University College London and the Global upper quarter boundary

Any of your institutional results, including ranking position, may be communicated internally or published externally at any time. We ask you not to make external reference to any sector benchmark results until after the publication of the Advance HE sector reports in the Autumn.
Overview
The overall satisfaction respondents at UCL had with their studies was 81%, based on 3400 responses. This was 2% lower than the score for the Global upper quarter boundary.

Respondents were relatively positive that there was a good seminar programme, with 71% agreeing, 4% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Just 72% of respondents agreed that they had suitable working space, 10% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

Most positive statements
1. I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area
   - UCL: 71%
   - Global: 67%

2. The research community in my research area stimulates my work
   - UCL: 64%
   - Global: 61%

Most negative statements
1. I have a suitable working space
   - UCL: 72%
   - Global: 82%

2. I understand the required standard for my thesis
   - UCL: 75%
   - Global: 85%
Areas of experience by quarters

The graph below shows the position of UCL in relation to institutions in the Global benchmark. UCL was mostly in the third quarter.

Key:

- **Highest quarter**: In the top 25% of institutions for this area
- **Second quarter**: Above average, but below the top 25%
- **Third quarter**: Below average, but above the bottom 25%
- **Lowest quarter**: In the bottom 25% of institutions for this area
Difference by areas of experience
The area respondents at UCL were most positive about was Research culture, which was 1% above the Global upper quarter boundary. The area students were least positive about was Progression, which was 8% below the Global upper quarter boundary.
Focus on: Research culture
Exploring within research culture, the most positive statement, relative to the Global upper quarter boundary, was 'I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area'. Of the 3330 respondents from UCL who answered this statement, 71% agreed, 3% above the Global upper quarter boundary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>UCL (%)</th>
<th>Global (%)</th>
<th>Positive difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The research community in my research area stimulates my work</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus on: Progression
Exploring within progression, the least positive statement, relative to the Global upper quarter boundary, was 'I understand the required standard for my thesis'. Of the 3387 respondents from UCL who answered this statement, 75% agreed, 10% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>University College London</th>
<th>Global upper quarter boundary</th>
<th>Positive difference</th>
<th>Negative difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I understand the required standard for my thesis</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quarter position by discipline

The graph below shows the position of UCL in relation to institutions in the Global benchmark, by JACS1 subject. UCL was mostly in the third and second quarters.

Key:

- **Highest quarter**: In the top 25% of institutions for this area
- **Second quarter**: Above average, but below the top 25%
- **Third quarter**: Below average, but above the bottom 25%
- **Lowest quarter**: In the bottom 25% of institutions for this area
**Difference by discipline**

The discipline respondents at UCL were most positive about was Biological Sciences, which was 2% above the Global upper quarter boundary. The discipline respondents were least positive about was Social Studies, which was 11% below the Global upper quarter boundary.
Focus on: Biological Sciences

The overall satisfaction respondents in Biological Sciences had with their studies was 87%, based on 244 responses. This was 1% higher than the score in the discipline for the Global upper quarter boundary.

Respondents were relatively positive that they had access to the resources needed for their research, with 92% agreeing, 3% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Just 66% of respondents agreed that the assessment procedures were clear to them, 10% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

Most positive statements
1. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research 92%
2. The research community in my research area stimulates my work 76%

Most negative statements
1. The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me 66%
2. My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher 71%
Focus on: Social Studies
The overall satisfaction respondents in Social Studies had with their studies was 74%, based on 108 responses. This was 11% lower than the score in the discipline for the Global upper quarter boundary.

Respondents were relatively positive that there was a good seminar programme, with 71% agreeing, 6% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Just 57% of respondents agreed that there was adequate computer resources, 24% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

Most positive statements
1. I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area (71%)
2. The research community in my research area stimulates my work (62%)

Most negative statements
1. There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities (57%)
2. I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme (61%)
Differences by demographics

Shown below is the overall satisfaction for UCL and Global upper quarter boundary, broken down by the main demographic and mode of delivery groups. The next two pages focus upon distance learners and thought about leaving respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>University College London</th>
<th>Global upper quarter boundary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thought about leaving</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not thought about leaving</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance learners</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-BME</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BME</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No known disability</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall satisfaction
Focus on: Distance learners
For respondents who were distance learners, the overall satisfaction they had with their studies was 78%, based on 496 responses. This was 6% lower than the score in this mode of delivery for the Global upper quarter boundary.

Respondents were least negative that they their critical and analytical skills have developed, with 91% agreeing, around the same as the Global upper quarter boundary. Just 63% of respondents agreed that they had suitable working space, 16% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

Most positive statements
1. My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme (91%)
2. The research community in my research area stimulates my work (54%)

Most negative statements
1. I have a suitable working space (63%)
2. There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities (65%)
Focus on: Retention - Thought about leaving
For respondents who have thought about leaving, the overall satisfaction they had with their studies was 59%, based on 844 responses. This was 4% lower than the score in this demographic for the Global upper quarter boundary.

Respondents were relatively positive that there was a good seminar programme, with 62% agreeing, 5% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Just 52% of respondents agreed that their supervisor had helped them identify development needs, 15% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

Most positive statements
1. I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area
2. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research

Most negative statements
1. My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher
2. I understand the required standard for my thesis
The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
PRES is a global survey with 50,600 respondents in 2019, achieving a 42% response rate. 107 institutions were involved in the survey.

Quarter methodology
The quarters are based on all institutions that have, on average, 23 valid responses or over to the questions making up the survey area. Quarters are only reported when there are a minimum of 8 institutions within an area.

For more on how the differences and quarters have been calculated, please refer to the statistics guide in the 'Guides' workbook supplied alongside this report.

For more information
surveys@advance-he.ac.uk