



**Postgraduate  
Research  
Experience  
Survey**

# **Postgraduate Research Experience Survey**

## **2011 results**

### **Item scores**

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and

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**September 2011**

This document includes national aggregate scores for all non-demographic items in PRES 2011, and a table containing year-on-year comparisons.

For explanation, background and exploration, please see the full report.

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
1.a My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to adequately support my research	5.4%	7.0%	87.5%	30923
1.b My supervisor/s make a real effort to understand any difficulties I face	8.2%	11.3%	80.4%	30830
1.c I have been given good guidance in topic selection and refinement by my supervisor/s	9.3%	12.9%	77.8%	30569
1.d I have received good guidance in my literature search from my supervisor/s	11.5%	18.0%	70.4%	30551
1.e My supervisor/s provide helpful feedback on my progress	8.7%	12.8%	78.5%	30679
1.f My supervisor/s are available when I need them	8.7%	12.1%	79.2%	30833

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
2.a As a result of my experience so far I feel confident about managing a research project	7.3%	18.2%	74.5%	30795
2.b My experience so far has improved my analytical skills	5.1%	12.9%	82.0%	30724
2.c My experience so far has helped me to develop a range of communication skills	7.0%	19.5%	73.5%	30489
2.d As a result of my experience so far I have improved my ability to learn independently	4.6%	11.0%	84.4%	30563
2.e There are adequate opportunities available for me to further develop my research skills	7.9%	17.0%	75.1%	30630
2.f There are adequate opportunities available for me to further develop my transferable skills	8.0%	20.3%	71.6%	30206

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
3.a I have adequate access to the equipment necessary for my research	9.7%	15.4%	74.9%	29578
3.b I have a suitable working space	14.1%	13.6%	72.4%	29373
3.c There is appropriate financial support for research activities	22.9%	19.7%	57.4%	28890
3.d There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities	12.0%	15.1%	72.9%	29779
3.e There is adequate provision of library facilities	9.9%	13.7%	76.4%	30261
3.f I have the technical support I need	10.3%	18.7%	71.0%	29404

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
4.a My department provides opportunities for social contact with other research students	14.8%	20.0%	65.1%	30151
4.b My department provides opportunities for me to become involved in the broader research culture	15.3%	22.6%	62.1%	30162
4.c The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work	17.9%	23.9%	58.2%	29746
4.d I feel integrated into my department's community	22.0%	23.9%	54.0%	29933
4.e My department provides a good seminar programme for research students	14.4%	20.3%	65.2%	30013

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
5.a I understand the required standard for the thesis	8.2%	16.8%	75.0%	30736
5.b I understand the standard of work expected	7.1%	14.4%	78.5%	30778
5.c I understand the requirements of thesis examination	11.2%	21.5%	67.4%	30496
5.d I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	8.6%	14.9%	76.5%	30685

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
6.a.i The thesis examination process was fair	9.5%	6.5%	84.0%	1392
6.a.ii The examination of my thesis was completed in a reasonable timescale	13.0%	8.8%	78.2%	1398
6.a.iii I was given adequate support and guidance in preparation for my viva voce	16.1%	12.4%	71.4%	1378
6.a.iv I was given adequate support and guidance to make any changes to my thesis following my viva voce	11.7%	10.9%	77.4%	1301

Note: There were 1,401 students (4.6%) who had sat their final viva.

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
7.a I am encouraged to think about the range of career opportunities that are available to me	25.5%	30.5%	43.9%	28113
7.b I am encouraged to reflect on my professional development needs	21.5%	28.4%	50.1%	29046
7.c I am encouraged to reflect on my career development needs	23.3%	29.4%	47.2%	28660

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
8.a I know who to approach, or where to find this out, if I am dissatisfied with any element of my research degree programme	14.9%	20.5%	64.6%	30677
8.b My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	14.6%	28.2%	57.3%	29267
8.c I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	5.8%	14.1%	80.2%	30742
8.d I am aware of my institution's responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	13.1%	24.1%	62.8%	30625

	Not important	Neutral	Important	N
9.a Supervisory support and guidance	1.7%	2.3%	95.9%	31009
9.b Opportunities to develop a range of research skills	2.4%	7.9%	89.6%	30958
9.c Opportunities to develop a range of transferable skills	8.4%	21.4%	70.2%	30913
9.d Access to appropriate facilities	2.8%	8.8%	88.4%	30928
9.e The research environment	3.5%	12.5%	84.0%	30847
9.f Provision of guidance on institutional standards and expectations for your research degree programme	4.9%	18.5%	76.7%	30852

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
10. I have had adequate opportunity to gain experience of teaching [e.g., lectures, seminars or workshops] whilst doing my research degree programme	25.3%	17.0%	57.6%	23959
11. I have been given adequate support and guidance for my teaching	23.9%	25.0%	51.1%	19786
12. I think the experience that I have gained through teaching has been a worthwhile aspect of my research degree programme	13.9%	15.1%	71.0%	18619

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
14.a My friends and family are supportive of my research degree programme	3.7%	7.4%	88.9%	30528
14.b My employer is supportive of my research degree programme	9.6%	13.1%	77.3%	14838
14.c The financing of my research degree programme places a strain on my personal finances	34.1%	17.4%	48.4%	27093

	Below my expectations	Met my expectations	Exceeded my expectations	N
15.a Supervisory support and guidance	16.8%	17.3%	65.8%	30966
15.b Opportunities to develop a range of research skills	12.3%	28.0%	59.7%	30937
15.c Opportunities to develop a range of transferable skills	12.9%	34.6%	52.6%	30898
15.d Access to appropriate facilities	17.1%	31.9%	51.1%	30899
15.e The research environment	19.6%	28.2%	52.2%	30669
15.f Provision of guidance on institutional standards and expectations for your research degree programme	20.2%	40.2%	39.6%	30661
15.g Overall experience of my research programme	13.8%	22.1%	64.1%	30814

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	N
16. I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme more or less within the planned timescale	10.1%	16.7%	73.3%	29665

The following table shows score comparisons for all years of the survey. All scores are % agree except Q9 (importance) and Q15 (met or exceeded expectations).

Item <sup>a</sup>	2007	2008	2009	2011	Change 2007-2011
1a	82.2%	83.8%	84.4%	87.5%	5.3%
1b	73.0%	75.1%	76.0%	80.4%	7.4%
1c	68.4%	72.3%	73.0%	77.8%	9.4%
1d	62.1%	64.0%	64.8%	70.4%	8.3%
1e	70.8%	72.8%	73.7%	78.5%	7.7%
1f	71.7%	74.0%	74.7%	79.2%	7.5%
2a	66.5%	69.3%	70.6%	74.5%	8.0%
2b	74.2%	78.0%	78.3%	82.0%	7.8%
2c	63.8%	68.9%	69.3%	73.5%	9.7%
2d	80.1%	80.5%	80.8%	84.4%	4.3%
2e	60.8%	60.6%	69.8%	75.1%	14.3%
2f	57.9%	58.0%	64.9%	71.6%	13.7%
3a	67.8%	67.8%	69.4%	74.9%	7.1%
3b	64.1%	64.8%	66.0%	72.4%	8.3%
3c	44.6%	51.2%	51.8%	57.4%	12.8%
3d	66.0%	65.7%	67.8%	72.9%	6.9%
3e	66.3%	70.1%	71.1%	76.4%	10.1%
3f	59.1%	61.8%	63.9%	71.0%	11.9%
4a	53.4%	57.2%	59.1%	65.1%	11.7%
4b	52.0%	55.2%	56.7%	62.1%	10.1%
4c	49.3%	49.9%	52.6%	58.2%	8.9%

4d	49.0%	46.4%	49.1%	54.0%	5.0%
4e	57.2%	58.5%	59.9%	65.2%	8.0%
5a	69.2%	69.4%	70.2%	75.0%	5.8%
5b	75.8%	72.6%	73.6%	78.5%	2.7%
5c	61.4%	60.7%	61.9%	67.4%	6.0%
5d	73.9%	71.0%	71.6%	76.5%	2.6%
6a(i)	82.2%	80.4%	77.9%	84.0%	1.8%
6a(ii)	77.1%	75.2%	76.4%	78.2%	1.1%
6a(iii)	61.8%	63.5%	61.6%	71.4%	9.6%
6a(iv)	70.7%	73.8%	66.9%	77.4%	6.7%
7a	37.6%	34.8%	37.1%	43.9%	6.3%
7b	47.5%	44.3%	43.3%	50.1%	2.6%
7c	38.3%	39.6%	39.9%	47.2%	8.9%
8a	58.9%	54.2%	61.8%	64.6%	5.7%
8b	47.8%	45.5%	51.3%	57.3%	9.5%
8c	77.6%	76.9%	75.5%	80.2%	2.6%
8d	47.3%	56.2%	59.2%	62.8%	15.5%
9a	95.3%	95.7%	95.6%	95.9%	0.6%
9b	88.1%	91.3%	89.2%	89.6%	1.5%
9c	67.6%	74.3%	69.6%	70.2%	2.6%
9d	89.1%	90.1%	88.1%	88.4%	-0.7%
9e	83.7%	87.3%	83.8%	84.0%	0.3%
9f	74.2%	78.1%	76.3%	76.7%	2.5%
10 <sup>b</sup>		47.5%	49.4%	57.6%	10.1%
11	40.4%	42.7%	45.9%	51.1%	10.7%
12	61.1%	62.0%	64.6%	71.0%	9.9%
14a	87.5%	87.0%	88.6%	88.9%	1.4%
14b	71.9%	74.0%	74.0%	77.3%	5.4%
14c <sup>b</sup>		50.0%	50.4%	48.4%	-1.6%
15a	77.3%	79.0%	79.7%	83.1%	5.8%
15b	83.6%	82.9%	85.9%	87.7%	4.1%
15c	81.9%	82.4%	84.8%	87.2%	5.3%
15d	78.2%	78.2%	80.5%	83.0%	4.8%
15e	74.2%	75.4%	77.1%	80.4%	6.2%
15f	73.1%	75.8%	77.1%	79.8%	6.7%
15g	80.7%	82.5%	83.9%	86.2%	5.5%
16	65.2%	67.0%	68.6%	73.3%	8.1%

<sup>a</sup> The item number refer to the PRES 2011 questionnaire. In some cases the number of the item in previous years may be different.

<sup>b</sup> This item was not introduced until PRES 2008. For this item, the number in the 'Change 2007-2011' column is the change from 2008.

The full report is available from:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/postgraduate/pres-reports>