# Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (2013)

## Welcome

This survey asks about your experiences of your postgraduate research programme. Your responses will be combined with those of others to help inform your institution about the experience of postgraduate researchers, helping to improve future support. The results are also used nationally to help advise policy and improve the postgraduate research experience across the sector.

Please answer all the questions that apply to you. The questionnaire should take **around fifteen minutes** to complete. Please note that it is not possible to return to a page once it has been completed; when you arrive at the final 'thank you' page, you will know that your responses have been recorded on our database.

Once you click 'continue' you will be directed to the first section of the survey.

Many thanks for your participation,

Dr. Paul Bennett (Head of Surveys, Higher Education Academy)
Professor Matthew Lambon Ralph (Associate Vice-President (Research), University of Manchester, and Chair of the PRES Advisory Group)

## Data Protection

All data collected in this survey will be held securely. Results are confidential to your institution, though your institution may choose to share or publish aggregated, anonymous results. All participating institutions have agreed not to identify any individuals when reporting their results internally or externally, and to use their best efforts to ensure that no individuals can be identified by implication. The full PRES dataset will be available to the Higher Education Academy in order to conduct national level analysis, and all results will be reported in an aggregated and anonymised form.

## Supervision

**1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about supervision?**

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| b. I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| c. My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| d. My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |

**2. If you have any additional comments about supervision, please write them in here:**

## Resources

**3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about resources?**

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. I have a suitable working space | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| b. There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| c. There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical and online resources) | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |
| d. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ | ◯ |

**4. If you have any additional comments about resources, please write them in here:**

## Research Culture

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the research culture?
(**Note:** Where we have used the term 'department' please answer with respect to your centre, school, institute or other unit where you are primarily based or attached for your research.)

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. My department provides a good seminar programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| b. I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| c. The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| d. I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department | O | O | O | O | O | O |

6. If you have any additional comments about the research culture, please write them in here:

## Progress and Assessment

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about induction, progression arrangements and assessment?

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| b. I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| c. I understand the required standard for my thesis | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| d. The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me | O | O | O | O | O | O |

8. If you have any additional comments about induction, progression arrangements and assessment, please write them in here:

## Responsibilities

| 9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about responsibilities? | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
| a. My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| b. I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| c. I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| d. Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |

10. If you have any additional comments about feedback mechanisms and student/staff responsibilities, please write them in here:

## Research Skills

| 11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research skills development? | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
| a. My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| b. My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| c. My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| d. My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme | O | O | O | O | O | O |

12. If you have any additional comments about research skills development please write them in here:

## Professional Development

### 13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about professional development?

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| b. My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| c. I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| d. I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

14. If you have any additional comments about professional development, please write them in here:

## Opportunities

15. Please indicate which of the following opportunities you have experienced during your research programme (select all that apply):

- ○ Agreeing a personal training or development plan
- ○ Receiving training to develop my research skills
- ○ Receiving training to develop my transferable skills
- ○ Receiving advice on career options
- ○ Taking part in a placement or internship
- ○ Attending an academic research conference
- ○ Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference
- ○ Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book
- ○ Communicating your research to a non-academic audience

16. Please indicate whether you have taught (or demonstrated) at your institution during your research programme (Y/N)

- ○ Yes
- ○ No (go to question 17)

| **If yes,** to what extent do you agree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching? | Did you receive formal training for your teaching? |
|---|---|
| ○ Definitely disagree<br>○ Mostly disagree<br>○ Neither agree nor disagree<br>○ Mostly agree<br>○ Definitely agree<br>○ N/A | ○ Yes<br>○ No<br>○ N/A |

## Overall Experience

**17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience?**

| | Definitely disagree | Mostly disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Mostly agree | Definitely agree | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| b. I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

**18. If you have any additional comments about your experience of your research degree programme, please write them in here. For example, what would further improve your experience?**

## [Institutional Questions]

## You and your programme

**19. I am currently registered as doing:**

- ○ PhD
- ○ Professional doctorate
- ○ PhD by published work
- ○ New Route PhD
- ○ MPhil with transfer to PhD
- ○ MPhil
- ○ Master in research
- ○ Other (Please specify)…………………………………………………………………

Note: PhD includes DPhil courses

**19a. (Doctoral students only)** Is your doctoral training programme provided through a Doctoral Training Centre or Doctoral Training Partnership?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Don't know

**20. The main motivation for me pursuing a research degree programme was:**

- ○ my interest in the subject
- ○ improving my career prospects for an academic/research career
- ○ improving my career prospects outside of an academic/research career
- ○ I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor
- ○ the funding was available
- ○ it felt like a natural step for me
- ○ I felt inspired to work with a particular academic
- ○ Other *(Please specify)*………………………………………………………………

**21. What type of career do you have in mind for when you complete your research degree?**

- ○ Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only)
- ○ Research career in higher education
- ○ Research career outside higher education (e.g. in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment)
- ○ Teaching (at a level below higher education)
- ○ Any other professional career
- ○ Self-employment (including setting up own business)
- ○ Returning to or remaining with employer who is sponsoring your degree
- ○ Other (Please specify)………………………………………………………………

**22. I am:**

- ○ 25 years old or younger
- ○ 26-30 years old
- ○ 31-35 years old
- ○ 36-40 years old
- ○ 41-45 years old
- ○ 46-50 years old
- ○ 51-55 years old
- ○ 56 years old or older

**23. I am:**

- ○ Male
- ○ Female
- ○ Prefer not to say
- ○ Other *(please specify)* ………………………………………

**24. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

**If yes**, please indicate which of the following apply *(select all that apply):*

- ○ Social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- ○ Blind/serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- ○ Deaf/serious hearing impairment
- ○ Long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- ○ Mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- ○ Specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D
- ○ Physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- ○ A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
- ○ Prefer not to say

**25. Please select which of the following most closely matches your primary discipline:**

- ○ Clinical Medicine
- ○ Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care
- ○ Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
- ○ Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- ○ Biological Sciences
- ○ Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science
- ○ Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences
- ○ Chemistry
- ○ Physics
- ○ Mathematical Sciences
- ○ Computer Science and Informatics
- ○ Aeronautical, Mechanical, Chemical and Manufacturing Engineering
- ○ Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Metallurgy and Materials
- ○ Civil and Construction Engineering
- ○ General Engineering

- ○ Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
- ○ Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology
- ○ Economics and Econometrics
- ○ Business and Management Studies
- ○ Law
- ○ Politics and International Studies
- ○ Social Work and Social Policy
- ○ Sociology
- ○ Anthropology and Development Studies
- ○ Education
- ○ Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism
- ○ Area Studies
- ○ Modern Languages and Linguistics
- ○ English Language and Literature
- ○ History
- ○ Classics
- ○ Philosophy
- ○ Theology and Religious Studies
- ○ Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
- ○ Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- ○ Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

**26.** *** Which Department do you belong to? *** This is a question for each institution to map their departmental structure. The format of this question is a drop down list and question wording can be changed or deleted. If you wish to compare your results with previous years in BOS, please test your question wording carefully to make sure that you can access the information you need.

**27. I am currently registered as studying:**

- ○ Full time
- ○ Part time

**28. What year of your research degree programme are you in?**

- ○ Year 1
- ○ Year 2
- ○ Year 3
- ○ Year 4
- ○ Year 5

- ○ Year 6
- ○ Year 7
- ○ Year 8
- ○ Year 9
- ○ Other *(please specify)* …..…………….…

**29. I currently:**

- ○ am planning or doing my research
- ○ am writing up my thesis
- ○ have submitted my thesis and I am awaiting my viva
- ○ am making amendments to my thesis following my viva
- ○ am awaiting my doctoral award following my viva
- ○ Other (*Please specify*)……………………………………………………………………..

**30. I am:**

- ○ Primarily a face to face learner [e.g., based at my institution]
- ○ Primarily a distance learner

**31. For fees purposes, is your normal place of residence registered as:**

- ○ Home
- ○ Other EU
- ○ Non EU

**32. Where is your normal place of residence?**

- ○ United Kingdom – England
- ○ United Kingdom – Northern Ireland
- ○ United Kingdom – Scotland
- ○ United Kingdom – Wales
- ○ Afghanistan
- ○ Åland Islands
- ○ Albania
- ○ Algeria
- ○ American Samoa
- ○ Andorra
- ○ Angola
- ○ Anguilla
- ○ Antigua and Barbuda
- ○ Argentina
- ○ Armenia
- ○ Aruba
- ○ Australia
- ○ Austria
- ○ Azerbaijan
- ○ Bahamas
- ○ Bahrain
- ○ Bangladesh
- ○ Barbados
- ○ Belarus
- ○ Belgium
- ○ Belize
- ○ Benin
- ○ Bermuda
- ○ Bhutan
- ○ Bolivia (Plurinational state of)
- ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ○ Botswana
- ○ Brazil
- ○ British Virgin Islands
- ○ Brunei Darussalam
- ○ Bulgaria
- ○ Burkina Faso
- ○ Burundi
- ○ Cambodia
- ○ Cameroon
- ○ Canada
- ○ Cape Verde
- ○ Cayman Islands
- ○ Central African Republic
- ○ Chad
- ○ Channel Islands
- ○ Chile
- ○ China
- ○ China, Hong Kong
- ○ China, Macao
- ○ Colombia
- ○ Comoros
- ○ Congo
- ○ Cook Islands
- ○ Costa Rica
- ○ Côte d'Ivoire
- ○ Croatia
- ○ Cuba
- ○ Cyprus
- ○ Czech Republic
- ○ Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- ○ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ○ Denmark
- ○ Djibouti
- ○ Dominica
- ○ Dominican Republic
- ○ Ecuador
- ○ Egypt
- ○ El Salvador
- ○ Equatorial Guinea
- ○ Eritrea
- ○ Estonia
- ○ Ethiopia
- ○ Faeroe Islands
- ○ Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
- ○ Fiji
- ○ Finland
- ○ France
- ○ French Guiana
- ○ French Polynesia
- ○ Gabon

- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Holy See
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Martinique

- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Netherlands Antilles
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Norway
- Occupied Palestinian Territory
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Moldova
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint-Barthélemy
- Saint Helena
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint-Martin (French part)
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino

- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- United States Virgin Islands
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Viet Nam
- Wallis and Futuna Islands
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Other (*Please specify*)

......................................................

**33. I class myself as**

- ○ White
- ○ Black
- ○ Mixed background
- ○ Chinese or Chinese British
- ○ Asian or Asian British – Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi
- ○ Asian or Asian British – Other Asian background
- ○ Arab
- ○ Prefer not to say
- ○ Other (*Please specify*)………………………………………………………………..

**34. Are you currently in paid employment?**

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

**If yes**, how many hours of paid employment do you undertake in a typical week (term time)?

- ○ 1-10 hours
- ○ 11-20 hours
- ○ 21-30 hours
- ○ More than 30 hours

**35. You are:** *(select all that apply)*

- ○ Self-funded
- ○ Research Council funded
- ○ Charity
- ○ Funded by a higher education institution
- ○ UK industry funded
- ○ UK Government funded
- ○ EU/EC funded
- ○ Funded by an overseas organisation
- ○ Other *(Please specify)*…………………………………………………………………..

**36. In the year before starting my research degree programme I:**

- ○ Completed my undergraduate studies
- ○ Completed my postgraduate studies [for example, MSc, MA]
- ○ Took a gap year
- ○ Worked in the same organisation that I currently work in
- ○ Worked as a researcher
- ○ Worked in a non research role
- ○ Other (Please specify)…………………………………………………………………..