

PGR StudentSurvey.ie
(Irish Survey of Student Engagement for Postgraduate Research Students)
Institution name: National College of Art and Design
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 hanrahans@staff.ncad.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	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
There is adequate provision of computing resources/ facilities	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical/ online resources)	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have access to the specialist resources and facilities necessary for my research	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
My research is funded by (Please select all that apply)	Scholarship	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Scholarship (fees only)	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Self-funded	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Employer-funded	0.0	0.0	0.0

* 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	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Stipend	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Research materials	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Travel to conferences	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Other travel (labs / other institutions)	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Specialist training	0.0	0.0	0.0

* 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	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Two supervisors	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Three or more supervisors	N/A	0.0	N/A
My supervisor(s) provides the appropriate level of support for my research	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have regular contact with my supervisor(s), appropriate for my needs	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My supervisor(s) provides feedback that helps me to direct my research activities	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My supervisor(s) helps me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Research Culture	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
My department provides access to a relevant seminar programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
The research ambience in my department stimulates my work	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Progress and Assessment	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
I received an appropriate induction/ orientation to my research degree programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I understand the required standard for my thesis	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
The final assessment procedures for my research degree are clear to me	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Development Opportunities	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
Agreeing a personal training or development plan	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Receiving training to develop my research skills	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Receiving training to develop my other transferable skills	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Receiving advice on career options	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Taking part in a placement or internship	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Attending an academic research conference	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Communicating your research to a non-academic audience	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Receiving training in entrepreneurship and innovation	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A

Putting training in entrepreneurship and innovation into practice, e.g. submitting an invention disclosure or filing a patent application	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Working as part of a team	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Working collaboratively with industry	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Working collaboratively with a civil society organisation or public organisation	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A
Spending time abroad as part of your research degree	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Not available	N/A	0.0	N/A

	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
Please indicate whether you have taught (or demonstrated) at your institution during your research degree programme:	Yes	N/A	0.0	N/A
	No	N/A	0.0	N/A
Do you agree or disagree that the teaching/ demonstration you delivered enhanced your overall research experience?	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
Do you agree or disagree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching/ demonstration?	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

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	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Transferable skills	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Responsibilities and Supports	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I am aware of my supervisor(s)' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
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	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
How aware are you of the various student supports available? (Recreation, healthcare, counselling, etc.)	Very little	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Some	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Quite a bit	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Very much	N/A	0.0	N/A
My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Personal Outlook	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
I am satisfied with my life nowadays	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I am satisfied with my life within my institution nowadays	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I am satisfied with my work-life balance	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
There is someone in my institution I can talk to about my day-to-day problems	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
I feel that my research degree programme is worthwhile	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A

Motivations	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
My interest in my subject	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Improving my career prospects for an academic/ research career	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/ research career	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/ supervisor	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
The funding was available	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
It felt like a natural step for me	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
I felt inspired to work with a particular academic	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Professional development or training	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0

Career Aspirations	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only)	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Research career in higher education	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Other career in higher education	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Research career outside higher education (e.g. in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment)	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teaching (at a level below higher education)	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is sponsoring your degree	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is not sponsoring your degree	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Self-employment (including setting up your own business)	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Any other professional career	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
Not sure or not decided yet	1 st priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	2 nd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
	3 rd priority	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1 st priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	2 nd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A
	3 rd priority	N/A	0.0	N/A

Overall Experience	Responses	All Students	NFQ 9	NFQ 10
How would you evaluate your entire research experience at this institution?	Poor	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Fair	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Good	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Excellent	N/A	0.0	N/A
I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale	Definitely disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Neither agree nor disagree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Mostly agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Definitely agree	N/A	0.0	N/A
Have you ever seriously considered withdrawing from your research degree programme? (Select all that apply)	No, I have not seriously considered withdrawing	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Yes, for financial reasons	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Yes, for personal or family reasons	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Yes, for health reasons	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Yes, for employment reasons	N/A	0.0	N/A
	Yes, to transfer to another institution	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Other (please state)	0.0	0.0	0.0