

An insight into the UK and Ireland higher education recruitment 2023 - 2024





#### Welcome

Each year brings fresh challenges to the UK Higher Education sector, and in recent years, students understandably expect more and seek innovation in how education is delivered. They are looking for a more personalised experience, supported by cutting-edge technology, that reflects the advancements shaping their everyday lives.

2024 saw the MAC review announcement, Spring Budget and subsequent General Election, making it a pivotal year for higher education funding, pushing universities and colleges to make bold strategies and confident implementation to create opportunities for stability and potential growth. Within these societal shifts as well as technological innovations, higher education institutions are continuing to face an array of opportunities along with added challenges.

From evolving student needs to societal pressures, some of the key trends sculpting colleges and universities during 2024 are:

- Artificial Intelligence: Al continues to impact higher education as the boundaries between students and teachers will change.
- Digital transformation: universities are continuing their journey of post-pandemic digital transformation, with the further development of blended or online learning models enhancing flexibility and accessibility.
- Lifelong learning: Lifelong learning and continuing education will gain importance as people seek to upskill (or reskill) through their careers as job demands change.

Our universities are not just centres of learning and research, they are also some of the largest employers in the UK and the world of higher education recruitment remains as competitive as ever, which is why at jobs. ac.uk we've carried out an in-depth study to provide you with a greater insight into the latest talent trends. We've taken a closer look at the 55,097 job adverts placed by UK and Irish higher education institutions on our job board during the academic year, August 1st, 2023 to July 31st, 2024.

Our extensive report covers a wide range of information across all kinds of academic, research and teaching roles to help higher education institutions, jobseekers and careers advisors alike. The information in this report will enable recruitment teams in particular to plan for the future. They can benchmark salaries. They can assess when it's best to advertise and how long for. They can look at whether certain jobs are generally offered full time, part time, temporary or permanent. They can also see breakdowns of different opportunities advertised on jobs. ac. uk by location and month.

Launched in 1998 by the University of Warwick, jobs.ac.uk is the leading global jobs board for careers in academic, research, science and related professions. Used by 1,414 universities, research and public sector institutions, and commercial customers worldwide, jobs.ac.uk attracts 173 million user interactions per year, and 2.8million apply clicks. Our team has vast experience of connecting higher education jobseekers with higher education opportunities and providing institutions with invaluable insight into the global recruitment market. We hope you find this report useful, and the information helps you gain a greater insight into the latest recruitment trends.

#### **Executive summary**

jobs.ac.uk advertises a diverse range of academic, research and teaching opportunities across the UK, Ireland and beyond. This report offers a real insight into 17 different roles. providing all kinds of useful information from average salaries, peak recruitment times and locations advertised to the percentage of roles offered on a temporary, permanent, full time and part-time basis.

#### **ABOUT OUR REPORT**

- Our data is purely based on the 55,097 jobs posted by higher education institutions in the UK and Republic of Ireland on jobs.ac.uk from August 1st 2023 to July 31st 2024
- Our top-level statistics state the actual number of job adverts
- When we focus on the segmented job categories, we refer to job opportunities rather than adverts, as some adverts spanned several disciplines or featured different job roles. Therefore, a specific advert may feature in different areas of this report and the number of job opportunities is higher than the number of adverts
- In our report we rounded numbers to the nearest whole number except where numbers were less than 0.5
- Where data has been segmented into different job roles we didn't include categories with less than 5 opportunities as there wasn't enough data to inform trends
- When we refer to 'Average Apply Clicks', we refer only to clicks made directly to the 'Apply' button

#### **TRENDS**

- 75% of lecturer roles are offered on a permanent basis compared to the jobs.ac.uk academic average of 41%
- Reader roles offer lots of stability with 99% offered on permanent contracts and 99% on a full-time basis
- Many research roles are offered on a contracted/

- temporary basis due to being project based and reliant on funding
- Generally senior level roles are advertised for longer and also attract less views and apply clicks because they require niche skills and leadership experience, making the talent pool for these roles smaller

- 55,097 adverts were posted on jobs.ac.uk by higher education institutions in the UK and Republic of Ireland during 2023/24
- The average length an advert was posted for was 44 days
- 42% of opportunities advertised were for academics, researchers & teachers
- 50% of opportunities advertised were for professional and support roles
- 85% of the adverts were for full-time roles
- 51% of the adverts were for permanent roles
- Lecturer opportunities make up 25% of the academic roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk
- 48% of all academic jobs on jobs.ac.uk are research roles
- 25% of the adverts were placed by institutions in London and the South East of England

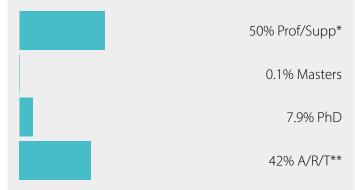
# Overview - all job types

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

55,097 opportunities

average advert length (days)

#### **JOB TYPE**

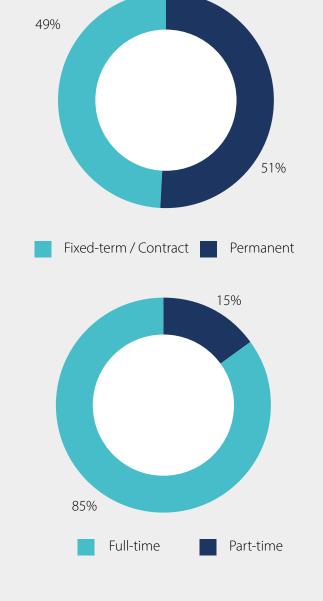


\*Professional and support

#### **SALARY**



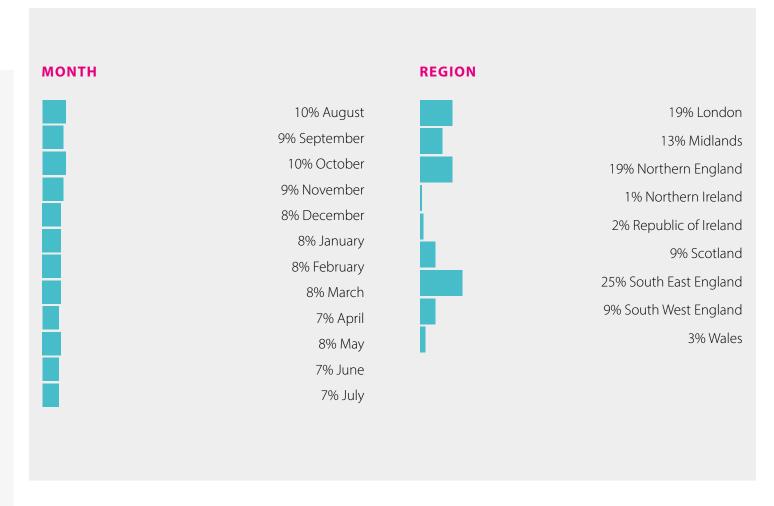
#### TYPE/HOURS



<sup>\*\*</sup>Academic, research and teaching

# Overview - all job types

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- 42% of these opportunities were for academic, research and teaching jobs
- 50% of these opportunities were for professional and support roles
- Overall 39% of opportunities were within the salary band £30,000 £39,999
- Generally these opportunities were advertised evenly throughout the year
- 85% of the opportunities were full time and 49% contract/temporary
- The main recruitment locations were South East England 25%, London 19%, and Northern England 19%

# Academic, research and teaching

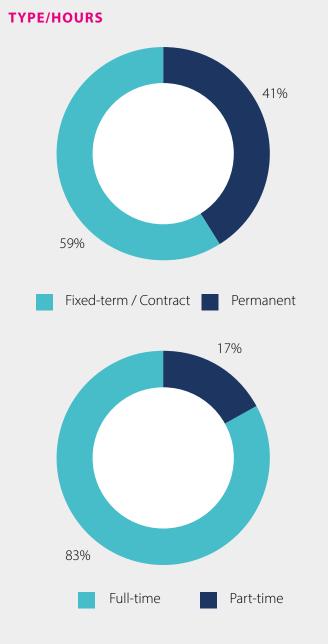
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

**24,299**opportunities

25
average advert length (days)

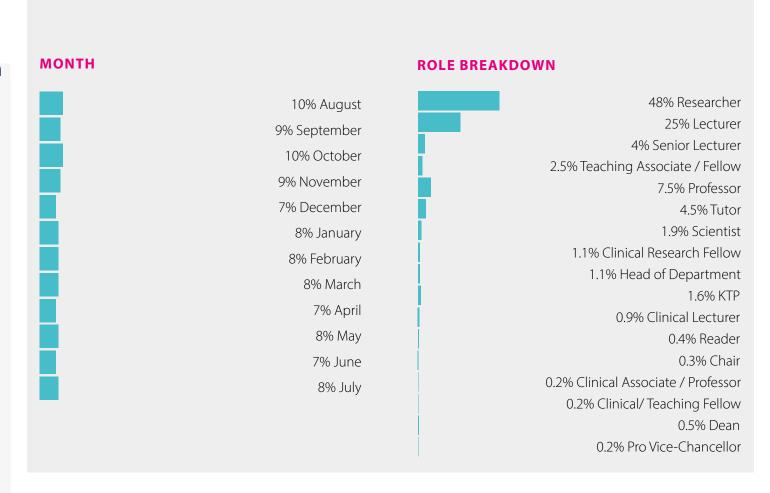
#### **REGION** 18% London 14% Midlands 21% Northern England 2% Northern Ireland 3% Republic of Ireland 11% Scotland 22% South East England 7% South West England 3% Wales **SALARY** 11% Not disclosed 1% Up to £19,999 1% £20 - £24,999 4% £25 - £29,999 49% £30 - £39,999 25% £40 - £49,999 7% £50 - £59,999

2% £60 - £99,999+



# Academic, research and teaching

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

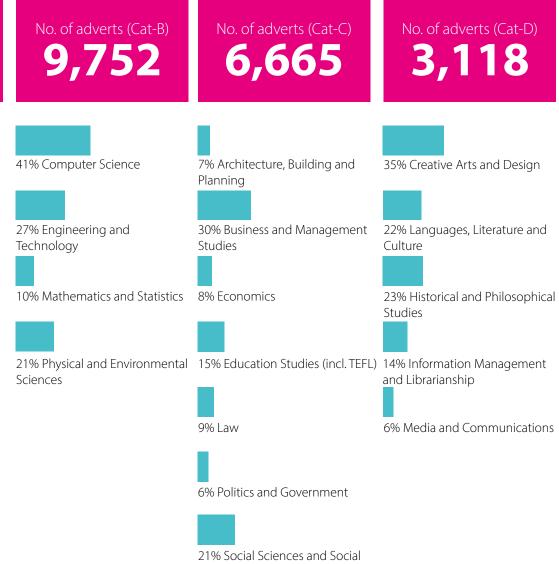


- The main recruitment locations were South East England 22%, Northern England 21%, London 18% and Midlands 14%
- 83% of academic, research and teaching opportunities were offered on a full-time basis
- 59% of these opportunities were offered on a contract/temporary basis
- August and October were the busiest recruitment months
- 49% of these roles were marketed at £30,000 £39,999 with 25% at £40,000 £49,999

# A breakdown of the categories and academic disciplines.

Our four academic categories mirror the REF (Research Excellence Framework categories. The REF is the system used for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. Some roles may feature in more than one category. For example, if a particular job spanned Biological Science and Computer Science it would feature in Categories A&B.





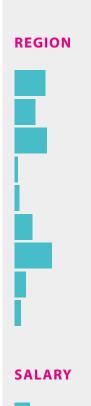
Care

3% Sport and Leisure

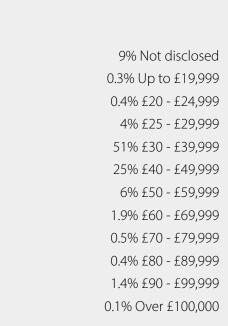
Category A - Psychology, Agriculture, Food and Veterinary, Biological Sciences, Health and Medical

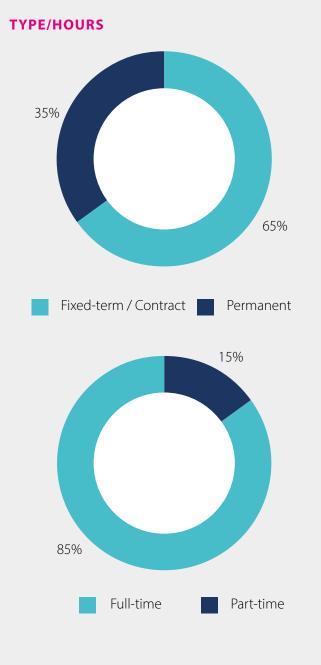
10,468 opportunities

**24.**average advert length
(days)

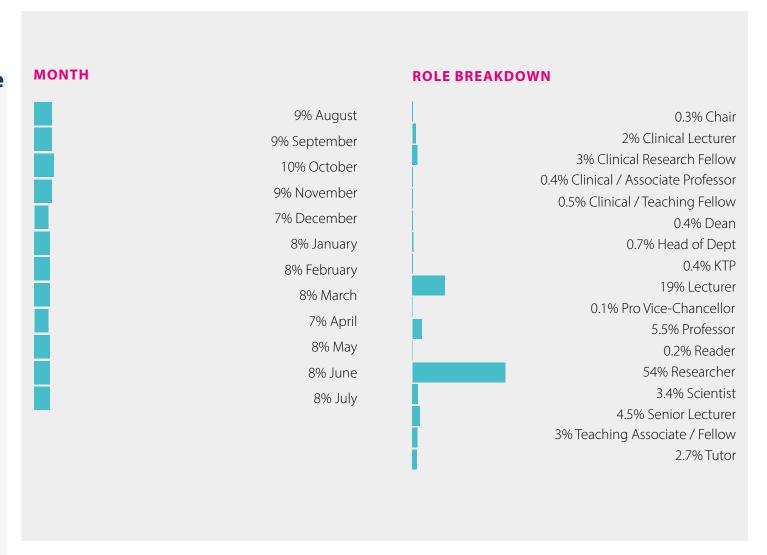








Category A - Psychology, Agriculture, Food and Veterinary, Biological Sciences, Health and Medical



Category B - Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical and Environmental Sciences

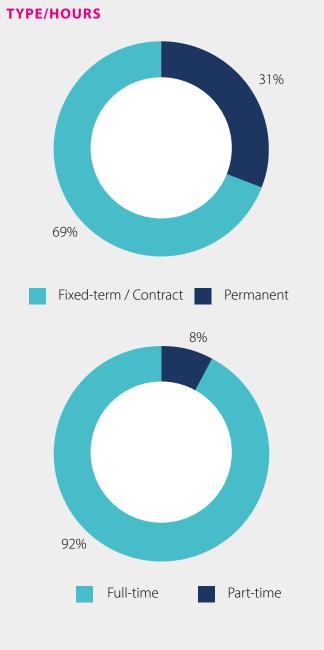
9,752 opportunities

**26**average advert length (days)

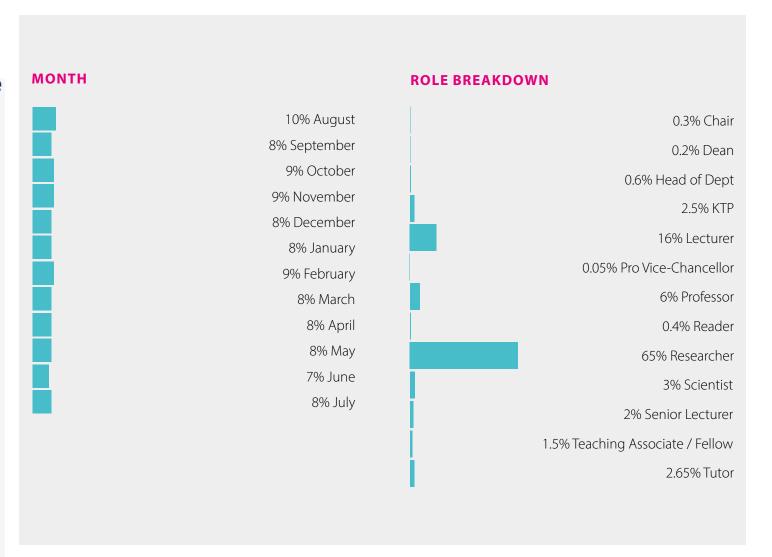


**REGION** 





Category B - Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical and Environmental Sciences



Category C - Architecture, Building and Planning, Business and Management Studies, Economics, Education Studies (inc. TEFL), Law, Politics and Government, Social Sciences and Social care, Sport and Leisure

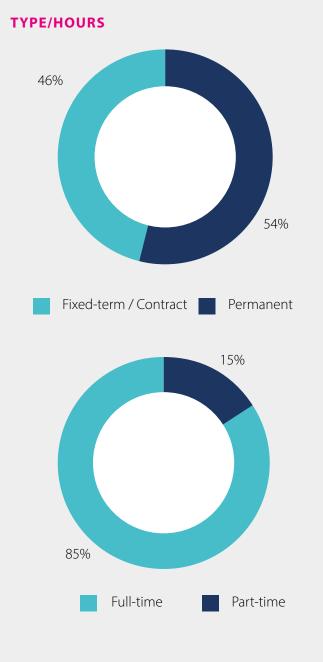
6,665 opportunities

25
average advert length
(days)

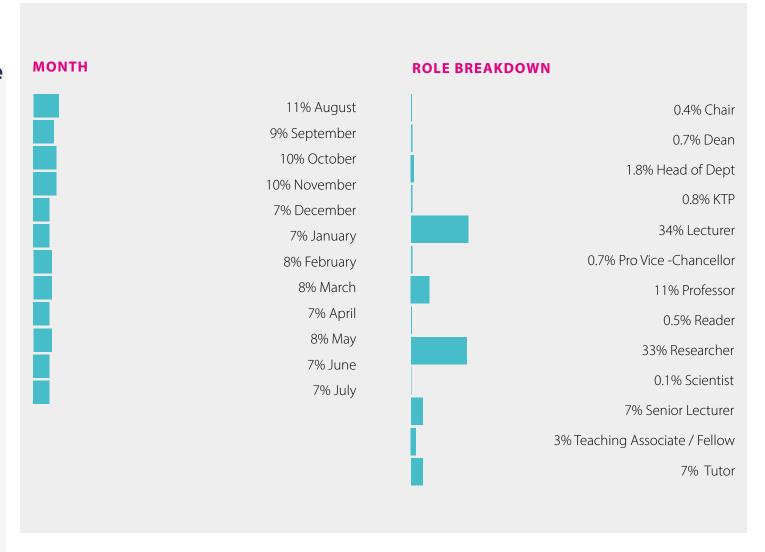
# **REGION SALARY**







Category C - Architecture, Building and Planning, Business and Management Studies, Economics, Education Studies (inc. TEFL), Law, Politics and Government, Social Sciences and Social Care, Sport and Leisure



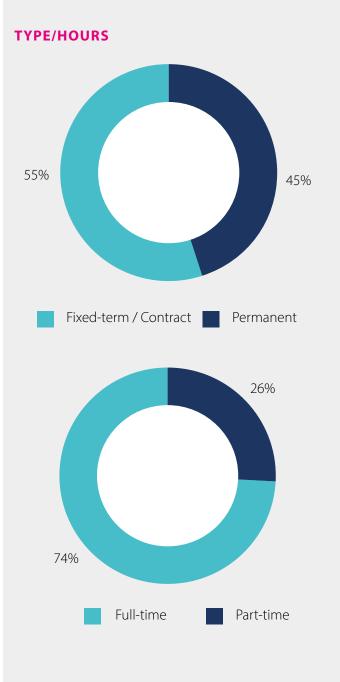
Category D - Creative Arts and Design, Languages, Literature and Culture, Historical and Philosophical Studies, Information Management and Librarianship, Media and Communications

3,118 opportunities

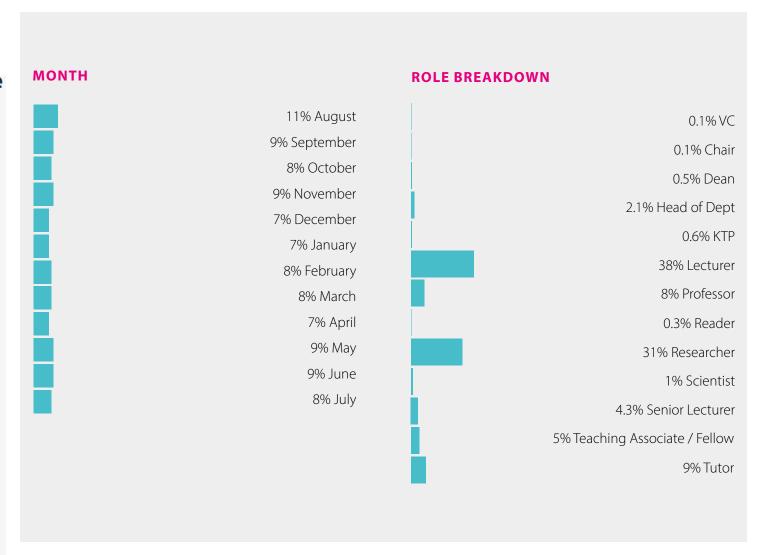
25
average advert length (days)

# REGION 21% London 9% Midlands 19% Northern England 1% Northern Ireland 4% Republic of Ireland 10% Scotland 27% South East England 6% South West England 3% Wales



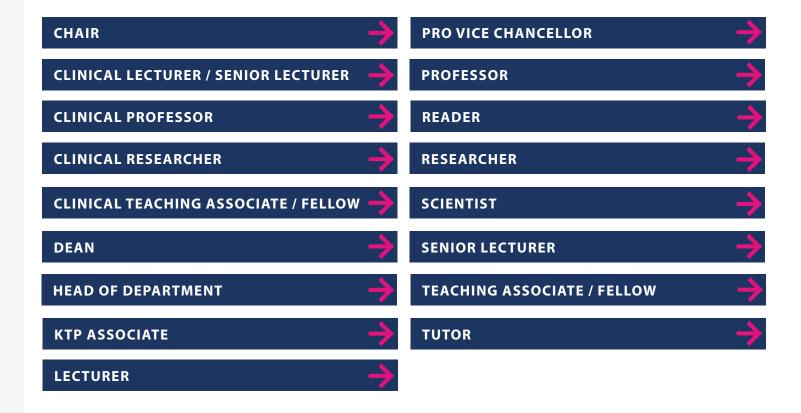


Category D - Creative Arts and Design, Languages, Literature and Culture, Historical and Philosophical Studies, Information Management and Librarianship, Media and Communications



#### **Contents**

Click buttons below to view recruitment trends of individual job categories.

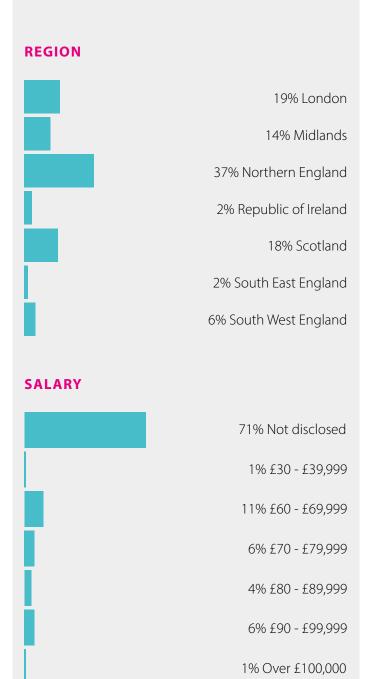


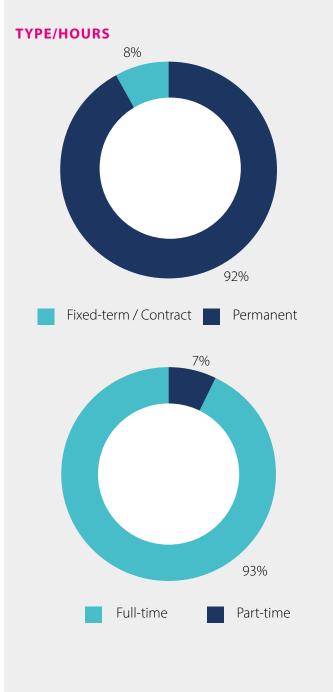
#### Chair

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

**81** opportunities

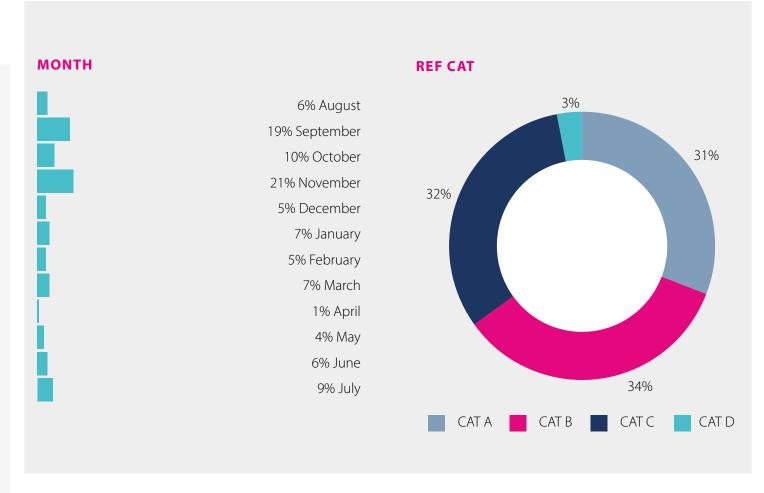
39 average advert length (days)





#### Chair

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- 92% of chair opportunities advertised were on a permanent contract
- These roles are advertised for longer than other academic roles to attract top talent and allow time for enquiries
- Generally these opportunities don't advertise the salary and welcome contact between the applicant and institution
- The highest % of chair roles were advertised in Ref Category B
- The highest % of chair roles were advertised in Northern England
- While opportunities for these roles were spread out throughout the year, there was a slight peak in November

# Clinical Lecturer / Senior Lecturer

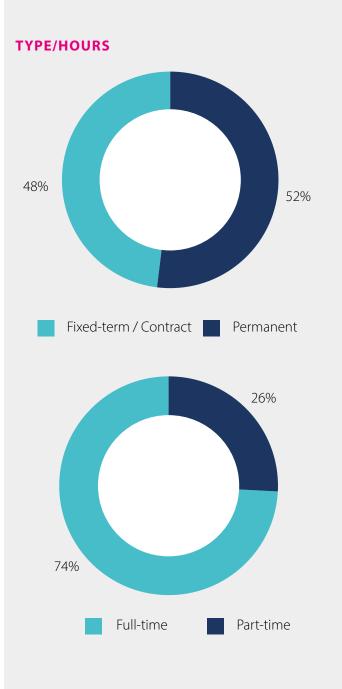
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

244 opportunities

24.
average advert length
(days)

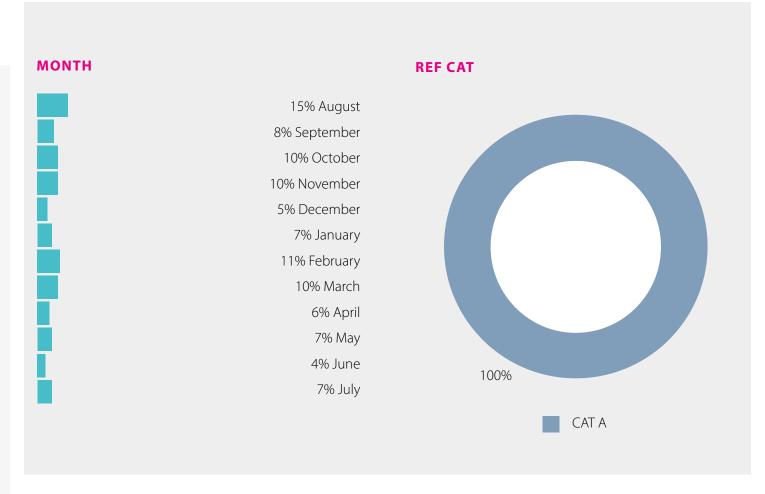
# 16% London 7% Midlands 24% Northern England 1% Northern Ireland 1% Republic of Ireland 18% Scotland 16% South East England 14% South West England 4% Wales





#### Clinical Lecturer / Senior Lecturer

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



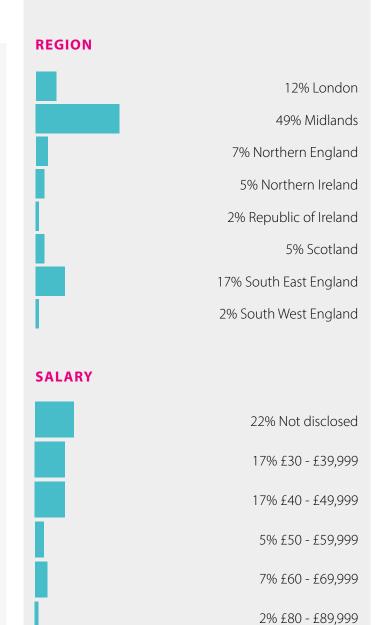
- As well as teaching responsibilities, clinical lecturer roles involve leading research groups or spending some time working in a healthcare setting
- As these are speciality roles with smaller pools of candidates, they attract lower views and are usually advertised for longer
- Most of these roles are offered on a full-time basis (74%), although a few clinical lecturer roles are offered on a part-time basis
- Over half of these opportunities were marketed with a salary of £30,000- £39,999 or above
- There is a good balance between permanent (52%) and contract/temporary roles (48%)
- Naturally the main discipline for these roles is Category A

#### **Clinical Professor**

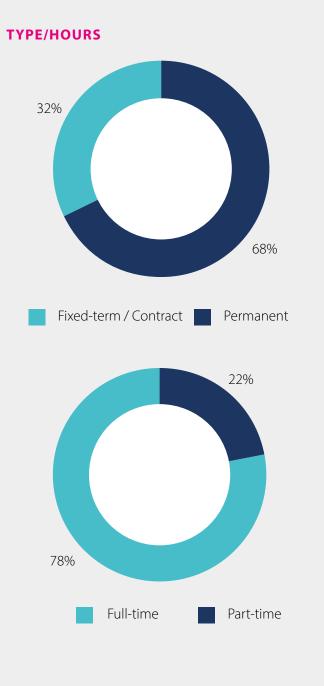
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

41 opportunities

29
average advert length
(days)

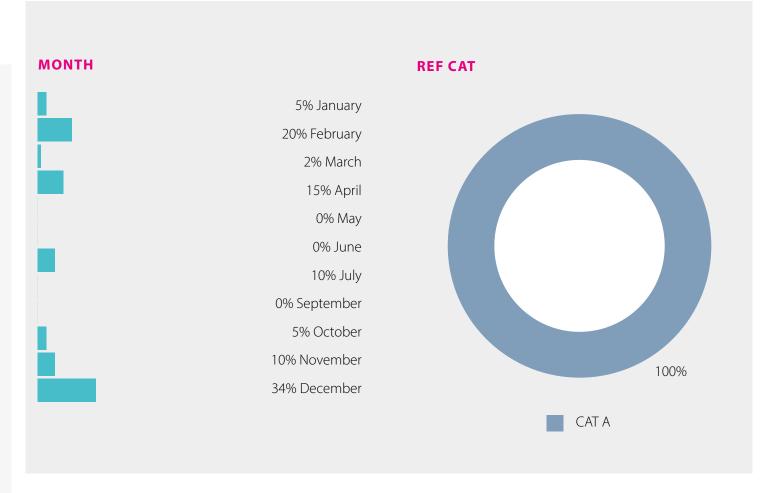


29% £90 - £99,999



#### **Clinical Professor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- These roles are where members of a profession provide practical instruction to students
- Most clinical professor opportunities were advertised in the Midlands
- 43% of clinical professor roles are marketed with a salary of £50k and above
- Naturally the main discipline for these roles is Category A

#### **Clinical Researcher**

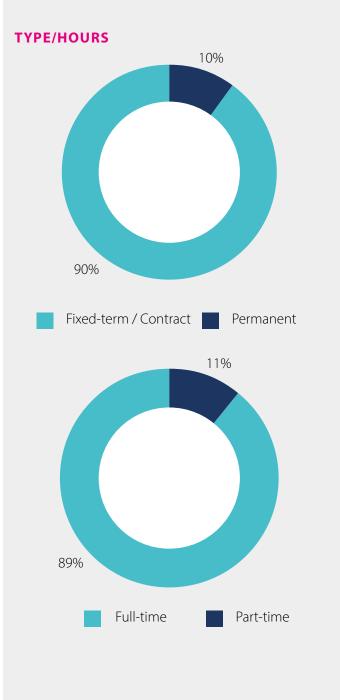
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

269 opportunities

**22**average advert length (days)

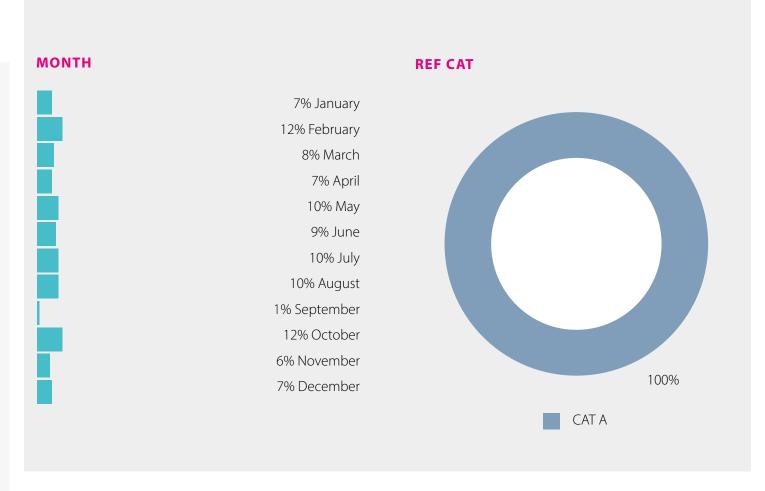
# 25% London 9% Midlands 19% Northern England 1% Northern Ireland 1% Republic of Ireland 19% Scotland 24% South East England 1% South West England 2% Wales





#### **Clinical Researcher**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



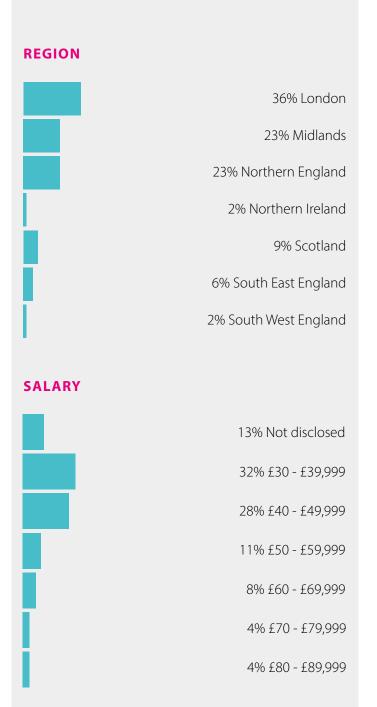
- As well as teaching responsibilities, clinical researchers carry out clinical trials and research
- Only 10% of clinical researcher opportunities are permanent
- A high % of these roles are based in London, largely because of Imperial College London and University College London clinical trials units
- The majority of these roles are marketed at £30,000 £39,999
- Naturally the main discipline for these roles is Category A

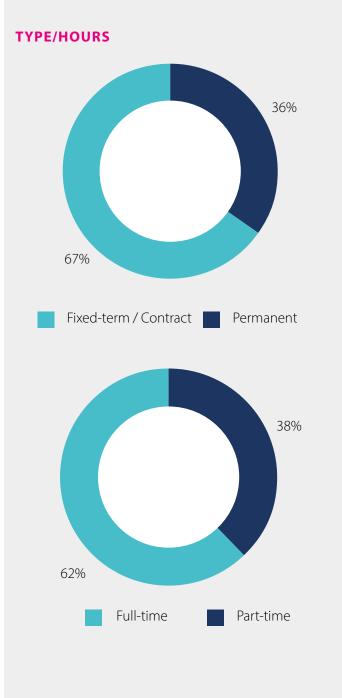
# **Clinical Teaching Associate / Fellow**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

53 opportunities

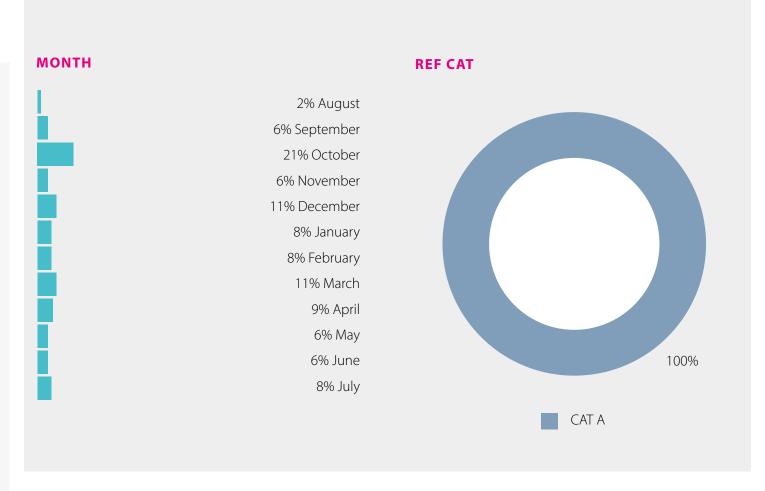
average advert length (days)





# Clinical Teaching Associate / Fellow

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



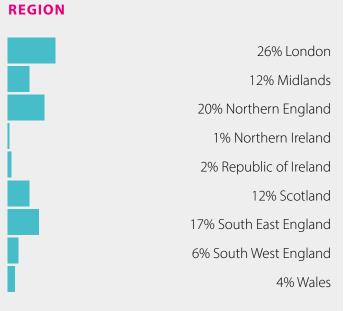
- Clinical teaching roles mix lecturing with clinical research and practice
- Although they only made up a small percentage of the academic opportunities on jobs.ac.uk they offered flexibility and variety
- 38% of these roles were part time compared to the jobs.ac.uk academic average of 16%
- The average salary for this role is £30,000 £39,999
- Naturally the main discipline for these roles is Category A

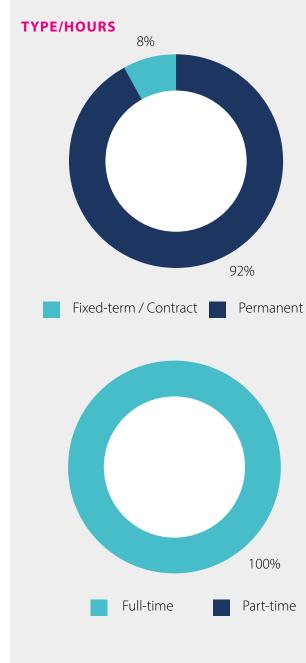
#### Dean

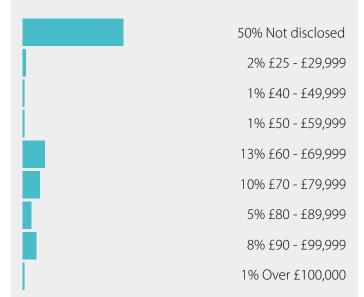
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

113 opportunities

**29**average advert length (days)



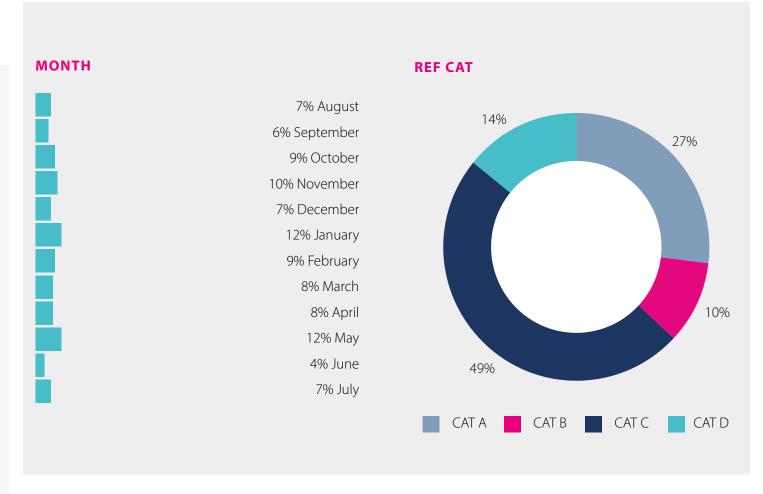




**SALARY** 

#### Dean

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



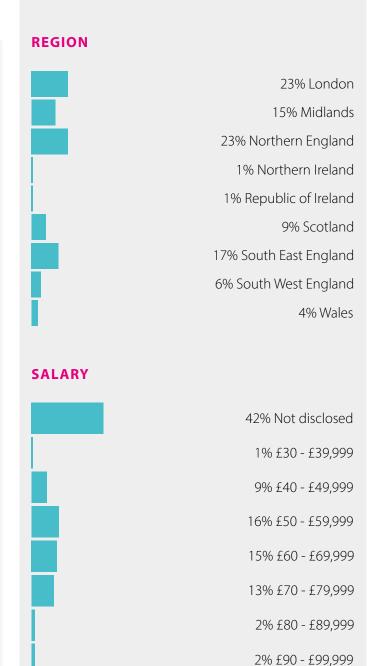
- Deans are heads of faculties and departments
- Dean opportunities attract higher than average views and are usually advertised for longer
- These roles tend to be offered full time and permanent owing to their senior nature and need for long-term stability. A few are offered on a temporary basis, likely covering a leave of absence on an interim basis
- As you'd expect, these roles are spread out fairly evenly across the UK
- Salaries for these roles are generally not disclosed because they are likely open to negotiation depending on skills and experience
- Most Dean roles are advertised in Category C

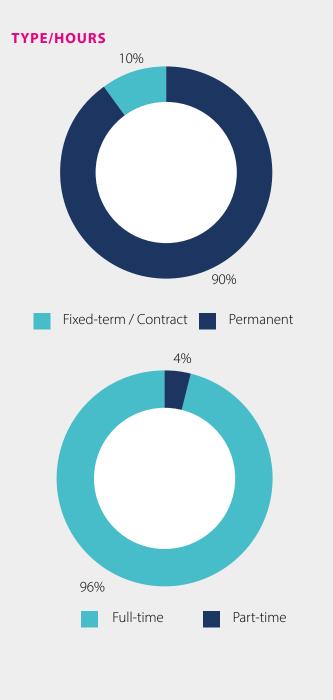
# Head of Department

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

279 opportunities

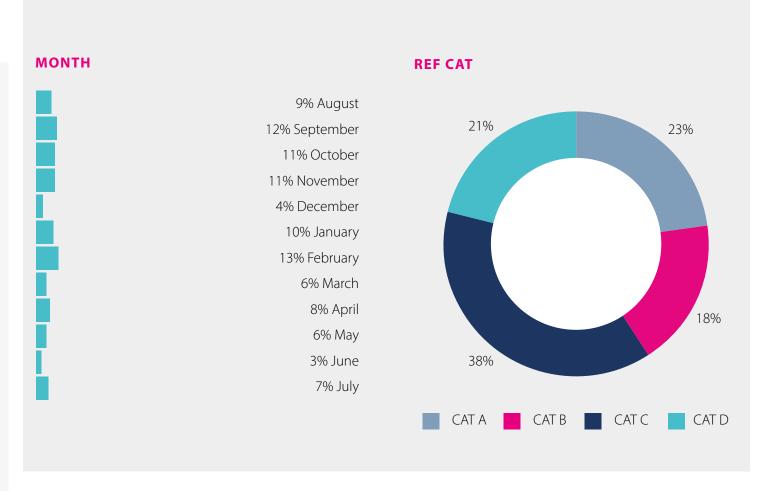
25
average advert length (days)





# Head of Department

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



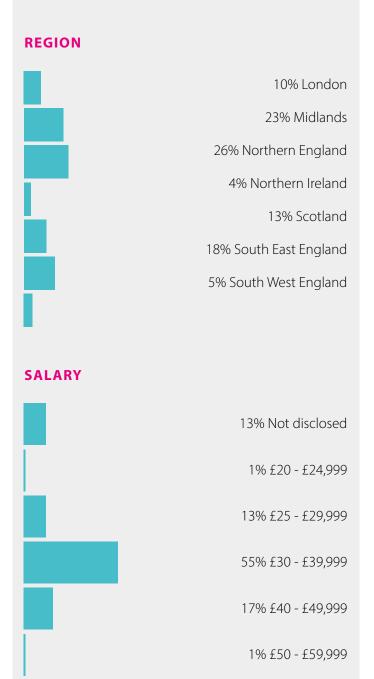
- These roles involve leading teams, shaping curriculum and overseeing teaching and research across the department
- Owing to the level of responsibility and need for long-term stability, these opportunities tend to be offered on a permanent basis (above average)
- The contracted or temporary roles are likely to have been advertised to provide interim cover or because of an increase in funding or the number of research projects
- Compared to the average number of views, these opportunities have a healthy average apply rate
- The highest % of these roles are marketed at £50,000 £59,999
- Most of these roles are in Category C

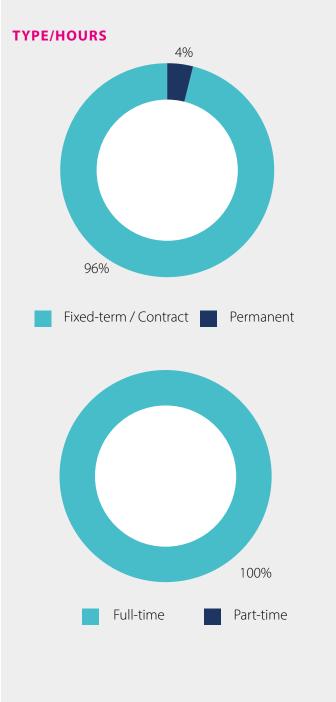
#### **KTP Associate**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

367 opportunities

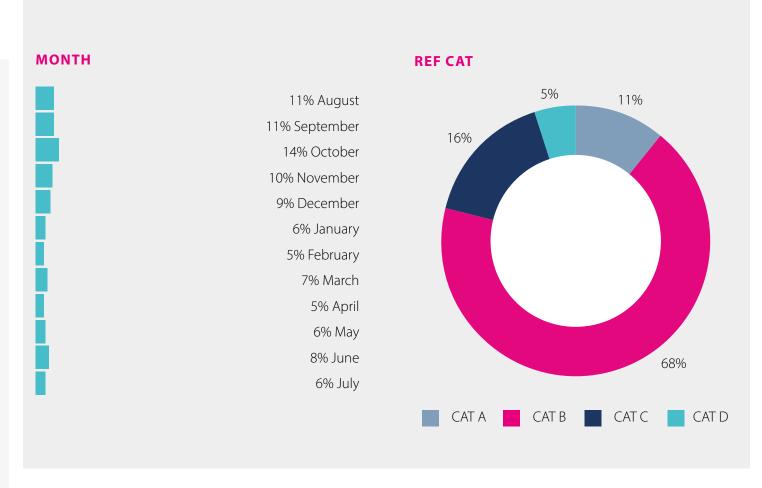
**26**average advert length (days)





#### **KTP Associate**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- KTP Associates are part of the Knowledge Transfer Partnership helping to provide businesses with an edge through improved knowledge, technology and skills
- As these roles are project based most are offered on a contract/temporary basis, while 95% of the opportunities advertised were full time
- A large percentage of these opportunities were advertised in Northern England
- 73% of these roles are marketed at £30,000 £39,999 or higher
- The majority of these roles are in academic Category B

#### Lecturer

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

5,989 opportunities

25
average advert length
(days)

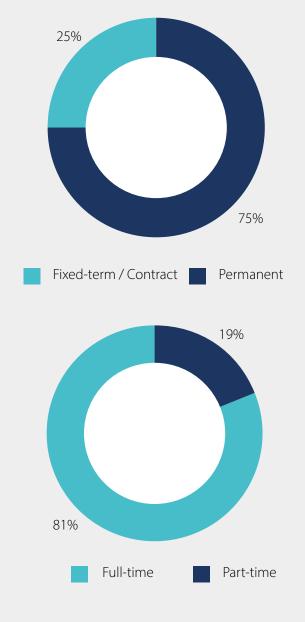
#### REGION

21% London
12% Midlands
20% Northern England
2% Northern Ireland
4% Republic of Ireland
9% Scotland
18% South East England
9% South West England
4% Wales

#### **SALARY**

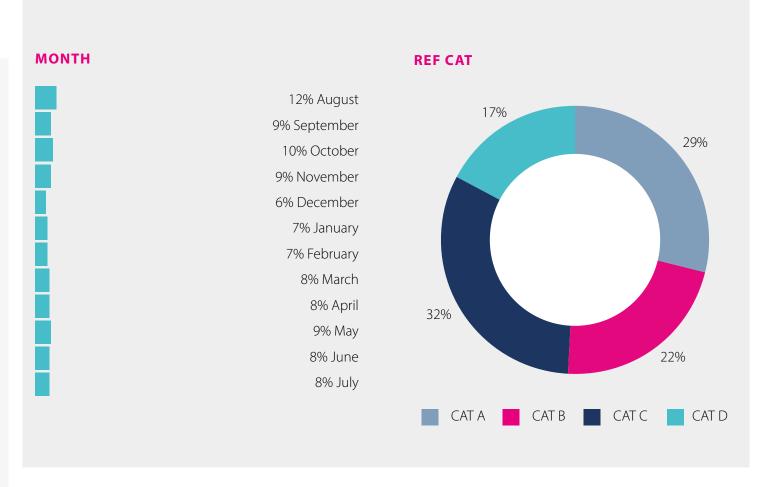


#### **TYPE/HOURS**



#### Lecturer

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



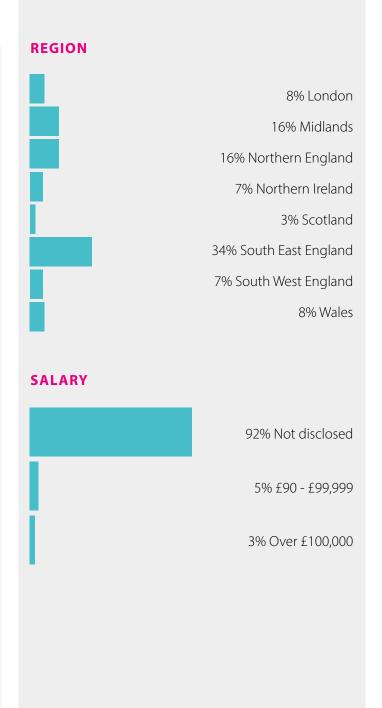
- As well as teaching, lecturers help to shape curriculum and play a lead role in research
- Lecturers are highly sought after with much higher views and apply rates
- Many of these roles offer the security of permanent employment (75% compared to the jobs.ac.uk academic average of 41%)
- Lecturer opportunities make up 25% of the academic roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk
- 78% of lecturer roles offer salaries between £30,000 £49,999
- Most lecturer roles advertised were in Category C

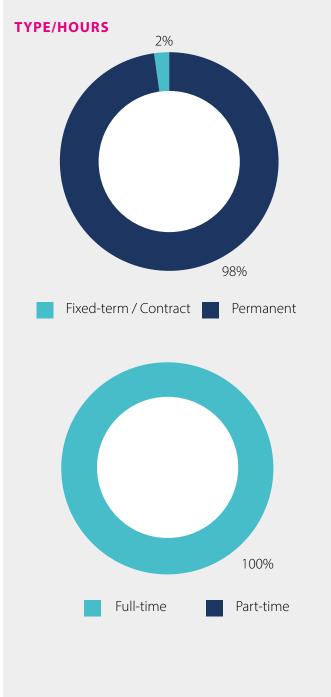
#### **Pro Vice-Chancellor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

**61** opportunities

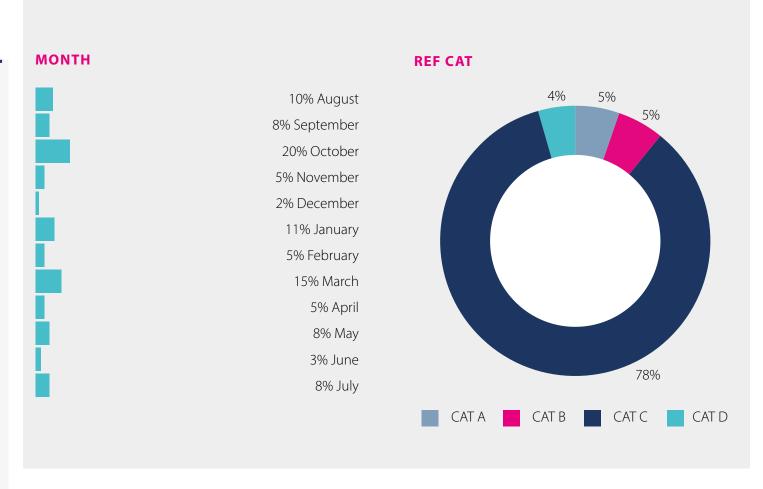
31 average advert length (days)





## **Pro Vice-Chancellor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- Pro Vice Chancellors shape the future and manage the day-to-day running of institutions
- As these roles are very senior most opportunities advertised were permanent, attracting less views and apply clicks than average
- These opportunities account for only 0.2% of academic roles on jobs.ac.uk but are extremely important, so it's essential to attract the right person
- Most salaries stated 'not disclosed' most likely to enable negotiation

# **Professor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

1,828 opportunities

32
average advert length
(days)

# REGION

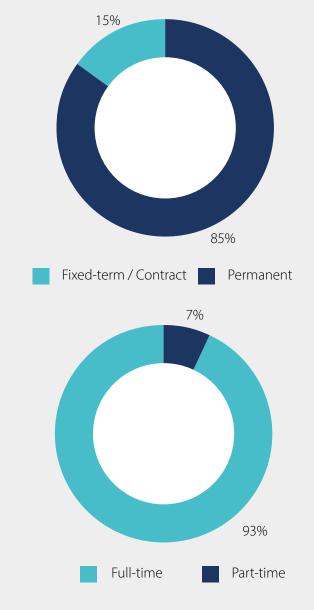
13% London
29% Midlands
16% Northern England
1% Northern Ireland
14% Republic of Ireland
6% Scotland
19% South East England
2% South West England
1% Wales

#### **SALARY**



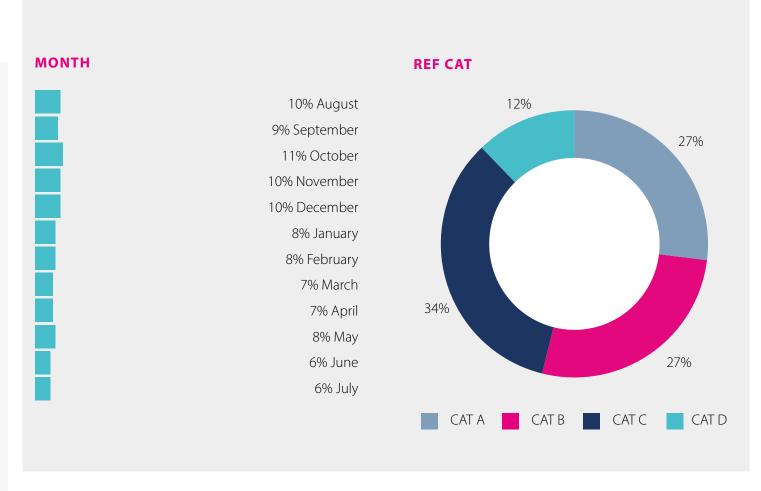
25% Not disclosed 8% £30 - £39,999 25% £40 - £49,999 21% £50 - £59,999 11% £60 - £69,999 4% £70 - £79,999 2% £80 - £89,999 4% £90 - £99,999

#### **TYPE/HOURS**



# **Professor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- Professors are high-ranking lecturers who have been awarded the title 'Professor' in a particular field of learning
- These opportunities make up 7.5% of academic roles on jobs.ac.uk
- As they are senior roles, they are advertised for longer with 85% offered on a permanent basis (almost double the jobs. ac.uk academic average)
- Most of these opportunities were advertised in the Midlands and South East England with Category C advertising the most professor roles
- Most Professor roles stated 'not disclosed'. Most of the salaries that were advertised were marketed between £40,000 £69,999

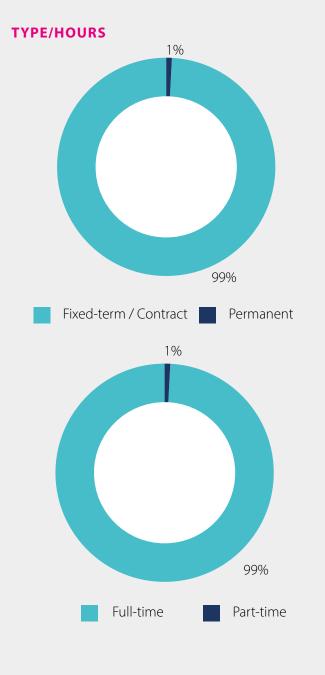
# Reader

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

**87** opportunities

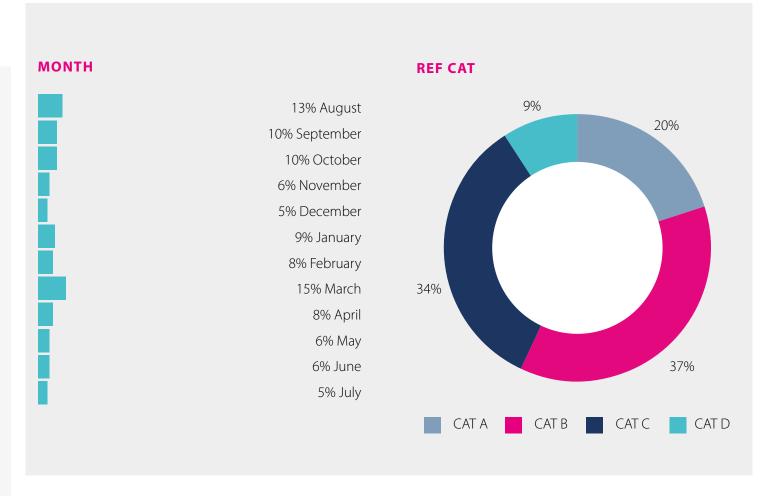
28
average advert length
(days)





## Reader

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



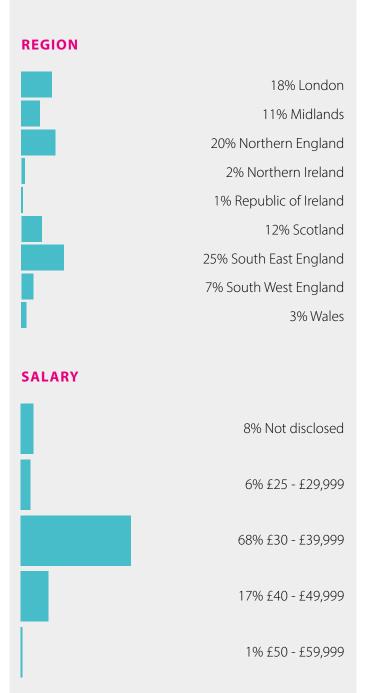
- Readers teach and conduct research at Higher Education establishments
- 31% of reader posts were advertised in Northern England
- 53% or Readers salaries were in the £50,000 £59,999 range
- The majority of these positions were advertised in March

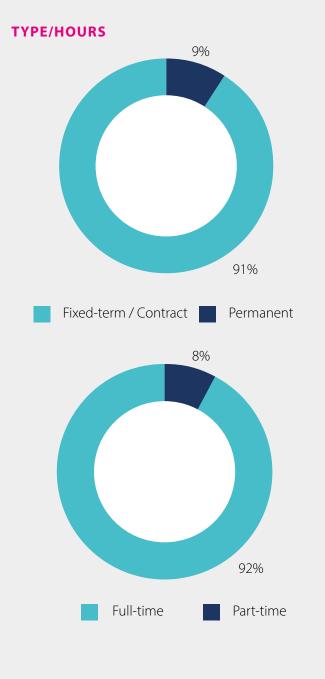
# Researcher

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

**11,557** opportunities

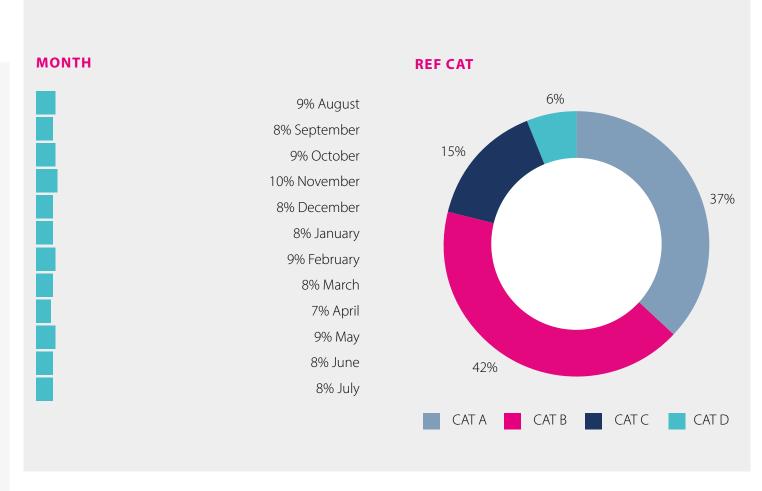
**24**average advert length (days)





#### Researcher

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



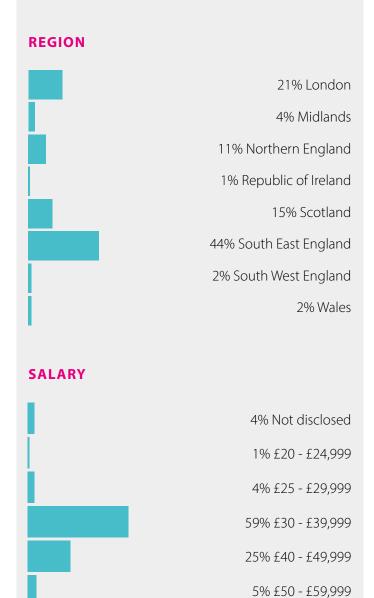
- Researchers and research analysts and scientists work on projects with colleagues, on their own, with different organisations and across different departments across a variety of fields
- 48% of all academic jobs on jobs.ac.uk are research roles
- As they work on projects and rely on funding many are offered on a contract/temporary basis.
- 90% of these opportunities are offered on a full-time basis
- 85% of these roles advertised a salary between £30,000 £49,999
- Most roles were advertised in South East England, most likely because of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge

# **Scientist**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

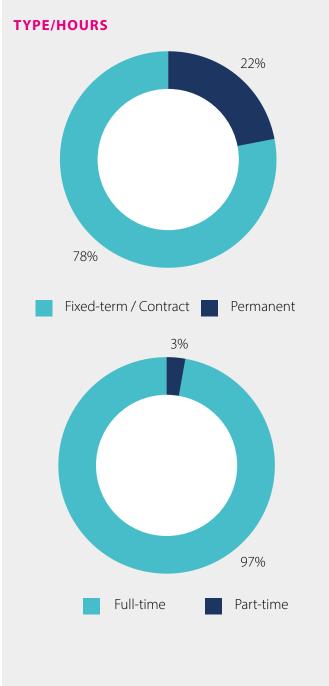
460 opportunities

**24**average advert length (days)



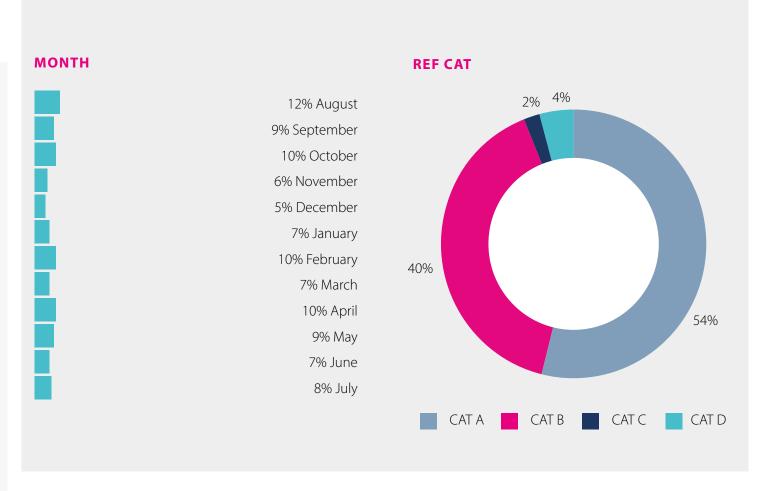
1% £60 - £69,999

1% £90 - £99,999



## **Scientist**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



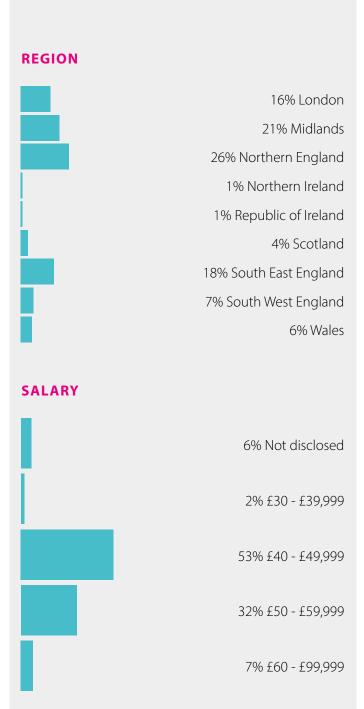
- This job area covers everything from general jobs like scientific officers to specialist roles such as geneticists
- This job area offers a higher % of contracted roles, yet provides more permanence than researchers, as they are less likely to be project based
- 44% of opportunities were for the South East of England
- 89% of these roles offer salaries £30,000 £59,999
- The majority of these roles are in academic categories A and B

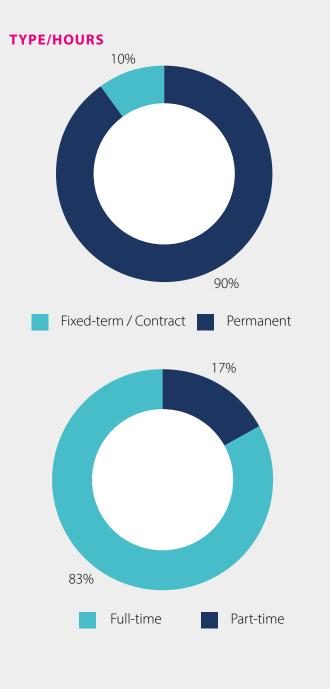
# **Senior Lecturer**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

1,112 opportunities

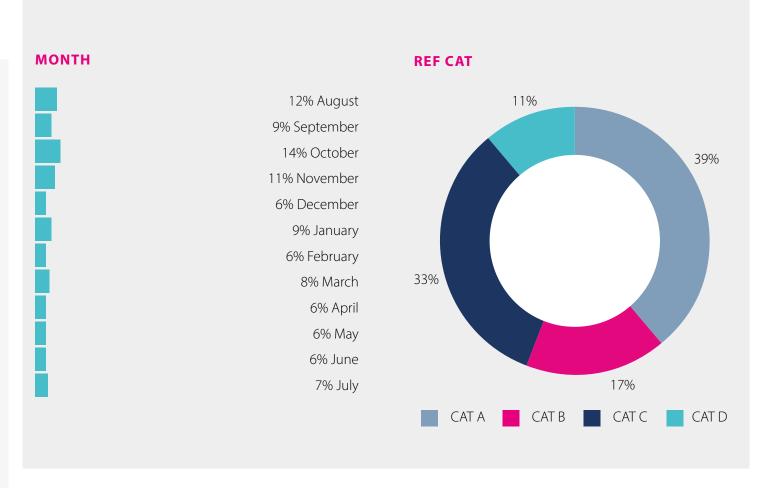
**24**average advert length (days)





## **Senior Lecturer**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



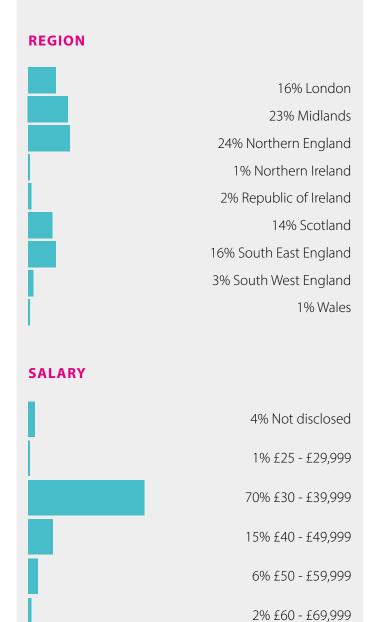
- Senior lecturers make up 4% of the academic opportunities advertised on jobs.ac.uk
- 90% of these roles are permanent (the more senior the role, the higher the % of it being permanent)
- Most senior lecturer roles were advertised in Northern England
- 85% of the salaries offered were between £40,000 £59,999

# **Teaching Associate** / **Fellow**

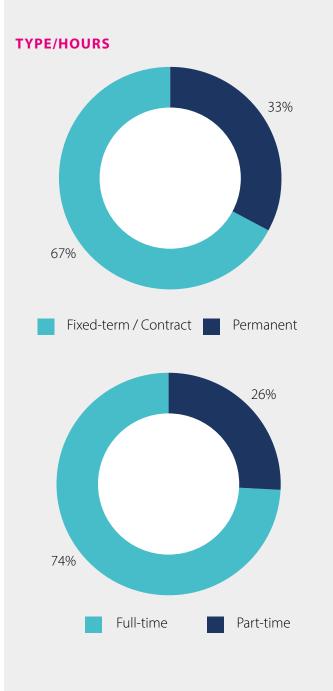
Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

668 opportunities

**21** average advert length (days)

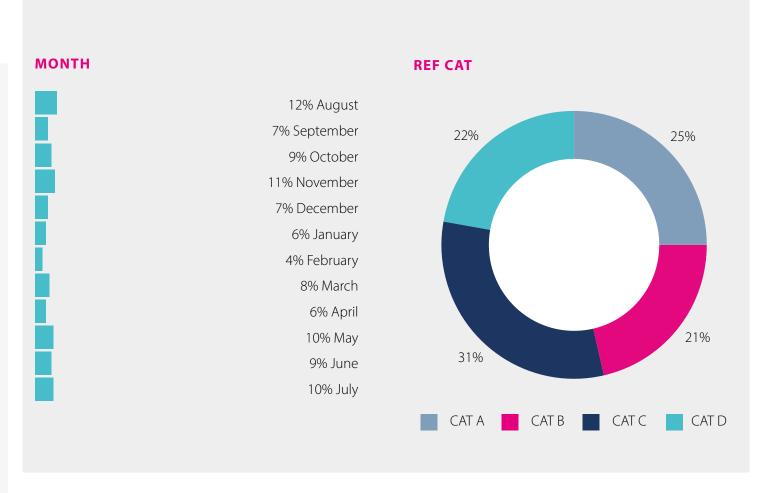


1% £70 - £79,999



# **Teaching Associate** / **Fellow**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- Teaching Associates and Fellows are postgraduate and doctoral students who teach undergraduate students and support lecturers and researchers
- Most opportunities are in CAT C
- 85% of roles are offered at £30,000 £49,999 salary levels

#### **Tutor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024

1,090 opportunities

23
average advert length
(days)

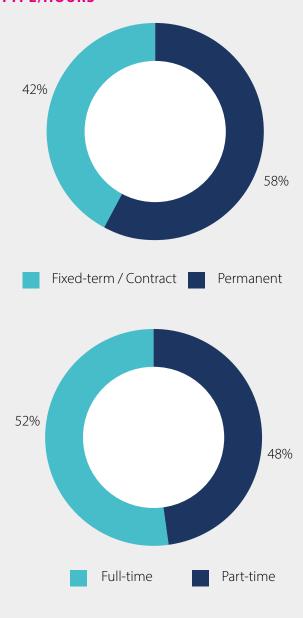
# REGION

17% London
11% Midlands
30% Northern England
4% Republic of Ireland
10% Scotland
17% South East England
4% South West England

#### **SALARY**

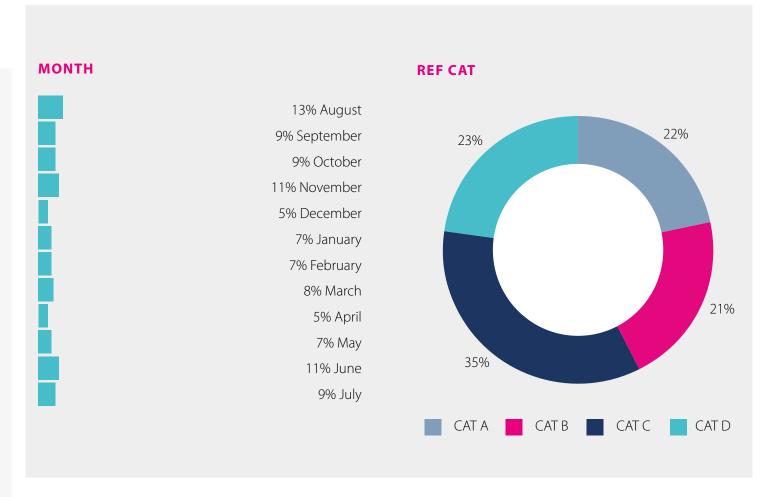


# TYPE/HOURS



## **Tutor**

Overview of all UK and Ireland roles placed on jobs.ac.uk in 2023/2024



- 'Tutors' in this instance reflects Tutors, Trainers, Instructors, Demonstrators, Mentors and Coach's.
- There is a very even balance of permanent and contracted and full and part-time roles.
- August was the busiest time for advertising job opportunities.
- 48% of these roles offer a salary between £25,000- £39,999 with some of these advertised at an hourly rate

# About jobs.ac.uk

Launched in 1998 by the University of Warwick, jobs.ac.uk is the leading global jobs board for careers in academic, research, science and related professions. From academic, research and managerial roles to PhD programmes and studentships, jobs.ac.uk advertises opportunities for organisations worldwide including universities, research institutions, colleges, charities and commercial organisations.

#### **OUR KEY STATISTICS**

173
million
user interactions<sup>1</sup>

31.1 million pageviews<sup>1</sup>

2.7 million apply clicks<sup>1</sup>

280K social media followers

**67K+** jobs advertised<sup>2</sup>

84% of top universities advertise with us<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>GA4 data (12 month estimate based on 1 Aug 2023 - 31st July 2024)

<sup>2</sup>jobs.ac.uk data 1 Aug 2023 - 31st July 2024

<sup>3</sup>QS World University Rankings

