

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

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	<b>57 (84%)</b>	20 (87%)	36 (82%)	47 (89%)	10 (67%)
	N	<b>10 (15%)</b>	2 (9%)	8 (18%)	5 (9%)	5 (33%)
	D/SD	<b>1 (1%)</b>	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	<b>21 (31%)</b>	9 (40%)	12 (27%)	13 (25%)	8 (53%)
	N	<b>16 (23%)</b>	7 (30%)	9 (21%)	16 (30%)	0 (0%)
	D/SD	<b>31 (46%)</b>	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	<b>22 (32%)</b>	7 (32%)	14 (32%)	13 (25%)	9 (60%)
	N	<b>27 (40%)</b>	7 (32%)	20 (45%)	26 (50%)	1 (7%)
	D/SD	<b>18 (26%)</b>	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	<b>32 (48%)</b>	9 (41%)	22 (50%)	21 (40%)	11 (73%)
	N	<b>19 (28%)</b>	6 (27%)	13 (30%)	19 (37%)	0 (0%)
	D/SD	<b>16 (24%)</b>	7 (32%)	9 (20%)	12 (23%)	4 (27%)
I am confident that I understand what research impact means	SA/A	<b>46 (68%)</b>	14 (61%)	31 (70%)	34 (64%)	12 (80%)
	N	<b>14 (20%)</b>	7 (30%)	7 (16%)	12 (23%)	2 (13%)
	D/SD	<b>8 (12%)</b>	2 (9%)	6 (14%)	7 (13%)	1 (7%)
I am confident in how to evidence impact from my research	SA/A	<b>18 (27%)</b>	6 (26%)	12 (27%)	10 (19%)	8 (53%)
	N	<b>22 (32%)</b>	7 (30%)	14 (32%)	19 (36%)	3 (20%)
	D/SD	<b>28 (41%)</b>	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**

		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	<b>40 (62%)</b>	15 (68%)	25 (58%)	31 (61%)	10 (67%)
	N	<b>17 (26%)</b>	2 (9%)	15 (35%)	15 (29%)	2 (13%)
	SD/D	<b>8 (12%)</b>	5 (23%)	3 (7%)	5 (10%)	3 (20%)
Encourages better record keeping	SA/A	<b>27 (41%)</b>	14 (64%)	13 (30%)	22 (43%)	6 (40%)
	N	<b>33 (51%)</b>	8 (36%)	25 (58%)	27 (53%)	6 (40%)
	SD/D	<b>5 (8%)</b>	0 (0%)	5 (12%)	2 (4%)	3 (20%)
The definition of impact	SA/A	<b>43 (68%)</b>	16 (73%)	27 (66%)	36 (74%)	7 (46%)
	N	<b>12 (19%)</b>	6 (27%)	6 (15%)	9 (18%)	4 (27%)
	SD/D	<b>8 (13%)</b>	0 (0%)	8 (19%)	4 (8%)	4 (27%)
	SD/D	<b>2 (3%)</b>	0 (0%)	2 (5%)	1 (2%)	1 (7%)
Difficulty in evidencing impact	SA/A	<b>49 (77%)</b>	16 (72%)	33 (79%)	39 (78%)	11 (73%)
	N	<b>8 (12%)</b>	3 (14%)	5 (12%)	7 (14%)	1 (7%)
	SD/D	<b>7 (11%)</b>	3 (14%)	4 (9%)	4 (8%)	3 (20%)
Difficulty in linking back to original research	SA/A	<b>31 (49%)</b>	9 (41%)	22 (52%)	21 (42%)	11 (73%)
	N	<b>20 (31%)</b>	7 (32%)	13 (31%)	18 (36%)	2 (13%)
	SD/D	<b>13 (20%)</b>	6 (27%)	7 (17%)	11 (22%)	2 (13%)
Cost to individual researcher	SA/A	<b>49 (77%)</b>	17 (77%)	32 (76%)	37 (74%)	13 (87%)
	N	<b>19 (15%)</b>	3 (14%)	7 (17%)	10 (20%)	0 (0%)
	SD/D	<b>5 (8%)</b>	2 (9%)	3 (7%)	3 (6%)	2 (13%)
Cost to individual institutions	SA/A	<b>38 (60%)</b>	13 (59%)	25 (61%)	26 (53%)	13 (87%)
	N	<b>16 (26%)</b>	6 (27%)	10 (24%)	16 (33%)	0 (0%)
	SD/D	<b>9 (14%)</b>	3 (14%)	6 (15%)	7 (14%)	2 (13%)
Cost to external groups and organisations	SA/A	<b>36 (57%)</b>	15 (68%)	21 (51%)	26 (53%)	11 (73%)
	N	<b>19 (30%)</b>	6 (27%)	13 (32%)	18 (37%)	1 (7%)
	SD/D	<b>8 (13%)</b>	1 (5%)	7 (17%)	5 (10%)	3 (20%)

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