Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2021

Welcome

This survey invites you to share your experiences of your postgraduate. The survey should only take around 15 minutes to complete. Please know that your participation is greatly appreciated. Your feedback will be combined with those of others to help improve the learning experience of students like you. There is a section on COVID-19 towards the end of the survey, allowing for feedback specifically about changes due to the pandemic and lockdown. [delete if not applicable]

Thank you for your time.

Data Protection

Before you start the survey, please read this privacy statement which tells you how any personal data you submit with your responses to this survey will be utilised and protected, and the rights you have in relation to it.

[Institution to insert here a hyperlink to your institution’s privacy statement. We suggest that you seek advice in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation as the data controller]

Your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and you can stop at any point without your responses being included in the dataset.

1. In order to participate, please tick below to confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice and you consent to the use of your personal data as described:

   ○ I consent

You can withdraw your consent at any time in the future by contacting [Institution to insert appropriate contact details]
Notes for completion

The questionnaire should take around fifteen minutes to complete.

Where “course” is used in the questionnaire, this refers to your whole programme of study at your institution e.g. MA Archaeology, MSc Scientific Measurement, PGCE, Diploma in Democracy.

After each section you may be asked for any further comments on the topics covered, to enable staff to gain a better understanding of what has gone well and what has worked less well. Please do not identify yourself or other individuals (including staff) in your comments. If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact [the relevant service at your institution].

Teaching and Learning

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding teaching and learning on your course?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2_1_a. Staff are good at explaining things</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_2_a. Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_3_a. The course is intellectually stimulating</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_4_a. The course has enhanced my academic ability</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_5_a. The learning materials provided on my course are useful</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_6_a. There is sufficient academic contact time (in-person or virtual/online) between staff and students to support effective learning</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2_7_a. I am happy with the support for my learning I receive from staff on my course</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:
### Engagement

4. Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding engagement on your course?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.a. I am encouraged to ask questions or make contributions in taught sessions (in-person or virtual/online)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.a. The course has created sufficient opportunities to discuss my work with other students (in-person or virtual/online)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.a. My course has challenged me to produce my best work</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.a. The workload on my course has been manageable</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.a. I have appropriate opportunities to give feedback on my experience</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:

### Assessment and feedback

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding assessment and feedback on your course? (Feedback includes oral and written feedback given in both formal and informal contexts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1.a. The criteria used in marking have been made clear in advance</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.a. Assessment arrangements and marking have been fair</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.a. Feedback on my work has been prompt</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4.a. Feedback on my work (written or oral) has been useful</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:


8. [Hidden routing question to take students around dissertation section. Default is to display dissertation section]

**Dissertation or major project**

If you are unsure what Dissertation or Major Project refers to, it could include a long-essay, independent research project, laboratory project, or other major supervised assessment task that forms an important part of your overall course.

9. Are you currently planning, undertaking, or have completed, a dissertation or major project as part of your course?
   a. Yes
   b. No [students are routed to Section E]

10. What stage of your dissertation or major project are you currently at?
    a. Planning
    b. Currently doing
    c. Completed

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your dissertation/major project? (If you have not had experience of an item then please select ‘Not applicable or Too soon to say’)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11_1.a. I understand the required standards for the dissertation/major project</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable or Too soon to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11_2.a. I am happy with the support received for planning my dissertation/major project (topic selection, project outline, literature search, etc)</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable or Too soon to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11_3.a. My supervisor has the skills and subject knowledge to adequately support my dissertation/major project</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable or Too soon to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11_4.a. My supervisor provides helpful feedback on my progress</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable or Too soon to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:
### Organisation and management

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the organisation and management of your course?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13_1_a. The timetable fits well with my other commitments</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13_2_a. Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13_3_a. The course is well organised and is running smoothly</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13_4_a. I was given appropriate guidance and support when I started my course</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13_5_a. I am encouraged to be involved in decisions about how my course is run</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:
### Resources

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the learning resources at your institution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15_1_a. There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15_2_a. There is appropriate access to online library resources</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15_3_a. There is appropriate access to IT resources and facilities when I am on-campus</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15_4_a. I have been able to access subject specific resources (for example, equipment, facilities, software, materials) necessary for my studies when I am on-campus</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15_5_a. I have been able to access subject specific resources (for example, course materials, software, virtual learning environment) necessary for my studies when I am learning remotely</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:
### Support

17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about support at your institution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17_1_a. The support for academic skills meets my needs (for example, support for your writing, language, subject-specific skills)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17_2_a. The support for using IT and accessing resources meets my needs (for example, support with accessing online journals and e-books, using digital learning tools/apps)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17_3_a. The support for my health and wellbeing meets my needs (for example, personal tutor, student support and counselling services)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18: If you have any additional comments about support, please write them in here
**Skills development**

19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the development of skills on your course?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19_1_a. As a result of the course I am more confident about independent learning</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19_2_a. My confidence to be innovative or creative has developed during my course</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19_3_a. My research skills have developed during my course</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19_4_a. My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my course</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19_5_a. I have been encouraged to think about what skills I need to develop for my career</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19_6_a. As a result of the course I feel better prepared for my future career</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. If you have any further comments on these topics then please provide them here. Please be as specific as possible:
Overview

21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about your overall experience of your course?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.1_a. Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. Please comment on one thing that has been most enjoyable or interesting on your course:

...........................................................................................................................................................................

23. Please comment on one thing that would most improve your experience of your course:

...........................................................................................................................................................................

Covid-19 pandemic

24. Thinking about the Covid-19 pandemic to what extent do you agree or disagree that…?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Definitely disagree</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.1_a. Communications from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.2_a. I have received the support I need from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.3_a. My institution has worked to ensure the quality of my academic experience during the Covid-19 pandemic</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. If you have any additional comments about your institution’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic please write them in here:
[Space for institutional questions]

About yourself

To help us understand whether provision at this institution and across the sector is meeting the needs of all postgraduates, we would now like to ask some questions about you and your course. As with the rest of the survey, all reporting will be anonymous and your responses will be treated confidentially.

26. What is your age?
   - 25 years old or younger
   - 26-30 years old
   - 31-35 years old
   - 36-40 years old
   - 41-45 years old
   - 46-50 years old
   - 51-55 years old
   - 56 years old or older
   - Prefer not to say

27. How would you describe your gender?
   - Man
   - Non-binary
   - Woman
   - Prefer not to say
   - In another way (specify, if you wish)

28. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (for example dyslexia, long-term illness, mental health condition, physical impairment)
   - Yes
   - No
   - Prefer not to say

28_a. If yes, please choose one or more from the following options:
   - A social/communication impairment such as Asperger’s syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
   - Blind or a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
   - Deaf or serious hearing impairment
   - A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
   - A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
   - A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD
   - A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
   - A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
   - Prefer not to say
29. Where do you consider to be your permanent home?

[Domicile list drawn from the HESA Domicile field]

30. What is your ethnic group? (Please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background):

- White
- White: Gypsy or Traveller
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: African
- Any other Black background
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Mixed: White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed: White and Black African
- Mixed: White and Asian
- Mixed: Any other Mixed background
- Arab
- Any other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

**About your course**

*For these questions, please respond in relation to the taught postgraduate course you are currently studying.*

31. I am registered (currently studying at this institution) for the qualification of:

- Taught Masters (for example MBA, LLM, MSc, MEng)
- Postgraduate Certificate (including PGCE)
- Postgraduate Diploma
- Other (please specify) ..........................................................

32. HECOS discipline question - PRE-POPULATED

33. I am currently registered as studying

- Full-time
- Part-time

34. How have your taught sessions usually been delivered this term?

a. Mostly or completely virtually/online
b. A mixture of in-person and virtually/online
c. Mostly or completely in-person

35. Voluntary pre-population on whether the course was intended to be in-person or distance learning (always hidden)
36. Have you considered, for any reason, leaving your postgraduate course?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Prefer not to say

37. (If yes) What was the main (or most recent) reason that led you to consider leaving?
   - Difficulty balancing study and other commitments
   - Financial difficulties
   - Family or personal problems
   - My physical health
   - My mental/emotional health
   - There is not enough support for personal issues
   - There is not enough interaction with teaching staff
   - There is too much work
   - There is not enough support for my learning
   - I have found this level of study difficult
   - I don’t feel connected with my fellow students
   - The content of the course is not what I expected
   - The way the course is delivered is not what I expected
   - I might have chosen the wrong institution
   - The wider student experience is not what I was hoping for
   - Other (specify, if you wish)
   - Prefer not to say

Thank you

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. If you have a complaint or need support with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact [the relevant service at your institution].

This material and its content is developed by Advance HE. Advance HE would like to thank The National Student Survey (“NSS”) in the reproduction of questions 2 (1-3), 6 (1-3), 13 (2-3), & Q21 taken from the NSS and question 15 (1&3) which was originally based on the NSS. With the exception of the aforementioned questions, the copyright in such material and content belongs to Advance HE. No reproduction, modification or adaptation is permitted without the prior written consent of Advance HE.
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