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Great jobs for bright people

Jobseeker Insights PhD 2023

13% of visitors to jobs.ac.uk are looking for PhD

Executive summary

jobs.ac.uk attracts a diverse, experienced and well-educated audience across all disciplines. 13% of respondents were looking for PhD or Masters opportunities, with 55% actively searching and applying and 27% browsing but would apply if they found the right opportunity.

Health and Medical, followed by Engineering and Technology, and Business and Management Studies were the most popular subject disciplines.

Funding details remained the greatest deciding factor for 75% of respondents when considering a PhD. As well as an institution having a reputation for great research and encouraging diversity and inclusion.

The top reasons for respondents seeking a PhD is to pursue an academic career or making a significant contribution to the field of study or society.

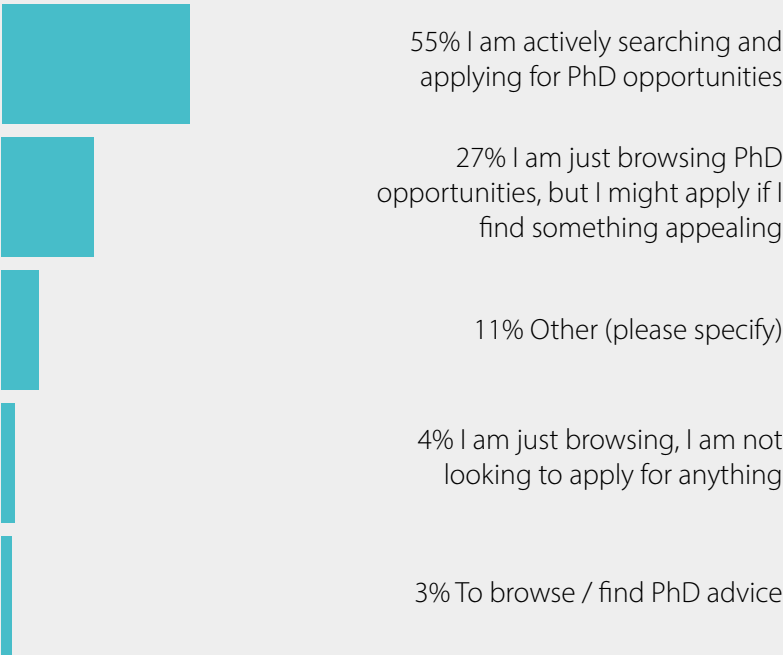
98% OF RESPONDENTS WOULD RECOMMEND JOBS.AC.UK TO A COLLEAGUE.

SEE HOW WE CAN HELP?

92% of candidates indicate that a clear job description is the most important part of an advert.

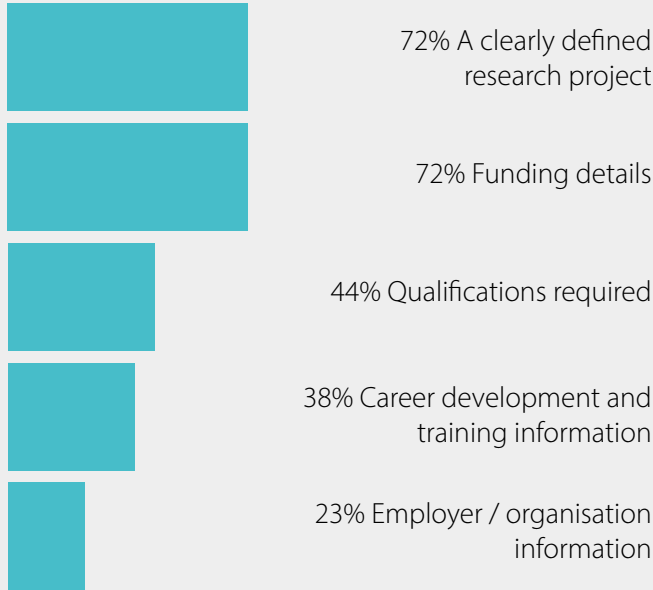
For support and guidance on getting the most out of your job advert, please get in touch on enquiries@jobs.ac.uk

WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON FOR YOUR VISIT TO JOBS.AC.UK TODAY?



PhD adverts and the recruitment process

APART FROM THE TITLE, SALARY AND LOCATION, WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN A PHD ADVERT? TOP 5 RESPONSES

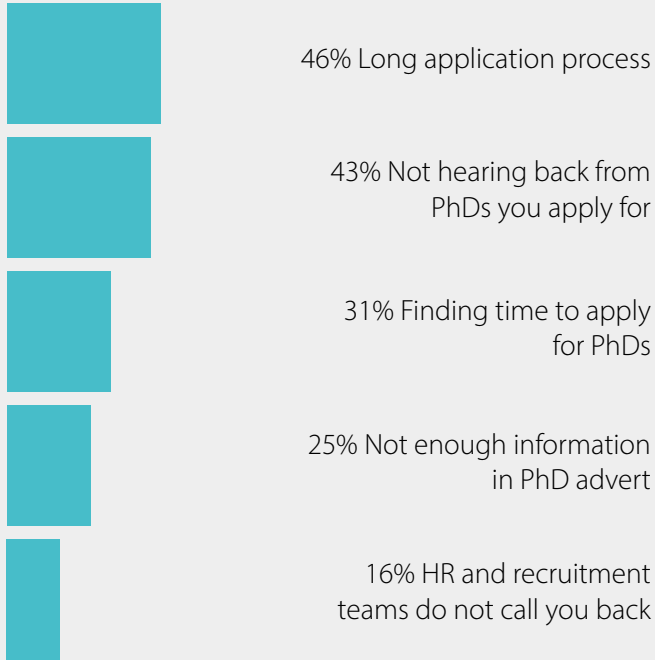


FULL REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

- When considering a PhD, Funding details remain the greatest deciding factor for 72% of respondents
- 72% prefer a job advert that contains a clearly defined research project
- 44% of respondents would also like to see information about the qualifications required for the role
- 46% of respondents are frustrated by the long application process

WHAT FRUSTRATES YOU MOST ABOUT THE PHD SEEKING PROCESS? TOP 5 RESPONSES



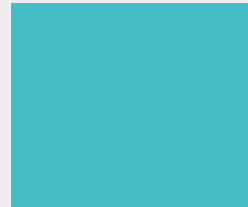
FULL REPORT

PhD adverts and the recruitment process

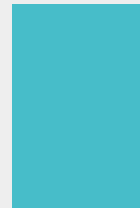
I PREFER A PHD ADVERT THAT... PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY



44% ...has a short description with a detailed description attached



71% ...contains all the job details, including job description and person specification



39% ...contains information about the employer as well as the role

DO YOU USE PHD EMAIL ALERTS WHEN SEARCHING ONLINE FOR A PHD?



23% I sign up for PhD alerts and only view PhDs that appear in my PhD alert emails



37% I sign up for PhD alerts but still search on a job board / online platform



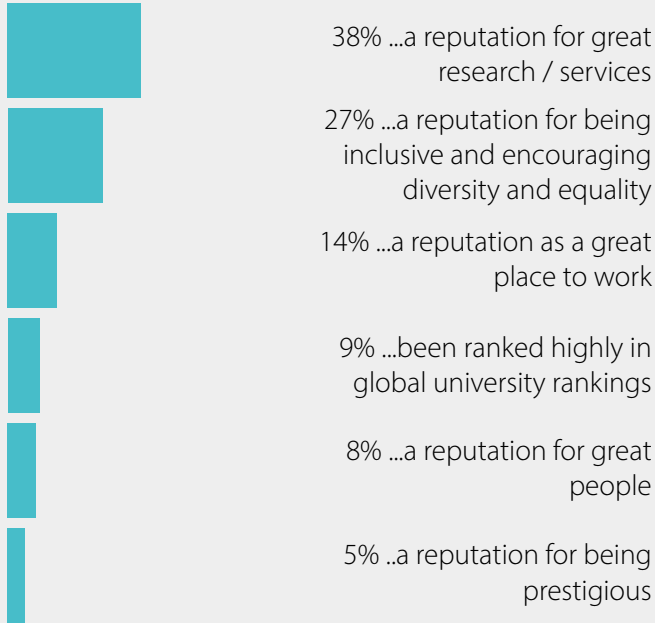
41% I do not sign up for PhD alerts

KEY FINDINGS

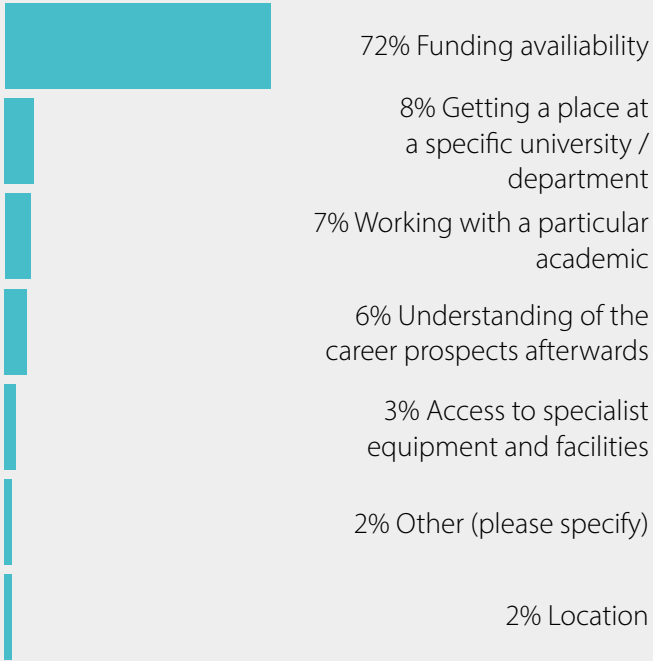
- 37% of respondents use our PhD email alert system but also search the site regularly
- 71% of respondents prefer the PhD advert to contain all the details including job description and person specification

PhD adverts and the recruitment process

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IF YOU WERE TO CONSIDER A PHD? THE EMPLOYER HAS....



WHAT WOULD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR IN DOING A PHD?



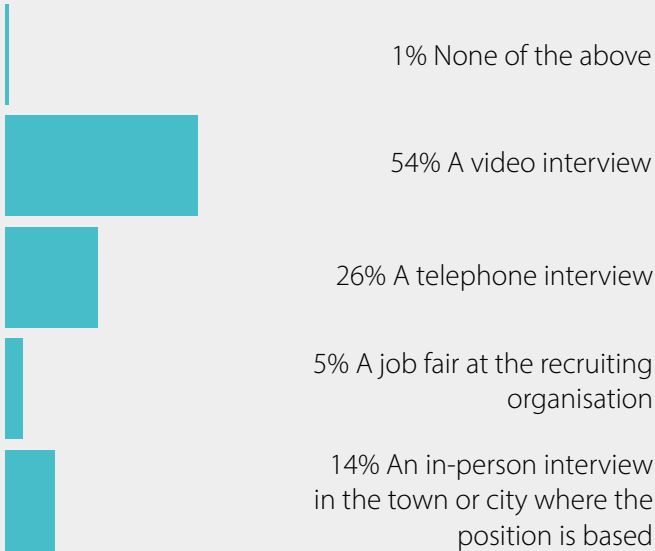
KEY FINDINGS

- The most important factor for the majority of respondents is that the employer has a reputation for great research
- Funding availability is the most important deciding factor in doing a PhD

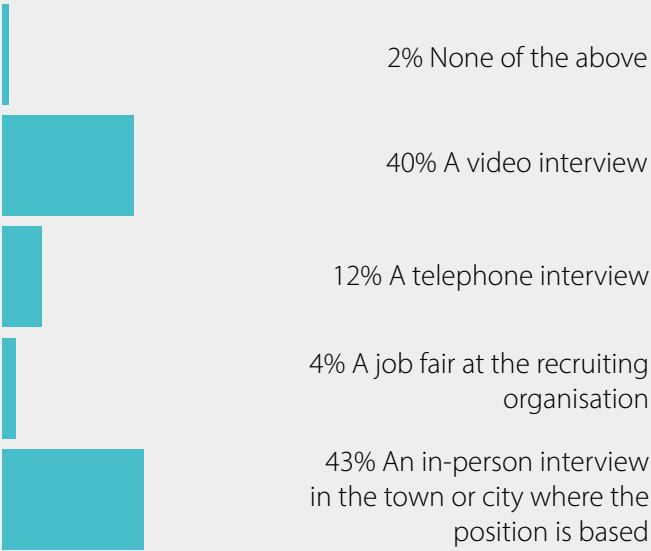
PhD interview preferences

WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED TWO-STAGE INTERVIEW METHOD FOR LOCAL PHDS?

FIRST INTERVIEW

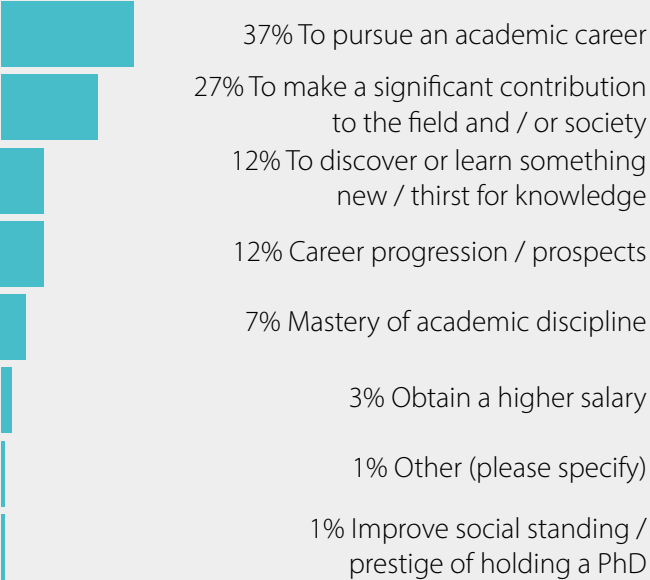


SECOND INTERVIEW

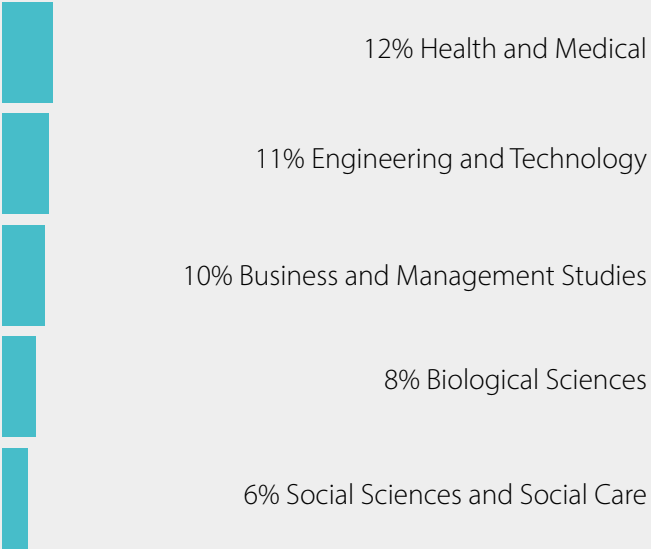


Jobseeker
information

WHY YOU ARE CONSIDERING DOING /
LOOKING FOR A PHD?



WHAT ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE DOES YOUR
RESEARCH INTEREST FALL INTO? TOP 5
RESPONSES



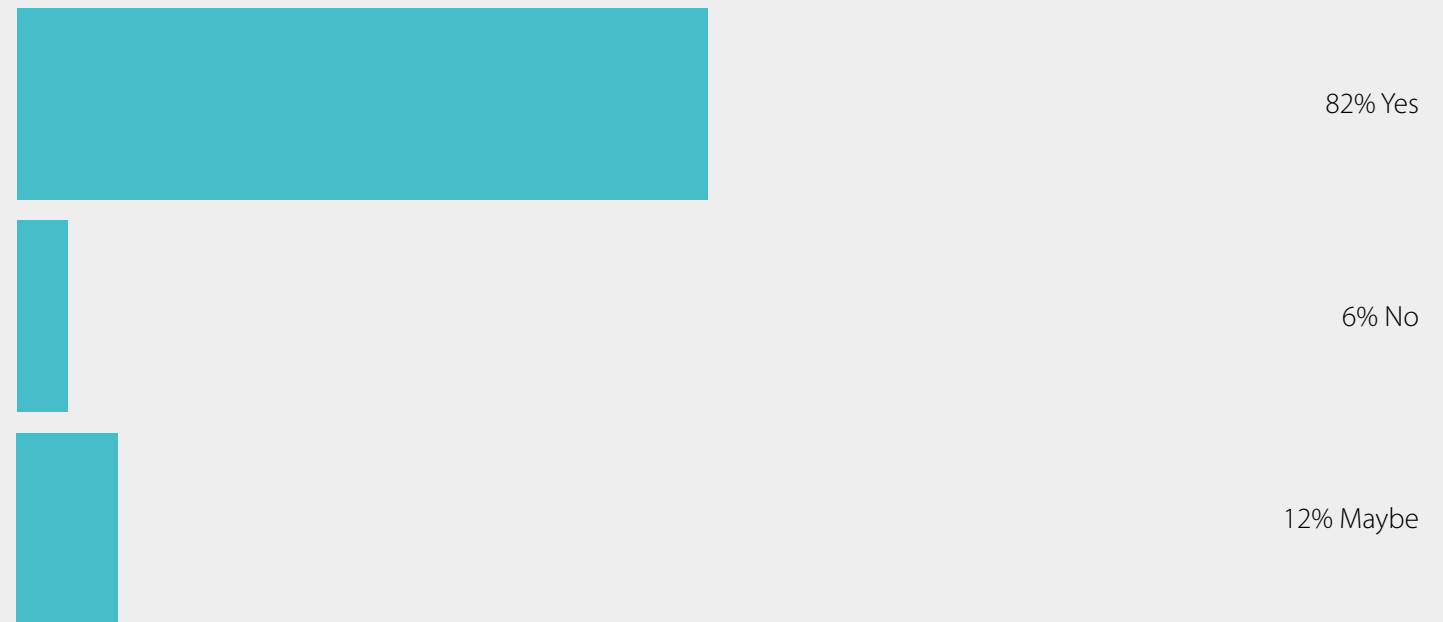
FULL REPORT

KEY FINDINGS

- 37% of respondents wish to pursue an academic career
- The top academic discipline for PhD seekers is Health and Medical

International mobility

WOULD YOU CONSIDER A PHD POSITION OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME COUNTRY?



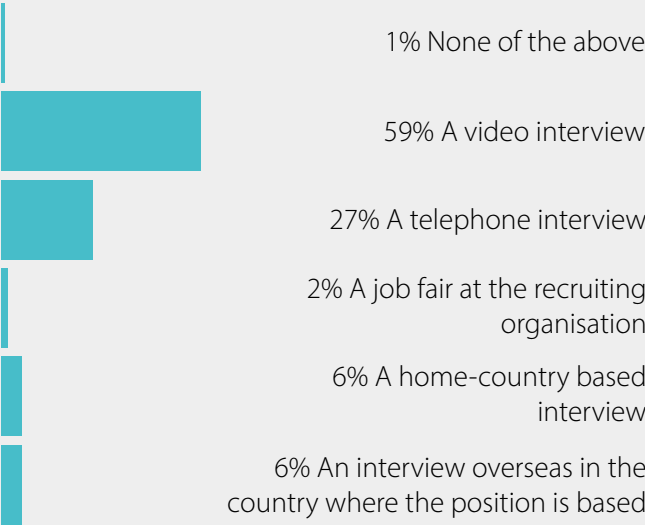
KEY FINDINGS

- The jobs.ac.uk PhD audience are highly mobile, with 82% of respondents stating they would consider a PhD outside of their home country

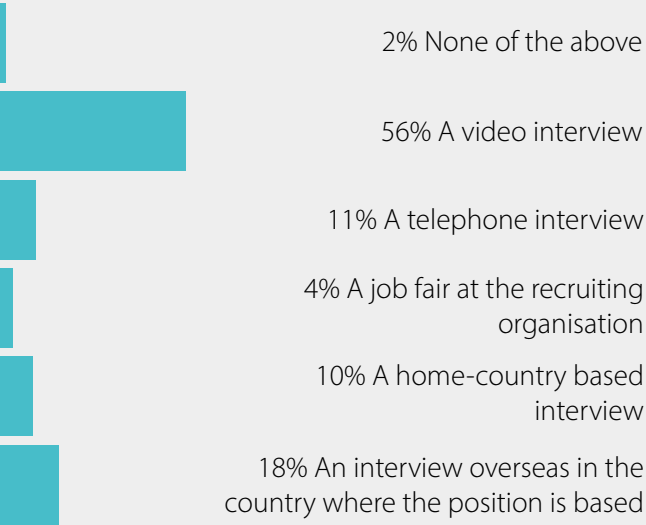
International
mobility

WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED TWO-STAGE INTERVIEW METHOD FOR OVERSEAS PHDS? PLEASE
SELECT ONE PER ROW

FIRST INTERVIEW



SECOND INTERVIEW

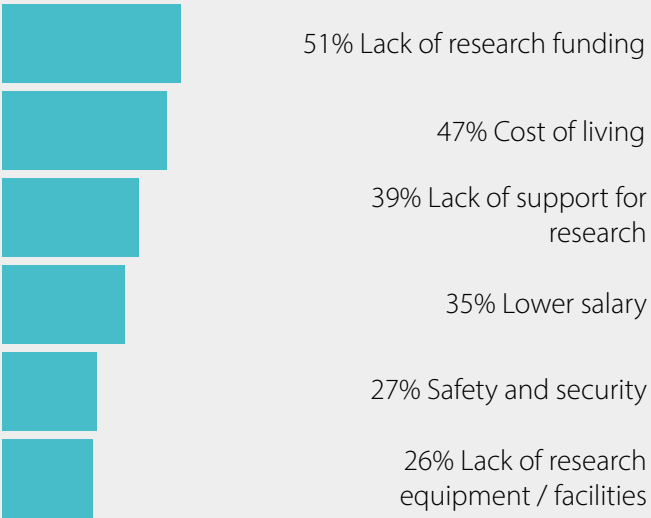


**International
mobility**

**WHAT FACTORS WOULD ATTRACT YOU
TO ACCEPT A PHD POSITION OVERSEAS?
PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

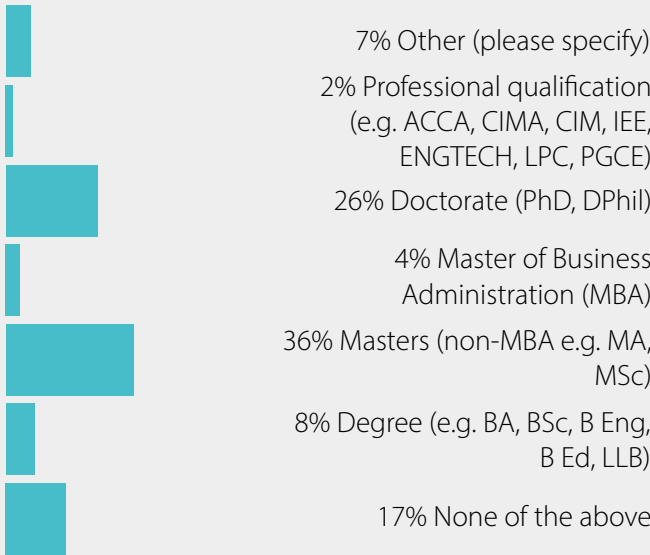


**WHAT FACTORS WOULD PREVENT YOU
FROM ACCEPTING A PHD POSITION
OVERSEAS? PLEASE SELECT ALL THAT
APPLY**

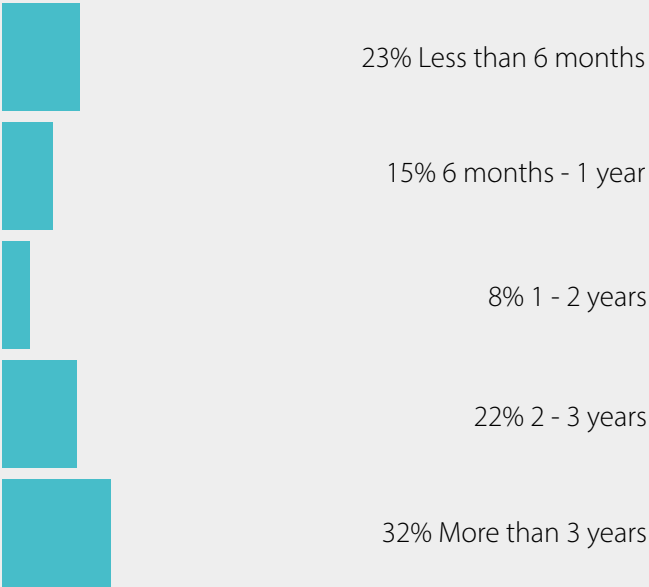


Education insights

WHAT UK OR EQUIVALENT
QUALIFICATION ARE YOU CURRENTLY
STUDYING TOWARDS?



HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE UNTIL YOU
COMPLETE YOUR PHD?

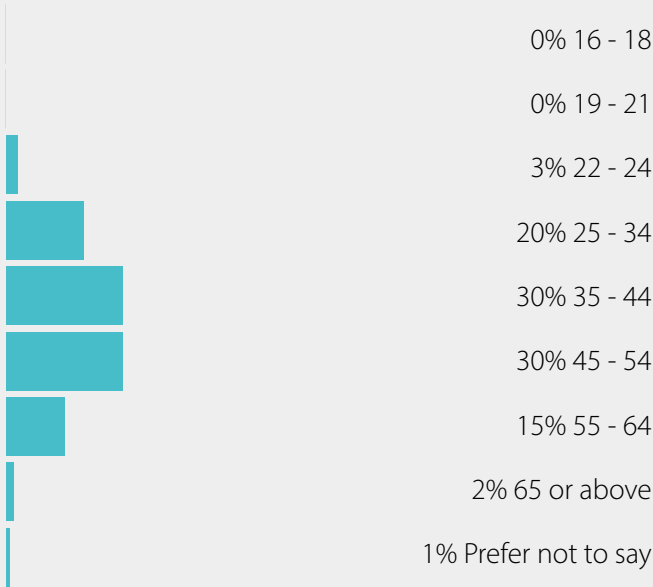


Jobseeker demographics

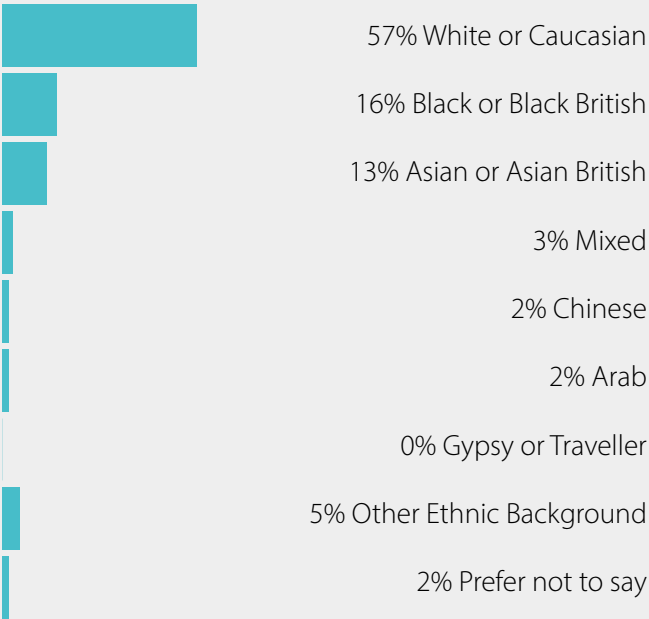
- The majority of respondents are between the ages of 35 and 54
- 11% consider themselves disabled
- 10% identify as LGBTQ+

Age groups and ethnic backgrounds

WHICH OF THESE AGE GROUPS DO YOU FIT INTO? PLEASE SELECT ONE



WHAT IS YOUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND?

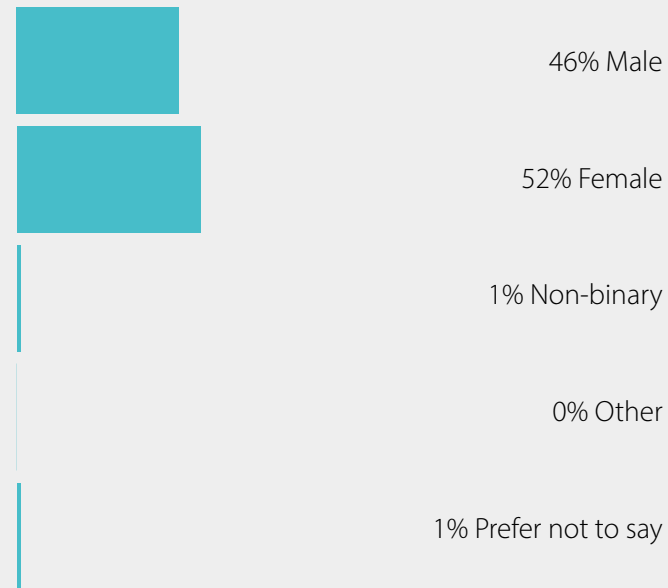


KEY FINDINGS

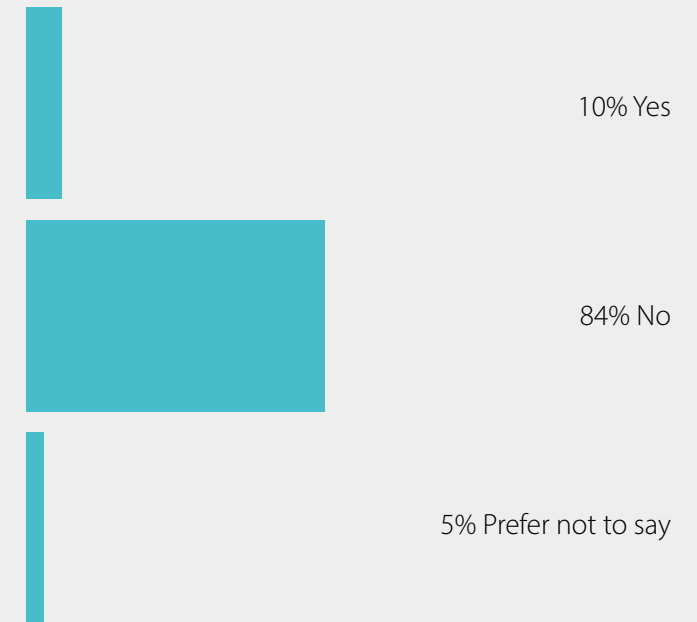
- jobs.ac.uk visitors are diverse in age, ethnic background and gender
- 95% of respondents are between the ages of 25 and 64
- 57% are Caucasian, 16% are Black, and 13% are Asian

Gender and sexual orientation

WHAT IS YOUR GENDER? PLEASE SELECT ONE



DO YOU IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+?



KEY FINDINGS

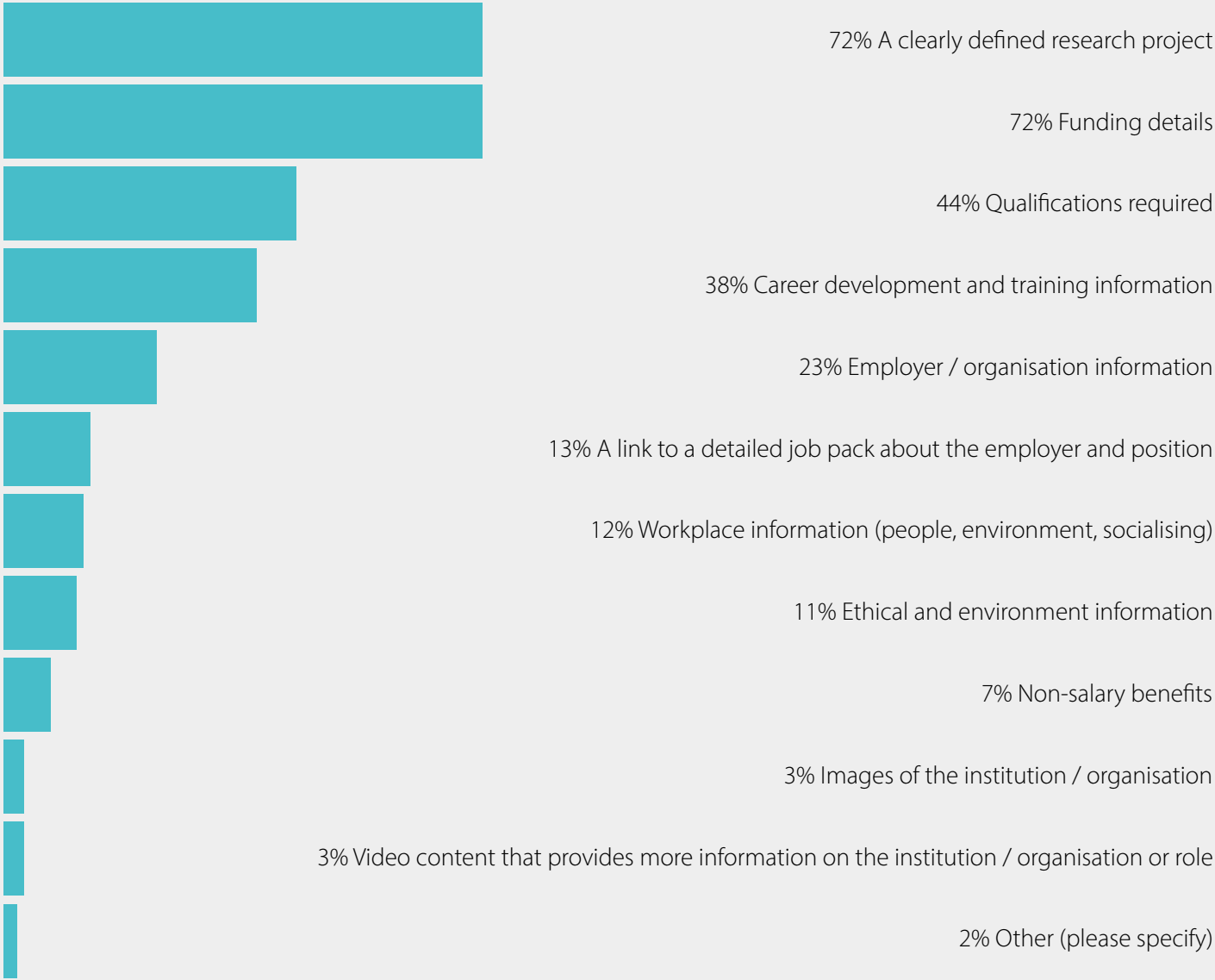
- Female jobseekers make up 52% of our audience, and 1 in 10 jobseekers identify as LGBTQ+.

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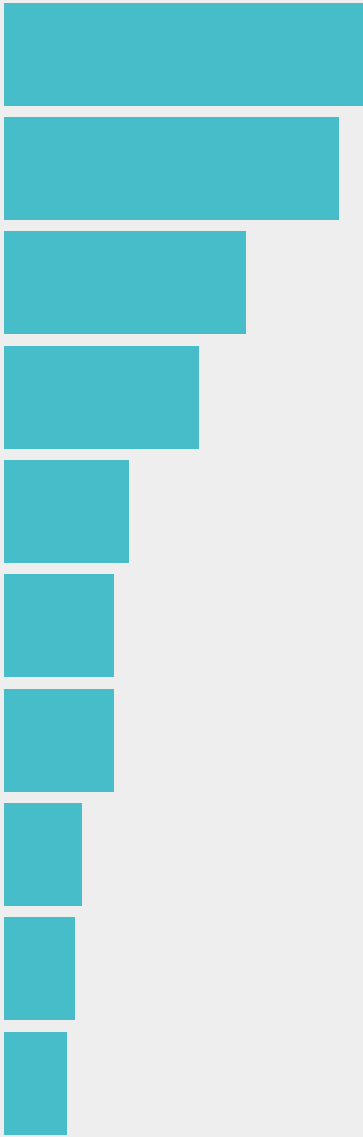
Appendix

APART FROM THE TITLE,
SALARY AND LOCATION,
WHAT ARE THE THREE
MOST IMPORTANT
THINGS IN A PHD
ADVERT?



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WHAT FRUSTRATES
YOU MOST ABOUT
THE PHD SEEKING
PROCESS? PLEASE SELECT
UP TO THREE ANSWERS



46% Long application process

43% Not hearing back from PhDs you apply for

31% Finding time to apply for PhDs

25% Not enough information in PhD advert

16% HR and recruitment teams do not call you back

14% Being sent irrelevant PhDs in email alerts

14% Poorly written PhD descriptions

10% Out of date PhDs

9% Paper application forms

8% No contact information in PhD advert

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WHAT ACADEMIC
DISCIPLINE DOES YOUR
RESEARCH INTEREST FALL
INTO? PLEASE SELECT
ONE OPTION



- 12% Health and Medical
- 11% Engineering and Technology
- 10% Business and Management Studies
- 8% Biological Sciences
- 6% Social Sciences and Social Care
- 6% Education Studies (including TEFL)
- 5% Other (please specify)
- 5% Psychology
- 4% Computer Sciences
- 4% Physical and Environmental Sciences
- 4% Law
- 4% Historical and Philosophical Studies
- 4% Agriculture, Food and Veterinary
- 3% Politics and Government
- 3% Creative Arts and Design
- 3% Languages, Literature and Culture
- 3% Architecture, Building and Planning
- 2% Mathematics and Statistics
- 2% Media and Communications
- 2% Economics
- 1% Information Management and Librarianship
- 0% Sports and Leisure

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