



9 July 2020

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00135**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 18 May. We apologise for the delay in responding. You requested the following information:

**Your request:**

*Percentage of ESRC funded students that do not hand-in within the funded period but do hand-in during the writing up period for the last 10 academic years i.e. from 2010 - 2020.*

*If the data could be broken down via full and part-time students that would also be helpful. If possible, could I also request information pertaining to the percentage of ESRC funded students that do hand-in within the funded period 2010 -2020.*

*"Hand-in" – defined as the initial submission of their thesis. The scope would be those that had an expected submission within the timeframe.*

**Our response:**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold the information relevant to your request. ESRC provides funding for doctoral training to universities, the universities then manage the recruitment and selection of students to the research projects and are also responsible for collating and maintaining student data. Further background information on doctoral training offered by ESRC is available at: <https://esrc.ukri.org/skills-and-careers/doctoral-training/>.

The table below provides information covering the academic year 2009/10 to 2018/19. As the academic year is calculated from 01 October to 30 September, information for 2019/20 is not yet available. Please note, that due to a system change, the data for 2009/10 is incomplete as not all records were migrated to the new system. The data is based on expected submission dates for each academic year. Students can change the status of their funding (between full and part-time, and vice versa) during the life of their awards. This data is based on the final mode of study listed. Finally, any students who were recorded as deceased have been removed from the data

The table covers the following areas:

- The percentage of ESRC funded students who submitted their thesis within the PhD funded period, followed by a percentage breakdown by part-time and full-time students.
- The percentage of students who submitted their thesis within the writing up period (once the funded period had ended), followed by a percentage breakdown by part-time and full-time students
- The percentage of students who did not submit within the funded or writing up period, and includes (other) students who have terminated their awards; those who have submitted outside of the funded and writing up period; those that did not submit; and those where there are potential errors with the dates

Expected Submission date – Academic year	Percentage of students who submitted thesis within PhD funded period	Part-time	Full-time	Percentage of students who submitted within writing up period (once funded period had ended)	Part-time	Full-time	Percentage of students who did not submit within funded or writing up period (other)
2009/10	1.5%	0%	100%	41.5%	0.6%	99.4%	57.0%
2010/11	8.9%	0%	100%	47.7%	0.3%	99.7%	43.4%
2011/12	9.3%	3.2%	96.8%	51.4%	0.6%	99.4%	39.3%
2012/13	8.7%	1.6%	98.4%	57.0%	2.2%	97.8%	34.3%
2013/14	13.1%	2.3%	97.7%	52.6%	1.7%	98.3%	34.3%
2014/15	11.3%	3.4%	96.6%	50.5%	2.1%	97.9%	38.2%
2015/16	8.9%	1.4%	98.6%	47.5%	2.1%	97.9%	43.6%
2016/17	7.4%	1.7%	98.3%	47.0%	2.7%	97.3%	45.6%
2017/18	8.3%	1.6%	98.4%	47.7%	2.7%	97.3%	44.0%
2018/19	7.8%	6.7%	93.3%	49.5%	8.4%	91.6%	42.7%

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance

Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@ukri.org)

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

  
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