UCL PRES 2019

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2019

Welcome

This survey asks about your experiences of your postgraduate research programme. Your responses will be combined with those of others to help improve future support.

Many thanks for your participation.

Data Protection

Before you start the survey, please read this privacy statement which tells you how any personal data you submit with your response to this survey will be utilised and protected, and the rights you have in relation to it.

UCL General Privacy Policy

Your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and you can stop at any point without your responses being included in the dataset.

If you are happy to continue please tick the box below to confirm that you consent to any personal data you provide being used in the way described (if you do not consent then please close this browser window to exit the survey):   ✱ *Required*

Please select exactly 1 answer(s).

☐ I give my consent for my responses to this questionnaire to be used as described in the privacy statement

You can withdraw your consent at any time in the future by contacting UCL Doctoral School.

Your experience as a postgraduate researcher

Notes for completion

The questionnaire should take **around fifteen minutes to complete**.

Where "programme" is used in the questionnaire, this refers to your whole programme of study at your institution, for example MRes in Sociology, PhD in Physics, etc.

After each section you will be asked for any further comments on the issues covered, to enable staff to gain a better understanding of what has gone well and what has worked less well. **Please do not identify yourself or other individuals (including staff) in your comments.** If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact the UCL Student Centre.

Please note, all the scales in the survey range from Definitely disagree on the left-hand side to Definitely agree and N/A on the right-hand side

Supervision

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about supervision?

➕ More info

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs	○	○	○	○	○	○
My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities	○	○	○	○	○	○
My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about supervision, please write them in here:

Resources

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about resources?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
I have a suitable working space	○	○	○	○	○	○
There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities	○	○	○	○	○	○
There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical and online resources)	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about resources, please write them in here:

Research Culture

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the research culture?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students	○	○	○	○	○	○
The research community in my research area stimulates my work	○	○	○	○	○	○
I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about the research culture, please write them in here:

Progress and Assessment

To what extent 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
I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	○	○	○	○	○	○
I understand the required standard for my thesis	○	○	○	○	○	○
The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about induction, progression arrangements and assessment, please write them in here:

Responsibilities

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about responsibilities?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	○	○	○	○	○	○
I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	○	○	○	○	○	○
I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about feedback mechanisms and student/staff responsibilities, please write them in here:

Research Skills

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research skills development?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about research skills development please write them in here:

Professional Development

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about professional development?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you have any additional comments about professional development, please write them in here:

Opportunities

Please indicate which of the following opportunities you have experienced during your research degree programme (select all that apply):

- ☐ Agreeing a personal training or development plan
- ☐ Receiving training to develop my research skills
- ☐ Receiving training to develop my transferable skills
- ☐ Receiving advice on career options
- ☐ Taking part in a placement or internship
- ☐ Attending an academic research conference
- ☐ Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference
- ☐ Submitting a paper for publication in an academic journal or book
- ☐ Communicating your research to a non-academic audience
- ☐ Engagement with non-academic partners - e.g. in industry or elsewhere

Please indicate whether you have undertaken paid (or equivalent) teaching work at your institution during your research degree programme (e.g. as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or Graduate Demonstrator) *Optional*

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

To what extent do you agree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching?

- ○ Definitely disagree
- ○ Mostly disagree
- ○ Neither agree nor disagree
- ○ Mostly agree
- ○ Definitely agree
- ○ Not applicable

Did you receive formal training for your teaching? (e.g. teacher/lecturer training schemes or staff development classes run by your institutions; a PGCert course)

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

Overall experience

Overall Experience

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your experience?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme	○	○	○	○	○	○
I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale	○	○	○	○	○	○

What, if anything, has been the one most positive aspect of your research degree programme so far?

What, if anything, is the one top area in which your experience of your research degree programme so far could be improved?

Motivations

The main motivation for me pursuing a research degree programme was:

[ ]

If you selected Other, please specify:

[ ]

What type of career do you have in mind for when you complete your research degree?

[ ]

If you selected Other, please specify:

[ ]

To what extent do you agree or disagree that...?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
As a result of my research degree programme I feel better prepared for my future career	○	○	○	○	○	○

Institutional questions

Doctoral School Code of Practice

To what extend do you agree with the following statements?

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
I am aware of the UCL Doctoral School Code of Practice for Research Degrees.	○	○	○	○	○	○

Overall Supervision Rating

	Definitely disagree	Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Mostly agree	Definitely agree	Not applicable
Overall I am satisfied with the supervision I have received.	○	○	○	○	○	○

You and your programme

This is the final section of the survey which asks demographic and course questions to help us improve the experience of different student groups across different subject areas.

I am registered as doing a:

If you selected Other, please specify:

Note: PhD includes DPhil programmes.

If you are a doctoral student, is your training programme provided through a Training Centre (e.g. Doctoral Training Centre, a Doctoral Training Partnership or a Centre for Doctoral Training)?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Don't know

About yourself

I am:

[   ]

I am:

- ○ Male
- ○ Female
- ○ Prefer not to say
- ○ Other

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Prefer not to say

If yes, please indicate which of the following apply (select all that apply):

- ☐ A social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- ☐ Blind or a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- ☐ Deaf or serious hearing impairment
- ☐ A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- ☐ A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- ☐ A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD
- ☐ A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- ☐ A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
- ☐ Prefer not to say

About your programme

Please select which of the following most closely matches your primary discipline:

[   ]

I am currently registered as studying:

- ○ Full-time
- ○ Part-time

What year of your research degree programme are you in?

[   ]

If you selected Other, please specify:

[   ]

I currently:

[   ]

If you selected Other, please specify:

[   ]

I am:

- ○ Primarily a face-to-face learner (for example: based at my institution)
- ○ Primarily a distance learner (for example: work based learner, online learner)

When you started your programme, did you consider yourself to be fluent in the language you are taught in?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Prefer not to say

To what extent do you agree or disagree that you have received appropriate support for your language needs.

- ○ Definitely disagree
- ○ Mostly disagree
- ○ Neither agree nor disagree
- ○ Mostly agree
- ○ Definitely agree
- ○ Not applicable

If you have any further comments on the support for your language needs provided by your institution, please provide them here:
Optional

Where do you consider to be your permanent home?

[   ]

What is your ethnic group? (Please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background):

[   ]

Are you currently in paid employment?

○ Yes
○ No

If yes, how many hours of paid employment do you undertake in a typical week (term time)?

○ 1-10 hours
○ 11-20 hours
○ 21-30 hours
○ More than 30 hours

How do you fund your tuition fees?

○ Self-funded (including family or other personal contributions or loans)

○ Part self-funded, part externally funded

○ Externally funded (including funding body, university, employer, government)

Have you considered, for any reason, leaving your postgraduate research degree?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to say

If yes, what was the main (or most recent) reason that led you to consider leaving?

Please now click the 'Finish' button for your answers to be recorded.

Thank you

Thank you very much for taking the time in completing this questionnaire. If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact *[the relevant service at your institution]*.

Key for selection options

24 - The main motivation for me pursuing a research degree programme was:
My interest in the subject
Improving my career prospects for an academic/research career
Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/research career
I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor
The funding was available
It felt like a natural step for me
I felt inspired to work with a particular academic
Professional development or training
Other

25 - What type of career do you have in mind for when you complete your research degree?
Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only)
Research career in higher education
Research career outside higher education (e.g. in a private research organisation, a charity or in an industrial environment)
Teaching (at a level below higher education)
Any other professional career
Self-employment (including setting up own business)
Returning to or remaining with employer who is sponsoring your degree
Returning to or remaining with employer who is not sponsoring your degree
Not sure or not decided yet
Other

29 - I am registered as doing a:
PhD (including DPhil)
Professional doctorate (e.g. EdD, EngD, MD, DBA)
PhD by published work
New Route PhD
MPhil with transfer to PhD
MPhil
Master by research
Other

30 - I am:
25 years old or younger
26-30 years old
31-35 years old
36-40 years old
41-45 years old
46-50 years old
51-55 years old
56 years old or older
Prefer not to say

33 - Please select which of the following most closely matches your primary discipline:
Clinical Medicine
Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care
Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
Biological Sciences
Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science
=-===

Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences
Chemistry
Physics
Mathematical Sciences
Computer Science and Informatics
Aeronautical, Mechanical, Chemical and Manufacturing Engineering
Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Metallurgy and Materials
Civil and Construction Engineering
General Engineering
==-==
Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology
Economics and Econometrics
Business and Management Studies
Law
Politics and International Studies
Social Work and Social Policy
Sociology
Anthropology and Development Studies
Education
Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism
===-=
Area Studies
Modern Languages and Linguistics
English Language and Literature
History
Classics
Philosophy
Theology and Religious Studies
Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

35 - What year of your research degree programme are you in?
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
Year 5
Year 6
Year 7
Year 8
Year 9
Other

36 - I currently:
am in the taught stage of programme
am planning or doing my research
am writing up my thesis
have submitted my thesis and I am awaiting my viva
am making amendments to my thesis following my viva
am awaiting to graduate
have graduated
Other

39 - Where do you consider to be your permanent home?
United Kingdom -- England
United Kingdom -- Northern Ireland
United Kingdom -- Scotland
United Kingdom -- Wales
Afghanistan
Åland Islands (Ahvenamaa)
Albania
..... (cont.)

40 - What is your ethnic group? (Please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background):

White

White: Gypsy or Traveller

Black or Black British: Caribbean

Black or Black British: African

Any other Black background

Asian or Asian British: Indian

Asian or Asian British: Pakistani

Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background

Mixed: White and Black Caribbean

Mixed: White and Black African

Mixed: White and Asian

Mixed: Any other Mixed background

Arab

Any other ethnic background

Prefer not to say

43.a - If yes, what was the main (or most recent) reason that led you to consider leaving?

Difficulty balancing research and other commitments

Financial difficulties

Family, health or personal problems

There is not enough support for personal issues

There is not enough support for my research

There is too much work

I have found this level of research difficult

I feel unsupported by my fellow researchers

The degree programme is not what I expected

I might have chosen the wrong research degree

I might have chosen the wrong institution

Postgraduate research might not have been the right choice for me

Prefer not to say

Other