

Welcome

to RSEC18 Conference

**Complexity in Research:
Researcher–Participant Dynamic Interactions**

3 July 2025

9:00 - 16:30

University House,
LS2 9JR



Afternoon Session Presenters

- **Power, voice, and presence: Navigating research challenges with Indonesian parent-child dyads in the UK.**

Asa Ismia Bunga Aisyahrani, MA Childhood Studies, School of Education, University of Leeds

- **Working with a Research Support Group: Collaboration and care in research methods.**

Charlotte White, PGR, School of Education, The University of Sheffield

- **Navigating cultural sensitivity and researcher positionality without participants.**

Megan Stock, School of Education, University of Leeds

- **Career pathways of PGRs at the School of Education: Insights from current PGRs and alumni.**

Closing presentation: Dr Yen Dang & Dr Peter Hart, School of Education, University of Leeds

Career pathways of PGRs at the School of Education: Insights from current PGRs and alumni

Closing presentation

15:00 - 15:30

Dr Yen Dang

Associate Professor of Language Education at the School of Education, University of Leeds. The School's Deputy Director of PGR Studies and the Principal Investigator of the School of Education PGRs Career Pathway Project.

Email: T.N.Y.Dang@leeds.ac.uk

Website: [Dr. Yen Dang](http://Dr.YenDang.com)

X: Yen Dang

Dr Peter Hart

Lecturer in Inclusion, Childhood and Youth at the School of Education, University of Leeds. The School's Director of PGR Studies, Deputy Director WRDTP: Education, Youth & Children pathway, and the co-Investigator of the School of Education PGRs Career Pathway Project.

Email: P.J.Hart@leeds.ac.uk

Website: [Dr. Peter Hart](http://Dr.PeterHart.com)



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Career pathways of PGRs at the School of Education: Insights from current PGRs and alumni

Dr Yen Dang & Dr Peter Hart
Deputy Director & Director of PGRS
School of Education

@Yen Dang & Peter Hart - RSEC 2025
University of Leeds

@Yen Dang & Peter Hart - RSEC 2025 - University of Leeds



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1. Changing landscape of PGR careers

- Traditional model: UK-based, full-time PGRs → academic careers
- Now:
 - Diverse cohorts (e.g., duration, programmes, nationalities)
 - Many graduates pursue careers beyond academia
- PGRs need support to develop skills for various career paths, but limited research on PGR employability

2. School of Education Context

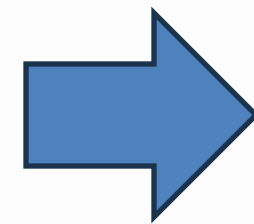
- School Action Plan: Strengthen research culture & PGR community
- Exploring career aspirations aligns with this strategic goal

Objectives

1. Investigate the roles PGRs aim to pursue after their doctoral studies
2. Identify the skills and experiences needed to achieve those roles
3. Revisit current training to better support development of these skills & experiences

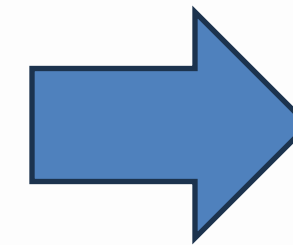
Stage 1

1. Collect perceptions from current PGRs and alumni
2. Identify preferred career roles & perceived requirements



Stage 2

1. Narrow down to commonly targeted roles
2. Analyse staff input & job adverts to identify key skills



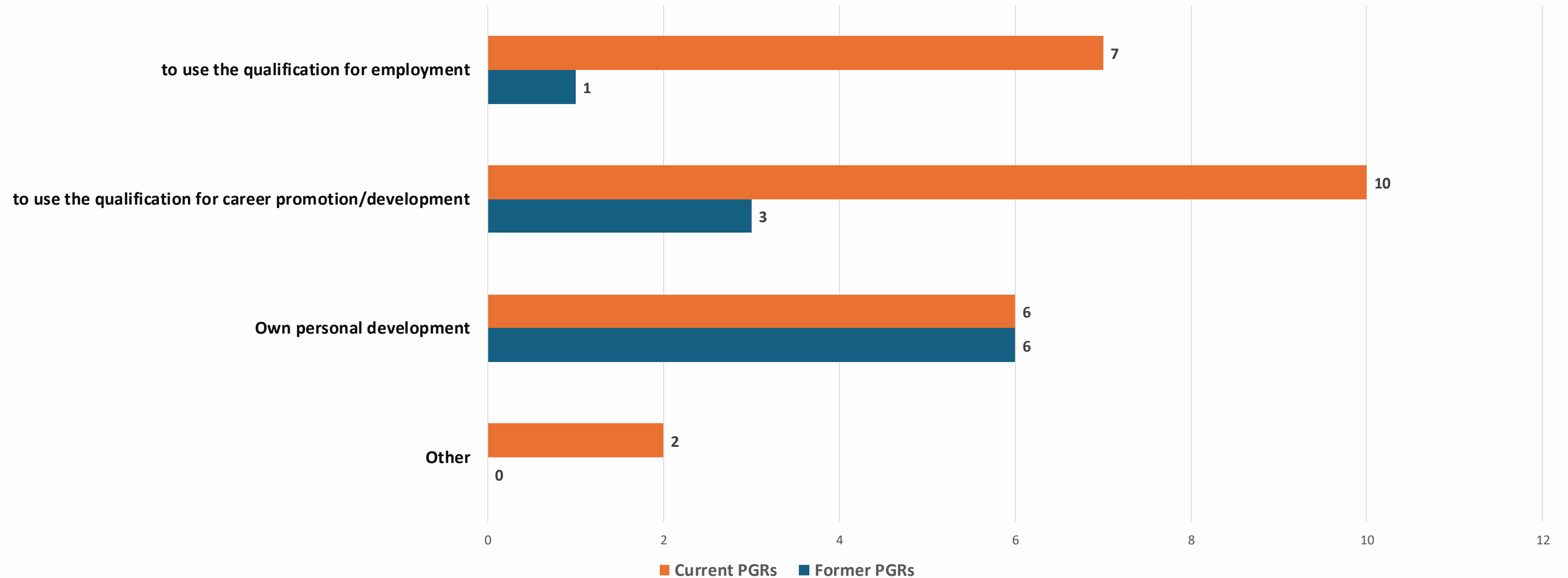
Stage 3:

1. Develop a three-year/five-year training programme
2. Tailored to support PGRs in developing relevant competencies

Primary motivation for doctoral study



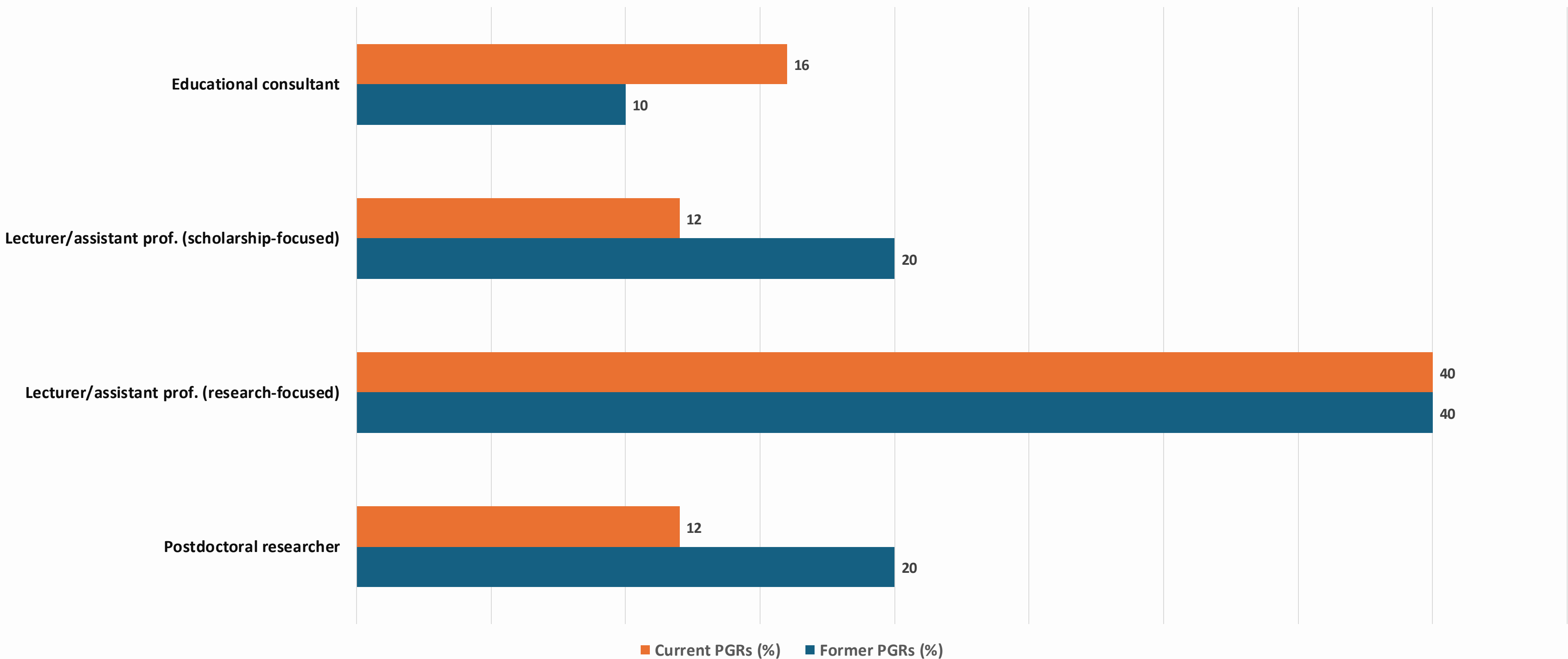
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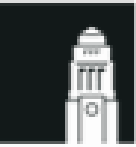
Most desirable roles



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How do the findings inform our training provision?



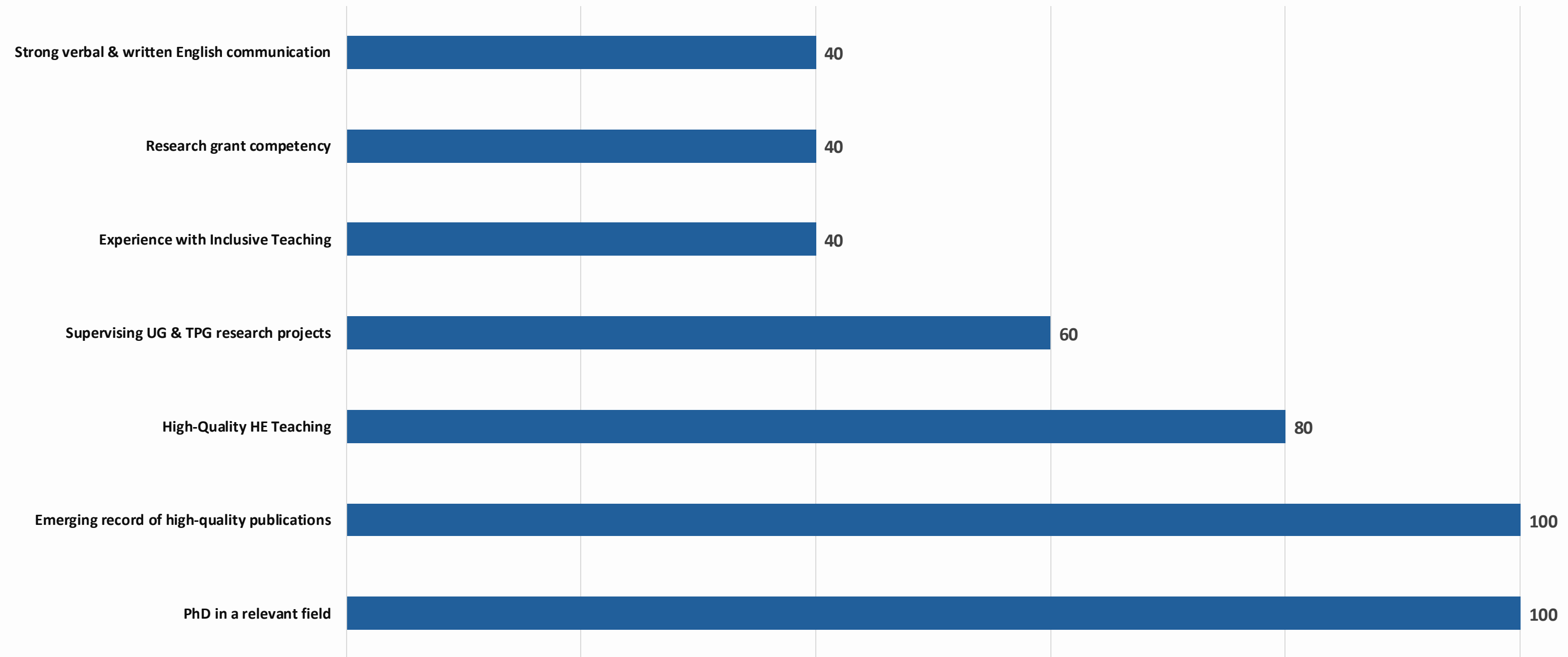
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- Most PGRs aim for academic careers – aligned with doctoral programme goals
- Alumni data show mixed outcomes – academic roles are competitive
- **Key recommendations:**
 - ✓ Support exploration of both academic and non-academic pathways
 - ✓ Provide training in core academic skills and their transferability
 - ✓ Focus on **core, transferable** skills due to time and resource constraints

Lecturer (research-focused)



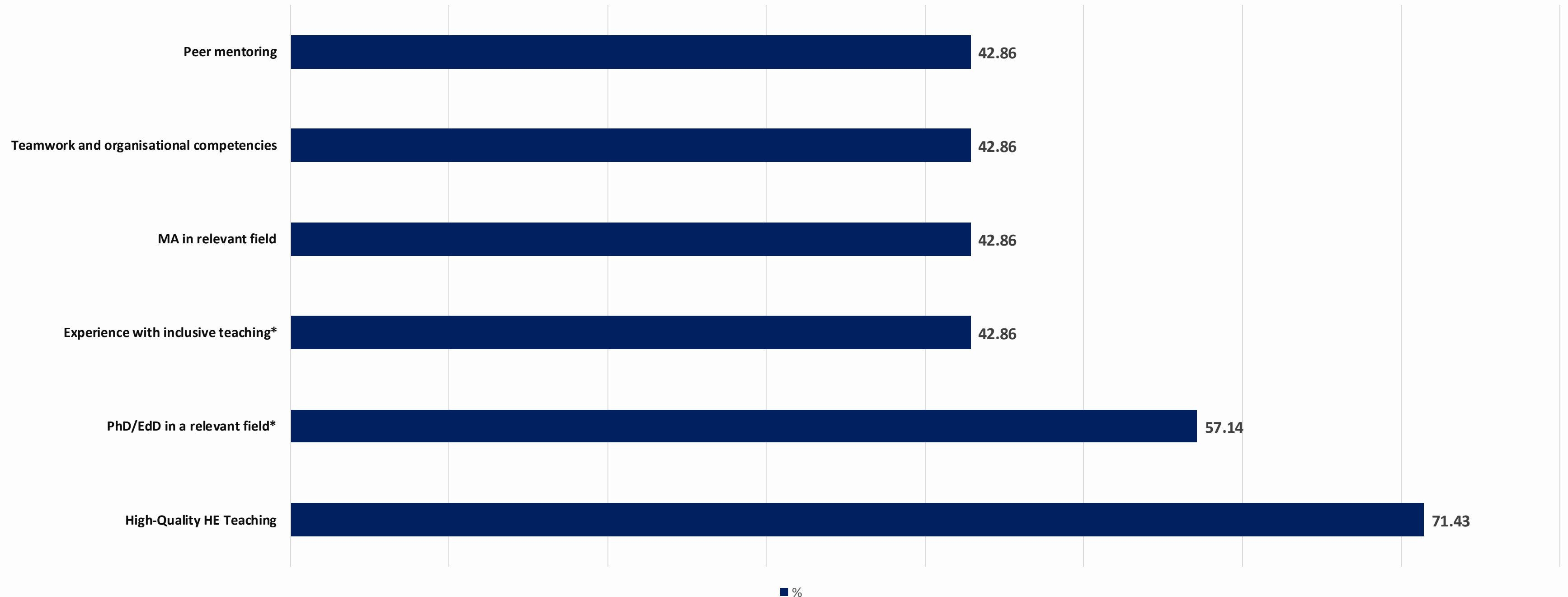
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Lecturer (teaching-focused)



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Post-doc (funded project)

Core requirements in all examined posts:

- PhD/EdD in a relevant field
- Specialist knowledge in a certain area
- Experience conducting a specific kind of research
- a flexible and adaptable approach to work and to be self-directed

Other qualification/skills required by some posts:

- First degree in a relevant field
- Proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports/international publications [A track record of successful, high quality, publications is desirable]
- Experience in presenting research findings at international conferences
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- interpersonal, administrative, organisational, & teamwork skills

Post-doc (fellowship)

Core requirements in all examined posts:

- time of completing PhD
- based at an eligible university or research organisation
- have submitted the thesis and passed the viva voce with minor corrections, with the expectation that the PhD will be awarded by the fellowship start date
- research proposal/proposed programme of activities to reflect the prior knowledge and experience and be designed to support longer term research career aspirations

Other qualification/skills required by some posts:

- Proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports/international publications

Educational consultant/manager



Desirable skills/qualifications: PhD/EdD in a relevant field & Understanding of academic research and knowledge transfer practices

Enhancing thesis quality to boost completion rates and career prospects

- PhD/EdD is essential for academic roles, and desirable, but not essential, for non-academic roles.
- High-quality thesis is the key to career competitiveness
- **Proposed plans**
 - ✓ Structure PGR workshops around key thesis stages
 - ✓ Open to all PGRs, with year-specific tagging for relevance

Expanding methods training to support PGR careers



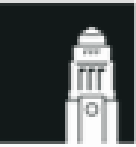
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- Specialist knowledge and research experience are essential for academic research roles & desirable for non-academic roles
- PGRs want broader training in research methods (beyond thesis topic)
→ Wider methods knowledge is better job prospects
- **Proposed plans**
 - ✓ Invite staff to deliver hands-on sessions on specific research methods
 - ✓ Long-term goal: structured programme on research methods in education

Supporting PGRs to publish

- Publications are essential for lectureship (research-track) and desirable in other academic & non-academic roles
- PGRs request more support with publishing
- **Proposed plans**
 - ✓ Encourage early publication planning with supervisors
 - ✓ Form small research groups (staff + PGRs)

Enhancing teaching and supervisory experience



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- Teaching and supervising UG and PGT research projects are important for PGR career development
- **Proposed plans**
 - ✓ Integrate and expand training within PGR community workshops
 - ✓ PGRs not yet involved in supervising research methods, but future possibilities are being explored with the school



Developing transferable skills

- Emphasize transferable skills alongside core academic qualifications
- Help PGRs see how academic skills apply to non-academic roles
- **Proposed plans**
 - ✓ Workshops will highlight transferability of academic skills
 - ✓ Collaborate with Careers Centre & Student Opportunities and Futures team to integrate training and create more development opportunities

Next steps



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1. Sharing initial ideas to gather feedback from key stakeholders
2. Refine proposed plans based on feedback
3. Pilot selected ideas in the coming year
4. Reflect and improve based on pilot outcomes



Thank you!

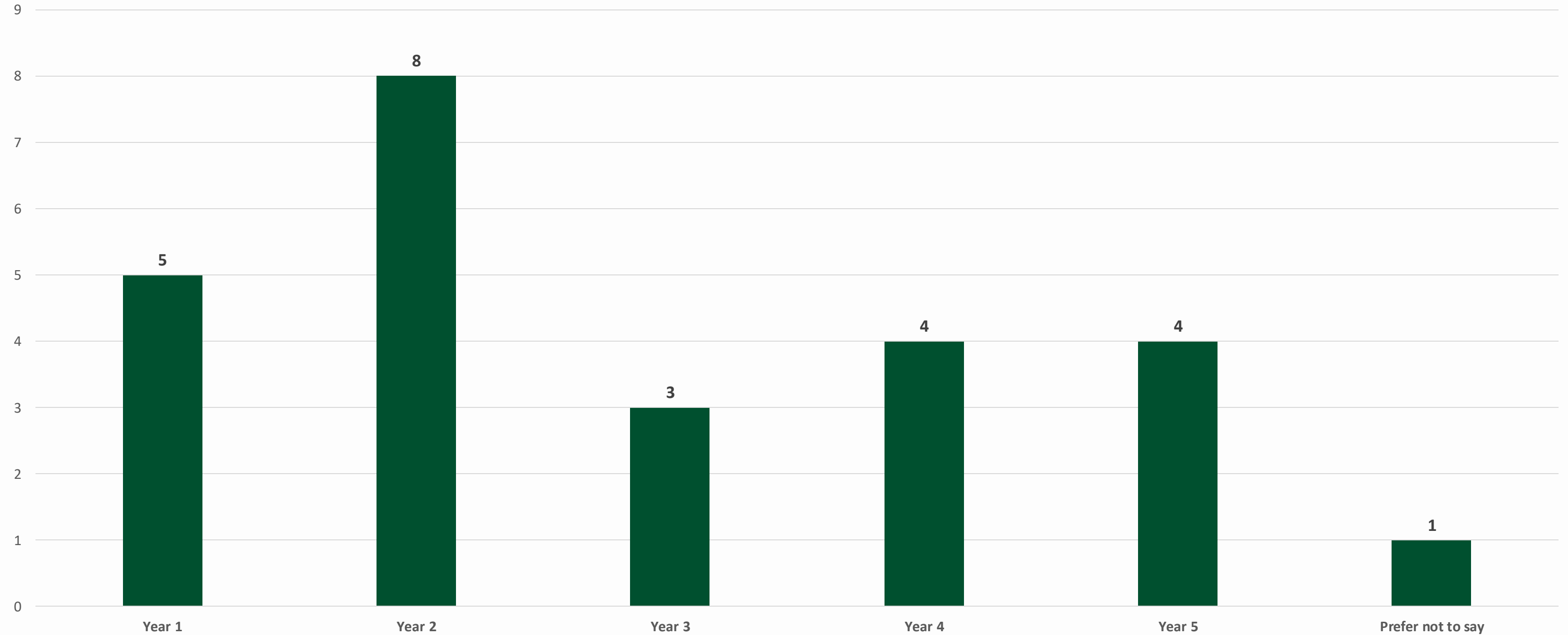
Any questions?

- Dr. Yen Dang: T.N.Y.Dang@leeds.ac.uk
- Dr. Peter Hart: P.J.Hart@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

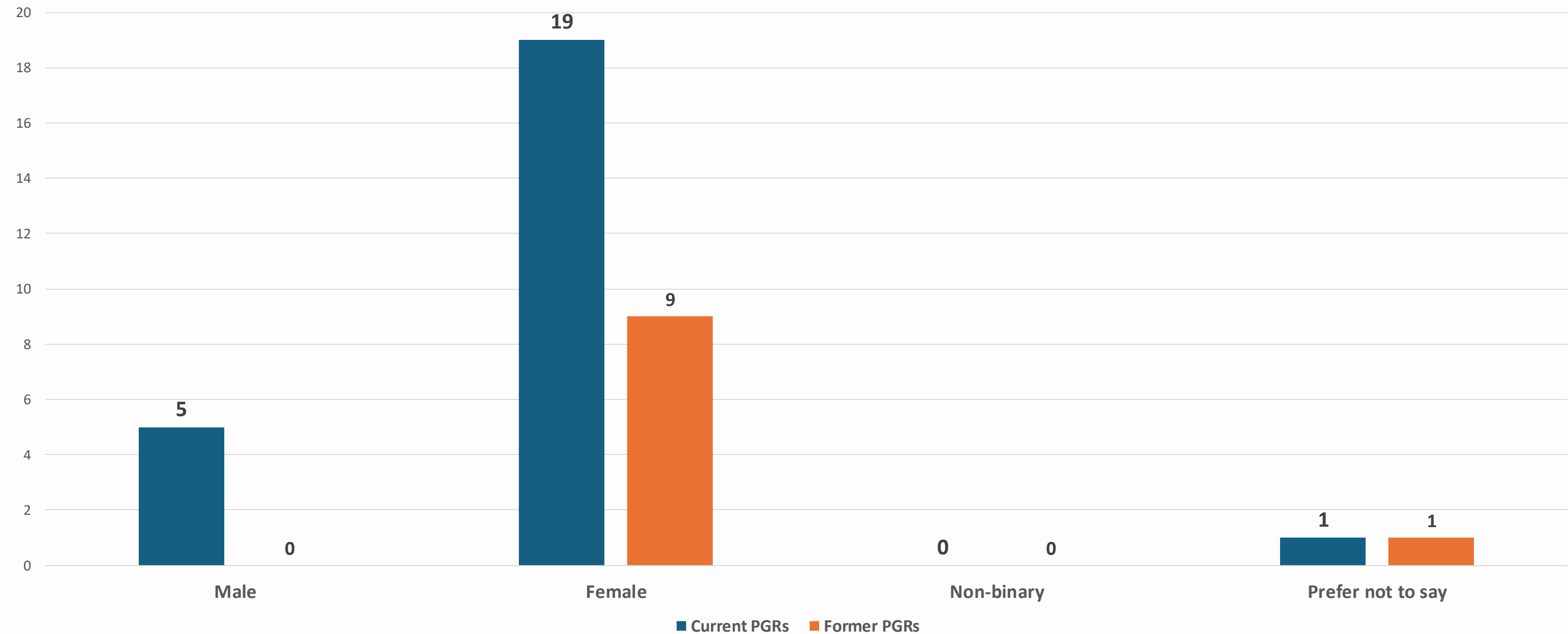
Participants' backgrounds



Participants' genders



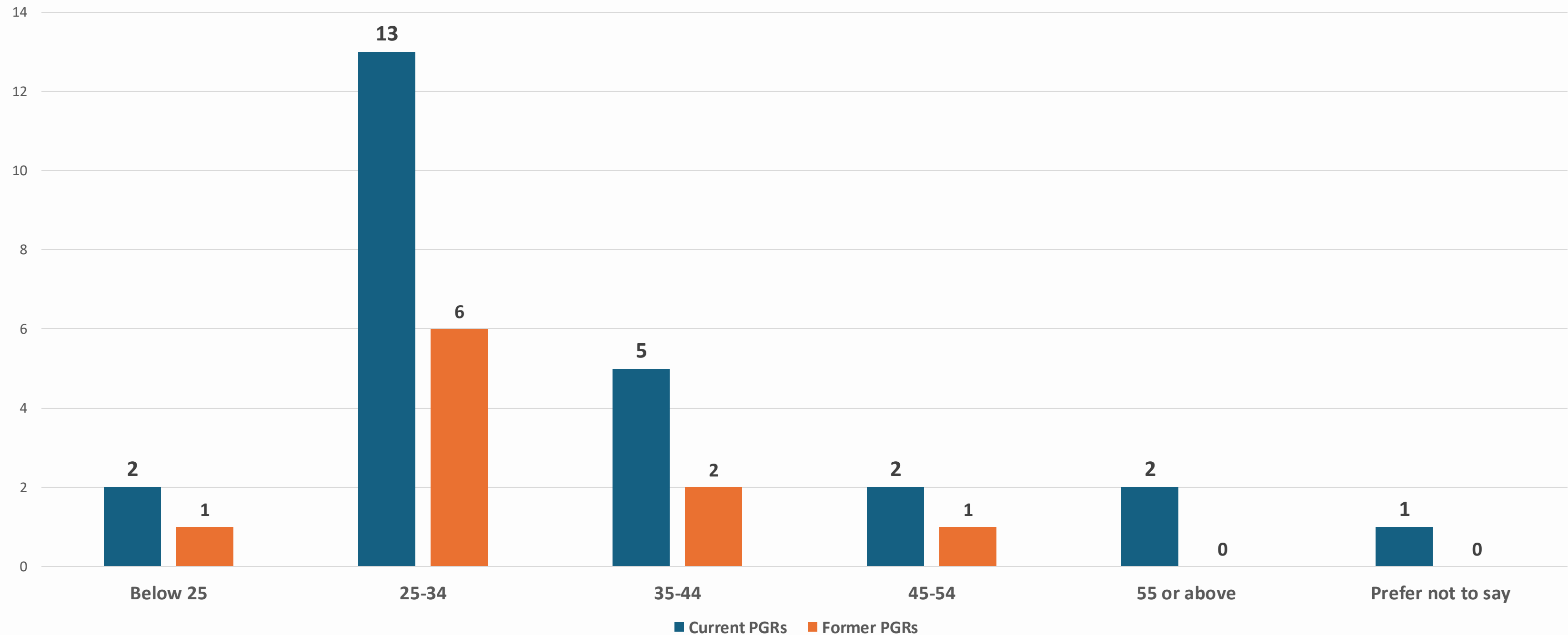
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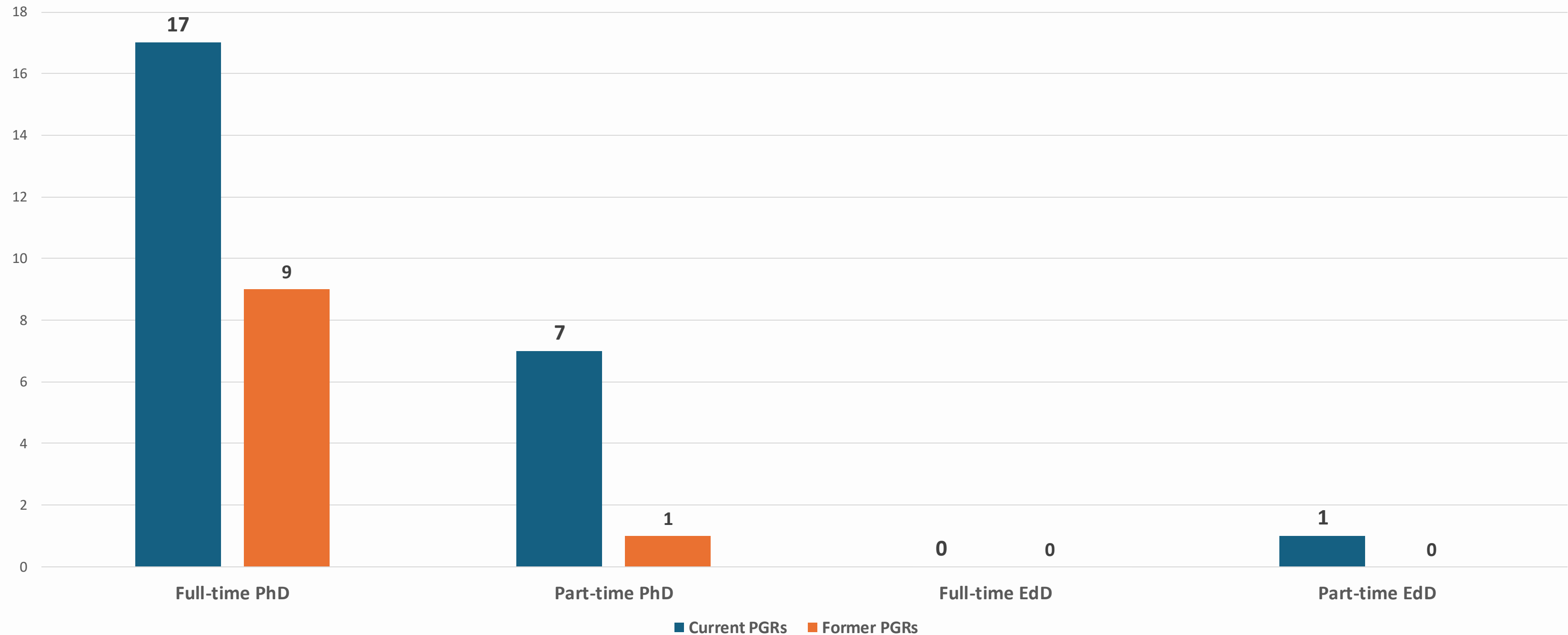
Participants' ages when starting doctoral study



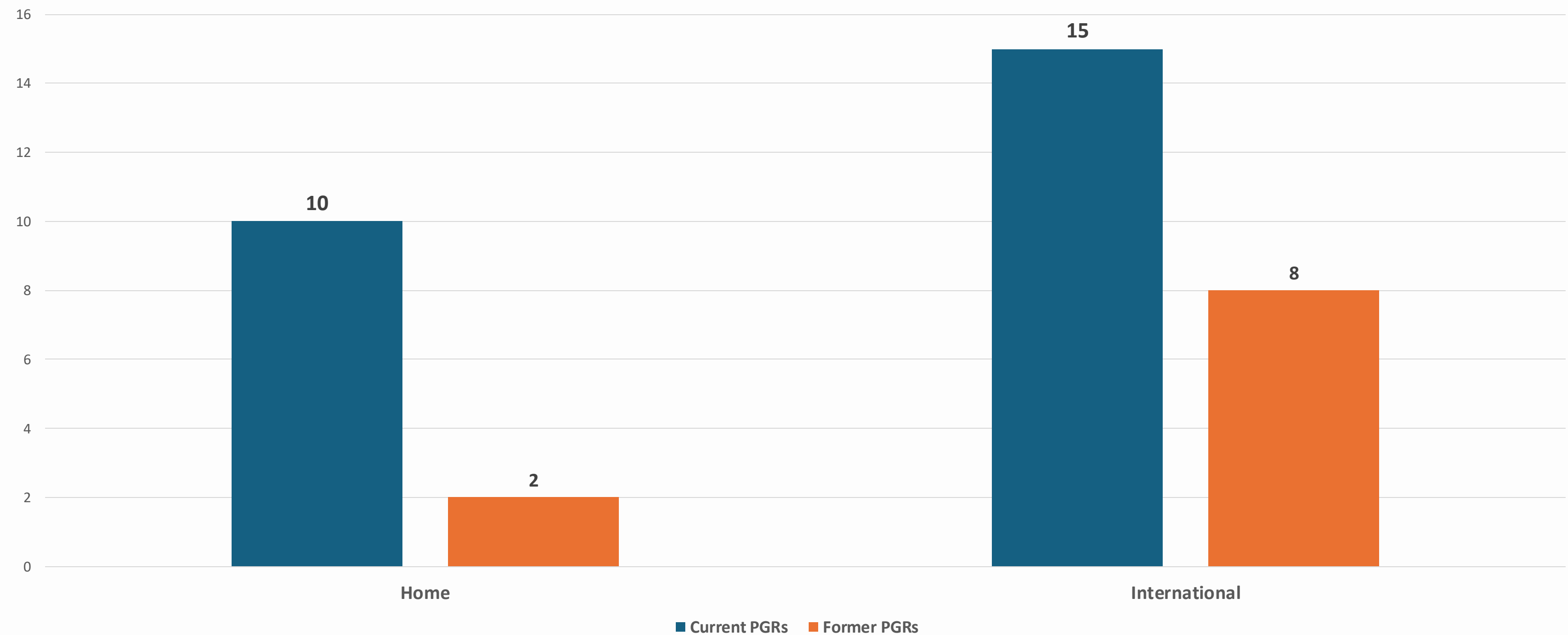
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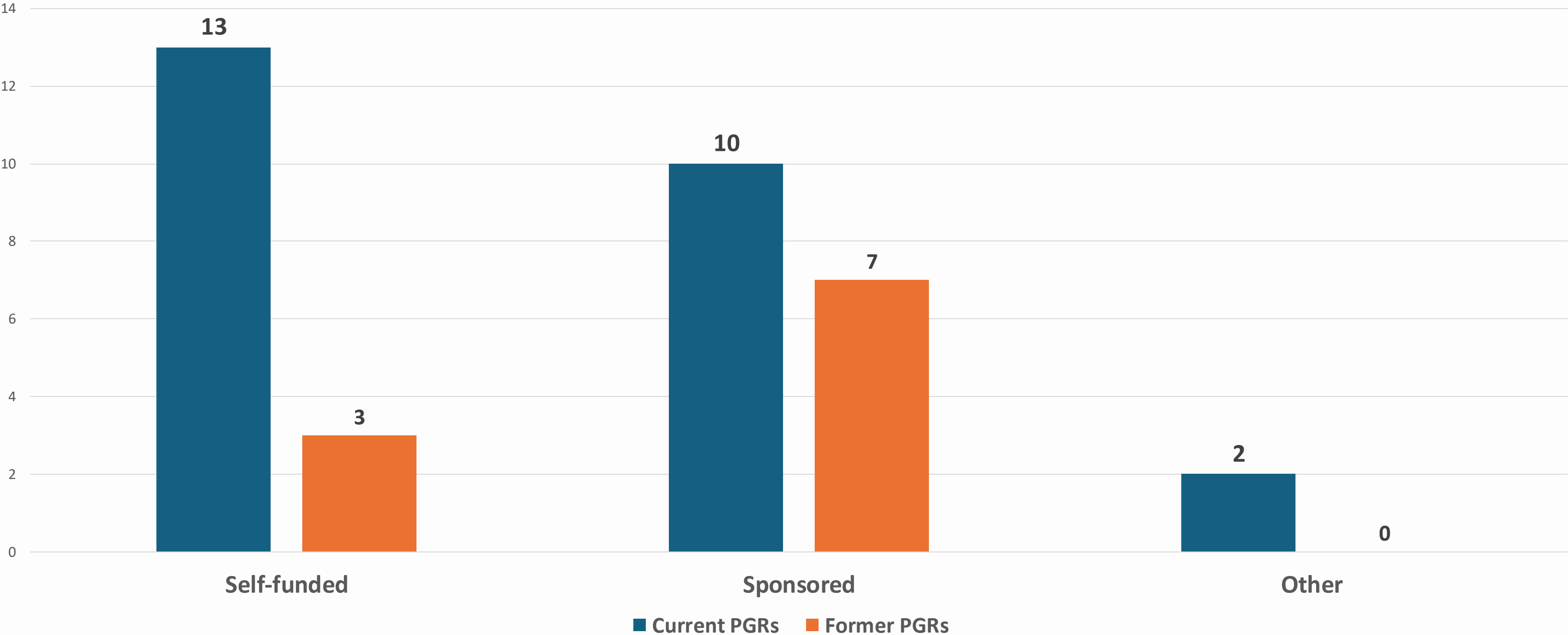
Participants' doctoral programmes



Participants' registration status



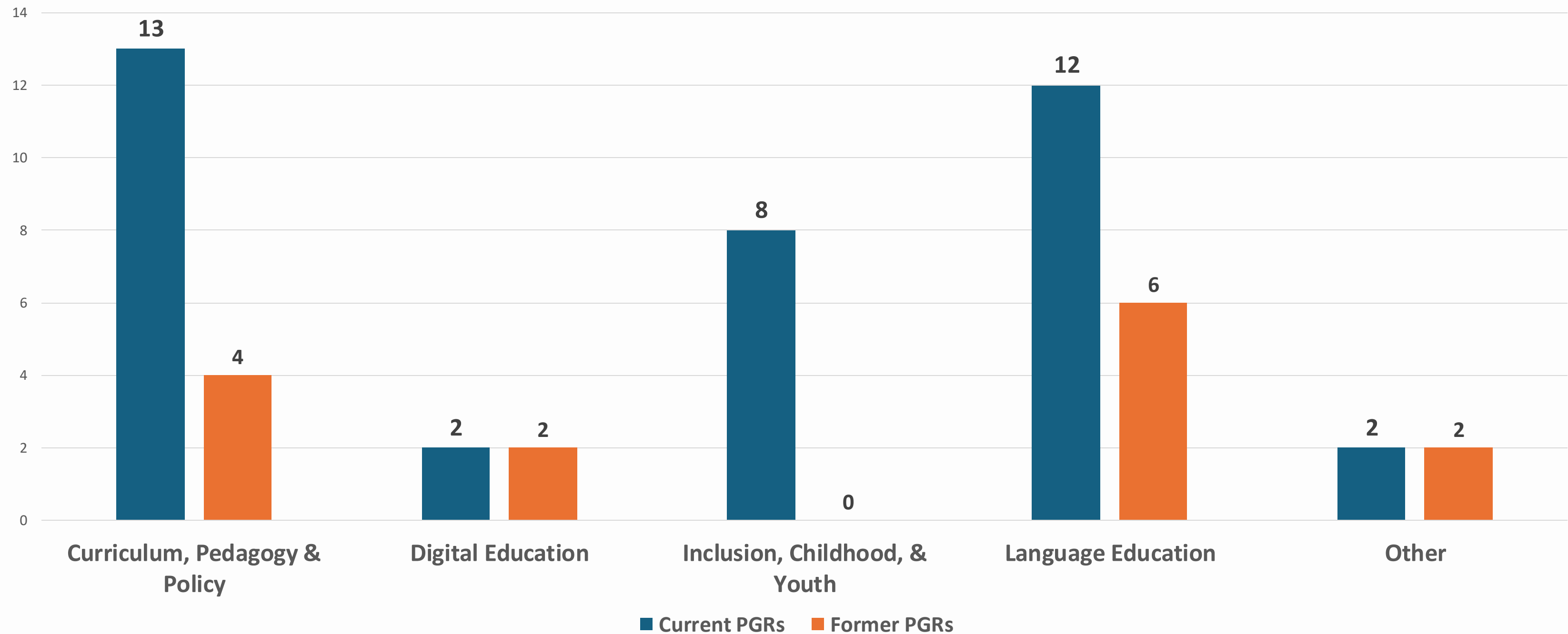
Participants' sources of funding



Participants' research areas



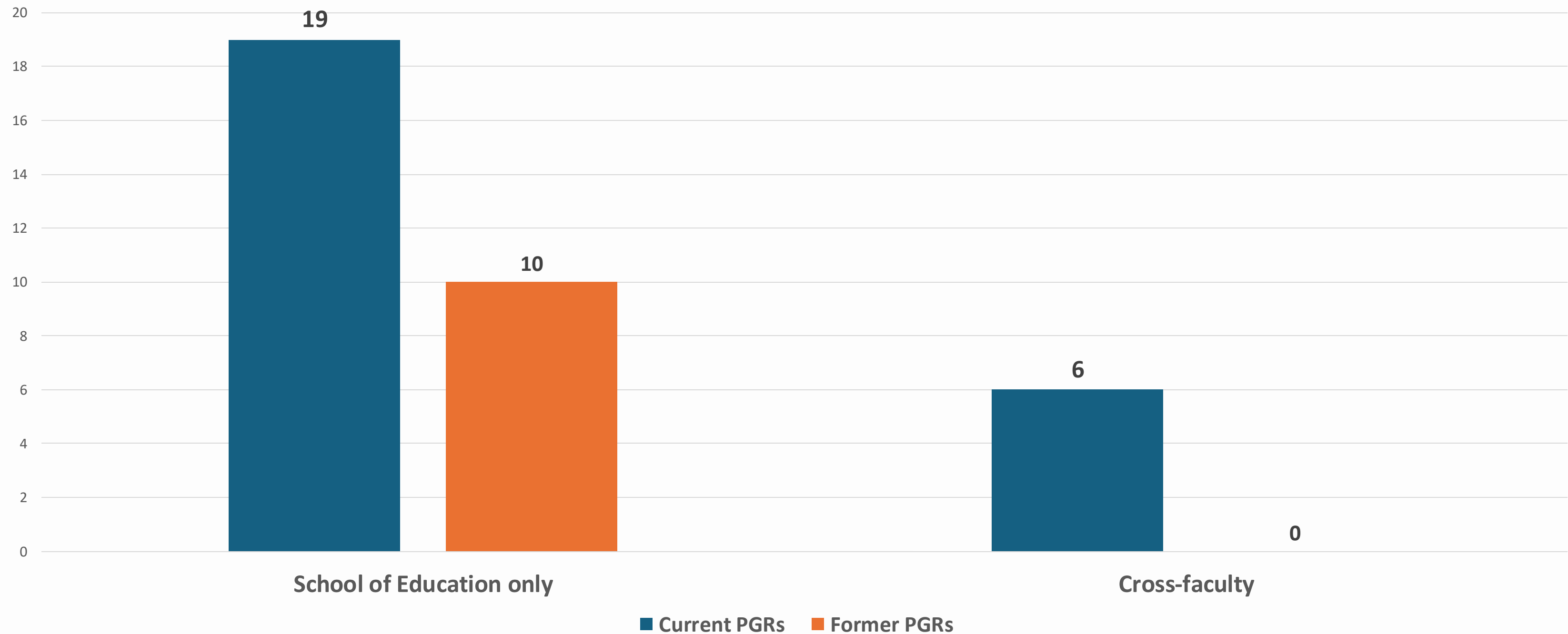
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Participants' supervision teams



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We hope you found the sessions
insightful and the discussions enriching.
To help us improve future events, we'd
really appreciate your feedback.

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Thank You
for Your
Participation
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*The Organising Committee,
RSEC18 Conference...*