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
At UCL there were 3892 respondents to PRES 2021. The overall satisfaction they had with their studies was 80%, this was 1% lower than the score for the Global upper quarter boundary.

62% of students stated their work was influenced by the research community, 8% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Less positively, relative to the benchmark, just 73% of respondents stated they understood the required standard for their thesis.

Most positive statements
1. The research community in my research area influences my work (54% vs. Global upper quarter boundary 62%)
2. I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area (68% vs. Global upper quarter boundary 74%)

Most negative statements
1. I understand the required standard for my thesis (73% vs. Global upper quarter boundary 80%)
2. The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me (69% vs. Global upper quarter boundary 80%)
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

Overall % agree for area
- Overall: 80%
- Research culture: 62%
- Resources: 76%
- Professional development: 76%
- Support: 73%
- Research skills: 85%
- Supervision: 87%
- Covid-19 Pandemic: 72%
- Responsibilities: 78%
- Progression: 74%
Difference by areas of experience
The area respondents at UCL were most positive about was Research
culture, which was 4% above the Global upper quarter boundary. The
area students were least positive about was Progression, which was
10% 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 'The research community in my research area influences my work'. Of the 3800 respondents from UCL who answered this statement, 62% agreed, 8% above the Global upper quarter boundary.

- The research community in my research area influences my work: 62% (UCL), 54% (Global), +8%
- I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area: 74% (UCL), 68% (Global), +6%
- I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students: 57% (UCL), 58%
- I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department: 55% (UCL), 59%, -3%
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 3857 respondents from UCL who answered this statement, 73% agreed, 12% below the Global upper quarter boundary.
Quarter position by discipline

The graph below shows the position of UCL in relation to institutions in the Global benchmark, by CAH1 subject. 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

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**Quarter position by discipline**

The graph below shows the position of UCL in relation to institutions in the Global benchmark, by CAH1 subject. UCL was mostly in the third quarter.
**Difference by discipline**

The discipline within which respondents at UCL were most positive overall was Clinical Medicine (n=322), which was 2% above the Global upper quarter boundary. The discipline within which respondents were least positive overall was Geography, Archaeology and Built Environment (n=445), which was 8% below the Global upper quarter boundary.

### Key:
- **Difference to the Global upper quarter boundary**
  - Positive significant difference
  - No significant difference
  - Negative significant difference

### Percentage difference to Global upper quarter boundary mean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All responses (n=3875)</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Medicine (n=322)</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences (n=264)</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies (n=131)</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (n=556)</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences (n=398)</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering (n=417)</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science (n=153)</td>
<td>-5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (n=424)</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages and Area Studies (n=114)</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Health subjects (n=304)</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography, Archaeology and Built Environment (n=445)</td>
<td>-8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CAH1 subject for UCL**
Focus on: Clinical Medicine

The overall satisfaction respondents in Clinical Medicine had with their studies was 82%, based on 322 responses. This was 2% higher than the score in this group for the Global upper quarter boundary.

84% of students stated communications from their institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear, 3% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Conversely, just 68% of respondents stated they understood the required standard for their thesis, 9% below the Global upper quarter boundary score for this discipline.

Most positive statements

1. Communications from my institution in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic were appropriate and clear
   - University College London: 84%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 81%

2. I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme
   - University College London: 72%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 70%

Most negative statements

1. I understand the required standard for my thesis
   - University College London: 68%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 77%

2. The support for my health and wellbeing meets my needs
   - University College London: 62%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 71%
Focus on: Geography, Archaeology and Built Environment

The overall satisfaction respondents in Geography, Archaeology and Built Environment had with their studies was 76%, based on 445 responses. This was 8% lower than the score in this group for the Global upper quarter boundary.

54% of students stated their work was influenced by the research community, 2% below the Global upper quarter boundary. More negatively, relative to the benchmark, just 61% of respondents stated there was appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities, 17% below the Global upper quarter boundary score for this discipline.

Most positive statements
1. My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research
   - 93%
2. The research community in my research area influences my work
   - 56%

Most negative statements
1. There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities
   - 61%
2. I have a suitable working space when I am on campus
   - 65%
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 students who were 31 years old or older and students who were disabled.
Focus on: 31 years old or older

For students who were 31 years old or older, the overall satisfaction they had with their studies was 82%, based on 1409 responses. This was 2% lower than the score in this group for the Global upper quarter boundary.

59% of students stated their work was influenced by the research community, 8% above the Global upper quarter boundary. In contrast, just 73% of respondents stated there was appropriate induction to the programme, 11% below the Global upper quarter boundary score for this group.

Most positive statements

1. The research community in my research area influences my work
   - University College London: 59%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 51%

2. I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area
   - University College London: 70%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 66%

Most negative statements

1. I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme
   - University College London: 73%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 84%

2. There is appropriate access to physical library resources and facilities
   - University College London: 67%
   - Global upper quarter boundary: 76%
Focus on: Disability - Disabled

The overall satisfaction students who were disabled had with their studies was 71%, based on 293 responses. This was 7% lower than the score in this group for the Global upper quarter boundary.

71% of students stated there was a good range of seminars, 6% above the Global upper quarter boundary. Less positively, relative to the benchmark, just 68% of respondents stated their ability to manage projects has developed, 13% below the Global upper quarter boundary score for this group.

**Most positive statements**

1. I have access to a good range of seminars in my research area
2. The research community in my research area influences my work

**Most negative statements**

1. My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme
2. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research when I am studying remotely
**Student profile comparison**

This page shows how the demographic profile of students responding to the survey studying at University College London compares with the Global upper quarter boundary. By discipline, the discipline which has the greatest difference between UCL and the Global upper quarter boundary is Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, with UCL having 7% more students studying within this discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>Global Upper Quarter Boundary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology, Psychiatry &amp; Neuroscience</td>
<td>62% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>55% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agri, Vet &amp; Food Science</td>
<td>42% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>45% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>30% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>33% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Science &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>8% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>9% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>6% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>7% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comms &amp; Media Studies</td>
<td>7% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>9% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts &amp; Design</td>
<td>8% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>9% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>3% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>4% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>4% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>5% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>4% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages &amp; Area Studies</td>
<td>3% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>4% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Philosophy</td>
<td>2% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>3% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>3% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>4% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Economics</td>
<td>2% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>3% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts &amp; Design</td>
<td>1% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>2% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comms &amp; Media Studies</td>
<td>1% (30 or younger)</td>
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<td>Law</td>
<td>1% (30 or younger)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Science &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>1% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>2% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agri, Vet &amp; Food Science</td>
<td>1% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>2% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>77% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAME</td>
<td>27% (30 or younger)</td>
<td>23% (31 or older)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey

PRES is the leading survey of Research Postgraduates in the UK, with 39855 respondents in 2021, achieving a 36.1% response rate. 94 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
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