

WANTS & NEEDS OF EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRs) WORKING IN THE UK AQUACULTURE SECTOR



We asked ECRs where they want to be, how can they get there and which opportunities can really help them. These are the results.

Which technical and soft skills are ECRs interested to develop?



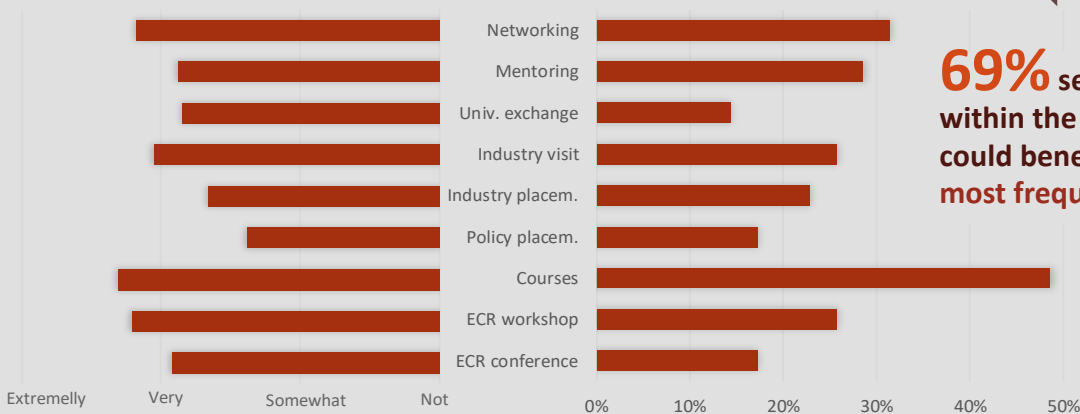
N.B. Early career researchers are defined as those within 10 years of finishing their PhD (excluding career breaks).



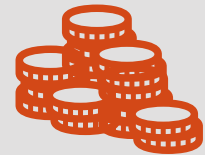
“To date, the most important opportunity I had was...”

How interested would ECRs be in the following opportunities?

Which top 3 opportunities could most strongly benefit ECRs' career?



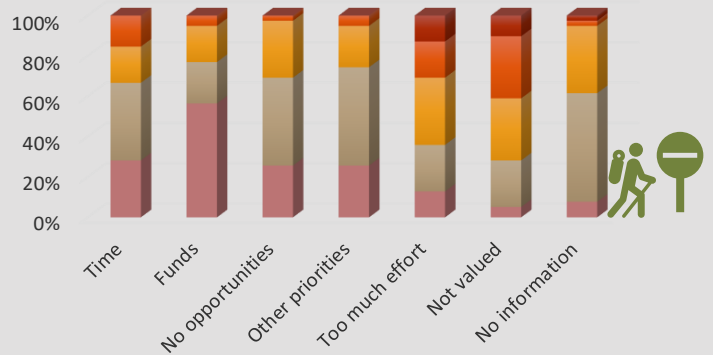
69% selected funding within the top opportunities that could benefit their career. It was the most frequently chosen factor.



What prevents ECRs from attending development opportunities?



Legend: Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree

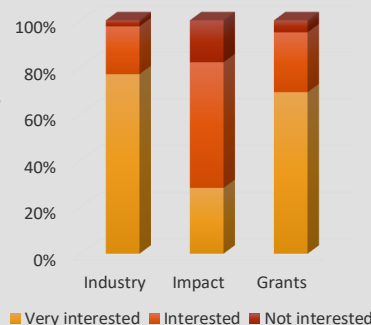


Which workshops are most ECRs very interested in?



77% in industry insights

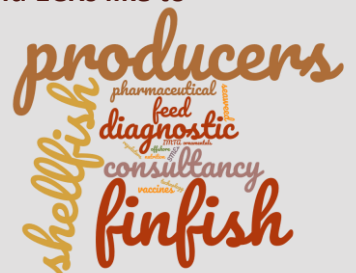
69% in grant writing



Which companies would ECRs like to build links with?

54% are interested in joint research projects

34% are interested in working for the industry

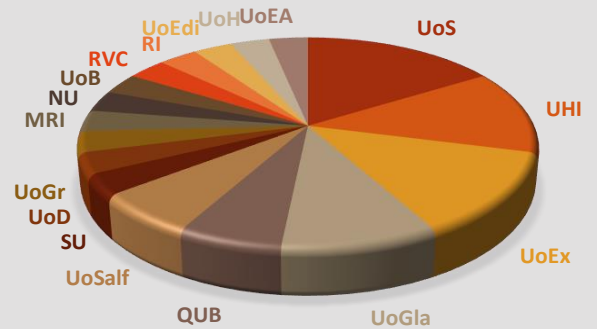


WHO ARE THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRs) WORKING IN UK AQUACULTURE?



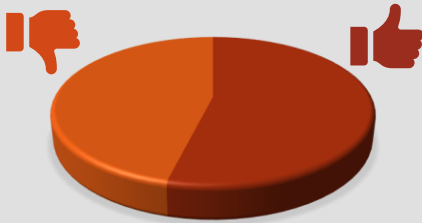
39 ECRs responded to this questionnaire

What is their current affiliation?



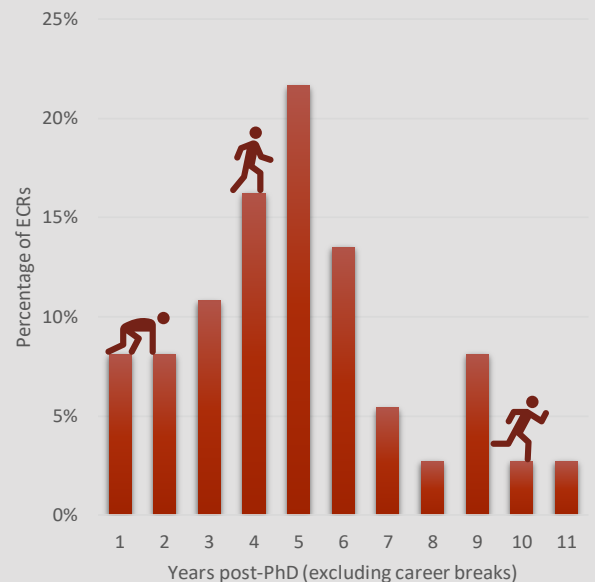
Abbreviations: University of Stirling (UoS); University of Highlands & Islands (UoH); University of Exeter (UoEx); University of Glasgow (UoGla); Queen's University Belfast (QUB); University of Salford (UoSalf); Swansea University (SU); University of Dundee (UoD); University of Greenwich (UoGr); Moredun Research Institute (MRI); Newcastle University (NU); University of Brighton (UoB); Royal Veterinary College (RVC); Roslin Institute (RI); University of Edinburgh (UoEdi); University of Hull (UoH); University of East Anglia (UoEA)

Do ECRs have any previous experience outside academia?

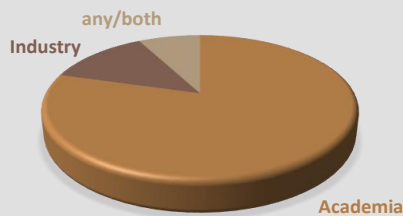


54% of ECRs have previous experience outside academia

How many years do ECRs have post-PhD?

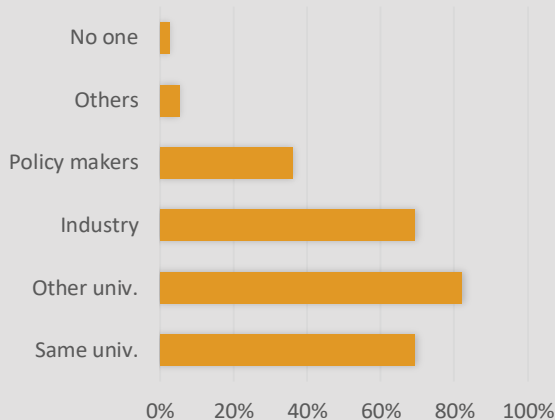


Do ECRs prefer to build a career in industry or academia?



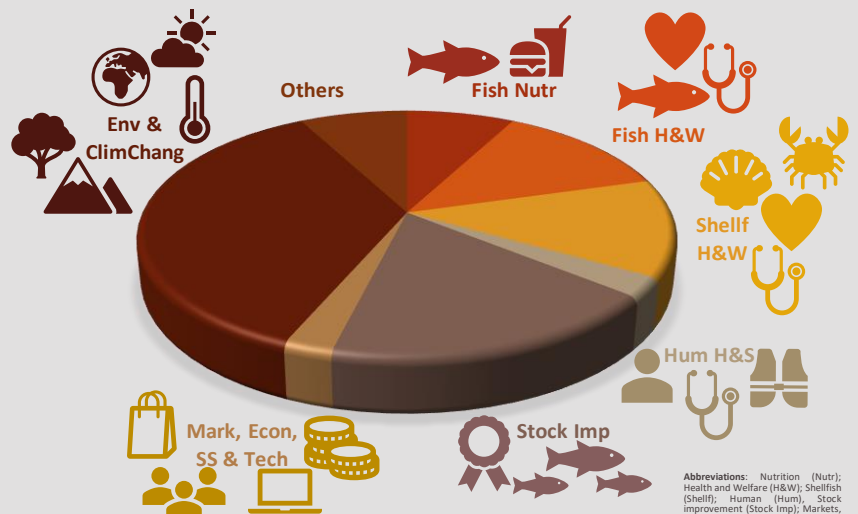
79% of ECRs would prefer to remain in academia

Who do ECRs collaborate with?



84% of ECRs collaborate with two or more of these groups

What is their current areas of research?



Abbreviations: Nutrition (Nutr); Health and Welfare (H&W); Shellfish (Shellf); Human (Hum); Stock improvement (Stock Imp); Markets, economics, social sciences and technology (Mark, Econ, SS & Tech); Environment and climate Change (Env & ClimChang); Others (Others) include: seaweed aquaculture, finfish physiology, spatial planning and management.



This questionnaire was done by Dr Sofia C. Franco (Knowledge Exchange Fellow in Aquaculture), Dr Amaya Albalat and Dr Katie Smyth (ARCH-UK Workgroup 8 leads), as part of a joint initiative with ARCH-UK. If you would like to know more or want to share your views, please contact us, follow us on twitter or visit the website. This work was supported by BBSRC and NERC, grants BB/P017223/1 and NE/P005349/1.