



Utrecht University

# *Results of the bi-annual PhD survey*

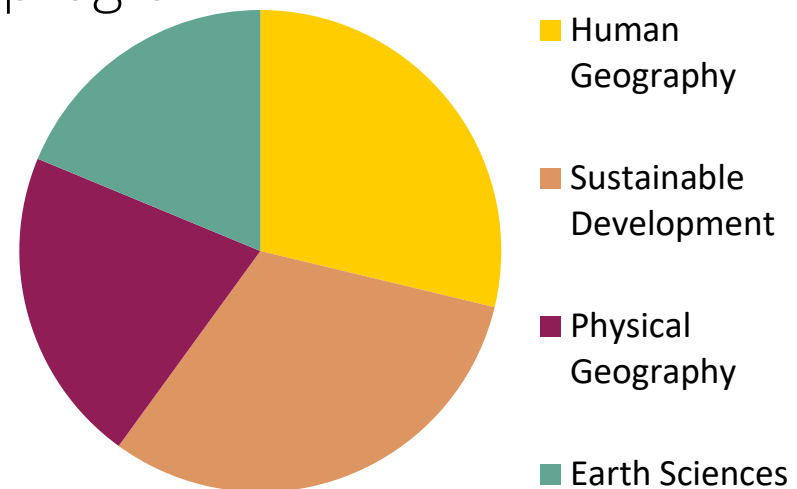
PhD Council of Geosciences

## **Why the survey?**

- Last survey 2 years ago
- Issues last time: communication with the graduate school, finding help and support, teaching duties
- Solutions: new graduate school website, PhD counsellor, PhD protocol, improved Integrity course
- PhD life improved???

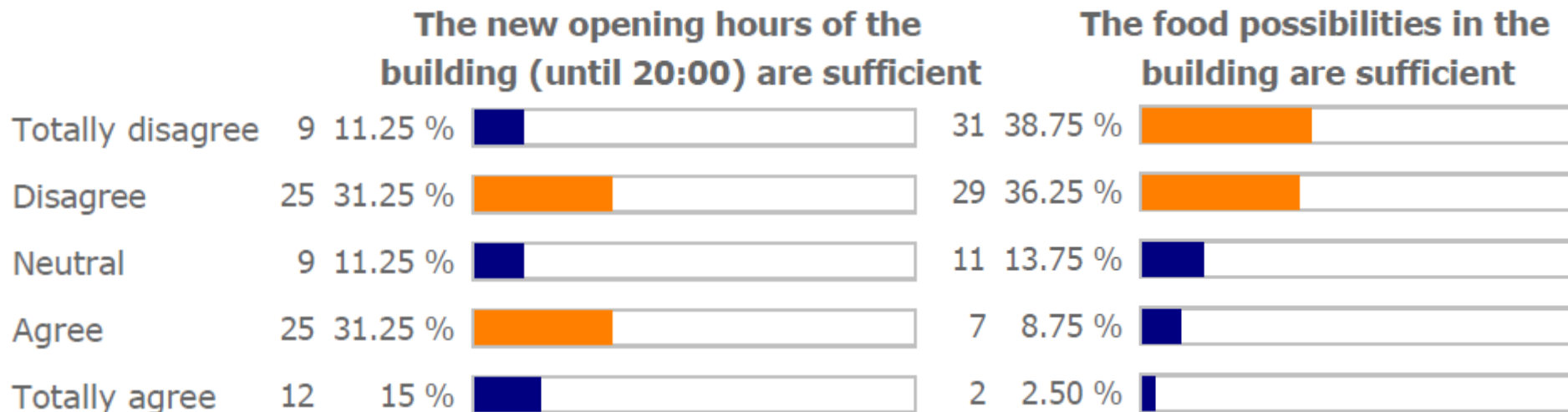
## About the data

- 80 respondents
- Equally divided over the four departments
- 86 % PhD, 6 % Junior researcher, 8 % Junior Lecturer
- 54 % Dutch, 27.5 % Non-Dutch European, 19 % Non-Dutch Non-European
- 50 % from our own MSc program




## About the new building

- 80 % happy with office (most unhappy with the open work spaces)
- 85 % happy with the new building
- Many comments on food, open work spaces, opening hours and card system



## Comments

Needs spin-up time  
of a year



"Heating system doesn't work correctly"

"Canteen too expensive and not enough  
vegetarian food or warm meals"

New caterer ?




"Card system gives a false sense of safety"

UU regulations



"Opening hours should be until  
21:00/22:00, especially since teaching  
continues until 21:00" "Open offices are too  
noisy"

We will discuss this with  
the Board



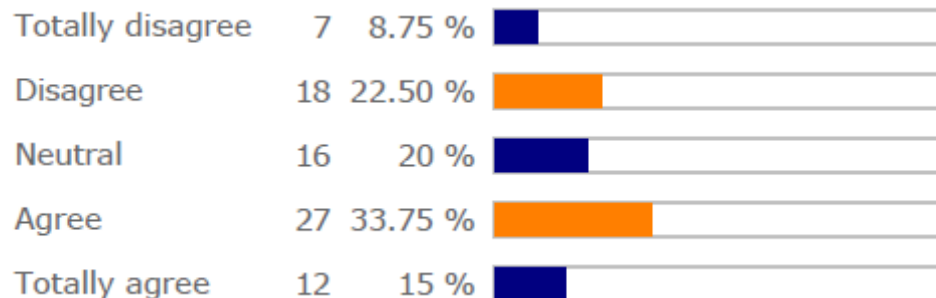
Still the case



## Supervision and guidance

- 70 % receives adequate supervision regarding the content of their project
- 60 % receives adequate supervision regarding the planning of their project
- >70% is happy with their supervisor (team)

### I know whom I should contact if I have problems with my supervisor(s)



# Confidential advisor: Franca Geerdes



Drs. Franca Geerdes

**Career Advisor**

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**Profile**

Contact

Franca Geerdes is the **career officer** of the faculty of Geosciences. The aim of this function is to enhance the position of the student on the labour market. In order to achieve this students must be well aware of all the knowlegde and skills they have learned during their studies. Franca Geerdes works together with students societies, alumni, partners in the working field and Career Services from Utrecht University in order to achieve this goal.

Franca Geerdes is also the **complaints coordinator** for students of the faculty of Geosciences and the **PhD Confidential Advisor** of the Graduate School of Geosciences.

## Comments

Discuss this early on  
with your supervisor

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graph TD; C1["Different rules concerning the amount of papers"] --> A1["Discuss this early on with your supervisor"]; C2["I need more guidance/meetings with my supervisor"] --> A2["We will discuss this with the Board"]; C3["There should be supervision training for all supervisors"] --> A3["Check UU Development guide"]; C4["Not enough focus on time planning and management"] --> A4["Check UU Development guide"];
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"Different rules concerning the amount of papers"

"I need more guidance/meetings with my supervisor"

We will discuss this with  
the Board

"There should be supervision training for all supervisors"

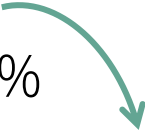
"Not enough focus on time planning and management"

Check UU Development guide



## Courses, training and teaching

- Work load of the Integrity course now rated “good” instead of “too high”
- Most respondents teach 5-15% of their time, which is 90% of the time in correspondence with their contract (64% 2 years ago)
- Amount of training before teaching is not enough
- Start to Teach can be improved; doesn't always provide the information we need




We will discuss this with the Board: improve Start to Teach?



What information do we need?

## Comments


Check the website of  
the Graduate School



"Information on possible courses should be easier to find/access"


"It should be clear from the outset how much your teaching load is and this should not be questioned every other year"

Discuss this early on  
with your supervisor:  
PhD protocol



"20 hours is way too little for supervising a student"

We will discuss this  
with the Board



# Communication and the Graduate School

- 85% is in favour of a general PhD introduction day of the Faculty of Geosciences
- Website of the Graduate School could still be improved (52% answered “neutral” when asked if it provides the information they need, 46% agrees)

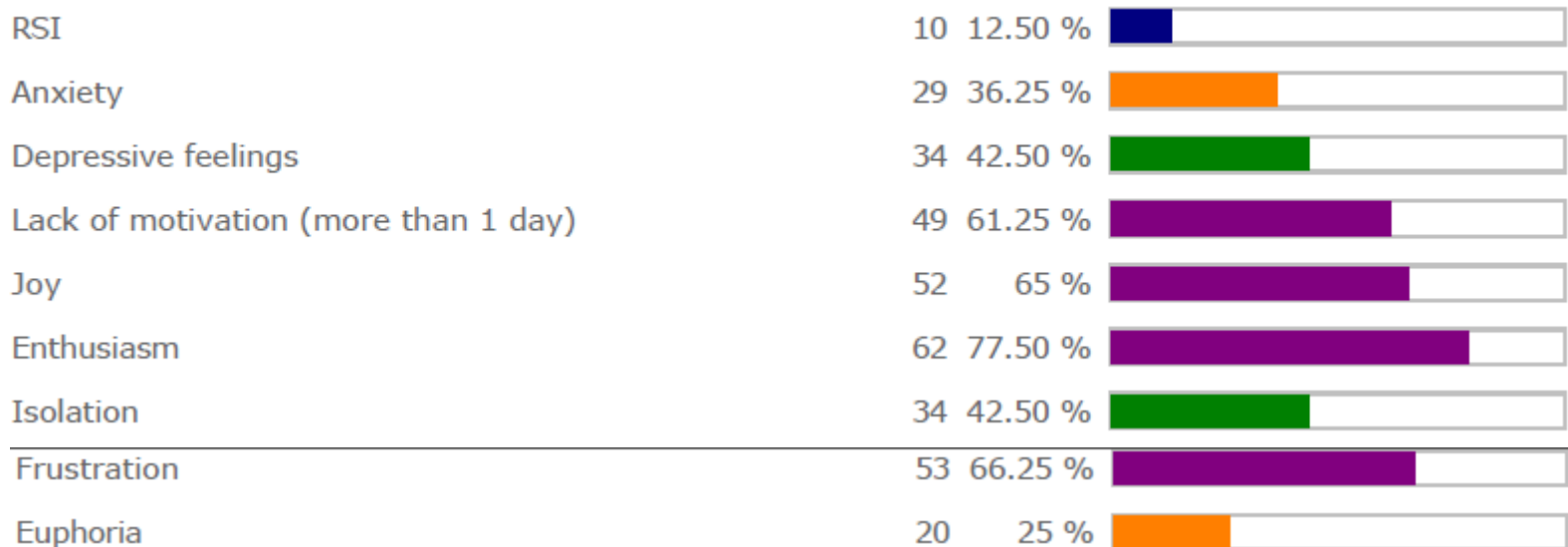


What information do we need?

# Inclusion and diversity

- 82 % never experienced inappropriate behaviour
- Verbal abuse and bullying do occur
- Only 40 % knows where to go for help with issues like stress/depression

**Which of the following experiences/feelings/issues have you had during your PhD/your time as a junior teacher/researcher? (You can tick multiple boxes)**



## **What will we do with the results?**

Discuss with the Board of Studies:

- Training for supervisors
- Building opening hours
- Training before teaching