**Reasons for Undertaking a PhD**

- **95%** of students cited enthusiasm for the subject/research as being an important reason for undertaking a PhD.
- **71%** of students wanted to do research in a first rate research group.
- **55%** of students wished to pursue a career in academia/research.
- **36%** of students believed a PhD would enhance their general career prospects.

A. **Supervisory Arrangements**

- **14%** of students have daily contact with their supervisor, whilst **54%** have weekly contact, **17%** have fortnightly contact and **7%** have monthly contact.
- **83%** of students received help/advice from a second supervisor or other people.
• 42% of students have the opportunity to attend group/departmental seminars several times per week, whilst 45% attend at least one per week.

• 37% of CASE students have contact with their CASE partner on a monthly basis, 5% fortnightly and 11% weekly. 32% of students said they meet with their CASE partner when necessary.

![Survey Results]

• 46% of students rate the supervision they receive as excellent, 49% good, 3% satisfactory and 2% rate the supervision received as unsatisfactory/very poor.

B. Training Programme

![Survey Results]

• 9% of universities, 50% of departments and 31% of both provide a formal training programme in the student's first year. 9% of students said neither the university nor the department provided this.

• 73% of students have undertaken training in technical, transferable/personal skills and other disciplinary/knowledge based areas. For 44% of these students, attendance was compulsory. 85% of the students rated the training given on these courses as good/excellent, 9% rated it as satisfactory, whilst 4% rated it as unsatisfactory/poor.
• 44% of training programme units have assessment by course work, whilst only 20% have assessment by examination.

• 50% of students have not given a research talk within their department to date, 46% have given 1-3 talks and 4% have given in excess of 4 talks.

• 65% of students have not given a research talk at a conference or other department to date, 29% have given 1-3 talks and 6% have given in excess of 4 talks.

• On average, 12% of students have attended a STFC funded course, 5% plan to attend a course, whilst 83% said they have no intention of attending.

• 62% of students have not attended a conference, either within the UK or overseas, whilst 36% have attended 1-3 conferences and 2% have attended in excess of 4 conferences.

• 86% of students said their department has a nominated Postgraduate tutor.
C. Monitoring

- 70% of students were required to produce a written report in the current year. Of these, 16% were assessed by interview with their supervisor, 67% by interview with another member of staff, whilst 17% had some other arrangement.

![How would you rate your overall training?](diagram)

- 68% of students rate their overall training as good, whilst 29% rate it as adequate and 3% rate their overall training as inadequate.

D. Future Career

![How would you rate the career guidance available to you during your studentship?](diagram)

- 33% of students rated the career guidance available to them during the studentship as good, 52% rated it as adequate and 15% rated it inadequate.
60% of students said they would wish to work in an HEI, 6% would wish to work in Government/public sector, 17% would wish to work in the private sector and 17% said something else or they did not know.

45% of students thought their PhD would prove essential for obtaining a job, 37% thought it would be very helpful, 16% thought it would be of some help and 2% thought it would be of little/no use.