In July 2016, the Office contacted all current students and their supervisors to request them to complete the survey. The deadline for completion of the survey was 8th August 2016. A total of 616 students responded out of the 784 students who were contacted (79% response).

The percentages do not always equate to 100% as some students did not respond to every question.

The main points are as follows:

- 78% of students meet with the supervisor at least once a week.
- 88% of students rated their supervision that they receive as 4 or 5 (i.e. good/excellent).
- 81% of students had received formal training in the first year.
- 60% of students wish to pursue a career in academia.
- 98% of students rated their overall training as good/adequate.

**Personal Information**

**General Field of research**

- **Astronomy**: 243 (39.4%)
- **Nuclear Physics**: 23 (3.7%)
- **Particle Astrophysics & Cosmology**: 42 (6.8%)
- **Particle Physics Experiment**: 142 (23.1%)
- **Particle Physics Theory**: 85 (13.8%)
- **Solar System Science**: 81 (13.1%)

**Year of PhD**

- **First**: 211 (34.3%)
- **Second**: 202 (32.8%)
- **Third**: 175 (28.4%)
- **Fourth**: 28 (4.5%)
Type of Studentship

- Doctoral Training Partnership (Quota): 1.3%
- Industrial CASE: 3.7%
- Associated Studentship: 95%

Form of Funding received

- Fully funded by STFC: 521 (84.6%)
- Part funded by STFC together with another Organisation: 67 (10.9%)
- Fees only provided by STFC: 28 (4.5%) with living costs provided through other means (this is usually the case for students normally resident outside the UK but within the EU)

Rating of Induction Programme (1st Year students only)

- Good: 129 (61.1%)
- Adequate: 77 (36.5%)
- Inadequate: 5 (2.4%)
Supervisory Arrangements

Frequency of contact with Supervisor

- Daily: 68 (11%)
- Weekly: 415 (67.4%)
- Fortnightly: 98 (15.9%)
- Monthly: 25 (4.1%)
- Other: 10 (1.6%)

81% of students stated that they received help/advice from a second supervisor or other people in their department. Examples of those cited to be of help are Post docs, other PhD students, collaborators and other members of department.

Usefulness of Supervision

- 1: 3 (0.5%)
- 2: 12 (1.9%)
- 3: 60 (9.7%)
- 4: 224 (36.4%)
- 5: 317 (51.5%)

Training Programme

81% of students attend group/departmental seminars once a week or more.
77% of students cited that their department had a nominated Postgraduate tutor with overall responsibility for co-ordinating their research training.

Astronomy Students’ attendance at Introductory to Astronomy Summer School
Solar Students’ attendance at Introductory to Solar System Science Summer School

- Attended: 36 (44.4%)
- Plan to attend: 4 (4.9%)
- Neither: 41 (50.6%)

Solar Students’ attendance at Advanced Solar System Science Summer School

- Attended: 20 (24.7%)
- Plan to attend: 12 (14.8%)
- Neither: 49 (60.5%)

Particle Physics students’ attendance at BUSSTEPP

- Attended: 48 (21.1%)
- Plan to attend: 32 (14.1%)
- Neither: 147 (64.8%)
Nuclear Physics students’ attendance at Nuclear Summer School

- Attended: 9 (39.1%)
- Plan to attend: 8 (34.8%)
- Neither: 6 (26.1%)

Particle Physics students’ attendance at HEP Summer School

- Attended: 69 (30.4%)
- Plan to attend: 47 (20.7%)
- Neither: 111 (48.9%)

Production of publications per year

- Year 1: 82% None, 16% 1-2, 1% 3-4, 0% 5+%
- Year 2: 37% None, 27% 1-2, 2% 3-4, 0% 5+
- Year 3: 13% None, 18% 1-2, 2% 3-4, 1% 5+
- Year 4: 5% None, 2% 1-2, 2% 3-4, 0% 5+
Public Engagement

8% of students had communicated their research to primary schools, 15% to secondary schools, 18% at science festivals, 7% to amateur societies, 8% by exhibits, 1% by podcasts & YouTube, 1% by Webcasts, 2% Radio, 2% Newspapers & 1% by TV. Other forms of public engagement students mentioned were blogs, science comedy show, creation of work experience programme & a planetarium show.
5% of students are required to submit a written progress report on their PhD in 2016. 26% of students stated that their progress report was assessed by an interview with their supervisor, 66% stated that the assessment was by interview with other staff. Other forms of assessments included; poster presentation, presentation with Q&A, completion of thesis & viva.

Future Career

Rating of career guidance available during PhD

- Good: 212 (34.4%)
- Adequate: 321 (52.1%)
- Inadequate: 83 (13.5%)

Organisation wish to work for upon completion of PhD

- Higher Education Institution: 370 (60.1%)
- Other Government/Public Sector: 60 (9.7%)
- Private Sector: 128 (20.8%)
- Business/Company: 58 (9.4%)
- Other: 13 (2.1%)
Sort of role intend to work in upon completion of PhD

- Research: 353 (57.3%)
- One that requires a scientific background: 179 (29.1%)
- One for which a scientific background might be useful: 80 (13%)
- One that does not make use of my scientific background: 4 (0.6%)

Extent PhD helps to secure a job

- Essential: 282 (45.8%)
- Very helpful: 228 (37%)
- Some help: 95 (15.4%)
- Not very helpful: 7 (1.1%)
- No use: 4 (0.6%)

Industrial CASE Studentships

Frequency of contact with Industrial partner

- Weekly: 1 (14.3%)
- Fortnightly: 0
- Monthly: 4 (57.1%)
- Other: 2 (28.6%)

Time spent on premises of Industrial partner per year

- Less than 1 month: 25%
- 1-3 months: 30%
- 4-6 months: 20%
- over 6 months: 25%