



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

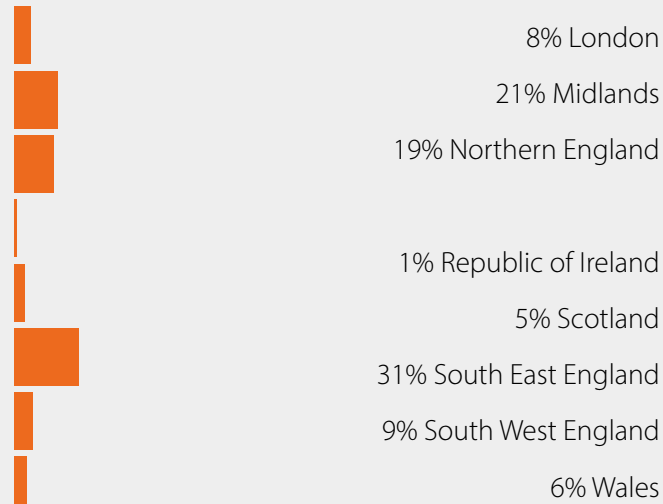
## PhD - Overall

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

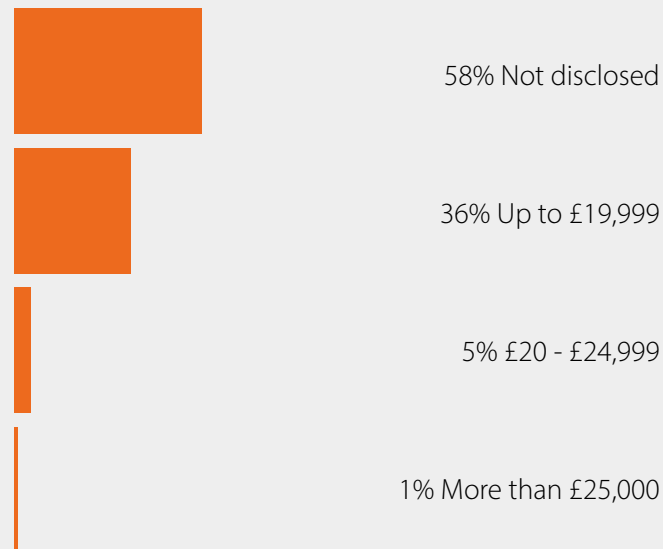
**4,397**  
opportunities

**53**  
average advert length  
(days)

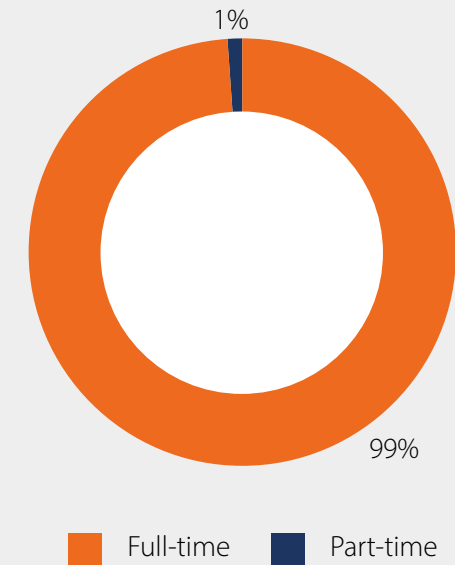
### REGION



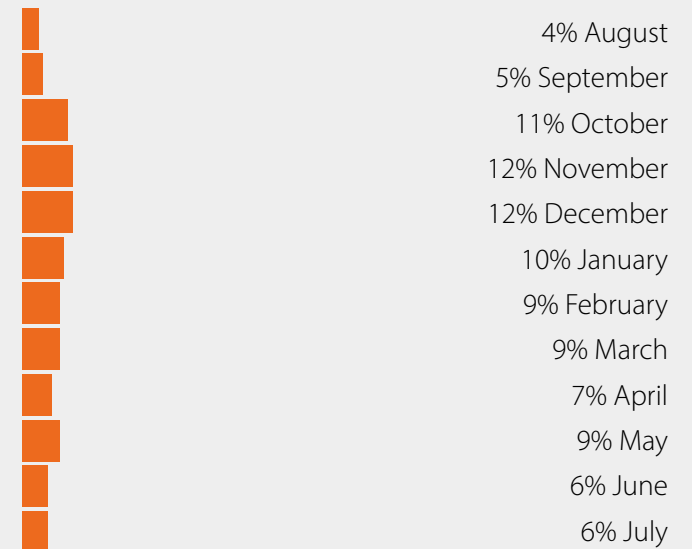
### FUNDING



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



## PhD - 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 2022 and 31st July 2023
- 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

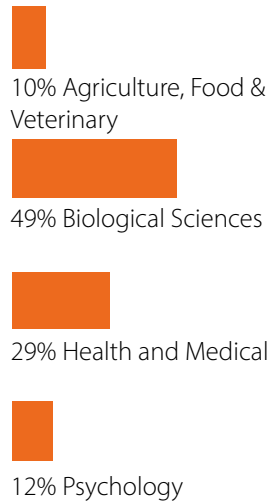
## PhD Discipline Overview

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.

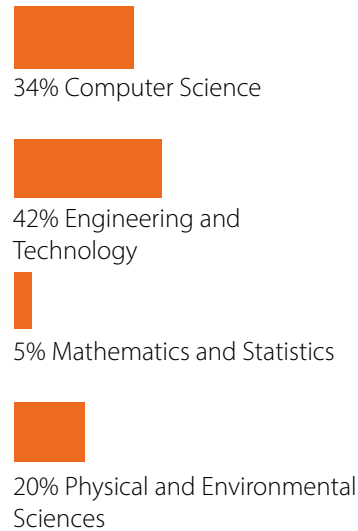
No. of adverts (Cat-A)

1,549



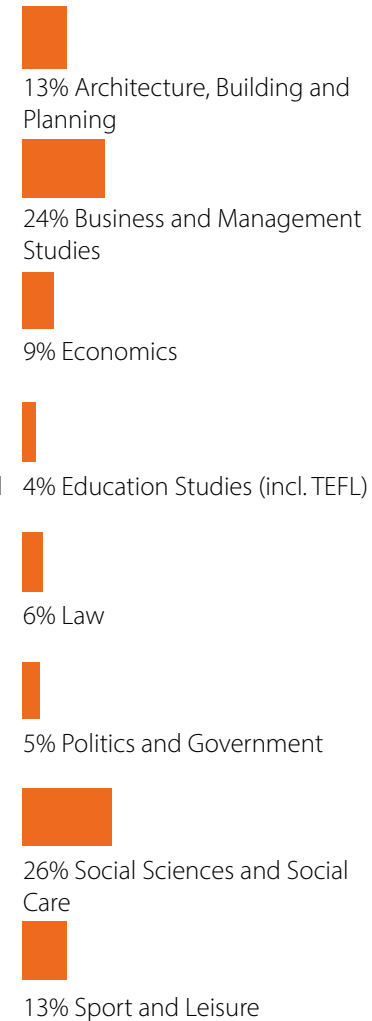
No. of adverts (Cat-B)

3,195



No. of adverts (Cat-C)

701



No. of adverts (Cat-D)

312



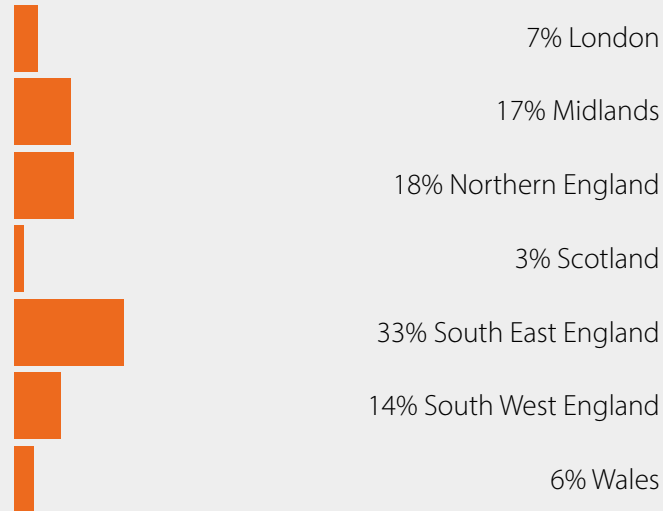
## PhD - Discipline Overall

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

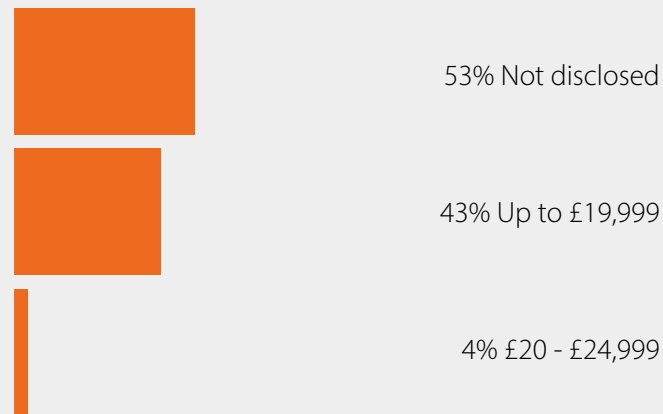
**1,549**  
opportunities

**45**  
average advert length  
(days)

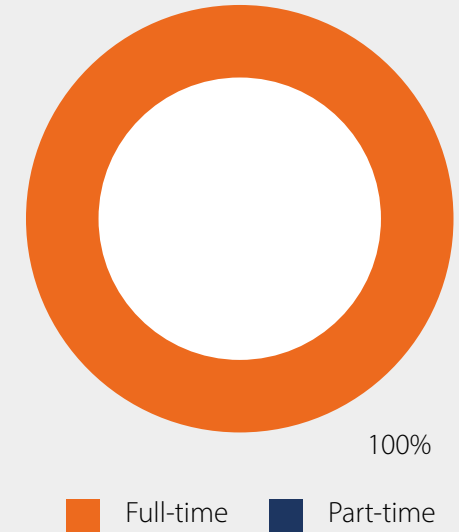
### REGION



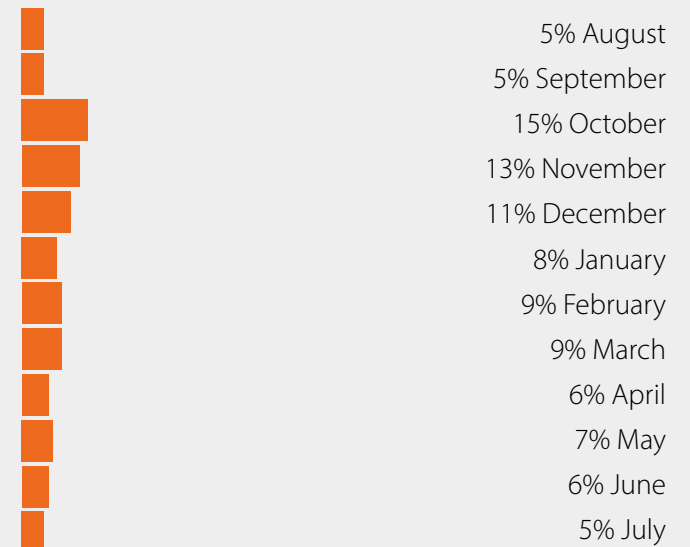
### FUNDING



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



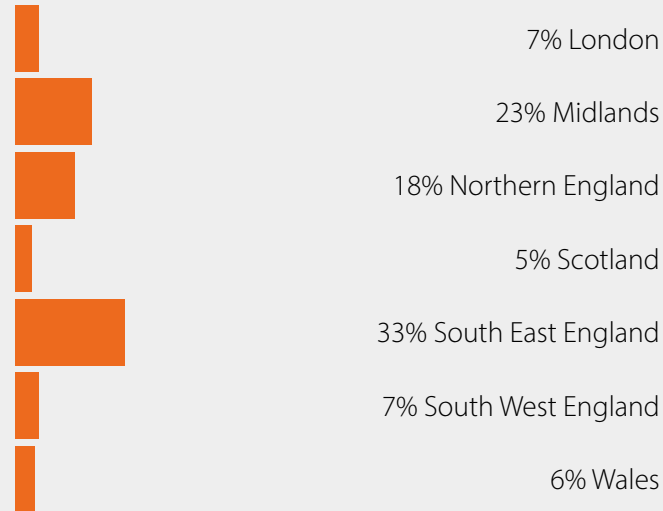
## PhD - Discipline Overall

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

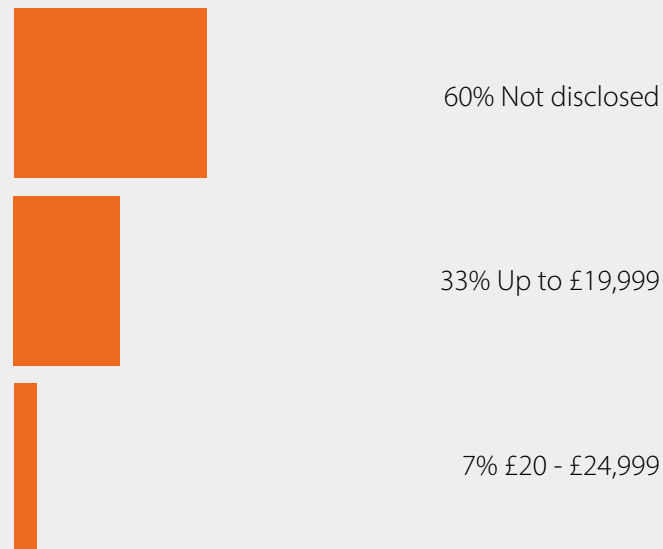
**3,195**  
opportunities

**57**  
average advert length  
(days)

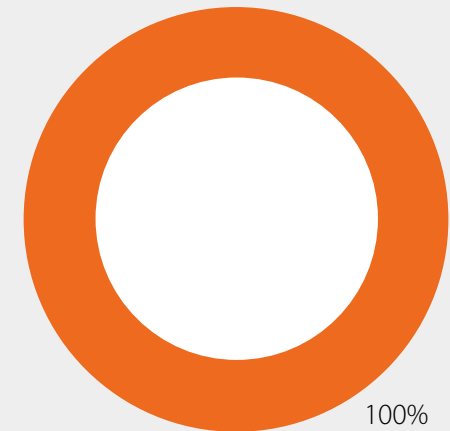
### REGION



### FUNDING

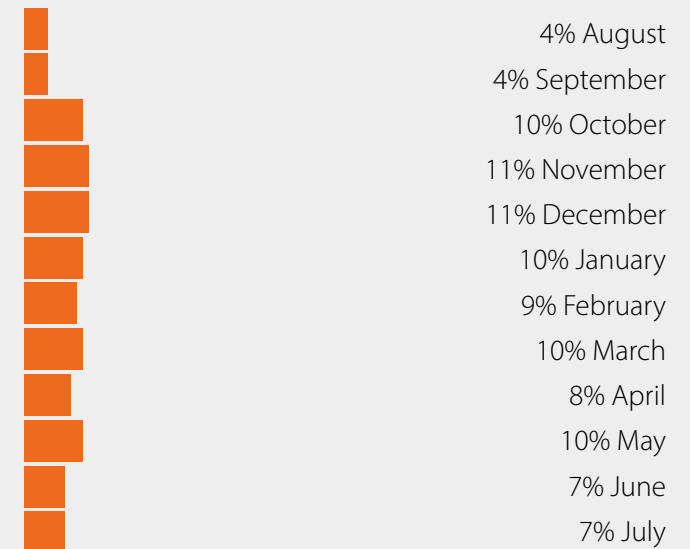


### TYPE/HOURS



Full-time Part-time

### MONTH





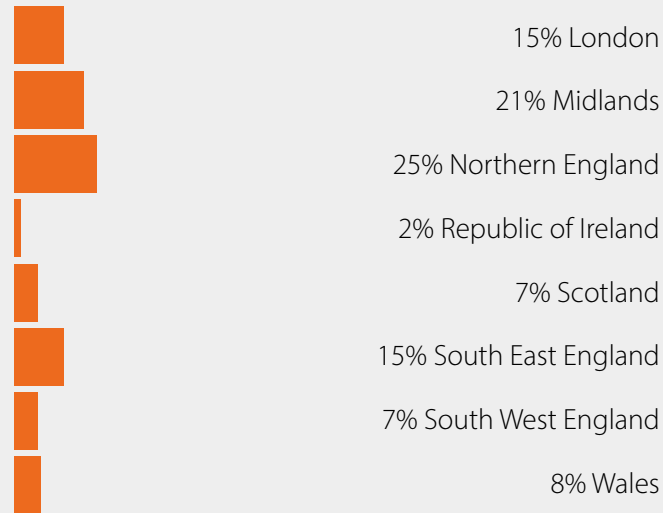
## PhD - Discipline Overall

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

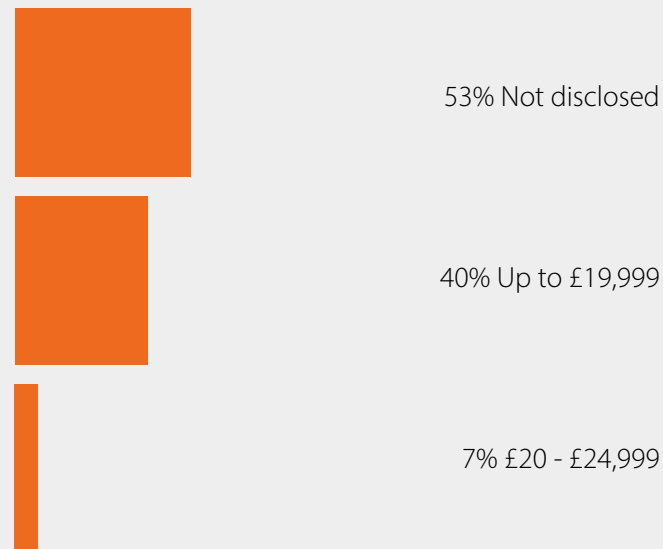
**701**  
opportunities

**44**  
average advert length  
(days)

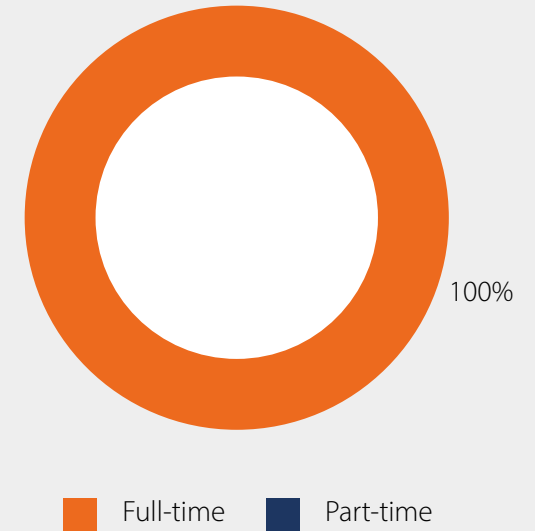
### REGION



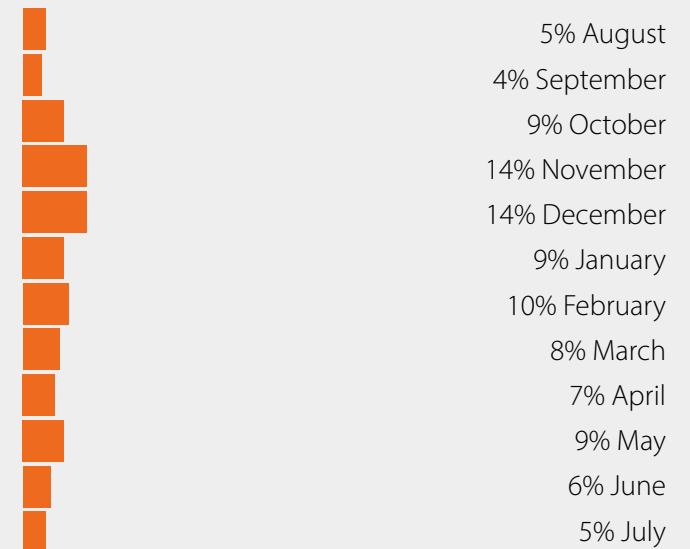
### FUNDING



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



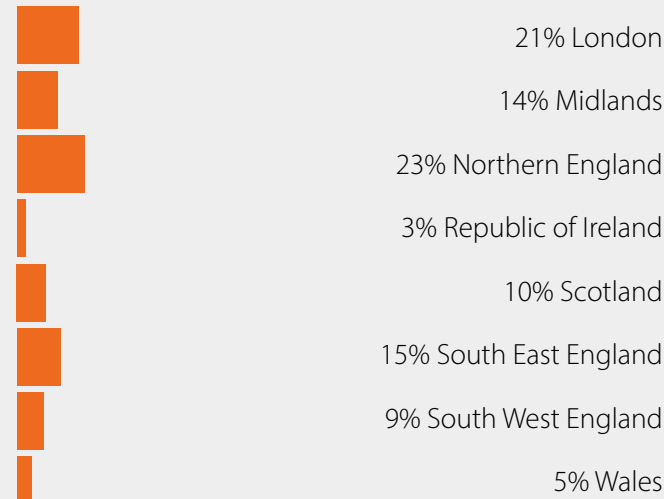
## PhD - Discipline Overall

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

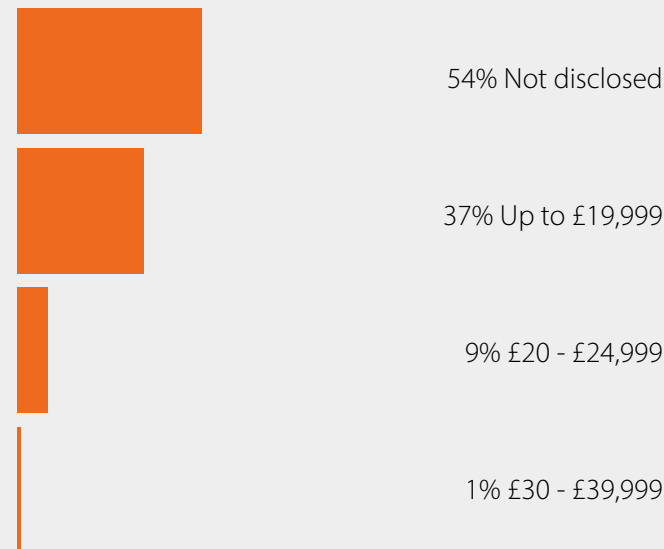
**312**  
opportunities

**43**  
average advert length  
(days)

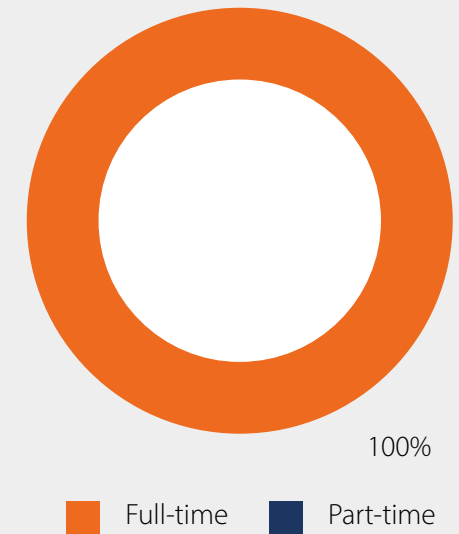
### REGION



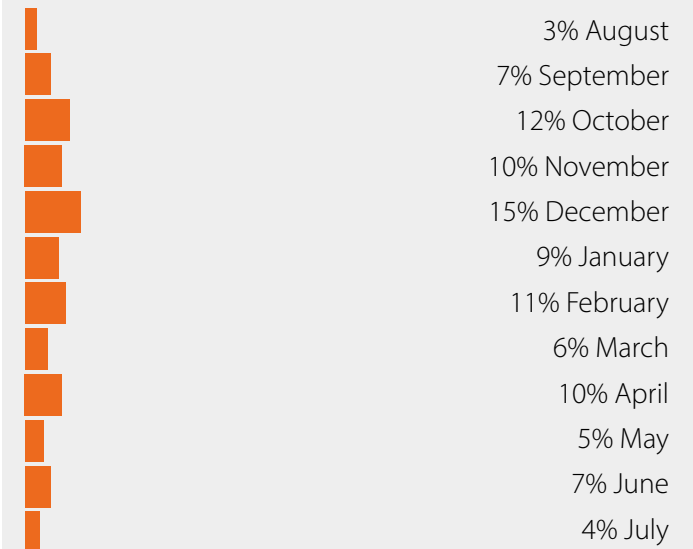
### FUNDING



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



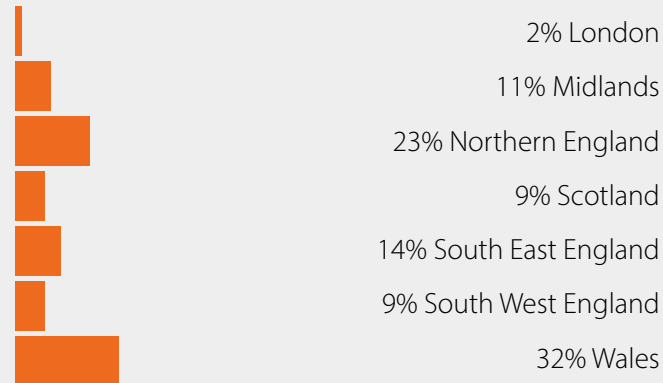
## Master's

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

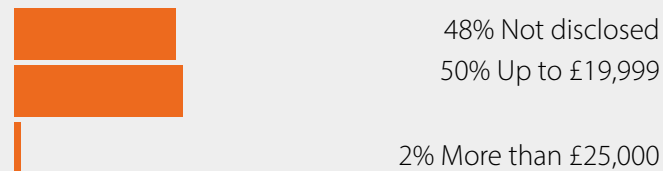
**44**  
opportunities

**32**  
average advert length  
(days)

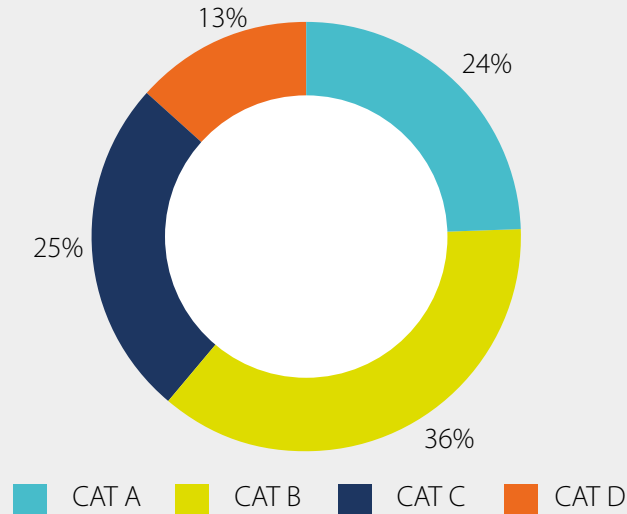
### REGION



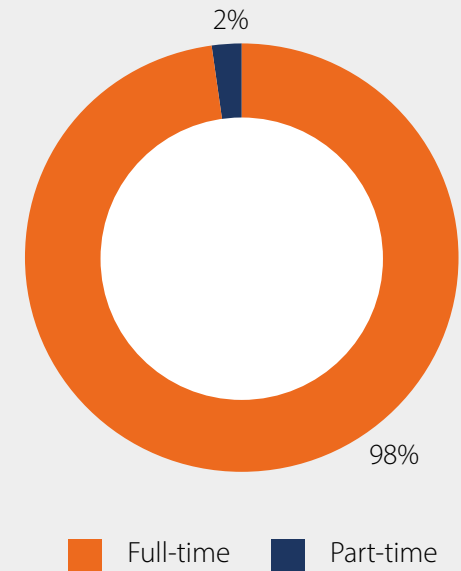
### FUNDING



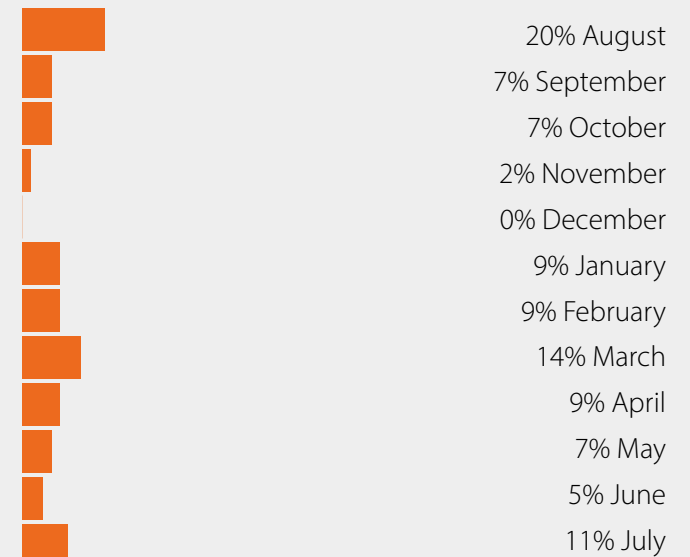
### REF CAT SPLIT



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



## 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<sup>1</sup>

**31.1**  
**million**  
pageviews<sup>1</sup>

**2.7**  
**million**  
apply clicks<sup>1</sup>

**280K**  
social media followers

**67K+**  
jobs advertised<sup>2</sup>

**84%**  
of top universities advertise  
with us<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup>jobs.ac.uk data 1 Aug 2023 - 31st July 2024

<sup>3</sup>QS World University Rankings



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

#### **CONTACT US**

Email: [enquiries@jobs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@jobs.ac.uk)

Tel: +44(0)24 7657 2839

[www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)

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