**Evidencing Impact: A Case Study of UK academic perspectives on evidencing research impact.**

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| Participant Demographics | |
| Career Stage\* | |
| PhD Student | 16 (21%) |
| Research Associate, Research Fellow, Lecturer | 12 (16%) |
| Senior Research Fellow, Senior Lecturer | 27 (36%) |
| Associate Professor,  Professor | 15 (20%) |
| Research Leader | 1 (1%) |
| Other | 4 (5%) |
| Length of time at the university | |
| Under a year | 5 (7%) |
| 1-5 years | 23 (34%) |
| 6-10 years | 19 (28%) |
| 11-15 years | 11 (16%) |
| 16 years plus | 10 (15%) |
| Research Council that best aligns to the majority of work (teaching and/or research) in the last five years | |
| Arts and Humanities | 3 (4%) |
| Biotechnology and Biological Sciences | 10 (15%) |
| Engineering and Physical Sciences | 0 (0%) |
| Economic and Social | 20 (30%) |
| Medical | 30 (45%) |
| Natural Environment | 2 (3%) |
| Science and Technology | 2 (3%) |

\* Respondents could select more than one option

**Table 1: Respondents by career stage, time at the university and Research Council**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **All respondents** | Discipline | |  | Career Stage | |
| Arts, Humanities, Economic and Social Science\* | Sciences and Medical | Early-Mid Career | Senior Career |
| I think it is important for research to generate impact | SA/A | **57 (84%)** | 20 (87%) | 36 (82%) | 47 (89%) | 10 (67%) |
| N | **10 (15%)** | 2 (9%) | 8 (18%) | 5 (9%) | 5 (33%) |
| D/SD | **1 (1%)** | 1 (4%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (2%) | 0 (0%) |
| I think it should be left to researchers to decide whether or not to generate impact in their research | SA/A | **21 (31%)** | 9 (40%) | 12 (27%) | 13 (25%) | 8 (53%) |
| N | **16 (23%)** | 7 (30%) | 9 (21%) | 16 (30%) | 0 (0%) |
| D/SD | **31 (46%)** | 7 (30%) | 23 (52%) | 24 (45%) | 7 (47%) |
| My consideration of the impact of my research has increased due to requirements to create Pathways to Impact | SA/A | **22 (32%)** | 7 (32%) | 14 (32%) | 13 (25%) | 9 (60%) |
| N | **27 (40%)** | 7 (32%) | 20 (45%) | 26 (50%) | 1 (7%) |
| D/SD | **18 (26%)** | 8 (36%) | 10 (23%) | 13 (25%) | 5 (33%) |
| My consideration of the impact of my research has increased due to changes to the Research Excellence Framework | SA/A | **32 (48%)** | 9 (41%) | 22 (50%) | 21 (40%) | 11 (73%) |
| N | **19 (28%)** | 6 (27%) | 13 (30%) | 19 (37%) | 0 (0%) |
| D/SD | **16 (24%)** | 7 (32%) | 9 (20%) | 12 (23%) | 4 (27%) |
| I am confident that I understand what research impact means | SA/A | **46 (68%)** | 14 (61%) | 31 (70%) | 34 (64%) | 12 (80%) |
| N | **14 (20%)** | 7 (30%) | 7 (16%) | 12 (23%) | 2 (13%) |
| D/SD | **8 (12%)** | 2 (9%) | 6 (14%) | 7 (13%) | 1 (7%) |
| I am confident in how to evidence impact from my research | SA/A | **18 (27%)** | 6 (26%) | 12 (27%) | 10 (19%) | 8 (53%) |
| N | **22 (32%)** | 7 (30%) | 14 (32%) | 19 (36%) | 3 (20%) |
| D/SD | **28 (41%)** | 10 (44%) | 18 (41%) | 24 (45%) | 4 (27%) |

SA/A= Strongly Agree/Agree, N= Neutral, D/SD= Strongly Disagree/Disagree

\* Researchers were categorised based on the Research Council that best aligns to the majority of work (teaching and/or research) in the last five years

**Table 2: Attitudes towards research impact by disciplinary area and career stag**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **All respondents** | Discipline | |  | Career Stage | |
| Arts, Humanities, Economic and Social Science | Sciences and Medical | Early-Mid Career | Senior Career |
| Links well to my research area as it is applied | SA/A | **40 (62%)** | 15 (68%) | 25 (58%) | 31 (61%) | 10 (67%) |
| N | **17 (26%)** | 2 (9%) | 15 (35%) | 15 (29%) | 2 (13%) |
| SD/D | **8 (12%)** | 5 (23%) | 3 (7%) | 5 (10%) | 3 (20%) |
| Encourages better record keeping | SA/A | **27 (41%)** | 14 (64%) | 13 (30%) | 22 (43%) | 6 (40%) |
| N | **33 (51%)** | 8 (36%) | 25 (58%) | 27 (53%) | 6 (40%) |
| SD/D | **5 (8%)** | 0 (0%) | 5 (12%) | 2 (4%) | 3 (20%) |
| The definition of impact | SA/A | **43 (68%)** | 16 (73%) | 27 (66%) | 36 (74%) | 7 (46%) |
| N | **12 (19%)** | 6 (27%) | 6 (15%) | 9 (18%) | 4 (27%) |
| SD/D | **8 (13%)** | 0 (0%) | 8 (19%) | 4 (8%) | 4 (27%) |
| SD/D | **2 (3%)** | 0 (0%) | 2 (5%) | 1 (2%) | 1 (7%) |
| Difficulty in evidencing impact | SA/A | **49 (77%)** | 16 (72%) | 33 (79%) | 39 (78%) | 11 (73%) |
| N | **8 (12%)** | 3 (14%) | 5 (12%) | 7 (14%) | 1 (7%) |
| SD/D | **7 (11%)** | 3 (14%) | 4 (9%) | 4 (8%) | 3 (20%) |
| Difficulty in linking back to original research | SA/A | **31 (49%)** | 9 (41%) | 22 (52%) | 21 (42%) | 11 (73%) |
| N | **20 (31%)** | 7 (32%) | 13 (31%) | 18 (36%) | 2 (13%) |
| SD/D | **13 (20%)** | 6 (27%) | 7 (17%) | 11 (22%) | 2 (13%) |
| Cost to individual researcher | SA/A | **49 (77%)** | 17 (77%) | 32 (76%) | 37 (74%) | 13 (87%) |
| N | **19 (15%)** | 3 (14%) | 7 (17%) | 10 (20%) | 0 (0%) |
| SD/D | **5 (8%)** | 2 (9%) | 3 (7%) | 3 (6%) | 2 (13%) |
| Cost to individual institutions | SA/A | **38 (60%)** | 13 (59%) | 25 (61%) | 26 (53%) | 13 (87%) |
| N | **16 (26%)** | 6 (27%) | 10 (24%) | 16 (33%) | 0 (0%) |
| SD/D | **9 (14%)** | 3 (14%) | 6 (15%) | 7 (14%) | 2 (13%) |
| Cost to external groups and organisations | SA/A | **36 (57%)** | 15 (68%) | 21 (51%) | 26 (53%) | 11 (73%) |
| N | **19 (30%)** | 6 (27%) | 13 (32%) | 18 (37%) | 1 (7%) |
| SD/D | **8 (13%)** | 1 (5%) | 7 (17%) | 5 (10%) | 3 (20%) |

**Table 3: Benefits and Constraints of research impact by disciplinary area and career stage**