PRES is primarily a benchmarking tool and national results obtained from the 107 participating Higher Education institutions, incorporating almost 40,000 individual responses, provide robust benchmarking data for individual institutions.

Aside from the benchmarking data and the statistical analysis, PRES also provides a high level of qualitative information via the open-ended questions at the end of each section. These anonymised comments, along with statistical analysis at the UoA level will be passed to Research Directors for information and action where required.
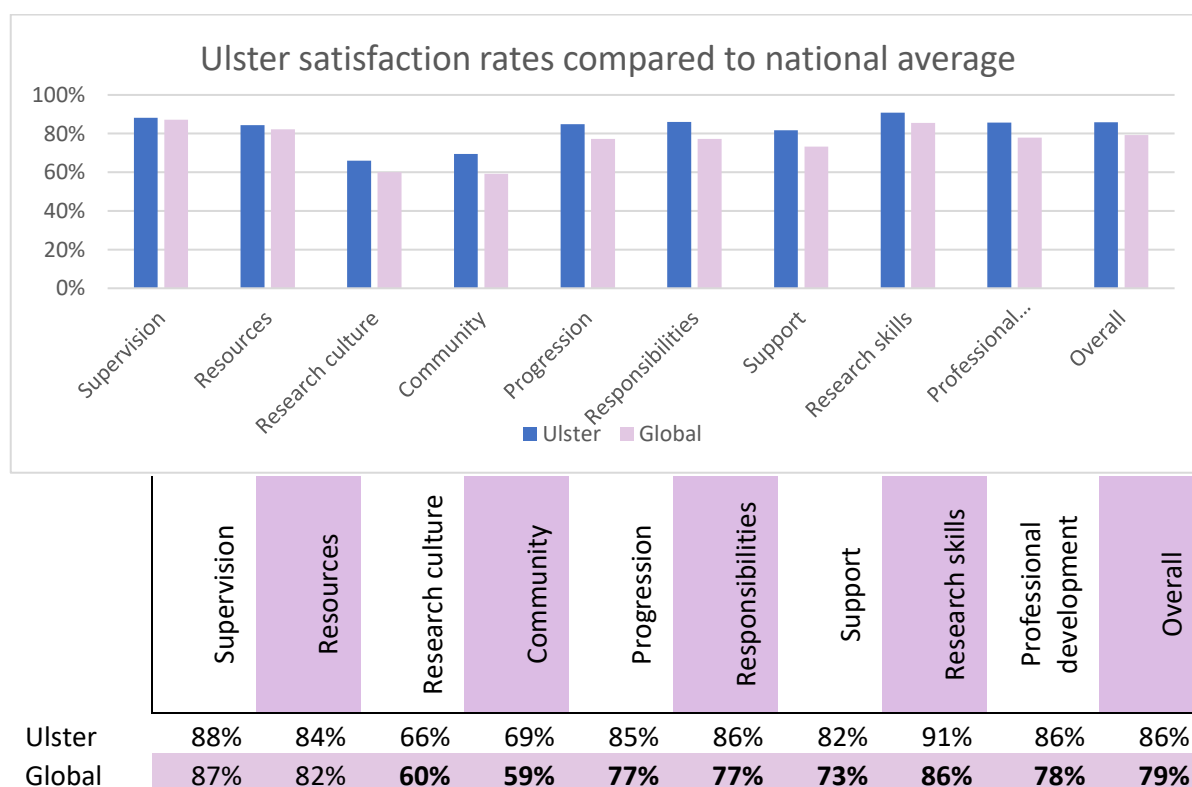
Participation:

All registered PhD Researchers were invited to complete the online survey, which was open from the end of March through to mid-May 2023. Ulster achieved a participation rate of 78%, an increase of 4% from the previous year, which was again more than double the UK participation rate.

UoA/Faculty	Base population	Number of responses	% response rate
Modern Lang/Linguistics	19	15	79%
English	18	11	61%
History	17	17	100%
Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	21	17	81%
Communication & Media Studies	12	11	92%
Art and Design	58	29	50%
Education	21	16	76%
Law	22	21	95%
Social Work and Social Policy	39	36	92%
AHSS	**227**	**173**	**76%**
Computing (BT)	54	45	83%
Intelligent Systems (MG)	44	25	57%
Engineering	49	35	71%

Architecture, Built Environment & Planning	52	41	79%
CEBE	**199**	**146**	**73%**
Biomedical Sciences	93	80	86%
Geography & Environmental Studies	27	22	81%
Medicine	28	27	96%
Nursing and Health	51	32	63%
Psychology	61	49	80%
Sport	36	25	69%
LHS	**296**	**235**	**79%**
Business and Management Studies	43	40	93%
UUBS	**43**	**40**	**93%**
Ulster Participation Rate	**765**	**594**	**78%**

Ulster v Global Satisfaction Rates:

The graph below shows that Ulster has once again achieved satisfaction rates of above the national average across all indicators in the survey. These figures are provided by Advance HE and vary slightly to our internal statistics due to differing thresholds for participant inclusion.

	Supervision	Resources	Research culture	Community	Progression	Responsibilities	Support	Research skills	Professional development	Overall
Ulster	88%	84%	66%	69%	85%	86%	82%	91%	86%	86%
Global	87%	82%	**60%**	**59%**	**77%**	**77%**	**73%**	**86%**	**78%**	**79%**

Faculty Satisfaction Rates:

These rates have been calculated by converting the mean scores for each indicator or scaled question set into a percentage, using the same methodology as in previous years to allow direct comparison. While some of the scaled questions have been amended and updated to include additional questions (mainly to account for the changing study environment since Covid), comparisons with previous years remains possible.

Faculty	Supervision	Resources	Research Culture	Community	Progression	Responsibilities	Support	Research Skills	Professional Development	Covid Response	Preparedness for future career	Likeliness of on time completion	Overall Experience 2023	2021	2019
AHSS	89%	84%	74%	76%	87%	86%	83%	90%	86%	83%	83%	80%	86%	86%	86%
CEBE	89%	89%	80%	82%	86%	88%	87%	89%	87%	83%	87%	79%	86%	86%	84%
LHS	90%	87%	77%	76%	84%	86%	83%	89%	86%	83%	87%	77%	86%	87%	85%
UUBS	90%	90%	69%	71%	86%	87%	87%	89%	85%	90%	87%	85%	84%	87%	89%
Ulster	**89%**	**87%**	**76%**	**77%**	**86%**	**87%**	**84%**	**89%**	**86%**	**83%**	**86%**	**79%**	**86%**	**87%**	**85%**

Mean Rating Trends:

In line with previous surveys, scaled questions have been used to provide more robust data on each particular area of interest. Groups of questions relating to similar subject areas have been combined to form seven scaled questions and the questions making up each scale have been reproduced in Annex 1. The table below shows the mean scores (out of 5) for each scale over the years. A few of the questions making up the scales were changed this year so please note that this year's figures are not exactly comparing like for like from previous surveys.

Scale	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 23	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 21	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 19	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 18	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 17	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 15	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 13	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 11	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 09	Ulster Mean Rating PRES 08
Supervision	4.47	4.56	4.45	4.40	4.26	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8
Research Skills	4.46	4.48	4.43	4.42	4.38	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.8
Resources	4.35	4.24	4.21	4.19	4.22	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.6
Research Culture	3.81	3.65	3.90	3.79	3.63	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.1
Progress and Assessment	4.29	4.35	4.27	4.21	4.23	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.8
Professional Development	4.31	4.28	4.29	4.31	4.25	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.1	n/a
Responsibilities	4.33	4.36	4.27	4.23	4.18	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.6	n/a
Support	4.22	4.19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Institutional Response to Covid	4.16	4.13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Unit Level Results:

Faculty	Unit	Supervision	Resources	Community	Research Culture	Assessment & Progress	Roles and Responsibilities	Research Skills	Professional Development	Support	Covid Response	Overall
AHSS	Modern Languages/	4.33	4.15	3.91	3.67	4.52	4.52	4.54	4.37	4.18	4.22	**4.27**
	English	4.04	4.22	4.24	3.98	4.27	4.25	4.34	4.32	4.12	4.33	**4.45**
	History	4.87	4.46	3.94	4.23	4.63	4.52	4.65	4.43	4.38	4.00	**4.35**
	Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	4.46	4.35	4.04	3.85	4.60	4.63	4.56	4.28	4.25	4.40	**4.53**
	Communication and Media	4.57	3.75	2.70	2.72	4.09	4.07	4.43	4.36	3.91	3.96	**4.00**
	Art and Design	4.26	4.14	3.37	3.20	4.18	4.08	4.22	4.05	4.22	3.75	**4.07**
	Education	4.49	4.49	4.15	3.86	4.41	4.39	4.56	4.34	4.42	4.62	**4.19**
	Law	4.39	4.24	4.17	4.06	4.26	4.37	4.45	4.30	4.14	4.14	**4.45**
	Social Work and Social Policy	4.47	4.20	3.71	3.70	4.39	4.17	4.61	4.34	4.11	4.08	**4.28**
CEBE	Computing (BT)	4.57	4.51	4.01	4.07	4.44	4.46	4.46	4.37	4.43	4.34	**4.42**
	Intelligent Systems	4.80	4.68	4.41	4.35	4.47	4.66	4.49	4.48	4.53	4.35	**4.64**
	Engineering	4.31	4.33	4.10	3.89	4.16	4.28	4.49	4.26	4.16	3.75	**4.06**
	Architecture, Built Env and Planning	4.18	4.33	3.93	3.85	4.24	4.29	4.35	4.34	4.34	4.21	**4.24**

	Unit	Supervision	Resources	Community	Research Culture	Assessment & Progress	Roles and Responsibilities	Research Skills	Professional Development	Support	Covid Response	Overall
LHS	Biomedical Sciences	4.48	4.29	3.87	3.86	4.12	4.20	4.40	4.27	4.12	4.03	**4.29**
	Geography & ES	4.44	4.30	3.86	3.78	4.28	4.28	4.30	4.11	4.07	4.22	**4.32**
	Medicine	4.51	4.46	4.12	3.95	4.41	4.47	4.46	4.44	4.27	4.32	**4.48**
	Nursing and Health	4.50	4.46	3.95	3.95	4.35	4.33	4.53	4.41	4.34	4.30	**4.34**
	Psychology	4.57	4.41	3.67	3.75	4.15	4.36	4.52	4.28	4.07	4.01	**4.18**
	Sport	4.59	4.30	3.44	3.61	4.21	4.33	4.47	4.36	4.10	4.16	**4.16**
UUBS	Business & Management	4.51	4.49	3.53	3.45	4.29	4.34	4.46	4.27	4.36	4.50	**4.20**
	Ulster Average	4.47	4.35	3.86	3.81	4.29	4.33	4.46	4.31	4.22	4.16	**4.29**

Supervision:

My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research
I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs
My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities
My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher

Research Skills:

My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme
My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme
My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme
My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme

Resources:

I have a suitable working space when I am on campus
I have a suitable working space when I am studying remotely
There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities
There is appropriate access to online library resources
There is appropriate access to IT resources and facilities when I am on-campus
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, equipment, facilities, software, materials) when I am on campus
I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research (for example, course materials, software, virtual learning environment) when I am studying remotely

Research Culture:

I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area
I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students
The research community in my research area influences my work
I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department

Community:

I feel part of a community of postgraduate research students
I feel a sense of belonging at my institution
There are sufficient opportunities to interact with other postgraduate research students

Progress and Assessment:

I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme
I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress
I understand the required standard for my thesis
The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me

Professional Development:

My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme
My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme
I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme

Responsibilities:

My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students
I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student
I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student
Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme

Support:

The support for academic skills meets my needs (for example, support for your writing, language, subject-specific skills)
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)
The support for my health and wellbeing meets my needs (for example, personal tutor, student support and counselling services)

Institutional Covid Response:

Communications from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear
I have received the support I need from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic
My institution has worked to ensure the quality of my academic experience during the Covid-19 pandemic