

# PhD and Masters Talent Trends

An insight into higher education  
recruitment in the UK and  
Republic of Ireland 2021/2022

## Executive Summary

Many of the finest minds at UK and Irish higher education institutions started their career journeys by applying for a Masters or PhD opportunity. It's where future talent can hone their skills, showcase their research expertise and gain the knowledge and experience they need to help take on the world's biggest challenges.

jobs.ac.uk advertises a diverse range of Masters and PhD opportunities across the UK, Ireland and beyond. This report offers a real insight into the different opportunities available in various disciplines and provides all kinds of useful information from locations and months advertised to the percentage of opportunities offered on a full time and part-time basis.

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 3,681 Masters and PhD opportunities placed on jobs.ac.uk from August 1st 2021 to July 31st 2022 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 thousands of universities worldwide, jobs.ac.uk attracts over 120 million user interactions per year. 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

- Our report is split into two sections:
  - PhD is broken down as follows:
    - PhD Overall
    - PhD Discipline overviews
    - Masters
- Our data is purely based on the 3,834 Masters and PhD opportunities posted by higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland on jobs.ac.uk from 1st August 2021 to July 31st 2022
- 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

- 3,681 Masters and PhD opportunities were posted on jobs.ac.uk by UK and Irish higher education institutions from August 1st 2021 to July 31st 2022
- 99% of PhD's overall are offered as full-time positions
- PhD opportunities on average attract 715 views
- For Masters, 33% of opportunities offered funding up to £19,999 with 48% of opportunities not disclosing the funding

# PhD - Overall

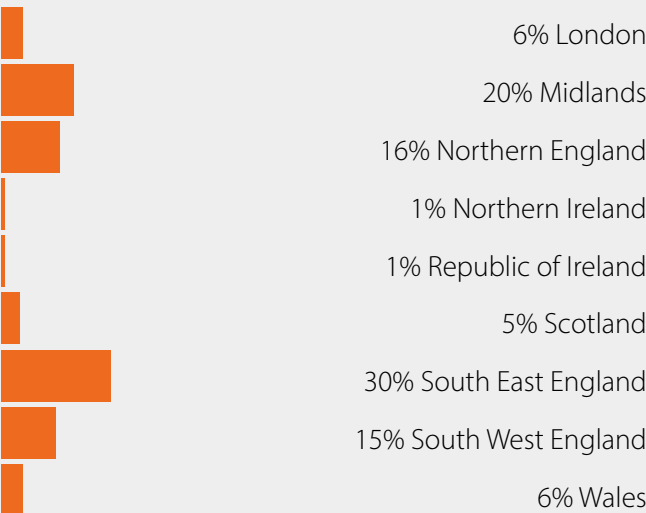
Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

3,681 opportunities

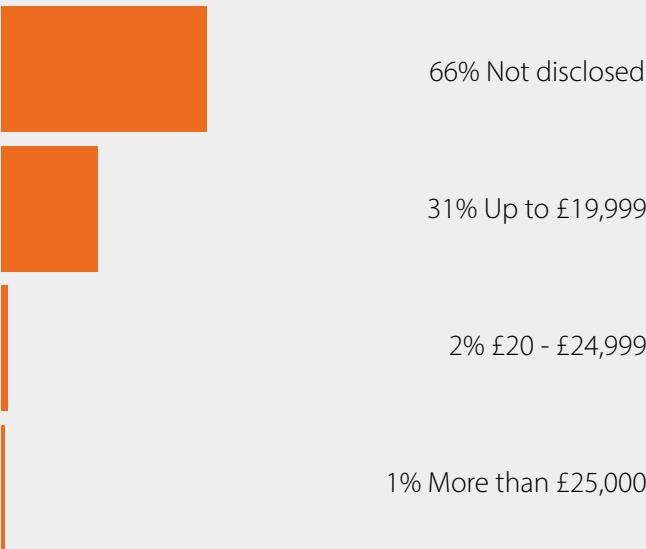
715 average pageviews

51 average advert length (days)

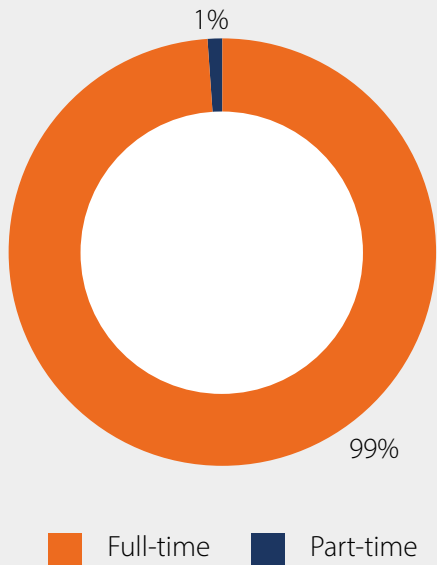
## REGION



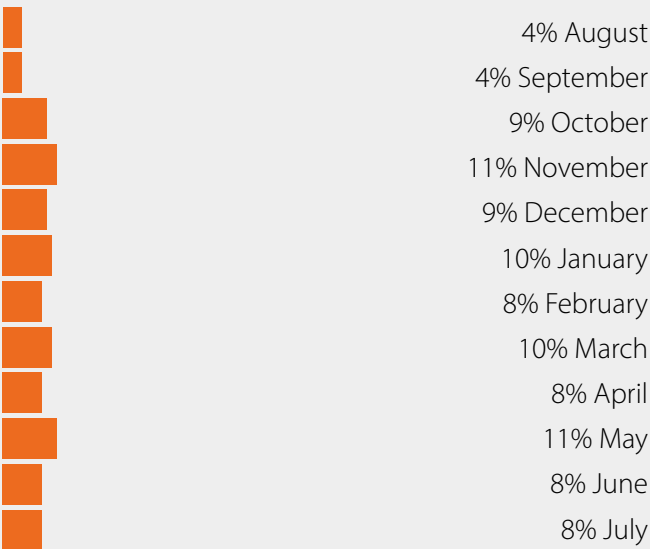
## FUNDING



## TYPE/HOURS



## MONTH



## PhD - Overall

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

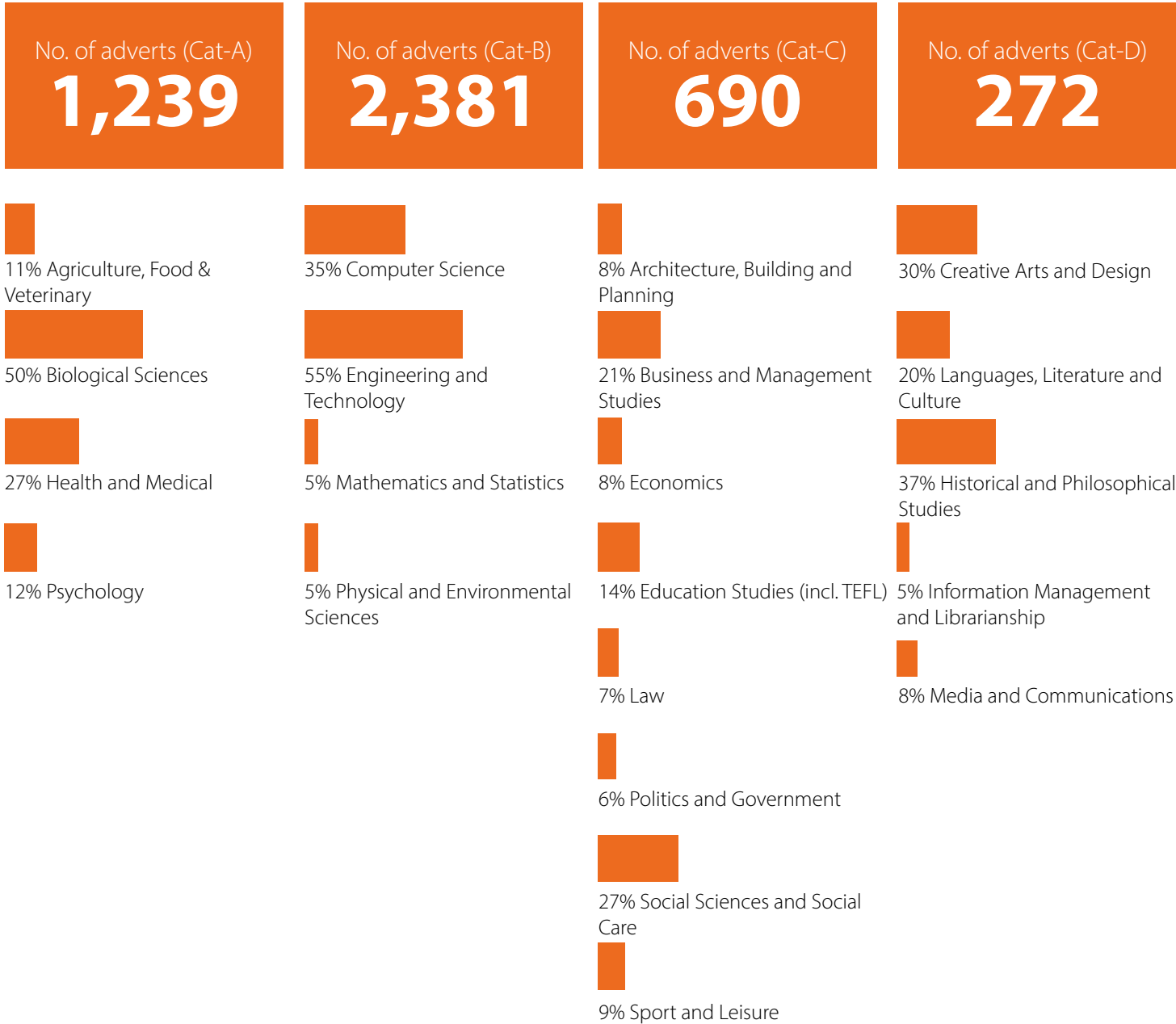
### KEY FINDINGS

- 3,681 PhD opportunities appeared on jobs.ac.uk between 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2022
- PhD roles make up almost 5% of the opportunities on jobs.ac.uk
- These opportunities tend to be advertised for a longer period of time (51 days) compared to other opportunities in higher education (23 days)
- These opportunities are spread out quite evenly throughout the uk with South East England top with 30% followed by the Midlands with 20%
- This is largely due to the research opportunities at the universities of Southampton, East Anglia and Surrey
- 66% of funding is not disclosed
- The average opportunity attracted 715 views

# PhD Discipline Overview

A breakdown of the categories and academic disciplines.

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



## PhD - Discipline Overall

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

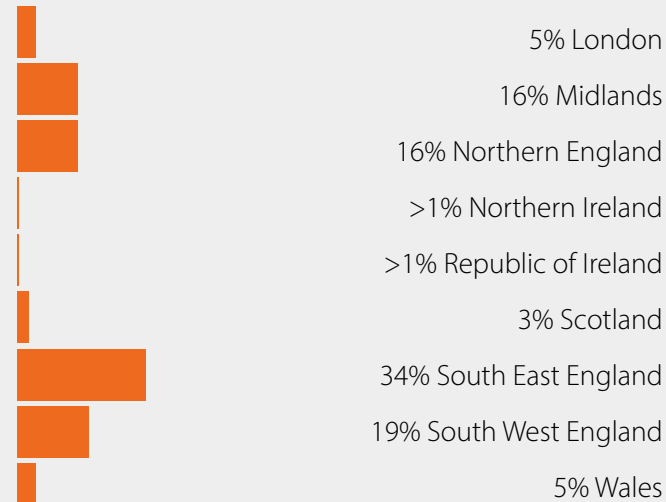
**1,270**  
opportunities

**669**  
average pageviews

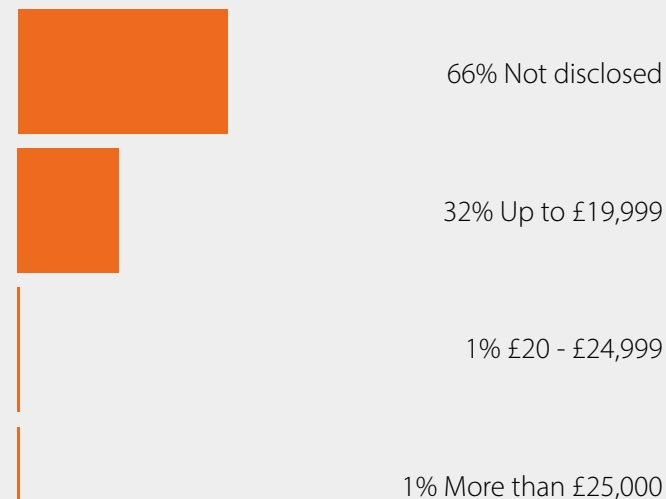
**44**  
average advert length  
(days)

**66**  
average apply clicks

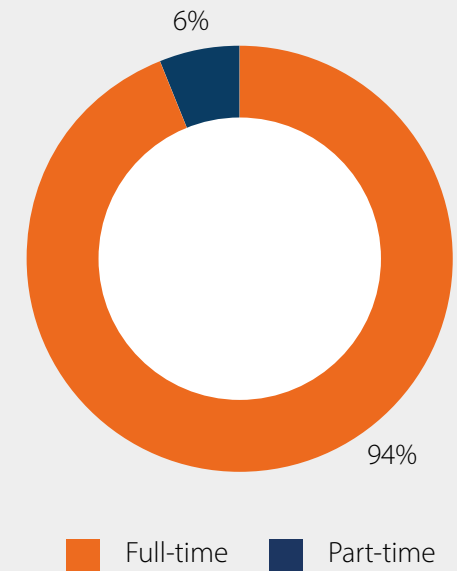
### REGION



### FUNDING



### TYPE/HOURS



### MONTH



PhD - Discipline  
Overall

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

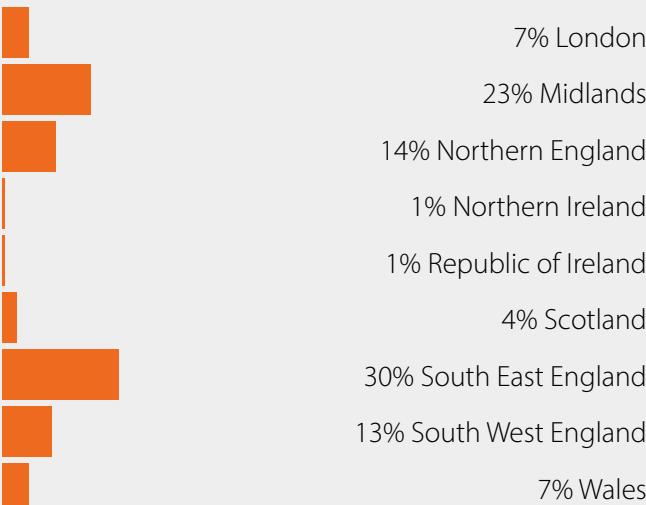
2,462  
opportunities

651  
average pageviews

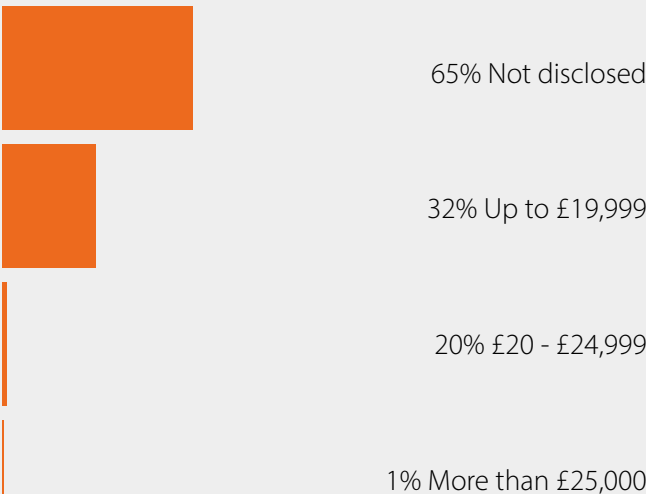
55  
average advert length  
(days)

94  
average apply clicks

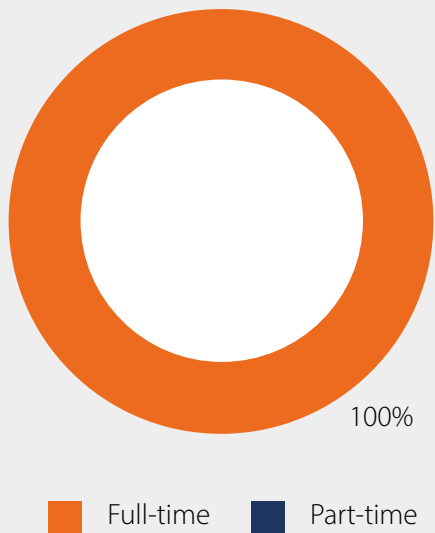
REGION



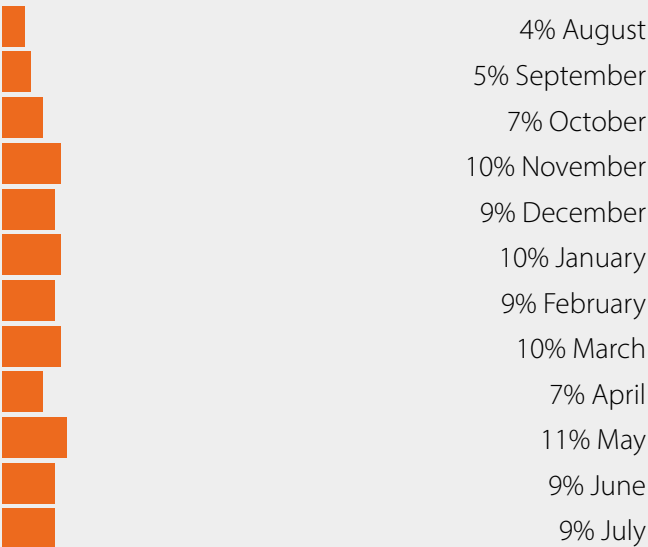
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



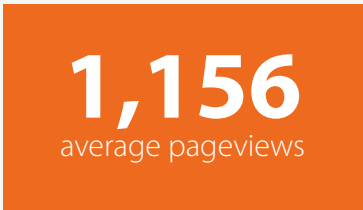
MONTH



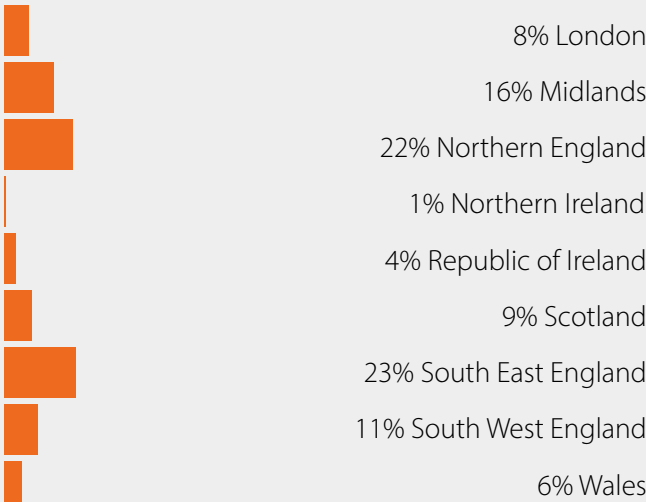


PhD - Discipline  
Overall

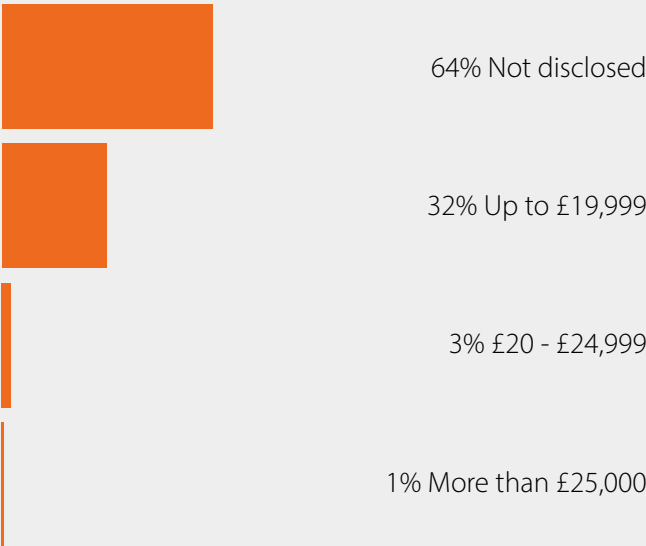
Category C - Architecture,  
Building and Planning,  
Business and Management  
Studies, Economics,  
Education Studies (inc. TEFL),  
Law, Politics and Government,  
Social Sciences and Social  
Care, Sport and Leisure



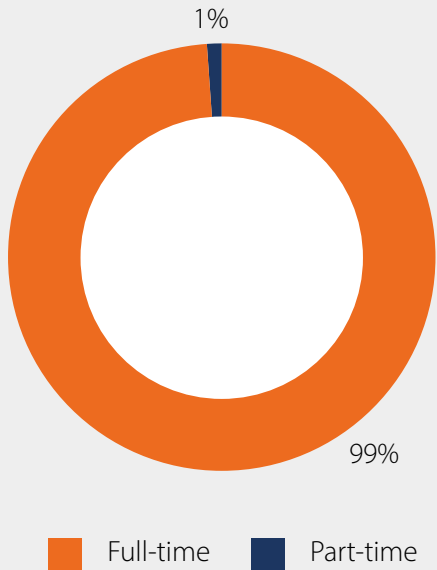
REGION



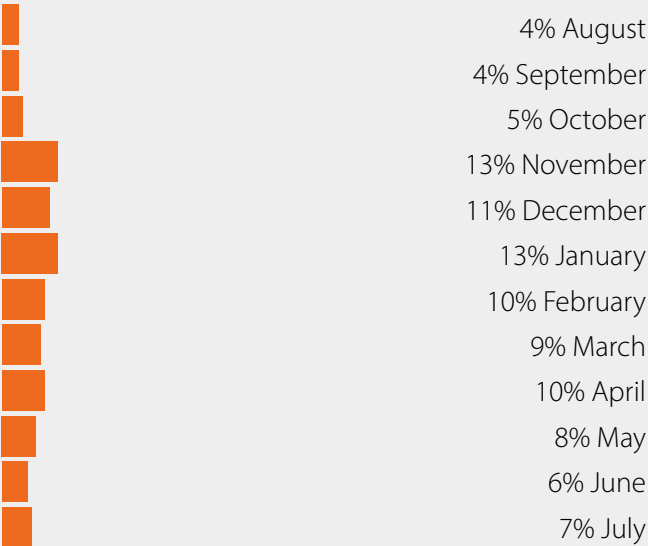
FUNDING



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

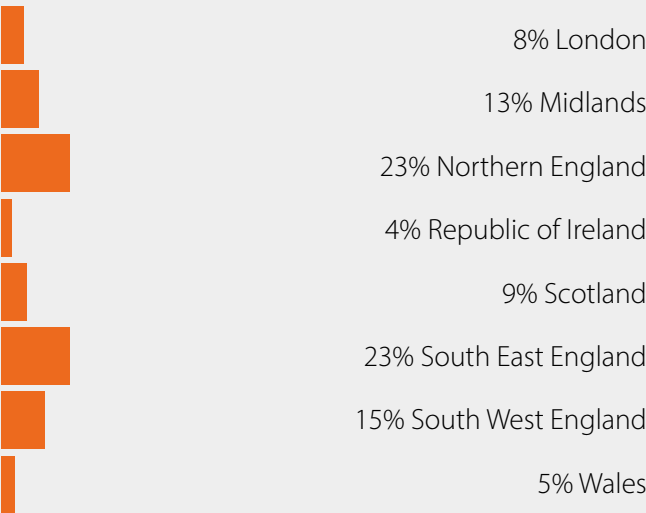
279  
opportunities

1,462  
average pageviews

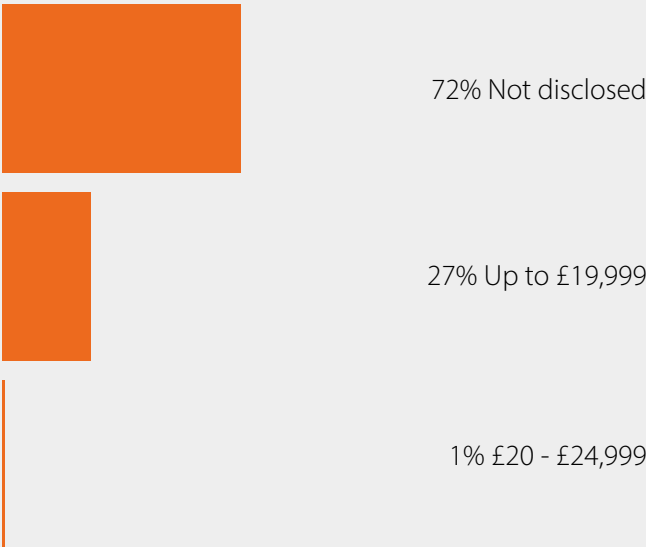
49  
average advert length  
(days)

175  
average apply clicks

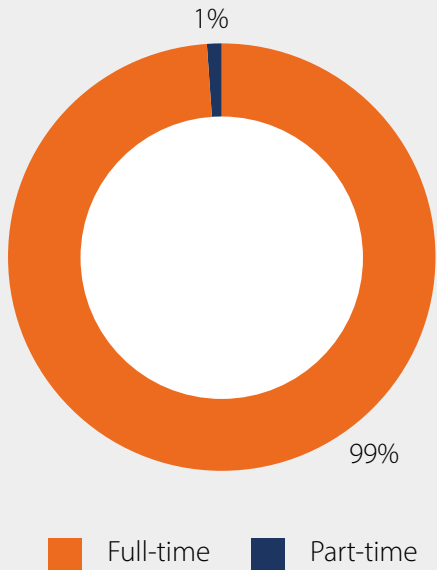
REGION



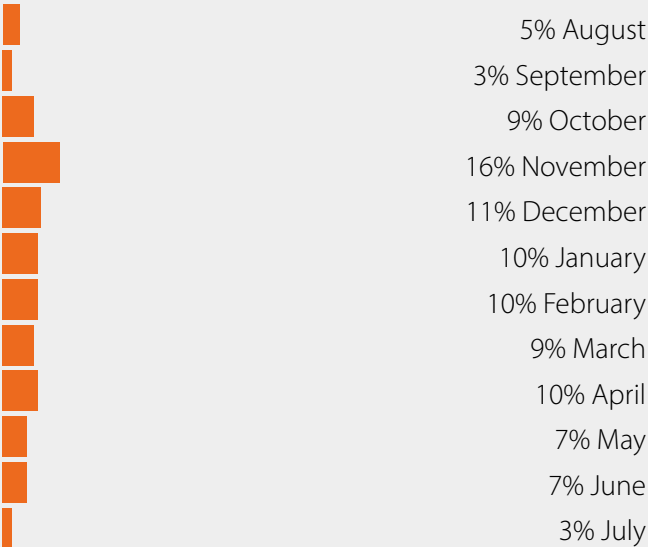
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



## Masters

Overview of all roles advertised on [jobs.ac.uk](https://jobs.ac.uk) in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

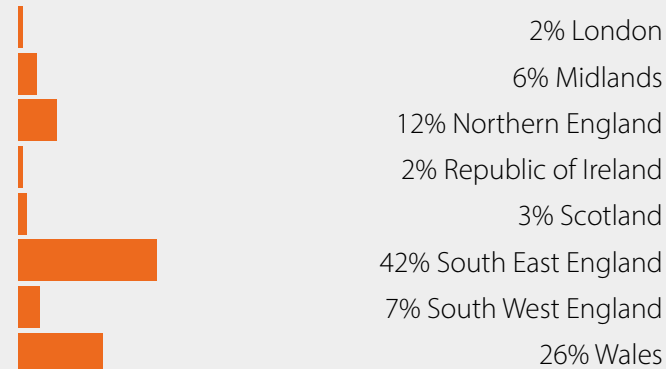
**154**  
opportunities

**619**  
average pageviews

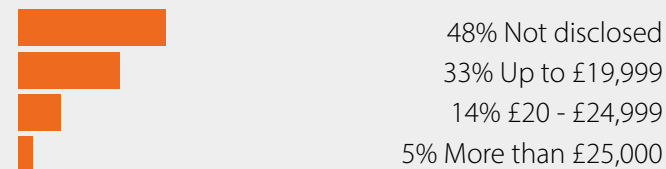
**40**  
average advert length  
(days)

**48**  
average apply clicks

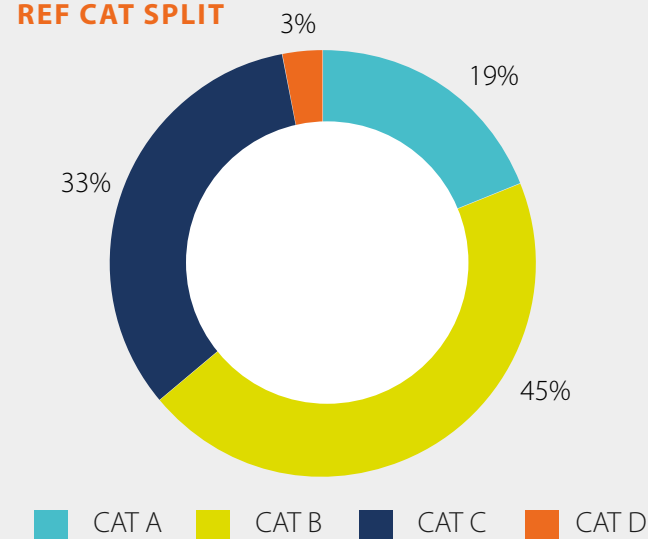
### REGION



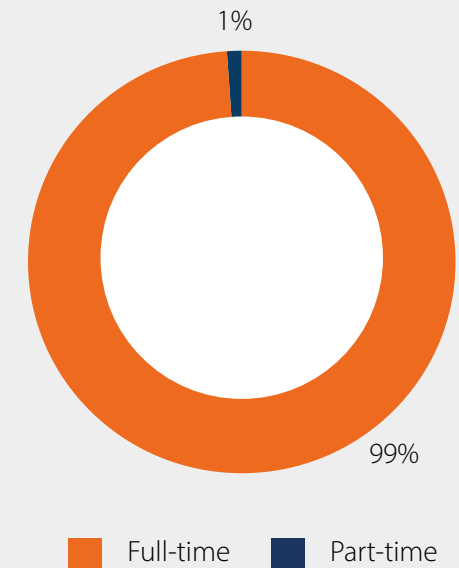
### FUNDING



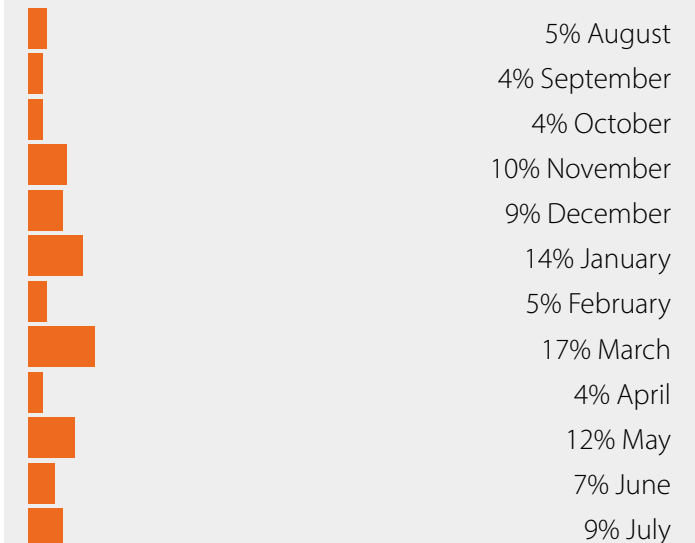
### REF CAT SPLIT



### 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

120  
million

**USER INTERACTIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
in 2021/2022

1,791

**ORGANISATIONS**  
advertised with us in  
2021/2022

28.8  
million

**PAGEVIEWS<sup>1</sup>**  
in 2021/2022

168K+

**JOB ALERTS**  
sent via our Jobs by  
Email service

100%

**UK PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**  
advertise with us

80%

**TOP RANKED GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES**  
advertise with us

<sup>1</sup> GA4 data (12-month estimate based on 9 May - 9 July 2022)

The logo for jobs.ac.uk, featuring the text "jobs.ac.uk" in a white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue oval shape.

*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](mailto:enquiries@jobs.ac.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)24 7657 2839

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