

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 <u>enquiries@jobs.ac.uk</u>

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

55% I am actively searching and applying for PhD opportunities

27% I am just browsing PhD opportunities, but I might apply if I find something appealing

11% Other (please specify)

4% I am just browsing, I am not looking to apply for anything

3% To browse / find PhD advice

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

FULL REPORT

WHAT FRUSTRATES YOU MOST ABOUT THE

PHD SEEKING PROCESS? TOP 5 RESPONSES

- 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

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

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

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

WHAT WOULD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR IN DOING A PHD?

72% Funding availiability 8% Getting a place at a specific university / department 7% Working with a particular academic

6% Understanding of the career prospects afterwards

3% Access to specialist equipment and facilities

2% Other (please specify)

2% Location

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

38% ...a reputation for great research / services

27% ...a reputation for being inclusive and encouraging diversity and equality

14% ...a reputation as a great place to work

9% ...been ranked highly in global university rankings

8% ...a reputation for great people

5% ...a reputation for being prestigious

PhD adverts and the recruitment process

- 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





Jobseeker information

WHY YOU ARE CONSIDERING DOING / LOOKING FOR A PHD?

37% To pursue an academic career 27% To make a significant contribution to the field and / or society

12% To discover or learn something new / thirst for knowledge

12% Career progression / prospects

7% Mastery of academic discipline

3% Obtain a higher salary

1% Other (please specify)

1% Improve social standing / prestige of holding a PhD

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

12% Health and Medical

11% Engineering and Technology

10% Business and Management Studies

8% Biological Sciences

6% Social Sciences and Social Care

FULL REPORT

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



KEY FINDINGS

• The jobs.ac.uk PhD audience are highly mobile, with 82% or 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

SECOND INTERVIEW





FIRST INTERVIEW

6% An interview overseas in the country where the position is based

International mobility



prospects

funding

facilities

culture



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?

7% Other (please specify) 2% Professional qualification (e.g. ACCA, CIMA, CIM, IEE, ENGTECH, LPC, PGCE) 26% Doctorate (PhD, DPhil)

> 4% Master of Business Administration (MBA)

36% Masters (non-MBA e.g. MA, MSc)

8% Degree (e.g. BA, BSc, B Eng, B Ed, LLB)

17% None of the above



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 ethic backgrounds

- 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



KEY FINDINGS

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



APART FROM THE TITLE, 72% A clearly defined research project SALARY AND LOCATION, WHAT ARE THE THREE **MOST IMPORTANT** 72% Funding details **THINGS IN A PHD ADVERT?** 44% Qualifications required 38% Career development and training information 23% Employer / organisation information 13% A link to a detailed job pack about the employer and position 12% Workplace information (people, environment, socialising) 11% Ethical and environment information 7% Non-salary benefits 3% Images of the institution / organisation 3% Video content that provides more information on the institution / organisation or role 2% Other (please specify) **BACK TO REPORT**

WHAT FRUSTRATES YOU MOST ABOUT 46% Long application process **THE PHD SEEKING PROCESS? PLEASE SELECT UP TO THREE ANSWERS** 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 **BACK TO REPORT**

11% Engineering and Technology 10% Business and Management Studies 6% Social Sciences and Social Care 6% Education Studies (including TEFL) 4% Physical and Environmental Sciences 4% Historical and Philosophical Studies 4% Agriculture, Food and Veterinary 3% Languages, Literature and Culture

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

BACK TO REPORT

12% Health and Medical

8% Biological Sciences

5% Other (please specify)

4% Computer Sciences

3% Politics and Government 3% Creative Arts and Design

2% Mathematics and Statistics

2% Economics

0% Sports and Leisure

2% Media and Communications

3% Architecture, Building and Planning

1% Information Management and Librarianship

5% Psychology

4% Law



Great jobs for bright people

UK AND IRELAND

Email: enquiries@jobs.ac.uk Tel: +44(0)24 7657 2839

INTERNATIONAL

Email: global@jobs.ac.uk Tel: +44(0)24 7657 4140

www.jobs.ac.uk

Warwick University Services Limited, jobs.ac.uk division is a limited company registered in England and Wales

Registered Number: 2936903 Registered Office: University House, Kirby Corner Road, Coventry, CV4 8UW VAT Number:GB 545 2700 58

