The PhD Proofreaders May 2023

178
Total Responses

84 Completed Responses

94 Partial Responses

378
Survey Visits

What do you think of us and how can we improve?

The PhD
Proofreaders

The PhD Proofreaders would like to know more about what 'job' you think we do, how that makes you feel, and how we can improve.

This survey is estimated to take about 10 mins of your time but of course you can take more time on some replies if you prefer to. It is being conducted by our researcher, Alan Taman (Alan@thephdproofreaders.com). Please complete this survey by **Friday 19th May**

Your replies will be anonymised. Your personal data will be stored securely, not given to any third party, and used only to contact you about the survey should you agree to be contacted further. We want you to be as explicit and detailed as you can be. You're doing a PhD - you will understand that! Please help us help you. Thank you for taking part.
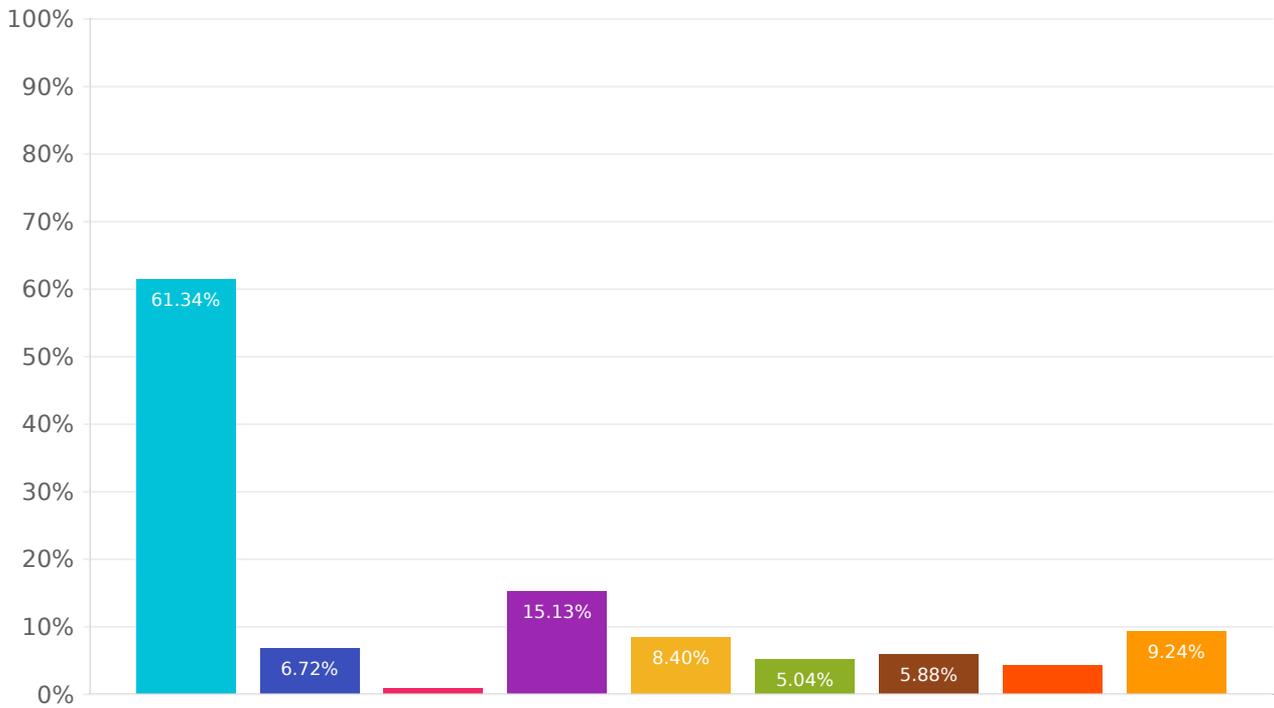
No Responses

Product awareness

Q1

How did you hear about our products and services?

Answered: 119   Skipped: 59

- ● Search engine
- ● Twitter
- ● WhatsApp group
- ● E mail marketing
- ● From another PhD candidate individually
- ● From your Supervisor or member of academic staff
- ● Facebook
- ● Instagram
- ● Eventbrite

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Search engine	61.34%	73
Twitter	6.72%	8
WhatsApp group	0.84%	1
E mail marketing	15.13%	18
From another PhD candidate individually	8.40%	10
From your Supervisor or member of academic staff	5.04%	6
Facebook	5.88%	7
Instagram	4.20%	5
Eventbrite	9.24%	11

Use of services

Q2

Are you currently using any of our products or services?
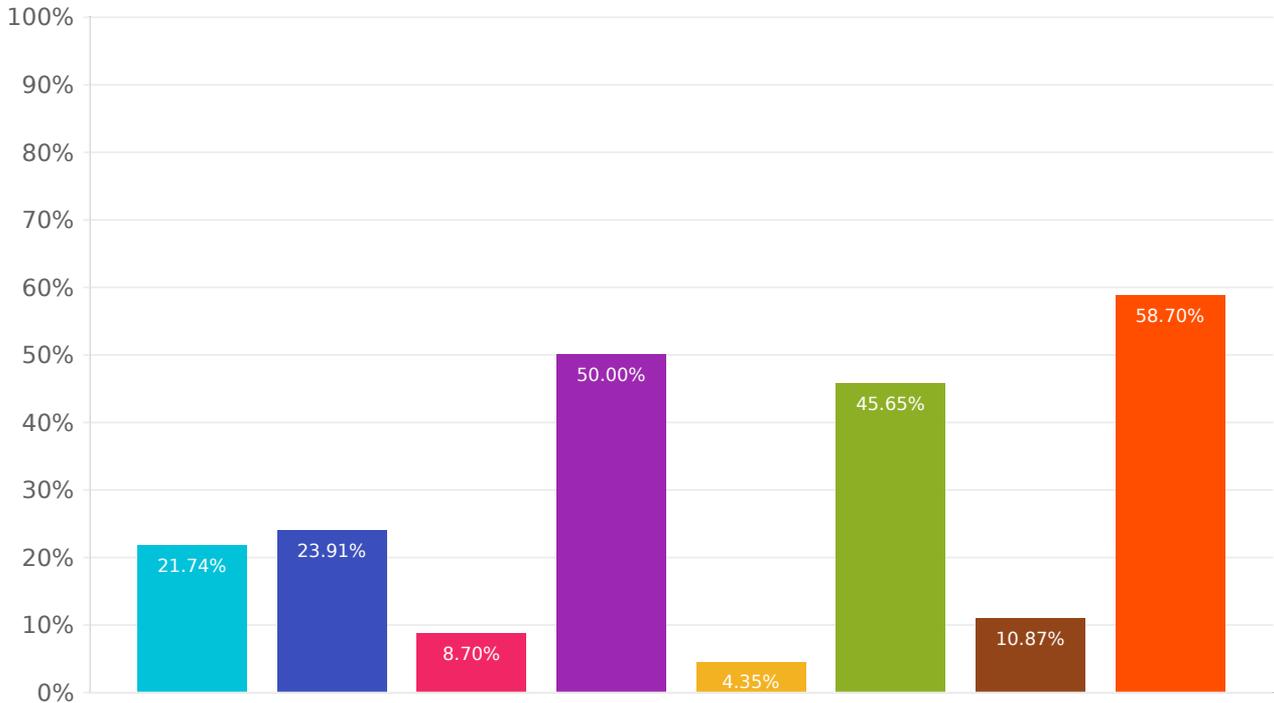
Answered: 119   Skipped: 59
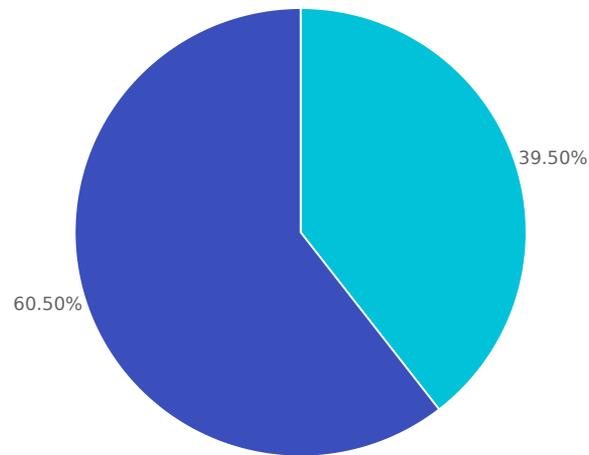
39.50%

60.50%

● Yes   ● No

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	39.50%	47
No	60.50%	72

Use of services

Q3

Please indicate the products or services you are currently using (select as many as you wish)

Answered: 46   Skipped: 132

- 🔵 Thesis proofreading
- 🔵 Thesis writing (course)
- 🔴 One-on-one coaching
- 🟣 PhD writing guides
- 🟡 Mock PhD viva exam
- 🟢 PhD skills workshops
- 🟤 PhD writing retreats
- 🟠 PhD knowledge base

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Thesis proofreading	21.74%	10
Thesis writing (course)	23.91%	11
One-on-one coaching	8.70%	4
PhD writing guides	50.00%	23
Mock PhD viva exam	4.35%	2
PhD skills workshops	45.65%	21
PhD writing retreats	10.87%	5
PhD knowledge base	58.70%	27

Use of services

Q4

How do you think using our products and services will help you or has helped you (please be as detailed as you wish)?

Answered: 36   Skipped: 142

1. It helped me to schedule a specific day to concentrate and do productive work. Also, it helped me to feel accompanied and feel less solitude during the process by hearing about others' experiences and challenges.

2. Broken down bigger subjects into specific areas.

3. I have not availed of this service yet, but I am hoping to avail of a mock viva next year and possibly one of the bootcamps. I think especially the mock viva is a great resource.

4. It has been helpful to have someone outside of my organisation provide additional support and clarity around what I am supposed to be doing.

5. At a very low point, the weekly emails kept me going - they helped me to feel less alone, more connected, more motivated.

6. Excellent guidelines

7. They have increased my ability to think outside the box. I have used the knowledge base quite a bit.

8. Train client with templates

9. Attending online workshops has greatly helped me manage my Phd journey; using your tools has also helped me manage the process more efficiently and understand the requirements better; it has helped me transition from corporate to academia much better and more efficiently and effectively

10. The writing guides provide an explicit scaffolding and enhance confidence i the process

11. no -not really to be honest. I think to be fair it is hard to do it in one document, but the writing guide is just a bit too vague and also doesn't suit non-scientific thesis well either. All in all not really worth the money to be honest

12. Your Phd outline is fantastic, but the thing I value most is the pithy and weekly emails. They really hit the spot for me. As a result of receiving these, I am thinking of attending some of your training eg prep for viva is on my list.

13. clarify confusing concepts, and provide a grasp of it entails to be in this challenging situation.

14. It summarises what is a minefield of conflicting information, and provides a stable resource for establishing the work. It also provided me with a tangible resource to present to my supervisors, which at least shows that the approaches and choices came from somewhere - an active, credible source. The proofreading is straightforward and well worth it - you are attuned to PhDs - not like hiring a subjective proofreader who you in turn have to bring up on a learning curve for your work.

15. I think the workshops, such as the workshop I recently attended regarding academic publications was very useful.

16. Really good for general information, positive support. However, for a history student, some of the content is less applicable

17. I learntalot and in fact been a much help by your program and lessons. Many areas of thessis writing were absolutely help. I you revisit my emails you would not some of my appreciative comments about your short but helpful emails. Keep up your good work to help us who are out of pace with rest of the elites in this writing courses

18. Feeling stupid

19. Awesomely

20. It's a great source of relevant skills and mental/emotional support from a community who understand what a PhD journey is and how complex/torturing it can get.

21. Having come to a PhD from industry and a long break from study, it is great to have somewhere where dumb questions can be asked and answered in a way that I understand. Studying remotely adds to this challenge as I do not have a cohort I can ask. Universities try hard to provide lots of information online but by definition, their responses are academic, when most of my questions are not. The ability to dip in and out of the knowlege base has been very useful and the weekly "motivations" sometimes seem to speak to exactly what I have been feeling that week. Here too, is the real value, PhD Proofreaders see the PhD journey for the emotional roller coaster it is for many of us and engages directly with those non-academic concerns most of us have. The addition of extra courses has been great and although I can really only access them through recordings, the live interaction makes it feel like being there. The tools are good, but the personal tone is the best.

22. good workshops reasonable price and accessible Blogs motivating tools good

23. Really happy with the proof reading. Only attended two workshops. Found one useful but one not.

24. Because the supervisors / coaches seem very competent, but also very nice. They do not have a political agenda as supervisors at the university. Your coaches are much more understanding, but at the same time provide helpful guidance.

25. Some of the help has been through increasing my confidence. Supervision sessions nearly always make me really stressed, and worried that I don't know anything, and that everything I have written is wrong, and complete rubbish. One-on-one coaching has made me feel as though I do have some - even if it's only minimal - understanding of what I'm talking about, and that I'm not entirely wrong all the time. Attending a skills workshop on the theoretical framework was also helpful, as it provided a different space for me to gain knowledge and ask questions in. I am currently working and studying in the same university, so I'm always worried that my job is going to be hindered by how stupid I appear to be in my PhD. Actually, even the fact that Max sent a Friday update where he said that he reads all the emails he is sent is really comforting, and makes me feel less alone on this journey.

26. i am one part time PhD course holder i don't have any idea how to write papers or first starting about subject aria so i want to info how i can write this all things i wish its helping me for writing my papers and thesis to

27. It helps to have some sort of guide to help me navigate in writing my thesis. I find a lot of the workshops and knowledge base assists me with that in some sort of way, the least.

28. It will be helpful if you can publish the dates in advance - e.g. for at least a few months so that people can plan easier. Also, more writing retreat/boot camp would be helpful.

29. giving me some structure, ideas, practical guidance.

30. Up until now in my education, I have had a syllabus to go by, a structure to follow, and an understanding of what to expect. Unfortunately, I did not explore enough about what I would face in a PhD, before I joined my PhD. Over and above that, I joined under a very demanding, high profile mentor. While I know that getting a PhD from here is going to be worth it on my CV, the process of getting there is absolutely overwhelming. I'm currently in my second year and I have come up with different ideas until now, constantly shifted topics within my field, but none of that was executable enough. I was not able to answer when people asked me about the theoretical basis. And finally I came across your products and services two days ago. When I received your theoretical framework template, I was genuinely elated to finally be able to bring a structure to my ideas. Even now I don't know to which extent my ideas will/will not get accepted, but at least I'll know it is not because of my inability to put it across properly! So, Thank you so much.

31. Provides support and assurance. Helpful alternatives perspectives that helps motivation and commitment

32. General reassessment of completed drafts.

33. Answered some of my questions and given me guidelines to work along.

34. Great to have support that is impartial but geared towards helping.

35. It provided useful guidance to various parts of my phd

36. I've used various templates and read much of the advice in the useful, well written articles and they have guided me

Engagement

Q5

Do our product and services offer you a sense of emotional engagement or social belonging?

Answered: 38   Skipped: 140
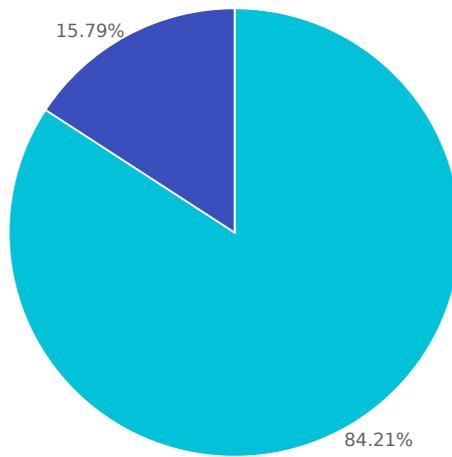
15.79%

84.21%

● Yes   ● No

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	84.21%	32
No	15.79%	6

Engagement

Q6

Please describe this in as much detail as you wish.

Answered: 31   Skipped: 147

1. Being able to relate to others' struggles and difficulties made mine less important or less significant. I could see that others share the emotional challenge I face, which helped me reevaluate my current performance. It helped me to be less hard on myself.

2. Friday motivation emails in particular. There was one sent out on 21st April entitled 'it's okay to feel stupid'. I honestly can't tell you how much that email made a difference to how I was feeling at that point - thank you so much for taking the time to write these.

3. Doing a PhD can often be a solitary experience so anything that engenders a sense of solidarity is welcome

4. I've also attended some workshops and groups which gave useful strategies, and helped me to feel less isolated and de-skilled.

5. The sessions are extremely helpful in every way.

6. I feel like I can talk to others outside my own university and get support.

7. By zoom master class

8. Sharing challenges during online workshops and learning from colleagues - i have attended 2 in the past year - have helped me write and submit my lit review and methodology chapters

9. By connecting with the products, a sense of community or 'I'm not i this alone' certainly provides a sense of social connection.

10. I really love your friday emails -they inspire, they 'get the journey' and they often come in at JUST THE RIGHT TIME -(do you guys read my mind??). I truly love and value these -well done.

11. Going through a rough patch at the moment and really valued the email you sent about seeing this moment as a time which will pass.

12. Towards the commencement of the program, I was confused, my supervisors offered little or no help, but then I mostly relied on your advice for emotional support, motivation, and the general perception of how to go through this journey

13. I think the PhD writing guides, such as the one on literature reviews was very helpful when I was writing my thesis.

14. I feel supported being reassured about the common types of feelings and concerns of PhD students

15. It was infact an eye opener as I have not received any such help from any other institutions, universities, or other. The english was so simple and user friendly and I learnt alot from this course. And able to write up my thessis

16. Just good to know I'm not alone in the ups and downs

17. Are you kidding? How can it not?

18. Everything I read in Max's emails always hits a chord and just makes perfect sense. The content makes me feel I am normal and this journey is actually possible.

19. The motivation texts remind me that I am not the only one struggling during my PhD.

20. You recognise that the PhD is not just a lonely journey, but also emotionally conflicting. Given the precarious nature of acadmic life, most students will not go on to be academics, and so we are constantly racked with uncertainty - why am I doing this, why am I putting my family through this, what does it say about me that I am doing this, no one else cares about my arcane subject, what is the point? Not since I was pregnant have I focused so much attention on myself, thought so much about myself and completely changed my life and my family's life just for me. I am loving my PhD so much, I love the reading, the finding things, the "AHA" moments, the sheer joy of immersion, but at the same time it feels selfish, arrogant, foolhardy. PhD Proofreaders understands this, embraces it and helps me feel like I am not doing this alone, and that it will eventually be worth it (even if I am not sure why or how!). It is a bit like a self help group!

21. part time PhD as a semi-retied person and during covid has been isolating so been really good to feel part of a community

22. Friday emails about mental health etc and the others resources

23. Whenever doing courses at PhD Proofreaders, I feel like I am not alone as others have the same struggles I encounter.

24. For me, emotional engagement is probably the most important element that PhD Proofreaders offers. I feel much more emotionally engaged with this organisation that I do where I study. I think that with PhD Proofreaders there is acknowledgement that not everyone finds everything easy all of this time, which is not really the case where I am studying. I was so stressed on the day that I found the link to PhD Proofreaders and felt so terrible, I couldn't sleep. Still not convinced I'll ever pass though, which is so depressing given the amount of time I'm devoting to it.

25. i wish my PhD writing is as subject (aria)write some thing specious words or content of writing good

26. Reading the weekly check-in emails from Max does kind of help with that sense of belonging. It greatly helps to have someone understand what you're going through. In terms of engagement specifically, I find that lacking unless I join some type of workshop or course, to which I would feel that engagement during the course of the workshop running i.e. from interactions with peers etc.

27. The content of the mails I receive makes me feel like an active member of something meaningful. I have not used much of the services as of now, but I know that I have a system to rely on when I need. That in itself is very engaging and I know I will need it.

28. Sense of belonging - PHD support group and resource facility Emotional regulation because accessing alternative opinions and perspectives helps reduce sense of isolation and alone working...

29. I would have chosen 'sometimes' if available. When the advice resonates it is very powerful.

30. The weekly emails from Max have provided much emotional support

31. The weekly emails from Max have provided much emotional support. Thank you

Engagement

Q7

Do you think our products and services should, or could, be improved by offering a sense of emotional engagement or social belonging? Please give as much detail as you can. If you do, please describe how you think this might be achieved.

Answered: 6   Skipped: 172

1. No, I'm just after tips and facts

2. I am a former advertising professional, and marketing person, and over 55. I think Old School: Stop "hiding" behind email. Bring faces, conversations forward. Once hired, allow direct conversations (within reason) between us and the proofreader. I reached out to mine who had an interest in my subject, but the transactional approach made any interaction sterile - had I not initiated contact. I found it incredibly beneficial when I took the Lit Review masterclass with Dr Smith, especially where he left it open for later questions. Invaluable. As a fellow small business owner, please consider not wasting a lot of your time and resources creating goofy social media campaigns - keep it direct, personal, specific IMHO.

3. I am quite okay with current engagement as people from various backgrounds and countries are difficult to have good belongings.

4. im not accessing the information for engagement or belonging.

5. Possibly introduce a range of views from current and passed candidates.

6. No I don't think they can be improved.

Engagement

Q8

Can you describe why you are not currently using any of our products and services (we will not be offended – please give as much detail as you can!)?

Answered: 51   Skipped: 127

1. The service I found most helpful was the PhD writing hour, but it was suspended. The courses don't seem too helpful for me at the moment. I took two in the past, but didn't feel they were worth it for me.

2. I only just learnt about your products and will seriously think about it. I think I am still early in the course of my studies now and your service may be helpful later. Of course I also worry about the match since my area of studies is related to the Asian region, specifically Singapore and the women during the Japanese Occupation. Not sure if I can be matched to someone who can provide me with the relevant help I will need.

3. I have just joined the site and am using the template outlines to help me structure my thesis but am considering consultations and editing in the future

4. I have no money to pay for it.

5. Graduated 12/22

6. money problem

7. Inadequate finance

8. I cannot use a VPN to securely transmit my personal data based on my current country location.

9. I have successfully completed my PhD, but still keep in touch for the writing for publication workshops

10. The timing between your service meetings and NZ is not convenient for me. I attended one workshop in which the timeframe suited and found it very useful.

11. The exchange rate of the South African currency is hampering my purchase requirements.

12. Frankly, I don't have time. However, I will mention that the meetings (etc.) frequently occur at times I cannot attend. I hope to be able to participate in one soon. I do sincerely appreciate the emails though!

13. I don't know how the services works exactly.

14. I'm a South African student, and our currency is very weak. I intend to use your services, but I have to choose the workshop carefully as I won't be able to financially justify attending multiple workshops

15. I don't use the product/ services because I am not currently studying a PhD. I am in the process of getting some tertiary education work experiences before I decide to make the leap. As I am not entirely sure if I am capable of doing a PhD, I'm generally signed up to these academic community news letters for the interest of the encouragements and to maintain my appetite for academia.

16. I can´t afford it.

17. Currently not. Although I attended a workshop two weeks ago, about publishing articles from your thesis. Additionally, I joined the PhD writing hours that were organized during October-December 22

18. Too expensive for me

19. Just because I'm not at a stage where I would like my thesis to be proofread - it's not long so I will be using the products soon

20. I was using the Writing Hour, because the monthly fee was affordable and it provided me with blocks of time during the day to really focus on my work. I have also attended a mental health session which I've found quite useful. However, most of the masterclasses are a tad to expensive for me and I'm not always sure how relevant they are to someone who's doing a PhD in the UK.

21. Taking a break

22. Lack of money

23. PhD submitted 2021

24. I don't need any of them at the moment because I've got enough resources in my research centre.

25. I previously attended the thesis boot camp / writing retreat with Heather. It was fantastic, such a great and productive two days. I was hoping to book onto the upcoming iteration, but unfortunately I cannot make the dates. I'm very much hoping that some more dates will be added soon!

26. Because i'm lucky enough to not need you. I have two wonderful supervisors; my primary supervisor gives timely, useful and constructive feedback.

27. I am not able to aford it

28. I do not wish to spend money on any services if I do not need to.

29. not yet explored

30. I wasn't fully aware of the resources on your website. I will be reviewing it shortly to see what I can use.

31. I just discovered the page, and I am still working on my Ph.D.; maybe when its time to write, I will require your assistance

32. I enjoy receiving the Friday motivation emails. I have considered signing up for writing bootcamps but am nervous about how much I would have to interact, and what kind of questions I might be asked! Also, I work as well as doing a PhD so time is a factor.

33. Price of some of the events.

34. Writing group cancelled

35. I am nearing the end of my thesis and I am just trying to push through at this point. I read your emails and find much support in them. I wish I had used your products early on in the journey. I do appreciate what you do, and would not hesitate in recommending you to others who choose to take this path.

36. Don't feel i am at the stage I need to yet (1st year)

37. I am just beginning my Ph.D. journey and thus, when I am ready to use your products I will venture to do so. I have attended several of your seminars and they have been very helpful for me!

38. I can't pay

39. limited funds and saving up for your proofreading service

40. The health professions education seems to follow a different format of Doctorates, professional and academic. So I am invariably reminded to adopt this format. Thanks all the same.

41. I do receive the Friday from Max. Does that count as a product? As for why I don't use other products/services, it may be that I just don't think to look to see what's available very often.

42. Cost - it's not that a product is overpriced, it just feels like a slippery slope in paying for services before I exhaust 'self-help' options. I'm planning on using the proof reading service once I complete draft chapters. Also timing - I'm based in Ontario, Canada. (Potential collaboration in expanding PhD proofreaders to the Canadian market...?!)

43. I finished my viva in last week.

44. I have used the 10 email week program in the past and it was great. I also love receiving the regular emails. I live in Australia which makes joining the live sessions hard. I will look to using editing and proof reading services in the future as I get closer to finalisation.

45. I just read the emails that you send through, which is encouraging. I have used two free templates. I am only at the proposal stage and not busy with my thesis yet. I might use some of your services in future. For me it might just be pricy with the exchange rate - I live in South Africa.

46. I am a student in the USA writing my prospectus for Art History. I would love a template for structuring my prospectus, but the one you offer is geared toward the UK system. It would be wonderful if you could cater to other regions' approaches to dissertations.

47. Don't have the budget for it

48. I don't feel a need to use them. My PhD is not at the stage where enough has been written to require proofreading. Even when it is, I'll probably ask my supervisors.

49. Not looking to spend money, but found blogs and free resources helpful

50. I did try to get in to one session but did not receive a reply to my request to join. It was the one on the literature review.

51. I have wanted to see if it was worth investing in before I pay for a service. I am that way before I pay for any services.

Possible name change

Q9

We may change our name to 'The PhD People' to reflect the range of services we offer. Do you think this is a good idea?

Answered: 94   Skipped: 84
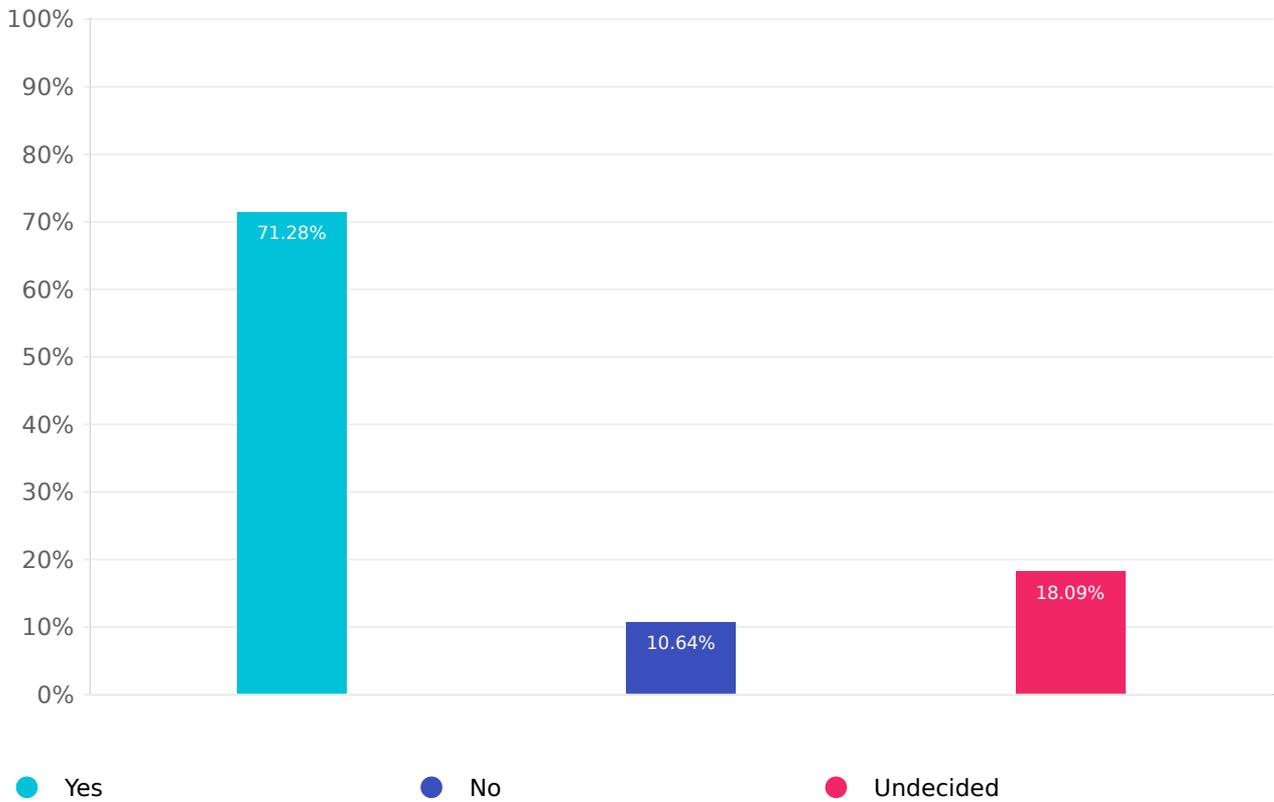
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	71.28%	67
No	10.64%	10
Undecided	18.09%	17

Possible name change

Q10

Please describe why you think this is a good idea.

Answered: 64   Skipped: 114

1. It seems more fitting to the services offered

2. The current name seems limited to one activity, which, for example, I do not use as I am lucky enough to have an advisor that thoroughly proofreads my work. The information and services I will likely use are not proofreading, but still, I find your work to impact my process.

3. You do a lot more than proofread!

4. I also like the name PhD Proofreaders but it might not reflect the entirety of what you offer

5. Proofreaders is a scary word.

6. More focused.

7. its looks sound

8. More accurate, more inclusive. May help with e -searches, which is where I came across the organisation

9. It's more generic

10. I think it speaks more to the services you provide.

11. The name is general, the current one sounds like is for those who need proof reading

12. We are a community of people pursuing a PhD

13. It gives a wider breadth to all that is offered beyond proof reading service

14. On first read people may think it is only a proofreading service. It is not. I get a lot from your motivational Friday advice.

15. Easy to understand vs :proofreaders"

16. Attractive social brand for discussion

17. Focused

18. More alliteration is always easier to remember

19. It gives a braoder sense of what is provided and 'people' is always a more community word.

20. beacuse proofreading is only a small part of what you do. I have always thought it wasnt such a good fit.

21. You do much more than proofreading, but you're also well known as the Proofreaders. Perhaps The PhD People and Proofreaders.

22. You do much more than proofreading

23. I think it reflects more wat you do, since you offer more than proofreading.

24. phd proofreaders suggests you only proofread at that level when your services may be wider than that

25. Well you do so much more than proofreading, obviously - so a more general approach is well informed. That said, I don;t know if 'people' implies less-expertise. However, it's personable and if someone engages, the expertise will be clear.

26. It is clearer and indicates the larger spectrum of services that you offer.

27. Proofreading is a small portion of what is available

28. So much of what you are about is way beyond proofreading, PhD seems a really good fit

29. Because thousands who are not phd students miss out on such coaching classes,

30. It sounds more inclusive and more proactive for the PhD student

31. may appeal to wider audience

32. Because you offer more services than proofreading. I think that this name is actually misleading and may mean that people who could benefit from your offerings may pass you by.

33. I believe I was part of an old forum called the PhD People..? If I am correct in thinking that, it was an excellent platform (while it lasted), and from my perspective better reflected the 'body of work/offering' that was provided, as oppose to potential thought that you are only concerned with 'proofreading'.

34. You do far more than just proofreading!

35. ...

36. It's a more general term that reflects the wide services and kinds of support that can be offered to PhD students, which is much more than proofreading. It also gives a sense of community, of having something in common, of an "us".

37. People is a wider, general term. Proofreaders seems to refer to only one service that you provide.

38. It is more understandable and makes community easier

39. As discussed, Proofreaders is a loaded term and only a fraction of what you do. It is also an inclusive term, it makes it sound more like a group I want to belong to than an organisation that provides me with services. I think people can feel like they can contribute to something called "People", it is more about "us" less about "you". I think there is not much you will lose and a lot you will gain from a new name.

40. As its not just a proofreading service much more with the student experience skills

41. Because you support the whole experience of doing a PhD and 'proofreaders' implies a more narrower focus

42. Explains more that you do much more than just help with writing or proofreading.

43. Personally, I don't really see that proofreading is a big part of what you do. I also think that you offer a much wider range of services, that have much more value, and are much harder to obtain elsewhere than proofreading.

44. Proofreaders is restrictive

45. "PhD Proofreaders" makes me think that your main aim is proofreading, this may deter potential subscribers, but in reality, the range of services you offer goes far beyond this.

46. Its not just about proofreading

47. It covers a broader range of activities and offerings that your company provides outside of just proofreading.

48. Changing your name will attract other people who are not struggling with there PhD's like me. It will offer greater scope for wider audience to join

49. because my all education in other language now i having PhD in English the problem is writing to one content that's why i think this is good idea

50. It tells me that we are out to make changes and developments into refining how we view PhD studies. You never know we might have better name in the near future!

51. If you're doing more than proofreading, your name should say so.

52. As said, it does give a broader sense of what the organisation might be offerring, whereas with "proofreaders", it's rather self-explanatory, particularly with anyone hearing about it the first time.

53. The new name looks comprehensive.

54. Broadens the scope of what you do and the services you can offer.

55. it's more encompassing, friendlier.

56. It opens up the avenue for those who are in the initial years of their PhD. People might not think about proofreading in the starting stages and possibly hold it off until a later stage. But the new name makes it more inclusive and accessible to everyone!

57. It's beyond proofreading... people instils a sense of community and a network which is better

58. More accurately reflects what you do.

59. Proofreaders is very specific. It underrepresents the diversity of your expertise.

60. Services are more broadly based than proofreading but you still need a hook to get people in. The current name does that.

61. Well, the phd proofreaders has a certain ring to it but I guess you do much more than that. There is a "humaness" to people. And it does suggest a sort of expertness too.

62. It has a humanness to it. And implies "Experts" and focus

63. It's a good name that is easily remembered.

64. The current name is limited

Possible name change

Q11

Please describe why you do not think this is a good idea.

Answered: 8   Skipped: 170

1. Phd People does not say much about your service. Neither does the current. Perhaps something to do with mentoring or guiders gives greater clarity.

2. It's too vague

3. No don't, (… or is a woke group forcing you to change it)?

4. Ph.D. is broad and needs a lot of components brought together to pull through, not just proofreading; additional proofreading is a product of so many individual tasks carried alongside, the name is only biased to a small part of the services offered and hence may confuse people, especially first time attendants or when just seen on search engines.

5. Well there are prof docs too

6. PhD proofreaders sound much better. The word "proofreader" makes me feel confident that I could give a particular person my work to proofread and give constructive criticism without any judgement. "PhD people" does not convey that.

7. PhD people is friendly and gives a broader scope than proofreader, but it sounds like a peer group or community of practice. In my opinion it undersells your expertise and undermines my confidence in your ability. More than anything, I want to know that I can trust your opinion and guidance if I'm going to let you influence my work! I wonder if you're getting caught in an alliteration trap?! There possibly isn't a fitting "p" word to follow "PhD". How about "the thesis coach"?

8. People is vague.

Any other products

Q12

Are there any other products or services not currently offered you think would help you in your PhD?

Answered: 61   Skipped: 117

1. The PhD writing hour together with a social interaction element

2. Maybe a community space that, even without dynamization, helped to gather together for writing or working just by being connected to someone instead of being at home.

3. I like something related to 3MT like critiquing of the content and good ideas to design the poster. Training will also be great. Having a checklist to help us chart our progress will be useful. Perhaps even a handbook on the relevant contents will be useful too. I also feel that having the notes prior to the sharing is good for us to annotate as the sharing is progressing.

4. I'm not sure…perhaps something specific for year one folks?

5. Not sure yet

6. Presentation skills

7. No.

8. na

9. No

10. None currently that I can think of but if something comes to mind I will send you a message.

11. Do you offer proof reading for journal publications?

12. As stated, they are not time suited for me

13. Nothing. Don't go and change the wheel. Everything is just fine.

14. More flexible dissertation template for chapter training

15. Workshops covering various data software analysis options available eg comparison between EndNote and MaxQDA ect

16. more free and low cost versions pls Not everyone lives in the UK nor has access to GBO pounds -which can (depending on exchange rates) really affect the cost. Plus we are students on very low incomes -some free low cost things really buffer the impact and make us think well of you. I understand you are a BUSINESS - but you need to understand WE ARE ON LOW INCOMES!!!

17. Not sure….

18. (From a completely self-serving perspective) I would like to hear more about how humanities students justify their reason for study/ the significance of their research. I liked a particular previous newsletter about how said writer had decided to pursue this degree with the mindset of climbing mount Everest. "Its there, why not?" I was very comforted to know that it can serve as one of the reasons for such an extravagant pursuit. But on paper, how did others choose to account for their interest/ reason for study in a more profound/ convincing way?

19. Not really, although I sometimes miss the daily writing hours!

20. Career advice (especially alternative careers) - detailing what those jobs require, how we can apply our skills, etc

21. guidance on available tools for important tasks, such as which legal or acceptable tools for paraphrasing, checking plagiarism, and even offer tool itself.

22. I htink some technical forums or information exchange could be an added benefit to your business. I scoured all the available software - for writing, citation, (I have a programmer background) and it's a commercial minefield. Exacerbating the profiteeering problem is the fact that citation software like Menderly are commodifying user information, which will inevitably lead to changes in the software that are from a commercial, rather than academic approach. For example, In the end, after discovering that Word is not suited for lengthy texts and the time it takes to make it work is just not worth it - I tested the others. Libreoffice does a good job, but still has bugs. In the end, to my complete surprise and against my moral wishes, Google Docs invigorated my output - it. just. works. I'd even be willing to possibly write an article for you on this all - it's included in my methodology...

23. I'd love if the Writing Hour made a comeback and perhaps more mental health events as well. Perhaps more tailored support for PhD students in different countries?

24. Someone to talk to one to one for general advice and support

25. Something more specialised to Humanities. It is quite different to Sciences in the way it is written up in practice that another course with a Humanities focus would take away any doubts that Humanities students might feel enrolling in courses which have a science bias. As a southern hemisphere student, it would be nice to have the option of a bootcamp that didn't run in the wee small hours...

26. Havenbeen there so can not think of one Thank you

27. I think it is very important to address the mental challenges during the PhD process. I know that you have a course on procrastination. I would include one on imposter syndrome and how to deal with it as well as offer a course on Mindfulness for PhD students

28. Not sure

29. No

30. Honestly, just more writing retreats / boot camps (with Heather). I had such a great experience, and I know that is also true for many of the other participants. Possibly an in-person writing retreat? Appreciate this would incur greater costs, etc.

31. No

32. Information about how can we find researsh materials on the net, more effectively. Ex:open libraries, open journals, platforms with materials free to borrow for reading...

33. I am not aware of all the products or services on offer.

34. ...

35. No.

36. Not that I am aware of.

37. Lots, not all for me, but I am sure for others - courses like "Introduction to the process of academic writing", "Managing the remote study challenge", "Academic writing in English for EASL students", "Finding recent writing in narrow fields", "Grant application writing", "Ways to use your PhD outside Academia", "Publishing your PhD as a book", "Tackling the PhD for mature students/non academics".... the list goes on. Interactive sessions like "Getting out of a rut", "Restarting a stalled PhD", "Getting back on the Horse after a break", "Getting the Passion onto the Page". It would be great to have a forum where you could ask questions and others in the community could answer, or point you in the direction of an answer. A library of other helpful courses, resources people can turn to, perhaps a list of resources by country that people can access. The list is endless!

38. Na

39. Maybe some talks/short presentations

40. Specific advice for part- time phd students- there seems to be a lack of this type of support on line.

41. Upgrade viva?

42. Writing group with purpose (not only an open zoom room, but some guidance/accountability in the group at the beginning and end of the "session").

43. I struggle alot with motivation and feeling like ive been productive. I get distracted alot and then I get annoyed with myself at the end of the day for not spending X amount of hours on my work that day/week. So maybe something about time management outside of the generic stuff everyone talks about like time blocking etc. You can block all you like but it doesn't mean its going to make you sit down and do it! Maybe I am looking for a magic wand but its worth a shot

44. One-on-one sessions, which you already provide, are a very helpful offering. Perhaps expanding this to include follow up sessions and continued aid throughout one's process.

45. Critical reading and writing

46. supervision type advice for writing for a PhD

47. There are elements that would involve data processing and analysis that should be included in the PhD programme. Particular emphasis should be put on academic writing courses.

48. Elizabeth taught a great workshop on epistemology, ontology and something else that I now can't remember (but, even so, it was a wonderful workshop). I didn't see her listed as a presenter, but I would be interested in anything she offers.

49. No

50. Some type of free and sustainable peer-coaching? A sort of "room" online where anyone could check in to work individually or together (for accountability), or also have an adjacent room ready with a professional, or rather a peer (to remove any sense of pressure) to talk or confide in about one's respective work or anything he or she may be struggling with. Uncertain with how the "sustainability" aspect will come in, as well potential rules to regulate the room for safety or confidentiality purposes etc. Not sure if I'm making any sense here but imagine a PhD common room, only online :-)

51. N/A

52. None

53. I can't think of anything as of now. Maybe, an anonymous forum where we can discuss the difficulties we face as PhD students (academic, mental and emotional) can be put across and people can share how they dealt with something similar (if they dealt with it ofcourse).

54. Not at the moment

55. A product of brainstorming, such as a half-hour rate for brainstorming would be great.

56. Requires more time to judge.

57. No

58. I think you need to clarify what technical services you are offering. For some science based disciplines it's not comprehensive.

59. Can't think of any off hand

60. Not really. I'd love to have used other products but couldn't afford 1st world prices

61. N/A

Birth year

Q13

Please give us your year of birth

Answered: 64   Skipped: 114

1. 1990
2. 1988
3. 1971
4. 1997
5. 1986
6. 1943
7. 1961
8. 1973
9. 1952
10. 1995
11. 1959
12. 1937
13. 1970
14. 1957
15. 4021974
16. 1964
17. 1993
18. 1948
19. 1990
20. 1996
21. 1969
22. 1991
23. 1980
24. 1966
25. 1996
26. 1992
27. 1989
28. 1967
29. 1968
30. 1988
31. 1957
32. 1975
33. 1996
34. 1993
35. 1964

36. 1993
37. 87
38. 1992
39. 1962
40. 1986
41. 1992
42. 1958
43. 1986
44. 1976
45. 1990
46. 1974
47. 1992
48. 1978
49. 1994
50. 1998
51. 1974
52. 1952
53. 1982
54. 1994
55. 1982
56. 1969
57. 1996
58. 1966
59. 1979
60. 1992
61. 1997
62. 1971
63. 1971
64. 1978

Gender

Q14

## Please tell us your preferred gender

Answered: 74   Skipped: 104

- ● Male
- ● Female
- ● Transgender identifying as male
- ● Transgender identifying as female
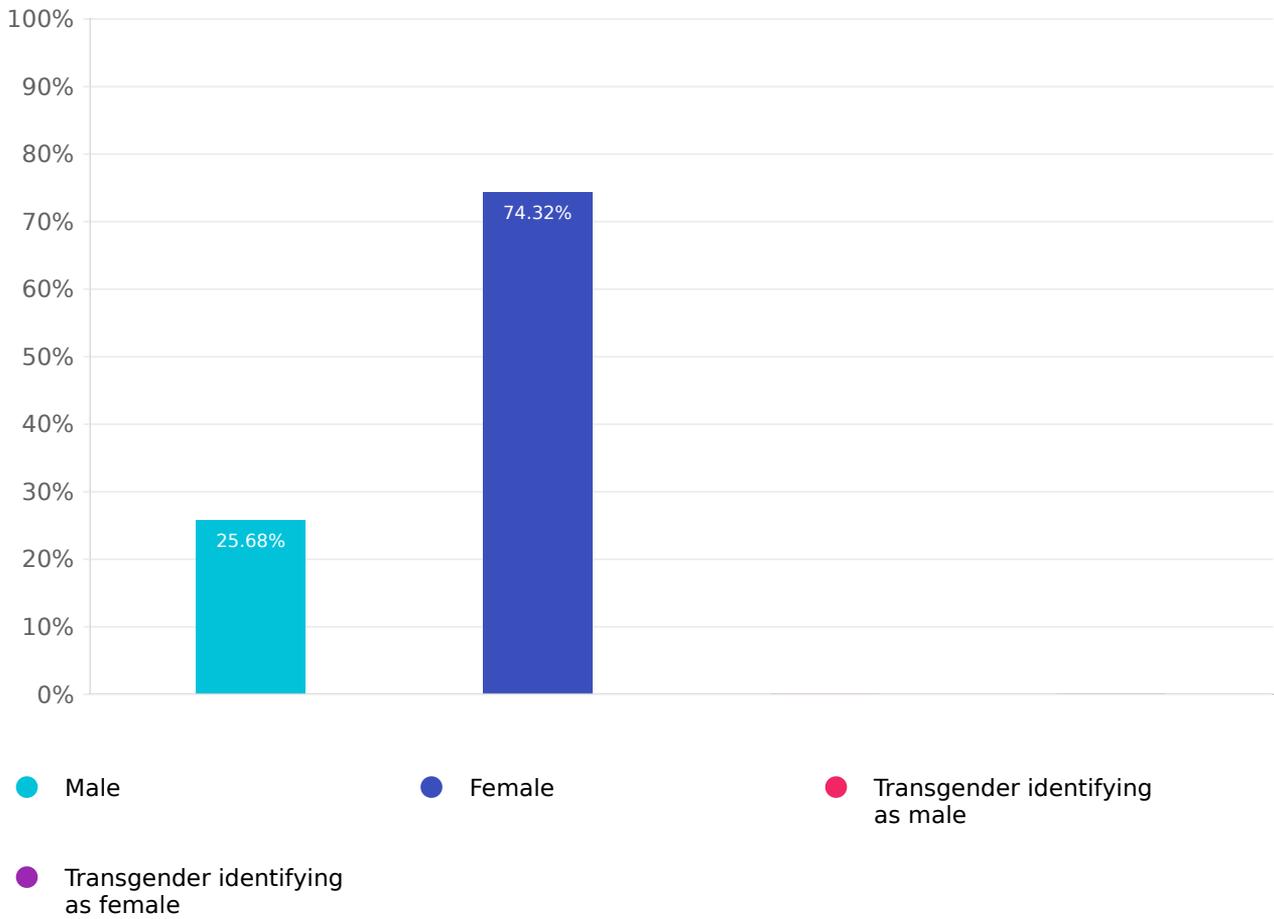
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Male	25.68%	19
Female	74.32%	55
Transgender identifying as male	0.00%	0
Transgender identifying as female	0.00%	0

Full or part time

Q15

Is your PhD full or part time?

Answered: 73   Skipped: 105
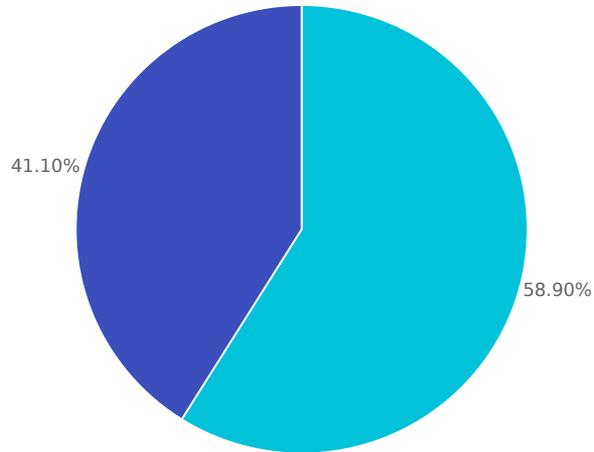
41.10%

58.90%

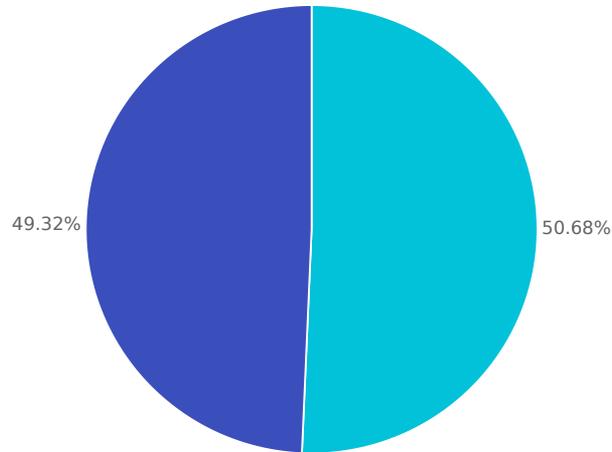- Full time (30 hours a week or over)
- Part time (under 30 hours a week)

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Full time (30 hours a week or over)	58.90%	43
Part time (under 30 hours a week)	41.10%	30

Funding

Q16

Are you receiving funding for your PhD?
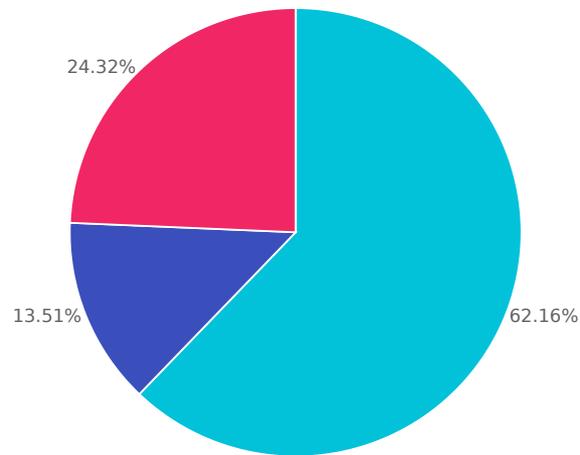
Answered: 73   Skipped: 105

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	50.68%	37
No	49.32%	36

University funding

Q17

Is your university paying for your funding?

Answered: 37   Skipped: 141

24.32%

13.51%

62.16%

- ● Yes - tuition and stipend (subsistence)
- ● Yes - tuition only
- ● No

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes - tuition and stipend (subsistence)	62.16%	23
Yes - tuition only	13.51%	5
No	24.32%	9

Any other points

Q18

Is there anything else you would like to add? Please indicate below.

Answered: 24   Skipped: 154

1. I hope that one of these days I can travel to UK to explore the archival materials and perhaps I can get some info or guidance from someone who can point me to the best place to begin my research. Thanks.

2. No.

3. My PhD had been particularly challenging as I'm living with ME/CFS and long covid.

4. I am constantly unsure if I am wise to put myself under such stress at my age, but your motivational tips often inspire me to keep going.

5. None

6. No

7. Please add counseling programs for PhD students; most institutions are not supportive enough.

8. I applied for the position of course convenor, and I am looking forward to hearing from you!

9. I have finished my PhD but am interested in following what the issues are with working in that intense space

10. Just that the Friday emails are really motivating. Since Covid, I've been working mainly from home and it's hard to keep the momentum and focus up at times. It's good to know I'm not the only person out there that's got imposter syndrome! There have been times when I've wanted to make contact to say thanks for the email, it's raised my spirits.

11. Thanks for all the hard work you do. I ALWAYS read the Friday emails, and have taken a lot from them in the past. I think we are all oftentimes very much in the same boat. It's tough, but I appreciate all the hard work you guys are doing!

12. The titles for the friday motivation emails - probably would have terrified me as a first year. Taken independently, they make the PhD sound like it's going to be awful. As a fourth and final year PhD researcher, they are usually greeted with "isn't that a mood" or "oh thank god it's not just me who feels like this"

13. An IPA study in Scotland

14. Appreciate the authenticity of the newsletters and relationality transpiring through the words

15. As the number of people studying remotely increases, it would be useful to know how many of the PhD Proofreader community are remote from their universities and how that impacts their studies.

16. Thanks for all the support and workshops

17. Thanks for the tips

18. Assistance with how to access funding for distance learning would be appreciated.

19. I'm completing a long-deferred PhD for my personal satisfaction. I will not be pursuing an academic career.

20. None

21. The enrollment is paid for by university funding.

22. Nothing to add.

23. Just thank you so much for this great resource. Once I found it, I returned to the knowledge base often and referred other PhD (and some MSc) students to it.

24. N/A