



QUESTIONNAIRE PRES 2009

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey - PRES

Welcome

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is run by the Higher Education Academy, to explore your experiences of your research degree programme. Surveys of this nature provide universities with useful quality enhancement information, and all institutions are looking at ways of enhancing the experience of postgraduate research students. Your institution has agreed to take part in this survey. The overall aim of the survey is to identify, at both a local and national level, areas where improvements could be made and efforts targeted to further enhance research degree programmes. This is the third nationwide administration of PRES. You can download the PRES 2008 report from <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/research/surveys/pres>.

The survey is divided into several short sections:

The first eight sections ask about your experience of your research degree programme including supervision, infrastructure, professional development and career. Section nine asks you to make an overall evaluation of your experience on five broader aspects of your research degree programme. The tenth section asks you about your experience of any teaching opportunities you may have had, whilst the eleventh section asks about personal factors that may impact upon your experience of your research degree programme, such as support from friends and family. Section twelve asks about how well your expectations of the research programme were met followed by a space for any additional comments. A demographic section is included at the end following any questions added by your institution. This final section is to enable us to check the representativeness of the sample, and to compare between different demographic groups in our analyses. The data will not be used to identify any individuals.

The survey is on five pages and it is **not possible to return** to a page once it has been completed. Therefore, please think carefully before responding so that your views are accurately represented.

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

Yours sincerely,

Professor Chris Park [Director of Graduate School at Lancaster University, Senior Associate of the Higher Education Academy, Chair of the PRES steering group].

XX (Institutional contact)

Data Protection

All data collected in this survey will be held anonymously and securely. Individual results are strictly confidential to your institution only and individuals cannot be identified in any way. Aggregated institutional results will feed into a national aggregate available to all institutions taking part in PRES for benchmarking purposes only.

The anonymised full PRES dataset will be available to the Higher Education Academy in order to conduct national level analysis. All results will be presented only in an aggregated and anonymised form.

Demographic data collected at the end of the survey will only be used for the purposes of this survey and cannot be used to identify any individuals.

SECTION 1: SUPERVISION

1. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to adequately support my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. My supervisor/s make a real effort to understand any difficulties I face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I have been given good guidance in topic selection and refinement by my supervisor/s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. I have received good guidance in my literature search from my supervisor/s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. My supervisor/s provide helpful feedback on my progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. My supervisor/s are available when I need them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 2: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

2. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. As a result of my experience so far I feel confident about managing a research project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. My experience so far has improved my analytical skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. My experience so far has helped me to develop a range of communication skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. As a result of my experience so far I have improved my ability to learn independently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. There are adequate opportunities available for me to further develop my research skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. There are adequate opportunities available for me to further develop my transferable skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 3: INFRASTRUCTURE

3. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. I have adequate access to the equipment necessary for my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I have a suitable working space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. There is appropriate financial support for research activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. There is adequate provision of library facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. I have the technical support I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 4: INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE

4. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. My department provides opportunities for social contact with other research students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. My department provides opportunities for me to become involved in the broader research culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. I feel integrated into my department's community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. My department provides a good seminar programme for research students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 5: GOALS AND STANDARDS

5. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. I understand the required standard for the thesis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I understand the standard of work expected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I understand the requirements of thesis examination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. 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"/>

SECTION 6: THESIS EXAMINATION

6. Have you sat your final viva examination?

- No (If No, please go to section 7)
- Yes (If Yes, please respond to the following statements:)

For each of the following, show the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5	NA
a. The thesis examination process was fair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The examination of my thesis was completed in a reasonable time scale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I was given adequate support and guidance in preparation for my <i>viva voce</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. I was given adequate support and guidance to make any changes to my thesis following my <i>viva voce</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 7: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER

7. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. I am encouraged to think about the range of career opportunities that are available to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I am encouraged to reflect on my professional development needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I am encouraged to reflect on my career development needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 8: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. For each statement, please rate the extent of your agreement or disagreement.
(1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

a. I know who to approach, or where to find this out, if I am dissatisfied with any element of my research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. 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"/>
c. I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. I am aware of my institution's responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 9

9. For the following items, please rate how important, in terms of successfully completing your research degree programme, you consider them to be. (1 = Not at all important and 5 = Very important)

	Importance					Comment
	1	2	3	4	5	
a. Supervisory support and guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
b. Opportunities to develop a range of research skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
c. Opportunities to develop a range of transferable skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
d. Access to appropriate facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
e. The research environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
f. Provision of guidance on institutional standards and expectations for your research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

SECTION 10: TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

10. I have had adequate opportunity to gain experience of teaching [e.g., lectures, seminars or workshops] whilst doing my research degree programme (1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

1 2 3 4 5

11. I have been given adequate support and guidance for my teaching (1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

1 2 3 4 5 NA

12. I think the experience that I have gained through teaching has been a worthwhile aspect of my research degree programme (1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

1 2 3 4 5 NA

13. Please provide further information regarding your teaching experience

.....

SECTION 11: PERSONAL FACTORS

14. Please state to what extent you agree with the following statements (1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

	1	2	3	4	5	NA
a. My friends and family are supportive of my research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. My employer is supportive of my research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The financing of my research degree programme places a strain on my personal finances.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 12

15. Please rate the following broad aspects of your research degree programme in terms of how your experience of them has met with your expectations (-3 = it is much more negative, 0 = it has met my expectations, +3 = it is much more positive)

	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
a. Supervisory support and guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Opportunities to develop a range of research skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Opportunities to develop a range of transferable skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Access to appropriate facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. The research environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Provision of guidance on institutional standards and expectations for your research degree programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Overall experience of my research programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme more or less within the planned timescale. (1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

1 2 3 4 5

SECTION 13

17. Please provide further information about your experience of your research degree programme. For example, what would further improve your experience?

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

DEMOGRAPHICS:

18. 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

19. I am

- Male
- Female

20. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No

20.a If yes, please choose one from the following options: (as a drop down list)

Dyslexia

Blind/visually impaired

Deaf/hard of hearing

Wheelchair-user/mobility impairments

Mental health difficulties

Autistic spectrum disorder

Unseen disability

Multiple disabilities

Other (If other, please specify.....)

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

- Home
- Other EU
- Non EU

22. I class myself as:

- White: British/Irish/Any other white background
- Mixed: White and Black Caribbean/White and Black/White and Asian/Any other mixed background
- Asian or Asian British: Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi/Any other West or South Asian background
- Black or Black British: Caribbean/African/Any other Black background
- Chinese: Chinese/Any other East Asian background
- Other (*Please specify*)
.....

23. I am currently registered as studying:

- Full time
- Part time

24. I am:

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

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

Drop down list from 1 to 9 years

Other.....

26. 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.....)

27. 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.....)

28. 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 (including not planning to enter employment – 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.....

30. My discipline is:

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Medical Science and Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Other subjects allied to Medicine
- Biology and related Sciences
- Sports Science
- Psychology
- Veterinary Sciences
- Agriculture and related subjects
- Physical Science
- Physical Geography and Environmental Science
- Mathematical Sciences
- Computer Science
- Mechanically-based Engineering
- Electronic and Electrical Engineering
- Civil, Chemical and other Engineering
- Technology
- Architecture, Building and Planning
- Economics
- Politics
- Sociology, Social Policy and Anthropology
- Social Work
- Human and Social Geography
- Law
- Business
- Management
- Finance and Accounting
- Tourism, Transport, Travel and others in Business and Administrative studies
- Media studies
- Communications and Information studies
- English-based studies
- European Languages and Area studies
- Other Languages and Area studies
- History and Archaeology
- Philosophy, Theology and Religious studies
- Art and Design
- Performing Arts
- Other Creative Arts
- Teacher Training
- Education studies
- Combined

31. (Here institutions may insert their own question about faculties/departments. This question will not be suitable for cross-institutional comparisons)

!! If you took part in PRES 2007 and you used this question, in 2008 questionnaire this question needs to remain **exactly the same**. If you change **anything** (e.g. some departments changed names, exclude some departments etc.) you will not be able to compare this question within BOS with the last year results. !!

32. You are (*Select all that apply*)

- Self-funded
- Research Council funded
- Charity
- Institution funded
- UK industry funded
- UK Government funded
- EU/EC funded
- Funded overseas
- Other.....

Note: Institution funded = Higher Education Institution funded.

Note: Funded overseas = funded by an overseas organisation

33. I am registered as doing a:

- PhD
- Professional doctorate
- PhD by published work
- New Route PhD
- MPhil with transfer to PhD
- MPhil
- Master in research
- Other.....

Note: PhD includes DPhil courses.