UK HEP Early Career Researcher Survey 2024

[TODO A bit more blurb introducing the survey, ECFA/EPPSU, links to reports from previous UK events? etc.]

This survey was developed by the UK members of the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) Early-Career Researcher (ECR) Panel, to obtain feedback on the experiences and views of UK ECRs. The analysis will be published on the arXiv. This will primarily be used to inform members of the Restricted-ECFA (RECFA) panel, during their visit to the UK in September 2024.

Direct quotes from open box questions may be used in the analysis, if we believe they are adequately anonymous.

If you would like to subscribe to announcements on other projects the panel is involved in, please join the ecfa-ecr-announcements CERN egroup.

* Indicates required question

Demographics

1. What is your current position? *

Please select the closest answer, or if none are close then add your own choice with the 'other' option. For example, we would consider "lecturer" to fit with Assistant professor, and "Reader" or "Senior Lecturer" to "Associate Professor".

Mark only one oval.

Undergraduate/Masters student

PhD student

Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Research Fellow

Assistant Professor (fixed-term)

Assistant Professor (permanent)

Staff Scientist (fixed-term)

Staff Scientist (permanent)

Associate/Full Professor

Research (Software) Engineer

Technician

Other:

2.	What is the duration of your current contract? *
	Mark only one oval.
	◯ N/A
	Year-to-year
	<12 months
	12-23 months
	24-35 months
	36-47 months
	>48 months (but not indefinite)
	indefinite
3.	For how many years have you been on temporary contracts since your PhD, until now (if you are non yet permanent) or until you obtained a permanent position? Skip this question if you are still a student
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	(or more)
4.	What is your age? *
	Mark only one oval.
	<20
	21-25
	26-30
	31-35
	36-40
	>46

5.	What is your gender identity?
	Please select the closest answer, or if none are appropriate then add your own choice with the 'othe option.
	Mark only one oval.
	Cis-male
	Cis-female
	Trans-male
	Trans-female
	Non-Binary
	Prefer not to answer
	Other:
6.	What is your nationality? *
	Please write the name of the country of your nationality only.
7	What is your country of residence?
7.	What is your country of residence? * Please write the name of the country of your nationality only.
	riease write the name of the country of your nationality only.

8.	What is your primary field of research? *
	Please select the closest answer, or if none are close then add your own choice with the 'other option.
	Mark only one oval.
	Detector development
	Accelerator physics
	Medical/Bio physics
	Electronics
	Optics/Photonics
	Engineering
	Software and Computing
	Astrophysics
	Theory
	Experimental collider physics
	Fixed-target experiment
	Experimental neutrino physics
	Dark matter experiment
	Nuclear physics
	Cosmology
	Atomic/Laser physics
	Other:

9.	Are there any other fields you are significantly involved in? * Please select the closest option, or if none are close then add your own choice with the 'othe option. You may select multiple options if appropriate.
	Tick all that apply.
	Detector physics
	Accelerator physics
	Medical/Bio physics
	Electronics
	Optics/Photonics
	Engineering
	Software and Computing
	Astrophysics
	Theory
	Experimental collider physics
	Fixed-target experiment
	Experimental neutrino physics
	Dark matter experiment
	Nuclear physics
	Cosmology
	Atomic/Laser physics
	No other fields
	Other:
10.	In which stage are any experiments you are working on? Please fill for every experiment you're involved in, or skip the question if there are none.
	Tick all that apply.
	Experiment is in the planning Experiment is under construction
	Experiment exists / is running
	Experiment has finished running, but data analysis is ongoing

	Here a "research group" is defined as a group of researchers that work together on a daily basis, share lab and/or office space, and have the same $PI(s)$ and affiliation. A "collaboration" is here defined as a set of ≥ 2 groups from different institutions in different cities/countries/continents that work together towards a common scientific goal, which could be a new measurement, the development of a new detector, or a new theory.
	Mark only one oval.
	Neither
	Yes, both
	Yes, only within a research group
	Yes, only within a collaboration
12.	What is your current source of funding? *
	Mark only one oval.
	UKRI
	Royal Society
	Institute funding
	Leverhulme Trust
	Horizon Europe
	Other:
13.	Have you been affiliated to the UK for your entire career so far? Including being employed by a UK institute, enrolled at a UK university, or based in the UK
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	◯ No
Re	esearch, Recognition and Visibility

11. Do you work in a collaboration and/or research group? *

4.	I believe that common bibliometric indices (such as h-index) fairly reflect my work. *
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
5.	I consider the recognition and visibility of my work to be sufficient within my field of research.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
б.	Have you ever changed field within physics? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No
7.	On average, how many projects are you involved in at a given time?
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3.	How many people do you actively work with during a normal week? *
	Mark only one oval.
	0-5
	6-10
	11-15
	16-20
	>20

ccess the	eresource	es I need (e.g. Bean	n Time, HF	PC/GPUs, Softv
5					
Strong	gly agree				
			end work	ing in thes	e different are
гарріу іо	you / your	lielu			
0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81- 100%
	5 Strong time, on	5 Strongly agree time, on average, apply to you / your	5 Strongly agree time, on average, do you sp apply to you / your field	5 Strongly agree time, on average, do you spend work apply to you / your field	Strongly agree time, on average, do you spend working in these apply to you / your field

21. What percentage of your time, on average, **would you like to spend** working in these different areas?

Please fill in all options that apply to you / your field

Mark only one oval per row.

	0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81- 100%	
Service work for group/collaboration							
Software & Computing							
Your main research projects (e.g. Data analysis, developing new theories/technologies, proof-of-concept studies)							
Instrumentation							
Teaching							
Outreach and Public Engagement.							
Project/group management or committee work.							
Administrative tasks, application writing							
Experiment operations, data prep/acquisition/similar							
Meetings							

22.	What are the main barriers preventing you from spending more time working on the areas that you'd like to in this section?
	Tick all that apply.
	Constraints from my current job contract Not supported by my boss/PI
	Concern about the impact on my career prospects
	Not enough time
	Lack of funding/resources Concern about risk (e.g. idea doesn't work)
	There are no barriers
	Other:
23.	The service work I do is useful for my career.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
24.	I have enough academic freedom in my current position *
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
25.	Have you had any formal training for leadership/management roles that you've had *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes, it was helpful
	Yes, but it wasn't helpful
	◯ No
	I haven't held a leadership/management role

26.	How many people are in your research group? *
	Mark only one oval.
	I don't work in a research group
	2-5
	<u> </u>
	11-20
	20-40
	<u>>40</u>
27.	How many people are in your collaboration? *
	Mark only one oval.
	I don't work in a collaboration
	2-10
	11-50
	<u></u>
	101-200
	>500
28.	I consider the recognition and visibility of my work to be sufficient within my group/collaboration.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
29.	There is room for me to express and realise my original ideas within my group/collaboration
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree

	De Tair.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
31.	I consider the publication and authorship policies in my group/collaboration to be fair
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
32.	I am able to have an impact in the decision making processes in my group/collaboration
JZ.	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
33.	The service work I do is adequately recognised and rewarded/incentivised.
	Please skip this question if you don't do any service work.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
34.	Do you have any other comments on the topics in this section?
Div	rersity, Inclusion and Workplace culture

30. I consider the assignment of leadership/committee positions in my group/collaboration to

Other:

Tick all that ap	ply.						
	l did nothing	I reported it but received no support	reported it and received support that wasn't helpful	reported it and received support that was helpful	I dealt with the problem myself	I told a friend or close colleague	Other
Personally encountered							
Witnessed							
Mark only one		5		ive work e	nvironmer	nt *	
Mark only one	oval.	5	vith a posit	ive work e	nvironmer	nt *	
1 2 Stro O	3 4 Ork environ	5 Strong	lly agree		nvironmer	ıt *	
1 2 Stro O A positive wo	3 4 Ork environ	5 Strong	lly agree		nvironmer	nt *	
A positive wo	3 4 Ork environ	5 Strong	ıly agree ry importa		nvironmer	nt *	
Stro O	3 4 Ork environ	5 Strong	lly agree		nvironmer	nt *	

My Super	
Mark only	one oval.
1	2 3 4 5
Stro 🔘	Strongly agree
My currer	nt job has a significant impact on my mental health
Mark only	one oval.
1	2 3 4 5
	nges to your current position would improve your mental health?
What cha	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' or
What cha	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' or t apply.
What cha Please sel Tick all tha	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' or t apply.
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More More	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' op t apply. pay job security / location stability flexibility in working hours/location
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More More Worki	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' operate of the poly. pay job security / location stability flexibility in working hours/location ng fewer hours per week
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More More Worki Better	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' operation of the security of
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More More Worki Better Being	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' operation and the security of
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More Worki Better Being Havin	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' operation of the security of
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More Worki Better Being Havin Better	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' operate apply. pay job security / location stability flexibility in working hours/location ng fewer hours per week wellbeing events/support in your institute respected and listened to more by your colleagues g a stronger social community in your place of work frameworks at your workplace for training, ombuds services and similar.
What cha Please sel Tick all tha Better More Worki Better Being Havin	nges to your current position would improve your mental health? ect all options that apply, if you want to add another category, us the 'other' op t apply. pay job security / location stability flexibility in working hours/location ng fewer hours per week wellbeing events/support in your institute respected and listened to more by your colleagues g a stronger social community in your place of work frameworks at your workplace for training, ombuds services and similar.

44.	Through what category do you identify as under-represented in your field of research?
	Please select all options that apply, and use the 'other' category if add more if needed. Skip this
	question if you don't identify as part of an under-represented group.
	Tick all that apply.
	Gender
	Ethnicity
	Disability
	Sexual orientation
	Religious or political views
	Socio-economic background
	Other:
45.	Being part of an under-represented group in my field of research has had a significant
	negative impact on my career so far.
	Skip this question if you don't identify as part of an under-represented group.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Stro Strongly agree
46.	What kind of impact has being part of an under-represented group in your field of research
	had?
	Please select all options that apply, and use the 'other' category if add more if needed. Skip this question if you don't identify as part of an under-represented group.
	Tick all that apply.
	Opportunities/events not being physically accessible.(e.g. lack of wheelchair access, sign-language interpreter)
	Not being taken seriously or listened to.
	Opportunities/events not being financially accessible (e.g. because you have to pay up front
	yourself)
	Opportunities/events not being accessible due to location (e.g. visa problems, not feeling safe
	in a particular place)
	Opportunities/events not being accessible due to personal/caring/family responsibilities
	A language barrier

47.	My career in HEP would benefit if the expectation to travel for events or relocate for jobs was reduced.	*
	Mark only one oval.	
	1 2 3 4 5	
	Stro Strongly agree	
48.	I try to be more environmentally friendly in my work by *	
	Tick all that apply.	
	I don't try but I would like to.	
	I try to travel less.	
	☐ I avoid travelling by plane where possible.☐ I avoid printing where possible.	
	☐ I try to reduce my emissions from computing (e.g by running fewer jobs).	
	Part of my research is related to sustainability in HEP.	
	I don't try and I don't care to.	
	I am involved in environmental policy work/groups at my institute, or similar.	
	Other:	
40		
49.	Do you have any other comments on the topics in this section?	
Wo	ork-Life Balance	
50.	Do you have children?	
	Mark only one oval.	
	Yes	
	No	

If you do have children, in which career phase(s) did you have them? *
Please select the closest answers, or if none are close then add your own choice with the 'other' option. For example, we would consider "lecturer" to fit with Assistant professor, and "Reader" or "Senior Lecturer" to "Associate Professor".
Tick all that apply.
Before university
As a Bachelor / Master's student
As a PhD student
As a PostDoc / Research Fellow
As an Assistant Professor or equivalent (non tenure-track)
As an Assistant Professor or equivalent (tenure-track)
As an Associate Professor / Professor or equivalent
Prefer not to say
I have no children
Other:
If you have children, what impact (if any) has this had on your research/career?
If you want to make more than one point, please separate them with a semi-colon.

53. How important are the following items to you in order to maintain a good-work life balance?

1=Not at all important, 2=Low importance, 3=Neutral, 4=Moderately important, 5=Very important

Mark only one oval per row.

	1	2	3	4	5
Flexible working hours					
Flexible working location					
Possibility to work part-time / job-share					
Good income					
Possibility for long- term planning					
Positive work environment					
Access to pastoral support					

	1	2	3	4	5
lexible vorking ours					
lexible vorking ocation					
Possibility o work part-time / ob-share					
Good					
Possibility or long- erm Janning					
Positive vork environment					
access to eastoral					

55.

54. To what extent are these aspects fulfilled in your current job? *

1=Not at all fulfilled, 2=Slightly fulfilled, 3=Neutral, 4=Moderately fulfilled, 5=Very fulfilled

Prefer not to say

	Mark only one oval.
	<35 hrs
	35-40 hrs
	40-45 hrs
	45-50 hrs
	50-60 hrs
	>60 hrs
60.	How often do you feel under pressure and/or stressed? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Always (almost every day)
	Regularly (once/twice a week)
	Sometimes (a few times per month)
	Sometimes throughout the year for specific circumstances/deadlines
	Never
	Prefer not to say
61.	My work-life balance could be significantly improved by If you want to make more than one point, please separate them with a semi-colon.
62.	On average, for what percentage of your working week do you work from home?
	Mark only one oval.
	0%
	1-20%
	21-40%
	41-60%
	61-80%
	81-100%
	3. 100 <i>1</i> 0

59. How many hours do you work per week on average?

63.	I feel that my workplace community and culture overall has changed a lot compared to before the Covid-19 pandemic.
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	It is It is much better now
64.	Do you have any other comments on the topics in this section?
Ca	reer Prospects
65.	Where do you think there a better job prospects for your future in the UK? Inside or outside your field of research?
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
	Insic Outside the field
66.	Would you like to continue your career in your field of research and how confident about it * are you?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes I would like to continue and am confident I will be able to
	Yes I would like to continue and think my chances are mediocre
	Yes I would like to continue and but doubt I will be able to
	Yes I would like to continue but I am okay leaving
	Yes I would like to continue for now but will likely leave after my next position
	No I would like to leave after my current position ends
	I am not sure
	On't want to answer

	nave always planned to leave academia
	ack of long term job security
	ow pay
N	eeding to relocate or avoid relocating for a new position
La	ack of available positions
La La	ack of satisfaction with my work
Cı	riteria for permanent positions is inaccessible to me
В	urnout from workload
Fr	rustration with Academia
L	osing interest in the research
	type of position will you be applying for next?
What	
What	type of position will you be applying for next?
What Tick al	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply.
What Tick al	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply. InD
What Tick al Pl Pe	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply. Dostdoctoral Research Associate
What Tick all PI PO Fe	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply. In D In Destdoctoral Research Associate In Ellowship
What Tick al Pl Pe Pe Pe	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply. InD Destdoctoral Research Associate Bellowship Destruction
What Tick al Pl Po Po Po Po Po Po	type of position will you be applying for next? If that apply. InD InD Instruction Associate Included the sector of the sec

67. If you were to leave your field of research, what would the primary reasons for this be?

69. In the UK, how important do you think the following items are for getting jobs in HEP?

1=Not at all important, 2=Low importance, 3=Neutral, 4=Moderately important, 5=Very important

Mark only one oval per row.

	1	2	3	4	5
Professional Mobility					
Conference talks					
Publications					
Activity on boards, panels, etc					
Networking					
Specialised expertise					
Service work (in groups/collaborations)					
Soft skills training					
Outreach & Public engagement					
Breadth of research programme					
Research independence					
Having good, new, ideas					
Leadership/managerial experience					
Teaching experience					

Mark only one oval per row. 2 3 **Professional Mobility** Conference talks **Publications** Activity on boards, panels, etc **Networking Specialised expertise** Service work (in large collaborations) Soft skills training **Outreach & Public** engagement Breadth of research programme Research independence Having good, new, ideas

Leadership/managerial

Teaching experience

experience

How important are the following items, to you personally, to be a good researcher in HEP? 1=Not at all important, 2=Low importance, 3=Neutral, 4=Moderately important, 5=Very important

70.

1=Not at all confident, 2=Low confidence, 3=Neutral, 4=Moderately confident, 5=Very confident Mark only one oval per row. 2 3 **Professional Mobility** Conference talks **Publications** Activity on boards, panels, etc **Networking Specialised expertise** Service work (in large collaborations) Soft skills training Outreach & Public **Engagement** Breadth of research programme

How confident are you in the following items in your own academic profile?

71.

Research independence

ideas

experience

Having good, new,

Leadership/managerial

Teaching experience

	ill you seek your next position?
Mark only	y one oval.
Enti	irely within the UK
Pref	ferably within the UK
O Both	h
Pref	ferably Abroad
Enti	irely Abroad
Do you w	rant to stay in the UK in the long-term?
Mark only	y one oval.
Yes	
O No	
Und	decided
	r opportunities elsewhere constraints
Better	
Better Lack o	r pay of permanent positions for people with my expertise
Better Lack o	r pay of permanent positions for people with my expertise y constraints h weather
Better Lack o Family British Other:	r pay of permanent positions for people with my expertise y constraints h weather : pared do you feel for the next stage in your caree
Better Lack of Family British Other:	r pay of permanent positions for people with my expertise y constraints h weather : pared do you feel for the next stage in your caree

	1	2	3			
My Supervisor/PI						
Other senior colleagues						
My peers						
training events Please select all raise awareness Tick all that apply Word of mo	or opport that apply of more re	tunities? and do ac	dd any othe			
Please select all raise awareness Tick all that apply Word of moderation inspireHEP	or opport that apply of more re uth iling lists o iling lists on mailling	tunities? and do acesources in	dd any othe n our analy s	examples of		
Please select all raise awareness Tick all that apply Word of model in the select all that apply Word of model in the select all that apply Collaboration in the select all that apply Academic John Collaboration in the select all the select a	or opport that apply of more re uth illing lists of illing lists on mailling	tunities? and do accessources in the contract of the contract	dd any othe n our analy s	examples of		
Please select all raise awareness Tick all that apply Word of model institute material National material inspireHEP AcademicJo	or opport that apply of more re uth iling lists of iling lists on mailling obsOnline ni webpage	tunities? and do accessources in the contract of the contract	dd any othe n our analy s	examples of		

76. I discuss career prospects with...

78. I am well informed about....

1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly agree

Mark only one oval per row.

	1	2	3	4	5
funding/job opportunities within the UK					
funding/job opportunities within Europe					
funding/job opportunities outside Europe					
technical training opportunities within the UK (e.g. Schools in physics, coding,)					
technical training opportunities outside the UK					
soft-skills training opportunities within the UK					
where to find guidance and support on my career progression					
what is needed to advance my career inside academia					
what is					

needed to

advance my neteted to advaide my agademia					
academia					
Future					
How optimistic UK? 1=Very pessimis Mark only one ov	tic, 2=Pes	simistic, 3			
	1	2	3	4	5
Career progression and availability of positions					
Knowledge transfer					
Growth of the field					
Funding of future projects					
Public opinion of the field					
Breakthrough discoveries in the field					

79.

Innovation

80.	0. How interested are you in working on future projects for your field of research e.g. future colliders					
	Mark only one oval.					
	1 2 3 4 5					
	Not					
81.	I support the 3 statements made in the latest European Strategy Update: (1) Full * exploitation of the LHC and HL-LHC upgrade remains the top priority. (2) An electron-positron Higgs factory is the highest priority next collider. (3) We should investigate the technical and financial feasibility of a 100 TeV hadron collider at CERN.					
	Mark only one oval.					
	1 2 3 4 5					
	Stro Strongly agree					
82.	What are the biggest barriers to you working on future projects for your field of research? Tick all that apply.					
	Lack of funding					
	Concern about impact on career prospects					
	Risk from lack of confirmation of project go-ahead					
	Long timescales involved					
	Lack of training Lack of time to allocate					
	Other:					
83.	Would the acceleration of confirmation of the next major HEP project encourage you to do more work on future prospects/R&D for it? i.e. the final decision of the next European Strategy					
	Mark only one oval.					
	Yes					
	No					
	Maybe					

84.	4. How important a priority is environmental sustainability for the next major HEP project? * Mark only one oval.					
	1 2 3 4 5					
	Irrel					
85.	What, if any, future prospects projects do you currently work on?					
	Tick all that apply.					
	FCC-ee					
	☐ FCC-hh ☐ CLiC					
	Muon Colliders					
	CEPC					
	Other:					
86.	If you selected 'Other" above, please tell us below					
Fina	al Feedback and ideas					
87.	If you could change one thing about academia what would it be?					
88.	What is your favourite thing about your current job?					
89.	What is your favourite aspect of working in academic HEP?					

	What topics would you be interested in attending ECR-focused events on in the UK?	
	Please add your own suggested topics too (semi-colon separated).	
	Tick all that apply.	
	Jobs in UK Academia	
	Moving to industry	
	Future Colliders	
	Soft-Skills training sessions	
	Other:	
91.	Do you have any other ideas for projects that the ECFA ECR Panel or the UK HEP community should consider, to improve ECR experiences within the UK?	
	community should consider, to improve ECK experiences within the ox?	
02	Do you have any feedback on this guryay?	
92.	Do you have any feedback on this survey?	
92.	Do you have any feedback on this survey?	
92.	Do you have any feedback on this survey?	
92.	Do you have any feedback on this survey?	

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