Analysis of Fellowship questionnaires 2020

For statistical purposes, STFC requires Ernest Rutherford Fellows to complete a short questionnaire giving details of the post taken up on completion of their Fellowship.

1 Questionnaires were sent to fellows who had completed their fellowship between March 2019 and March 2020.

Key findings of these questionnaires:
- all fellows except one were employed. One fellow had been unsuccessful in gaining employment when their fellowship ended;
- those that were employed all held permanent positions;
- all fellows that were employed had remained in the UK after their fellowship had ended and had remained at the research organisation where they held their fellowship. Four fellows had transferred their fellowship from their original host research organisation: three because they had been offered proleptic positions and the fourth because the Hadron Physics group was relocating;
- all fellows that were employed held positions which fell within the remit of STFC science;
- all fellows were employed in either academic research or lecturing or both;
- all fellows stated their fellowship was essential in order to obtain their current position;
- the main factor influencing fellows into accepting their position was the opportunity to pursue original research in the same field closely followed by the opportunity to work in a stimulating & challenging area.

Fellows were asked to comment on mentoring provision provided by their research organisation in line with the expectations published in a Statement of Expectations for Research Fellowships and Future Research Leaders.

Key findings of mentoring provision:
- 63% of fellows received guidance and training on setting up a research group;
- 75% of fellows received guidance and training on building partnerships & collaborations;
- 100% of fellows received guidance on public engagement;
- 88% of fellows received access to career development support and advice;
- 88% of fellows received support for any proposed leadership activities.

2 Aggregate Data

The total number of questionnaires received between 2010 and 2020 was:

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A summary of data from these questionnaires presented the following key findings:

2.1 Where is your job located?

In the last six years a higher percentage of fellows remained in the UK (Figures 1&2)
2.2 Is your job permanent or fixed term?

Since 2009, 92% of fellows had secured a permanent contract after their fellowship had ended. (Figures 3 & 4)

2.3 To what extent did your Fellowship help you get this job?

It is evident that since 2014 at least 89% of fellows each year found that their fellowship was essential or very helpful in order to obtain their current position. (Figures 5 & 6)
2.4 Key findings of aggregate data:

- Since 2010 all fellows apart from one were employed and 92% of fellows that were employed held permanent jobs after they had completed their fellowship;
- Since 2011 all fellows that remained in the UK after their fellowship had ended also remained at the research organisation where their fellowship was held. Data previous to 2011 had not been gathered;
- 99% of fellows stayed in academia after their fellowship had ended.