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News Release

New partnership enables global benchmarking of the postgraduate academic experience

A new partnership between the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and i-graduate will enable higher education institutions across the world to take part in the HEA's highly-respected postgraduate surveys, the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES). The move will align these surveys with i-graduate's flagship International Student Barometer (ISB), implemented by over 1,400 institutions across 33 countries.

PRES and PTES are used by well over 100 institutions in the UK to inform change and improvements in postgraduate provision, and to benchmark against other organisations. The i-graduate platform will open this opportunity to higher education institutions across the rest of the world.

Commenting on the partnership, Dr Mark Jones, Chief Operating Officer of the HEA, said, "We are delighted to be working with i-graduate to offer HEA surveys to HEIs outside the UK for the first time."

"The postgraduate market is extremely competitive. PRES and PTES are tried and tested measures of the postgraduate experience and are widely established as key performance indicators in institutions across the UK."

"This partnership will allow UK institutions to benefit from international comparisons and international institutions to benchmark their performance against the UK. In doing so, HEA will be able to offer unrivalled insight into the academic experience of taught and research postgraduate students globally."

Will Archer, Chief Executive of i-graduate added, "International competition is most intense at the graduate level and the strategic importance of research students is recognised by governments worldwide. Connecting the PRES and PTES with the ISB creates an aligned survey strategy and a global standard for the student experience."

"Published national surveys and rankings are 'gamed' by students and by institutions. In contrast, the confidential nature of benchmarking gives students a voice that is not publicly reported. At the institution level, educators are able to learn from students and enhance their experience. At the national level, policy-makers can compare sector-level strengths and weaknesses against international indices."

Both PTES and PRES will run from February 2017 with institutional results available from July. PRES, until now a biennial survey, will be available annually from next year.

The HEA will continue to deliver PTES and PRES for participating institutions in the UK. All institutional information will remain strictly anonymised.

Notes to editors

HEA Surveys: www.heacademy.ac.uk/research/surveys

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About the Higher Education Academy

- > The HEA champions teaching excellence in higher education across the globe to improve student outcomes.
- > We focus entirely on improving approaches to teaching, and individual teaching practice, to help improve the student journey into, through and beyond higher education.
- > We help to raise the profile of teaching so that staff are recognised for their work and are motivated to keep developing their knowledge and careers.
- > We are an independent, not-for-profit, charitable and non-regulatory organisation working for, and on behalf of, the whole sector.

www.heacademy.ac.uk

About i-graduate

- The international Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate) provides the global benchmark for the student experience. We deliver comparative insight to the education sector worldwide, helping institutions deliver a world-class student experience to enhance competitive advantage.
- Since 2005, we have worked with over 1400 institutions across 33 countries and have gained feedback from over 2.5 million students.
- Our benchmarking tools cover the entire student journey, from application to graduation. Our flagship International Student Barometer (ISB) has been implemented by the world's leading universities to track and enhance the student experience.

- Visit our website to find out more about the ISB and our full range of products.

www.i-graduate.org