ULSTER UNIVERSITY

PRES 2021

PRES is primarily a benchmarking tool and national results obtained from the 100 participating Higher Education institutions, incorporating almost 40,000 individual responses, provide robust benchmarking data for individual institutions.

Aside from the benchmarking data and the statistical analysis, PRES also provides a high level of qualitative information via the open ended questions at the end of each section. These anonymised comments, along with statistical analysis at the UoA level will be passed to Research Directors for information and action where required.

Participation:

All registered PhD Researchers were invited to complete the online survey, which was open from 1 March to 17 May 2021.

Following on from the success in achieving high participation rates in the last survey, an incentive scheme was again implemented whereby two £100 Amazon vouchers were offered as part of a prize draw for participation. The Doctoral College sent out a number of targeted emails inviting participation and spikes in participation were noted following distribution of such emails.

At the local level, UoAs also encouraged participation in the survey by targeting individuals who had failed to respond and this helped to increase the participation rate. The survey platform provided by BOS (Bristol Online Surveys) required participants to access the survey by a unique PhD Researchers were assured of the anonymity of the survey.

UoA/Faculty	Base population	Number of responses	% response rate
Modern Lang/Linguistics	23	21	91%
English	19	7	37%
History	14	10	71%
Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	23	16	70%
Communication & Media Studies	11	5	45%
Art and Design	49	29	59%
Education	17	11	65%
Law	23	23	100%
Social Work and Social Policy	41	35	85%
AHSS	**220**	**157**	**71%**
Computing (JN)	60	48	80%
Intelligent Systems (MG)	40	25	63%

Engineering	64	33	52%
Architecture, Built Environment & Planning	62	48	77%
CEBE	**226**	**154**	**68%**
Biomedical Sciences	116	101	87%
Geography & Environmental Studies	29	26	90%
Nursing and Health	53	38	72%
Psychology	57	33	58%
Sport	29	21	72%
LHS	**284**	**219**	**77%**
Business and Management Studies	52	48	92%
UUBS	**52**	**48**	**92%**
Ulster Participation Rate	**782**	**578**	**74%**

The participation rate increased from 63% in the last survey to 74%, which is well above the national average response rate of 36%. UoA and Faculty participation rates are shown in the table above.

<u>Findings – Scaled Questions:</u>

In line with previous surveys, scaled questions have been used to provide more robust data on each particular area of interest. Groups of questions relating to similar subject areas have been combined to form seven scaled questions and the questions making up each scale have been reproduced in Annex 1. The table below shows the mean scores for each scale over the years, along with a comparison against the national averages.

Scale	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 21	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 19	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 18	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 17	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 15	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 13	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 11	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 09	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 08	UK Mean Rating PRES 21
Supervision	**4.56**	4.45	4.40	4.26	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.44
Research Skills	**4.48**	4.43	4.42	4.38	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.29
Resources	**4.24**	4.21	4.19	4.22	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.02
Research Culture	**3.65**	3.90	3.79	3.63	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.55
Progress and Assessment	**4.35**	4.27	4.21	4.23	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.05
Professional Development	**4.28**	4.29	4.31	4.25	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.1	n/a	4.03
Responsibilities	**4.36**	4.27	4.23	4.18	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.6	n/a	4.08
Support	**4.19**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.94
Institutional Response to Covid	**4.13**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.86

Faculty Mean Scores by Scaled Question:

The table below provides details on the overall satisfaction rate for each Faculty, as compared to last year.

Faculty Scale	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences		Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment		Life and Health Sciences		Ulster University Business School	
	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019
OVERALL MEAN:	4.31	4.28	4.31	4.21	4.36	4.23	4.33	4.43
OVERALL SATISFACTION	86.2%	85.6%	86.2%	84.2%	87.2%	84.6%	86.6%	88.6%

The institutional satisfaction rate for 2021 is 86.6% (up from 85.2% in the last survey). This compares favourably against the national average rate of 80.6%.

Unit level results:

Unit	Supervision	Physical Resources	Research Culture	Assessment & Progress	Roles and Responsibilities	Research Skills	Professional Development	Support	Institutional Covid Response	Overall
Modern Languages/	4.76	4.21	3.88	4.49	4.45	4.6	4.4	4.3	3.9	**4.24**
English	5	4.31	4	4.68	4.64	4.71	4.68	4.67	4.71	**5**
History	4.9	4.22	4.35	4.63	4.5	4.53	4.35	4.2	4.1	**4.5**
Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	4.39	3.73	3.41	4.5	4.38	4.45	4.13	3.93	4.26	**3.88**

Unit	Supervision	Physical Resources	Research Culture	Assessment & Progress	Roles and Responsibilities	Research Skills	Professional Development	Support	Institutional Covid Response	Overall
Communication and Media	4.65	4.59	3.9	4.8	4.78	4.59	4.5	4.8	5	**5**
Art and Design	4.22	3.84	3.27	4.23	4.39	4.23	4.02	4.22	3.97	**3.93**
Education	4.68	3.98	3.8	4.45	4.57	4.59	4.41	4.42	4.58	**4.64**
Law	4.48	4.47	4.04	4.69	4.67	4.79	4.61	4.44	4.41	**4.65**
Social Work and Social Policy	4.39	3.99	3.49	4.31	4.27	4.43	4.13	4.09	3.81	**4.23**
Computing (JN)	4.69	4.45	3.86	4.24	4.38	4.54	4.28	4.3	4.29	**4.42**
Intelligent Systems	4.77	4.46	3.69	4.29	4.46	4.46	4.11	4.24	4.08	**4.33**
Engineering	4.38	4.05	3.5	3.98	3.99	4.45	4.15	3.9	3.6	**3.88**
Architecture, Built Env and Planning	4.33	4.27	3.8	4.42	4.43	4.45	4.39	4.17	4.33	**4.48**
Biomedical Sciences	4.66	4.33	3.85	4.36	4.38	4.61	4.42	4.3	4.24	**4.47**
Geography & ES	4.45	4.25	3.67	4.26	4.19	4.06	4.09	3.9	4.12	**4.23**
Nursing and Health	4.7	4.16	3.42	4.34	4.39	4.63	4.41	4.14	4.17	**4.37**
Psychology	4.36	4.23	3.37	4.33	4.3	4.43	4.24	4.25	4.02	**4.27**
Sport	4.63	4.11	3.36	4.37	4.32	4.48	4.27	4.06	3.49	**4.14**
Business & Management	4.62	4.37	3.27	4.3	4.28	4.32	4.1	4.08	4.24	**4.33**

Supervision:

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

Research Skills:

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

Resources:

I have a suitable working space when I am on campus
I have a suitable working space when I am studying remotely
There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities
There is appropriate access to online library resources
There is appropriate access to IT resources and facilities when I am on-campus
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, equipment, facilities, software, materials) when I am on campus
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, course materials, software, virtual learning environment) when I am studying remotely

Research Culture:

I have access to a good range of seminars 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 influences my work
I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department

Progress and Assessment:

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

Professional Development:

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

Responsibilities:

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

Support:

The support for academic skills meets my needs (for example, support for your writing, language, subject-specific skills)
The support for using IT and accessing resources meets my needs (for example, support with accessing online journals and e-books, using digital learning tools/apps)
The support for my health and wellbeing meets my needs (for example, personal tutor, student support and counselling services)

Institutional Covid Response:

Communications from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear
I have received the support I need from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic
My institution has worked to ensure the quality of my academic experience during the Covid-19 pandemic