Reasons for Undertaking a PhD

- 94% of students cited enthusiasm for the subject/research as being an important reason for undertaking a PhD.
- 65% of students wanted to do research in a first rate research group.
- 56% of students wished to pursue a career in academia/research.
- 33% of students believed a PhD would enhance their general career prospects.

A. Supervisory Arrangements

- 15% of students have daily contact with their supervisor, whilst 51% have weekly contact, 18% have fortnightly contact and 8% have monthly contact.
- 82% of students received help/advice from a second supervisor or other people.
• 47% of students have the opportunity to attend group/departmental seminars several times per week, whilst 41% attend at least one per week.

• 15% of CASE students have contact with their CASE partner on a fortnightly basis and 15% weekly. 50% of students said they meet with their CASE partner when necessary.

How do you rate the supervision you receive?

- Excellent: 0%
- Good: 50%
- Satisfactory: 15%
- Unsatisfactory: 10%

• 39% of students rate the supervision they receive as excellent, 43% good, 14% satisfactory and 4% rate the supervision received as unsatisfactory/very poor.

B. Training Programme

Did the University or Department provide a formal training programme in your first year?

- University: 14%
- Department: 68%
- Neither: 18%

• 14% of universities and 68% of departments provide a formal training programme in the student's first year. 18% of students said neither the university nor the department provided this.

• 52% of students have undertaken training in technical, transferable/personal skills and other disciplinary/knowledge based areas. For 36% of these students, attendance was compulsory. 48% of the students rated the training given on these courses as good/excellent, 32% rated it as satisfactory, whilst 17% rated it as unsatisfactory/poor.
• 39% of training programme units have assessment by course work, whilst only 14% have assessment by examination.

• 30% of students have not given a research talk within their department to date, 45% have given 1-3 talks and 25% have given in excess of 4 talks.

• 46% of students have not given a research talk at a conference or other department to date, 40% have given 1-3 talks and 10% have given in excess of 4 talks.

• On average, 13% of students have attended a PPARC (now STFC) funded course, 6% plan to attend a course, whilst 78% said they have no intention of attending.

• 11% of students have not attended a conference, either within the UK or overseas, whilst 50% have attended 1-3 conferences and 36% have attended in excess of 4 conferences.

• 80% of students said their department has a nominated Postgraduate tutor.
C. Monitoring

- 66% of students were required to produce a written report in the current year. Of these, 16% were assessed by interview with their supervisor, 61% by interview with another member of staff, whilst 25% had some other arrangement.

![Graph showing overall training ratings](image)

- 59% of students rate their overall training as good, whilst 30% rate it as adequate and 6% rate their overall training as inadequate.

D. Future Career

![Graph showing career guidance ratings](image)

- 25% of students rated the career guidance available to them during the studentship as good, 56% rated it as adequate and 18% rated it inadequate.
• **54% of students said they would wish to work in an HEI, 9% would wish to work in Government/public sector, 19% would wish to work in the private sector and 3% said they did not know.**

• **40% of students thought their PhD would prove essential for obtaining a job, 38% thought it would be very helpful, 18% thought it would be of some help and 3% thought it would be of little/no use.**