

Vocational Aqualabs Researchers' Survey Template

1. First name

2. Surname

3. Current employer

4. Role in your organisation

5. Sex *

- M
- F

6. Age *

- under 25
- 25-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51+

7. Nationality *

Other (Please specify below)

8. Country of residence*

Other (Please specify below)

9. How many years have you been involved in research (as a research student and employed in research)?*

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20

- 20+

10. Tick the following boxes which apply to your organisation: *

- We carry out in-house research
- We contract research
- We fund research
- We receive funds from external sources to provide research
- None of the above

11. Are you currently personally carrying out research? *

- Yes
- No

12. “This skill is important for my career in research”.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement for the following skills?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(Skills list shown)

13. How did you learn the following skills?

- I do not have this skill
- Through college courses
- Separate training
- Work experience
- Ad-hoc
- Other

(Skills list shown)

14. Are there any important skills missing from the list below? If yes, please list them and identify the category they belong to.

(Skills list shown)

15. In your opinion, what are the top 5 generic skills for a researcher to effectively move from academia to the private sector? (Please specify in order of priority, 1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY)

(Skills list shown)

16. In your opinion, what are the top 5 generic skills for a researcher to achieve a prominent career in academia? (Please specify in order of priority, 1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY)

(Skills list shown)

17. What are the top 5 areas in which you would look like to receive further training? (Please specify in order of priority, 1 = HIGHEST PRIORITY)

(Skills list shown)

18. “These teaching methods are effective”. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement for the following teaching methods?

- Strongly Agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly Disagree
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- Lecture
 - Tutorial (small group discussion)
 - Practical exercises (laboratory/fieldwork)
 - Work experience
 - Role playing / Games
 - Case study simulations
 - Self-learning (assignments)
 - On-line discussion forums/blogs
 - Videos or podcasts of lectures
 - Video conferencing
 - Computer-based interactive learning materials

- Online collaboration tools (e.g. Wikis & shared documents)
- Other

19. “Do you prefer courses to be”:

- Face-to-face only
- Online only
- Blended (face-to-face and online)

20. How important do you think generic skills are for aquaculture researchers to succeed in their career pathway in comparison to technical skills?

- Generic skills are less important
- Generic skills are as important
- Generic skills are more important

21. Which one thing would you propose to improve generic skills training?

22. Are you interested in receiving more information on Vocational Aqualabs training courses available in generic skills?

- Yes
- No

23. Any other comments:

*=compulsory

Skills list:

NUMERICAL, COMPUTATIONAL, STATISTICAL SKILLS:

- Mathematics
- Statistical methods
- Statistical software
- Models and simulations

IT SKILLS:

- Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)
- Web page design

- Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)
- IT communication (Skype, web forums)

SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY SKILLS:

- Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)
- Experimental design
- Data management
- Research ethics
- Critical review

BASIC MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Time management
- Team management
- Budget management
- Laboratory skills (best practice)
- Risk assessment (safety in lab and fieldwork)
- Awareness of legal and procedural issues (licensing of animal research, health and safety, data protection, anti-discrimination)

BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- Literacy in own language
- Knowledge of English (if not first language)
- Knowledge of other languages
- Curriculum - Lecture planning and design
- Pedagogical skills
- Oral presentation
- Thesis defence
- Poster presentation
- Effective behaviour in the workplace
- Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)
- Accredited Scientific report writing
- Media communication

CAREER AND LIFE SKILLS:

- CVs, job applications, interviews
- Grant applications, research funding
- Career development planning

SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY SKILLS:

- Interdisciplinary studies
- Policy awareness
- Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation

PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS:

- Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)

- General (First aid, driving)

ANALYTICAL SKILLS:

- Legislation implication analysis
- Technology screening skills (SWOT)
- Market research analysis
- Financial analysis skills

NEGOTIATION SKILLS:

- Internal negotiation with other teams
- Debate skills
- External negotiations with other organisations

PARTNERING SKILLS:

- Partnerships building
- Networking capacity
- Web social networking

TASK MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Organisation management skills
- Project management
- Experiment management
- Expert reporting

TEAM MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Leadership skills
- Team working skills

ADVANCED PRESENTATION SKILLS:

- Interview skills
- Authority communication skills

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Data management
- Gap analysis skills

FORESIGHT SKILLS:

- Future strategy development skills
- Research prioritisation skills

ADVANCED MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Future research cost benefit analysis
- Defending a research strategy
- Future market opportunity evaluation skills
- Interviewing and recruitment skills

- Knowledge of employment legislation (i.e. Equality & Discrimination)

