

PhD and Masters Talent Trends

An insight into higher education
recruitment in the UK and
Republic of Ireland 2020/2021

Executive Summary

Many of the finest minds at British 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 3,524 Masters and PhD opportunities placed on jobs.ac.uk in the 2020-2021 academic year by British 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 and 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 over 1,000 universities in 235 countries, jobs.ac.uk attracts over 5.7 million website users 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 3,524 Masters and PhD opportunities posted by higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland on jobs.ac.uk throughout the 2020/2021 academic year
- Our top-level statistics state the actual number of adverts
- When we focus on the role categories, we refer to opportunities rather than adverts, as some adverts span several disciplines. Therefore, a specific advert may feature in different areas of this report and the number of opportunities is higher than the 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

- 3,524 Masters and PhD opportunities were posted on jobs.ac.uk by British and Irish higher education institutions from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021
- 99% of PhDs overall are offered as full-time positions
- PhD opportunities on average attract 827 views
- For Masters, 38% of opportunities offered funding up to £14,999 with 53% of opportunities not disclosing the funding

PhD - Overall

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

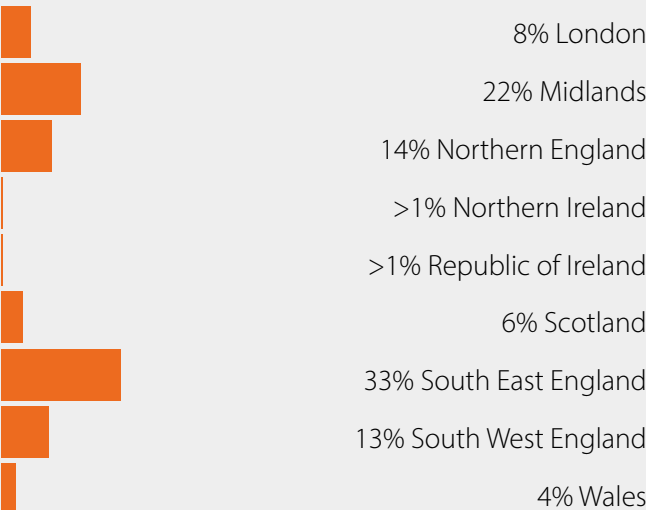
3,418 opportunities

827 average pageviews

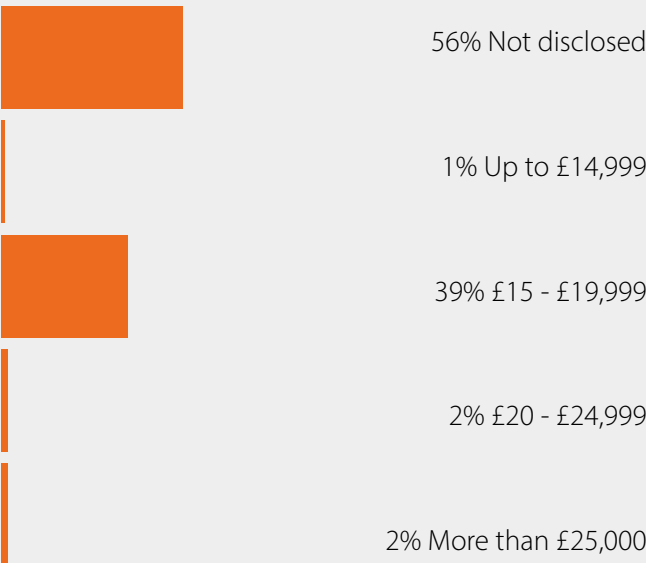
89 average advert length (days)

17 average apply clicks

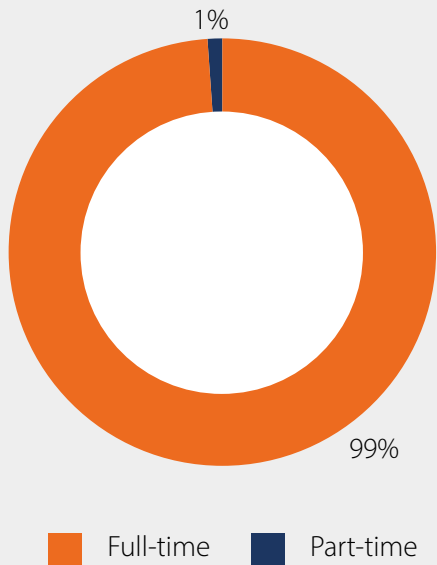
REGION



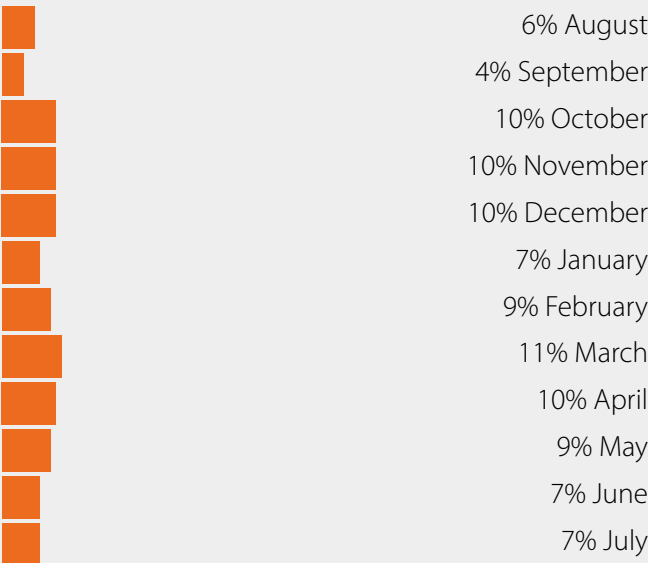
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



PhD - Overall

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

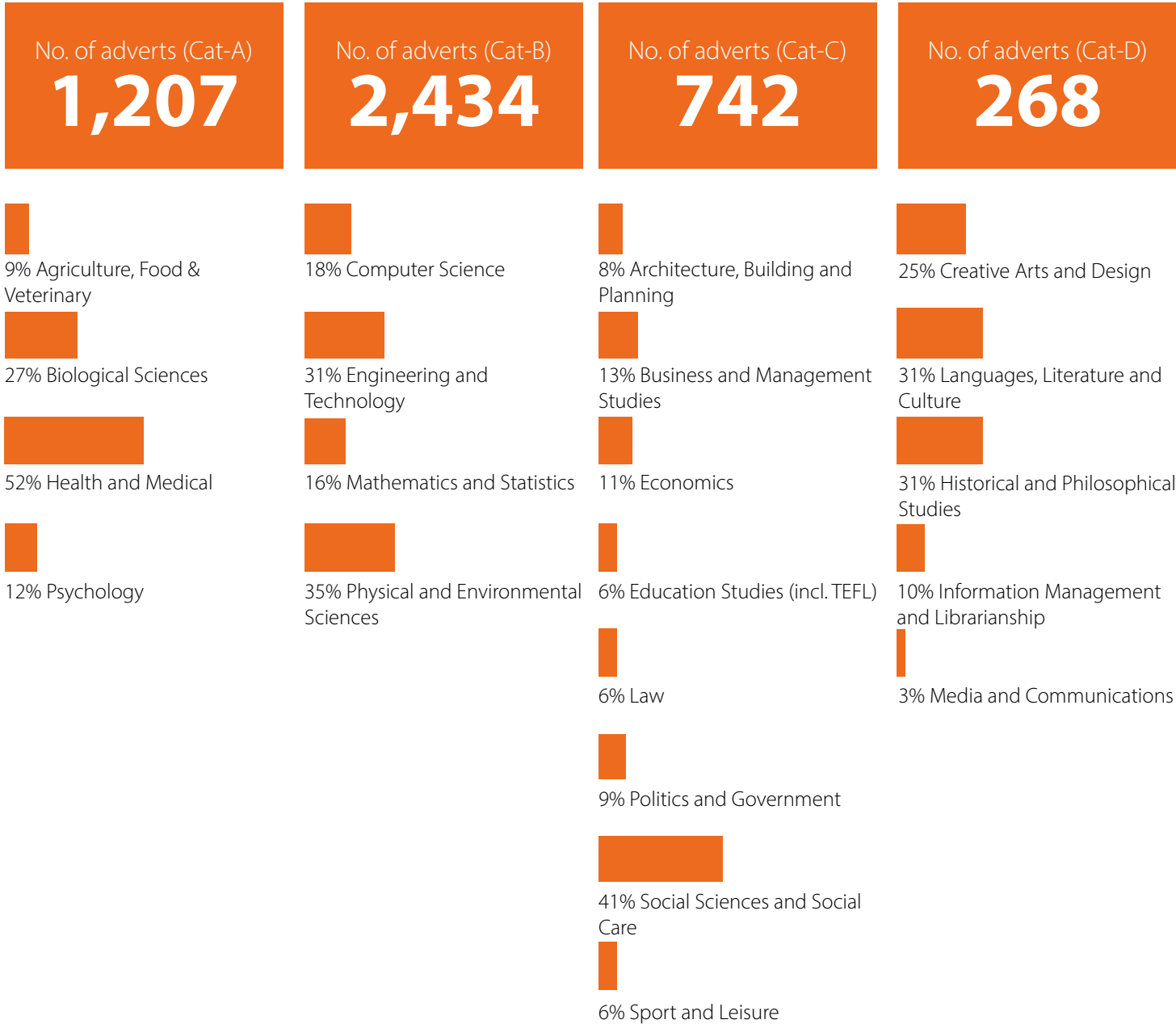
KEY FINDINGS

- 3,418 PhD opportunities appeared on jobs.ac.uk between 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021
- PhD roles make up almost 7% of the opportunities on jobs.ac.uk
- These opportunities tend to be advertised for a longer period of time (89 days) compared to other opportunities in higher education (25 days)
- These opportunities are spread out quite evenly throughout the UK with South East England top with 33% followed by the Midlands with 22%
- This is largely due to the research opportunities at the Universities of Southampton, East Anglia and Surrey
- Most PhD opportunities were advertised between October-December and March-April with the quietest months being August and September
- 56% of funding is not disclosed
- The average opportunity attracted 827 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.



PhD - Discipline Overall

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

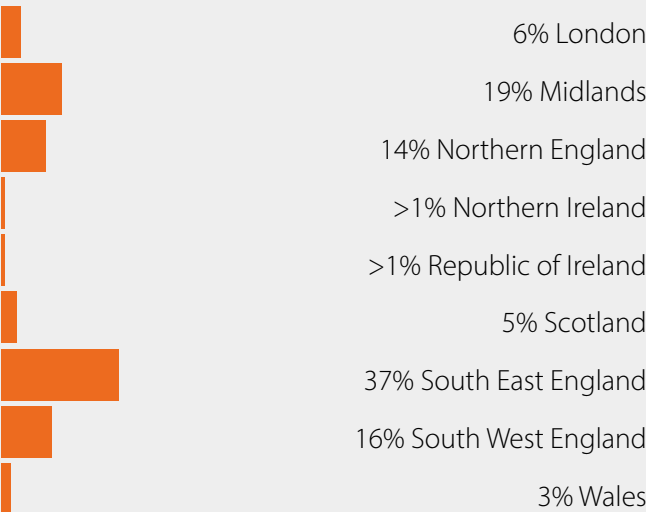
1,207 opportunities

800 average pageviews

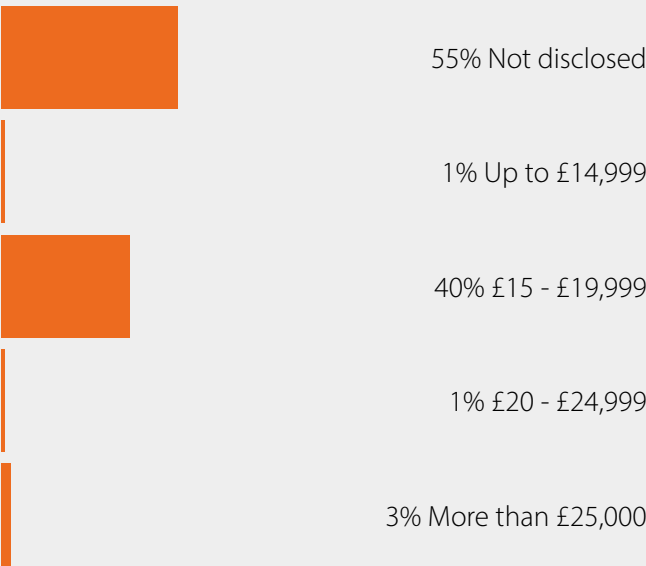
38 average advert length (days)

19 average apply clicks

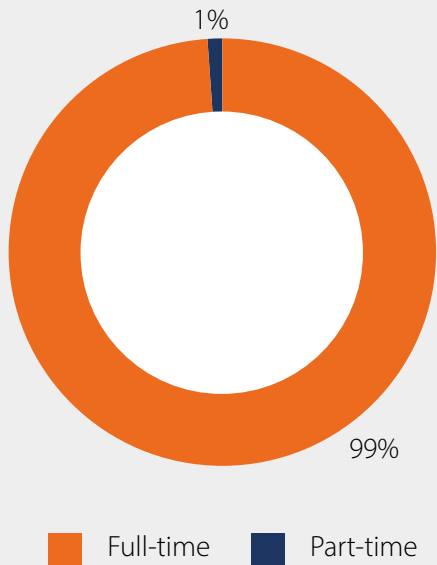
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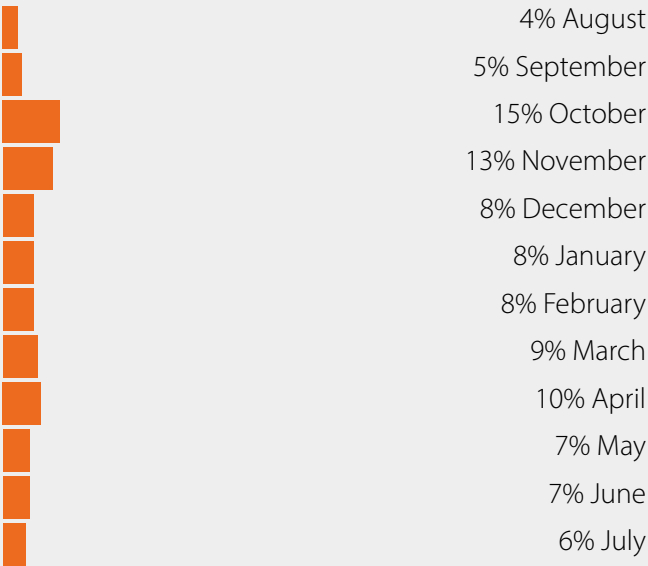
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



PhD - Discipline
Overall

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

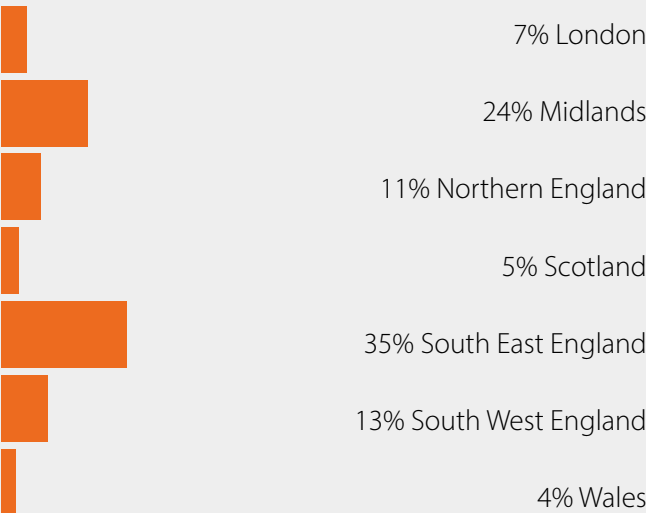
2,434
opportunities

708
average pageviews

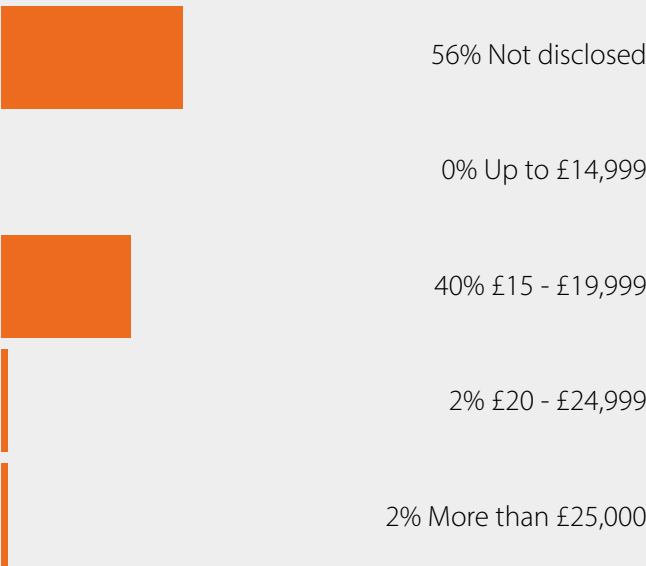
48
average advert length
(days)

14
average apply clicks

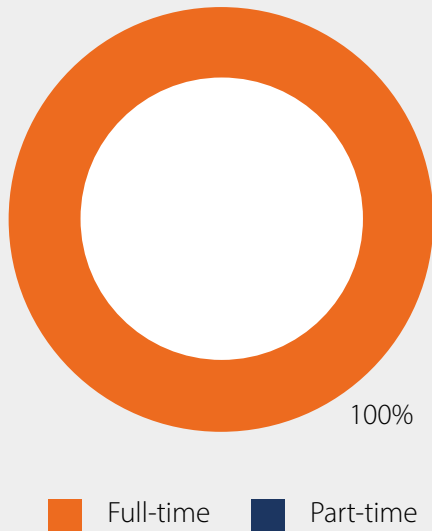
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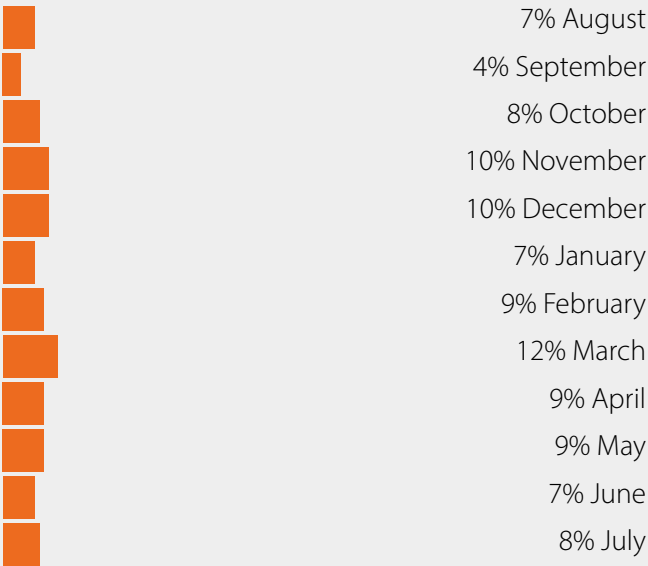
FUNDING



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

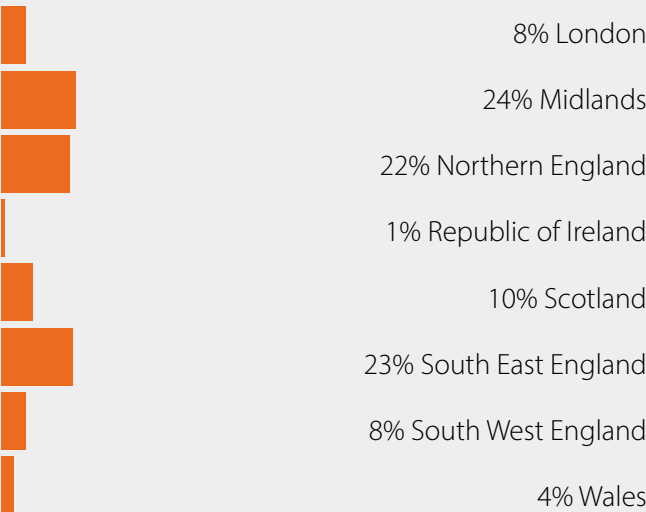
742 opportunities

1,318 average pageviews

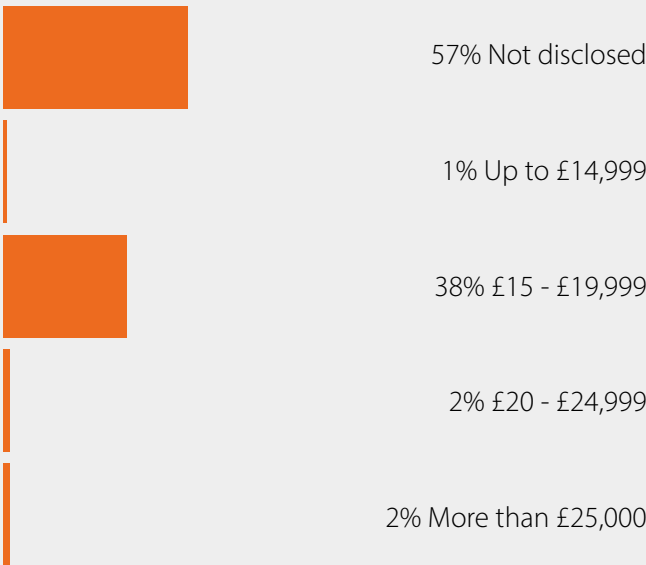
39 average advert length (days)

32 average apply clicks

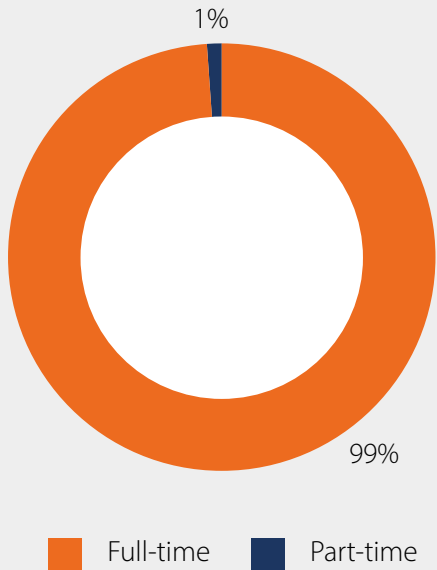
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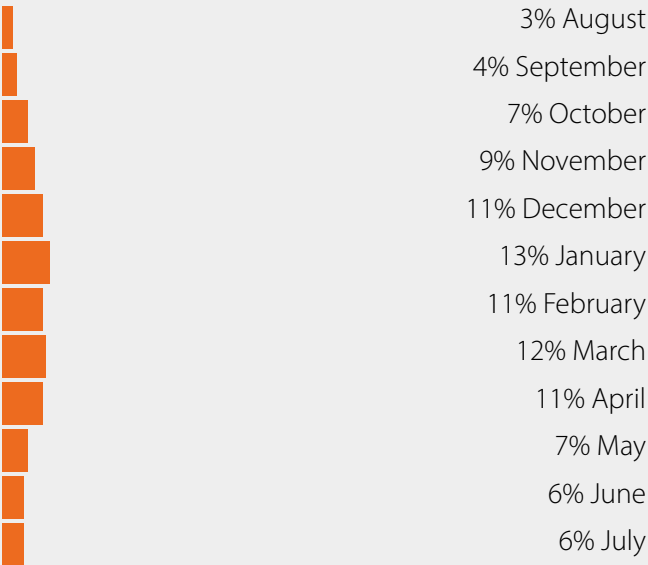
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS

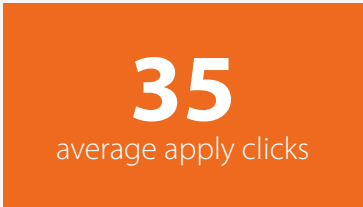
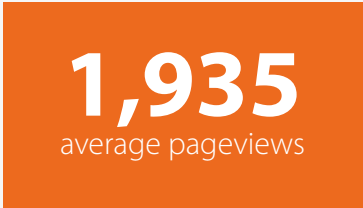


MONTH

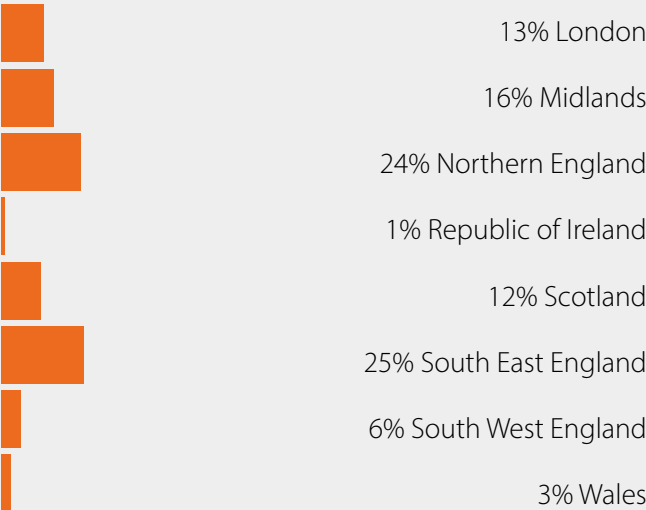


PhD - Discipline
Overall

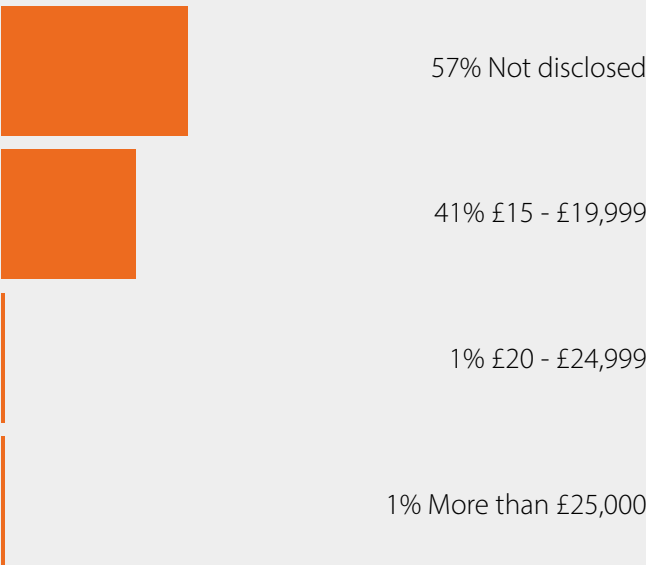
Category D - Creative Arts
and Design, Languages,
Literature and Culture,
Historical and Philosophical
Studies, Information
Management and
Librarianship, Media and
Communications



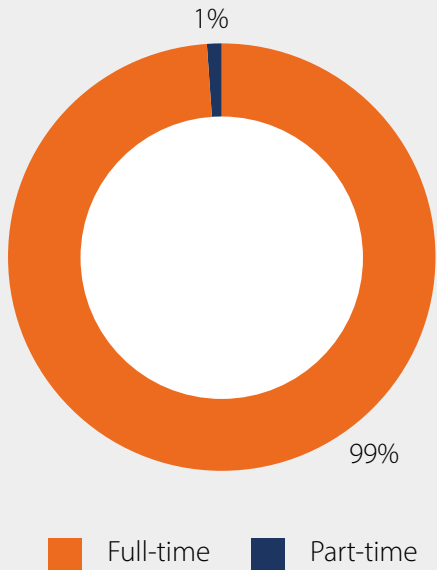
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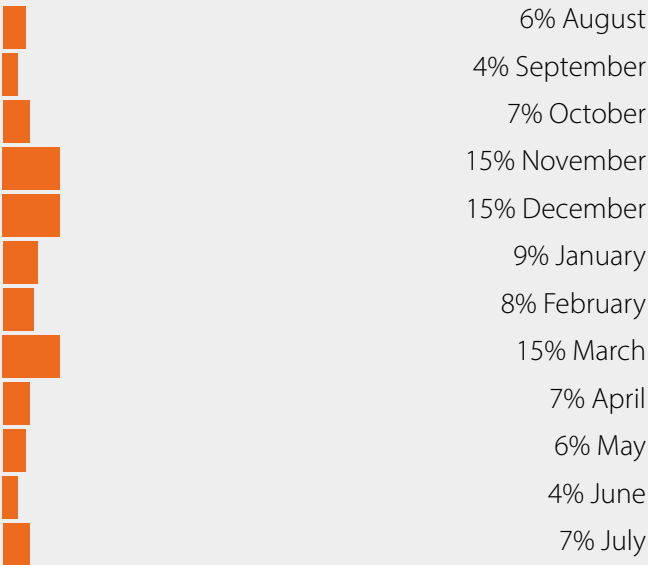
FUNDING



TYPE/HOURS

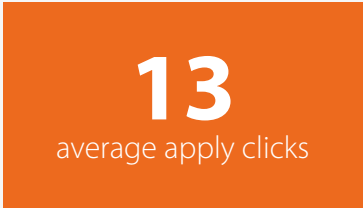
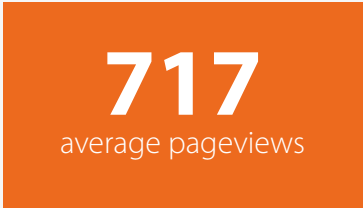


MONTH

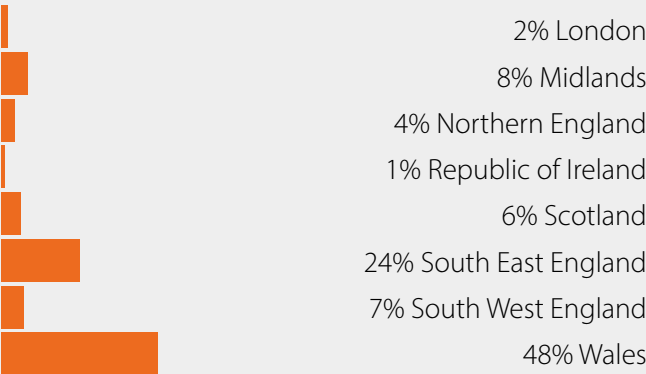


Masters

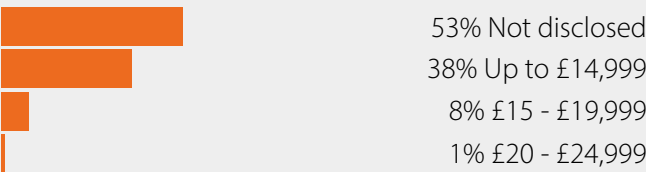
Overview of all roles advertised on jobs.ac.uk in the UK and Republic of Ireland.



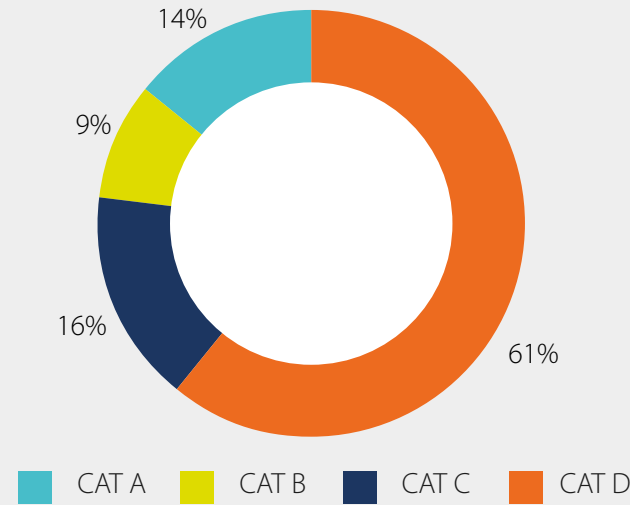
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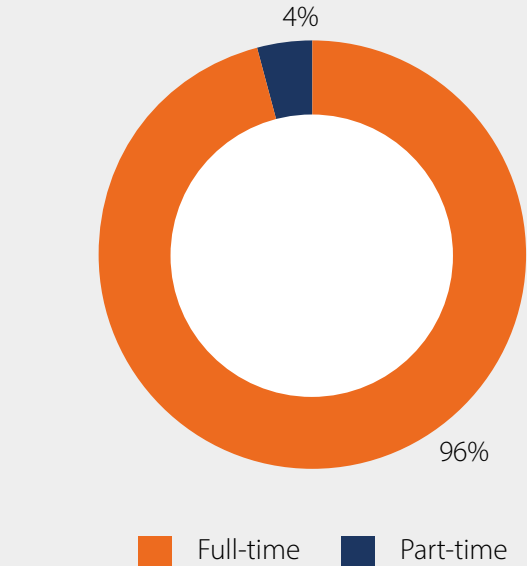
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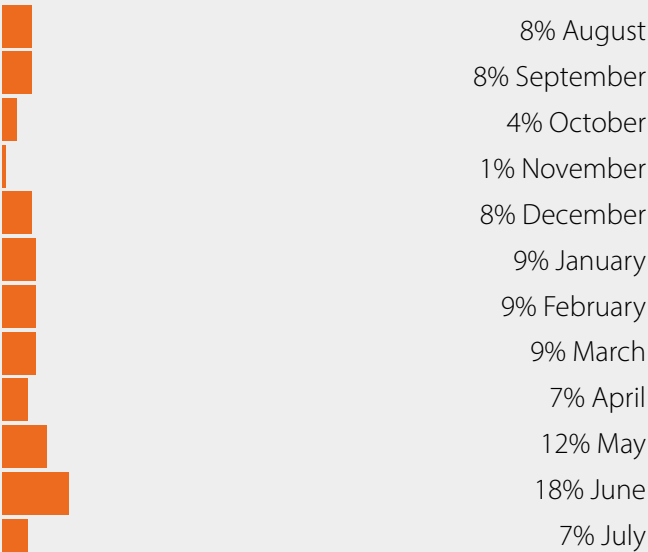
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TYPE/HOURS



MONTH



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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

5.7
million

WEBSITE USERS
in 2020/2021

1,193

ORGANISATIONS
advertised with us in
2020/2021

1.3
million

APPLY CLICKS
in 2020/2021

115,000+

JOBSEEKERS
subscribe to our
Jobs by Email service

100%

UK PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
advertise with us

87%

**TOP RANKED GLOBAL
UNIVERSITIES¹**
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¹ QS World Ratings 2021

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