

Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS)  
2015: Analysis of UCL Results



Research Staff Consultative Group

(With acknowledgement to Dr Richard Freeman, UCL IOE)

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## **Key findings**

PIRLS ran for the first time at UCL in 2011 and there were responses from 116 members of UCL PI/RL staff, representing 5.7% of staff. The survey ran again in 2013 with just 54 responses. One of the aims for 2015 was to widen the participation of the UCL PI/RL community in the survey. For 2015, broadly, responses were similar to those from other Russell Group with the UCL PI/RLs tending to be more positive. UCL was seen as tending to value the key activities for a PI/RL more than other Russell Group, and also with respect to management activities. However, the majority of UCL PI/RLs respondents believed that they would benefit from more support/training/development in relation to performance management. Ratings of all aspects of appraisal were the same or higher for UCL relative to other Russell Group.

Some of the challenges that UCL PI/RL staff identified for the next five years were largely around securing funding and income generation, space, building a research group, and time management. Areas identified for development included: leadership training for PIs, media, coaching, time management, financial management, strategic planning, and support with grant writing, managing career pathways and expectations of research staff, and managing people.

## **Results**

### *Response rate*

There were responses from 222 members of UCL PI/RL staff, out of an expected 2600, giving a response rate of 9%. The response rate for other participating Russell Group institutions will be available in September 2015. Nonetheless, UCL responses accounted for 17% of the nine Russell Group institutions participating in the survey this year, which reflects the research strength of UCL.

### *Basic Information*

Almost 49% of UCL respondents have been a PI/RL for ten years or more (Other Russell Group: 51%). With regard to age, UCL's distribution showed approximately 34% in the age range of 51 or more (Other Russell Group: 32%), 42% are female (Other Russell Group: 37%), 68% are British nationals (Other Russell Group: 72%) and 1% consider themselves to be disabled (Other Russell Group: 2%).