Reasons for Undertaking a PhD

**Reasons for undertaking a PhD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Also a factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enthusiasm for subject</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to work in a first rate research group</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire to pursue a career in academia/research</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believed a PhD would enhance career prospects</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No suitable alternative employment</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Alternative</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Supervision**

**On average, how often do you discuss your research with your supervisor?**

- 85% of students receive help/advice from a second supervisor or other people.
- 48% of students have the opportunity to attend group/departmental seminars several times per week, whilst 38% attend at least one per week.
- 72% of students meet with their supervisors at least once a week. In almost all instances, students believe they meet and talk with their supervisor as and when necessary.
- 79% of students rate the supervision that they receive as excellent/good
Training Programme

- 54% of students have attended training courses on research skills, transferable skills and other disciplinary skills
- 93% of students rated their overall training as good/adequate

Future Career

- 54% of students wish to pursue a career in academia

To what extent do you think your PhD will help you get a job?

- Essential: 42%
- Very Helpful: 35%
- Some Help: 20%
- Not Very Helpful: 2%
- Useless: 1%