

Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey – PTES 2010

Welcome

The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) is run by the Higher Education Academy together with your institution, to ask about your experiences of your postgraduate taught programme. Surveys of this nature provide universities with information that they can use to improve the experience of postgraduate taught students in future. 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 taught degree programmes.

PTES was developed following the success of the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) which has been run nationally for three years in more than 80 institutions across the United Kingdom. Thirty institutions participated in the first national administration of PTES in 2009 and this second national administration of PTES includes nearly 80 participating institutions.

Some questions in this survey are informed by the National Student Survey developed by HEFCE and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) developed by the Higher Education Academy.

The survey is divided into several short sections:

The first section asks about your motivations to undertake a postgraduate taught programme. This is followed by a further nine sections, each asking about a different, broad area of your experience and overall satisfaction. A demographic section is included at the end, which enables 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,

Dr Pam Wells [Adviser, Evidence-Informed Practice]

Professor Chris Park [Chair of the PRES and PTES steering groups]

Data Protection

All data collected in this survey will be held securely. Individual results are strictly confidential to your institution only and individuals will not be identified.

Aggregated institutional results will feed into a national aggregate available to all institutions taking part in PTES for benchmarking purposes only. Some institutions may wish to share their results to create smaller aggregates – benchmarking clubs – with similar institutions (e.g. Russell Group, Post-92).

The anonymised full PTES 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 these data will not be used to identify any individuals.

SECTION A: MOTIVATIONS

1. My main motivations for taking this postgraduate programme were: *(select all that apply)*

- ✓ To enable me to progress to a higher level qualification (e.g. PhD)
- ✓ To progress in my current career path (i.e. a professional qualification)
- ✓ To change my current career
- ✓ To improve my employment prospects
- ✓ As a requirement to enter a particular profession
- ✓ To meet the requirements of my current job
- ✓ For personal interest
- ✓ Other *(Please specify...)*.....

2. I am studying for this qualification at this particular institution because of: *(select all that apply)*

- ✓ The overall reputation of the institution
- ✓ The institution's reputation in my chosen subject area
- ✓ The reputation of the department
- ✓ The location of the institution
- ✓ I have studied at this institution before
- ✓ It is the only institution offering this programme
- ✓ It was recommended to me
- ✓ My employer advised or encouraged me to do it
- ✓ Delivery of the programme is flexible enough to fit around my life
- ✓ The way the programme is assessed
- ✓ Funding was available to me to study this particular programme
- ✓ The cost of the programme compared to other institutions
- ✓ Graduates from this institution have good career and employment prospects
- ✓ Other *(Please specify...)*.....

SECTION B: QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding teaching and learning on your programme?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
a. The teaching and learning methods are effective for this type of programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. There is sufficient contact time (face to face and/or virtual/online) between staff and students to support effective learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I am happy with the teaching support I received from staff on my course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The course is intellectually stimulating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding staff on your programme?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
a. Staff are good at explaining things	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Staff made the subject interesting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Overall, how would you rate the teaching quality on your programme?

- It is consistently good
- It is variable but generally good
- It is variable but generally poor
- It is consistently poor

SECTION E: ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

9. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding organisation and management of your programme?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
a. The timetable fits well with my other commitments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Any changes in the programme or teaching have been communicated effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. The programme is well organised and is running smoothly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The balance of core modules and options is appropriate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. The balance between scheduled contact time and private study is appropriate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Overall, the workload on the programme is:

- ✓ Much higher than I expected
- ✓ Higher than I expected
- ✓ More or less as I expected
- ✓ Lower than I expected
- ✓ Much lower than I expected

SECTION H: CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

13. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding professional development on your programme?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
a. 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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I feel better prepared for my future employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. As a result of this programme, I believe my future employment prospects are better	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION I: OVERALL SATISFACTION

14. Please rate the following broad aspects of your postgraduate taught programme in terms of how your experience of those aspects has met with your expectations (-3 it has definitely not met my expectations , 0 it has met my expectations, +3 it has definitely exceeded my expectations)

	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
a. Quality of teaching and learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Assessment and feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Organisation and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Learning resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Skills and personal development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Career and professional development	<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 course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION J: FURTHER COMMENTS

Looking back over your experience of your taught degree programme, are there any particularly positive or negative aspects you would like to highlight?

15. POSITIVE

.....

16. NEGATIVE

.....

Space for institutional questions

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

17. I am registered for the qualification of:

- ✓ Taught Master (e.g. MA, MSc, MBA, LLM)
- ✓ Postgraduate Certificate (including PGCE)
- ✓ Postgraduate Diploma
- ✓ Other (*Please specify...*)

18. What is your age?

- ✓ 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. What is your gender?

- ✓ Male
- ✓ Female

Which of the following most closely matches the course you are currently studying?

20. Please indicate, which of the following most closely matches your discipline:

- ✓ 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

21. *** 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.*

22. When did you start your course?

- ✓ After 1 January 2010
- ✓ 1 September 2009 – 31 December 2009
- ✓ 1 September 2008 – 31 August 2009
- ✓ Before 1 September 2008

23. What are you currently registered as?

- ✓ Full-time
- ✓ Part-time
- ✓ Currently not registered (e.g. finished the course) was full-time
- ✓ Currently not registered (e.g. finished the course) was part-time

24. I am:

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

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

- ✓ Home
- ✓ Other EU
- ✓ Non EU

26. 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

27. What is your main source of funding for this course?

- ✓ Self-funded (e.g. loan, family)
- ✓ Charity
- ✓ Research council
- ✓ Institution (e.g. bursary, scholarship)
- ✓ Employer
- ✓ UK Government
- ✓ EU Government
- ✓ Overseas Government
- ✓ *Other (Please specify.....)*.....

28. Your highest qualification on entry:

- ✓ Qualifications below undergraduate degree
- ✓ Undergraduate degree or equivalent
- ✓ Postgraduate degree (e.g. MA)
- ✓ No academic qualifications but professional experience
- ✓ *Other (Please specify.....)*.....

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your answers have now been recorded on our database.