

Supporting the Growth of the Professional Doctorate

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Guiding the discussion

- Widening participation as referenced in the People and Culture Strategy
- Continued growth in doctoral numbers and PGR
- Funding
- Programme diversification and value of doctoral education outside of academia
- Expanded understanding of what consists as “Professional”
- Unclear picture of popularity and diversity of Professional Doctorate across the sector

- Links in with other areas of activity within the sector:
 - RE Funded Research Supervision Project (RSVP)
 - UKRI Innovation and Research Caucus
 - Upcoming UKCGE event on Examining Different Doctorates
- Commences a discussion to feed into areas of focus for study on the current Professional Doctorate landscape

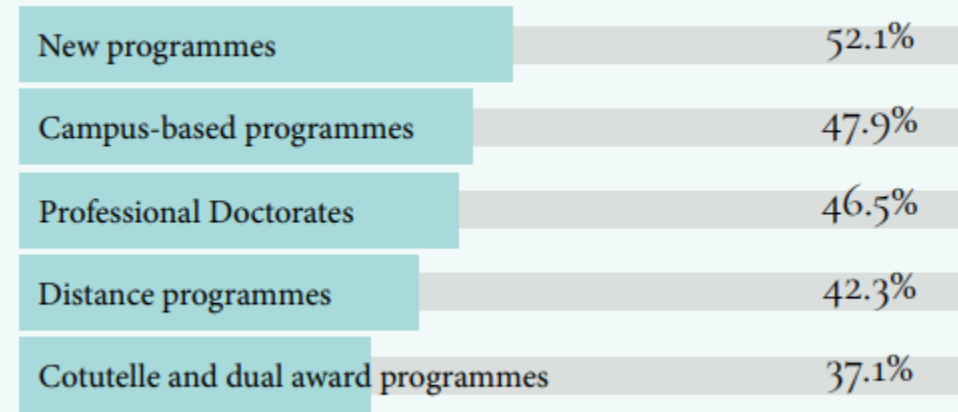
Continued Growth in Doctoral numbers

Growing PGR Numbers



Where the percentage increase was specified, the mean average increase for the doctoral population was 53% (over 5 years) and 30% for MRes.

Growing doctoral population through development of:



Smith McGloin, R., & Wynne, C. (2022). Structures and strategy in doctoral education in the UK and Ireland.

Professional Doctorates: which trajectory?

Provision of professional doctorates in English HE institutions

Report for HEFCE by the Careers Research & Advisory Centre (CRAC), supported by the University of Brighton

January 2016

Postgraduate Education in the UK

Ginevra House



“It is therefore unclear whether the significant decline in professional doctorate enrolments is an entirely accurate reflection of the rate of decline across the portfolio of professional doctorates. This raises the questions of whether potential applicants’ needs for doctoral study related to professions still exist, and if so, how they are being met.

The growth of and access to more flexible PhD programmes that accommodate portfolio, practice and other modes of presentation may have influenced the market for professional doctorates, although further data is required to accurately assess the current situation regarding professional doctorate enrolments”

(Smith McGloin & Wynne, 2022, page 21)

Case Study: University Alliance members

Members:

16

Individual Prof Doc
programmes offered:

75

Number of Prof Doc
qualifications:

28

Disciplines

59%

Are offered across Business,
Education & Healthcare
disciplines

Unknown % of PGR
population across the
membership due to HESA
reporting categories

All members interested in growing Prof Doc
provision

Breakout session discussion points

- Institutional challenges to running a professional doctorate
- Funding elements – Research councils / industrial partners
- Diversity in the structure of doctorate
- Potential pros/cons of the prof doc
- Demand and marketing – diversity in participation

What future steps or activities
can we take to further support
Professional Doctorates across
the sector?