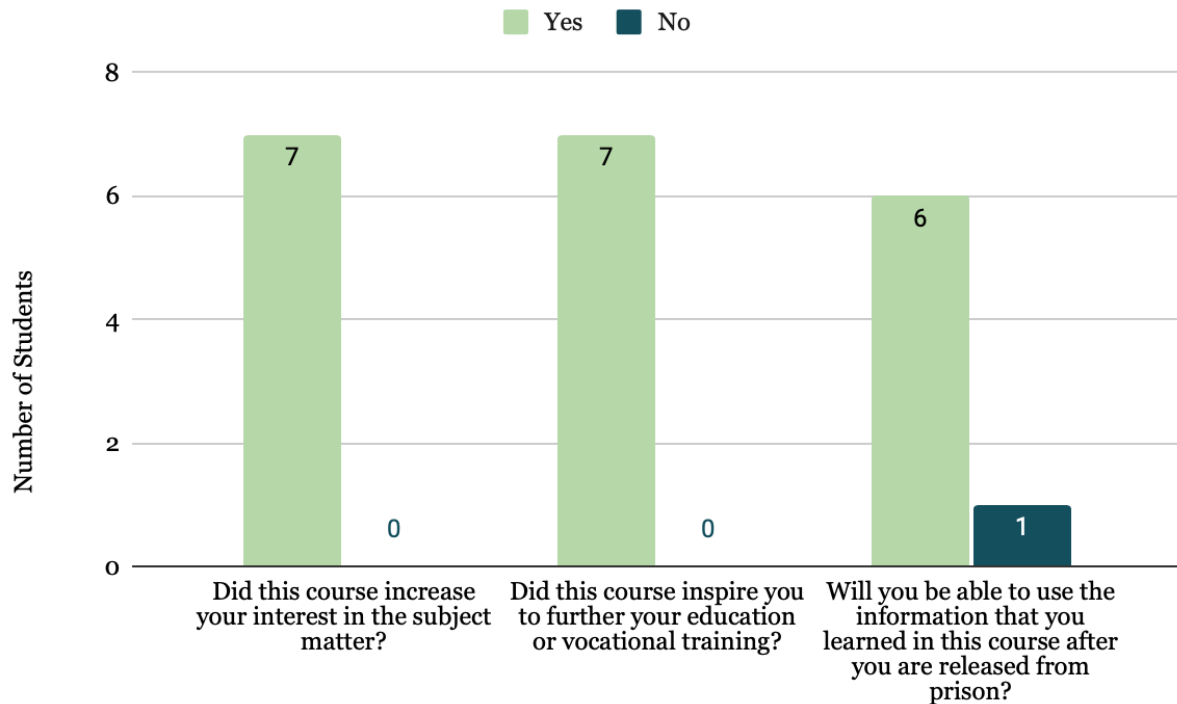
Student Comments

“This kind of education, inspiration should be available to all at every point of their sentence. THis is the true “rehabilitation.” Without courses like this, or being able to meet people like the people of PEP, you will change no one’s life. I want to tell my government about you folks. I have never wanted to communicate with politicians in my life. You’ve made a real and lasting change. “In 5 days.” Wow!”

“I thought this course was great, the two teachers [Instructor 1] and [Instructor 2] were so helpful and positive. It made coming to class a privilege that they encouraged us and inspired us so much. The patience, understanding, and the lack of judgement allowed us to be open and honest. The onl negative is that we can’t keep them full time.”

Building Healthy Relationships

Course Learning Goals:



Student Comments

“Found out more about myself which was interesting. I would recommend this course to all establishments in Scotland. Was fun as well! 10/10.”

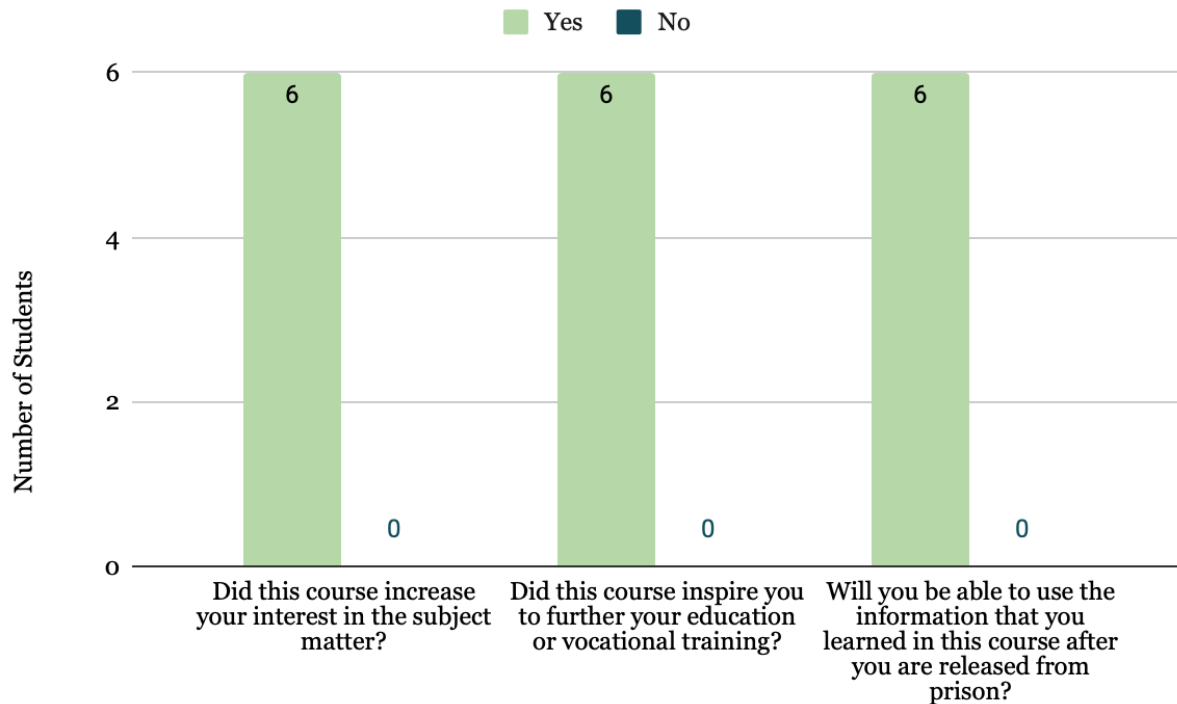
“My thoughts on this course are that I have enjoyed the course and that I will use what I didn’t already know later on in life. Also the teachers were absolutely amazing and I would recommend the group to every 1.”

“The course was brilliant and I also think it will help me in the future to build more healthy relationships.”

“I thought the course was fun but the session could be longer to learn more.”

Forgiveness and Healing

Course Learning Goals:



Student Comments

“The course has been really good. Learning in other ways to deal with situations. I used it this morning when I was in the workshed. Breathing to stop myself from getting stressed out.”

“I really enjoyed this 5 days of PEP-HMP Edinburgh Course. It helps me learn more about forgiveness and way to be more calmer and be able to deal with some mad situation.”

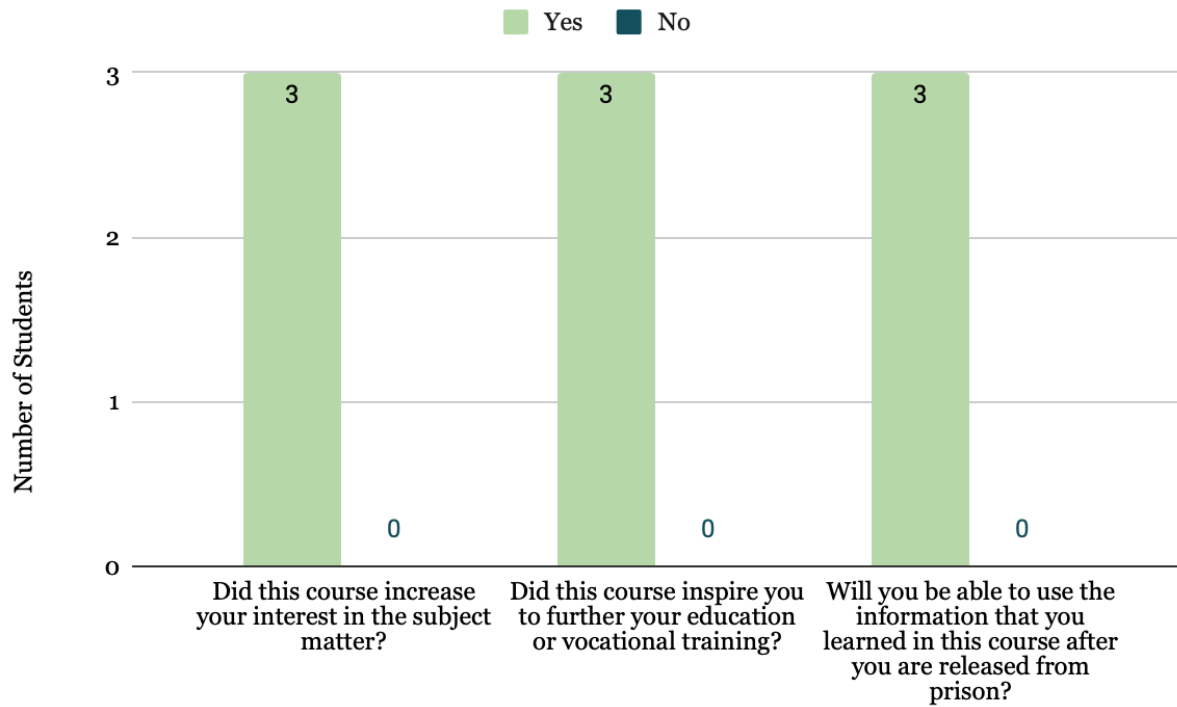
“It was really good it made me have a better understanding in the ways to forgive people and the way it might make me feel to forgive.”

“I really enjoyed it. Let me have time with people. Made me think more—think before I get mad.”

“I am very happy I came. I am surprised how I feel after this and I will definitely be taken part in more educational courses.”

Conflict Resolution

Course Learning Goals:



Student Comments

“Brilliant group. Good guys. Great energy. Learnt so much in life after this group. Appreciated.”

“This course has been beneficial to me as it has made me look at situations in a different perspective and try and let go of past events I feel that are still a catalyst to other issues in my life.

“I’m happy and I like to learning mor becos is very interesting. I’m so glad for dis grup.”