Do researchers’ early careers have to be precarious?

Amongst respondents to the sector consultation during the review of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, insecure employment contracts were highlighted as the most important issue to resolve by individual respondents.

As part of Vitae’s ‘What do Researchers do? series, analysis of doctoral graduates’ experiences three and a half years after graduating, reveals relative precarity for researchers in HE.

**OPEN-ENDED CONTRACTS BY RESEARCH**

- 17% of doctoral graduates working in HE research occupations have an open-ended employment contract.
- 79% of doctoral graduates working in research occupations outside HE have an open-ended employment contract.

**DIFFERENT DISCIPLINARY TRAJECTORIES**

- **HASS (HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES)**
  - 43% HE Teaching
  - 8% HE Research
  - 10% HE Other
  - 39% Other Sectors

- **SCIENCES**
  - 18% HE Teaching
  - 15% HE Research
  - 4% HE Other
  - 63% Other Sectors
OPEN-ENDED CONTRACT BY DISCIPLINE

69% of all HASS doctoral graduates working in some kind of role in HE have an open-ended contract

49% of doctoral graduates in sciences working in some kind of role in HE have an open-ended contract

For full details on the context of this infographic leaflet, please visit the first research article of the new series:
www.vitae.ac.uk/wrd-ecr-precarity

Our What do Researchers do? series of publications explore the destinations and career paths of doctoral graduates and how they contribute to society, culture and economy.

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