

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2023

Welcome

This survey invites you to share your experiences of your postgraduate research degree programme. The survey should only take around 15 minutes to complete. Please know that your participation is greatly appreciated. Your feedback will be combined with those of others to help improve the experience of postgraduate researchers like you.

Thank you for your time.

Data Protection

Before you start the survey, please read this privacy statement which tells you how any personal data you submit with your responses to this survey will be utilised and protected, and the rights you have in relation to it.

[Institution to insert here a hyperlink to your institution's privacy statement. We suggest that you seek advice in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation as the data controller]

Your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and you can stop at any point without your responses being included in the dataset.

1. In order to participate please tick below to confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice and you consent to the use of your personal data as described

I consent

You can withdraw your consent at any time in the future by contacting ***[Institution to insert appropriate contact details]***

Notes for completion

The questionnaire should take **around fifteen minutes to complete**.

Where “programme” is used in the questionnaire, this refers to your whole programme of study at your institution, for example MRes in Sociology, PhD in Physics, etc.

After each section you will be asked for any further comments on the topics covered, to enable staff to gain a better understanding of what has gone well and what has worked less well. **Please do not identify yourself or other individuals (including staff) in your comments**. If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact ***[the relevant service at your institution]***.

Supervision

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

Note: Please note, all the scales in the survey range from Definitely disagree on the left-hand side to Definitely agree and not applicable on the right-hand side

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
2_1_a. My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2_2_a. I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2_3_a. My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2_4_a. My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Resources

4. 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	Not accessed/ Not applicable
4_1_a. I have a suitable working space when I am on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_2_a. I have a suitable working space when I am studying remotely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_3_a. There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_4_a. There is appropriate access to online library resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_5_a. There is appropriate access to IT resources and facilities when I am on-campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_6_a. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, equipment, facilities, software, materials) when I am on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4_7_a. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, course materials, software, virtual learning environment) when I am studying remotely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Research Culture

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the research culture?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
6_1_a. I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_2_a. I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_3_a. The research community in my research area influences my work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6_4_a. I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Progress and Assessment

9. 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	Not applicable
9_1_a. I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9_2_a. I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9_3_a. I understand the required standard for my thesis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9_4_a. The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Responsibilities

11. 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	Not applicable
11_1_a. My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11_2_a. I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11_3_a. I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11_4_a. Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Support

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about support at your institution?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not accessed/ Not applicable
13_1_a. The support for academic skills meets my needs (for example, support for your writing, language, subject-specific skills)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13_2_a. The support for using IT and accessing resources meets my needs (for example, support with accessing online journals and e-books, using digital learning tools/apps)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13_3_a. The support for my health and wellbeing meets my needs (for example, personal tutor, student support and counselling services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14: If you have any additional comments about support, please write them in here:

Research Skills

15. 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	Not applicable
15_1_a. My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15_2_a. My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15_3_a. My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15_4_a. My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Professional Development

17. 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	Not applicable
17_1_a. My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17_2_a. My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17_3_a. I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17_4_a. I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

Opportunities

19. Please indicate which of the following opportunities (including virtual and in-person opportunities) you have experienced during your research degree programme (select all that apply):

- Q19_1 Agreeing a personal training or development plan
- Q19_2 Receiving training to develop my research skills
- Q19_3 Receiving training to develop my transferable skills
- Q19_4 Receiving advice on career options
- Q19_5 Taking part in a placement or internship
- Q19_6 Attending an academic research conference
- Q19_7 Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference
- Q19_8 Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book
- Q19_9 Communicating your research to a non-academic audience
- Q19_10 Engagement with non-academic partners – e.g.in industry or elsewhere
- Q19_11 Coaching and/or mentoring

20. Please indicate whether you have undertaken paid (or equivalent) teaching work at your institution during your research degree programme (e.g. as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Graduate Demonstrator)?

- Yes
- No (go to question 20)

20_a. If yes, to what extent do you agree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching?

- Definitely disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly agree
- Definitely agree
- Not applicable

20_b. Did you receive formal training for your teaching? (e.g. teacher/lecturer training schemes or staff development classes run by your institution; a PG Cert. course)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Overall experience

21. 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	Not applicable
21_1_a. Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21_2_a. I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. What has been the one most positive aspect of your research degree programme so far?

23. What, if anything, is the one top area in which your experience of your research degree programme so far could be improved?

Optional: Covid-19 pandemic

26. Thinking about the Covid-19 pandemic to what extent to do you agree or disagree that...?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
26_1_a. Communications from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26_2_a. I have received the support I need from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26_3_a. My institution has worked to ensure the quality of my academic experience during the Covid-19 pandemic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. If you have any additional comments about your institution's response to the Covid-19 pandemic please write them in here:

[Space for institutional questions]

You and your programme

28. I am registered as doing a:

- a. PhD (including DPhil)
- b. Professional doctorate (e.g. EdD, EngD, MD, DBA)
- c. PhD by published work
- d. Integrated or New Route PhD
- e. MPhil with transfer to PhD
- f. MPhil
- g. Master by research
- h. Other (please specify).....

29. How have you usually had contact with staff this term?

- a. Mostly or completely virtually/online
- b. A mixture of in-person and virtually/online
- c. Mostly or completely in-person

About yourself

30. I am:

- a. 25 years old or younger
- b. 26 – 30 years old
- c. 31-35 years old
- d. 36-40 years old
- e. 41-45 years old
- f. 46-50 years old
- g. 51-55 years old
- h. 56 years old or olds
- i. Prefer not to say

31. What is your sex?

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Prefer not to say

32. Are you trans or do you have a trans history?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

33. How would you describe your gender?

- a. Man
- b. Woman
- c. Non-binary
- d. In another way (specify, if you wish)
- e. Prefer not to say

34. Do you have an impairment, health condition or learning difference that has a substantial or long term impact on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

34_a. If yes, please indicate which of the following apply (select all that apply):

- 34_a_1 Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- 34_a_2 D/deaf or have a hearing impairment
- 34_a_3 Development condition that you have had since childhood which affects motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills, and speech and language
- 34_a_4 Learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- 34_a_5 Long-term illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- 34_a_6 Mental health condition, challenge or disorder, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety
- 34_a_7 Physical impairment (a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, lifting or carrying)
- 34_a_8 Social/communication conditions such as a speech and language impairment or an autistic spectrum condition
- 34_a_9 Prefer not to say
- 34_a_10 An impairment, health condition or learning difference not listed above (specify, if you wish):

35. 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
- Engineering
- Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- 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, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies
- Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

36. I am currently registered as studying:

- a. Full-time
- b. Part-time

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

- a. Year 1
- b. Year 2
- c. Year 3
- d. Year 4
- e. Year 5
- f. Year 6
- g. Year 7
- h. Year 8
- i. Year 9
- j. Other (please specify)

38. I currently:

- a. Am in the taught stage of my programme
- a. Am planning or doing my research
- b. Am writing up my thesis
- c. Have submitted my thesis and I am awaiting my viva
- d. Am making amendments to my thesis following my viva
- e. Am awaiting to graduate
- f. Have graduated
- g. Other (please specify).....

39. Voluntary pre-population on whether the programme was intended to be in-person or distance learning (always hidden)

40. Where do you consider to be your permanent home? [Domicile list drawn from HESA domicile field]

41. Did you have free school meals in year 11 at school? (UK domicile only)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

42. Are you the first generation in your family to attend university (i.e. your parents or parental carers did not attend)?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

43. What is your ethnicity or ethnic group?

- a. Arab
- b. Asian - Bangladeshi or Bangladeshi British
- c. Asian - Chinese or Chinese British
- d. Asian - Indian or Indian British
- e. Asian - Pakistani or Pakistani British
- f. Any other Asian background
- g. Black - African or African British
- h. Black - Caribbean or Caribbean British
- i. Any other Black background
- j. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Asian or Asian British
- k. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Black African or Black African British
- l. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Black Caribbean or Black Caribbean British
- m. Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background
- n. White - English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
- o. White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- p. White - Irish
- q. White - Roma
- r. Any other White background
- s. Any other ethnic background
- t. Prefer not to say

44. Have you considered, for any reason, leaving your postgraduate research degree?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

45. (If yes) What was the main (or most recent) reason that led you to consider leaving?

- a. Difficulty balancing research and other commitments
- b. Financial difficulties
- c. Family or personal problems
- d. My physical health
- e. My mental/emotional health
- f. There is not enough support for personal issues
- g. There is not enough interaction with academic staff
- h. There is too much work
- i. There is not enough support for my research
- j. I have found this level of research difficult
- k. I don't feel connected to my fellow research students
- l. The content of the research programme is not what I expected
- m. The way I need to carry out my research programme is not what I expected
- n. I might have chosen the wrong institution
- o. The wider postgraduate researcher experience is not what I was hoping for
- p. Other (specify, if you wish)
- q. Prefer not to say

Thank you

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact **[the relevant service at your institution]**.

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