

jobs.ac.uk

Great jobs for bright people

PhD and Masters Talent Trends

An insight into UK and Ireland
higher education recruitment
2022/2023

Executive Summary

Numerous brilliant individuals across UK and Irish higher education institutions started their professional journeys by pursuing a Masters or PhD opportunity. These educational paths serve as vital platforms for emerging talents to refine their skills, exhibit their expertise in research and acquire the knowledge and practical experience necessary to address global challenges.

jobs.ac.uk advertise a wide range of Masters and PhD opportunities not only in the UK and Ireland but also worldwide.

This report provides a valuable perspective on the diverse opportunities available across various fields of study. It also offers a wealth of practical details, including details on locations and the months when these opportunities are advertised, as well as the distribution of positions between full-time and part-time options.

At jobs.ac.uk we've carried out an in-depth study to provide you with a greater insight into recruitment trends in this market. Our report takes a closer look at the 4,441 Masters and PhD opportunities placed on jobs.ac.uk from August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023 by UK and Irish higher education institutions. Our extensive report covers a wide range of information 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 funding. They can assess when it's best to advertise and how long for. They can also see breakdowns of 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 1,624 universities, research and public sector institutions, and commercial customers in 69 countries, jobs.ac.uk attracts 153 million user interactions per year, and 2.2 million 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

ABOUT OUR REPORT

- PhD is broken down as follows:
 - PhD Overall
 - PhD Discipline overviews
 - Masters
- Our data is purely based on the 4,441 Masters and PhD opportunities posted by higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland on jobs.ac.uk from 1st August 2022 to July 31st 2023
- Our top-level statistics state the actual 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

KEY FINDINGS

- 4,441 Masters and PhD opportunities were posted on jobs.ac.uk by UK and Irish higher education institutions from August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023
- 99% of PhD's overall are offered as full-time positions
- PhD opportunities on average attract 936 views
- For Masters, 21% of opportunities offered funding up to £19,999 with 60% of opportunities not disclosing the funding

PhD - Overall

Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

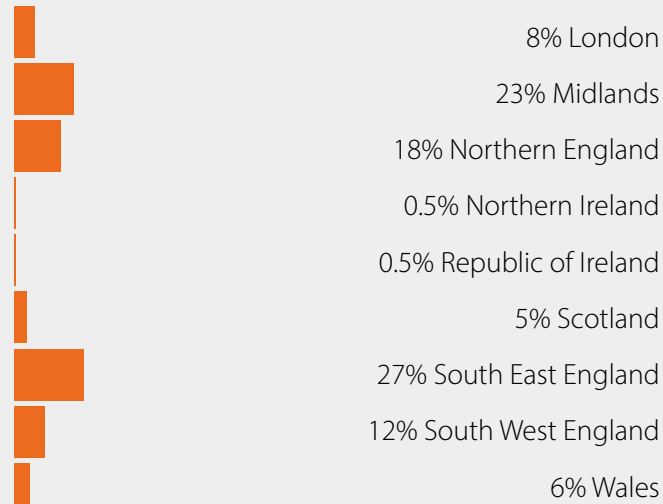
4,393
opportunities

936
average pageviews

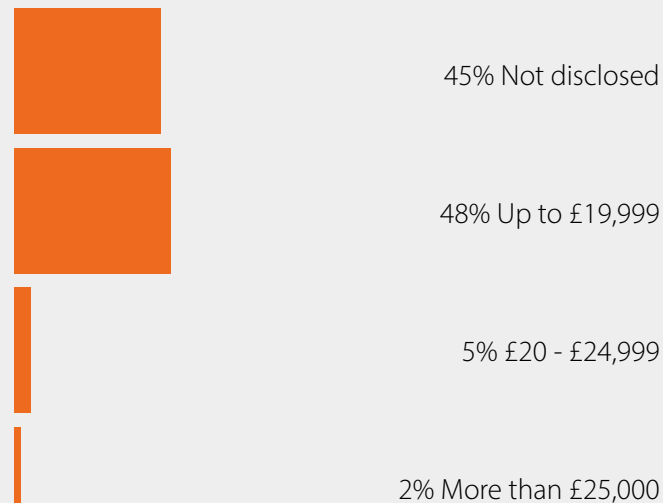
49
average advert length
(days)

25
average apply clicks

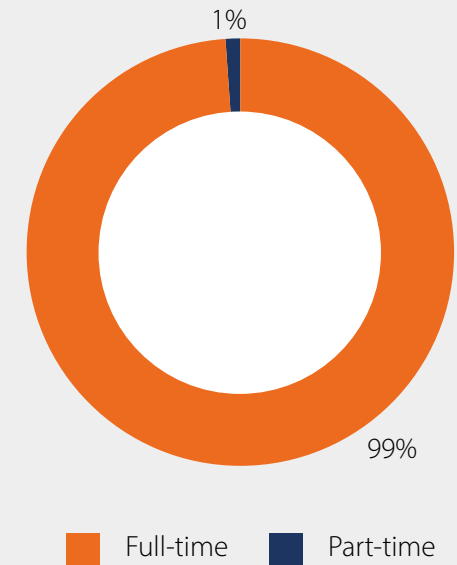
REGION



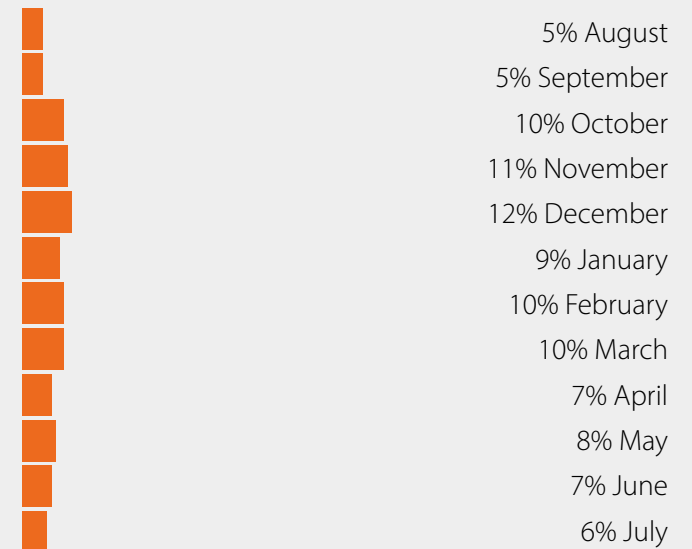
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



PhD - Overall

Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

KEY FINDINGS

- 4,393 PhD opportunities appeared on jobs.ac.uk between 1st August 2022 and 31st July 2023
- PhD roles make up almost 6% of the opportunities on jobs.ac.uk
- These opportunities tend to be advertised for a longer period of time (49 days) compared to other opportunities in higher education (24 days)
- These opportunities are spread out quite evenly throughout the UK with South East England top with 27% followed by the Midlands with 23%
- 45% of funding is not disclosed
- The average opportunity attracted 936 views

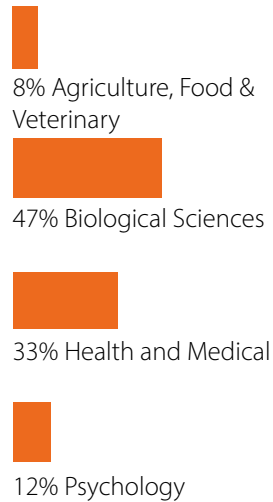
PhD Discipline Overview

A breakdown of the categories and academic disciplines.

Our four academic categories mirror the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 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 spans Biological Science and Computer Science it would feature in Categories A and B.

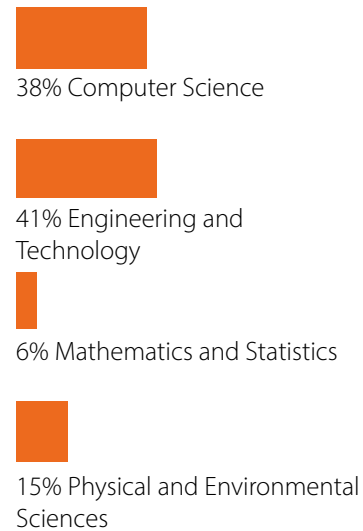
No. of adverts (Cat-A)

1,639



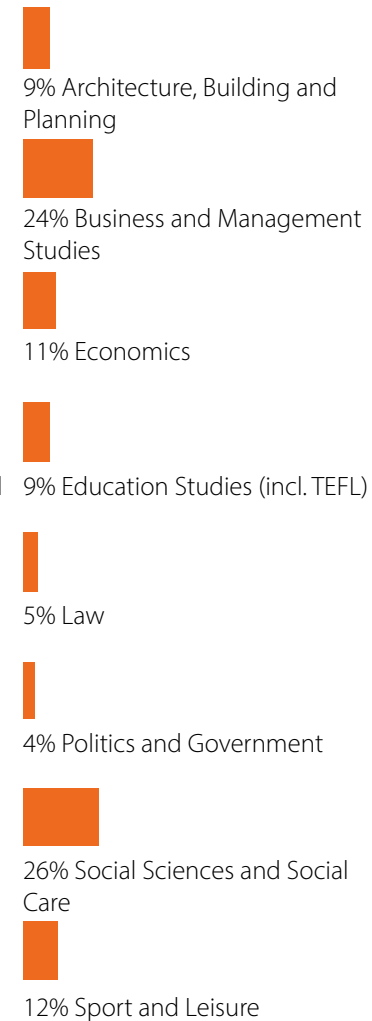
No. of adverts (Cat-B)

2,867



No. of adverts (Cat-C)

983



No. of adverts (Cat-D)

344



PhD - Discipline Overall

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

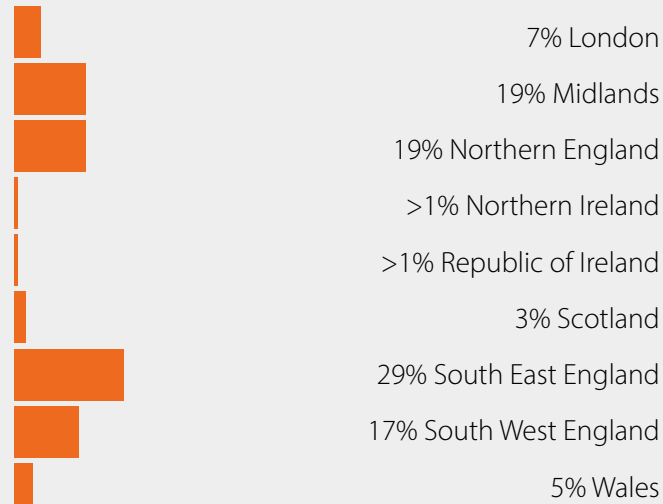
1,639
opportunities

845
average pageviews

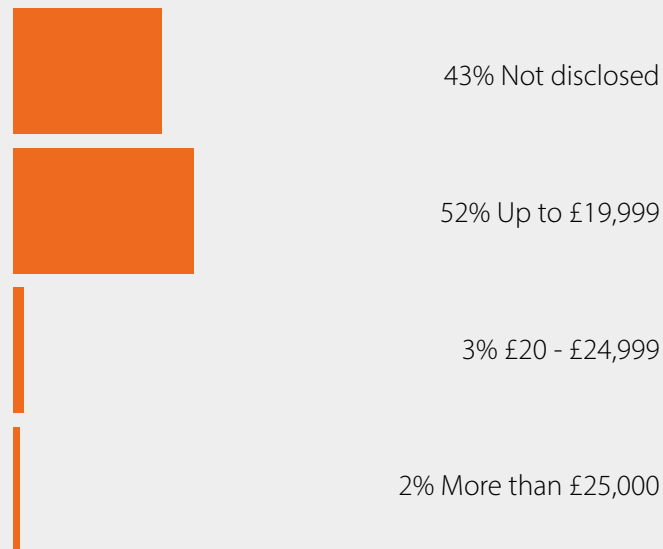
40
average advert length (days)

24
average apply clicks

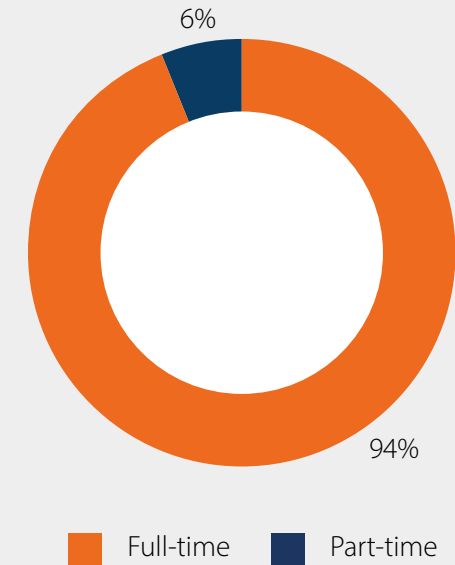
REGION



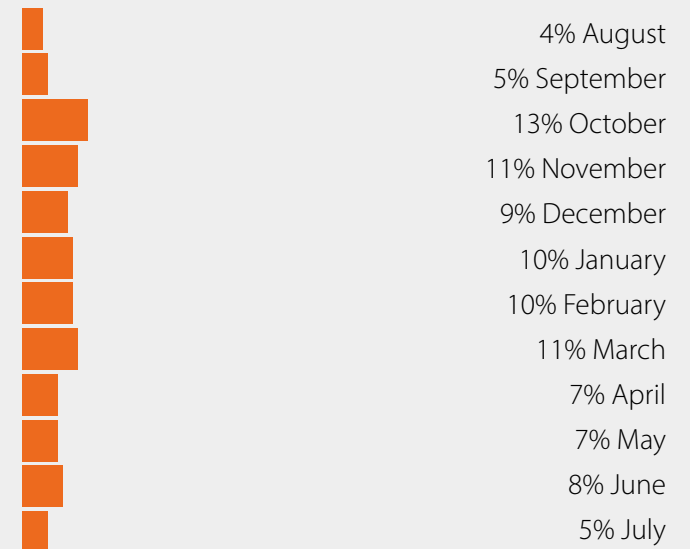
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



PhD - Discipline Overall

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

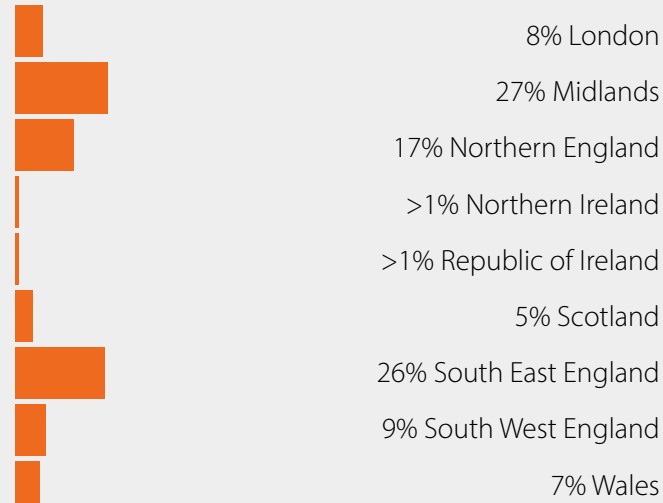
2,867
opportunities

852
average pageviews

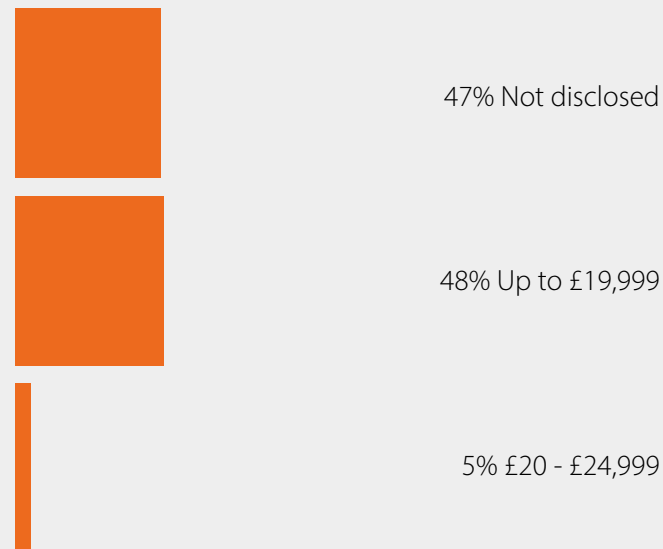
53
average advert length
(days)

21
average apply clicks

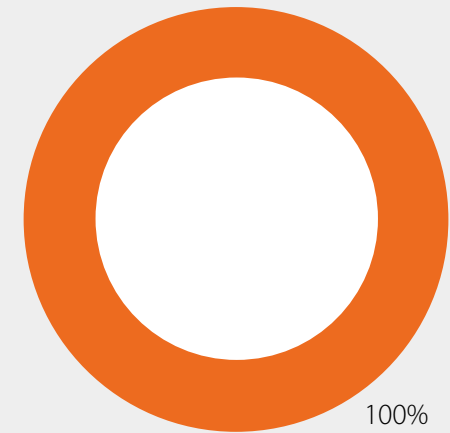
REGION



FUNDING

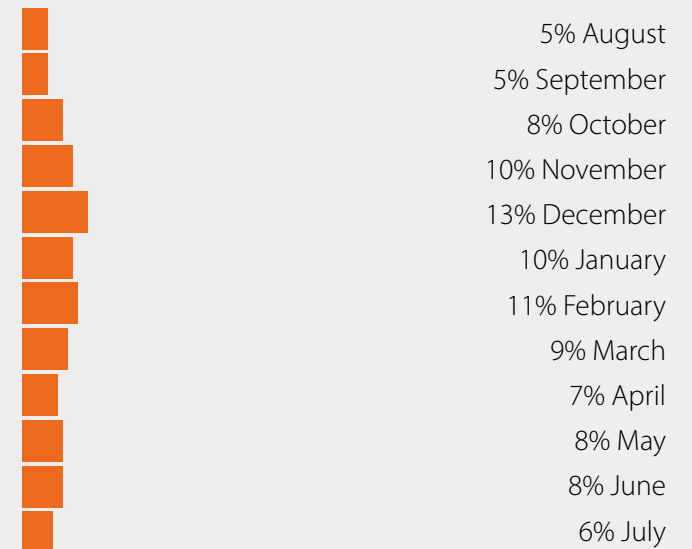


TYPE/HOURS



Full-time Part-time

MONTH



PhD - Discipline Overall

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

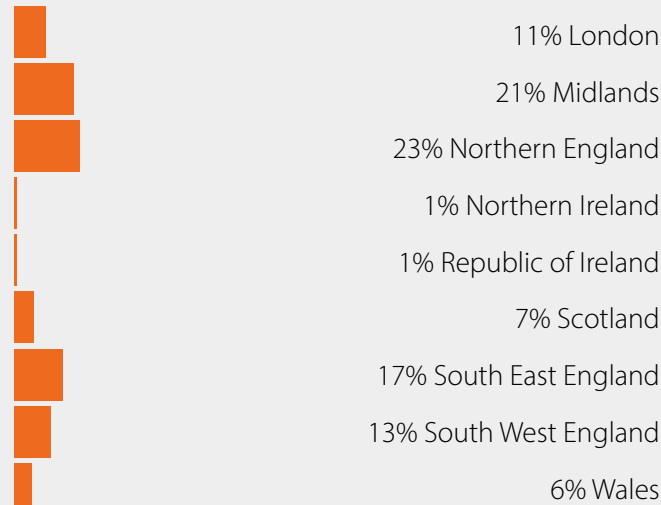
983
opportunities

1,428
average pageviews

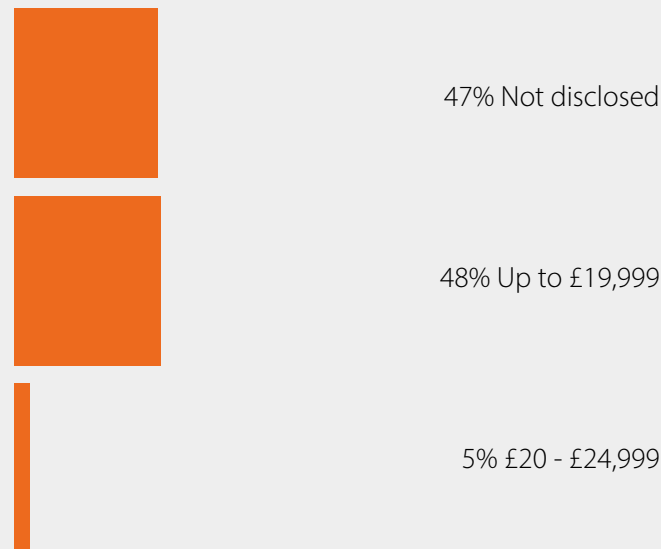
43
average advert length (days)

46
average apply clicks

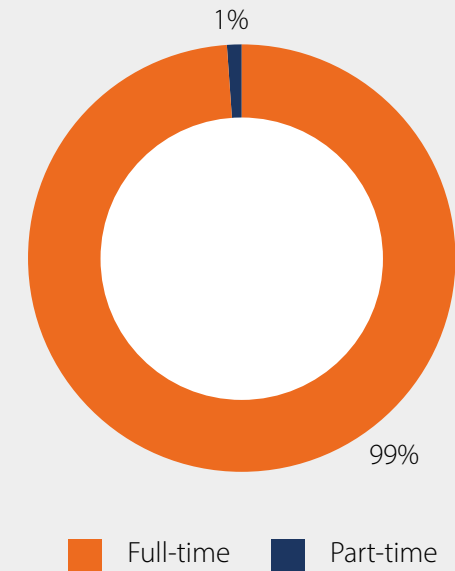
REGION



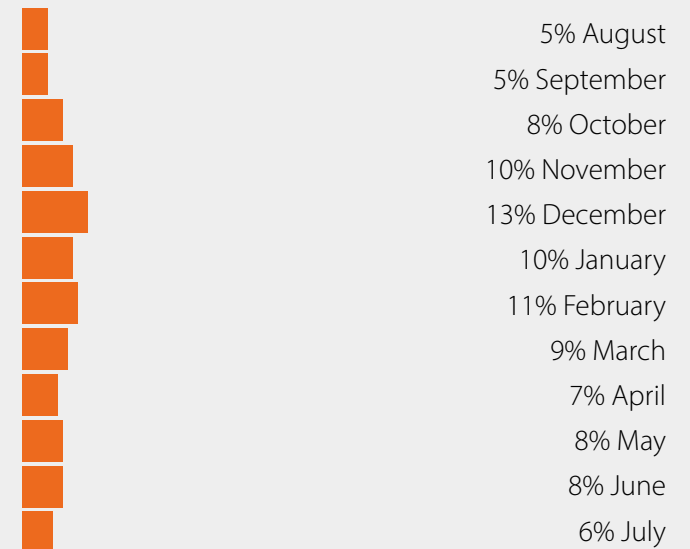
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



PhD - Discipline Overall

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

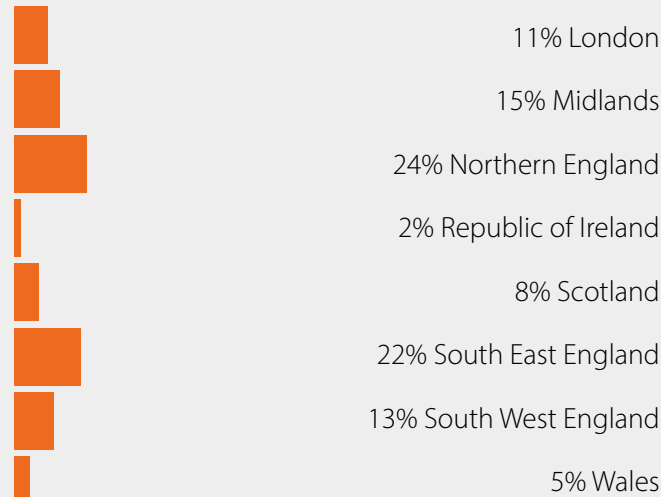
344
opportunities

1,773
average pageviews

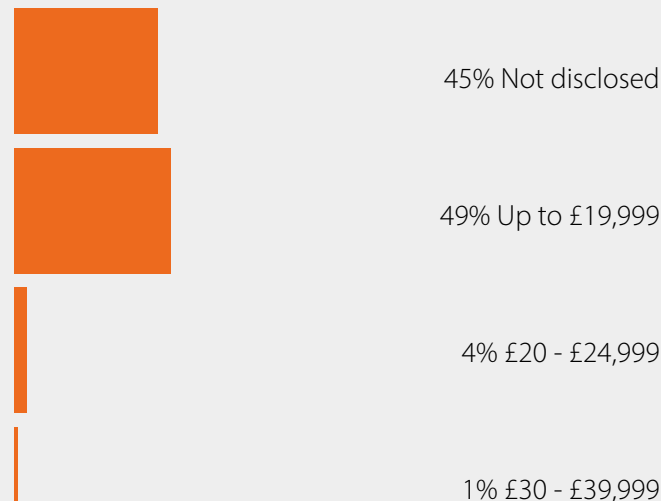
42
average advert length
(days)

46
average apply clicks

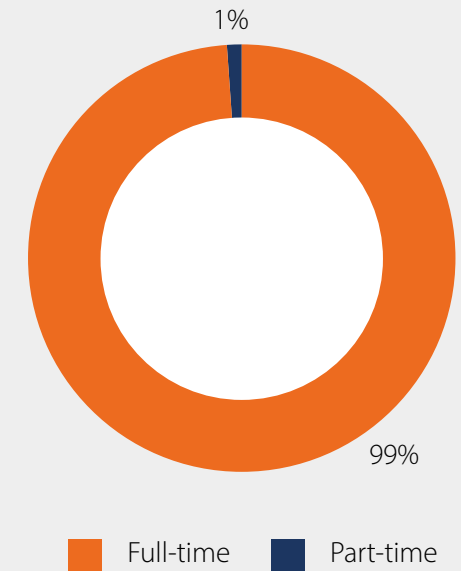
REGION



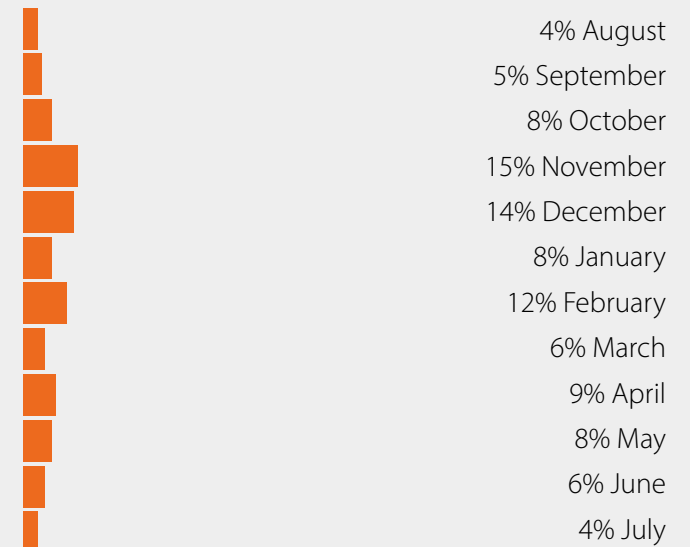
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS

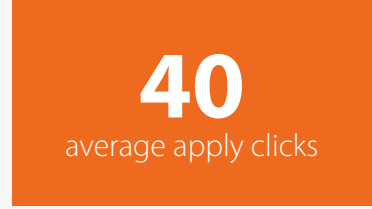
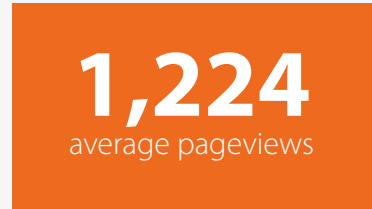
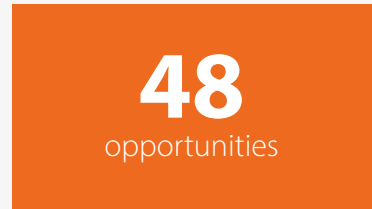


MONTH

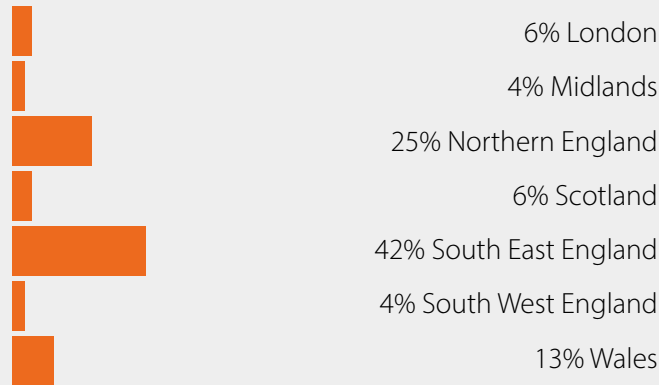


Masters

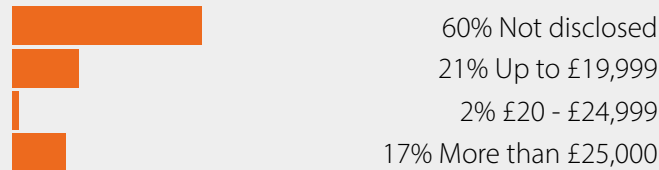
Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Republic of Ireland.



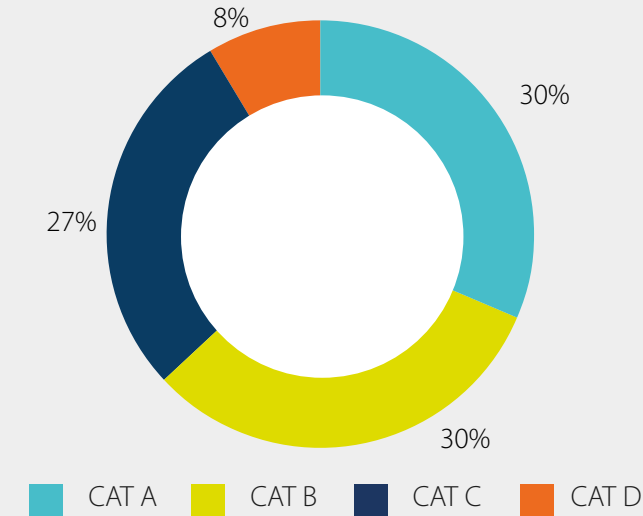
REGION



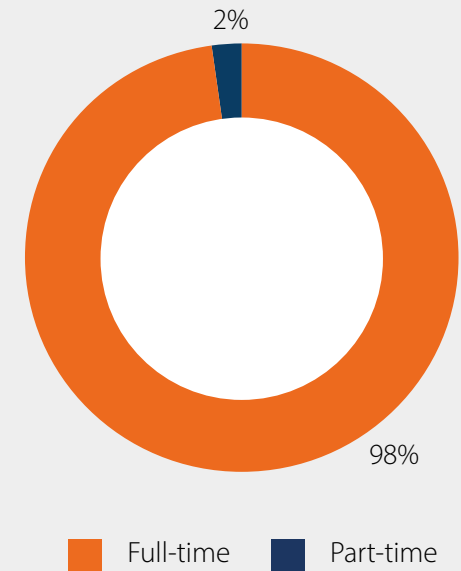
FUNDING



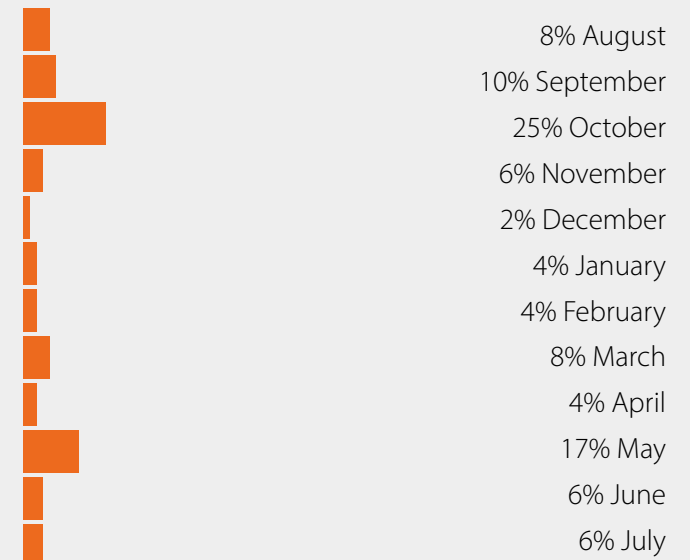
REF CAT SPLIT



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



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

153
million

USER INTERACTIONS¹

29
million

PAGEVIEWS¹

2.2
million

APPLY CLICKS¹

270K

**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS**

90,352

JOBS ADVERTISED²

80%

**OF TOP UNIVERSITIES
ADVERTISE WITH US³**

¹ GA4 data (12-month estimate based on 1 August 2022 -31 July 2023)

² jobs.ac.uk data 1 August 2022 -31 July 2023

³ QS World University Rankings

jobs.ac.uk

Great jobs for bright people

If you would like to discuss advertising options for your PhD and Masters opportunities please contact us.

CONTACT US

Email: enquiries@jobs.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)24 7657 2839

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