



PRES 2025: Institutional Results

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2025 was open to all active Leeds Beckett postgraduate research (PGR) students. A total of 330 PGRs responded, representing a 55% response rate. While this falls short of the 70% target, it remains consistent with our 2023 performance and continues to provide a credible dataset for internal review and sector benchmarking.

The survey explored key aspects of the PGR experience including supervision, resources, research culture, community, support, and development.

Results show a broadly positive trajectory, with small improvements across most domains:

- **Supervision:** 89% positive - consistently strong since 2023 (+1.1pp), with PGRs reporting confidence in supervisors' subject knowledge, feedback, and developmental support.
- **Resources:** 86% positive - stable at a high level, reflecting good access to physical, digital, and specialist facilities.
- **Research skills development:** 89% positive – the largest increase since 2023 (+2.3pp), with strong growth in methodological skills, critical analysis, and understanding of research integrity.
- **Responsibilities:** 79% positive – a modest increase (+0.5pp), suggesting greater clarity around student and supervisor responsibilities.
- **Progression:** 81% positive – a slight decrease (-0.4pp), with mixed views on induction, milestones, and assessment.
- **Professional development:** 80% positive – a small increase (+0.4pp), with most students confident they are managing their own professional growth.
- **Overall satisfaction:** 83.6% positive – up by +1.9pp since 2023.

Areas where a need for improvement remains:

- **Research culture:** 56% positive – a small decline (-0.1pp), showing little progress in access to seminars, opportunities to discuss research, and engagement with the wider research community.
- **Community:** 55% positive – a fall of -4.1pp, with students reporting limited belonging and interaction with peers.
- **Support:** 77% positive – slightly improved on 2023 (+0.8pp), though results suggest continued variability in access to academic skills and wellbeing support.

Subgroup insights

- **International (non-UK) students:** Overall satisfaction is 85% (n=75), slightly higher than home students (83%, n=255) but down -2.5pp compared to 2023. International PGRs remain more positive in community (62% vs 54%) and support (81% vs 76%).

- **Gender:** Female PGRs (85%, n=187) are more positive than male PGRs (81%, n=143) on overall experience, and also on support (79% vs 75%). Male PGRs report slightly higher community scores (57% vs 54%).
- **Disability:** PGRs with a declared disability (n=58) report consistently lower satisfaction, particularly in research culture (44% vs 60% without disability(n=247)), community (42% vs 61%), and support (72% vs 80%).
- **Ethnicity:** Asian, Black and Mixed ethnic groups (n=82) were more satisfied overall than PGRs identifying as White – 85.4% compared to 82.5% – which reverses the gap shown in PRES 2023.

Benchmarking

Comparison with the Global, Post-92, and University Alliance (UA) benchmarks provides some further useful context:

| Domain | LBU 2025 % | Global % | Post-92 % | UA % | Difference vs Global |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|------|----------------------|
| Supervision | 89% | 88% | 88% | 89% | +1pp |
| On-campus resources | 82% | 83% | 81% | 82% | -1pp |
| Online learning resources | 90% | 85% | 86% | 87% | +5pp |
| Research skills | 89% | 87% | 88% | 89% | +2pp |
| Professional development | 80% | 80% | 80% | 81% | 0pp |
| Progression | 81% | 81% | 83% | 84% | 0pp |
| Responsibilities | 79% | 80% | 81% | 81% | -1pp |
| Support | 77% | 75% | 78% | 78% | +2pp |
| Research culture | 56% | 63% | 58% | 59% | -7pp |
| Community | 55% | 63% | 60% | 60% | -8pp |
| Overall experience | 83% | 83% | 82% | 83% | 0pp |

Leeds Beckett is performing strongly in supervision, online resources, research skills, support, and overall satisfaction, with results at or above benchmark averages. Progression and professional development are in line with the sector. The most significant gaps remain in research culture (-7pp) and community (-8pp), which continue to sit below all benchmark groups and represent priority areas for institutional focus.

Please note that Advance HE has revised the reporting structure for PRES 2025, with “resources” now split into on-campus and online categories. This makes direct year-on-year comparison less straightforward. In addition, the number of participating institutions has reduced (89 in 2025 compared with around 100 in 2023). As a result, quartiles and rankings should be interpreted accordingly. The benchmark data therefore provide useful context to complement our internal results, rather than serving as a definitive measure of progress.