

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey: Staff Guide

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey of research postgraduates begins at University of Warwick on 20th April 2026

This guide has been produced to help you support students through the survey process.

What you should tell your students:

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey is a national survey, coordinated by Advance HE. It is carried out by the University and begins here on 20th April 2026 and closes on 8th May 2026

Warwick and Students' Union are promoting the survey to help encourage as many eligible students as possible to complete it online and to give their feedback. The more students who complete, the more representative it will be.

The survey is the chance for research postgraduates to feedback on their experience. We need to know what postgraduates think so we can address issues and keep doing what is valued. It is an opportunity to say what went well and what could have been improved.

The survey is confidential, and the results will be reported anonymously so that no individual can be identified.

Postgraduates will receive an email from the Doctoral College asking them to fill in the survey and a link to it.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will PRES be carried out?

The survey is carried out by the Doctoral College and the questionnaire hosted online by Jisc Online Surveys. On 20 April 2026 all research postgraduate students will receive an email from the Doctoral College asking them to complete the survey. Staff will also be sent a link to disseminate, and your help in doing this would be much appreciated.

Any students not completing the survey within the first couple of weeks will receive further reminders. The survey will close on 8th May 2026.

What will be asked?

The survey questions are broken down into the following areas:

- + supervision
- + on-campus resources
- + online learning resources
- + research culture
- + community
- + progress and assessment
- + responsibilities
- + support
- + research skills and professional development
- + opportunities
- + overall experience
- + motivations
- + demographic details
- + institutional questions

Within these categories, students are asked to agree or disagree with statements (on a 5-point scale of Definitely Disagree to Definitely Agree), or indicate how often a learning style or behaviour is encouraged. Students are encouraged to take an overview of their experience of the whole course and take into account the balance of what constitutes a 'better' and 'worse' experience.

What if students don't want to take part?

We strongly encourage students to fill it in as soon as possible because their experience and views are very important. However, it is not compulsory. Students are able to opt out and can respond to invitation emails and let the University know they don't want to take part.

How will I see the results?

The results of institutions aggregated together are published by Advance HE. Institutions own their results and can decide whether to make them public. Detailed results will be available to staff. All reporting should provide a fair and balanced picture of provision and should be directed towards enhancing practice.

More information?

For more information, please contact Louise Sutcliffe in Doctoral College by email: doctoralcollege@warwick.ac.uk You can also read more about the survey by going to [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey \(PRES\)](#).