

A stack of papers is shown on the left, with a yellow pencil resting on a laptop keyboard on the right. A red rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

# FSV UK Welcome Week for PhD Students - 2023



**FACULTY  
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
Charles University



Results from the  
September 2023 Survey  
about PhD Studies at our  
Faculty



FAKULTA  
SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚD  
Univerzita Karlova



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FAKULTA  
SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚD  
Univerzita Karlova

# Survey summary

**281 potential respondents**

**114 responses**

**(last year 285, 83)**

	<b>this year</b>	<b>last year</b>	<b>- 2 years</b>	<b>- 3 years</b>
<b>IES</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>IKSŽ</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>IMS</b>	<b>20 (13,7)*</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IPS</b>	<b>20 (10,10)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ISS</b>	<b>20 (10,10)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>?</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		

**106 full time, 8 in the combined form**

**\*(area studies, modern history)**

# Survey summary

## When did you start your studies?

<b>2013</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>23</b>

## Survey summary

### Why did you decide to study in a doctoral programme? (this year)

"Interest in scientific or research professions"	25
"Interest in teaching profession"	15
"Being active in a scientific field that is interesting for me"	27
"Better outlooks for professional carrier neither in academic nor scientific or research profession"	18
"Not having a clear idea about my future job"	6
"Difficulty to find a job"	0
"Possibility of a flexible way of life"	18
"Condition for getting a job"	2
„Other reason“	2

## Survey summary

### Why did you decide to study in a doctoral programme? – Last Year

"Interest in scientific or research professions"	38
"Interest in teaching profession"	15
"Being active in a scientific field that is interesting for me"	18
"Better outlooks for professional carrier neither in academic nor scientific or research profession"	2
"Not having a clear idea about my future job"	2
"Difficulty to find a job"	1
"Possibility of a flexible way of life"	2
"Condition for getting a job"	0
7 „Other reason“	5

# Survey summary

**How important is for you now to finish successfully your PhD. studies? (5 grade scale, from 1 very important to 5 absolutely unimportant)**

	<b>this year</b>	<b>last year</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

## Survey summary

### Which profession would you prefer after finishing your studies? (last year in ())

"In an academic or research institution"	63(52)
"In the public or nonprofit sector except of academic or research institutions"	18(11)
"In the private sector except of academic or research institutions"	9(8)
"I do not have clear preferences"	23(11)

## Survey summary

**Do you plan to work in a profession linked with your field of study after finishing your studies?  
(last year in ())**

"Yes, directly linked"	73(49)
"In a related profession"	31(29)
„No“	0(1)
"I do not have clear preferences"	9(4)

# Survey summary

## Which of the following activities has been the most problematic for you? (last year in ())

"teaching activities"	11(6)
"preparing grant applications"	23(14)
"short term stages abroad"	0(1)
"long term stages abroad"	5(10)
"research beyond the dissertation research"	10(5)
"active participation in conferences"	6(3)
"publishing"	44(36)
"other"	14(8)

## Survey summary

Please estimate how many hours weekly have you on average spent with you PhD. studies in this academic year? (last year in ())

"less than 20 hours"	39(28)
"between 20 and 40 hours"	59(48)
"more than 40 hours"	15(7)

# Survey summary

Your PhD studies are for you: (last year in ( ))

“too demanding”	5(3)
“demanding”	60(54)
“neither demanding nor ease”	43(26)
“easy”	3(0)
“too easy”	0(0)
?	2

## Survey summary

How often have you been in direct contact (skyping, videoconferencing or similar included) with your supervisor in this academic year?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3 years
"at least once in two weeks"	30	21	20	9
"less than once in two months"	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>
"in-between"	51	30	33	21

# Survey summary

How often have you been in direct contact (skyping, videoconferencing or similar included) with your supervisor in this academic year? (last year in ( ))

	Frequency Bellow 2 weeks	Frequency More than 2 months	In-Between
EconFin	10(7)	6(7)	14(7)
MediaSt	6(2)	8(3)	9(9)
IntAreaSt	4(2)	3(3)	6(5)
IntRel	3(4)	4(1)	3(3)
ModHist	1(2)	3(6)	3(1)
PolScience	3(3)	2(3)	5(1)
Sociology	2(1)	5(5)	6(3)
PubSocPolicy	1(2)	1(1)	5(2)

# Survey summary

How often have you been in direct contact (skyping, videoconferencing or similar included) with some other PhD. student of your study programme in this academic year?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3 years
"at least once in two weeks"	46	36	37	21
"less than once in two months"	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>
"in-between"	33	26	19	10

## Survey summary

How often have you been in direct contact (skyping, videoconferencing or similar included) with other researchers at the institute your PhD. programme is affiliated with in this academic year?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3 years
“at least once in two weeks”	24	19	13	11
“less than once in two months”	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>
"in-between"	42	23	29	9

# Survey summary

How got you assigned your supervisor? (last year in ( ))

"Supervisor contacted me with an offer to write a dissertation under her\his supervision"	10 (5)
"I found my supervisor myself"	81 (60)
"My supervisor was assigned to me without the possibility for me to influence her\his choice"	18 (14)
"Other"	4 (4)

## Survey summary

The main affiliation of your supervisor is: (last year in ( ))

"FSV UK"	91(73)
"Other institution than FSV UK"	19(9)
"I do not know"	3(1)

# Survey summary

What is your satisfaction with your supervisor concerning her/his advises in writing your dissertation?

	this year	last year	-2 years	-3 years
"Very high"	54	44	39	12
"High"	25	22	18	16
"Neither high nor low"	20	11	22	8
"Low"	5	5	5	4
"Very low"	5	1	1	2

# Survey summary

What is your satisfaction with your supervisor's feedback concerning your study and research activities?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3years
"Very high"	55	41	39	14
"High"	35	25	20	17
"Neither high nor low"	12	11	20	6
"Low"	6	4	6	2
"Very low"	4	2	0	3

# Survey summary

What is your satisfaction with your supervisor's advice concerning your publication activities?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3years
"Very high"	45	36	33	14
"High"	30	27	20	13
"Neither high nor low"	24	15	16	8
"Low"	8	5	16	5
"Very low"	5	1	0	2

## Survey summary

What is your satisfaction with your supervisor concerning her/his intermediation in getting resources or opportunities (contacts, grants, stages abroad etc.)?

	this year	last year	-2 years	-3years
"Very high"	52	32	33	18
"High"	21	23	16	10
"Neither high nor low"	24	20	26	5
"Low"	11	5	8	5
"Very low"	4	3	2	4

# Survey summary

What is your overall satisfaction with your supervisor?

	this year	last year	-2 years	-3years
"Very high"	57	46	38	14
"High"	31	23	22	16
"Neither high nor low"	18	10	25	6
"Low"	3	2	0	4
"Very low"	3	2	0	2

# Survey summary

What is your overall satisfaction with your supervisor?

- 2023 results

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Modern History</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>113</b>

# Survey summary

What is your overall satisfaction with your supervisor?

- 2022 results

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Modern History</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>5</b>

# Survey summary

What is your overall satisfaction with your supervisor?

- 2021 results

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>1.89</b>	<b>84</b>

# Survey summary

Have you got enough time, with respect to your other duties, for your PhD. studies?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3years
"Definitely Yes"	12	8	5	3
"Yes"	42	30	30	14
"Neither Yes nor No"	21	22	19	11
"No"	30	19	22	7
"Definitely No"	6	4	9	7

# Survey summary

How do you see your chance to finish successfully your PhD. studies?

	this year	last year	- 2 years	-3years
"Very high"	26	19	26	9
"High"	53	42	31	19
"Neither high nor low"	29	18	21	10
"Low"	5	4	6	3
"Very low"	0	0	1	1

# Survey summary

How have you been satisfied with your PhD. studies until now?

	This year	Last year	-2 years	-3years
"Very satisfied"	18	10	17	8
"Satisfied"	54	41	40	20
"Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied"	31	23	20	6
"Dissatisfied"	10	8	7	7
"Very dissatisfied"	0	0	1	1

# Survey summary

How have you been satisfied with your PhD.  
studies until now? - 2023

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of  
students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Modern History</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>113</b>

# Survey summary

How have you been satisfied with your PhD.  
studies until now? - 2022

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of  
students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Modern History</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2.89</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>5</b>

# Survey summary

How have you been satisfied with your PhD.  
studies until now? - 2021

(average, 1 best, 5 worst ) number of  
students

<b>Economics</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Int. Territorial Studies</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Political Studies</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Public and Soc. Policy</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>84</b>

# Survey summary

## Students' suggestions – (just some examples)

I think students would strongly benefit from being better connected to faculty and other Ph.D. students. This is usually achieved with social events, that is never the case in IES. One more very important topic is preparing Ph.D. students for the job market - this is essential for the Ph.D. student's future and many faculties put immense effort and hours into preparing their Ph.D. students for it; however, nothing of this sort is done at IES. And, scholarship is not even close to being enough - it is true that starting from the second year, grants add up and one reaches minimum salary, but it is not guaranteed, and the first year is very tough for those that don't have family funds to support them. Working a job and doing high-quality research on a Ph.D. program is impossible, so students are facing a tough reality.

So to summarize,

- Job Market,
- Social life,
- Stipend.

# Survey summary

## Students' suggestions – (just some examples)

I need more engagement with fellows through (creative) academic activities which is supported by student hub (co-working space) and sophisticated library collection.

# Survey summary

## Students' suggestions – (just some examples)

More administrative support is needed by the university. There is literally no space available for PhD students to work in the department. More engrossing PhD-related activities should be introduced, the overall Ph.D. study process is not dynamic at all it feels so lonely and depressing.

# Survey summary

## Students' suggestions – (just some examples)

I think enabling people to submit a dissertation consisting of published journal articles rather than forcing them to write hundred-odd pages long thesis-style 'books' would make PhD programmes much more efficient and make our PhD programmes more competitive.

# Survey summary

## Students' suggestions – (just some examples)

I think the program is not sustainable as it currently is - the general duties should either be limited or there should be higher scholarship but to complete about 11 courses, teaching and assisting at the faculty, 3 conferences, 3 publications, in my case even 4 since i m not the only one author within 2 of them, and to write phd disseration - these all within 4 years while the basic scholarship is 10 500 CZK is a kind of like being said to get from Prague to Brno within 30 min, either, the requirement must be limited or the study period prolonged or higher scholarship in order to cover 50% life expenses (it is meant as a reference to general situation, I, personally, have got some grants which allowed me to dont give up



Thank you



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