



Welcome to New Postgraduate Research Students

Academic Session 2020-2021

- **Overview of Our PGR Environment**
- **Procedures and Policies**
- **PRES**

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- **Support and Wellbeing & EDI**



Welcome to New Postgraduate Research Students

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- **Overview of Our PGR Environment**



- Computer Science is a thriving discipline that has seen major and exciting advances in recent times.
- CS@Nottingham research offers opportunities for undertaking PhD studies in core computer science and also inter-disciplinary PhDs with joint supervision teams across disciplines.
- UK top 10 school for 'research power', 88% of our research at international level, 2nd highest rating in computer science for 'research environment', good performance on impact, (REF 2014).

Intelligent Agents Big Data Science
Optimisation Agent-Based Simulation
Computer Vision Machine Learning
Bio-inspired Algorithms Fuzzy Systems
Functional Programming Mixed Reality
Human-Computer Interaction

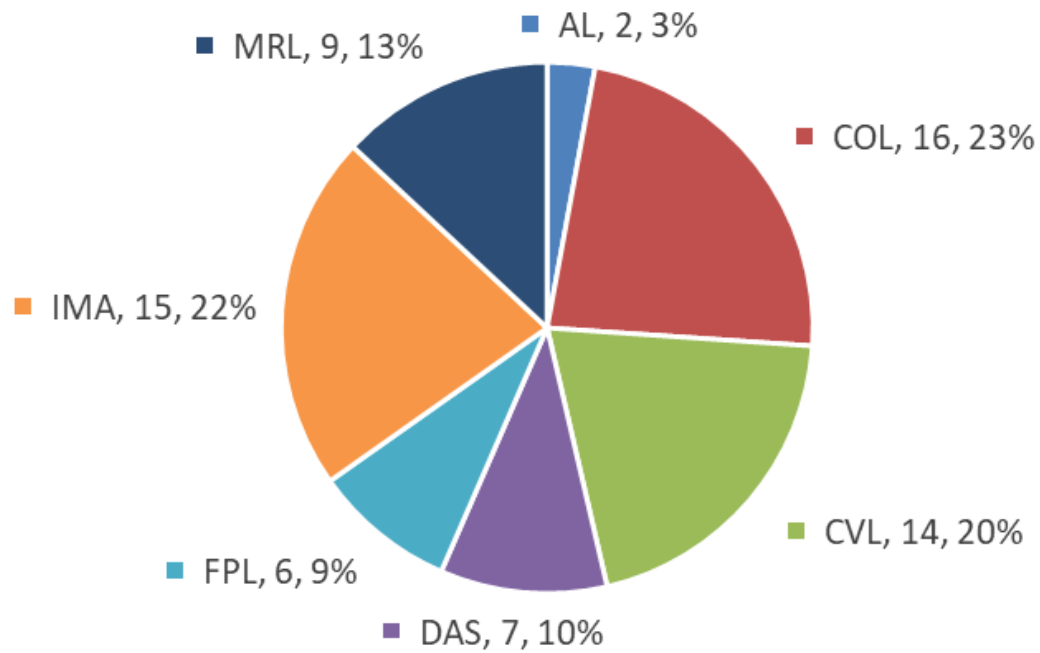
Browse the web pages of research groups that interest you, in order to see examples of PhD projects.

Contact the PGR Director (Dr Rong Qu) if further guidance needed.

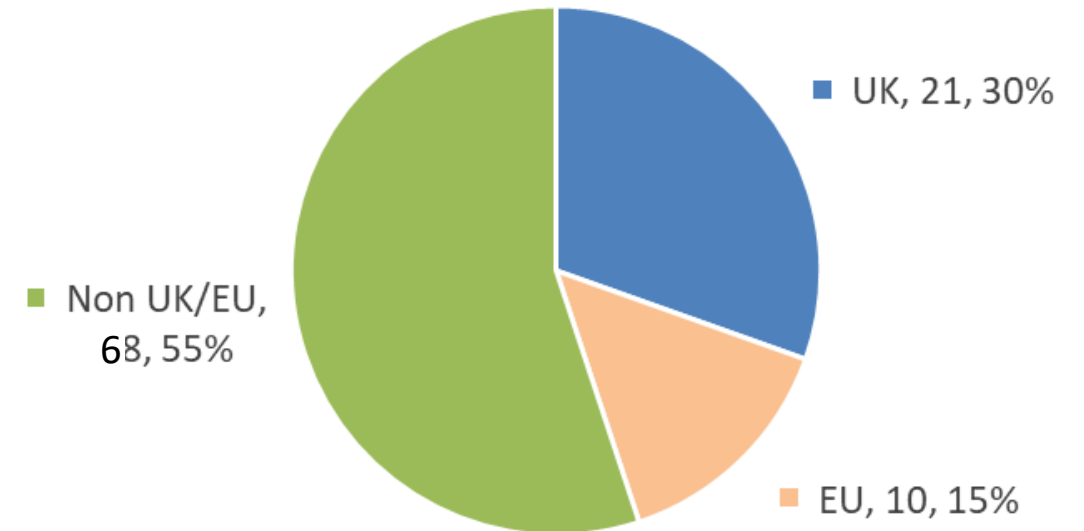
CURRENT POPULATION OF CS PGR STUDENTS

Population of PGR students excluding those starting in October 2019 and excluding CDT students. There are currently 2 part-time students and the rest are full-time.

Current Population of CS PGR Students
Total: 69 at October 2019

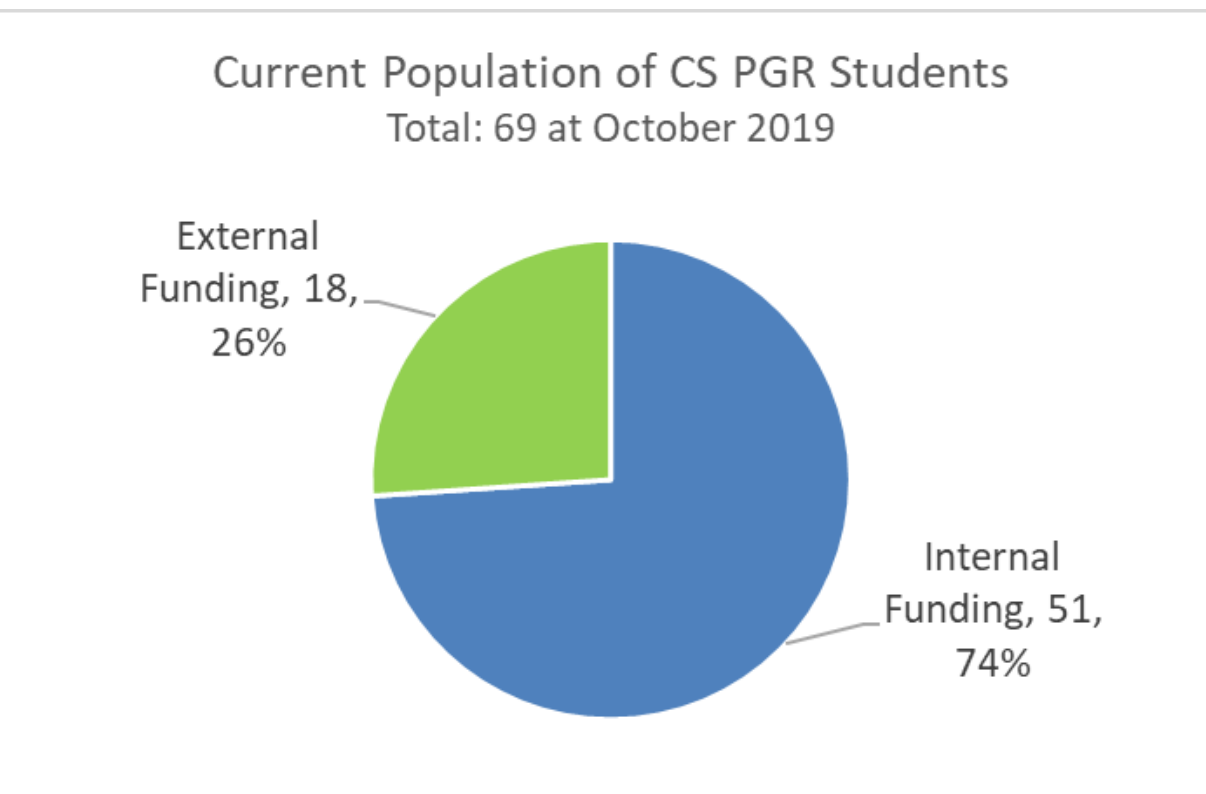
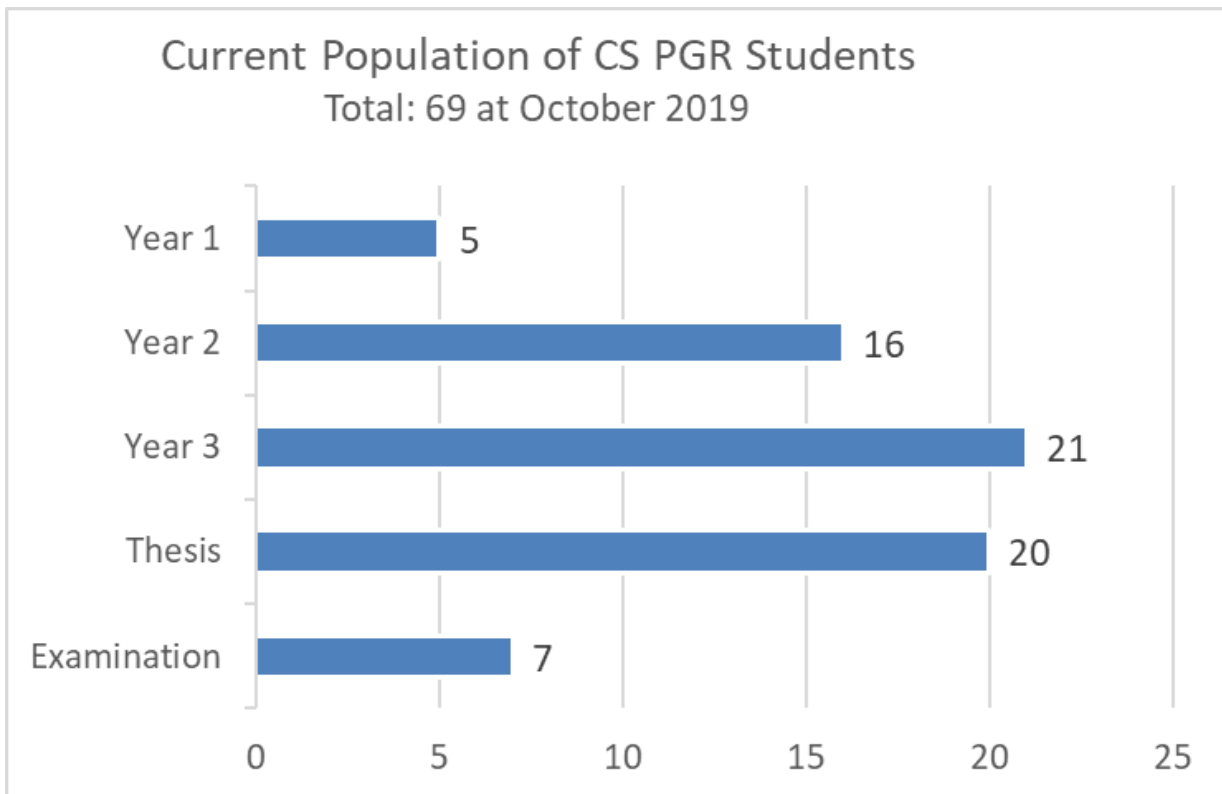


Current Population of CS PGR Students
Total: 69 at October 2019



CURRENT POPULATION OF CS PGR STUDENTS

Population of PGR students excluding those starting in October 2019 and excluding CDT students. There are currently 2 part-time students and the rest are full-time.



Internal funding includes UKRI, University, School, and other funded projects. External funding includes students' own funds and any external organisation.

CS PGR RECRUITMENT

Session	Total Non-CDT	UK/EU	Non UK/EU	Internal Funding	External Funding
2009-2010	28	14 (50%)	14 (50%)	---	---
2010-2011	34	19 (56%)	15 (44%)	---	---
2011-2012	28	13 (46%)	15 (54%)	---	---
2012-2013	37	15 (40%)	22 (60%)	---	---
2013-2014	15	8 (53%)	7 (47%)	9.5 (63%)	5.5 (37%)
2014-2015	20	9 (45%)	11 (55%)	14 (70%)	6 (30%)
2015-2016	18	9 (50%)	9 (50%)	13 (72%)	5 (28%)
2016-2017	13	7 (54%)	6 (46%)	11.5 (88%)	2.5 (22%)
2017-2018	18	9 (50%)	9 (50%)	15 (83%)	3 (17%)
2018-2019	16	4 (25%)	12 (75%)	10 (63%)	6 (37%)
2019-2020	~13	6 (50%)	6 (50%)	8 (67%)	4 (33%)

OUTCOME FOR CS PGR STUDENTS

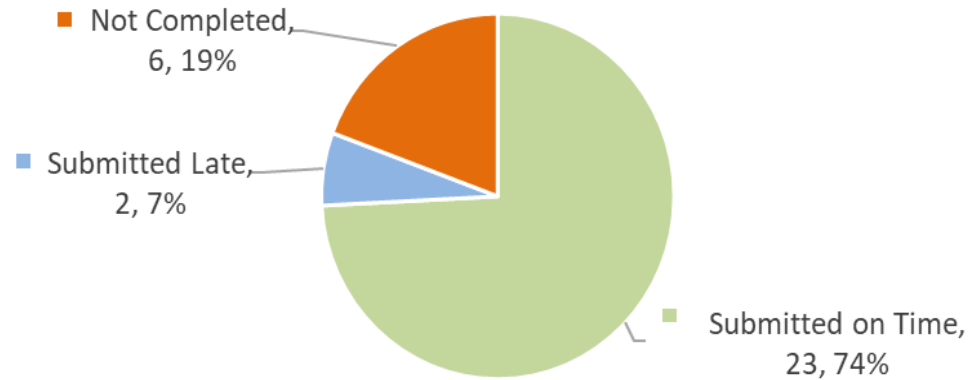
Annual review outcomes known at September 2019. Reviews for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 cohorts are still under process and statistics will be collected once they are complete.

Starters in Session	Total	1st Review On-time	1st Review Recalls	2nd Review On-time	2nd Review Recalls
2013-2014	15	7 (47%)	1 (7%)	4 (26%)	0 (0%)
2014-2015	20	20 (100%)	1 (9.5%)	19 (100%)	0 (0%)
2015-2016	18	16 (88%)	6 (33%)	16 (88%)	3 (17%)
2016-2017	13	11 (85%)	3 (23%)	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
2017-2018	18	18 (100%)	3 (17%)		
2018-2019	16				
2019-2020					

OUTCOME FOR CS PGR STUDENTS

Final Outcome for Past CS PGR Students

Total: 31 From October 2013 Starters (excluding those under examination)



From the 23 'Submitted on Time', 18 (78%) were internally funded and 5 (22%) were externally funded.

From the 2 'Submitted Late', 1 (50%) was internally funded and 1 (50%) was externally funded.

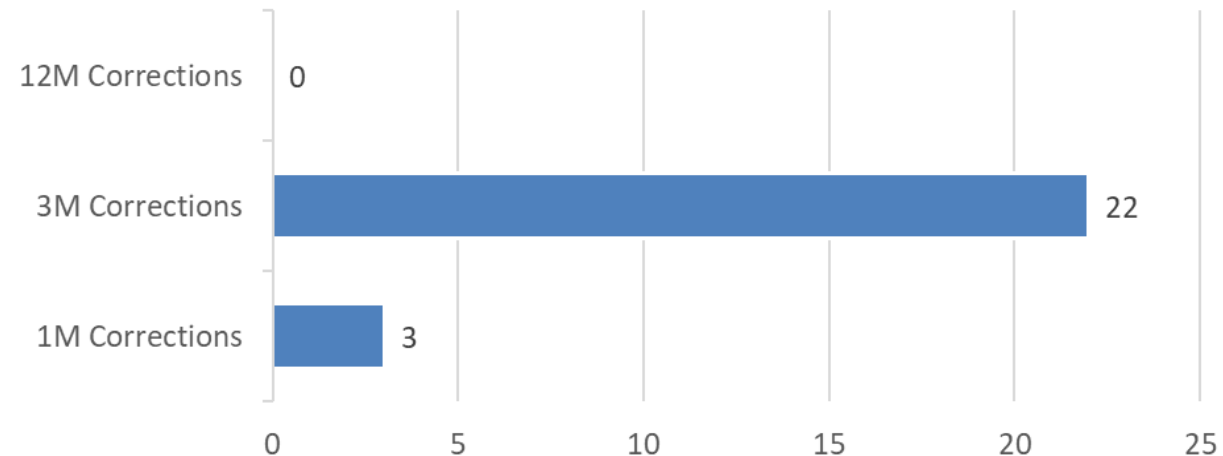
From the 6 'Not Completed', 3 (50%) were internally funded and 3 (50%) were externally funded.

There have been 43 non-CDT PGR students started Oct 2013 – Oct 2015, expected to have submitted a thesis as of Sept 2019.

There are 12 students for whom the final outcome is yet to be known, hence not included in these graphs.

Examination Outcome for Past CS PGR Students

Total: 25 From October 2013 Starters (excluding those under examination)



SOME UNIVERSITY NUMBERS (as of Sep 2019)

University PGR Population

- 2,913 PGRs = 8.3% of the student population (35,081)

- Diverse backgrounds

53% UK, 15% EU, 32% International

- Mode of study: 90% FT, 10% PT

- 89% submit a thesis (for CS is 78%)

8% submit within 3Y

71% submit within 4Y (includes 8% above)

86% submit within 5Y (includes 71% above)

3% submit after 5Y

- 79% complete successfully (for CS is 73%)

24% complete within 4Y

69% complete within 5Y (includes 24% above)

77% complete within 6Y (includes 69% above)

2% complete after 6Y

PGRs by Faculty

Arts

Engineering

Medicine and Health Sciences

Science

Social Sciences

Student Numbers by Faculty

270.0

526.3

826.2

942.1

348.5

PGRs by School in Faculty of Science

(incl. CDT, excl. students in thesis pending and not registered)

Biosciences

Chemistry

Pharmacy

Physics & Astronomy

Mathematical Sciences

Psychology

Computer Science

Student Numbers by School

254

173

146

121

90

78

80



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- **Procedures and Policies**

SOME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Requirement of 2 supervisors by the Quality Manual
 - First and second supervisors affiliated with Computer Science
 - First supervisor: largest percentage and $\geq 30\%$
 - Second supervisor: $\geq 25\%$
- Responsibility of Second Supervisor
 - Apart from any technical input, also a pastoral responsibility
 - Meet the student at least twice per year on their own
 - Be involved in the annual monitoring and assessment process
 - Act as a replacement if the first supervisor is away or leaves

SOME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- For Industry Funded Projects
 - Signed agreement and industry supervisor appointed
 - Minimum two documented meetings involving industry supervisor
 - Input from industry supervisor in the annual review form
- Induction Checklist in Revised PGR Handbook Including:
 - Suggestion of assigning a **mentor for the new student** for the purpose of helping to familiarise with the School environment
- Quality Manual Requires 10 Supervision Forms
 - School policy is to have one supervision form per month

PGR ANNUAL REVIEWS

- **1st Annual Review**

- Current process implemented from 2014-2015
- Previously, around 25-35% reviews were late (months 18~30) or never done
- Now, practically all reviews done within the 1st year
- Based on **written report**, brief presentation & interview
- Around 15-30% have resulted in a 'recall'

- **2nd Annual Review**

- Current process implemented from 2015-2016
- Previously, around 50% reviews were late (months 30~36) or never done
- Now, practically all reviews done by the 2nd year
- Based on **suitable written material**, 3-page future plan, optional brief presentation & interview
- Around 5-15% have resulted in a 'recall'

PGR ANNUAL REVIEWS

- 3rd Annual Review

- Requirement of a 'final review' by the Quality Manual
- Informal but supportive discussion about the thesis writing and examination processes
- Conducted by HoRG, DoR or PGSA
- A brief thesis writing plan
- Discussion to explore several questions
 - Does the student have a good understanding of the amount of work and quality required in a PhD thesis?
 - Does the student require additional support/training for the thesis writing process?
 - Does the student have a good understanding of the process for submitting the PhD thesis, requirements for extensions and consequences of late submission?
 - Has the student agreed with the supervisors on the **process and timescale for them to review the thesis?**
 - Has the student discussed with the supervisors the examination process and **selection of examiners?**
 - Has the student agreed with the supervisors on the form in which **preparation for the viva voice examination** will be provided?

SOME COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

I am very grateful for my assessors' comments. I found the review an incredibly useful time of helping me to identify some **current weaknesses** in my PhD plan so far, in particular the danger of falling into the gaps between fields and not producing **sufficient research results**. This was a question I'd had some informal thoughts about, but hadn't really paid much attention to; the review was valuable in forcing me to address it.

I greatly appreciate the time taken by my assessors to review my report and provide constructive feedback ... The advice given by the assessors during the viva and in their joint report has been extremely useful and I will continue to reflect on it throughout the year. In particular it has boosted my awareness of focusing on **computer science contributions**.

I have been waiting for this feedback from 14/08/2017 [more than 2 months!], I was worried about my states if I pass the 1st year or not because the assessor did not say anything after finishing discussion the presentation.

The assessors' comments are very beneficial, and I am working on wide my knowledge regrading stress, SSSQ and MIST.

The review really helped me to appreciate the importance of making my writing more accessible to researchers from other subfields of computer science. Now I see how I can make the report, and, ultimately, the thesis, much **more readable**. Moreover, the assessors pointed out to the significance of having several strategies for the ongoing research in mind. I fully agree with that and will come up with 'realistic' and 'optimistic' thesis plans. We also agreed that a solid case study is essential. Finally, I will think about software implementation of model checking.

The 2nd annual review was very satisfying because it showed me that I am **on a good way**, that I am making progress in learning how to write and do research and that my work is of interest. Also I got very valuable feedback and suggestions on how to proceed in the next 12 months of my PhD. Further I have the feeling, that I slowly learn **how to 'sell'** my research on a non-technical level, which has been quite difficult for me so far.

I thank the assessors for the thorough and engaging review session in which it became clear to me that the task of finding real-world examples of inductive-inductive types is more challenging than I originally thought.

I acknowledge that the brevity and sketchiness of my second year report makes it hard **for non-experts to be read** without context.

THESIS PENDING AND EXAMINATION

- Good practice to submit the Notification of Submission of Thesis form in good time
- Quality manual requires examination within 3 months of submission
- Handling the review of corrected thesis after examination
- Thesis pending fee (£160 per year) is payable by all PhD students
- Extensions to thesis pending (fee £160) only in special circumstances
- Interruptions of studies are not applicable in thesis pending
- Late submission fee currently £350 per month or part



Welcome to New Postgraduate Research Students

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- **PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey)**

PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey)

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) conducted from 2007, every other year, the latest in 2019.

- The only sector-wide survey to gather insight from PGR students about their learning and supervision experience.

Nottingham PRES is administered by the Researcher Academy (Graduate School) across all 3 international campuses. In addition to 'Overall Satisfaction', the survey collects feedback on the following main areas

- Supervision
- Resources
- Research Culture
- Progress and Assessment
- Responsibilities
- Research Skills
- Professional Development
- Opportunities

PRES 2019 RESULTS

- Globally 107 participating institutions, 50,600 respondents (42%)
- UK Campus 1,191 of 3,078 potential respondents (38%)
- Malaysia Campus 117 of 318 potential respondents (36%)
- China campus 191 of 385 potential respondents (49%)
- Computer Science 43 of 91 potential respondents (47%), both non-CDT (22) and CDT (19)

The School of Computer Science was ranked in the highest quarter across the sector in 4 areas:

- Resources (ranked 1st of 30)
- Progress and Assessment (ranked 1st of 34)
- Responsibilities (ranked 2nd of 33)
- Research Skills (ranked 6th of 34)

There is still work to do in the following areas:

- Supervision (ranked 16th of 34)
- Research Culture (ranked 20th of 32)
- Professional Development (ranked 26th of 31)

PRES 2019 RESULTS

Questions With Highest Score Against Benchmark

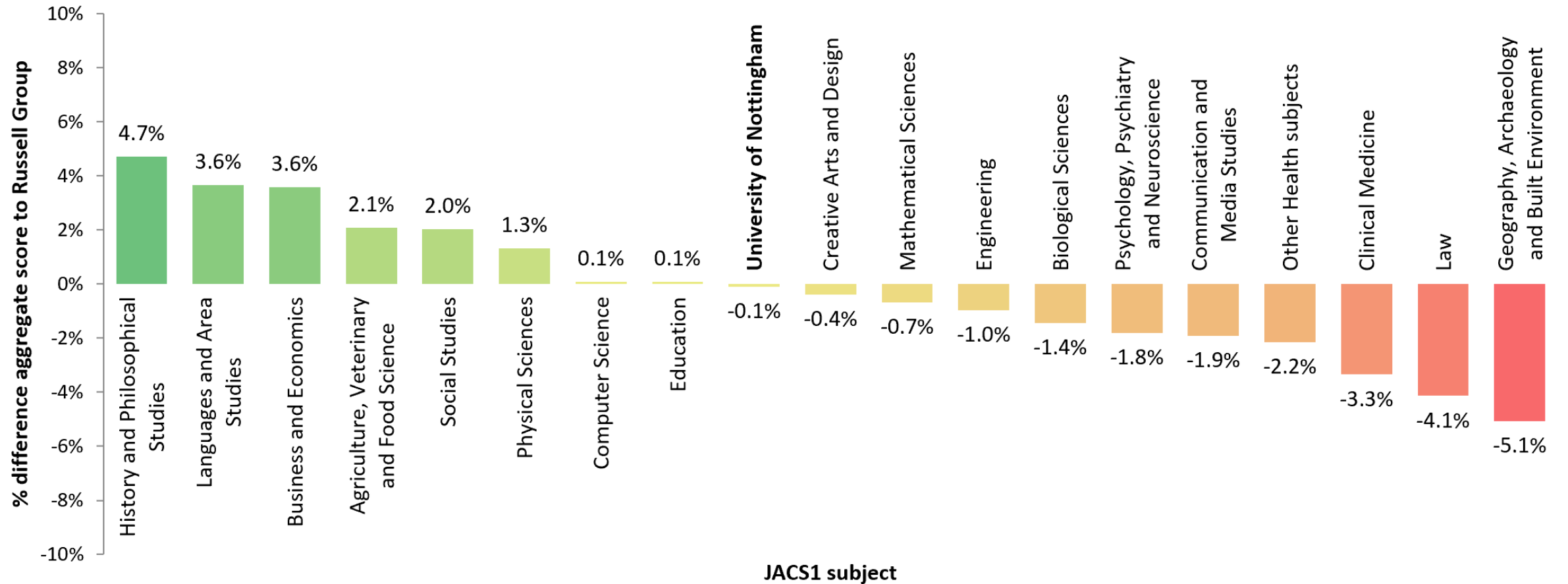
- My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities (**Supervision**)
- All four questions about (**Resources**)
- All four questions about (**Progress and Assessment**)
- All four questions about (**Responsibilities**)
- Three of the four questions about (**Research Skills**) with the exception of a little lower rank in question: 'My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme'

PRES 2019 RESULTS

Questions With Lowest Score Against Benchmark

- I have access to a good seminar programme in my research area (**Research Culture**)
- I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other researchers including research students (**Research Culture**)
- I am aware of opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department (**Research Culture**)
- My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme (**Professional Development**)
- My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has developed during my programme (**Professional Development**)
- I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme (**Professional Development**)

Difference between Nottingham and Russell Group benchmarking group, by subject 2015





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- **Overview of Support and Wellbeing**

Claire Kirk

https://mediaspace.nottingham.ac.uk/media/1_1sercupc

- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (EDI)**

Dr Jason Atkin

<https://echo360.org.uk/media/680f8398-c897-4d8f-b093-b4bb025a57e4/public>

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Computer Science Postgraduate Research (UNUK) in Moodle
2. PGR Introductory Seminars at Computer Science
 - October and November 2020, dates TBA
3. PGR reps at each research lab
4. The Researcher Academy is co-ordinating a session with new PGR students to feedback about our PGR admissions process.
 - Please contact Professor Richard Graham (richard.graham@nottingham.ac.uk) directly

SOME POINTS FOR DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

- How can we make completion of supervision forms useful?
- Thoughts of the 3rd annual review?
- Any questions?