

ISSE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS – PILOT 2018

During fieldwork, survey questions will be presented and answered online. Some question blocks may be presented in randomised sequences.

All postgraduate research students in participating institutions will be invited to take part in the 2018 national pilot. Responses will be anonymised before data will be returned to institutions.

Section A: Research Infrastructure and Facilities

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research infrastructure and facilities?

		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
A.1	I have a suitable working space						
A.2	There is adequate provision of computing resources / facilities						
A.3	There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical / online resources)						
A.4	I have access to the specialist resources and facilities necessary for my research						
A.5	My research is funded by [Please select all that apply]						
	Scholarship						
	Scholarship (fees only)						
	Self-funded						
	Grant						
	Employer-funded						
A.6	My funding covers [Please select all that apply]						
	Fees						
	Stipend						
	Research materials						
	Travel to conferences						
	Other travel (labs / other institutions)						
	Specialist training						
A.7	If you have any additional comments about research infrastructure and facilities, please write them in here						

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Section B: Supervision

		One supervisor	Two supervisors	Three or more supervisors
B.1	I am being supervised by...			

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about supervision?

		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
B.2	My supervisor(s) provides the appropriate level of support for my research						
B.3	I have regular contact with my supervisor(s), appropriate for my needs						
B.4	My supervisor(s) provides feedback that helps me to direct my research activities						
B.5	My supervisor(s) help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher						

B.6	If you have any additional comments about supervision, please write them in here

Section C: Research Culture

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the research culture? [Note: Where we have used the term 'department' please answer with respect to your centre, school, institute, graduate school, or other unit where you are primarily based or attached for your research]

		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
C.1	My department provides access to a relevant seminar programme						
C.2	The research ambience in my department stimulates my work						

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		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
C.3	I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.4	I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.5	If you have any additional comments about research culture, please write them in here						

Section D: Progress and Assessment

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about induction, progression arrangements and assessment?							
		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
D.1	I received an appropriate induction / orientation to my research degree programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.2	I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.3	I understand the required standard for my thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.4	The final assessment procedures for my research degree are clear to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.5	If you have any additional comments about induction, progression arrangements and assessment, please write them in here						

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Section E: Development Opportunities

Have you availed of the following opportunities during your research degree programme? [select all that apply]				
		Yes	No	Not avail.
E.01	Agreeing a personal training or development plan			
E.02	Receiving training to develop my research skills			
E.03	Receiving training to develop my other transferable skills			
E.04	Receiving advice on career options			
E.05	Taking part in a placement or internship			
E.06	Attending an academic research conference			
E.07	Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference			
E.08	Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book			
E.09	Communicating your research to a non-academic audience			
E.10	Receiving training in entrepreneurship and innovation			
E.11	Putting training in entrepreneurship and innovation into practice e.g. submitting an invention disclosure or filing a patent application			
E.12	Working as part of a team			
E.13	Working collaboratively with industry			
E.14	Working collaboratively with a civil society organisation or public organisation			
E.15	Spending time abroad as part of your research degree			

E.16	Please indicate whether you have taught (or demonstrated) at your institution during your research degree programme	Yes <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	No <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>				
E.17	Do you agree or disagree that the teaching / demonstration you delivered enhanced your overall research experience?	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
E.18	Do you agree or disagree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching / demonstration?	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
E.19	If you have any additional comments about development opportunities (including teaching / demonstrating), please write them in here						

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Section F: Research Skills

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about development of research skills?		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
F.1	My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme						
F.2	My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme						
F.3	My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme						
F.4	My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme						
F.5	If you have any additional comments about research skills development, please write them in here						

Section G: Other Transferable Skills

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about development of other transferable skills?		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
G.1	My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme						
G.2	My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme						
G.3	I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme						
G.4	I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme						

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G.5	If you have any additional comments about development of other transferable skills, please write them in here

Section H: Responsibilities and Supports

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about responsibilities and supports?	
	Definitely disagree Mostly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Mostly agree Definitely agree Not applicable
H.1	I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student
	Definitely disagree Mostly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Mostly agree Definitely agree Not applicable
H.2	I am aware of my supervisor(s)' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student
	Definitely disagree Mostly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Mostly agree Definitely agree Not applicable
H.3	Other than my supervisor(s), I know who to approach if I am concerned about any academic aspect of my research degree programme
	Definitely disagree Mostly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Mostly agree Definitely agree Not applicable
H.4	Who / what unit would you approach? (please provide the unit or role rather than an individual name)
H.5	How aware are you of the various student supports available? (Recreation, healthcare, counselling, etc)
	Very little Some Quite a bit Very much
H.6	My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students
	Definitely disagree Mostly disagree Neither agree nor disagree Mostly agree Definitely agree Not applicable
H.7	If you have any additional comments about student / staff responsibilities and supports, please write them in here

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Sections I and J: Motivations

Please select your top three motivations for pursuing a research degree from the following list, and prioritise these by writing 1, 2 or 3 (1=highest, 3=lowest priority)		
I.1	My interest in my subject	
I.2	Improving my career prospects for an academic / research career	
I.3	Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/research career	
I.4	I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor	
I.5	The funding was available	
I.6	It felt like a natural step for me	
I.7	I felt inspired to work with a particular academic	
I.8	Professional development or training	
I.9	Other (Please specify):	

Please select the top three types of career you have in mind for when you finish your research degree, and prioritise these by writing 1, 2 or 3 (1=highest, 3=lowest priority)		
J.1	Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only)	
J.2	Research career in higher education	
J.3	Other career in higher education	
J.4	Research career outside higher education (e.g. in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment)	
J.5	Teaching (at a level below higher education)	
J.6	Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is sponsoring your degree	
J.7	Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is not sponsoring your degree	
J.8	Self-employment (including setting up your own business)	
J.9	Any other professional career	
J.10	Not sure or not decided yet	
J.12.0	Other (Please specify):	

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Section K: Overall Experience

K.1	How would you evaluate your entire research experience at this institution?	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

K.2	What aspects / elements of your research degree programme are most valuable?

K.3	What aspects of your research degree experience could be improved?

K.4	I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you ever seriously considered withdrawing from your research degree programme? [select all that apply]			
K.5	No, I have not seriously considered withdrawing		
K.6	Yes, for financial reasons		
K.7	Yes, for personal or family reasons		
K.8	Yes, for health reasons		
K.9	Yes, for employment reasons		
K.10	Yes, to transfer to another institution		
K.11	Other (please state)		

L.1	This is the first national survey for postgraduate research students. If you have any comments about the survey itself, including any aspects to be removed or added to the question set, please write them in here.

Thank you for your time in completing this survey.