

Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2010

Analysis of Main Results

PTES ran for the first time in 2010 and Imperial took part in the survey for the first time this year. Students were contacted to take part in the online survey during spring 2010 (14th April – 28th May). Around 70 UK HEIs took part in the survey.

646 Imperial students responded to the survey from an expected pool of 3000, this is a 21.5% response rate.

The core question categories were:

- A Motivations
- B Quality of teaching and learning
- C Assessment and Feedback
- D Dissertation
- E Organisation and Management
- F Learning Resources
- G Skills and Personal Development
- H Career and professional development
- I Overall Satisfaction

A summary of the responses to these questions is contained in this paper. Additional questions were added to the survey which were only available to Imperial students, these included questions related to the Graduate Schools and events, transferable skills training, recruitment and registration.

All students were asked to provide background personal information such as their department, age, gender, course type, previous qualifications etc.

Motivations

The first section asked students to tick all statements that applied to them in response to two questions related to their motivations for choosing their course and institution.

- *My main motivations for taking this postgraduate programme were:*

(top 3 responses)

- 1) To improve my employment prospects
- 2) Personal interest
- 3) To progress in my current career path (i.e. a professional qualification)

- *I am studying for this qualification at this particular institution because of:*

(top 3 responses)

- 1) The overall reputation of the institution
 - 2) The institution's reputation in my chosen subject area
 - 3) The location of the institution
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In the remaining sections all the questions which are summarised in this document were in the format:

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Options for response were:

Definitely Agree (5)

Mostly Agree (4)

Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)

Mostly Disagree (2)

Definitely Disagree (1)

Not Applicable (0)

Responses were converted to scores, as shown in brackets above, for analysis.

College level results were also analysed as a percentage of respondents selecting each of the options (excluding respondents who selected Not Applicable).

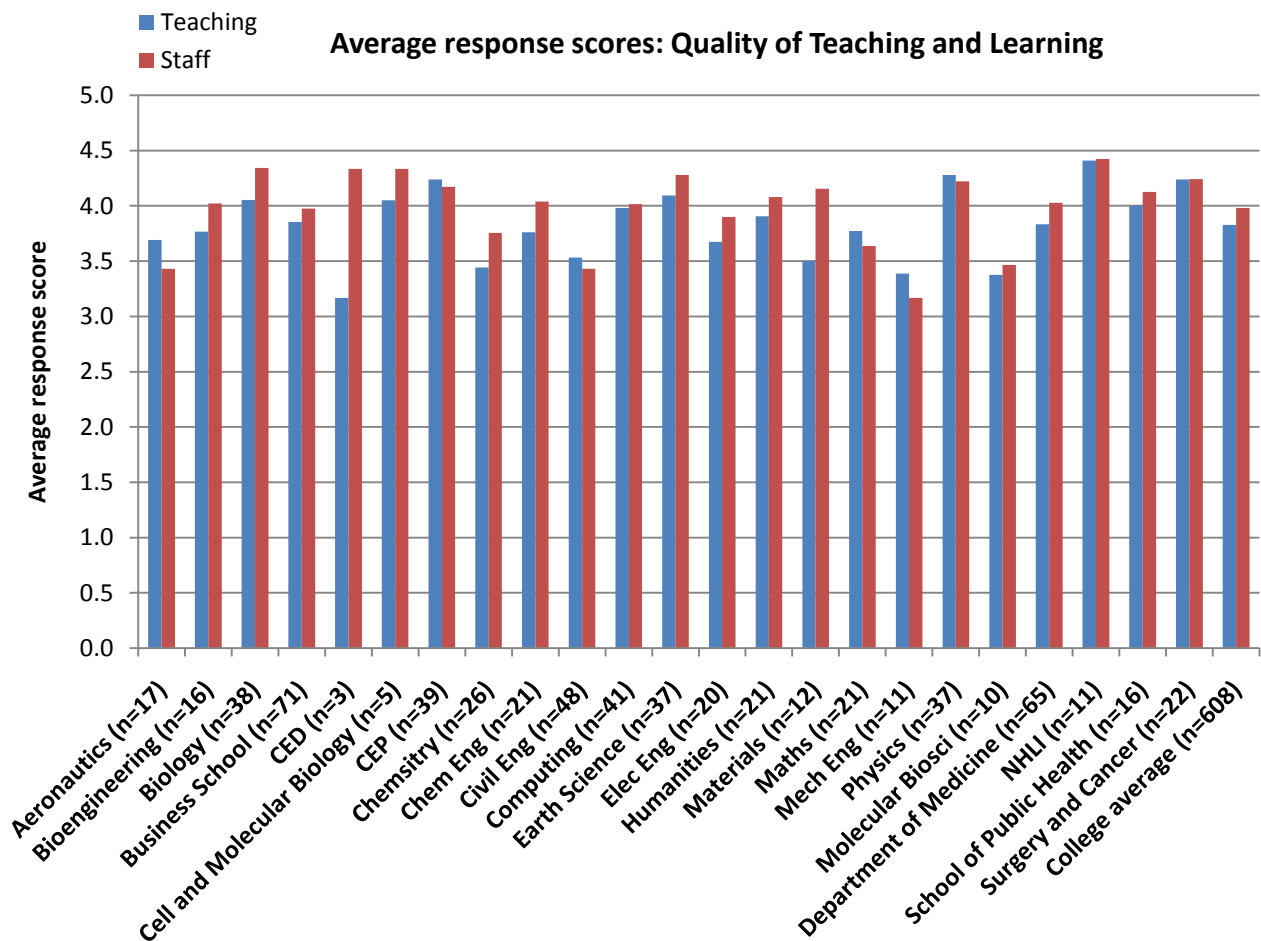
Quality of Teaching and Learning

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- a) The teaching and learning methods are effective for this type of programme
- b) There is sufficient contact time (face to face and/or virtual/online) between students and staff to support effective learning.
- c) I am happy with the teaching support I receive from staff on my course.
- d) The course is intellectually stimulating

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about staff on your programme

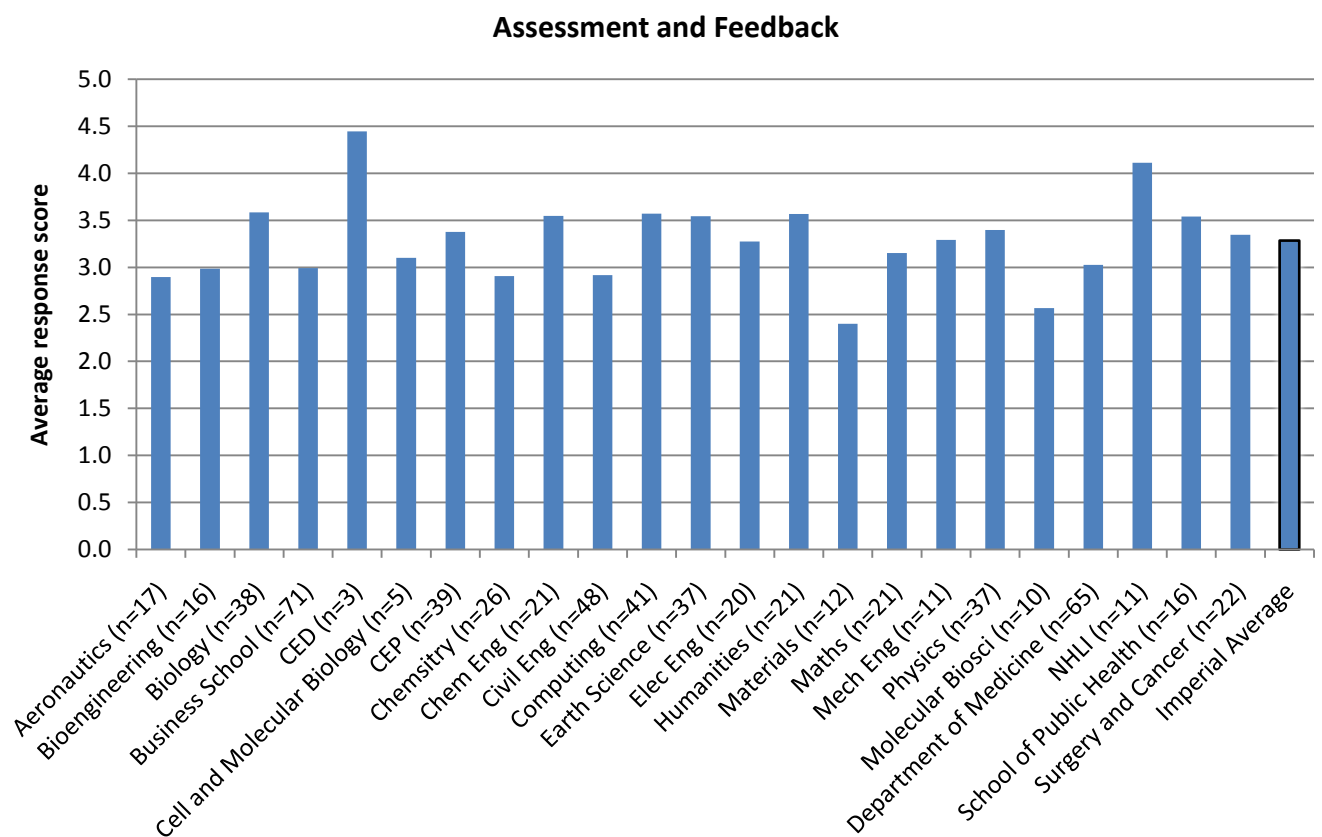
- a) Staff are good at explaining things
- b) Staff made the subject interesting
- c) Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching



Assessment and Feedback

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- a) The criteria used in marking have been made clear in advance
- b) Assessment arrangement and marking have been fair.
- c) Feedback on my work has been prompt
- d) I received feedback in time to allow me to improve my next assignment
- e) I have received detailed comments (written or oral) on my work
- f) Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand

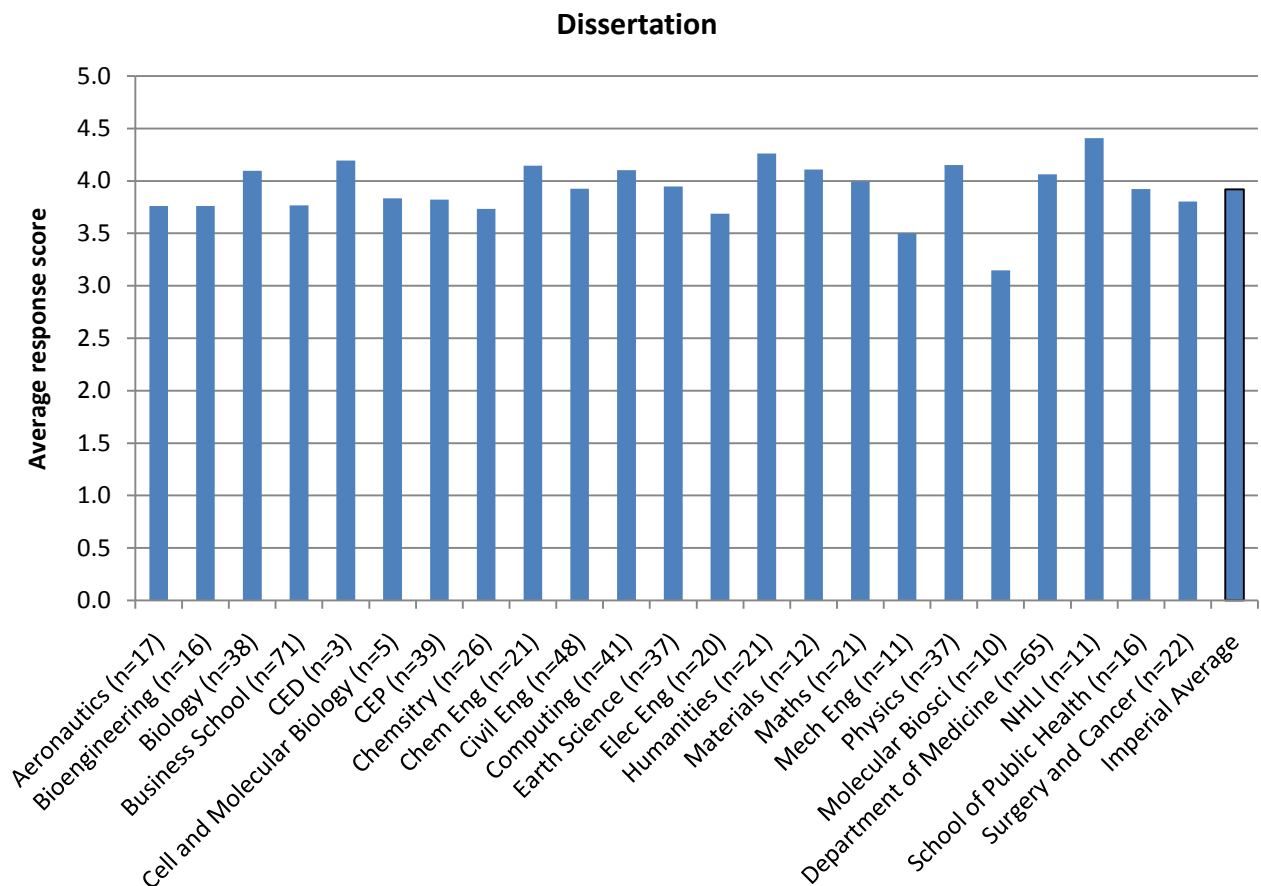


Dissertation

Do you need to write a dissertation as part of your programme? Yes/No

If yes, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

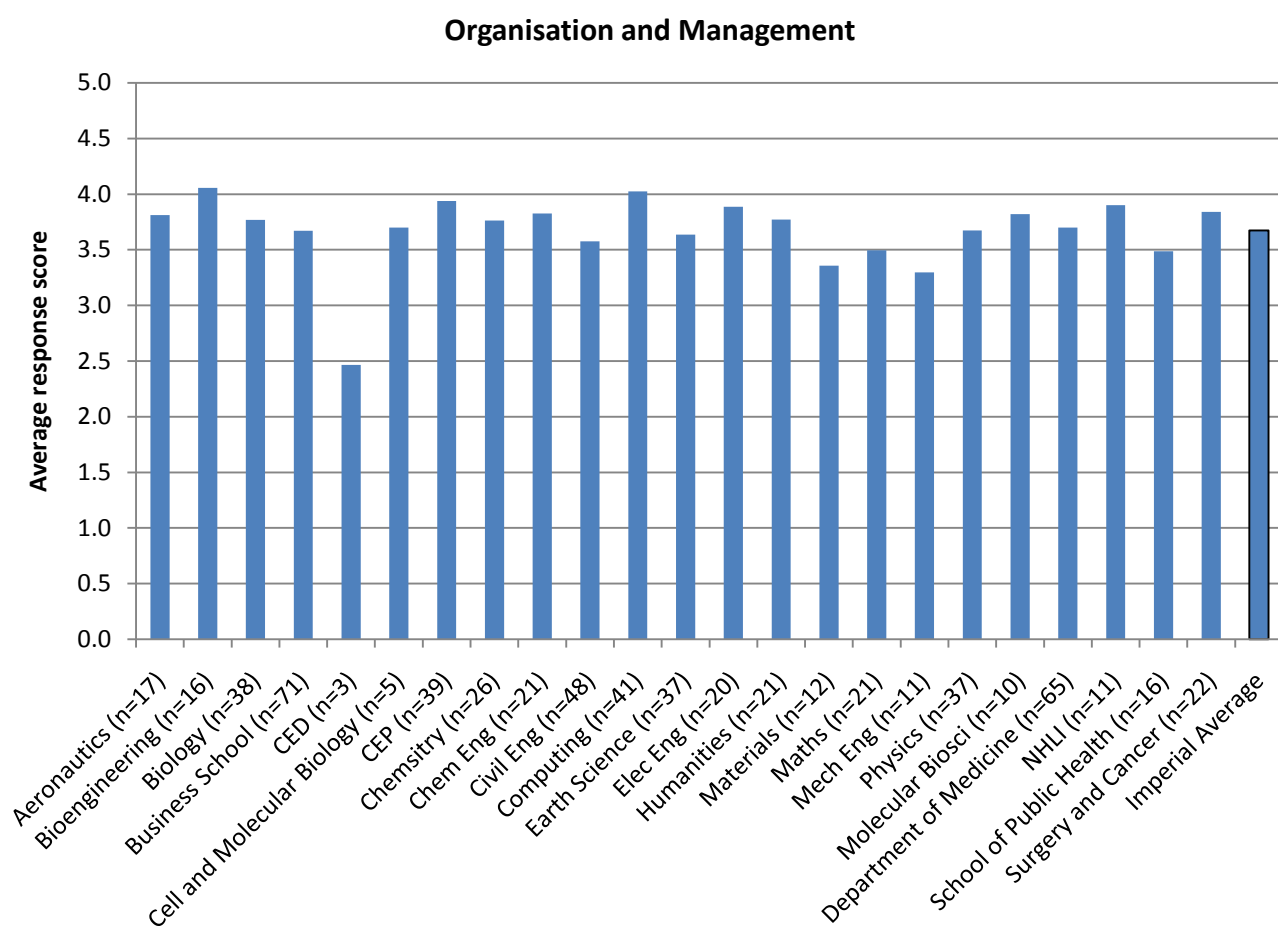
- a) *I understand the required standards for the dissertation*
- b) *My supervisor has the skills and the subject knowledge to adequately support my dissertation*
- c) *My supervisor makes a real effort to understand any difficulties I face*
- d) *I have been given good guidance in topic selection and refinement by my supervisor*
- e) *I have received good guidance in my literature search by my supervisor*
- f) *My supervisor provides helpful feedback on my progress*



Organisation and Management

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

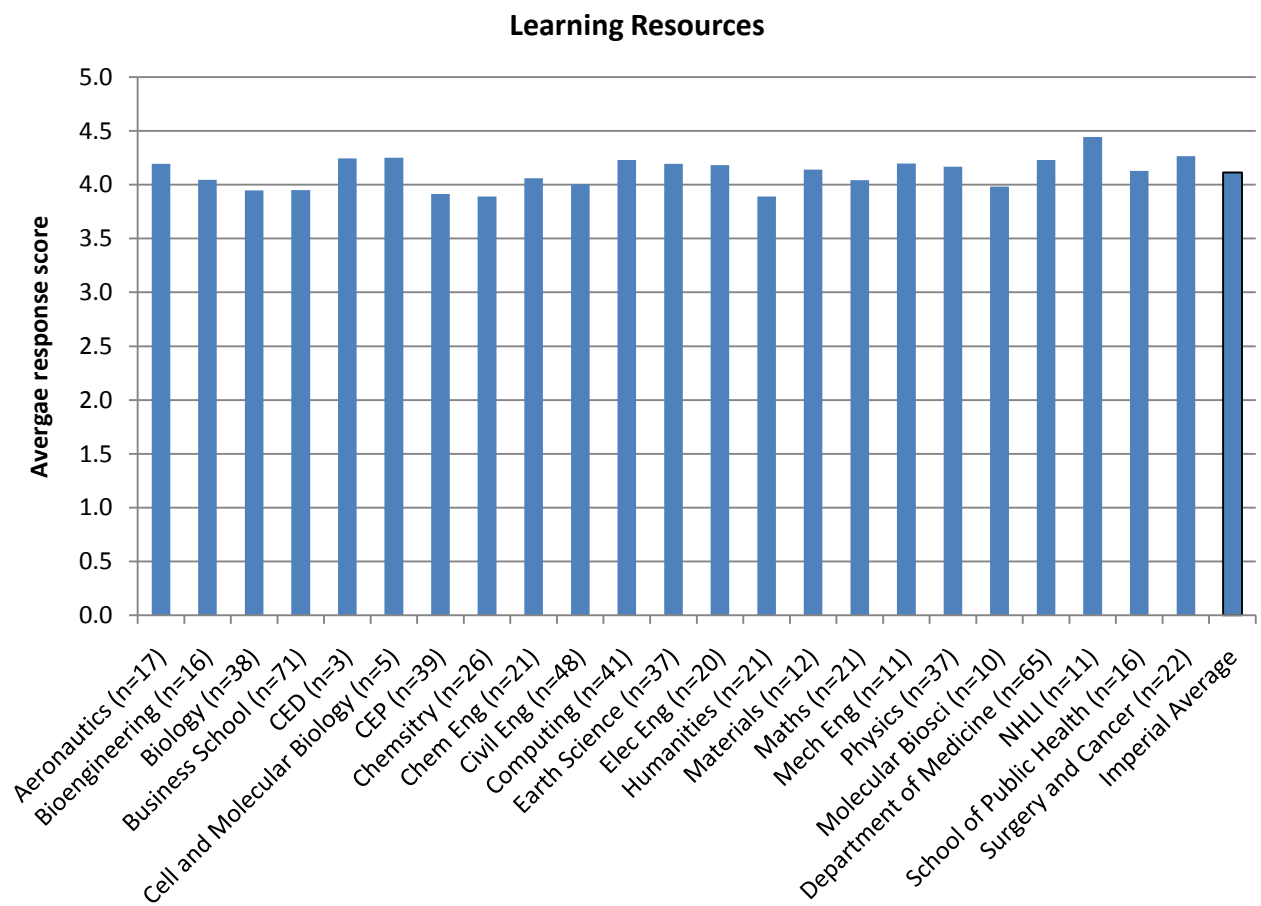
- a) *The timetable fits well with my other commitments*
- b) *Any changes in the programme or teaching have been communicated effectively*
- c) *The programme is well organised and is running smoothly*
- d) *The balance of core modules and options is appropriate*
- e) *The balance between scheduled contact time and private study is appropriate*



Learning Resources

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- a) *The library resources and services are good enough for my needs*
- b) *The library resources and services are easily accessible*
- c) *I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to*
- d) *I have been able to access social learning spaces (e.g. for group working) on campus when I needed to*
- e) *I have been able to access specialised equipment, facilities or rooms when I needed them*
- f) *I am satisfied with the quality of learning materials available to me (print, online materials, DVD etc)*



Personal and Professional Development

- Skills and personal development (Academic Skills)

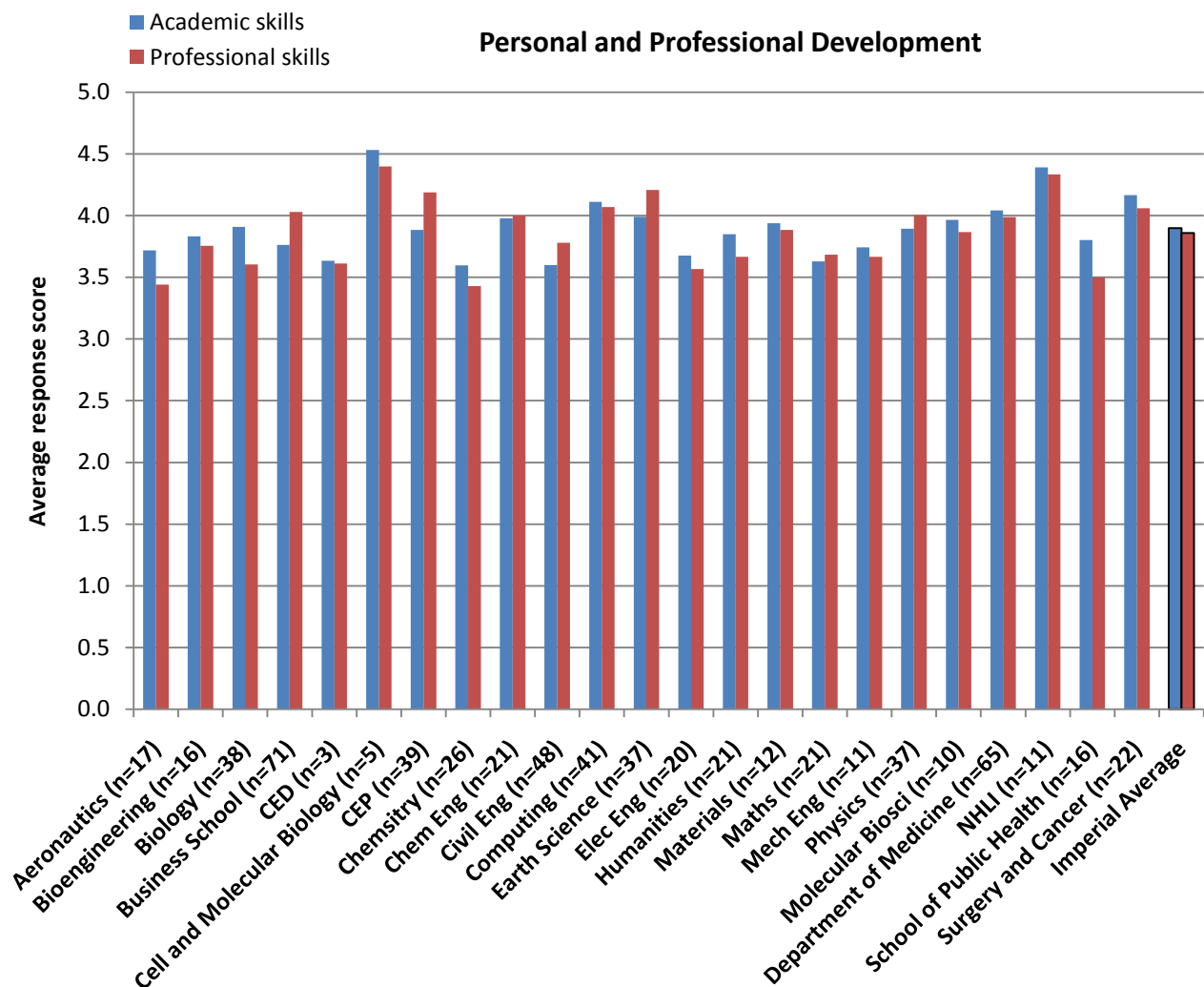
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- a) The programme has developed my research skills
- b) The programme has developed my transferable skills
- c) As a result of the programme I am more confident about independent learning
- d) The programme has helped me to present myself with confidence
- e) As a result of the programme my communications skills have improved
- f) As a result of the programme I feel confident in tackling unfamiliar problems

- Career and professional development (Professional Skills)

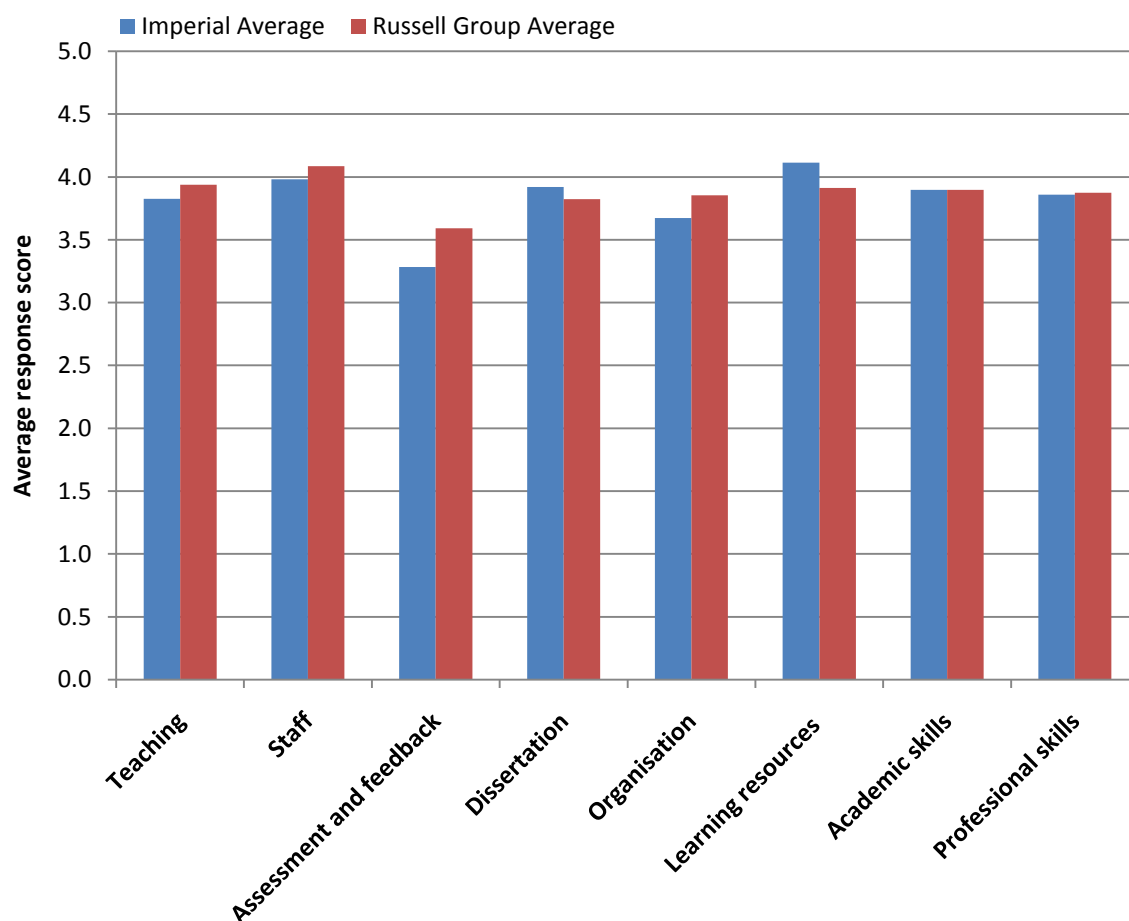
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- a) I am encouraged to reflect on my professional development needs
- b) I feel better prepared for my future employment
- c) As a result of this programme, I feel my future employment prospects are better



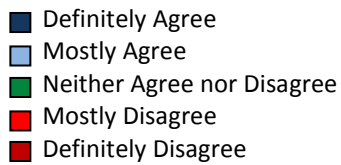
College Level Analysis

College and Russell Group Average Scores by Question Category

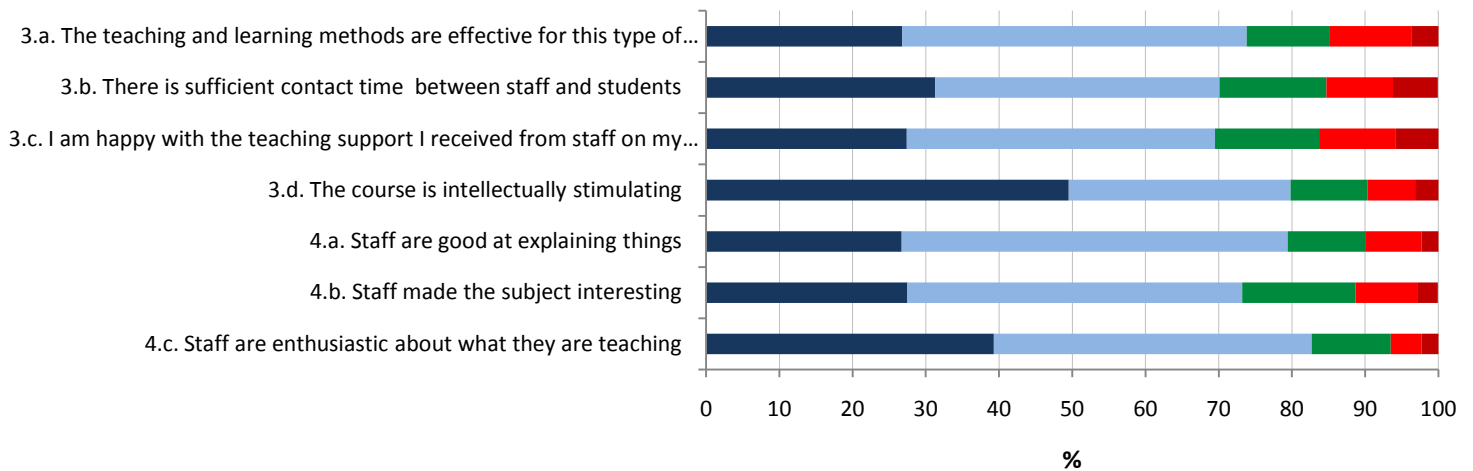


The average response rate for all Russell group institutions who participated in the survey (excluding Imperial) was 18.2%.

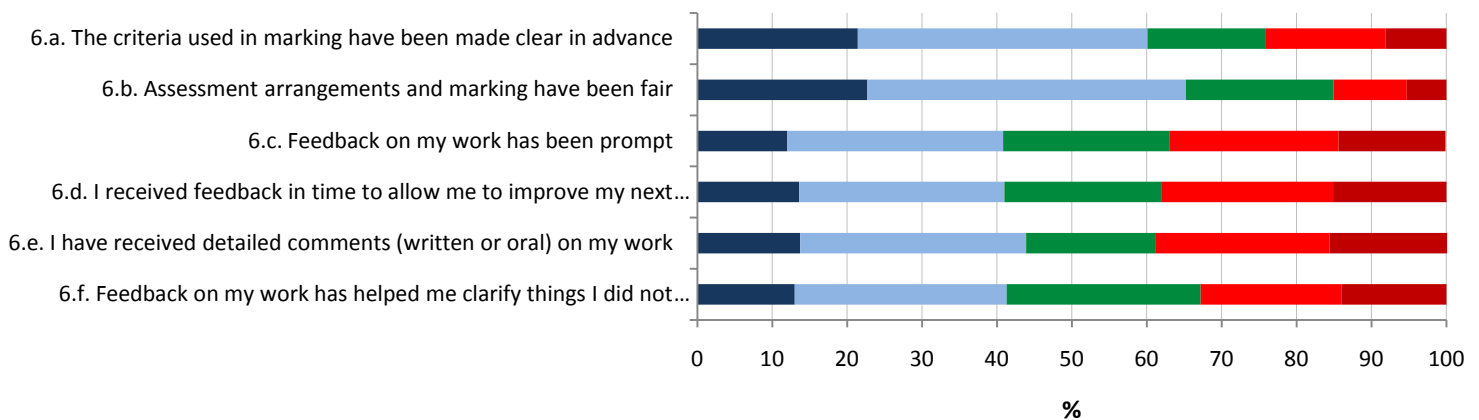
College Level Responses by Question



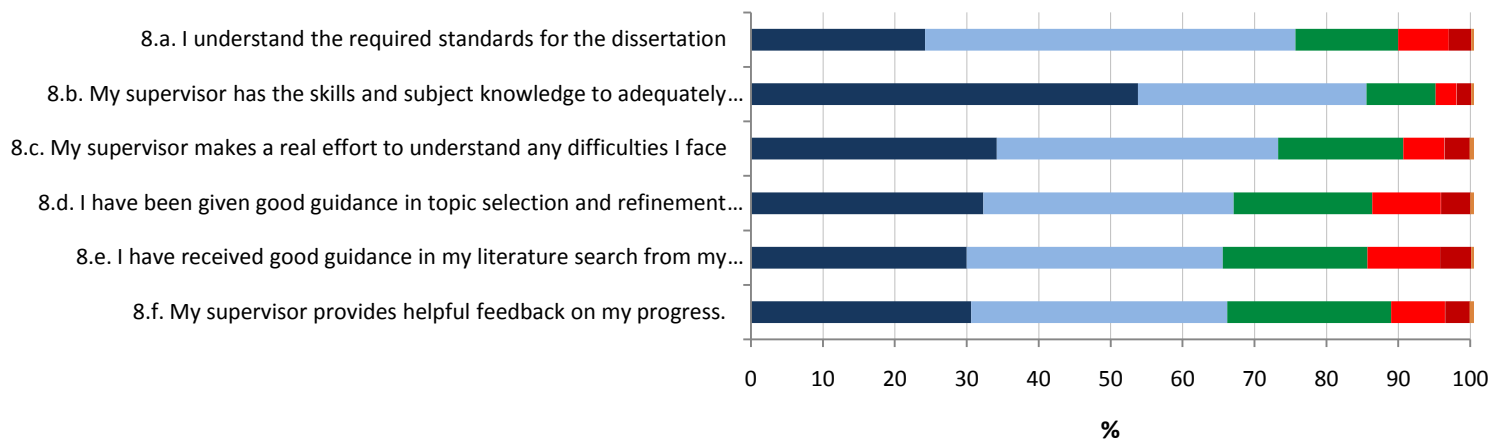
Quality of Teaching and Learning



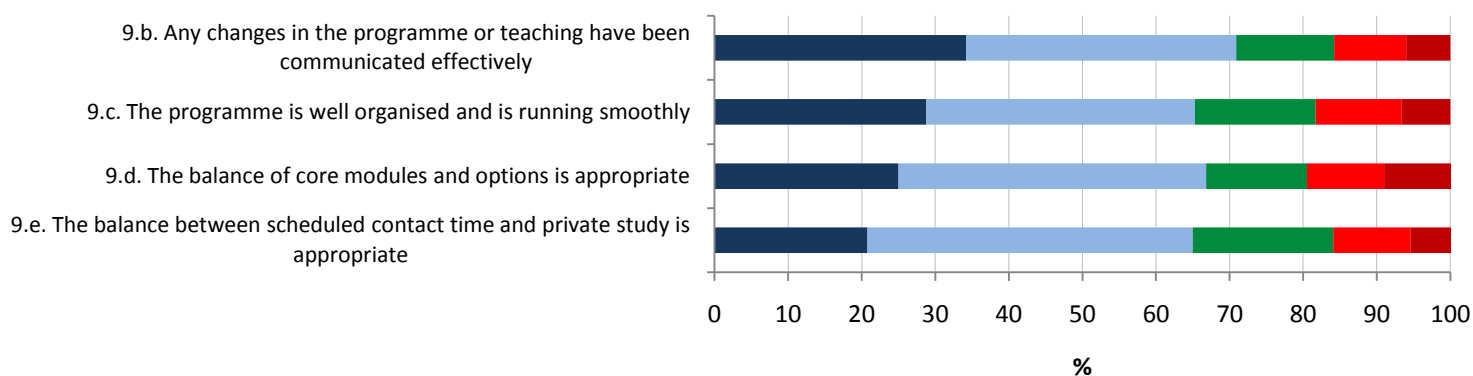
Assessment and Feedback



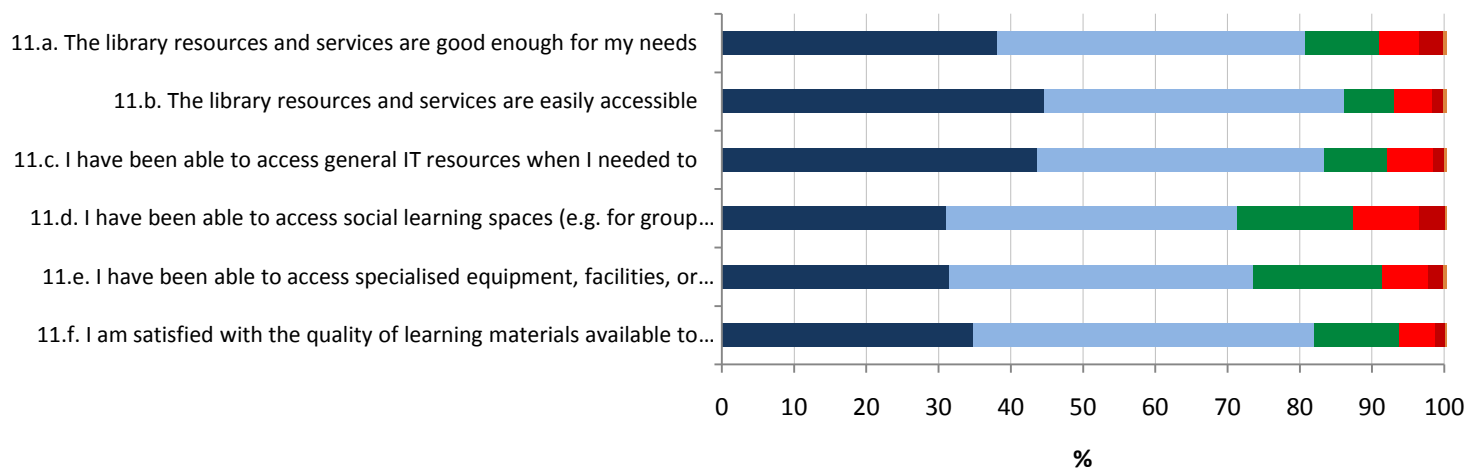
Dissertation



Organisation and Management



Learning Resources



- Definitely Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Definitely Disagree