



jobs.ac.uk

PhD & Master's Talent Trend Report

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

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

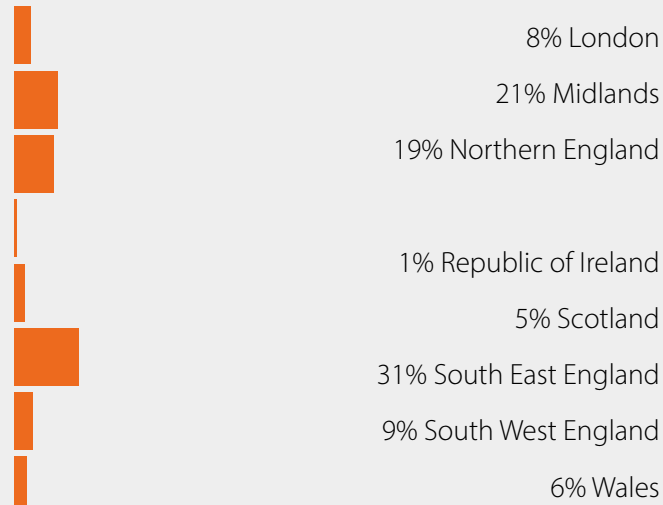
PhD - Overall

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

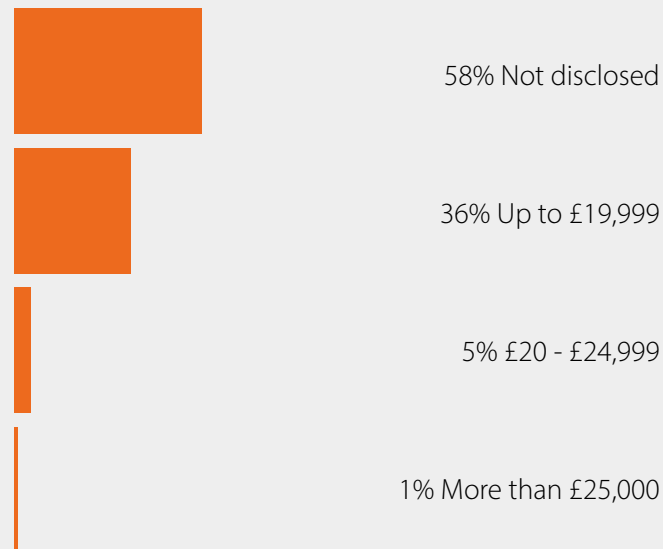
4,397
opportunities

53
average advert length
(days)

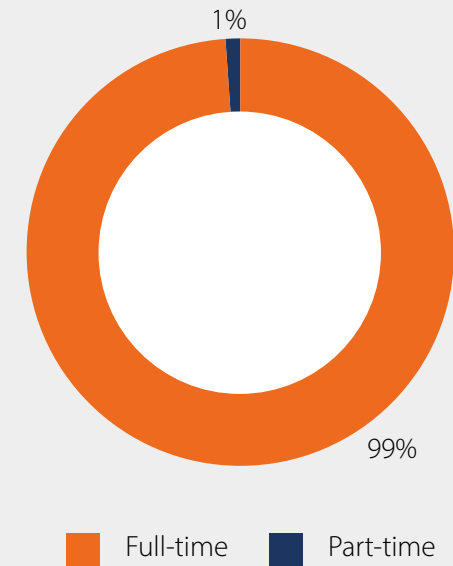
REGION



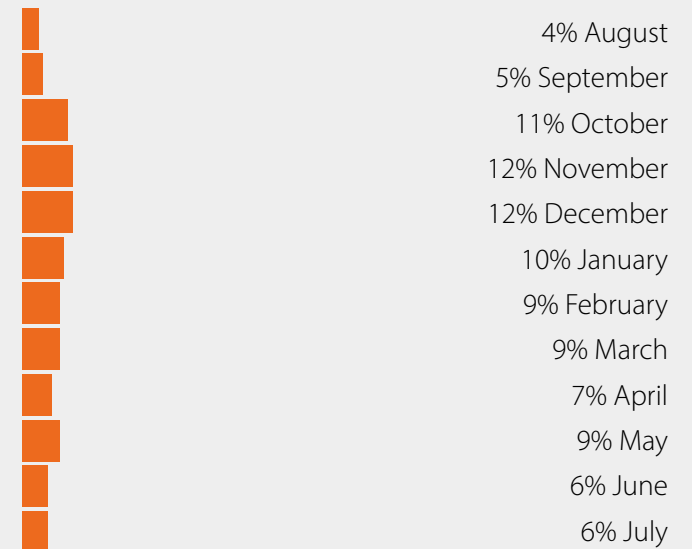
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



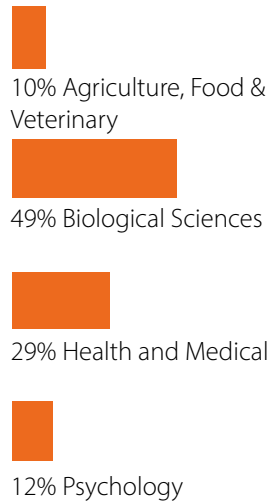
PhD Discipline Overview

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.

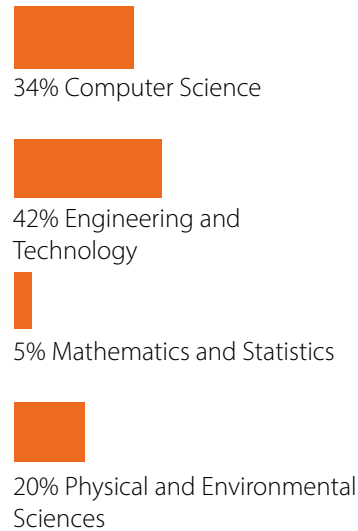
No. of adverts (Cat-A)

1,549



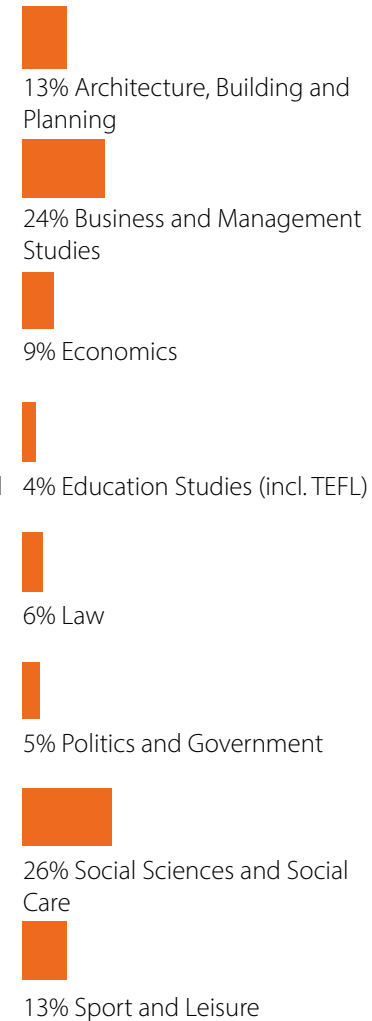
No. of adverts (Cat-B)

3,195



No. of adverts (Cat-C)

701



No. of adverts (Cat-D)

312



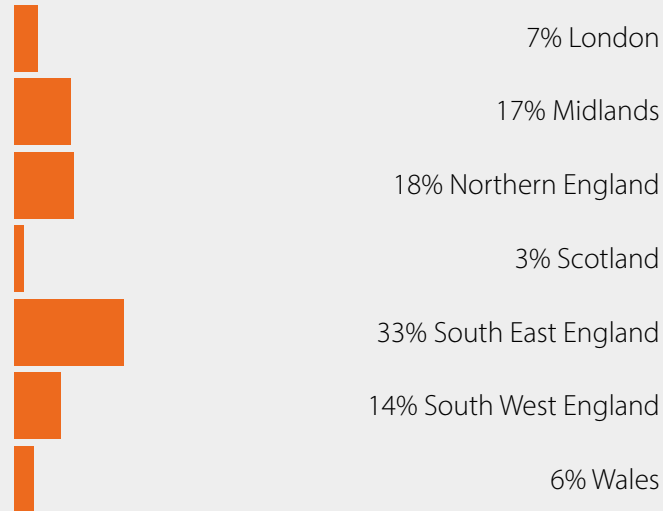
PhD - Discipline Overall

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

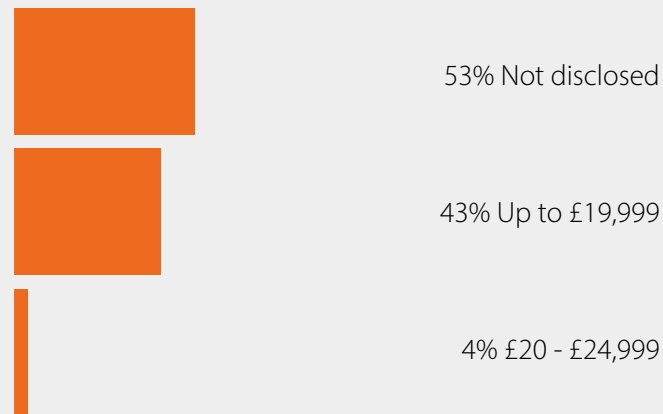
1,549
opportunities

45
average advert length
(days)

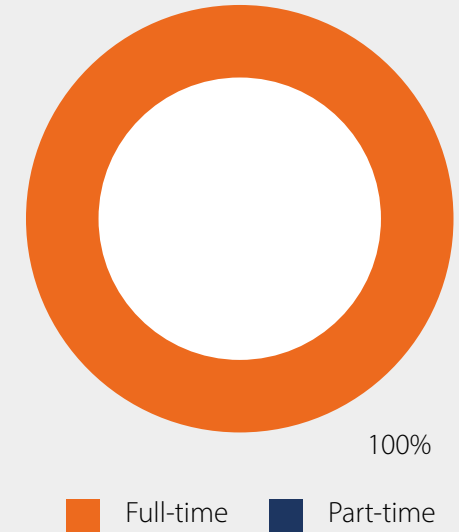
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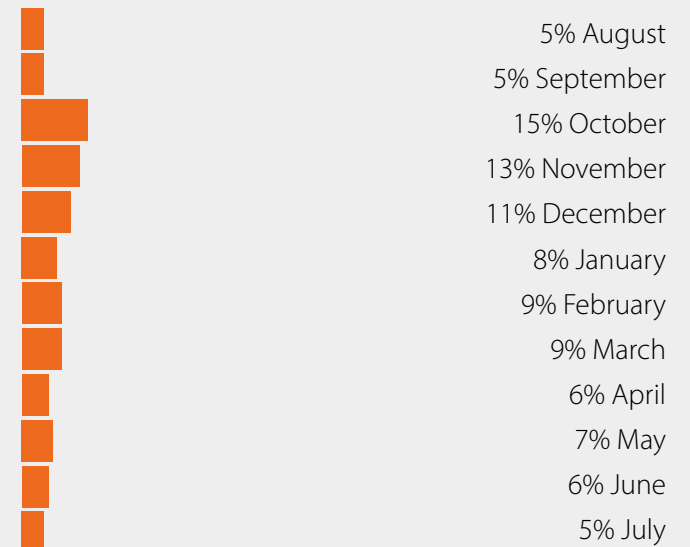
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



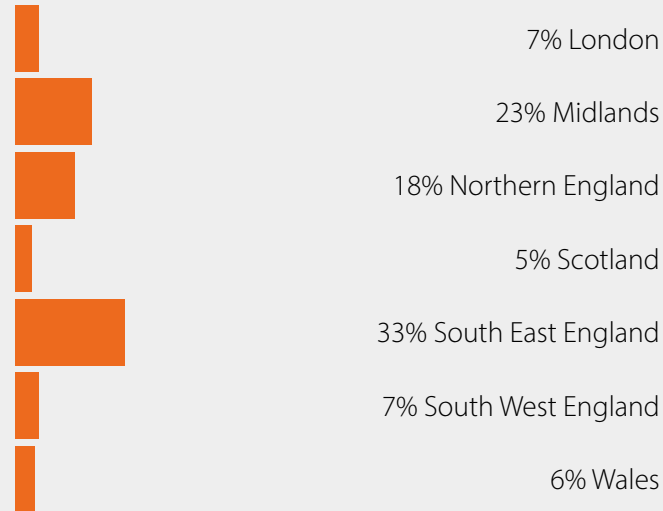
PhD - Discipline Overall

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

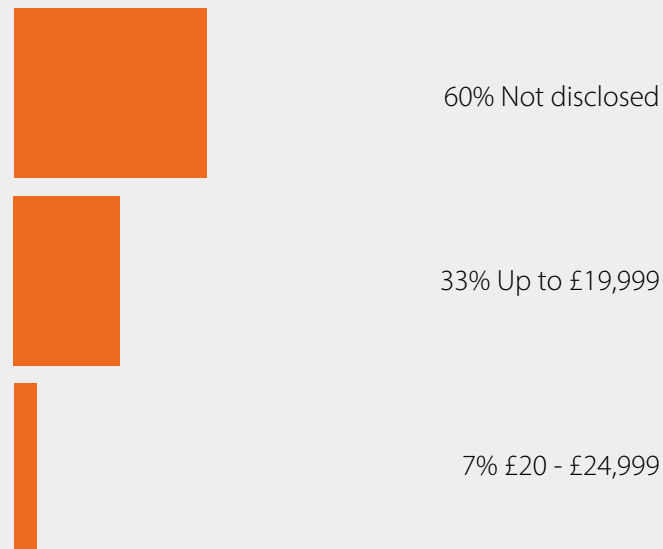
3,195
opportunities

57
average advert length
(days)

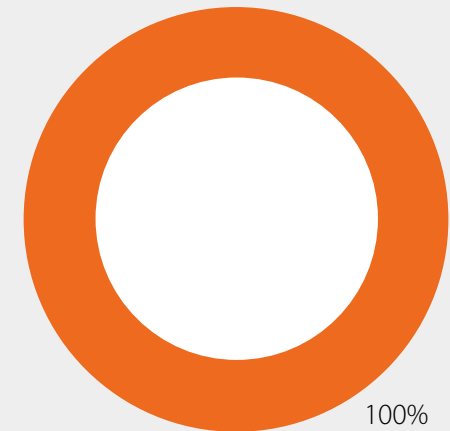
REGION



FUNDING

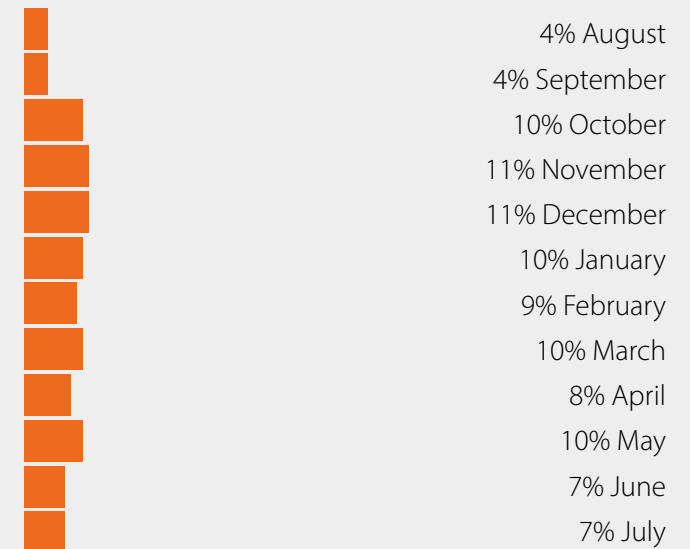


TYPE/HOURS



Full-time Part-time

MONTH



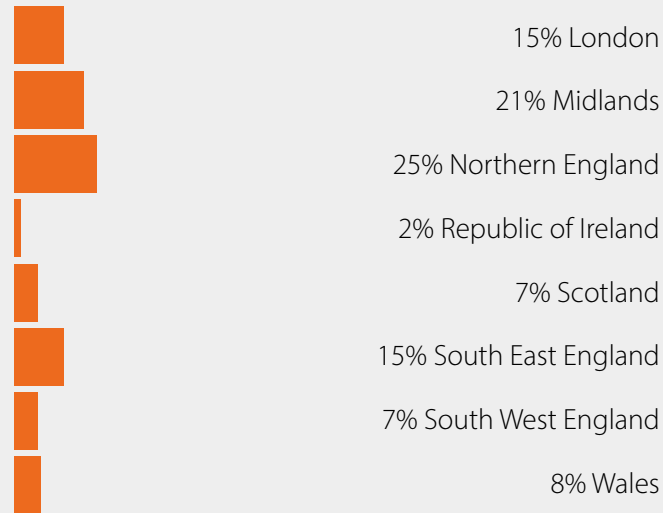
PhD - Discipline Overall

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

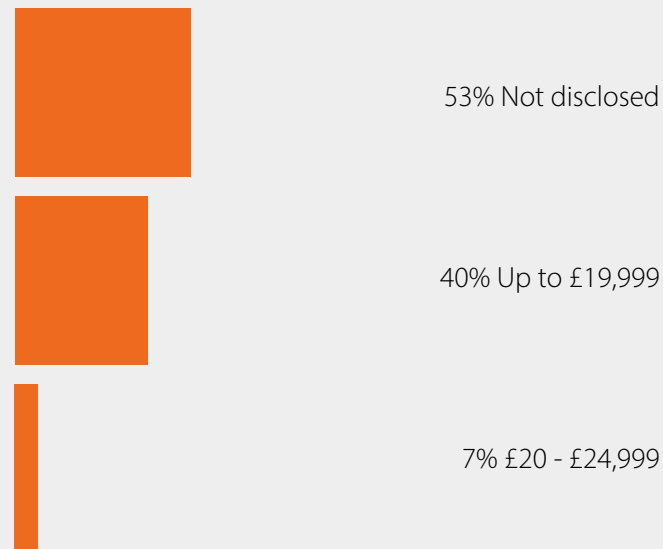
701
opportunities

44
average advert length
(days)

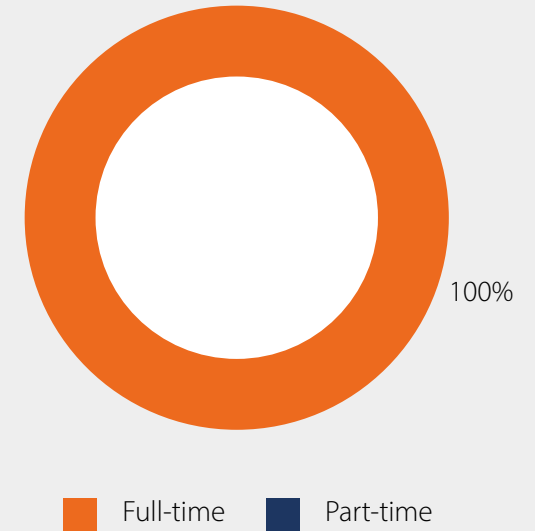
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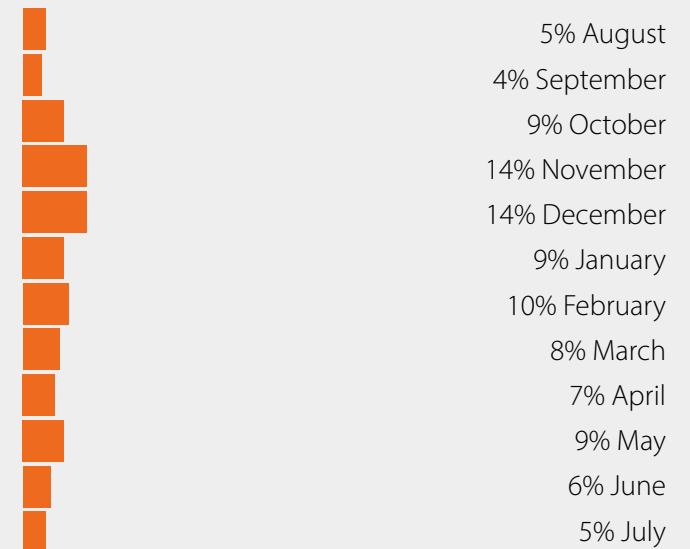
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



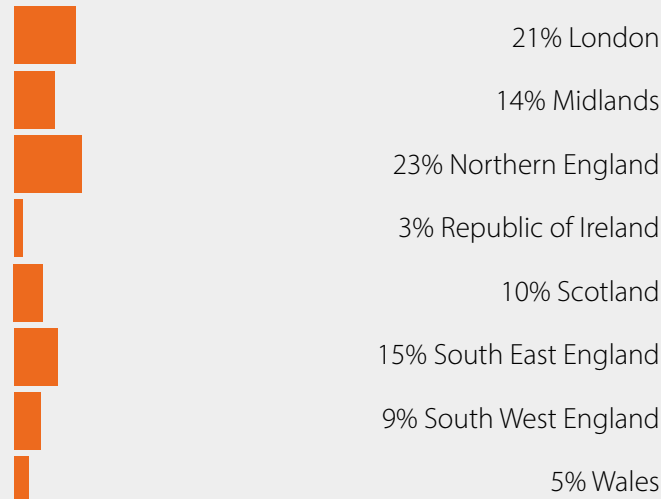
PhD - Discipline Overall

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

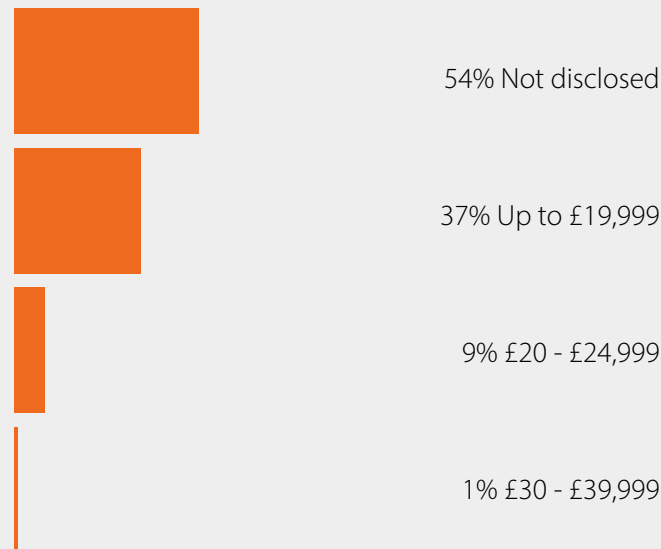
312
opportunities

43
average advert length
(days)

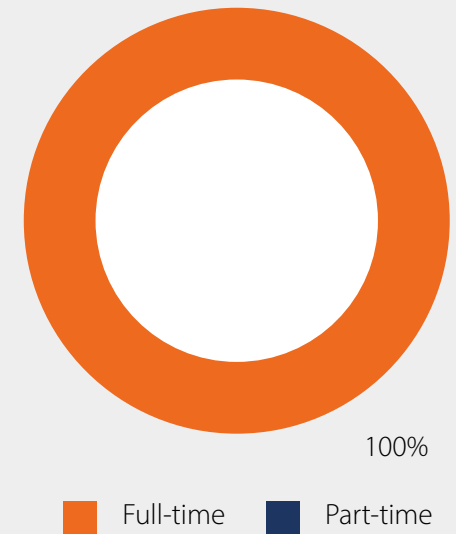
REGION



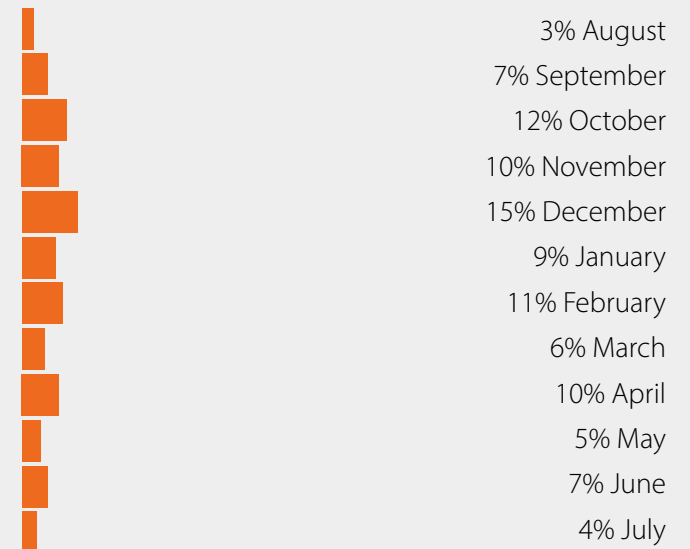
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



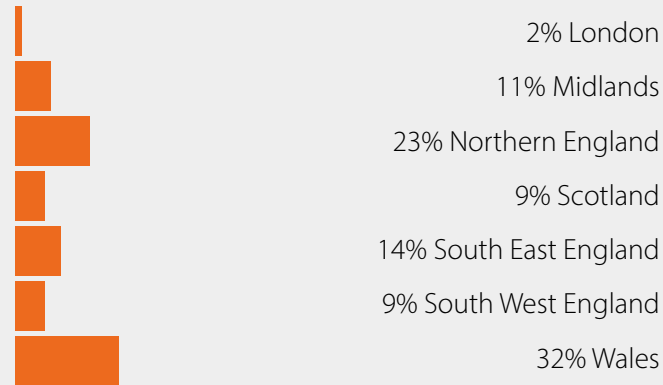
Master's

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

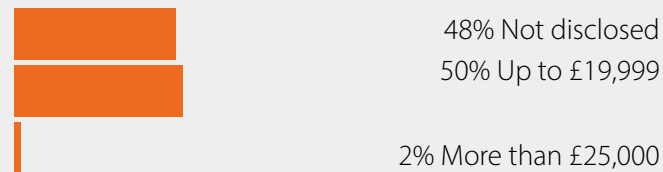
44
opportunities

32
average advert length
(days)

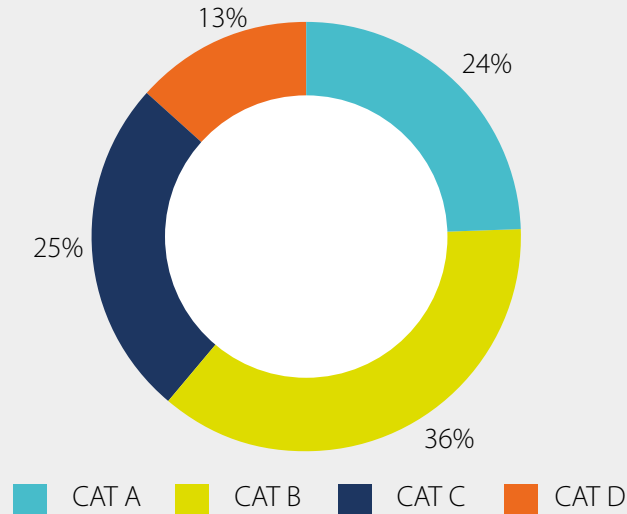
REGION



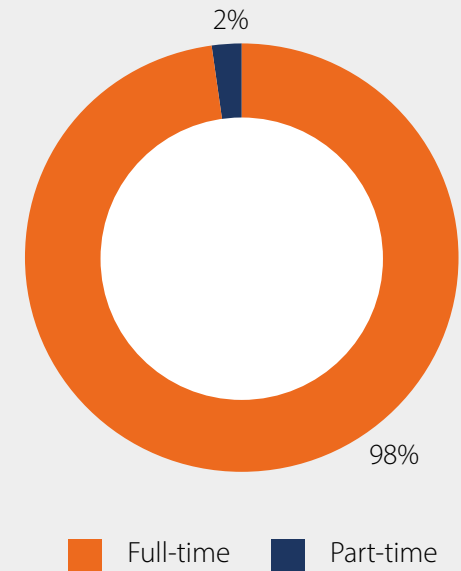
FUNDING



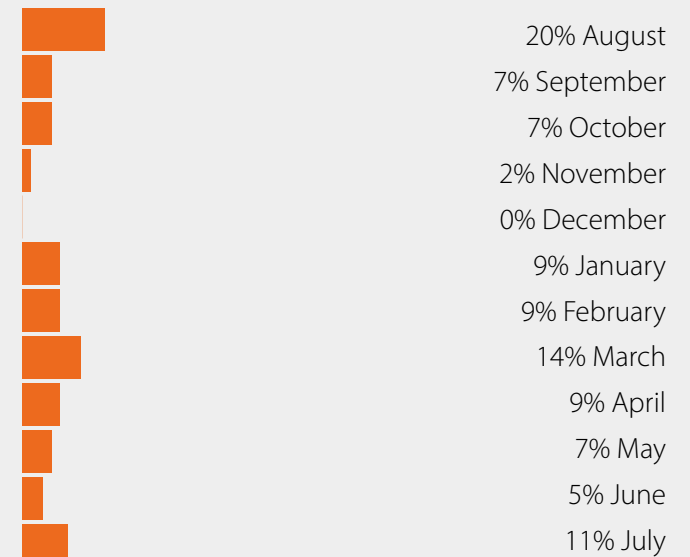
REF CAT SPLIT



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



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OUR KEY STATISTICS

173
million
user interactions¹

31.1
million
pageviews¹

2.7
million
apply clicks¹

280K
social media followers

67K+
jobs advertised²

84%
of top universities advertise
with us³

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

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

³QS 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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