

PGR STUDENTSURVEY.IE 2025

Thank you for taking PGR StudentSurvey.ie in 2025. All postgraduate research students in participating institutions have been invited to take part in the 2025 national survey.

Responses to PGR StudentSurvey.ie are anonymised before being shared with your higher education institution. The StudentSurvey.ie management and your higher education institution take the anonymity of the students who respond to the survey very seriously.

Most of the questions are multiple choice. You will be invited to write a free-text response to two open-ended questions at the end of the survey if you want to.

Thank you for your time and effort in participating.

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	Grant
	Scholarship (fees only)	Employer-funded
	Self-funded	

A.6	My funding covers [Please select all that apply]	
	Fees	Travel to conferences
	Stipend	Other travel (labs / other institutions)
	Research materials	Specialist training

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						

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						
C.3	I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students						
C.4	I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department						

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						
D.2	I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress						
D.3	I understand the required standard for my thesis						
D.4	The final assessment procedures for my research degree are clear to me						

Section E: Development Opportunities

Have you availed of the following opportunities during your research degree programme? [select all that apply]		Yes	No	Not available
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 (outside of the Republic of Ireland) as part of your research degree			

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		Yes	No						
E.16	Please indicate whether you have taught (or demonstrated) at your institution during your research degree programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
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

Section F: Research Skills

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about development of research skills?										
F.1	My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme									Not applicable
F.2	My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme									Not applicable
F.3	My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme									Not applicable
F.4	My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g., rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme									Not applicable

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						

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						
H.2	I am aware of my supervisor(s)' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student						
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						
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						

Section I: Personal outlook

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your personal outlook?		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
I.1	I am satisfied with my life nowadays						
I.2	I am satisfied with my life within my institution nowadays						
I.3	I am satisfied with my work-life balance						
I.4	There is someone in my institution I can talk to about my day-to-day problems						
I.5	I feel that my research degree programme is worthwhile						

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised by Section J, or elsewhere in the survey, please contact the student support service in your institution.

Sections J and K: Motivations and Career

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)	
J.1	My interest in my subject
J.2	Improving my career prospects for an academic / research career
J.3	Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/research career
J.4	I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor
J.5	The funding was available
J.6	It felt like a natural step for me
J.7	I felt inspired to work with a particular academic
J.8	Professional development or training
J.9	Other (Please specify):

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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)		
K.1	Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only)	
K..2	Research career in higher education	
K.3	Other career in higher education	
K.4	Research career outside higher education (e.g., in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment)	
K..5	Teaching (at a level below higher education)	
K.6	Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is sponsoring your degree	
K.7	Returning to, or remaining with, employer who is not sponsoring your degree	
K..8	Self-employment (including setting up your own business)	
K.9	Any other professional career	
K.11	Not sure or not decided yet	
K.12	Other (Please specify):	

Section L: Overall Experience

L.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"/>

L.2	What aspects / elements of your research degree experience are most valuable?

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

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		Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
L.4	I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale						

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

Thank you for your time in completing this survey.

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