jobs.ac.uk

PhD & Master's Talent Trend Report

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

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Executive Summary

Searching and applying for a PhD offers numerous benefits for individuals seeking to advance their academic and professional careers. At jobs.ac.uk we've been helping students find and compare PhD opportunities and postgraduate research to start their professional journey for over 25 years.

One of the key benefits of searching for the right PhD program is the opportunity to align research interests with available projects and supervisors, ensuring a fulfilling and productive experience. As a leading job board in academia and research, jobs.ac.uk offers a range of PhD opportunities across various disciplines, from science and engineering to social sciences, politics and more. The search and application process for a PhD is a significant step in their PhD journey and at jobs.ac.uk we allow candidates to explore hundreds of programmes by discipline, funding and institution all in one place.

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 4,440 Master's and PhD opportunities placed on jobs.ac.uk from August 1st 2023 to July 31st 2024 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, 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

ABOUT OUR REPORT

- PhD is broken down as follows:
  - PhD Overall
  - PhD Discipline overviews
  - Master's
- Our data is purely based on the 4,440 Master's and PhD opportunities posted by higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland on jobs.ac.uk from 1st August 2023 to July 31st 2024
- 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

- 4,440 Master's and PhD opportunities were posted on jobs.ac.uk by UK and Irish higher education institutions from August 1st 2023 to July 31st 2024
- For Master's, 50% of opportunities offered funding up to £19,999 with 48% of opportunities not disclosing the funding
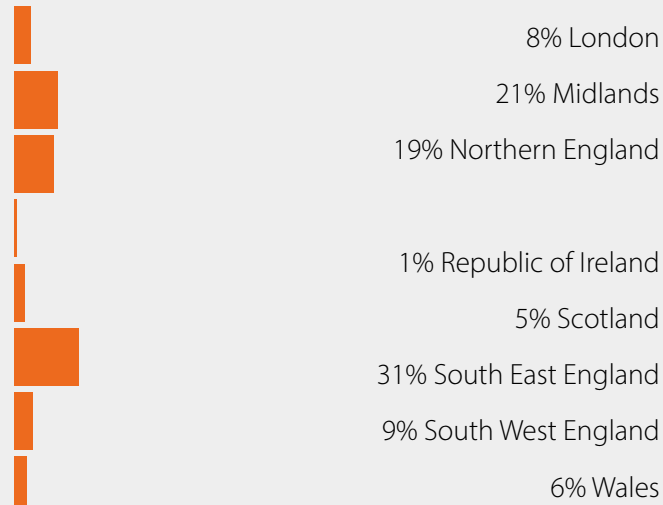
PhD - Overall

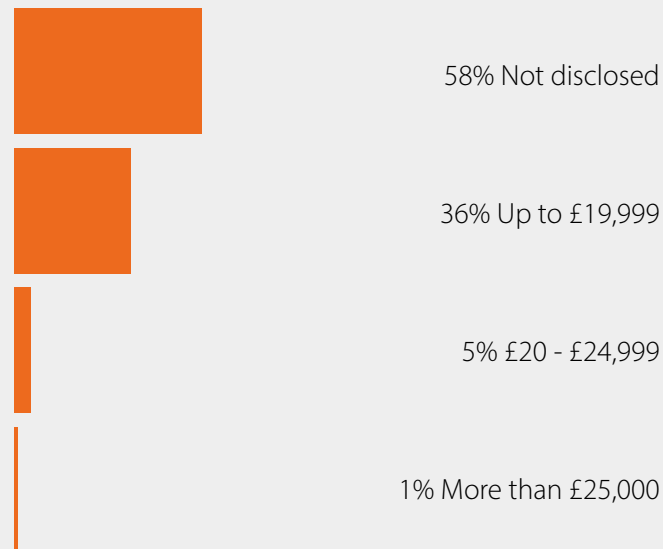Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Ireland.

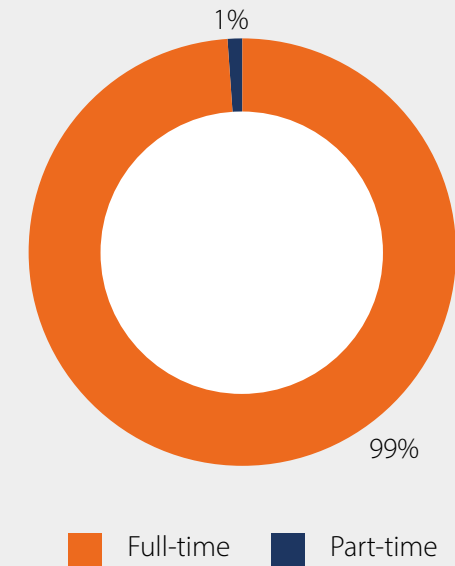**4,397**
opportunities
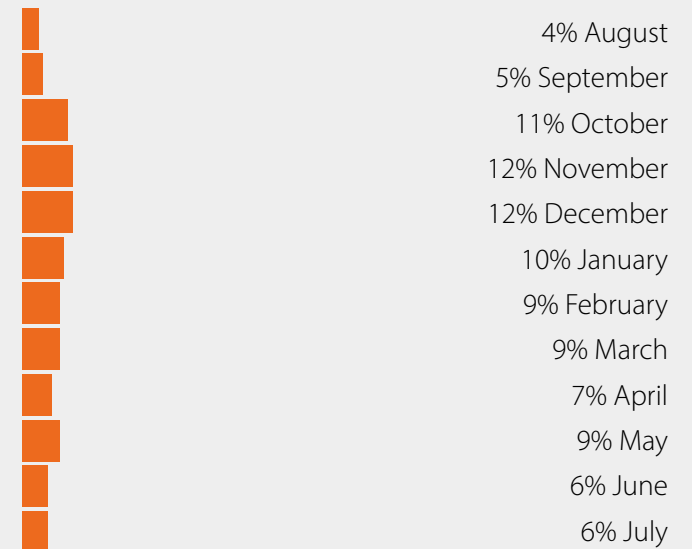
53
average advert length (days)

REGION

8% London

21% Midlands

19% Northern England

1% Republic of Ireland

5% Scotland

31% South East England

9% South West England

6% Wales

FUNDING

58% Not disclosed

36% Up to £19,999

5% £20 - £24,999

1% More than £25,000

TYPE/HOURS

1%

99%

Full-time   Part-time

MONTH

4% August

5% September

11% October

12% November

12% December

10% January

9% February

9% March

7% April

9% May

6% June

6% July

PhD - Overall

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

KEY FINDINGS

- 4,397 PhD opportunities appeared on jobs.ac.uk between 1st August 2023 and 31st July 2024

- PhD roles make up 8% of the opportunities on jobs.ac.uk

- These opportunities are spread out quite evenly throughout the UK with South East England top with 31% followed by the Midlands with 21%
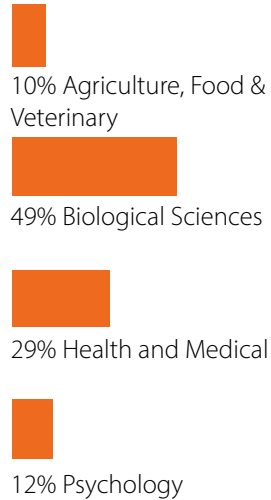
- 58% of funding is not disclosed

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.
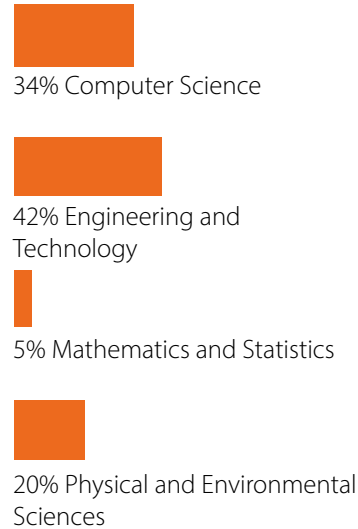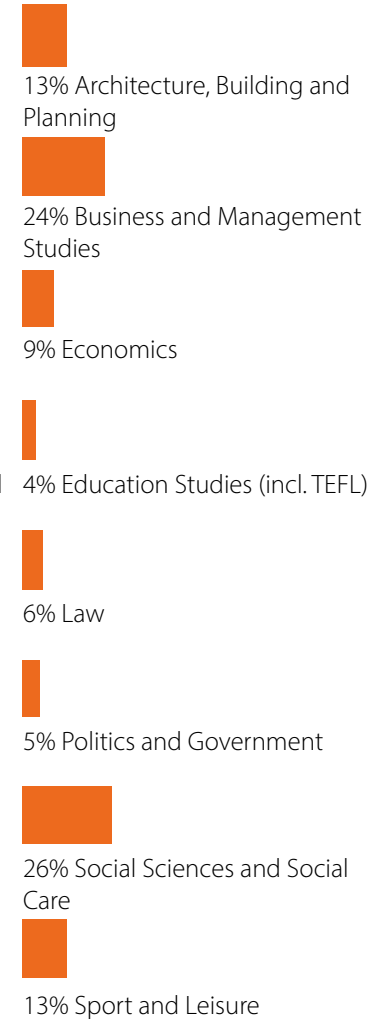
No. of adverts (Cat-A)
1,549

10% Agriculture, Food & Veterinary
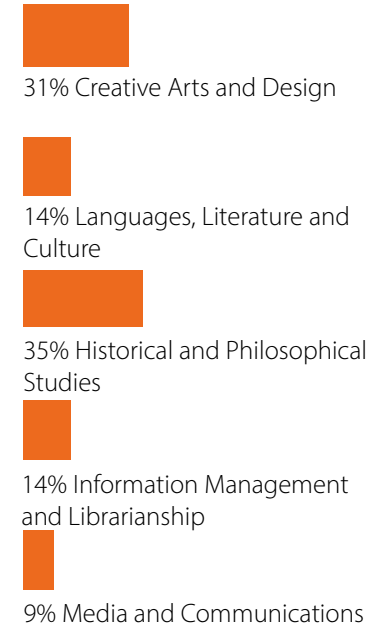
49% Biological Sciences

29% Health and Medical

12% Psychology

No. of adverts (Cat-B)
3,195

34% Computer Science

42% Engineering and Technology

5% Mathematics and Statistics

20% Physical and Environmental Sciences

No. of adverts (Cat-C)
701

13% Architecture, Building and Planning

24% Business and Management Studies

9% Economics

4% Education Studies (incl. TEFL)

6% Law

5% Politics and Government

26% Social Sciences and Social Care

13% Sport and Leisure

No. of adverts (Cat-D)
312

31% Creative Arts and Design

14% Languages, Literature and Culture

35% Historical and Philosophical Studies

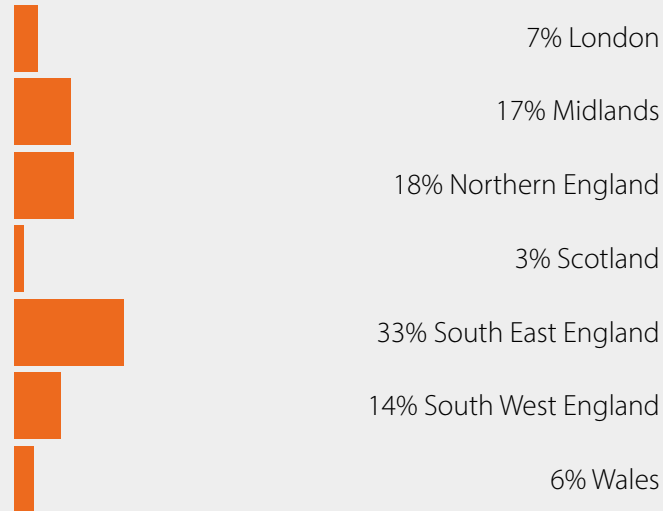14% Information Management and Librarianship

9% Media and Communications

PhD - Discipline Overall

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

1,549
opportunities
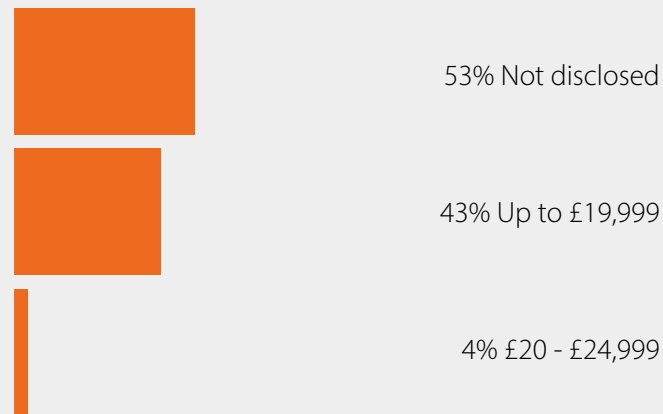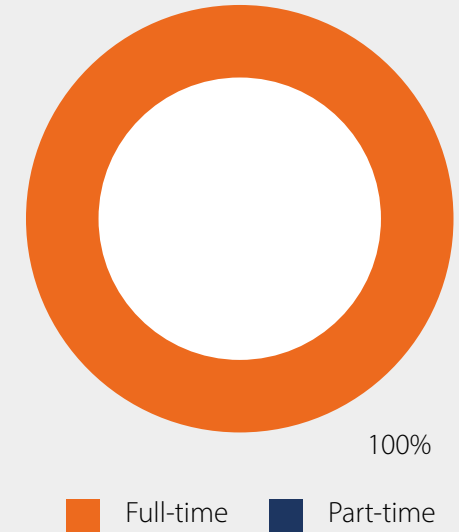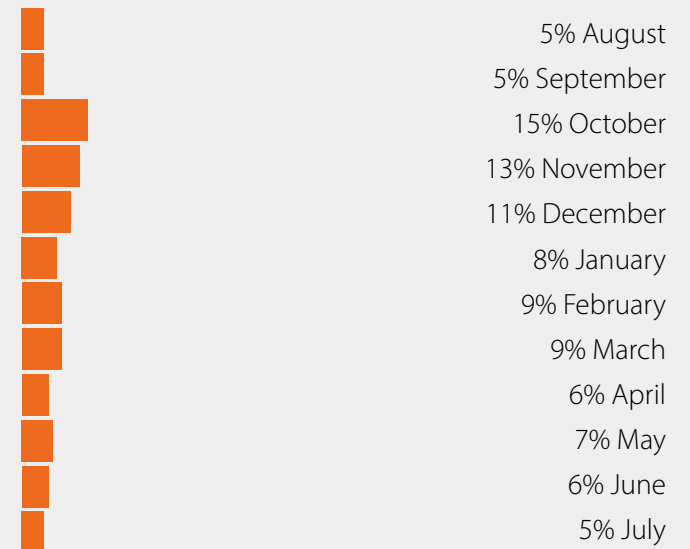
45
average advert length (days)

REGION

7% London

17% Midlands

18% Northern England

3% Scotland

33% South East England

14% South West England

6% Wales

FUNDING

53% Not disclosed

43% Up to £19,999

4% £20 - £24,999

TYPE/HOURS

100%

■ Full-time   ■ Part-time

MONTH

5% August

5% September

15% October

13% November

11% December

8% January

9% February

9% March

6% April

7% May

6% June

5% July

PhD - Discipline Overall

Category B - Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical and Environmental Sciences
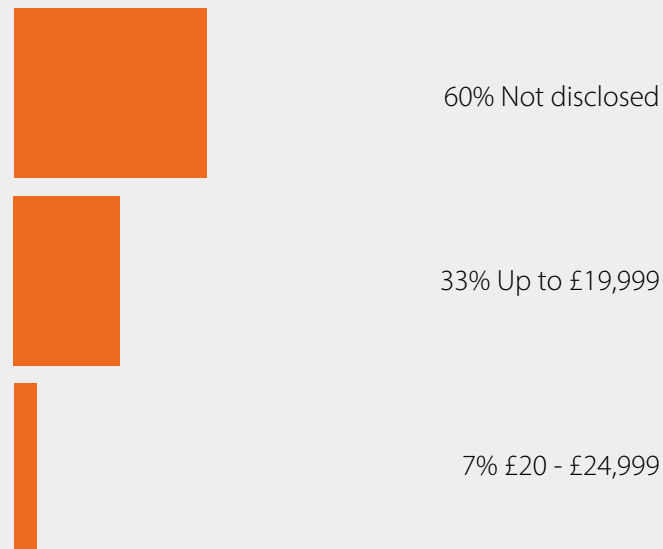
3,195
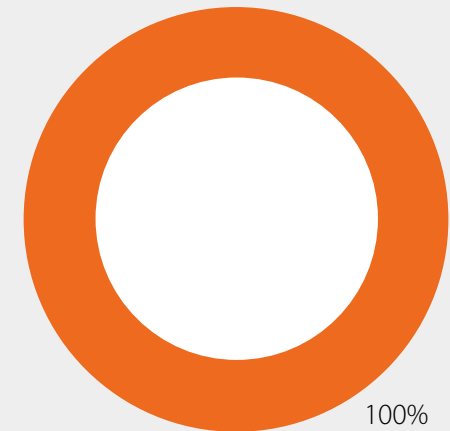opportunities

57
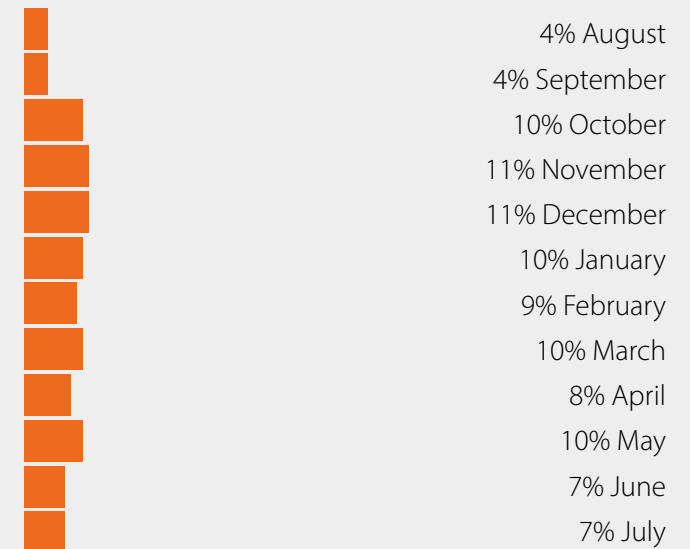average advert length (days)

REGION

7% London

23% Midlands

18% Northern England

5% Scotland

33% South East England

7% South West England

6% Wales

FUNDING

60% Not disclosed

33% Up to £19,999

7% £20 - £24,999

TYPE/HOURS

100%

■ Full-time   ■ Part-time

MONTH

4% August

4% September

10% October

11% November

11% December

10% January

9% February

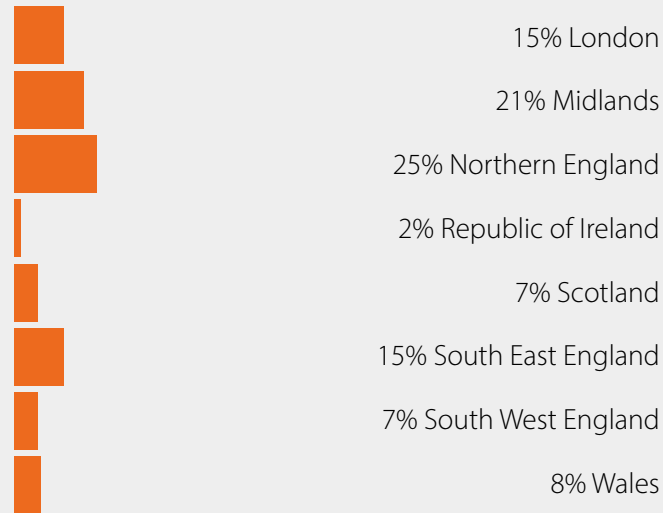10% March

8% April

10% May

7% June

7% July
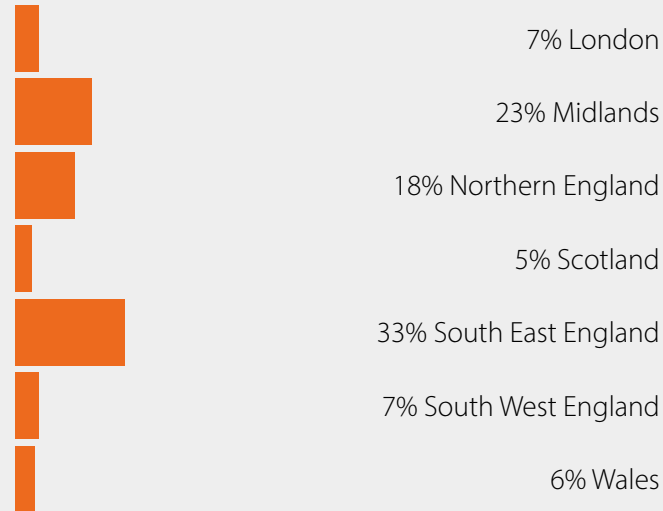
PhD - Discipline Overall

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
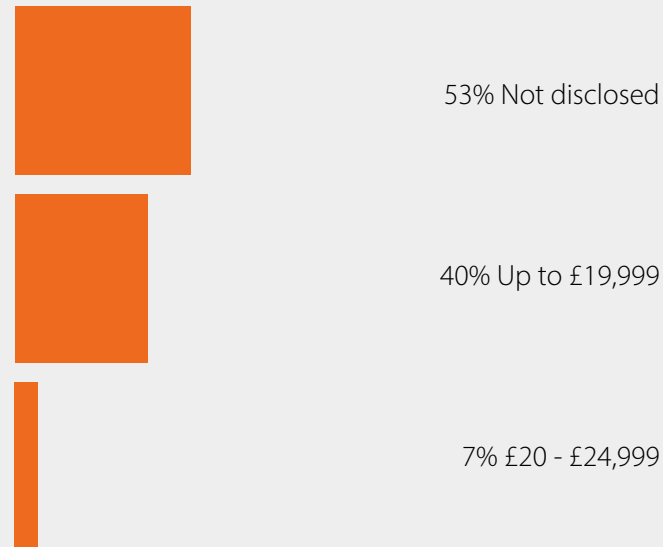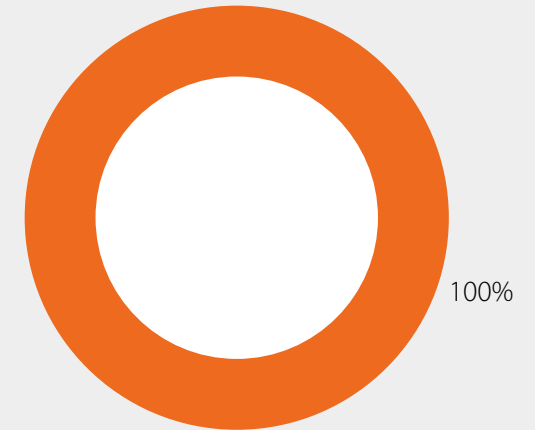
701
opportunities

44
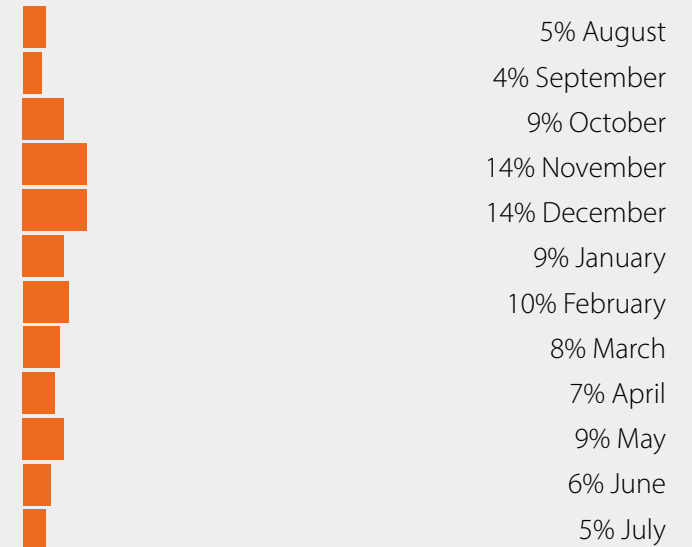average advert length (days)

REGION

15% London

21% Midlands

25% Northern England

2% Republic of Ireland

7% Scotland

15% South East England

7% South West England

8% Wales

FUNDING

53% Not disclosed

40% Up to £19,999

7% £20 - £24,999

TYPE/HOURS

100%

■ Full-time   ■ Part-time

MONTH

5% August

4% September

9% October

14% November

14% December

9% January

10% February

8% March

7% April
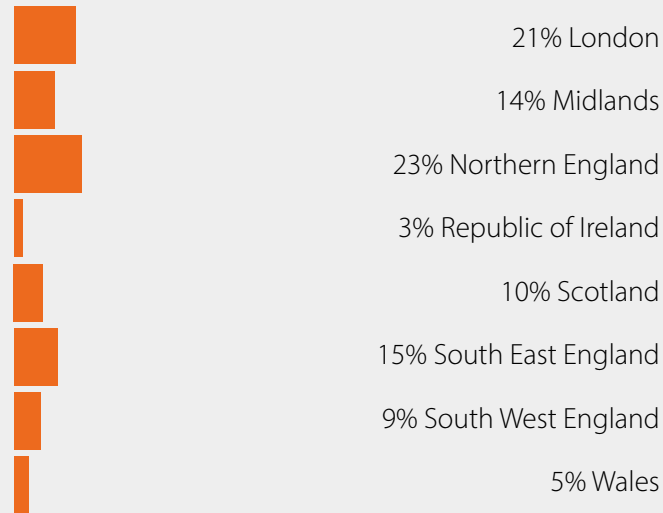
9% May

6% June

5% July

PhD - Discipline Overall

Category D - Creative Arts and Design, Languages, Literature and Culture, Historical and Philosophical Studies, Information Management and Librarianship, Media and Communications
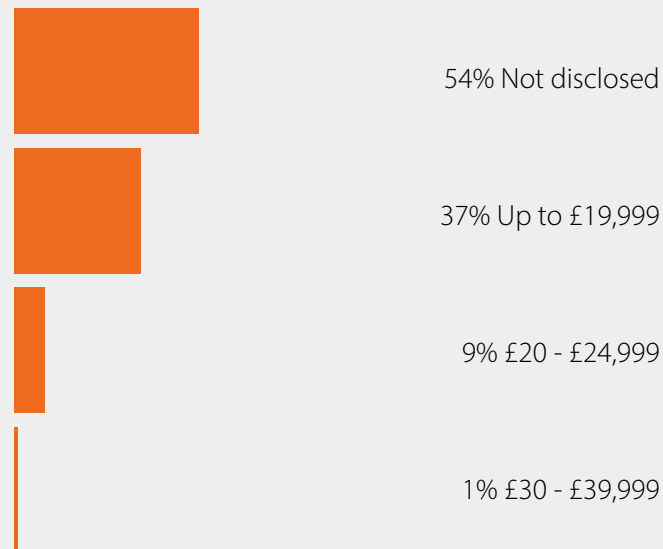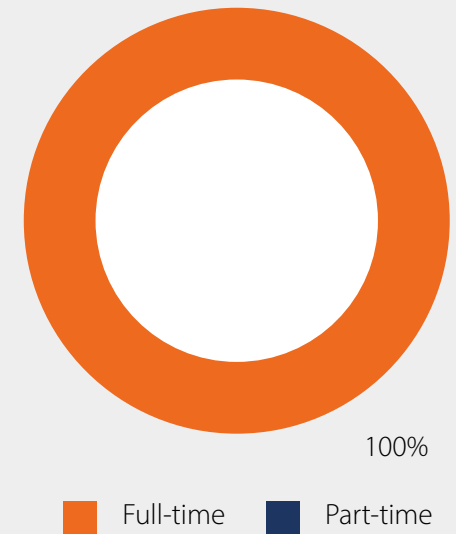
312
opportunities

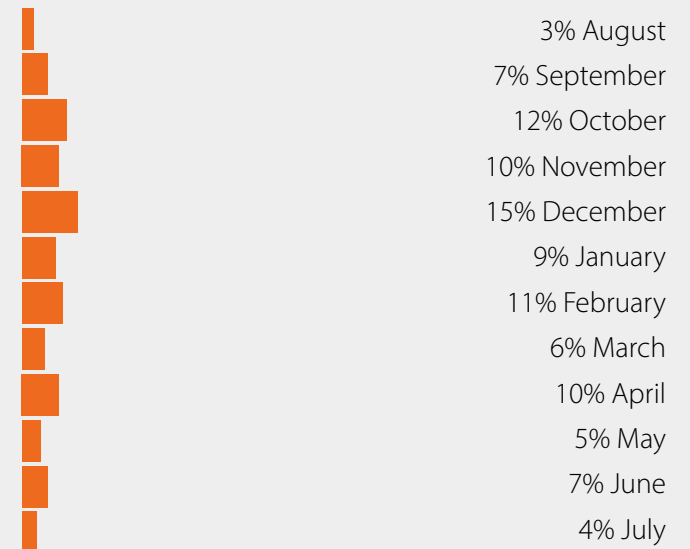**43**
average advert length (days)

REGION

21% London

14% Midlands

23% Northern England

3% Republic of Ireland

10% Scotland

15% South East England

9% South West England

5% Wales

FUNDING

54% Not disclosed

37% Up to £19,999

9% £20 - £24,999

1% £30 - £39,999

TYPE/HOURS

100%

■ Full-time   ■ Part-time

MONTH

3% August

7% September

12% October

10% November

15% December

9% January

11% February

6% March

10% April

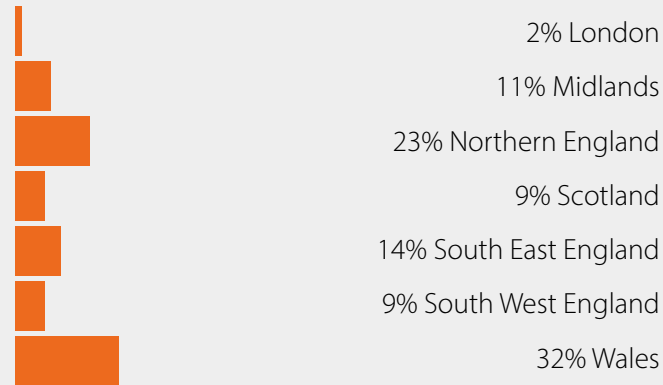5% May

7% June

4% July

Master's

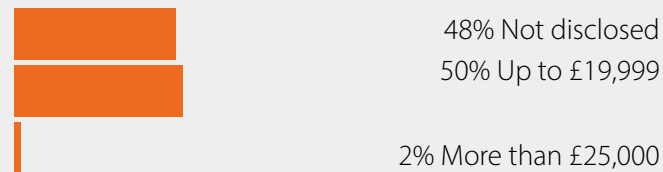Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Ireland.
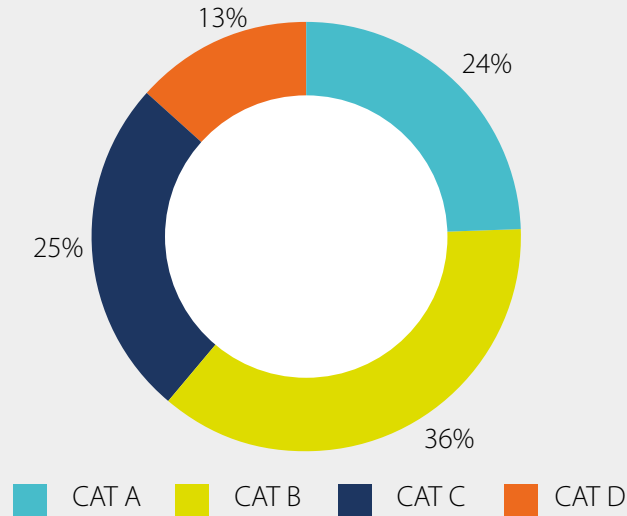
44
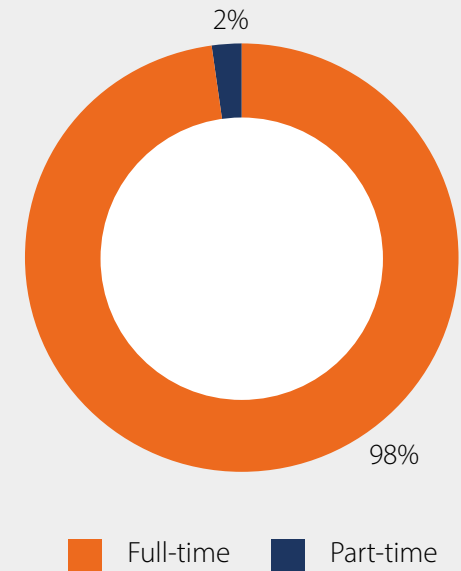opportunities

32
average advert length (days)

REGION

2% London
11% Midlands
23% Northern England
9% Scotland
14% South East England
9% South West England
32% Wales

FUNDING

48% Not disclosed
50% Up to £19,999

2% More than £25,000

REF CAT SPLIT

13%
24%
25%
36%

CAT A   CAT B   CAT C   CAT D

TYPE/HOURS

2%
98%

Full-time   Part-time

MONTH

20% August
7% September
7% October
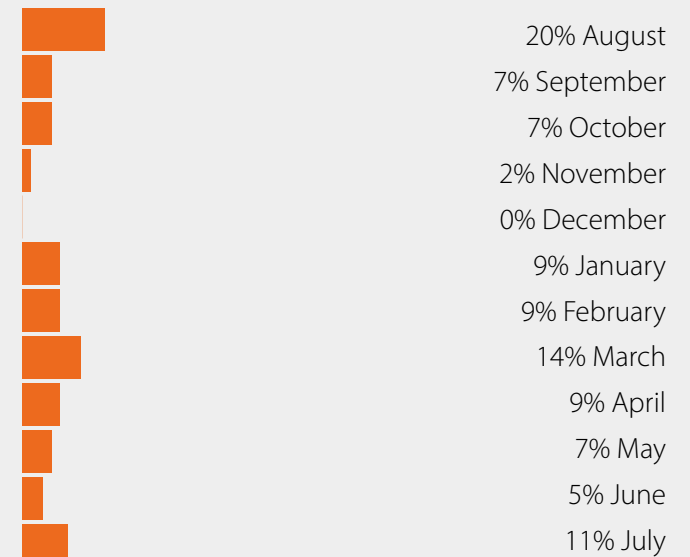2% November
0% December
9% January
9% February
14% March
9% April
7% May
5% June
11% July

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[1]

31.1 million
pageviews[1]

2.7 million
apply clicks[1]

280K
social media followers

67K+
jobs advertised[2]

84%
of top universities advertise with us[3]

[1]GA4 data (12 month estimate based on 1 Aug 2023 - 31st July 2024)

[2]jobs.ac.uk data 1 Aug 2023 - 31st July 2024

[3]QS World University Rankings

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

CONTACT US

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Tel: +44(0)24 7657 2839

www.jobs.ac.uk

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