

PGR StudentSurvey.ie
(Irish Survey of Student Engagement for Postgraduate Research Students)
Institution name: Atlantic Technological University
Results of PGR StudentSurvey.ie 2023

A: Context

PGR StudentSurvey.ie (Irish Survey of Student Engagement for Postgraduate Research Students; Suirbhé na hÉireann ar Rannpháirtíocht na Mac Léinn do Mhic Léinn Taighde Iarchéime) invites responses from postgraduate research (PGR) students on a biennial survey cycle. PGR StudentSurvey.ie asks students directly about their experiences of higher education in Ireland, including their academic, personal, and social development. The survey takes place biennially in February – March and is open to Masters by Research (NFQ 9) and PhD students (NFQ 10). Seventeen higher education institutions participated in 2023.

Postgraduate research students are a vital group in the context of national research and innovation in Ireland and any strategy must include supporting and empowering these early career researchers. PGR students are a key cohort of researchers currently undertaking valuable research and are also the future talent who will lead research in the coming decades.

The StudentSurvey.ie Steering Group regards the comprehensive nature of data gathered through PGR StudentSurvey.ie as a key strength. Interpretation of detailed results requires appreciation of the local context. This means that staff and students within individual institutions are best placed to own and to interrogate institution-level data. Accordingly, any queries about these data should be directed to the individual institution in question. Institutions are committed to interpreting and utilising PGR StudentSurvey.ie data to enhance the experiences of their research students and do not support the use of results for any overly simplistic purpose that could be perceived as ranking institutions.

No single aspect of the postgraduate researcher experience reflects the complex dimensions of student behaviour and institutional performance. Comparison of individual scores across institutions is inappropriate given that the differences with respect to mission, resources, profile and response rates. Comparison of scores for various disciplines in the national report illustrates the notable variation that exists between fields of study at national level. The proportion of students studying particular disciplines also influences the overall results for each institution.

Please note: Where the number of respondents is fewer than 10, the result is not provided, and N/A is used to indicate this.

Any queries relating to data for individual institutions should be referred to the institution in question. If there are any queries about these results, please contact declan.courell@atu.ie.

B: Responses to individual questions

| Research Infrastructure and Facilities | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| I have a suitable working space | Definitely disagree | 10.0 | 12.6 | 5.6 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.1 | 10.9 | 14.1 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 12.1 | 13.4 | 9.9 |
| | Mostly agree | 28.9 | 29.4 | 28.2 |
| | Definitely agree | 36.8 | 33.6 | 42.3 |
| There is adequate provision of computing resources/ facilities | Definitely disagree | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.1 |
| | Mostly disagree | 11.5 | 8.3 | 17.1 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 14.1 | 17.4 | 8.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 29.8 | 29.8 | 30.0 |
| | Definitely agree | 37.2 | 37.2 | 37.1 |
| There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical/ online resources) | Definitely disagree | 3.0 | 2.3 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 11.2 | 10.9 | 11.6 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 9.6 | 8.6 | 11.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 28.4 | 27.3 | 30.4 |
| | Definitely agree | 47.7 | 50.8 | 42.0 |
| I have access to the specialist resources and facilities necessary for my research | Definitely disagree | 7.1 | 8.7 | 4.2 |
| | Mostly disagree | 16.7 | 15.0 | 19.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 15.7 | 16.5 | 14.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.8 | 33.1 | 35.2 |
| | Definitely agree | 26.8 | 26.8 | 26.8 |

| | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| My research is funded by (Please select all that apply) | Scholarship | 55.5 | 39.5 | 84.5 |
| | Scholarship (fees only) | 5.0 | N/A | N/A |
| | Self-funded | 21.5 | 31.8 | N/A |
| | Grant | 20.0 | 20.9 | 18.3 |
| | Employer-funded | 8.5 | 10.1 | N/A |

* Multiple responses allowed. Table shows averages of non-blank responses.

| | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|--|--------------|-------|--------|
| My funding covers (Please select all that apply) | Fees | 85.9 | 86.9 | 84.3 |
| | Stipend | 69.3 | 56.6 | 91.4 |
| | Research materials | 53.6 | 45.1 | 68.6 |
| | Travel to conferences | 56.3 | 45.9 | 74.3 |
| | Other travel (labs / other institutions) | 31.8 | 23.0 | 47.1 |
| | Specialist training | 24.0 | 18.0 | 34.3 |

* Multiple responses allowed. Table shows averages of non-blank responses.

| Supervision | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| I am being supervised by... | One supervisor | 33.2 | 42.2 | 16.9 |
| | Two supervisors | 29.1 | 36.7 | 15.5 |
| | Three or more supervisors | 37.7 | 21.1 | 67.6 |
| My supervisor(s) provides the appropriate level of support for my research | Definitely disagree | 3.2 | 2.5 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.3 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 5.3 | 4.2 | 7.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 29.6 | 30.3 | 28.6 |
| | Definitely agree | 57.1 | 58.0 | 55.7 |
| I have regular contact with my supervisor(s), appropriate for my needs | Definitely disagree | 3.2 | 2.5 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly agree | 23.9 | 25.4 | 21.4 |
| | Definitely agree | 64.9 | 64.4 | 65.7 |
| My supervisor(s) provides feedback that helps me to direct my research activities | Definitely disagree | 2.7 | 1.7 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 5.3 | 5.9 | 4.3 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 4.8 | 6.8 | 1.4 |
| | Mostly agree | 26.1 | 22.9 | 31.4 |
| | Definitely agree | 61.2 | 62.7 | 58.6 |
| My supervisor(s) helps me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher | Definitely disagree | 4.8 | 4.2 | 5.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 5.4 | 7.6 | 1.5 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 11.3 | 11.0 | 11.8 |
| | Mostly agree | 29.0 | 29.7 | 27.9 |
| | Definitely agree | 49.5 | 47.5 | 52.9 |

| Research Culture | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| My department provides access to a relevant seminar programme | Definitely disagree | 8.0 | 7.6 | 8.8 |
| | Mostly disagree | 11.8 | 13.4 | 8.8 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 21.9 | 24.4 | 17.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 36.9 | 37.0 | 36.8 |
| | Definitely agree | 21.4 | 17.6 | 27.9 |
| The research ambience in my department stimulates my work | Definitely disagree | 10.0 | 8.9 | 11.8 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.8 | 13.4 | 11.8 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 21.7 | 26.8 | 13.2 |
| | Mostly agree | 36.7 | 36.6 | 36.8 |
| | Definitely agree | 18.9 | 14.3 | 26.5 |
| I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students | Definitely disagree | 9.5 | 11.8 | 5.7 |
| | Mostly disagree | 19.6 | 24.4 | 11.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 18.0 | 16.8 | 20.0 |
| | Mostly agree | 30.2 | 30.3 | 30.0 |
| | Definitely agree | 22.8 | 16.8 | 32.9 |
| I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department | Definitely disagree | 11.7 | 13.6 | 8.6 |
| | Mostly disagree | 13.8 | 16.9 | 8.6 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 34.6 | 33.1 | 37.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 25.0 | 24.6 | 25.7 |
| | Definitely agree | 14.9 | 11.9 | 20.0 |

| Progress and Assessment | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| I received an appropriate induction/ orientation to my research degree programme | Definitely disagree | 9.9 | 10.7 | 8.6 |
| | Mostly disagree | 18.3 | 19.8 | 15.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 15.7 | 15.7 | 15.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.5 | 32.2 | 35.7 |
| | Definitely agree | 22.5 | 21.5 | 24.3 |
| I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress | Definitely disagree | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| | Mostly disagree | 9.4 | 8.3 | 11.3 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 12.0 | 11.6 | 12.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 39.1 | 42.1 | 33.8 |
| | Definitely agree | 35.4 | 33.9 | 38.0 |
| I understand the required standard for my thesis | Definitely disagree | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.6 |
| | Mostly disagree | 13.0 | 13.2 | 12.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 14.1 | 13.2 | 15.5 |
| | Mostly agree | 34.9 | 36.4 | 32.4 |
| | Definitely agree | 32.8 | 32.2 | 33.8 |
| The final assessment procedures for my research degree are clear to me | Definitely disagree | 7.5 | 8.5 | 5.7 |
| | Mostly disagree | 16.6 | 17.1 | 15.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 13.9 | 12.0 | 17.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.2 | 35.0 | 30.0 |
| | Definitely agree | 28.9 | 27.4 | 31.4 |

| Development Opportunities | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Agreeing a personal training or development plan | Yes | 46.6 | 40.5 | 57.1 |
| | No | 34.0 | 34.7 | 32.9 |
| | Not available | 19.4 | 24.8 | 10.0 |
| Receiving training to develop my research skills | Yes | 68.1 | 62.8 | 77.1 |
| | No | 21.5 | 23.1 | 18.6 |
| | Not available | 10.5 | 14.0 | 4.3 |
| Receiving training to develop my other transferable skills | Yes | 46.1 | 36.4 | 62.9 |
| | No | 39.8 | 46.3 | 28.6 |
| | Not available | 14.1 | 17.4 | 8.6 |
| Receiving advice on career options | Yes | 34.6 | 29.8 | 42.9 |
| | No | 47.6 | 47.9 | 47.1 |
| | Not available | 17.8 | 22.3 | 10.0 |
| Taking part in a placement or internship | Yes | 14.7 | 9.9 | 22.9 |
| | No | 59.7 | 59.5 | 60.0 |
| | Not available | 25.7 | 30.6 | 17.1 |
| Attending an academic research conference | Yes | 58.3 | 47.9 | 76.1 |
| | No | 32.3 | 38.8 | 21.1 |
| | Not available | 9.4 | 13.2 | 2.8 |
| Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference | Yes | 57.4 | 44.6 | 79.7 |
| | No | 31.1 | 37.2 | 20.3 |
| | Not available | 11.6 | 18.2 | 0.0 |
| Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book | Yes | 40.3 | 35.5 | 48.6 |
| | No | 48.2 | 50.4 | 44.3 |
| | Not available | 11.5 | 14.0 | 7.1 |
| Communicating your research to a non-academic audience | Yes | 45.0 | 33.9 | 64.3 |
| | No | 45.0 | 53.7 | 30.0 |
| | Not available | 9.9 | 12.4 | 5.7 |
| Receiving training in entrepreneurship and innovation | Yes | 15.3 | 13.2 | 18.8 |
| | No | 67.4 | 64.5 | 72.5 |
| | Not available | 17.4 | 22.3 | 8.7 |

| | | | | |
|---|---------------|------|------|------|
| Putting training in entrepreneurship and innovation into practice e.g. submitting an invention disclosure or filing a patent application | Yes | 7.4 | 5.8 | 10.0 |
| | No | 73.7 | 72.5 | 75.7 |
| | Not available | 18.9 | 21.7 | 14.3 |
| Working as part of a team | Yes | 63.9 | 63.6 | 64.3 |
| | No | 30.4 | 29.8 | 31.4 |
| | Not available | 5.8 | 6.6 | 4.3 |
| Working collaboratively with industry | Yes | 28.6 | 25.6 | 33.8 |
| | No | 59.9 | 59.5 | 60.6 |
| | Not available | 11.5 | 14.9 | 5.6 |
| Working collaboratively with a civil society organisation or public organisation | Yes | 21.4 | 16.5 | 29.6 |
| | No | 63.5 | 64.5 | 62.0 |
| | Not available | 15.1 | 19.0 | 8.5 |
| Spending time abroad as part of your research degree | Yes | 16.2 | 9.9 | 27.1 |
| | No | 61.3 | 61.2 | 61.4 |
| | Not available | 22.5 | 28.9 | 11.4 |

| | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Please indicate whether you have taught (or demonstrated) at your institution during your research degree programme: | Yes | 48.6 | 45.6 | 53.6 |
| | No | 51.4 | 54.4 | 46.4 |
| Do you agree or disagree that the teaching/ demonstration you delivered enhanced your overall research experience? | Definitely disagree | 5.0 | 4.1 | 6.5 |
| | Mostly disagree | 11.8 | 11.0 | 13.0 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 10.1 | 8.2 | 13.0 |
| | Mostly agree | 34.5 | 41.1 | 23.9 |
| | Definitely agree | 38.7 | 35.6 | 43.5 |
| Do you agree or disagree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching/ demonstration? | Definitely disagree | 9.7 | 9.3 | 10.2 |
| | Mostly disagree | 15.3 | 13.3 | 18.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 17.7 | 14.7 | 22.4 |
| | Mostly agree | 32.3 | 37.3 | 24.5 |
| | Definitely agree | 25.0 | 25.3 | 24.5 |

| Research Skills | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 3.2 | 4.3 | 1.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.4 |
| | Mostly agree | 43.0 | 45.7 | 38.6 |
| | Definitely agree | 39.8 | 36.2 | 45.7 |
| My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| | Mostly disagree | 4.3 | 5.2 | 2.9 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 39.2 | 43.1 | 32.9 |
| | Definitely agree | 39.8 | 35.3 | 47.1 |
| My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 3.8 | 2.7 | 5.7 |
| | Mostly disagree | 7.7 | 8.8 | 5.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 18.6 | 20.4 | 15.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 37.2 | 37.2 | 37.1 |
| | Definitely agree | 32.8 | 31.0 | 35.7 |
| My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 1.1 | 0.0 | 2.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 3.3 | 4.3 | 1.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.2 |
| | Mostly agree | 38.0 | 34.8 | 43.5 |
| | Definitely agree | 50.0 | 53.0 | 44.9 |

| Transferable skills | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| | Mostly disagree | 6.5 | 5.3 | 8.6 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 14.1 | 12.3 | 17.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 48.4 | 56.1 | 35.7 |
| | Definitely agree | 29.9 | 25.4 | 37.1 |
| My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme | Definitely disagree | 2.2 | 0.9 | 4.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 3.9 | 4.5 | 2.9 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 14.9 | 14.4 | 15.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 45.9 | 48.6 | 41.4 |
| | Definitely agree | 33.1 | 31.5 | 35.7 |
| I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme | Definitely disagree | 4.4 | 3.6 | 5.8 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.2 | 14.4 | 8.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 13.3 | 16.2 | 8.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 44.4 | 44.1 | 44.9 |
| | Definitely agree | 25.6 | 21.6 | 31.9 |
| I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme | Definitely disagree | 1.6 | 0.9 | 2.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 4.9 | 4.4 | 5.9 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 13.7 | 15.8 | 10.3 |
| | Mostly agree | 45.1 | 46.5 | 42.6 |
| | Definitely agree | 34.6 | 32.5 | 38.2 |

| Responsibilities and Supports | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student | Definitely disagree | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| | Mostly disagree | 2.7 | 3.5 | 1.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 8.2 | 9.6 | 5.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 44.0 | 41.2 | 48.6 |
| | Definitely agree | 44.6 | 45.6 | 42.9 |
| I am aware of my supervisor(s)' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student | Definitely disagree | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| | Mostly disagree | 7.7 | 8.8 | 5.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 10.4 | 11.5 | 8.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 35.5 | 35.4 | 35.7 |
| | Definitely agree | 45.9 | 44.2 | 48.6 |
| 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 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 10.3 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.8 | 18.0 | 4.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 14.0 | 10.8 | 19.1 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.5 | 29.7 | 39.7 |
| | Definitely agree | 29.1 | 30.6 | 26.5 |
| How aware are you of the various student supports available? (Recreation, healthcare, counselling, etc.) | Very little | 16.6 | 19.3 | 11.9 |
| | Some | 47.5 | 41.2 | 58.2 |
| | Quite a bit | 26.5 | 28.9 | 22.4 |
| | Very much | 9.4 | 10.5 | 7.5 |
| My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students | Definitely disagree | 6.9 | 6.5 | 7.6 |
| | Mostly disagree | 17.9 | 16.8 | 19.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 24.3 | 30.8 | 13.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.5 | 32.7 | 34.8 |
| | Definitely agree | 17.3 | 13.1 | 24.2 |

| Personal Outlook | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| I am satisfied with my life nowadays | Definitely disagree | 3.3 | 3.6 | 2.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.7 | 15.2 | 8.7 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 17.1 | 14.3 | 21.7 |
| | Mostly agree | 48.1 | 50.9 | 43.5 |
| | Definitely agree | 18.8 | 16.1 | 23.2 |
| I am satisfied with my life within my institution nowadays | Definitely disagree | 5.1 | 6.5 | 2.9 |
| | Mostly disagree | 12.4 | 10.2 | 15.9 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 19.8 | 22.2 | 15.9 |
| | Mostly agree | 45.8 | 48.1 | 42.0 |
| | Definitely agree | 16.9 | 13.0 | 23.2 |
| I am satisfied with my work-life balance | Definitely disagree | 7.3 | 8.2 | 5.8 |
| | Mostly disagree | 20.7 | 19.1 | 23.2 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 19.6 | 20.0 | 18.8 |
| | Mostly agree | 40.2 | 40.0 | 40.6 |
| | Definitely agree | 12.3 | 12.7 | 11.6 |
| There is someone in my institution I can talk to about my day-to-day problems | Definitely disagree | 10.5 | 13.2 | 6.2 |
| | Mostly disagree | 15.2 | 18.9 | 9.2 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 22.2 | 17.9 | 29.2 |
| | Mostly agree | 32.2 | 31.1 | 33.8 |
| | Definitely agree | 19.9 | 18.9 | 21.5 |
| I feel that my research degree programme is worthwhile | Definitely disagree | 3.4 | 5.4 | 0.0 |
| | Mostly disagree | 3.9 | 3.6 | 4.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 11.7 | 10.8 | 13.2 |
| | Mostly agree | 38.0 | 45.9 | 25.0 |
| | Definitely agree | 43.0 | 34.2 | 57.4 |

| Motivations | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| My interest in my subject | 1 st priority | 38.8 | 36.3 | 42.9 |
| | 2 nd priority | 22.4 | 23.9 | 20.0 |
| | 3 rd priority | 14.8 | 15.9 | 12.9 |
| Improving my career prospects for an academic/ research career | 1 st priority | 22.4 | 21.2 | 24.3 |
| | 2 nd priority | 23.5 | 23.9 | 22.9 |
| | 3 rd priority | 12.6 | 8.0 | 20.0 |
| Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/ research career | 1 st priority | 15.8 | 19.5 | 10.0 |
| | 2 nd priority | 14.8 | 15.0 | 14.3 |
| | 3 rd priority | 12.0 | 12.4 | 11.4 |
| I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/ supervisor | 1 st priority | 3.3 | 3.5 | 2.9 |
| | 2 nd priority | 7.7 | 8.0 | 7.1 |
| | 3 rd priority | 4.4 | 3.5 | 5.7 |
| The funding was available | 1 st priority | 5.5 | 4.4 | 7.1 |
| | 2 nd priority | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.0 |
| | 3 rd priority | 19.1 | 17.7 | 21.4 |
| It felt like a natural step for me | 1 st priority | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| | 2 nd priority | 7.1 | 6.2 | 8.6 |
| | 3 rd priority | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.0 |
| I felt inspired to work with a particular academic | 1 st priority | 2.7 | 1.8 | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 3.3 | 2.7 | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 3.3 | 4.4 | N/A |
| Professional development or training | 1 st priority | 7.1 | 8.8 | 4.3 |
| | 2 nd priority | 8.2 | 8.0 | 8.6 |
| | 3 rd priority | 19.7 | 23.0 | 14.3 |
| Other | 1 st priority | 2.2 | N/A | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 2.2 | N/A | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 2.7 | N/A | N/A |

| Career Aspirations | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only) | 1 st priority | 38.8 | 31.9 | 50.0 |
| | 2 nd priority | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.3 |
| | 3 rd priority | 12.0 | 11.5 | 12.9 |
| Research career in higher education | 1 st priority | 11.5 | 10.6 | 12.9 |
| | 2 nd priority | 28.4 | 20.4 | 41.4 |
| | 3 rd priority | 14.2 | 10.6 | 20.0 |
| Other career in higher education | 1 st priority | 1.1 | 1.8 | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 2.7 | 3.5 | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 8.2 | 8.0 | N/A |
| Research career outside higher education (e.g. in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment) | 1 st priority | 21.3 | 18.6 | 25.7 |
| | 2 nd priority | 18.0 | 15.0 | 22.9 |
| | 3 rd priority | 14.8 | 9.7 | 22.9 |
| Teaching (at a level below higher education) | 1 st priority | 1.6 | 1.8 | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 3.3 | 2.7 | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 5.5 | 7.1 | N/A |
| Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is sponsoring your degree | 1 st priority | 6.0 | 8.8 | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 2.7 | 3.5 | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 1.1 | 0.9 | N/A |
| Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is not sponsoring your degree | 1 st priority | 2.2 | 3.5 | N/A |
| | 2 nd priority | 4.9 | 8.0 | N/A |
| | 3 rd priority | 3.3 | 4.4 | N/A |
| Self-employment (including setting up your own business) | 1 st priority | 5.5 | 8.0 | 1.4 |
| | 2 nd priority | 7.7 | 8.8 | 5.7 |
| | 3 rd priority | 10.4 | 9.7 | 11.4 |
| Any other professional career | 1 st priority | 4.4 | 5.3 | 2.9 |
| | 2 nd priority | 10.9 | 14.2 | 5.7 |
| | 3 rd priority | 7.1 | 8.0 | 5.7 |
| Not sure or not decided yet | 1 st priority | 4.9 | 5.3 | 4.3 |
| | 2 nd priority | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| | 3 rd priority | 14.8 | 17.7 | 10.0 |
| Other | 1 st priority | N/A | N/A | 0.0 |
| | 2 nd priority | N/A | N/A | 0.0 |
| | 3 rd priority | N/A | N/A | 0.0 |

| Overall Experience | Responses | All Students | NFQ 9 | NFQ 10 |
|---|---|--------------|-------|--------|
| How would you evaluate your entire research experience at this institution? | Poor | 9.8 | 13.3 | 4.3 |
| | Fair | 26.2 | 25.7 | 27.1 |
| | Good | 42.6 | 43.4 | 41.4 |
| | Excellent | 21.3 | 17.7 | 27.1 |
| I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale | Definitely disagree | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.2 |
| | Mostly disagree | 8.4 | 2.7 | 17.4 |
| | Neither agree nor disagree | 11.7 | 11.8 | 11.6 |
| | Mostly agree | 33.5 | 34.5 | 31.9 |
| | Definitely agree | 38.5 | 42.7 | 31.9 |
| Have you ever seriously considered withdrawing from your research degree programme? (Select all that apply) | No, I have not seriously considered withdrawing | 60.2 | 54.9 | 69.1 |
| | Yes, for financial reasons | 17.7 | 16.8 | 19.1 |
| | Yes, for personal or family reasons | 17.1 | 19.5 | N/A |
| | Yes, for health reasons | 6.6 | N/A | N/A |
| | Yes, for employment reasons | 7.2 | N/A | N/A |
| | Yes, to transfer to another institution | 6.6 | 8.8 | N/A |
| | Other (please state) | 6.6 | N/A | N/A |