



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

FIRST-YEAR AND SECOND-YEAR PHD STUDENTS SATISFACTION SURVEY (37th and 38th Cycle)

Satisfaction survey results – PhD programme in VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCE

Number of questionnaires collected:

1st year: 16

2nd year: 22

overall 1st & 2nd year: 38

With a view to helping universities develop a system for monitoring processes and results of their teaching, research and third-mission/social impact activities, as well as of their actions aimed at taking into account the voices of PhD candidates, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) has created a questionnaire template to collect the opinions of PhD students and graduates.

The questionnaire has two sections, A and B.

Section A consists of a set of close-ended questions, for which respondents choose one or more answers from the ones provided.

Section B consists of a list of statements; respondents rate their level of agreement with each statement on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 equals “completely disagree” and 10 equals “completely agree”.

This report shows the results filtered by year of enrolment, as well as considered together. Each question of section A shows the number and percentage of answers given for each option. For each statement of section B, the report displays the average level of agreement.

In section B, the average level of agreement is represented by different colours:

- average level of agreement < 6 red ●
- average level of agreement $6 \leq X < 7$ yellow ●
- average level of agreement ≥ 7 green ●

These colours do not imply any judgement, but are included with the sole aim of highlighting critical and/or more than positive

This document has been prepared and produced by the Performance, Quality Assurance, Assessment, and Open Science Policy Division of the University of Milan

For information on the student survey and reporting, e-mail:
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SECTION A

1) Does the PhD programme include structured training activities (courses, seminars, workshops)?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%
No	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

2) Are teaching contents different from those taught in the courses included in master's degree programmes?

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 1 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	16	100%	18	82%	34	89%
No	0	0%	4	18%	4	11%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

3) Did the academic plan include additional modules? (More than one option is possible)

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 1 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary modules.	12	67%	15	60%	27	63%
Yes, modules on entrepreneurship, access to competitive funding, publication and valorisation/dissemination of research results	4	22%	7	28%	11	26%
No	2	11%	3	12%	5	12%
Total	18	100%	25	100%	43	100%

4) How is learning assessed during the PhD programme? (More than one option is possible)

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 1 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Written exams	10	31%	10	26%	20	29%
Oral exams	13	41%	13	34%	26	37%
Practical tests	9	28%	9	24%	18	26%
None	0	0%	6	16%	6	9%
Total	32	100%	38	100%	70	100%

5) How is the research activity monitored during the PhD programme? (More than one option is possible)

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Presentation of individual results of the research activity	14	50%	17	41%	31	45%
Presentation of group results of the research activity	3	11%	9	22%	12	17%
Assessment of the progression of the thesis work at the end of each year	11	39%	15	37%	26	38%
Total	28	100%	41	100%	69	100%

6) Have you received or are you receiving the 10% additional budget for research activities under Ministerial Decree 226/2021?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	8	50%	11	50%	19	50%
No	8	50%	11	50%	19	50%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

7) Have you spent, are you spending or are you planning to spend a study or research period, congruent with your PhD programme, in another country?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	15	94%	18	82%	33	87%
No	1	6%	4	18%	5	13%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

8) Have you received, are you receiving or are you planning to request the scholarship increase of up to 50% for international mobility?

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 7 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes (I am a scholarship recipient)	13	87%	16	89%	29	88%
Yes (I am not a scholarship recipient)	1	7%	1	6%	2	6%
No (I am a scholarship recipient)	1	7%	1	6%	2	6%
No (I am not a scholarship recipient)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	15	100%	18	100%	33	100%

9) Why did you choose not to spend any study or research period abroad during your PhD? (More than one option is possible)

N.B. Only those who answered "No" to question 7 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Training opportunities offered by this programme are satisfactory and no further training at foreign institutions is necessary.	0	0%	2	40%	2	33%
I was not authorised by the Faculty of Instructors.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No institution matched my interests or was willing to host me.	0	0%	2	40%	2	33%
I was not aware of this opportunity.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
I am not a scholarship recipient and there were no specific funding opportunities for activities abroad, or those available were not enough.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
I could not leave because of how financial support is awarded/paid.	0	0%	1	20%	1	17%
Other*	1	100%	0	0%	1	17%
Total	1	100%	5	100%	6	100%

***Answers given for the option "Other":**

1st YEAR

I will go abroa during my 2nd year of PhD program

2nd YEAR

10) Have you spent, are you spending or are you planning to spend a study or research period congruent with your PhD programme at national research institutions, companies or public administrations?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes, at a research institution	6	38%	4	18%	10	26%
Yes, at a company.	3	19%	8	36%	11	29%
Yes, at a public administration	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No	7	44%	10	45%	17	45%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

11) Have you received or are you receiving financial support for the time spent at research institutions, companies or public administrations?

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes,....." to question 10 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes (I am a scholarship recipient)	1	11%	4	33%	5	24%
Yes (I am not a scholarship recipient)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No (I am a scholarship recipient)	7	78%	8	67%	15	71%
No (I am not a scholarship recipient)	1	11%	0	0%	1	5%
Total	9	100%	12	100%	21	100%

12) Why did you choose not to spend any study or research period at research institutions, companies or public administrations during your PhD? (More than one option is possible)

N.B. Only those who answered "No" to question 10 replied to this question.

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Training opportunities offered by this programme are satisfactory and no further training at other institutions is necessary.	0	0%	4	36%	4	19%
I was not authorised by the Faculty of Instructors.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No institution matched my interests or was willing to host me.	6	60%	1	9%	7	33%
I was not aware of this opportunity.	4	40%	5	45%	9	43%
There were no additional funding opportunities, or those available were not enough.	0	0%	1	9%	1	5%
I could not leave because of how financial support is awarded/paid.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	10	100%	11	100%	21	100%

***Answers given for the option "Other":**

1st YEAR

2nd YEAR

13) Is there a dedicated workspace for PhD students on your campus?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes, with a workstation for each PhD student	9	56%	14	64%	23	61%
Yes, with shared workstations	5	31%	5	23%	10	26%
Yes, a shared area with no workstations	0	0%	1	5%	1	3%
No	2	13%	2	9%	4	11%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

14) Have you undertaken or are you undertaking any teaching or teaching-supporting activities during your PhD?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes, ordinary lectures	0	0%	1	5%	1	3%
Yes, supplementary activities (exercises, seminars or tutoring activities)	16	100%	17	77%	33	87%
Yes, both ordinary lectures and supplementary activities	0	0%	1	5%	1	3%
No	0	0%	3	14%	3	8%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

15) Did the programme include any joint research activities with other Universities?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	7	44%	15	68%	22	58%
No	9	56%	7	32%	16	42%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

16) Did the programme include research activities that led to technology transfer in cooperation with companies?

Answers	1st YEAR		2nd YEAR		OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Yes	4	25%	12	55%	16	42%
No	12	75%	10	45%	22	58%
Total	16	100%	22	100%	38	100%

SECTION B

N.B. the statements marked with a double asterisk ** can be considered "better" the lower the level of agreement, for this reason the colors are also inverted

Training

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 1 in Section A indicated their level of agreement with the statements of the sub-section "Training".

Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
1) Training activities are exhaustive and in line with the main topics of the PhD programme.	5,06	6,55	5,92
2) Topics covered by training activities are up to date and explored in depth.	6,63	7,14	6,92
3) Training activities are useful for drafting the PhD thesis.	4,94	6,50	5,84
4) The workload required by structured training activities (courses, seminars, workshops) allows me to dedicate enough time to my research activity and thesis.	4,69	6,09	5,50
5)** Assessments during the programme (exams, presentations, papers) are just a formality, or non-existent at all.	6,19	5,77	5,95
6) I am overall satisfied with the training activities offered.	5,19	6,50	5,95













Experiences abroad

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes" to question 7 in Section A indicated their level of agreement with the statements of the sub-section "Experiences abroad".







Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
7) During the PhD, I received adequate information and support from my instructors concerning experiences abroad.	5,93	5,67	5,79
8) I am satisfied with the support I received from my home university for my study or research period abroad.	5,93	6,17	6,06
9) I am satisfied with the support I received from my host university/institution for my study or research period abroad.	6,47	6,78	6,64
10) I am overall satisfied with my study or research period abroad.	6,60	6,67	6,64

Experiences at other national research institutions/companies/public administrations

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes, ..." to question 10 in Section A indicated their level of agreement with the statements of the sub-section "Experiences at other national research institutions/companies/public administrations".



















Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
11) During the PhD, I received adequate information and support from my instructors concerning experiences at other institutions.	 5,67	 6,42	 6,10
12) I am satisfied with the support I received from my home university for my study or research period at other institutions.	 5,78	 6,08	 5,95
13) I am satisfied with the support I received from my host institution for my study or research period at other institutions.	 6,44	 6,42	 6,43
14) I am overall satisfied with my study or research period at other national research institutions/companies/public administrations.	 6,33	 6,58	 6,48

Teaching activities










Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
15) The teaching activities I undertake are useful for my training.	 7,25	 7,45	 7,37
16) The workload required by my teaching hours allows me to dedicate enough time to my training, research activities and thesis.	 7,13	 6,91	 7,00

Facilities and equipment

N.B. Only those who answered "Yes, ..." to question 14 in Section A indicated their level of agreement with statements 19 and 20, whereas only those who answered "Yes, ..." to question 13 in Section A indicated their level of agreement with statements 21 and 22.

Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
17) Classrooms and spaces used for training activities are fit for purpose (enough seats, you can hear and see the instructor).	 8,94	 7,09	 7,87
18) The space allocated to each PhD student is fit for purpose (in terms of size, equipment etc.).	 7,56	 6,55	 6,97
19) Library services are suitable to my needs.	 7,88	 7,21	 7,51
20) IT equipment and Internet connection are suitable for all activities.	 7,56	 7,74	 7,66
21) Research equipment is fit for purpose and accessible.	 7,71	 7,70	 7,71
22) I am satisfied with the support I received from the administrative offices.	 7,50	 6,55	 6,94

Transparency and engagement

Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
23) Information on research and training activities is always up to date.	 6,31	 6,64	 6,50
24) PhD students take part in the planning of such activities.	 6,75	 6,36	 6,53
25) Information on deadlines and administrative procedures is always up to date.	 5,75	 6,64	 6,26

Overall satisfaction

Statements	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	OVERALL 1st & 2nd YEAR
	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement	Average level of agreement
26) So far, I am overall satisfied with the PhD programme.	● 7,25	● 7,14	● 7,18

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