



Contextualising the postgraduate research experience: exploring and responding to diverse student needs

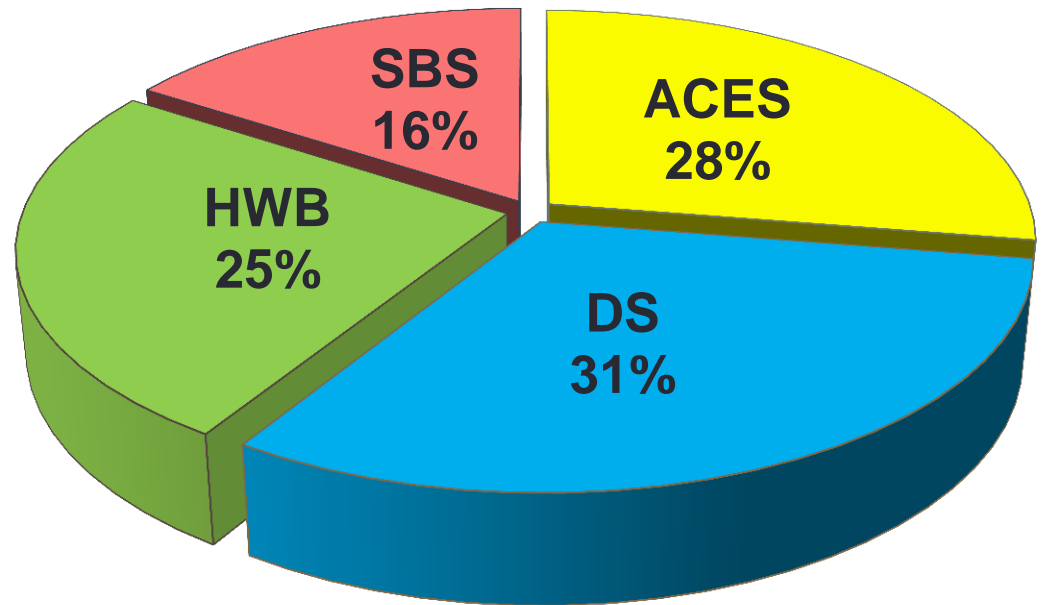
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@SHU_StEER

- Almost 25,000 undergraduates
- Just under 4,300 PGT students
- Less than 700 PGR students
- Almost 80% PhD
- Four faculties
- 9 departments
- 15 UoAs



Postgraduate
Research
Experience
Survey

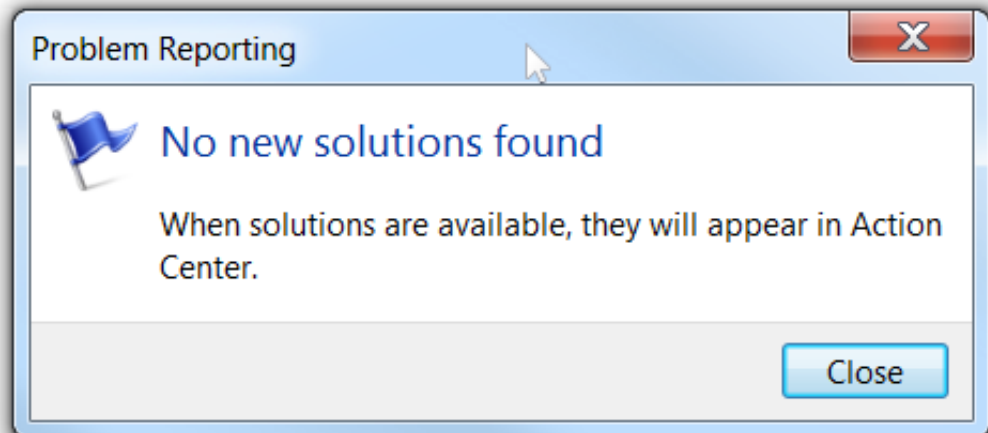


Working together
we make a difference.

- Understand the experiences of our PGR population (can be neglected at UG-focused institutions)
- Comparisons with the sector - benchmarking
- Comparisons by faculty, subject discipline, mode of attendance etc.
- Address concerns and inform enhancements to practice

Our challenges

- Sector benchmarking / institutional benchmarking: are we comparing like with like?
- Can we achieve consistency? Do we *want to*?
- Granularity – when do variations have meaning?
- Survey fatigue and loss of engagement



Grant, K., Hackney, R., and Edgar, D. (2014). Postgraduate research supervision: An agreed conceptual view of good practice through derived metaphors. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 9, 43-60. Available at <http://ijds.org/Volume9/IJDSv9p043-060Grant0403.pdf>

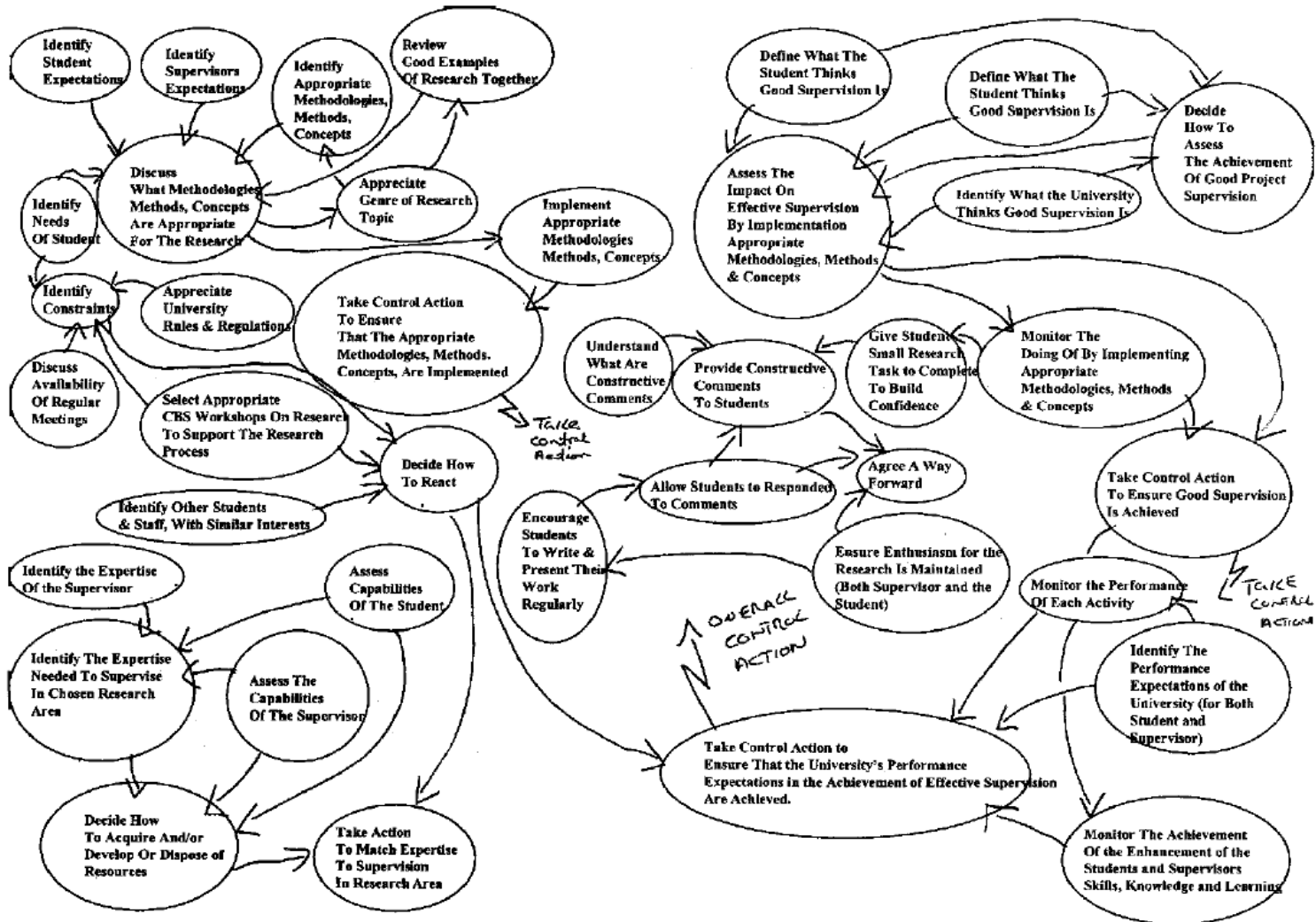
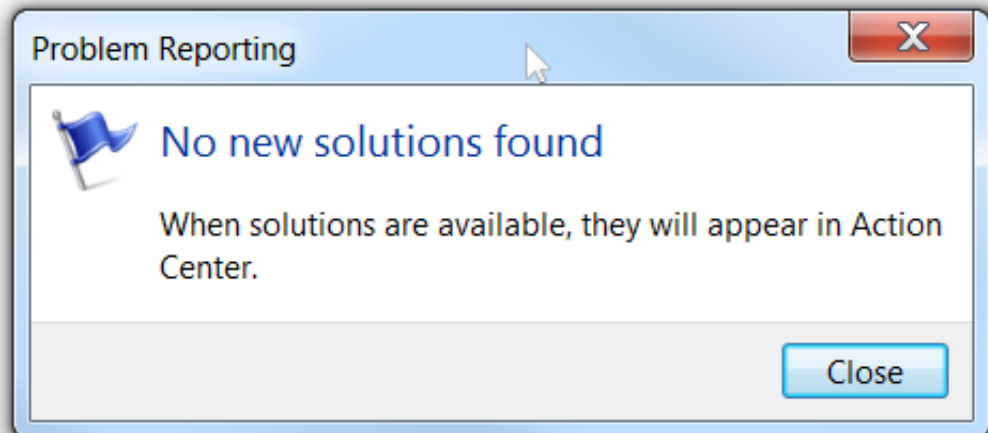


Figure 1. Model to aid Reflective Supervision Practice

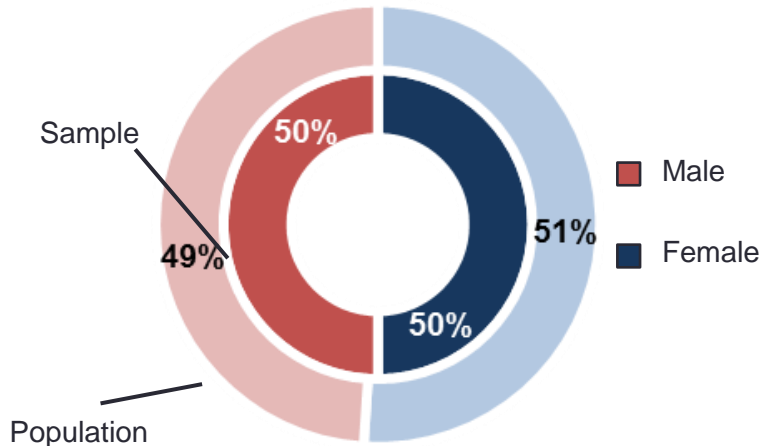
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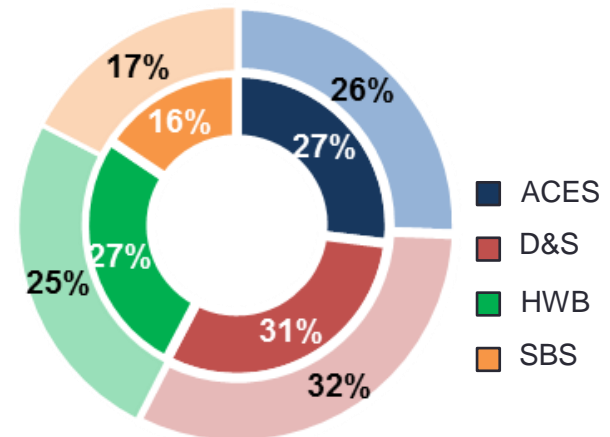


PRES 2016 Population and Sample

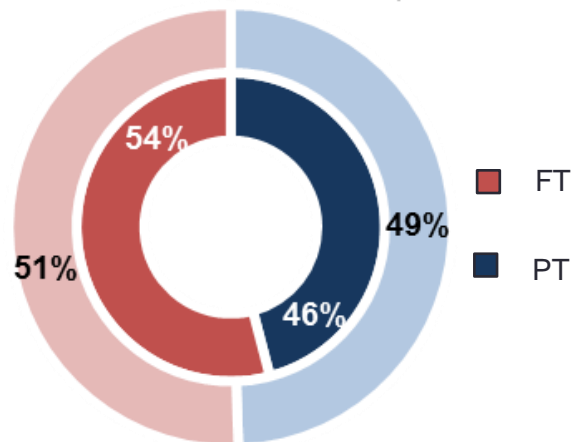
Gender



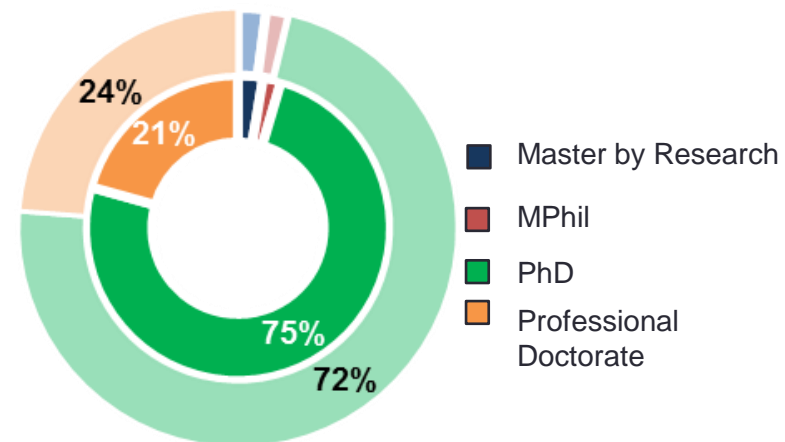
Faculties



Mode of Study



Qualification Type

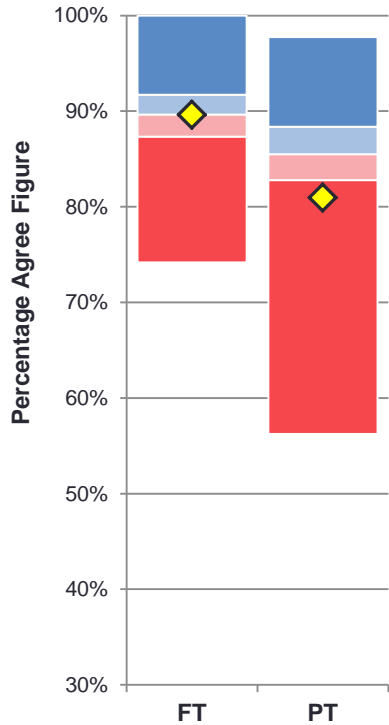


What DO we know?

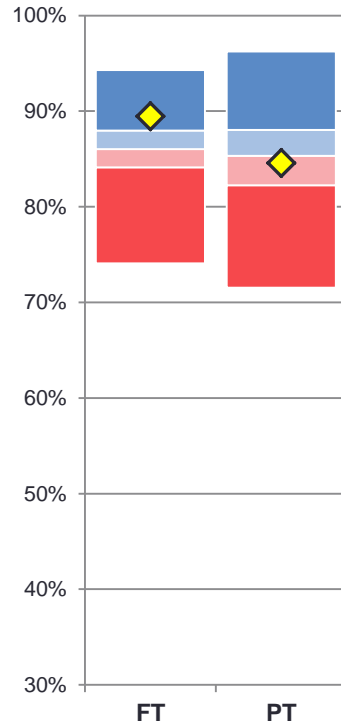
- What's going well, and for whom - Supervision
- What's going less well, and for whom - Research Culture
- Variations in experience, according to faculty, mode of attendance, qualification type...



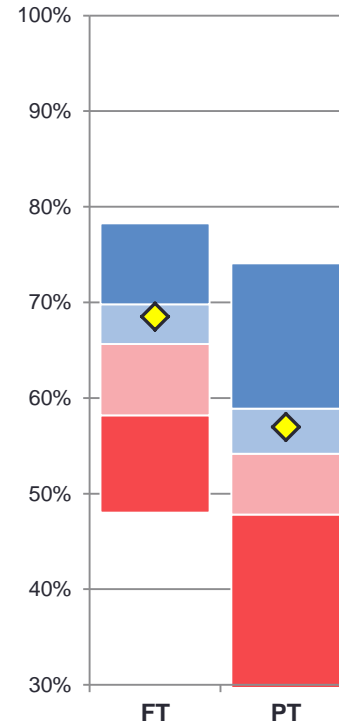
I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs



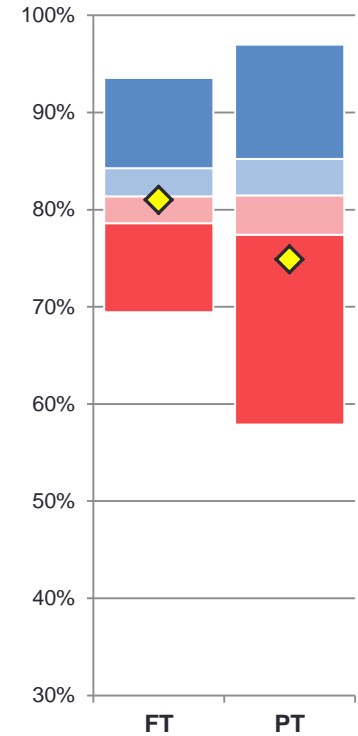
Research Skills Scale



I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students



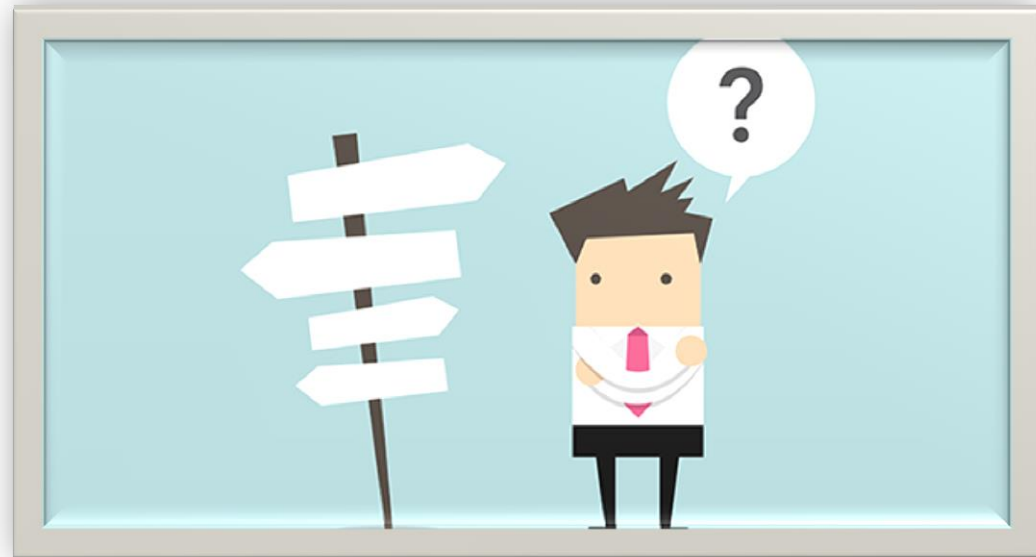
I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale



◆ Position of SHU in relation to the sector

What else do we need to know?

- What does 'good' mean?
- Do students understand 'rights and responsibilities'?
- More detail (through qualitative questions) (e.g. AFME)
- Something positive please
- Relationship between physical space and culture
- Blank spaces left due to survey fatigue





Reflections?
Questions?
Suggestions?

Student Engagement,
Evaluation and Research

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