



QUESTIONNAIRE ON UNIVERSITY PROVISION  
OF GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING IN  
AQUACULTURE, FISHERIES & MARINE SCIENCES:  
**STUDENTS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY**

To evaluate the current provision of generic skills training at university level for students in aquaculture, fisheries and other marine sciences, in terms of its suitability for (a) the degree programme studied and (b) the workplace. In particular, to identify gaps in training provision and improve the skills base.

Under the general heading “generic skills” we consider a wide range of research, workplace and life skills that are not specific to any one discipline, including languages, communication, scientific methodology, IT and management.

Your answers to our questions will be of great value in evaluating and improving the provision of generic skills training in the aquaculture, fisheries, marine science and management sectors.

*Please complete this version of the questionnaire if you are currently studying for a university degree*

**2. DATA PROTECTION**

Please note that, in order for us to process any personal data that you submit, we need to ask you to complete and sign the declaration below.

All information received from you will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated as completely confidential. No individual questionnaire will ever be identified in any material published from this survey nor will any of the data obtained be passed on to any other party.

“I hereby give my permission for the storage and use this information under the UK Data Protection Act 1998.”

Name	
Signature	
Date	

Thank you very much for your assistance

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

### 3. Personal data

Please complete all sections that are relevant to you

Sex	Male / female
Age	
Nationality	
Native language	
Country where you are doing your current degree	
Name of the university	
Degree type	BSc / MSc / PhD / other
Degree duration in years	
How many years of the degree have you completed?	
Degree title or subject	
Is your degree full-time or part-time?	
Does your degree involve distance learning?	Yes / no / in part
What language(s) are used for teaching in degree?	
Expected year of graduation	

# QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

## 4. Questions about the suite of generic skills

Q1. "This skill is important". Do you strongly agree (SA), agree (A), neither agree nor disagree (N), disagree (D) or strongly disagree (SD)? *(Please tick one answer per skill)*

GENERIC SKILLS	SA	A	N	D	SD
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>					
• Mathematics					
• Statistical methods					
• Statistical software					
• Models and simulations					
<b>IT skills</b>					
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)					
• Web page design					
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)					
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)					
<b>Scientific methods</b>					
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)					
• Experimental design					
• Data management					
• Research ethics					
• Critical review					
<b>Practical/management skills</b>					
• Project management					
• Time management					
• Team management					
• Budget management					
• Team working					
• 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)					
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>					
• Literacy in own language					
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)					
• Knowledge of other languages					
• Oral presentation					
• Thesis defence					
• Poster presentation					
• Networking					
• Effective behaviour in the workplace					
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)					
• Media communication					
<b>Career and life skills</b>					
• CVs, job applications, interviews					
• Grant applications, research funding					
• Career development planning					
<b>Science in society</b>					
• Interdisciplinary studies					
• Policy awareness					
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation					
<b>Practical skills</b>					
• Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)					
• General (First aid, driving)					

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

Q2. Are you or have you been taught these skills as part of your current degree?

GENERIC SKILLS	YES	NO
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>		
• Mathematics		
• Statistical methods		
• Statistical software		
• Models and simulations		
<b>IT skills</b>		
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)		
• Web page design		
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)		
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)		
<b>Scientific methods</b>		
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)		
• Experimental design		
• Data management		
• Research ethics		
• Critical review		
<b>Practical/management skills</b>		
• Project management		
• Time management		
• Team management		
• Budget management		
• Team working		
• 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)		
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>		
• Literacy in own language		
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)		
• Knowledge of other languages		
• Oral presentation		
• Thesis defence		
• Poster presentation		
• Networking		
• Effective behaviour in the workplace		
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)		
• Media communication		
<b>Career and life skills</b>		
• CVs, job applications, interviews		
• Grant applications, research funding		
• Career development planning		
<b>Science in society</b>		
• Interdisciplinary studies		
• Policy awareness		
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation		
<b>Practical skills</b>		
• Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)		
• General (First aid, driving)		

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

Q3. If taught, how are these skills taught: in separate module(s) (mod), integrated into knowledge-based module(s) (int), as work experience (we), ad-hoc (ah) or other (oth)?

GENERIC SKILLS	MOD	INT	WE	AH	OTH
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>					
• Mathematics					
• Statistical methods					
• Statistical software					
• Models and simulations					
<b>IT skills</b>					
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)					
• Web page design					
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)					
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)					
<b>Scientific methods</b>					
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)					
• Experimental design					
• Data management					
• Research ethics					
• Critical review					
<b>Practical/management skills</b>					
• Project management					
• Time management					
• Team management					
• Budget management					
• Team working					
• 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)					
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>					
• Literacy in own language					
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)					
• Knowledge of other languages					
• Oral presentation					
• Thesis defence					
• Poster presentation					
• Networking					
• Effective behaviour in the workplace					
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)					
• Media communication					
<b>Career and life skills</b>					
• CVs, job applications, interviews					
• Grant applications, research funding					
• Career development planning					
<b>Science in society</b>					
• Interdisciplinary studies					
• Policy awareness					
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation					
<b>Practical skills</b>					
• Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)					
• General (First aid, driving)					

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

Q4. If this skill is taught, is it compulsory or optional?

GENERIC SKILLS	Compulsory	Optional
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>		
• Mathematics		
• Statistical methods		
• Statistical software		
• Models and simulations		
<b>IT skills</b>		
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)		
• Web page design		
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)		
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)		
<b>Scientific methods</b>		
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)		
• Experimental design		
• Data management		
• Research ethics		
• Critical review		
<b>Practical/management skills</b>		
• Project management		
• Time management		
• Team management		
• Budget management		
• Team working		
• 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)		
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>		
• Literacy in own language		
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)		
• Knowledge of other languages		
• Oral presentation		
• Thesis defence		
• Poster presentation		
• Networking		
• Effective behaviour in the workplace		
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)		
• Media communication		
<b>Career and life skills</b>		
• CVs, job applications, interviews		
• Grant applications, research funding		
• Career development planning		
<b>Science in society</b>		
• Interdisciplinary studies		
• Policy awareness		
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation		
<b>Practical skills</b>		
• Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)		
• General (First aid, driving)		

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

Q5. For these skills, do you think your level of achievement was satisfactory when you arrived (yes/no)? Is your current level satisfactory (yes/no)?

GENERIC SKILLS	ARRIVAL		NOW	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>				
• Mathematics				
• Statistical methods				
• Statistical software				
• Models and simulations				
<b>IT skills</b>				
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)				
• Web page design				
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)				
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)				
<b>Scientific methods</b>				
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)				
• Experimental design				
• Data management				
• Research ethics				
• Critical review				
<b>Practical/management skills</b>				
• Project management				
• Time management				
• Team management				
• Budget management				
• Team working				
• 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)				
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>				
• Literacy in own language				
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)				
• Knowledge of other languages				
• Oral presentation				
• Thesis defence				
• Poster presentation				
• Networking				
• Effective behaviour in the workplace				
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)				
• Media communication				
<b>Career and life skills</b>				
• CVs, job applications, interviews				
• Grant applications, research funding				
• Career development planning				
<b>Science in society</b>				
• Interdisciplinary studies				
• Policy awareness				
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation				
<b>Practical skills</b>				
• Sector specific (Fish handling, survival at sea, boat handling, diving)				
• General (First aid, driving)				

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: STUDENTS

Q6. Is proficiency in these skills examined (yes/no)? Do staff seek feedback from students in relation to the effectiveness of training (yes/no)?

GENERIC SKILLS	EXAMS		FEEDBACK	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
<b>Numerical, computational, statistical skills</b>				
• Mathematics				
• Statistical methods				
• Statistical software				
• Models and simulations				
<b>IT skills</b>				
• Office software (word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, presentation)				
• Web page design				
• Information literacy (Endnote, SCOPUS etc)				
• IT communication (Skype, web forums)				
<b>Scientific methods</b>				
• Philosophy of science (hypotheses, logic, induction, debating)				
• Experimental design				
• Data management				
• Research ethics				
• Critical review				
<b>Practical/management skills</b>				
• Project management				
• Time management				
• Team management				
• Budget management				
• Team working				
• Laboratory skills (best practice)				
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• Awareness of legal and procedural issues (licensing of animal research, health and safety, data protection, anti-discrimination)				
<b>Communication skills (scientific and general)</b>				
• Literacy in own language				
• Knowledge of English (if not first language)				
• Knowledge of other languages				
• Oral presentation				
• Thesis defence				
• Poster presentation				
• Networking				
• Effective behaviour in the workplace				
• Scientific writing (papers, theses, abstracts, essays)				
• Media communication				
<b>Career and life skills</b>				
• CVs, job applications, interviews				
• Grant applications, research funding				
• Career development planning				
<b>Science in society</b>				
• Interdisciplinary studies				
• Policy awareness				
• Entrepreneurship / business awareness / innovation				
<b>Practical skills</b>				
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• General (First aid, driving)				

QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING: **STUDENTS**

**5. General questions about generic skills**

Are there any important skills missing from the list in section 4 above?	Yes / no
If yes, please list them	
What % of their study time at university do you think students should spend on generic skills training?	
<p>“These teaching methods are effective”.</p> <p>Do you: strongly agree (SA), agree (A), neither agree nor disagree (N), disagree (d), strongly disagree (SD) or don't know?</p>	
Lecture	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Tutorial (small group discussion)	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Practical exercises (computer-based/laboratory/fieldwork)	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Work experience	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Role playing / Games	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Self-learning	SA / A / N / D / SD / don't know
Is there monitoring of the quality of generic skills training in your university?	Yes / no
How is quality monitored?	
Which <u>one</u> thing would you propose to improve generic skills training?	

Thank you! We greatly appreciate your assistance in this research.