

## Postgraduate Research Student Survey Results

Below are the results of a survey of current postgraduate students, conducted in Autumn session 2007. There were 18 responses to the 5 questions. The number in brackets after the point indicates how many times that same answer was given by another student.

Q1: As an undergraduate, what was it that attracted you to research?

- **General curiosity / importance of empirical approach (5)**
- **Putting undergraduate knowledge and skills to use (2)**
- **Prospect of working autonomously, but with support (2)**
- Practical experience, combined with research skill development
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year subjects were motivating
- Applying research knowledge to practical problems
- No interest, but lack of options lead me to it
- Support and encouragement of 4<sup>th</sup> year supervisor
- Psychology's research participation scheme

Q2: As an undergraduate, how did you find out about your options for pursuing a research career?

- **4<sup>th</sup> year Supervisor (7)**
- **Talking to postgraduate students/tutors (6)**
- **Little info or exposure to info regarding postgraduate options (3)**
- **Talks/info session in 4<sup>th</sup> year (3)**
- Independent enquiry/reading

Q3: What role did your 4<sup>th</sup> year research project play in your decision to undertake postgraduate research?

- **Very important - helped me get clear picture of the research process (7)**
- **Not much (3)**
- Yes, graduate diploma project was easy, so wasn't deterred

Q4: The key considerations in your decision to undertake postgraduate research were?

- **Ability to work on a challenging/interesting topic (8)**
- **Obtaining a scholarship (6)**
- **It would broaden career options/opportunities (5)**
- **Good supervisor (4)**
- **Good 4<sup>th</sup> year experience (3)**
- Reputation of the university
- Felt capable
- Status of higher degree

Q5: How does the reality of doing postgraduate research compare to your earlier expectations?

- **Not "smooth sailing" as was expected (4)**
- **Sometimes the research process is tedious and monotonous (4)**
- Writing up is not motivating, but is a huge component
- It gets difficult when results aren't as expected
- Statistics scares people away, but there is lots of help when actually doing it.
- Hard and time-consuming, but skill-development vast
- Would like broader interaction with all postgraduate students and staff