

JCU Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ) Summary Report – 2022

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1.0 Introduction

Every year recently completed Higher Degree by Research candidates are invited to take the Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ) which is part of the nationwide Graduate Outcomes Survey and is published within the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT). These surveys are administered by the Social Research Centre on behalf of Universities Australia.

This report summarises the results of the PREQ as part of the 2020 and 2021 Graduate Outcomes Surveys (GOS).

These surveys reflect the experience of graduates who completed the requirements for a Higher Degree by Research between March 2019-February 2020 (2020 GOS) and March 2020-February 2021 (2021 GOS) across the Research Education sector in Australia. Results are therefore reflective of those enrolled in Doctoral candidature in the preceding 8 years (approx. 2013-2020). The lag time in results typically means that the survey is most useful for identifying trends over time and sectoral patterns. The analysed data are provided only to JCU via the Reporting & Analytics Office who collaborated with the Graduate Research School on preparation of this report.

Analyses revealed no statistically significant difference in level of satisfaction between JCU and the Sector at a scale level, although there were some statistically significant differences at an item level. There were also some statistically significant differences in satisfaction between demographic groups both at JCU and across the Sector.

2.0 Results

2.1 The Survey

For the purposes of this report, the data for 2020 and 2021 were combined due to the relatively small number of responses for JCU (Table 1). The data were filtered to reflect the Tableau workbook version of the data that is reported on the QILT website which 162 of JCU's responses were included in the analysis.

Table 1: Number of respondents and response rates.

	2020		2021		Total	
	Respondents	Sample	Respondents	Sample	Total respondents	Response rate
JCU Valid Responses	89	113	73	108	162	73%
Sector Valid Responses (not JCU)	5651	9595	Not yet available.			

The PREQ itself consists of one item relating to “Overall Satisfaction” and a further 18 items which roll up into 7 scales as defined below:

Overall Satisfaction Item

Asks the graduate to indicate their level of overall satisfaction with their completed research. (1 item)

Supervision Scale

2.2.2 Comparison of Demographic Groups

speaking background versus a non-English speaking background were Intellectual Climate items with graduates with a non-English speaking background consistently more satisfied.

There were no statistically significant differences in scores between internal and external graduates. This may be due to very few external JCU graduates completing the survey (14 external graduates for 2020 and 2021 combined). The categories 'internal' and 'external' also may not be suitable descriptors of the candidates' study mode, with many working both on and off-campus, particularly over the last two years.

Similarly, it is difficult to draw conclusions around the satisfaction of indigenous graduates compared to non-indigenous graduates with disabilities compared to those without disabilities due to low survey completion numbers for these groups. For this reason, these demographic groups are not included in Table 3.

2.2.4 Comparison between discipline groups within J13.2165 (n=9) (p=0.7) (i=0.7) (u=6.8) (240.7 2td)-

Figure 2: Percentage satisfaction of CMD/CHS/CPHM, CSE and CASE/CBLG JCU graduates at the scale level (2020-2021)

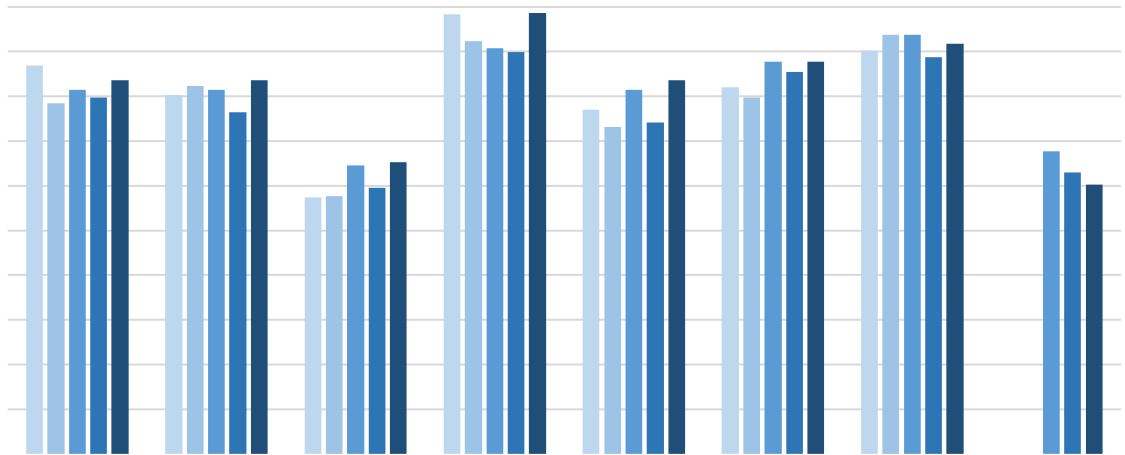
Table 4: Items on which JCU discipline groups differed in satisfaction.

Item	Result
My supervisor(s) provided additional information relevant to my topic (SC)	CMD/CHS/CPHM graduates were less satisfied than CSE and CASE/CBLG graduates
I was given good guidance in topic selection and refinement (SC)	CASE/CBLG graduates were more satisfied than CMD/CHS/CPHM and CSE graduates
My supervisor(s) provided helpful feedback on my progress (SC)	CASE/CBLG graduates were more satisfied than CMD/CHS/CPHM and CSE graduates
I received good guidance in my literature search (SC)	CASE/CBLG graduates were more satisfied than CMD/CHS/CPHM and CSE graduates

2.2.5 Scale level satisfaction within JCU 2017-2021

Figure 3 below provides a picture of how graduate experience at JCU has changed since 2017. It shows the percentage satisfaction for each PREQ and the Overall Satisfaction item for the years 2017-2021 (the Industry Engagement scale was introduced to the PREQ in 2019). Presenting the data in this way is informative in that large scale changes in satisfaction over a long period are visible. PR4(e)-3 (rPS)2.5 (s)-10.3 . la

Figure 3: Time series showing ~~level~~ satisfaction for JCU graduates 2020-2021.



3.0 Recommendations v }v oμ•]}v•

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Table3: Item level comparison of demographic groups within JCI (2020-2021). Demographics highlighted red/green are those where a significant difference in satisfaction was found, with red be

I am confident that I can apply my skills outside the university sector