

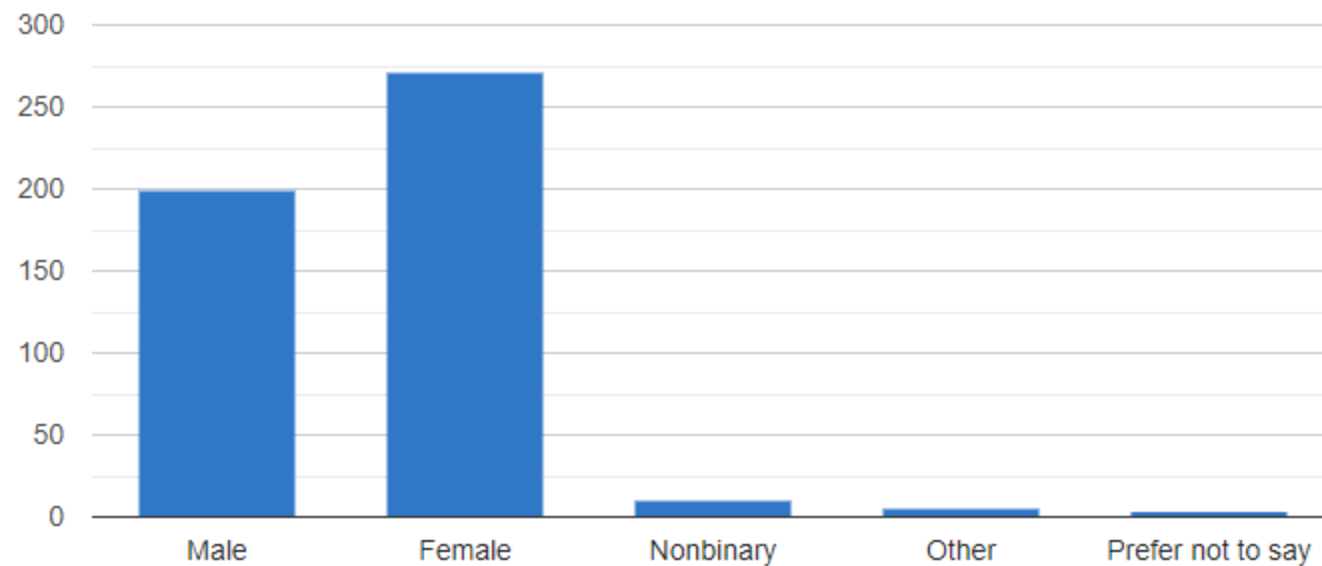


PGR Stipend and Working Hours Survey 2022

Vice-President for Postgraduate Affairs

Gender

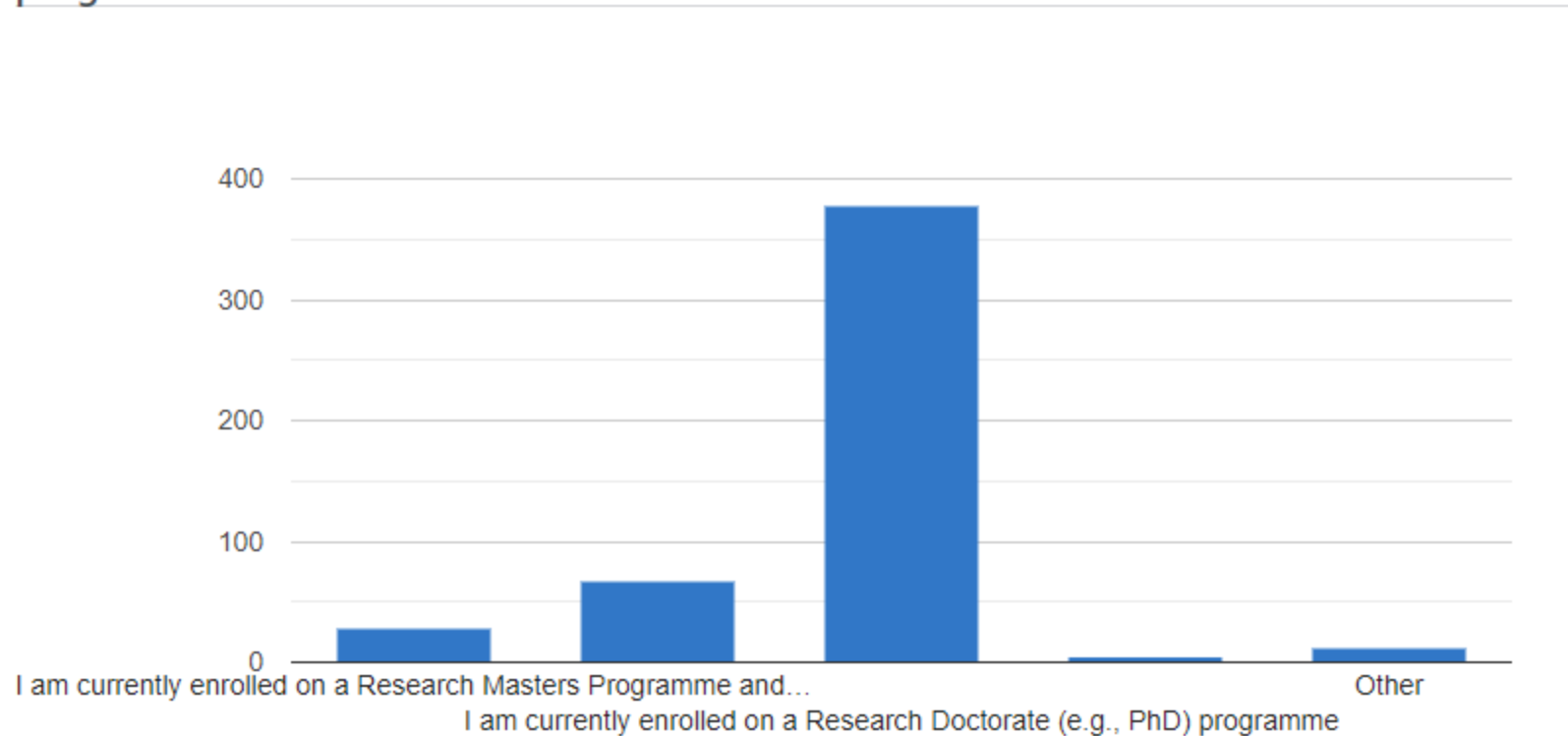
Do you identify as...



Female	271
Male	199
Nonbinary	10
Other	5
Prefer not to say	3

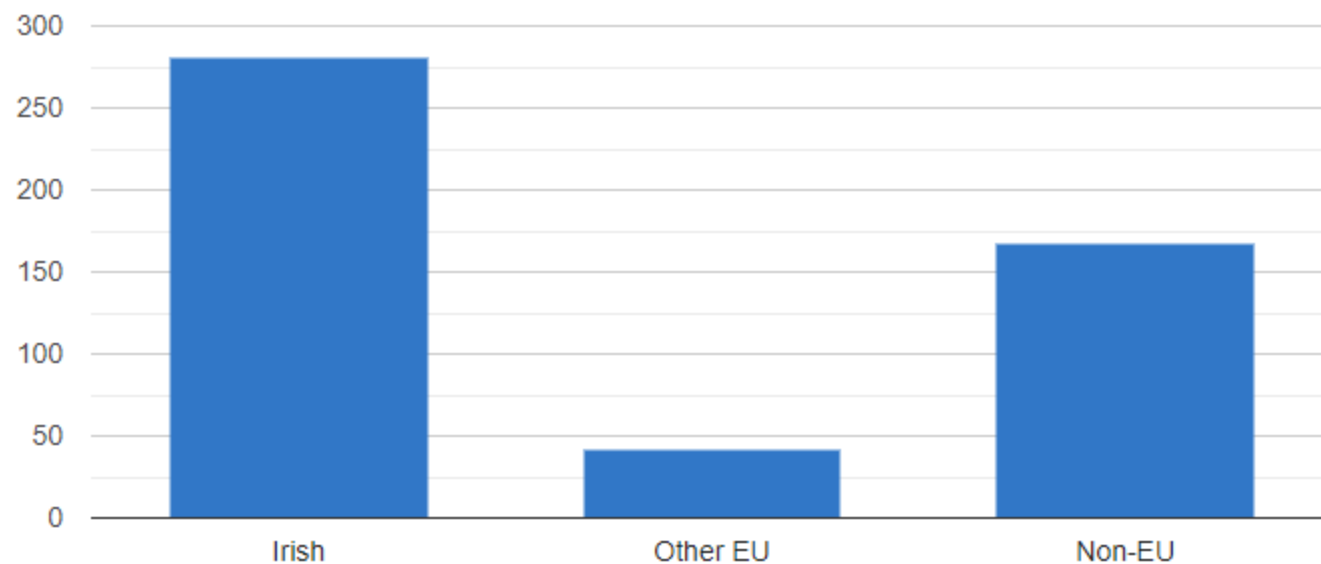
Programme

Which of the follow best describes your current enrolment status on your postgraduate programme?



PhD	378
MA-PhD	67
MA	27
Other	12
Professional Doctorate (e.g., D.Ed, D.Clinc.Psych etc.) pr	4

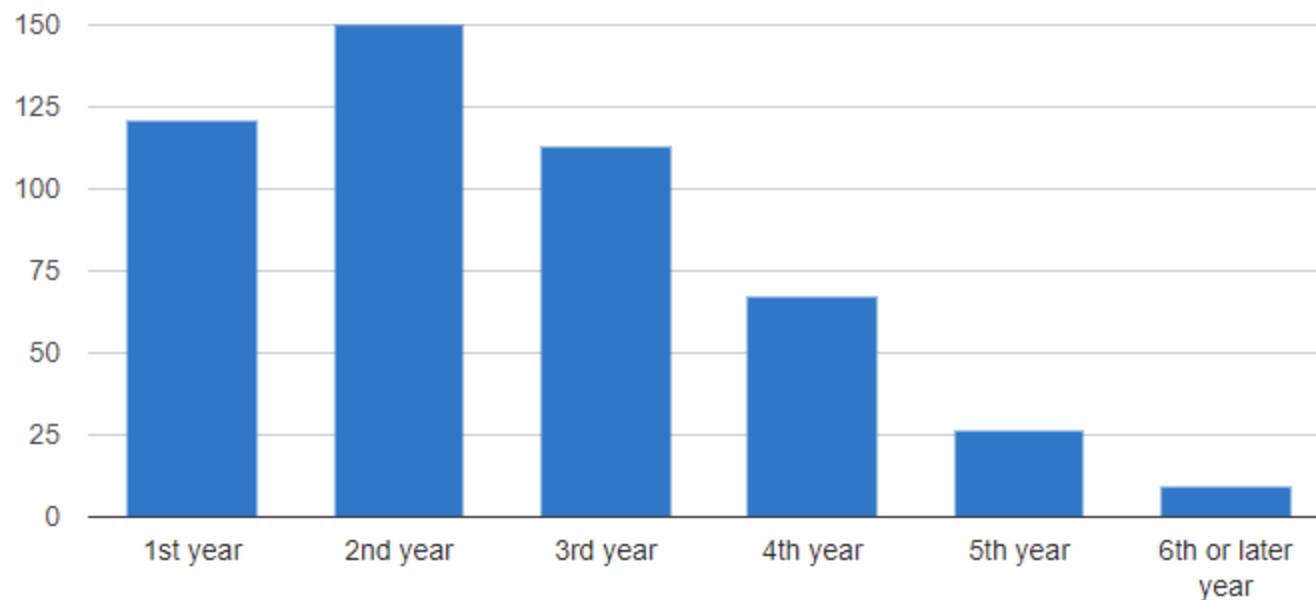
Country of Origin



Are you...	Submissions
Irish	281
Non-EU	167
Other EU	41

Year of Study

What year of study are you in?



Year	Submissions
1st year	121
2nd year	150
3rd year	113
4th year	67
5th year	26
6th or later year	9

Discipline

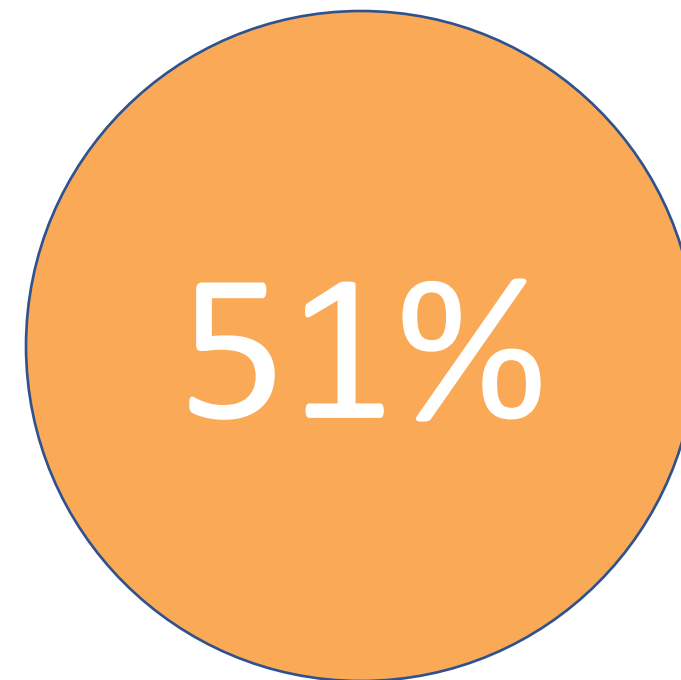
Discipline	
05 – Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	111
02 – Arts and humanities	71
03 – Social sciences, journalism and information	60
09 – Health and welfare	60
07 – Engineering, manufacturing and construction	55
04 – Business, administration and law	47
06 – Information and Communication Technologies	25
01 – Education	9
Other	8

Funding

Institution	Average stipend
University	€13,850
TU/IOT	€11,067
MA tracking PhD	€9,071 (56% are 10k and under)

Stipend Amount

Stipend per year	Students
0-5k	75
5-10k	59
10-15k	92
15-20k	244 <i>(63.5% from Funding Bodies)</i>
20-30k	4 (1 HEI)
30-40k	3 (1 HEI)
40k+	2 (1 HEI)



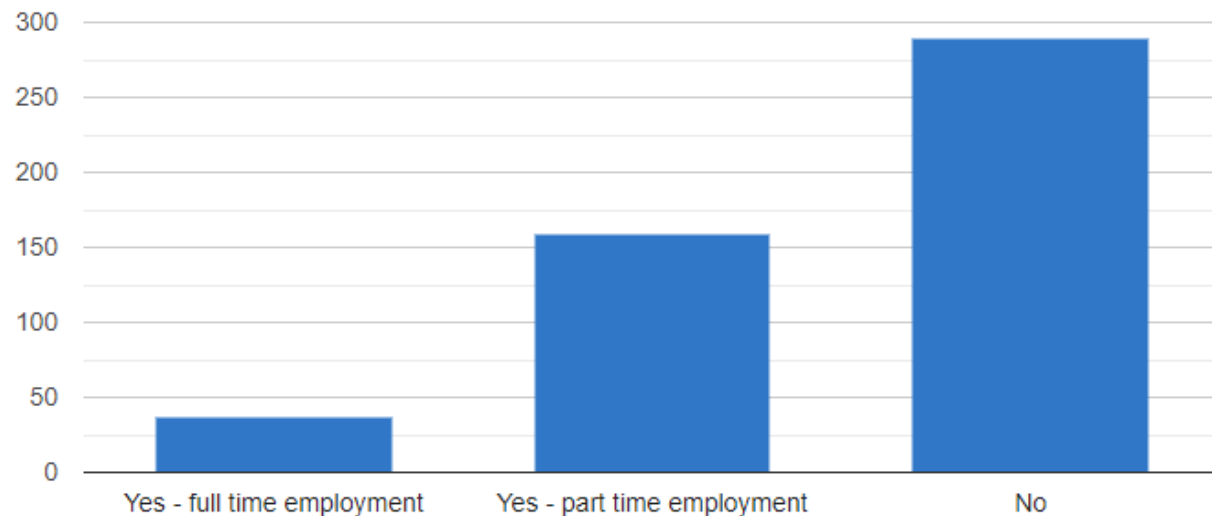
Live below the poverty line
(if you only take into account their stipend)

Are you engaged in **work outside your HEI?**

59%
NO

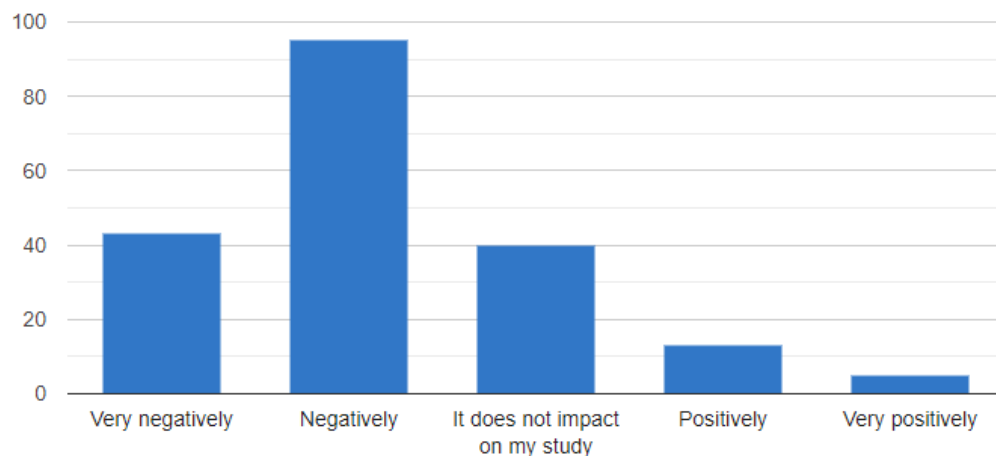
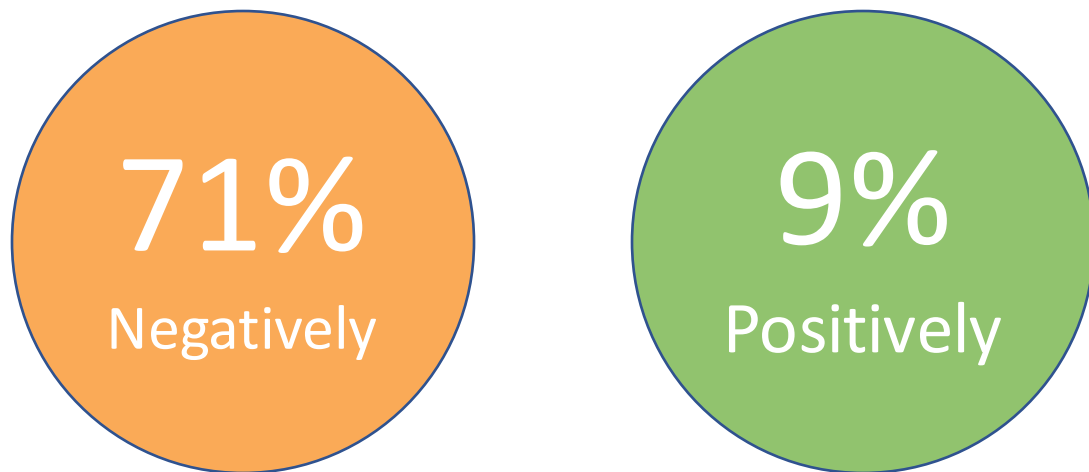
33%
PT

8%
FT



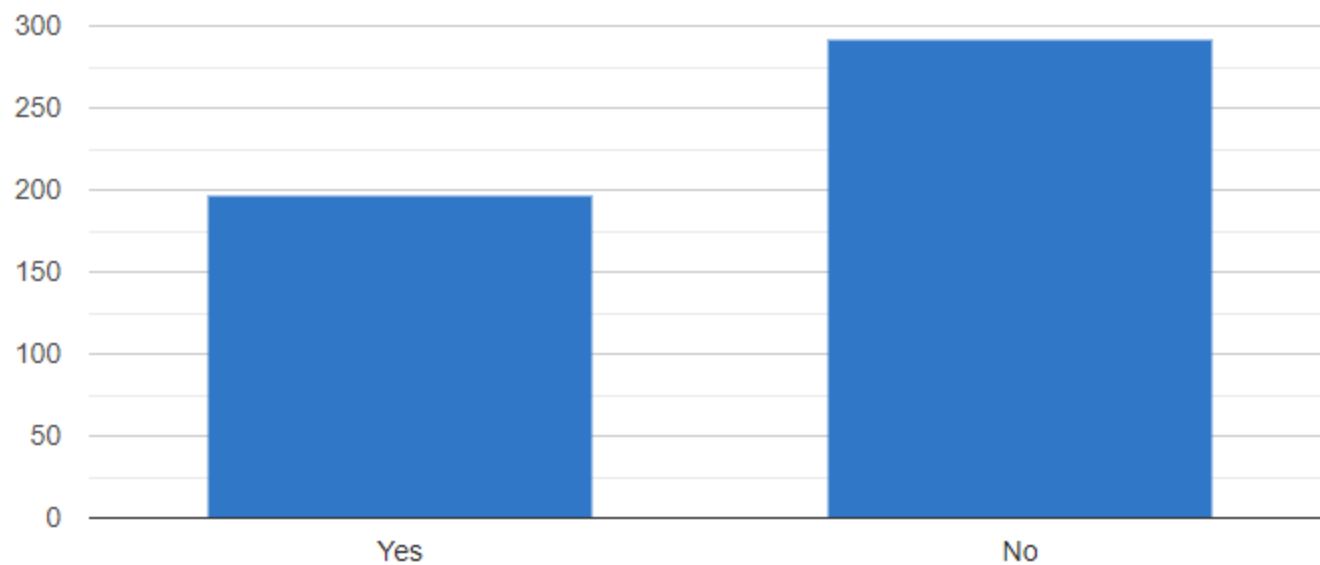
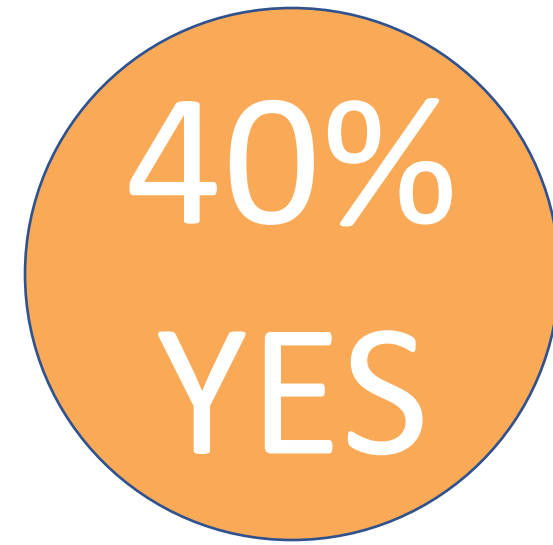
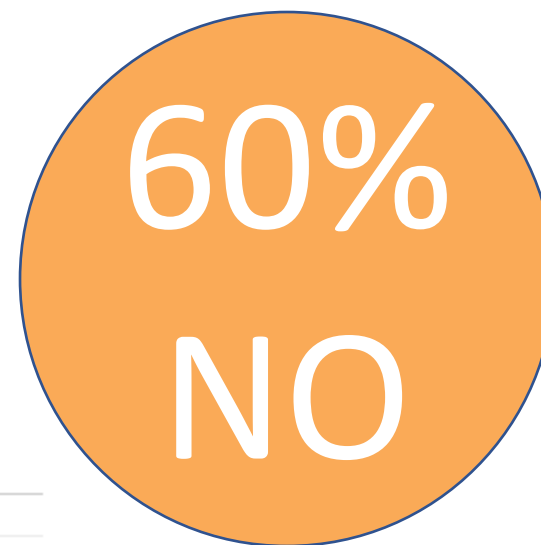
No	289
Yes - part time	159
Yes - full time	37

How does working affect your study?



Negatively	95
Very negatively	43
It does not impact on my study	40
Positively	13
Very positively	5

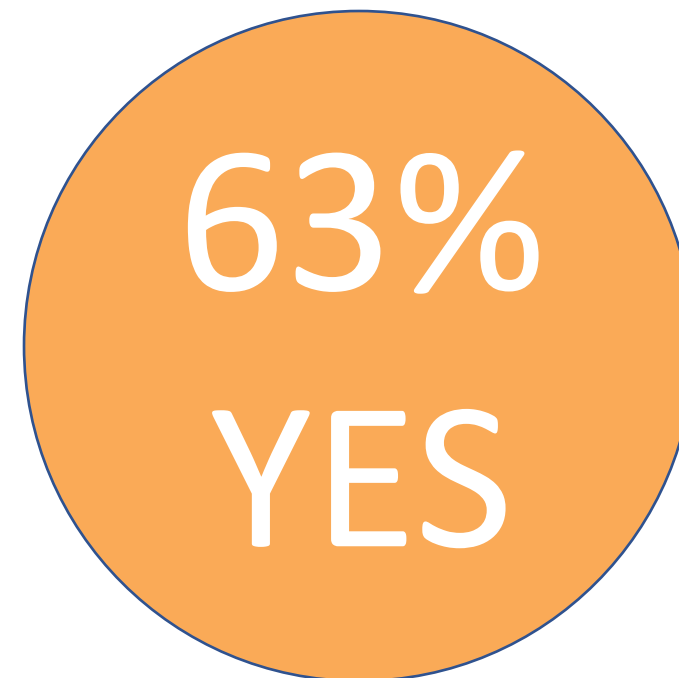
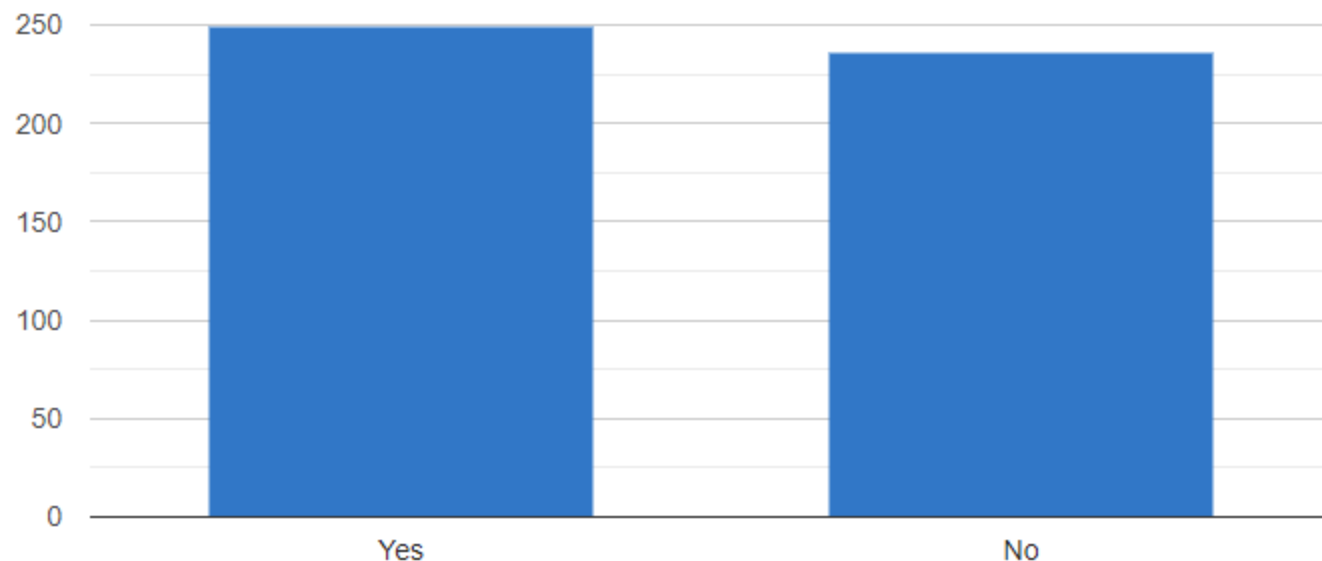
Do you perform unpaid work for the institution?



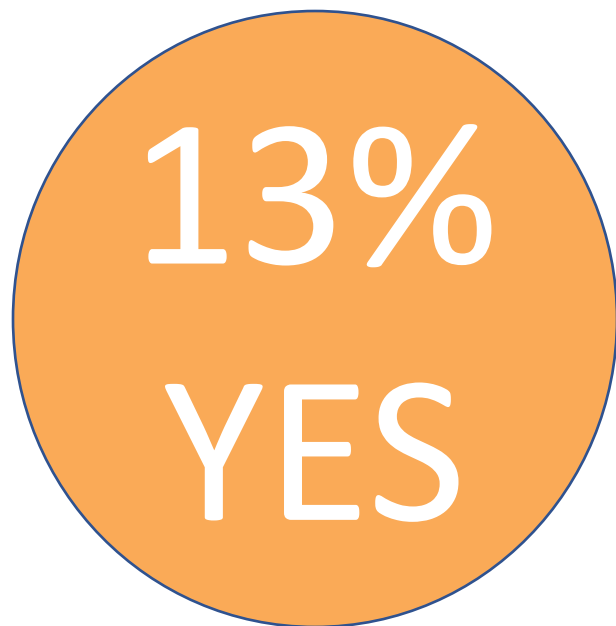
No	292
Yes	196

Have you ever thought of **giving up your studies** due to the **stress** of the **combined commitments** to research and work within your institution?

Yes	249
No	236



Have you ever had to **defer** your postgraduate study for a period of time?



Maternity/Pregnancy

Mental Health

Stress

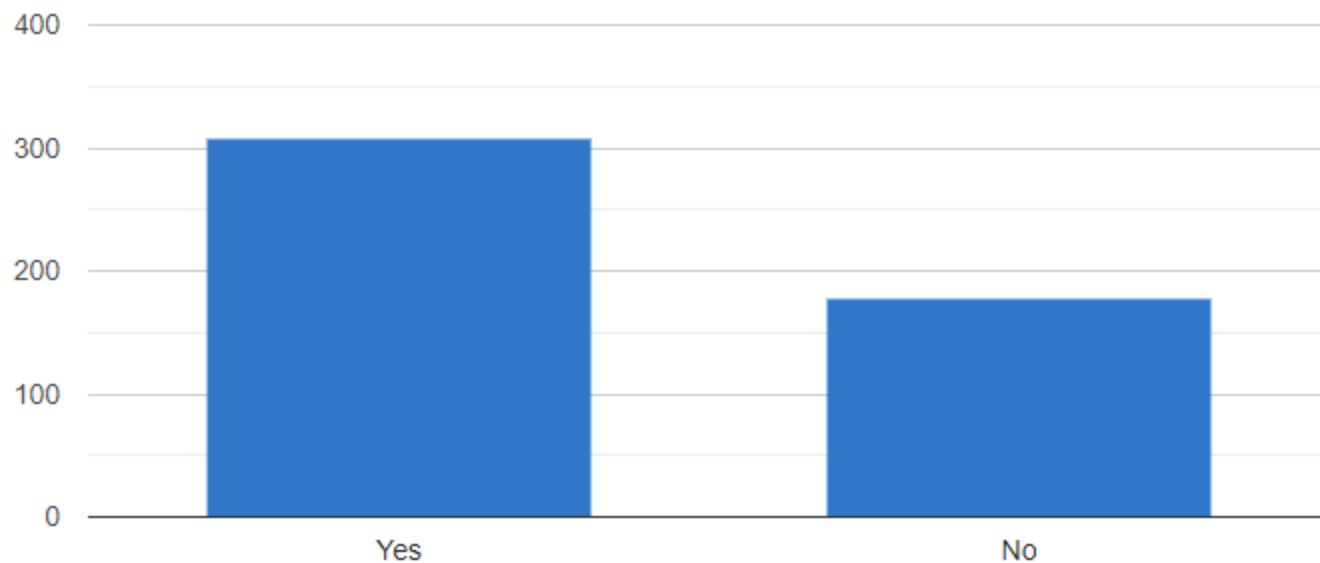
Covid

Financial Stress

No	421
Yes	67

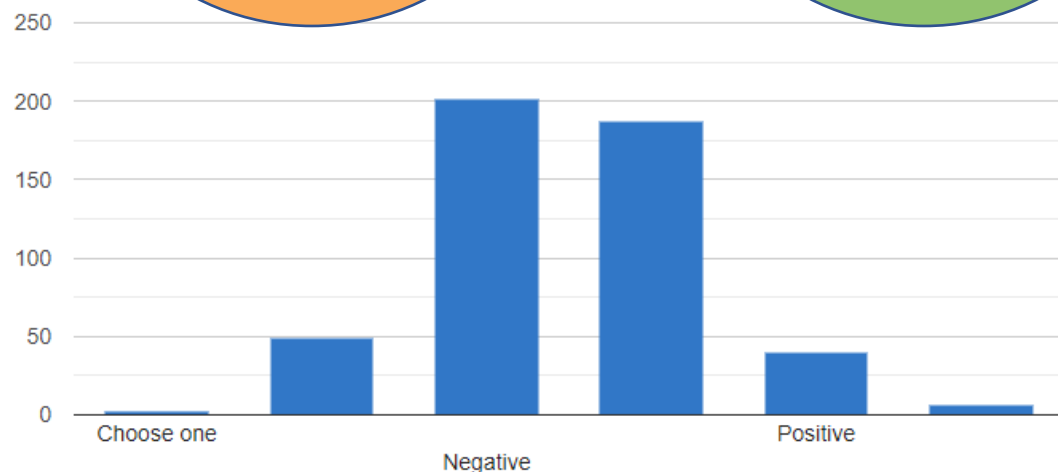
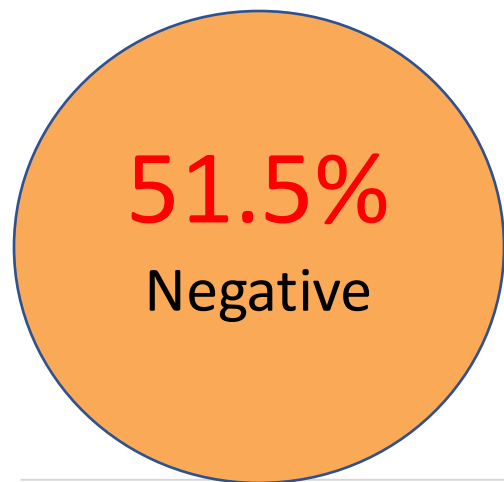
Have you ever considered giving up your studies for financial reasons?

Yes	308
No	177



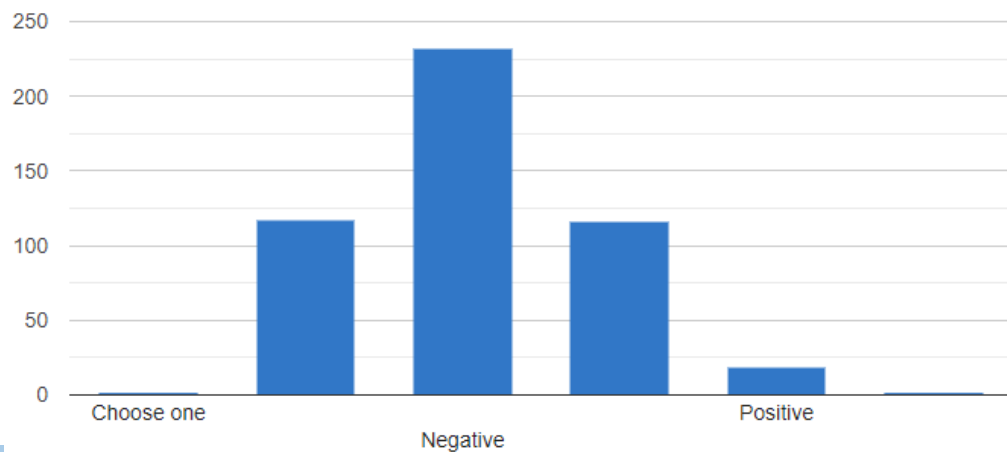
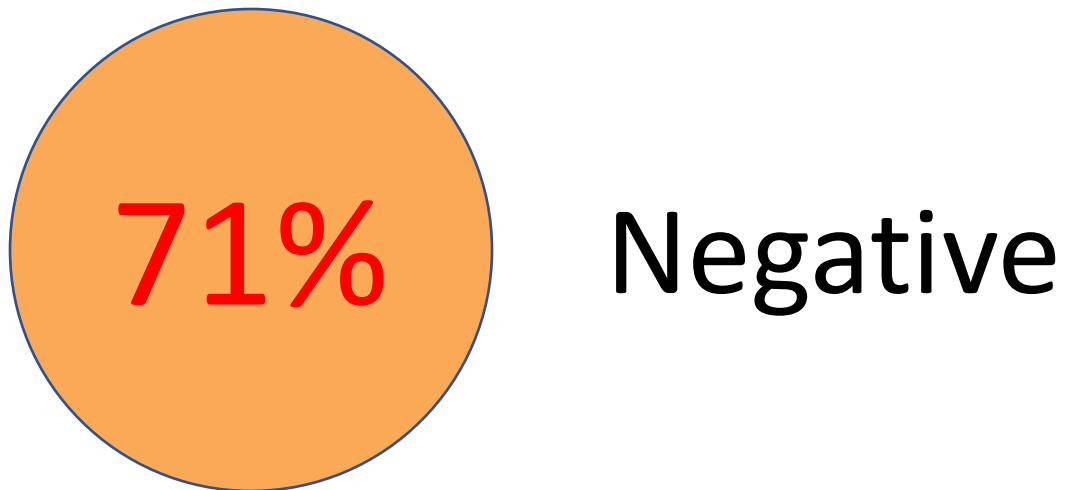
63.5%
YES

What impact do your **current research circumstances** have on your family life?



Negative	201
It does not impact on my research activity/engagement (choose either activity or engagement)	187
Very negative	49
Positive	40
Very positive	6
Other	2

What impact do your **financial** circumstances have on your family life?



Negative	232
Very negative	117
It does not impact on my research activity/engagement (choose either activity or engagement)	116
Positive	18
Choose one	1
Very positive	1

Synopsis

Work Outside Institution

59%
NO

33%
PT

8%
FT

This work affects their research

71%
Negatively

9%
Positively

51%

Live below the poverty line
(if you only take into account their stipend)

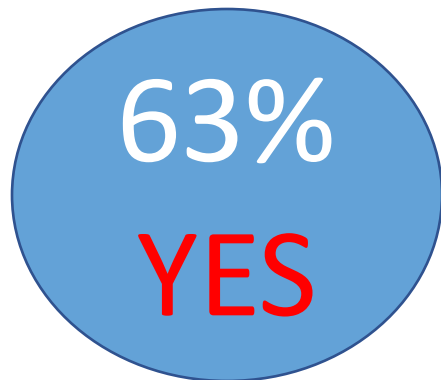
60%
NO

40%
YES

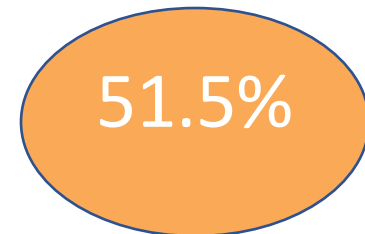
Unpaid work for your institution

Synopsis

Stress



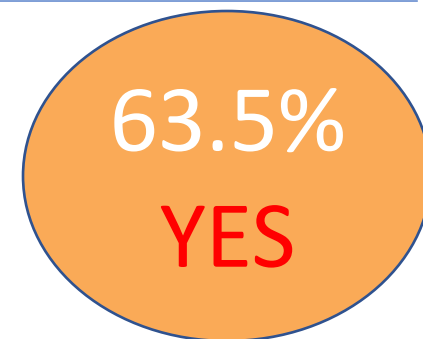
Have you ever thought of **giving up your studies** due to the **stress** of the **combined commitments** to research and work within your institution?



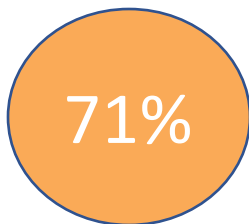
What impact do your **current research circumstances** have on your family life?

Financial

Have you ever considered **giving up** your studies for **financial reasons**?



What impact do your **financial** circumstances have on your family life?



Student Voices

“Most stipends end after three or four years, yet in my area, average fulltime PhD takes 5 years. Many students have to work in their final years to fund themselves.”

“Stipends should be extended, or PhDs shortened, with better availability of post-doc funding for years 4/5 where you can focus on further research, publications, and teaching experience.”

“Research studies is time consuming and challenging if financial constrains are involved. There is need to alleviate the stressful situation of researchers through financial supports.”

“Even before a standard stipend being introduced, I would like to see the period of postgraduate SUSI funding being extended to allow for more than a maximum of four years. I would like to see it at least extended one more year, to facilitate a one year Master's and a four year PhD.”

“I currently do not receive a stipend but instead received a fee waiver (European fees), in exchange for two hours of unpaid tutorials per week (plus preparation, grading time and emails to students - not paid and not accounted in the two hours).”

Student Voice



PHD WORKING RIGHTS

"A HUGE STRESSOR FOR PHDS IS NOT HAVING EMPLOYEE STATUS, AND THUS RIGHTS. PHDS DO NOT HAVE PAID SICK LEAVE, AN ISSUE WHICH IS COMPOUNDED BY WORKING THROUGH A PANDEMIC. PHDS WORK FOR FOUR YEARS CONDUCTING RESEARCH, AND PRODUCING RESEARCH OUTPUTS FOR UNIVERSITIES, YET AS THEY ARE NOT RECOGNISED AS EMPLOYEES THEY DO NOT PAY TAX, PRSI CONTRIBUTIONS, NOR A PENSION. AS SUCH THEY HAVE NOT RIGHT TO PRSI SUPPORTS SUCH AS DENTAL. ONLY SOME FUNDERS PROVIDE PAID MATERNITY BENEFIT (ANOTHER PRSO SUPPORT THAT MOST PHDS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO), THIS CREATES GENDER INEQUALITY IN PHD RESEARCH. IN ADDITION, THIS IS FOUR YEARS OF A RESEARCHERS CAREER DURING WHICH THEY ARE UNABLE TO BUILD UP A PENSION. THE LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR STIPENDS IS NOT THE ONLY ISSUE, IT IS ALSO THE FACT THAT PHDS ARE NOT GIVEN EMPLOYEE STATUS."

Student Voice



PHD WORKING RIGHTS

"ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED TO WORK TWO HOURS A WEEK FOR FREE ON CAMPUS. WE CAN BE ASKED AT ANY TIME TO JOIN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND DO DEMONSTRATIONS OR MIND FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADS. WE ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING EQUIPMENT, REPAIRING EQUIPMENT ETC WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG, EVEN THOUGH ITS NOT OUR JOB AND WE'RE NOT PAID TO. THIS TAKES HOURS EVERY WEEK".

Student Voice



PHD WORKING RIGHTS

"AS I'M SURE YOU ARE WELL AWARE THE PHD STIPEND HAS REMAINED FAIRLY STAGNANT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, I AM AWARE OF PI'S THAT WERE ON THE SAME STIPEND THAT I AM CURRENTLY ON OVER A DECADE AGO WHEN THE COST OF LIVING OR AT LEAST THE COST OF RENTING WAS ABOUT HALF THE CURRENT COST. I THINK IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT IRELAND IS ONE OF THE ONLY COUNTRIES IN THE EU WHICH TREATS ITS PHD STUDENTS LIKE FREE LABOUR, NOT PROVIDING THEM WITH ANY FORM OF STABILITY IN THE LONG RUN SUCH AS PENSION CONTRIBUTION OR HEALTHCARE. WE HAVE MOST OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING STAFF WITHOUT ANY OF THE BENEFITS."

Student Voice



PHD SPOUSE

"AS A NON EU PHD STUDENT MY SPOUSE IS NOT ALLOWED TO WORK IN IRELAND WHICH ADD FINANCIAL STRAIN TO ALREADY FINANCIALLY STRUGGLING PHD SCHOLARS. PLUS WE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO ANY WELFARE BENEFITS. SPOUSES HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR CAREERS IF THEY WANT TO BE IN IRELAND. THE SPOUSES STAY IN IRELAND DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP SO IT IS LOSE LOSE SITUATION."

Student Voice



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND

"I RECEIVE A STIPEND OF €6,000 FOR THE YEAR AND MY FULL FEES PAID AS I AM THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR UNDERGRADUATE ARTS STUDENTS. THIS WORK CAN TAKE 1-9 HOURS PER WEEK DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF SEMESTER. THIS YEAR I AM ALSO EMPLOYED FOR 16 HOURS PER WEEK DURING TERM TIME AS A TUTOR BY MY DEPARTMENT. THERE WAS INITIALLY ISSUES WITH THIS EMPLOYMENT AS I WAS RECEIVING A STIPEND. THIS DELAYED PAYMENT FOR THE WORK BY THREE MONTHS. OUTSIDE OF UNIVERSITY I WORK 2.5 DAYS PER WEEK. ALTOGETHER IT LEAVES LITTLE TIME FOR RESEARCH BUT MY EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY IS FOR ONLY 26 WEEKS SO IT MEANS I HAVE TO MAINTAIN OTHER WORK. IF THERE WAS MORE SECURITY FOR PHD STUDENTS I FEEL THAT I COULD PERFORM MY RESEARCH ROLE TO A MUCH HIGHER STANDARD."

Student Voice



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND

"I'D LIKE TO MENTION THE STIPEND I RECEIVE MONTHLY WHICH IS 1000 EURO PER MONTH. IRELAND IS ONE OF THE EXPENSIVE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND COVID HAS MADE IT EVEN WORSE IN TERMS OF RENT AND BASICALLY EVERYTHING WHICH IS NOT UNKNOWN TO ANYONE. HENCE 1000 EURO PER MONTH IS REALLY REALLY TIGHT IN TERMS OF JUST PAYING THE RENT, LET ALONE THE OTHER LIVING EXPENSES. FINANCIALLY IT'S FRUSTRATING AND KILLS THE PASSION FOR RESEARCH. IT'D BE ATLEAST LIVEABLE IF THE STIPEND WAS EVEN INCREASED BY 500 EURO MORE PER MONTH LIKE OTHER INSTITUTIONS (STANDARD STIPEND SHOULD BE 1500 EURO OER MONTH LIKE OTHER INSTITUTIONS. WATERFORD IT PAYS 1500 PER MONTH AS STIPEND) . OTHER PHD STUDENTS LIKE ME WHO I KNOW ARE SUFFERING QUITE A LOT REGARDING THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN. THE PRICE FOR EVERYTHING HAS GOTTEN HIGH AND RENT PRICE HAS GOTTEN TO A RIDICULOUS HIGH NUMBER BUT UNFORTUNATELY OUR STIPEND REMAINED THE SAME. I REALLY HOPE THIS MATTER COULD BE TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION OF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

Student Voice



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND

"14400 EURO A YEAR I'M IN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING NUIG. BUT OTHER STUDENTS IN NUIG ON SAME TYPE OF SCHOLARSHIP (BUT IN DIFFERENT COLLEGES EG COLLEGE OF ARTS ETC) ARE ON 18500 EURO A YEAR! SO UNFAIR."

Student Voice

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND



"AS THE PAY IS
INSUFFICIENT, YOU DO
NEED TO WORK PART-TIME
TO MAKE UP TO PAY BILLS,
ETC. THIS THEREBY CAUSES
STRESS AND LACK OF TIME
TO STUDY AND COMPLETE
WORK IN TIME."

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

"AT LEAST PAY LIVING WAGE TO PHD STUDENTS AND IF NOT THEN GIVE THEIR SPOUSES RIGHT TO WORK. THIS IS SUCH A BIG DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NON EU PHD STUDENTS. HOW I AM SUPPOSE TO SURVIVE IF MY SPOUSE IS NOT ALLOWED TO WORK AND I GET BELOW MINIMUM WAGE STIPEND."

Student Voice

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH ATTRITION



A STIPEND FOR PGR IS A WONDERFUL IDEA, BUT I WOULD BE CURIOUS WHERE THE MONEY WOULD COME FROM. OFFERING THE STIPEND IN EXCHANGE FOR TEACHING UNDERGRADS IS THE US MODEL, BUT IT IS ALSO EXHAUSTING AND LEADS TO BURNOUT AND ATTRITION.

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

"BEING A NON-EU STUDENT MAKES THINGS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR ME AS I AM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ANY FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT. I AM ALSO NOT ABLE TO TAKE LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT ALSO BEING REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FINANCIALLY AND ALSO FOR MY MENTAL HEALTH AS I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PAUSE MY STUDIES DURING PERIODS OF DEBILITATING DEPRESSION."

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

"BEING A PHD STUDENT/RESEARCHER IS A FRUSTRATING IN-BETWEEN PHASE: WE ARE EXPECTED TO TEACH LIKE PROFESSIONALS (WHICH THEN MEANS WE ARE NOT STUDENTS), BUT THEN WHEN IT COMES TO RESEARCH, WE HAVE TO ADHERE TO THE HIERARCHIES OF THE SYSTEM (AND THEN WE ARE SUDDENLY STUDENTS). MY STIPEND IS EUR 16,500 PER YEAR. MY CONTRACT SAYS THAT I HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE FOR 40 HOURS EACH WEEK, AND HAVE TO TAKE UP WHATEVER RESPONSIBILITIES I AM GIVEN. AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE CONTRACT, I DID NOT REALISE THAT THIS AMOUNTS TO LESS THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE IN IRELAND! SO, IN MY MID 30S, AFTER HAVING A THRIVING CAREER, I AM WORKING ON MINIMUM WAGE, WITHIN A HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM! SINCE UNIVERSITIES ACROSS IRELAND ARE TRYING TO INTERNATIONALISE THEIR CAMPUSES, THIS WINDOW-DRESSING OF HAVING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS, BUT PAYING THEM ABYSMAL STIPENDS AND ASKING THEM TO TEACH AT PAR WITH FULL-TIME SENIOR PROFESSORS, IS LIKE EXPECTING POC RESEARCHERS TO FEEL GRATEFUL FOR THE PENNIES BEING THROWN AT THEM; ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WORK OF THE RESEARCHER IMPACTS THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY."

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

"COST OF LIFE IN IRELAND AS NON-EU STUDENT: RESIDENCE PERMIT 300 EUROS/YEAR HEALTH INSURANCE USED TO BE 100 EUROS A YEAR, NOW IS 690 EUROS A YEAR SINGLE ROOM FOR RENT WITHOUT BILLS INCLUDED BETWEEN 350 - 400 EUROS A YEAR BILLS FROM 100-150 EUROS A MONTH TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM REDUCTION FOR STUDENTS IS MISERABLE THE AMOUNT I RECEIVE PER MONTH 1200 EUROS, FROM WHICH 600 EUROS GO ONLY ON RENT. IT LOOKS LIKE THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO AVOID IMMIGRATION BY ALL MEANS, AND IT IS UNBELIEVABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH WITH THESE CONDITIONS."

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

700 EUROS FOR MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE MADE COMPULSORY LAST YEAR FOR NON-EU STUDENTS. THIS COSTS 1000 EUROS EXTRA! NO COMPENSATION, NO HELP, NO SUPPORT. WE ARE ASHAMED TO RECOMMEND OUR COLLEGE TO OTHER PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY. AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN TO GO TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

Student Voice



NON-EU STUDENTS FUNDING

NON-EU STUDENTS HAVE PRACTICALLY NO FUNDING OPTIONS AVAILABLE. THE FEW THAT ARE, LIKE THE IRC, ARE SO COMPETITIVE THAT IT'S BETWEEN A 5-8% CHANCE OF SUCCESS. I MOVED HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO STAY HERE AND BUILD A LIFE, BUT I'M BEING FROZEN OUT ALREADY WHILE I'M STILL IN SCHOOL, AND MY CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT AFTER SCHOOL ARE EXTREMELY LOW TOO. IT'S ONE THING TO SAY YOU'RE WELCOMING TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, BUT YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACTUALLY BE WELCOMING.

Student Voice

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH VERSUS BEING A PARENT.



"DOING RESEARCH IN IRISH INSTITUTIONS USUALLY MEANS CHOOSING BETWEEN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE AS A MOM WITH A FAMILY AND YOUR RESEARCH, INCLUDING MAKING ENORMOUS PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL SACRIFICES TO BRING YOUR FAMILY ALONG WHILE YOU STUDY. THE UNIVERSITIES DO NOT PROVIDE A BALANCE-FINANCES CANNOT COVER A SINGLE PERSON, LEST FOR A FAMILY. BUT MORE DISTURBING IS THAT UNIVERSITIES CAMPUSES DO NOT PROVIDE SPACES FOR FAMILIES (RESEARCH MOMS AND DAD). YOU'RE CONSIDERED A 'MATURED' STUDENT (WHICH I FIND DISCRIMINATORY). MANY BASIC SERVICES ARE NOT COVERED (I.E. HOUSING). AS A DOCTORAL STUDENT, I CANNOT BE MADE TO CHOOSE TO ATTEND A SCHOOL'S SOCIAL FUNCTION ALONE OR ABANDON, SIMPLY BECAUSE 'SPACES ARE LIMITED TO STUDENTS ONLY'."

Student Voice

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND



"COST OF LIVING
INCREASES DUE TO
LACK OF PRSI
CONTRIBUTION.
DELAYS IN LOAN
ABILITY DUE TO
STATUS OF INCOME."

Student Voice

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND



"CAN'T AFFORD DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS. I NEED GLASSES BUT AGAIN CAN'T AFFORD AN APPOINTMENT. APPLIED FOR A MEDICAL CARD AND TOLD BECAUSE OF MY STIPDEND I EARN TOO MUCH WHEN 50% OF MY STIPEND GOES ON RENT ALONE IN DUBLIN. REALLY STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY AND MENTALLY."

Student Voice



PHD STIPEND

"A STIPEND IS VERY
IMPORTANT IN ORDER
TO FACILITATE FULL-
TIME POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH."