



PRES 2008

Sector-level findings

Chris Park

HEA Senior Associate

Lancaster University Graduate School Director

Gosia Kulej

HEA Project Co-ordinator

2007 and 2008 surveys

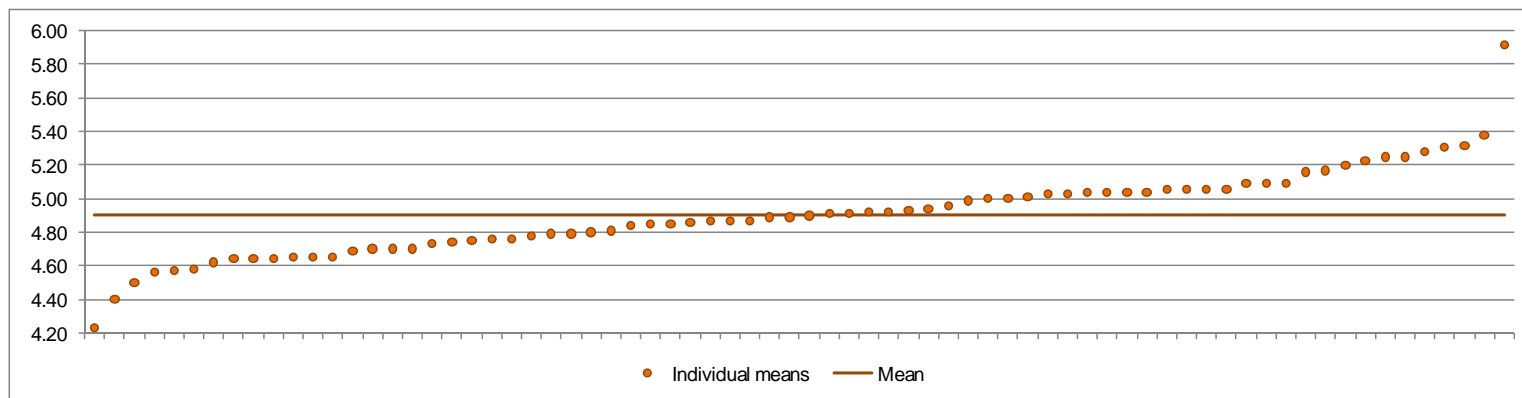
- Participation
 - HEIs – 73 [58]; 37 in both
 - All 4 nations and all HEI types
 - Students – 16,524 [10,544]
 - Response rate – 28.9% [25.2%]
- Demographic profile
 - Similar profile 2007 and 2008
 - Largely mirrors sector (HESA)
 - Relatively more female and full-time

Motivation

Interest in subject	34.2% <ul style="list-style-type: none">• highest: age <25 and >51• highest: maths & physical sciences, creative art & design, history and philosophy
Improve career prospects; academic or research	31.9% <ul style="list-style-type: none">• highest: age 31-40• highest: medicine and vet
It felt like a natural step	13.5%
Improve career prospects; beyond academy	8.3% <ul style="list-style-type: none">• highest: younger students• highest: engineering and technology

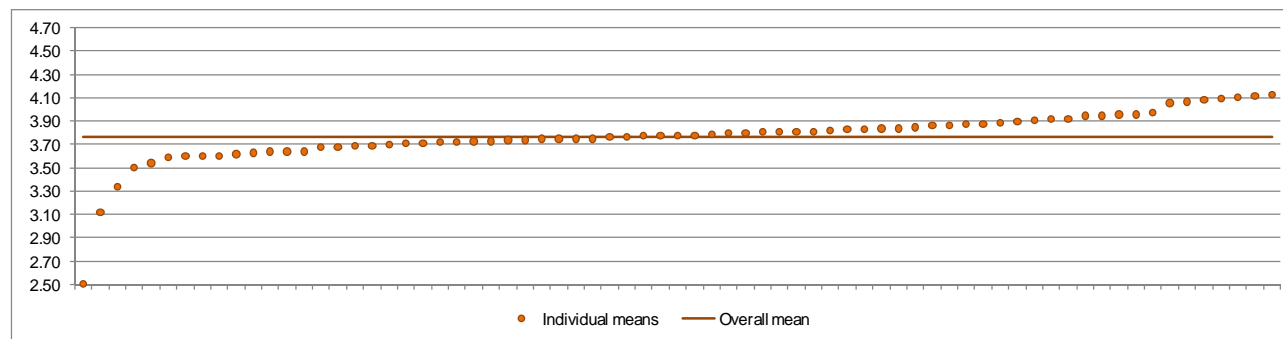
Overall experience

- Relative to expectation
 - 17.5% worse, 21.6% met, 60.9% exceeded
- Multiple regression
 - Supervision, intellectual climate (strong)
- Variations between HEIs



Completion

- Confident will complete on schedule
 - 67% agree, 19.2% neutral, 13.8% disagree
 - Highest: medicine, non-science
- Multiple regression
 - Supervision, skills development (moderate)
- Variations between HEIs



Supervision

- Highest mean scale score (4.02 out of 5.0)
 - Most important item for completion (96%)
 - Experience met/exceeded expectation (79%)
 - Highest: non-science; decreases with time
- Multiple regression
 - Most important scale in ‘explaining’ experience (strong) and completion (weak)
- Items
 - Highest: supervisor skills & subject knowledge (84%)
 - Lowest: advice on literature search (64%)

Intellectual climate

- Lowest mean scale score (3.45 out of 5.0)
 - 2/6 in importance for completion (87%)
 - Experience met/exceeded expectation (49%)
 - Highest: maths & physical science
 - Lowest: law, New Route PhD
- Multiple regression
 - 2nd most important scale in ‘explaining’ experience (weak); 6th in ‘explaining’ completion (very weak)
- Items
 - Highest: good seminar programme (58%), opportunities for social contact with other research students (57%)
 - Lowest: research ambience stimulates my work (50%), feel integrated into dept community (47%)

Skills development

- 3/6 mean scale score (3.96 out of 5.0)
 - Research skills: 2/6 in importance for completion (91%)
 - Transferable skills: 6/6 in importance for completion (74%)
 - Experience met/exceeded expectation (55%)
 - Highest: no overall differences by discipline
- Multiple regression
 - 3rd most important scale in 'explaining' experience (weak); 2nd in 'explaining' completion (weak)
- Items
 - Highest: improved ability to learn independently (81%), improved analytical skills (78%)
 - Lowest: opportunities to develop transferable skills (57%) and research skills (61%)

Professional development & career

- New scale

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% agree</i>
I am encouraged to think about the range of career opportunities that are available to me	3.14	34.8
I am encouraged to reflect on my professional development needs	3.23	44.3
I am encouraged to reflect on my career development needs	3.03	39.6

- Cronbach's Alpha coefficient 0.94

- No signif relationship with discipline, gender or mode of study
- Mature students (aged >51) agreed less (motivation?)

Further information

- For more information about PRES please contact **Gosia Kulej**, Project Co-ordinator
 - 01904717500
 - Malgorzata.Kulej@heacademy.ac.uk
- **PRES website**
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/research/surveys/pres>