

Intermediate PhD Students Survey

This survey will be requested to the PhD students 24 months after starting the PhD program (this date may differ from the enrollment date).

Welcome

This survey gathers information about PhD students experience during the initial period of their PhD program at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), namely about the curricular component, work development, and presentation of the Thesis proposal to the Advisory Thesis Committee.

The responses will be analysed to inform IST about the initial 2 years' experience of PhD students.

Thank you very much for your participation.

Notes for completion

- This survey should take less than **fifteen minutes** to complete.
- If a question does not apply to you, or you cannot offer any opinion on it, please mark "Not applicable" (NA).
- Please do not identify yourself or other individuals (including staff) in your comments.
- The answer to this survey is mandatory. However, if you do not wish to answer you just have to explain your reasons. Please note that your participation is very useful to improve the PhD programs in IST.
- When you arrive at the final page, you will know that your responses have been recorded after clicking on the "Submit" button.

If you have any doubts or suggestions, or need help with any of the issues raised within the survey, please contact the Pedagogical Council of IST (cp@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).

There are **14** questions in this survey.

Do you wish to answer this survey?

(If your answer is "yes", please continue to fill in the survey and click the "Next" button)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If No: If you do not wish to answer this survey, please explain your reasons here:

[If the answer in the previous question was "Yes"]

Answers' options (unless stated otherwise): 1-Definitely disagree / 2-Mostly disagree / 3-Neither agree nor disagree / 4-Mostly agree / 5-Definitely agree / NA (Not applicable or doesn't know)

PART A: Welcome reception as a PhD Student at IST

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about institutional support at IST?
 - a. I was properly welcomed at IST as a PhD student.
 - b. I was duly integrated at the research centre/department where I develop my work.

- c. I was properly informed about the IST services that I can use, namely the Post-Graduation Academic Unit and those that can support the transfer of my ideas to society.
 - d. As a foreign student, I have had support from IST services regarding the necessary paperwork (student VISA, recognition of degrees, social security, housing, etc).
2. If you have any additional comments about the institutional support at IST, please write them here:

PART B: PhD Curricular Program

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about all the course units that you attend in your PhD program, in general:
- a. My background knowledge was enough to follow the course units' program.
 - b. The planned course units' programs were well defined.
 - c. The workload of the course units' were adequate/corresponded to the expected.
 - d. The evaluation methods were fair and appropriate to the 3rd cycles' reality.
 - e. The evaluation processes were fair and appropriate the 3rd cycles' reality.
 - f. My scientific knowledge on the topics covered in the course units has improved.
 - g. My ability to apply the scientific knowledge obtained in the course units has improved.
 - h. My critical thinking and reasoning on the topics covered in the course units have enhanced.
 - i. The course units helped me to improve my communication skills.
 - j. My ability to understand the implications on society of the topics covered in the course units has improved.
 - k. The classes' content and pace were adequate / expected.
 - l. The teaching staff recognized and respected the different levels of knowledge within the same class, if existing.
 - m. The teaching staff stimulated the discussion during lectures.
 - n. The teaching staff were open to attend students and answer to their questions.
4. If you have any additional comments about the curricular program of PhD, please write them here:

PART C: Research work development

Supervision

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the **supervision** of your PhD research work:
- a. I have had regular contacts with my advisor(s).

- b. My advisor(s) has been able to help me steer my research activities.
 - c. My advisor(s) has been able to identify my training and career development needs as a researcher.
6. If you have any additional comments about the supervision of your PhD research work, please write them here:

Resources

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about **resources**:
- a. I was given a suitable work space.
 - b. I have access to adequate laboratorial facilities to support my research activities.
 - c. I have access to adequate computing facilities and library resources (physical and/or on-line) to support my research activities.
 - d. I have appropriate financial support for my research activities and dissemination of my work.
8. If you have any additional comments about resources, please write them here:

Research culture

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about **research culture** at the research center/department where you are developing your work:
- a. The research environment at the research center/department stimulates my work.
 - b. I have had the opportunity to present/discuss my ongoing PhD work to colleagues from the research center/department.
 - c. I have had opportunities to become involved in a wider research community, beyond my research center/department.
10. If you have any additional comments about research culture at the research center / department where you are developing your work, please write them here:

PART D: Public Presentation of the PhD Thesis Proposal

11. Please indicate whether you have already presented your PhD Thesis proposal to the Advisory Thesis Committee (CAT):
- ☐ Yes

- No (go to question 13.)

12. If “Yes”, select all the options that apply:

- ☐ My advisor(s) informed me in due time about the role of the Advisory Thesis Committee (CAT).
- ☐ I was acquainted on the requirements and deadlines for the formal presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the CAT.
- ☐ The presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the CAT was made in the official period (no later than 24 months after the enrolment date).
- ☐ The suggestions and comments made by the CAT to my PhD Thesis proposal will help improve my work.

13. If “No”, tick the justification that best applies:

- Discharged from the Advisory Thesis Committee (CAT).
- My PhD program does not consider a CAT.
- I was not informed by my supervision team on the requirements and deadlines for the formal presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the CAT.
- The formal presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the CAT is already scheduled and should take place very soon.
- The presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the CAT is not scheduled yet.

14. If you have any additional comments about the presentation of the PhD Thesis proposal to the Advisory Thesis Committee, please write them here:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.