

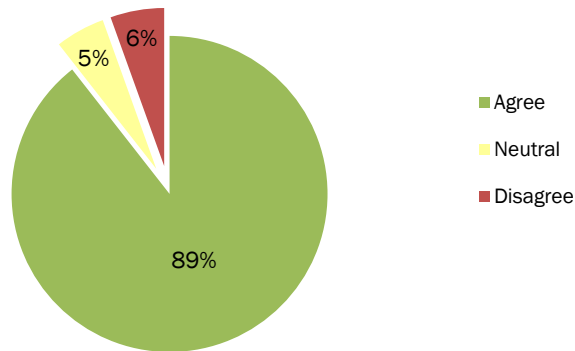
2015 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey summary report for the College of Biomedical and Life Sciences

n=457 (63.2% response rate)

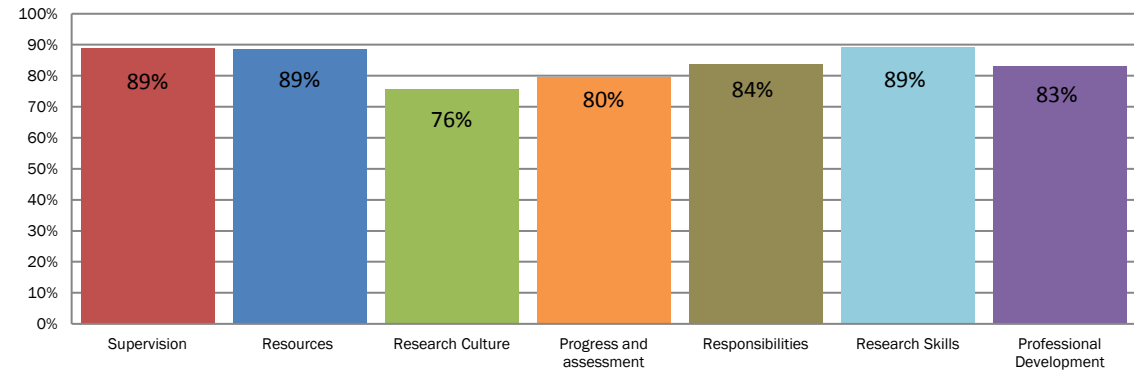


The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is a national online survey that looks at eight thematic areas: supervision, resources, research culture, progress and assessment, responsibilities, research skills, professional development and overall experiences. The survey also provides the opportunity to ask additional questions about some of the services and facilities specific to Cardiff University that are provided for postgraduate students.

Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme



2015 Thematic Area Performance



Results are presented as whole numbers for ease of reading, with rounding performed at the last stage of calculation for maximum accuracy. Therefore in some instances, results may not total 100%

RESULTS

Highlights

The three highest scoring School statements

Statement	% agreement
My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research	95%
My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme	94%
I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs	91%

Lowlights

The three lowest scoring School statements

Statement	% agreement
I am actively encouraged to interact with researchers across the University	43%
I am actively encouraged to interact with researchers within the School who are outside my immediate subject area	56%
I find the progress monitoring helpful	57%

Most Positive

The three most positive statements compared against the overall University score

Statement	% agreement	% variance
I have a suitable working space	91%	8%
The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work	76%	7%
Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme	87%	6%

Least Positive

The three least positive statements compared against the overall University score

Statement	% agreement	% variance
I find the progress monitoring helpful	57%	-2%
I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	81%	-1%
My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	66%	0%

2015 PRES statement responses for BLS

	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	% difference from University mean
Supervision				
My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research	95%	1%	4%	0
I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs	91%	4%	4%	1
My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities	89%	5%	6%	0
My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher	79%	10%	11%	3
Resources				
I have a suitable working space	91%	4%	5%	8
There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities	87%	8%	5%	5
There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical and online resources)	89%	7%	3%	2
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research	88%	7%	5%	4
Research culture				
My department provides a good seminar programme	85%	9%	6%	5
I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students	76%	11%	13%	4
The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work	76%	13%	10%	7
I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department	66%	17%	17%	2
Progress and assessment				
I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme	80%	10%	10%	1
I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	81%	8%	11%	-1
I understand the required standard for my thesis	83%	10%	7%	2
The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me	75%	14%	11%	0
Responsibilities				
My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	66%	26%	8%	0
I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student	91%	8%	2%	1
I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student	91%	6%	3%	3
Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme	87%	6%	7%	6

Research skills

My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme	94%	4%	3%	2
My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme	91%	6%	3%	0
My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme	83%	11%	6%	2
My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme	89%	8%	3%	3

Professional development

My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme	90%	8%	3%	6
My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme	86%	12%	3%	5
I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme	71%	20%	10%	1
I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme	87%	9%	4%	4

Overall experience

Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme	89%	5%	6%	3
I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale	88%	8%	5%	5

Institutional questions

I have a formal research plan which has been agreed with my supervisor	82%	8%	10%	1
I have reviewed my development needs in relation to research skills and assessed how I need to progress them	76%	15%	8%	1
I have reviewed my development needs in relation to personal and professional skills and assessed how I need to progress them	76%	14%	9%	3
The review of my development needs has been agreed with my supervisor(s)	71%	15%	14%	3
I find the progress monitoring helpful	57%	20%	23%	-2
I have a confidential route to provide feedback on my supervision	68%	19%	13%	6
I am actively encouraged to interact with researchers within my research group or immediate subject area	80%	14%	7%	5
I am actively encouraged to interact with researchers within the School who are outside my immediate subject area	56%	21%	23%	2
I am actively encouraged to interact with researchers across the University	43%	29%	28%	3
I feel part of the research community in my School	63%	20%	17%	1
I feel part of the postgraduate research community at Cardiff University	61%	23%	16%	0
My School has systems and meetings in place to enable me and/or research student representatives to provide feedback	78%	15%	7%	0
Overall, the University has effective representation systems for postgraduate students	70%	22%	9%	1