





ASSET

Athena Survey of Science Engineering and Technology

For Research Institutes

These statements about Data Protection and Confidentiality were displayed at the start of the survey.

Data Protection

All data collected in this survey will be held anonymously and securely.

Survey results and feedback will be reviewed within this institution and aggregate responses will be shared with other participating institutions.

Confidentiality

Organisations have the means to download and store their own survey results for further analysis. However, to ensure complete protection of anonymity for any free-text answers, these responses are presented as stand-alone lists and are not included in the download of quantitative responses that is available, thus preventing them being linked to any other data.

Notes about the Athena Research Institutes' Survey Data

This online survey was developed in conjunction with the University of East Anglia as part of the Athena Project and was distributed in 2004 by Research Councils to staff in their Research Institutes. Many of the questions are the same as those in the Athena Higher Education Survey.

2,444 valid responses were received.

All qualitative responses have been removed in compliance with the confidentiality statement given to respondents. In some cases, qualitative responses had been categorised as part of the survey analysis, and the main categories have been included with the data set. Data from questions 1 to 3 has also been excluded as this gave information about respondents' place of work and department.

August 2008 University of East Anglia

Section 1: Your current job

- 1 In which Research Centre/Institute do you work?
- 2 If you work at xxx, which department do you work in?
- 3 If your Research Centre/Institute is part of the yyy, which unit/site/department do you work in? Responses from Questions 1-3 have been excluded from the data set

4 What is your current level?

(check More Info Box 1 for definitions)

Research Director
Principal scientist
Senior scientist / team or project manager
Scientist
Other

Note: Short response options were used in the interests of visual clarity. Fuller descriptions that covered the different grade definitions were available by clicking on a 'More Information' box and respondents were directed to do so. This information is presented at the end of this document.

5 How many years have you been at this level?

<1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

6 Is your contract.....

Full time Part time

If part time, what proportion?

Half time (50%) Less than 50% More than 50%

7 How would you describe your employment contract?

Permanent / Indefinite / open ended Fixed term / short term / contract Honorary/ unpaid / emeritus Casual / hourly paid Visiting scientist Other

Work History

Section 2: Employers and career breaks

(check More Info Box 2 for definitions)

- 8 How many years in total have you worked......
 - (a) For your current employer?

<1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

(b) In Higher Education?

0,<1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

(c) In industry?

0,<1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

(d) In SET in other public sector employment?

0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

If you have previously worked in Industry or Higher Education (excluding any employment while studying), what contributed to your choice to work in Research Centres/Institutes? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Academic freedom

Better childcare facilities

Better facilities/ funding for research

Better pay

Better prospects for career progression

Better work/life balance

Better working conditions

Did not want to teach

Equality of opportunity in Research Centres/Institutes

Experience good for CV / portfolio

Higher pace of work

Inequality of opportunity in HE

Inequality of opportunity in Industry

Less travel

Lower pace of work

More flexible hours

More resources

More security

More travel

Relocation due to partner's job

Research area

Unable to find a lecturing appointment in HE

Wanted permanent contract

Other

10 (a) What was the composition of the selection panel for your current post?

All female

Mostly female

All male

Mostly male

Roughly even

Don't know / can't remember

Not interviewed

(b) How long ago was this?

<1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

Since your first appointment in SET professional employment, have you taken any career breaks (including maternity leave)?

Yes

No

If yes,

(a) When you took your career break(s), who were you working for?

```
(Select all that apply)
```

Your current employer

Another employer - in HE

Another employer - in a Research Centre/Institute

Another employer - in industry

Another employer – other public sector

(b) How long in total were the career breaks?

< 6 months

6-12 months

13-18 months

19-24 months

2 to 3 years

4 to 5 years

> 5 years

Since your first appointment in SET professional employment, have you had any periods of part time working?

Yes

No

If yes

(a) When you were working part time who were you working for? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Your current employer

Another employer - in HE

Another employer – in a Research Centre/Institute

Another employer - in industry

Another employer – other public sector

(b) How long in total did/have you worked part time? [optional]

< 6 months

6-12 months

13-18 months

19-24 months

2 to 3 years

4 to 5 years

> 5 years

13 If you have had any career breaks, did you experience any difficulties in returning to work? [optional]

Yes

No

Do you think any of the following would help the transition back to work in research after a career break? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Contact/keeping in touch with department while away

Peer networks

Mentoring

Part time working initially, building up to full time

Shorter hours

Flexible working

Childcare

Training

Other

Work History - progression

The questions in this section aim to give us to a clear impression of the collective career paths of respondents.

We would like you to answer the questions in this section that relate to <u>each</u> of the levels that you have worked at in research centres/institutes, as well as those relating to your current level.

Section 3: First jobs

15 At what level was your FIRST job in a research centre/institute?

(check More Info Box 1 for definitions)

Research Director
Principal scientist
Senior scientist / team or project manager
Scientist
Other

How many applications did you make for your <u>FIRST</u> post in a research centre/ institute? [optional]

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or more, don't remember

Section 4: Years at each level

If you have had periods of working part time, please answer in actual years, not full time equivalents

[MORE INFO BOX 1 was available against each of questions 17-27 to remind respondents of the definitions of each level]

- 17 How many years have your worked (or did you work) at "scientist" level? [optional] 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years
- 18 How many years have you worked (or did you work) at "senior scientist" level? [optional] 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years
- How many years have you worked (or did you work) at "principal scientist" level? [optional] 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years
- **20** How many years have you worked at "research director" level? [optional] 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,>20 years

Section 5: Progression

21 How did you obtain your first job at "principal scientist" level? [optional]

Promotion Internal application to advertised job External application to advertised job Other N/A

22 How did you obtain your first job at "research director" level? [optional]

Promotion
Internal application to advertised job
External application to advertised job
Other
N/A

23	Have you ever been invited or encouraged to apply for a post at "principal scientist" level? [optional] Yes No
24	Have you ever been invited or encouraged to apply for a post at "research director" level? [optional] Yes No
Secti	on 6: Moving
25	Did you move employer to get your first "senior scientist" post? [optional] Yes No N/A
26	Did you move employer to gain your first "principal scientist" post? [optional] Yes No N/A
27	Did you move employer to gain your first "research director" post? [optional] Yes No N/A

Current appointment - what do you do?

Section 7: What you do within your department, your research centre/institute and external professional activities

28 Since working in research centres/institutes, which of the following positions do you hold (or have you held)

(Select all that apply)

Head of Research Centre/Institute

Deputy Head of Research Centre/Institute

Head of a Division within Research Centre/Institute

Deputy Head of Division within your Research Centre/Institute

Director of postgraduate studies

Other senior management post

None of the above

29 Since working in research centres/institutes, which of the following responsibilities do you hold (or have you held)

(Select all that apply)

Arranging seminar/research series

Chair of departmental meetings

Chair of promotion panel

Chair of selection panel

Centre/council representative at specialist meetings

Contract negotiation

Due diligence activities

External client customer consultancy

External research collaboration

Council representative on government bodies

Leader of collaborative research group

Line manager

Member of European Commission expert groups

Project management

Risk assessments

Safety responsibilities/management

Selected to manage special projects outside usual area of work

Sign offs, e.g. reports, designs, specifications

Staff supervision and training

Student supervision

None of the above

30 Since working in research centres/institutes which of the following committees are you (or have you been) a member of?

(Select all that apply)

Council (either your own one or working across other research councils)

Finance/planning/resources committee

Promotion committee

Research committee

None of the above

In the last three years, have you taken part in any appointments committees for 'science' staff?

(a)	for your own area	Yes	No
(b)	for other areas in your research centre/institute	Yes	No
(c)	externally	Yes	No

32 Are you currently a member of any committees within your research centre/institute?

Yes No

If Yes

(a) Are any of the committees (within your Research Centre/Institute) of which you are a member...[optional]

(i) all female? Yes No (ii) all male? Yes No (iiii) mixed? Yes No

(b) Are the committees that you are a member of held in 'normal working time'?

[optional]

Yes Mainly yes Half and half Mainly no No

33 Are you a member / fellow of a relevant professional organisation?

Yes No

What is the highest level of membership that you have held within this/these organisation(s)? [optional]

Associate/affiliate

Member Fellow

35 And what participation do you have? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

President/Chair or Vice President/Vice Chair/Treasurer/Other Senior Officer

Council/Board Member

Special interest group/committee

Member of conference programme committee

Member of editorial board

Attending meetings

Presenting papers

Other

Is chartered status available through any of the professional organisations to which you belong? [optional]

Yes

No

Not applicable

(a) If yes, do you have chartered status? [optional]

Yes No

In the last 3 years, have you been invited to contribute at a national or international conference as [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Keynote-plenary speaker

Specialist/break out session speaker

Sessional chair

None of these

In the last three years how many conferences have you attended? [optional]

0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,>10

39 Are you Editor of an academic journal? [optional]

Yes

Have been in the past

No

40 Are you on the editorial board of an academic journal? [optional]

Yes

Have been in the past

No

41 Are you, or have you been [optional]

(a)	A Research Council Member?	Yes	No
(b)	A member of a Research Council Committee?	Yes	No
(c)	A member of a grant giving panel?	Yes	No
(d)	An assessor for a Research Council?	Yes	No
(e)	An EU evaluator?	Yes	No
(f)	A non-executive director of a public company?	Yes	No
(g)	A trustee/governor/member of a public body?	Yes	No

42 Do you undertake professional consultancy work? [optional]

Yes

Have done in the past

No

Do you undertake professional "representative" duties, e.g. as a member of a national/government committee? [optional]

Yes

Have done in the past

No

44 Are you a member of [optional]

(a)	A departmental research group?	Yes	No
(b)	An interdisciplinary research group?	Yes	No
(c)	An international research group?	Yes	No

Aspirations, Expectations and Progression

Section 8: Aspirations

Which of the following within research centres/institutes do you hope to achieve during your career? [optional] (check More Info Box 1 for definitions)

(Select all that apply)

Satisfied with current level

- "Senior scientist" level
- "Principal scientist" level
- "Research Director level

46	Do y	you have	e ambitions	to be	[optional]
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(a)	Head of a research centre?	Yes	No
(b)	Head of a research division?	Yes	No
(c)	Head of a research group?	Yes	No
(d)	Member of senior management?	Yes	No

47 Where do your aspirations lie? [optional]

(a)	In Higher Education	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know
(b)	In Research Centres/Institutes	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know
(c)	In industry	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know
(d)	In SET policy/management	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know
(e)	Running own business	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know
(f)	Doing something completely different	Yes	Possibly	No	Don't know

Would you like to continue your career in your current research centre/institute? [optional]

Yes

No

Undecided

Please write in any particular reasons why or why not____

Section 9: Expectations and Progression

49 What will help you progress in your career? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Appraisal / staff review / performance review

Career development of others

Communication skills

Financial management experience

Flexibility

Leadership skills

Management/supervisory skills

Mentoring

Mobility

Negotiating skills

Personal development

Problem solving skills

Research performance

Specialist skills

Other, please specify____

- Which of the following areas of career development are available to you at your Research centre? [optional]
- (a) Formal mentoring scheme

Available

Unavailable

Don't know

(ai) If available, have you participated in this?

Yes

No

(aii) If Yes, how useful was it?

> Not at all useful Not very useful

Useful

Very useful

Personal development training (b)

Available

Unavailable

Don't know

If available, have you taken any of this type of training? (bi)

Yes

Nο

(bii) If Yes, how useful was it?

> Not at all useful Not very useful

Useful Very useful

(c) Management or supervisory skills training

Available

Unavailable

Don't know

(ci) If available, have you taken any of this type of training?

Yes

If Yes, how useful was it? (cii)

Not at all useful

Not very useful

Useful

Very useful

Communication skills training (eg negotiation) (d)

Available

Unavailable

Don't know

If available, have you taken any of this type of training? (di)

Yes

No

(dii) If Yes, how useful was it?

Not at all useful Not very useful

Useful

Very useful

51 Have your aspirations and expectations changed since you first started work in a research?

Yes, changed a lot

Yes, some change

No change

If Yes, please explain [optional]

52 Do you know what the criteria are for promotion in your research centre/institute?

Yes, good knowledge of the criteria

Yes, Fairly good knowledge of the criteria

Yes, Some knowledge of the criteria

No knowledge of the criteria

53 Do you know the procedure for promotion within your research centre/institute?

Yes, good knowledge of the procedure

Yes, Fairly good knowledge of the procedure

Yes, Some knowledge of the procedure

No knowledge of the procedure

Which of the following are the MOST IMPORTANT in contributing to successful career progression within research centres/institutes?

(Select all that apply)

(check More Info Box 3 for definitions)

Assessor for grant giving bodies

Attracting new PhD students

Chair of division committees

Client/customer consultancy

Collaborative working - across/within research centre

Collaborative working - externally

Conference attendance

Conference keynote-plenary speaker

Coordination of research projects

Course director/leader/coordinator

Editor of academic journal

External examiner

Initiating and contributing to new projects/programmes

International experience

Meeting targets/delivering on time

Member of Council

Member of cross council committee

Member of editorial board of academic journal

Membership of a national/government committee

Membership of appointments committees

Membership of division committees

Membership of finance/planning/resource committees

Membership of industry / standards board

Networking outside the research centre

Networking within research centre

Obtaining external research funding

Participating in the periodic scientific evaluation of your research centre/institute

Patenting

Professional consultancy work

Project management experience

Raising profile of research centre in media

Refereeing

Research publications

Working on high profile/successful/ projects/programmes/ research

Other

If you selected Other, please specify_____

Section 10: Perceptions

55 How do you view the travel requirements of your current job?

Acceptable

Too much

Too little

If you find the travel requirements onerous, which (if any) of the following would be MOST IMPORTANT in making the travel requirements easier? [optional]

Ability to take partner

Ability to work from home immediately before and after travel

Additional care costs contribution / cover

Adequate notice of required travel

Compensatory leave allocation for long periods away from home

Established 'No go' periods for travelling, e.g. school holidays / own leave periods

Established minimum period at home between periods of travel

Information about (or Transparency on) travel commitments of colleagues

Involvement in the planning of travel commitments

Regular pattern of travel, rather than ad hoc

Support/cover by colleagues during absence

Other

How do you view the approach of your research centre/institute to the "work/life balance"? [optional]

Good

Adequate

Poor

Which of the following are the MOST IMPORTANT contributors to a good "work/life balance"? [optional]

Ability to buy additional leave with salary sacrifice

Awareness of issue being shown by senior management

Being able to ask for time off at short notice within leave allocation, without need to give reasons

Flexibility in hours/days worked/ work pattern

Home working

Important meetings/activities on a regular pattern to allow planning

Meetings finishing on time, especially those at the end of the day

More notice of important meetings

More support from colleagues

Take up of existing work-life provision by senior managers

Other

Which do you have access to or are in operation in your current research centre/institute? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

Ability to buy additional leave with salary sacrifice

Awareness of issue being shown by senior management

Being able to ask for time off at short notice within leave allocation, without need to give reasons

Flexibility in hours/days worked/ work pattern

Home working

Important meetings/activities on a regular pattern to allow planning

Meetings finishing on time, especially those at the end of the day

More notice of important meetings

More support from colleagues

Take up of existing work-life provision by senior managers

Other

60 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [optional]

- (a) Senior colleagues are supportive
- (b) My line manager is supportive
- (c) My research contribution to the research centre/institute is valued
- (d) My administrative contribution to the research centre/institute is valued
- (e) I feel socially integrated within my research centre/institute
- (f) I have the opportunity to participate in important research centre/institute committees, meetings and projects
- (g) I am encouraged to undertake activities which will contribute to my career development
- (h) Successes in my working life are celebrated by my research centre/institute
- (i) My research centre/institute places value on external professional activities

Response options for 60(a) to 60(i)

Agree strongly

Agree Neither agree or disagree Disagree Disagree strongly Not applicable

- What is your perception of the equality of treatment in your research centre with respect to the following: [please skip this question if working in a single sex department] [optional]
 - (a) Promotion
 - (b) Salary
 - (c) Access to career development and training opportunities
 - (d) Visibility to senior management
 - (e) Access to funds
 - (f) Office space
 - (g) Laboratory space
 - (h) Administrative/office support
 - (i) Sabbatical leave

Response options for 61(a) to 61(i)

Women significantly disadvantaged Women slightly disadvantaged

No difference

Men slightly disadvantaged

Men significantly disadvantaged

No opinion/Don't know

- What have been the significant factors that have most helped your career? [optional]
- What, if any, organisational/cultural barriers do you see to progression within your research centre/institute? [optional]

Section 11: About You

64 What is your gender?

Male Female

65 What is your age? [optional]

<26, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66+

yrs

66 What qualifications do you have? [optional]

(Select all that apply)

HND

1st degree

Masters MBA

PhD

Other/professional

67 What is the subject area of your highest degree/qualification? [optional]

Agriculture and Forestry

Anatomy and Physiology

Architecture and Building

Bio sciences

Biotechnology

Chemical Engineering

Chemistry

Civil Engineering

Dentistry

Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences

Electronic and Electrical Engineering

General Engineering

General Sciences

Health and Community Studies

Information Technology and Systems Sciences

Mathematics and Statistics

Mechanical, Aero and Production Engineering

Medicine

Mineral, Metallurgy and Materials Engineering

Minerals technology

Nursing and Paramedical Studies

Operational research

Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy

Physics

Psychology and Behavioral Sciences

Technologies

Veterinary Science

Other

If you selected Other, please specify _____

Note: This list contained the main JACS code headings plus a selection of what were considered to be the most common subsidiary subjects. Many respondents filled in the 'other' option enabling more detailed coding to be completed.

68 What age were you when you obtained your PhD? [optional]

Do not have a PhD

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26-30 yrs
               31-35 yrs
               36-40 yrs
               41-45 yrs
               46-50 yrs
               51-55 yrs
               56-60 yrs
               61-65 yrs
               66+ yrs
69
       What is your annual gross salary? [optional]
       [If you work part time, please enter the full time equivalent]
               £20,000 or less
               £21-£24.000
               £25-£30,000
               £31-£35,000
               £36-£40,000
               £41-£45,000
               £46-£50,000
               £51-£55,000
               £56-£60,000
               £61-£65,000
               £66-£70,000
               £71-£75,000
               £76-£80,000
               £81-£85,000
               £86-£90,000
               £91-£95,000
               £96-£100,000
               £101-£120,000
               £121-£140,000
               £141-£160,000
               >£160,000
70
       Do you have children under the age of 6? [optional]
               No
71
       Do you have children aged between 6 and 16? [optional]
               Yes
               No
72
       Do you have children aged over 16? [optional]
               Yes
               No
73
       How would you classify your ethnicity? [optional]
               standard list used
74
       Please select a country to describe your nationality [optional]
               standard list used
               Grouped
               UK
               EU
               North America
               Australia or New Zealand
               Rest of World
75
       Do you have any form of disability [optional]
               No disability
               standard list
```

undisclosed

76 Do you have any care responsibilities for: [optional]

(a) A dependent child Yes, I am the main carer

Yes, I share the caring responsibilities

No

(b) A parent Yes, I am the main carer

Yes, I share the caring responsibilities

No

(c) A partner Yes, I am the main carer

Yes, I share the caring responsibilities

No

How likely is it that you will want or need to work flexible hours due to care responsibilities before you retire or leave SET research employment? [optional]

Very likely Possible Unlikely Don't Know

Thank you for completing this survey

Additional Variables Included in the Research Institutes Data Set

- Individual identifier
- Name of participating Research Council
- Worked in sectors other than Research Institutes created from responses to question

MORE INFO BOX 1

Note: to avoid confusion between the interpretation of the short word descriptions of position, the following definitions are used throughout the survey

"Research Director"

Scientist or engineer who directs others and is responsible for the strategic planning/policy for wide area. Will manage significant budgets, resources and facilities. Will typically head up a research centre or research division.

Band/grade equivalents:

BBSRC - Bands 1/2, relating to Institute Director / Head of Division

CCLRC - Bands 1/2

MRC – Bands 1, relating to either Directors of Research centres and/or Heads of Divisions NERC – Bands 1/2

"Principal scientist"

Scientist or engineer who leads and is responsible for a specific research programme. Will typically manage staff, facilities, service function, resources, budget for own area / a number of different programmes or service functions. .

Band/grade and job category equivalents:

BBSRS - Bands 3/4, relating to 'Principle Investigator/Group Leader'

CCLRC - Bands 3 or IM2

MRC - Bands 2 relating to Programme Leader, Programme leader Track (formerly called Career track)

NERC - Bands 3/4

"Senior scientist / team or project manager"

Scientist or engineer with responsibility for discrete projects within larger team/programme of research. May be responsible for more junior staff. Also includes senior support staff such as managers of research functions.

Band/grade and job category equivalents:

BBSRC – Bands 5, relating to Senior Research Scientist/Equivalent Support positions CCLRC – Bands 4

MDO Danie 6

MRC – Bands 3, relating to Senior Investigator Scientist and equivalent senior Research Support positions

NERC - Bands 4/5

"Scientist"

Typically a scientist or engineer in early post-doctoral position. Manages their own activity, normally as part of a team. Reports to a senior scientist or other first line supervisor. May be in equivalent research support position

Band/grade and job category equivalents

BBSRC – Bands 6/7, relating to Postdoctoral / Research Scientist / Research Assistant and equivalent Research support position

CCLRC - Bands 5/6

MRC – Bands 4/5, relating to Investigator scientist, Career development fellow / Research Associate and equivalent research project support / research assistant role

NERC - Bands 6/7

MORE INFO BOX 2

For the purposes of this survey 'SET' includes Science, Engineering, Technology and Medicine and associated disciplines

'In Higher Education' = all periods of teaching and/or research at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), excluding that undertaken while studying

MORE INFO BOX 3

"Participating in the periodic scientific evaluation of your research centre" refers to Research Council review of scientific quality in their respective centres/units or institutes. For MRC this exercise is referred to as the quinquennial (QQR) review. For BBSRC this is referred to as the Institute Assessment Exercise (IAE) and occurs every 4 years.