

PhD Students Survey

This survey will be made available by the Post-Graduation Office at the moment the PhD student state changes to “*A aguardar homologação da tese final*”, which occurs after the submission of the final version of the PhD Thesis.

Welcome

Dear PhD student,

Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) has designed this survey to ask about your experiences and expectations during the completion of your PhD program.

Your responses are very important to help IST improve further support to PhD students.

Thank you for your collaboration!

Notes for completion

- This survey should take around **twenty minutes** to complete.
- If a question does not apply to you, or you cannot offer any opinion on it, then please mark “Not Applicable” (NA).
- Please do not identify yourself or other individuals (including staff) in your comments.
- The answer to this survey is compulsory. 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 last page of the survey, 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).

Do you wish to answer this survey?

(If your answer is “yes”, please continuing 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”]

1. Generic information

1.1. I developed my research work:

- ☐ In a research unit of IST.
- ☐ In a research unit associated with IST (INESC-MN, INESC-ID, IT, IDMEC, LIP).
- ☐ In a research unit of Universidade de Lisboa, not belonging to IST.
- ☐ Other (please specify your situation): _____

1.2. During the completion of my PhD work I received a grant:

- ☐ From an individual grant program of FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia).
- ☐ From a doctoral program of FCT.
- ☐ From my research unit.
- ☐ From a research project of my supervisor(s).

☐ Other (please specify your situation): _____

1.3. My PhD research work was done:

- ☐ Totally at my research unit in IST.
- ☐ Partially at my research unit in IST and at a research unit abroad.
- ☐ Partially at my research unit in IST and at a company.
- ☐ Other (please specify your situation): _____

2. PhD courses

2.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your PhD courses?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
The range of courses available in my PhD program was aligned with the skills needed to pursue the doctoral program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The majority of courses that I followed in my PhD program were useful for my research.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The workload of the courses I followed in my PhD program is adequate.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The courses I followed improved my scientific culture beyond the particular domain of my PhD studies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.2. If you have any additional comments about PhD courses, please write them here:

3. Supervision

3.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your supervisor(s)?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
The supervision team (supervisor and co-supervisor, when applicable) had the skills and subject knowledge to support my research.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I had regular contact with my supervision team, appropriate for my needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My supervision team provided feedback that helped me direct my research activities, and stimulated me to publish my work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My supervision team helped me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.2. If you have any additional comments about your supervision, please write them here:

4. Resources

4.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about resources?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I had a suitable working place.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There was adequate laboratorial infrastructure to support my research activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I had good access to computing facilities and library resources (physical and/or online) to support my scientific activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I had appropriate financial support for my research activities and dissemination of my work, e.g. to attend international conferences, workshops, summer schools, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4.2. If you have any additional comments about resources, please write them here:

5. Research culture

5.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research culture at the research centre(s)/department(s) where you developed your thesis?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
The research environment in my research centre(s)/department(s) stimulated my work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have had the opportunity to present/discuss my ongoing PhD work to colleagues from the research centre(s)/department(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have had opportunities to become involved in a wider research community, beyond my research centre(s)/department(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5.2. If you have any additional comments about research culture, please write them here:

6. Research autonomy

6.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research autonomy during the development of your thesis?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I was given the freedom to conduct my own research strategy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was given the opportunity to be the first author and/or the corresponding author of my scientific publications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I was given the opportunity to present my research work at international conferences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was given the opportunity to be involved in different research projects.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6.2. If you have any additional comments about research autonomy, please write them here:

7. Research skills development

7.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about research skills development during your PhD?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My ability to communicate scientific results effectively to diverse audiences has been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My ability to work collaboratively with other researchers has been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7.2. If you have any additional comments about research skills development during your PhD, please write them here:

8. Work balance and personal well-being

8.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about workload and personal well-being?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I could achieve a good balance between the research work and other academic activities such as following courses, seminars, meetings, teaching and others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I could achieve an appropriate work-life balance during the PhD.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The periods of increased workload did not affect my well-being.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The development of my research work was not affected by any personal problems I may have had (e.g. health, financial).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the PhD I was not subjected to discriminatory or inappropriate behaviour (e.g. sexual harassment, misconduct, racism, bullying/mobbing, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8.2. If you have any additional comments about workload balance and personal well-being, please write them here:

9. Progression arrangements and assessment

9.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about progression arrangements and assessment?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I received the appropriate information regarding the need-to-do steps for completing my PhD program (including final assessment procedures, deadlines and requirements for PhD thesis examination).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was aware of the requirements and deadlines for the formal monitoring of my progress from the Thesis Committee (CAT).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Thesis Committee (CAT) provided suggestions and comments that were useful to direct my work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understood the quality level required for my PhD thesis.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9.2. If you have any additional comments about progression arrangements and assessment, please write them here:

10. Responsibilities

10.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about responsibilities?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
IST values and responds to feedback from PhD students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understood my responsibilities as a PhD student.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was aware of my supervisor(s)' responsibilities towards me as a PhD student.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other than my supervisor(s), I knew who to approach if I was concerned about any aspect of my PhD program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10.2. If you have any additional comments about responsibilities, please write them here:

11. Professional development

11.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about professional development during your PhD?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
My ability to design and implement research projects has been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have developed scientific contacts and networks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have increasingly managed my own professional development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. scientific rigor, ethics, transparency, crediting and attributing the contribution of others) has been developed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11.2. If you have any additional comments about professional development during your PhD, please write them here:

12. Institutional support

12.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about institutional support given by IST?

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I have been properly welcomed at IST as a PhD student.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was duly integrated at the research centre/department where I develop my work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was duly informed about the IST services that I can use, namely the Post-Graduate Area and the services that support the transfer of my ideas to society.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a foreign student, I have had support from IST services regarding the necessary paperwork (VISA, qualification recognition, social security, housing, etc).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12.2. If you have any additional comments about institutional support given by IST, please write them here:

13. Teaching opportunities

13.1. Please indicate whether you have taught at IST during your PhD program:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (go to question 13.3)

13.1.1. If Yes:

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
You have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The teaching experience provided you with skills that were transferred to improve your PhD.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The teaching experience has enriched your PhD experience at IST and your skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13.2. Did you receive formal training for your teaching:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13.3. If you have any additional comments about teaching opportunities, please write them here:

14. Overall experience

14.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

	NA	1 – Definitely disagree	2	3	4	5 – Definitely agree
I am satisfied with having followed a PhD program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14.2. If you were to engage in doctoral studies today, you would choose IST again:

- ☐ Yes, with the same doctoral program at IST
- ☐ Yes, but in a different doctoral program at IST
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not know

14.3. What do you think are the **most positive** aspects of your doctoral education and your time at IST?

14.4. What do you think are the **less positive** aspects of your doctoral education and your time at IST?

- 14.5.** If you have any additional comments about your experience during the completion of your PhD, for instance what do you suggest to improve your experience, please write them here:

15. Motivations

- 15.1.** The main motivation for me to pursue a PhD program was (select all that apply):

- ☐ My interest in the research area
- ☐ I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor
- ☐ Improving my career prospects for an academic/research career
- ☐ Improving my career prospects outside of an academic/research career
- ☐ The funding was available
- ☐ It felt like a natural step to me
- ☐ I felt inspired to work with a particular researcher
- ☐ Professional development or training
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

- 15.2.** What is your next step **right after** completing your PhD?

- ☐ Professor career at the university
- ☐ Research career at a research center (either public or private organization/company)
- ☐ Remaining at the research center who hosted your PhD
- ☐ Self-employment, including setting up your own business
- ☐ Any other professional career
- ☐ Not sure yet, or not decided yet
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

- 15.3.** What type of career do you have in mind in the **mid-long-term**?

- ☐ Professor career at the university
- ☐ Research career at a research center (either public or private organization/company)
- ☐ Remaining at the research center who hosted your PhD
- ☐ Self-employment, including setting up your own business
- ☐ Any other professional career
- ☐ Not sure yet, or not decided yet
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.

You should now deliver at the Post-Graduation Academic Unit the final required documents to complete your process.