



Where do PhDs in pharmaceutical sciences go?

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2023 ON PHD GRADUATES IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES COMPLETED 2020-2022

Drug Research Academy

Overall conclusions and results

74% of PhD graduates got their first employment within 3 months after the conferment of the PhD degree, 77% have research and development as main function, 56% are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company and 26% at universities. 69% work in Denmark. 86% work in a field related to their PhD project.

These are some of the results from an employment survey on PhDs in pharmaceutical sciences 2020-2022 and more results can be found below.

54% of the PhDs are female and 46% male.

46% are Danish citizens, 25% are citizens of another EU country, and 29% of a non-EU country.

58% hold a master degree from Denmark, 19% from another EU country, and 23% from a non-EU country.

Half of the PhDs hold a master degree in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences. 42% hold another master of science degree. 8% hold a master of science in engineering.

65% started the PhD studies within 1 year after the master graduation, 49% within 6 months after the master graduation.

58% of the PhDs work in a private company, 35% in public organization, and 4% are unemployed.

In the survey, the PhDs were asked to inform country of present employment: 69% work in Denmark, 9% in another EU country, and 21% in a non-EU country. Of the PhDs working in another country than Denmark, 30% work in the EU (especially Sweden and Germany), 24% in China, and 9% in Switzerland. 98% of the Danish PhDs work in Denmark.

Most of the respondents work with main function in R&D (77%), and 11% in production and quality control.

86% consider their PhD education and degree of being of great importance to their present function.

The elements of the PhD education considered to be of importance to the present work/function are communication & presentation skills, research topic, project management, publication(s) and writing skills, and networking.

Background for the survey

The present employment survey has been conducted under the auspices of the graduate programme in pharmaceutical sciences, Drug Research Academy, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

The survey questionnaire was sent to 128 PhDs who graduated from 2020 to 2022 at the Department of Pharmacy and Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

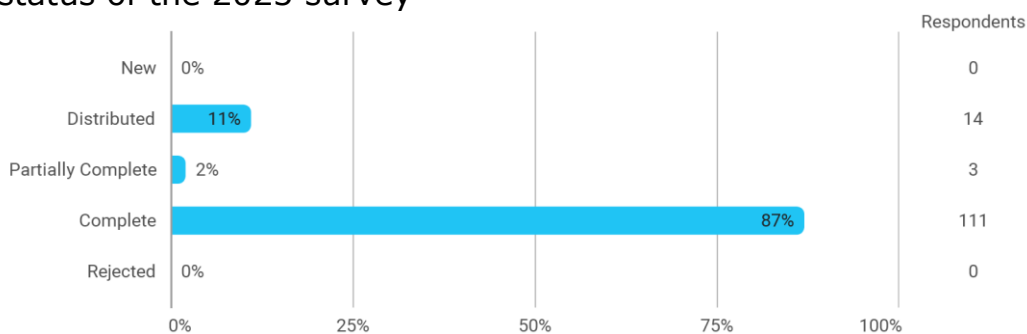
The electronic questionnaire was distributed in March 2023 asking for the employment status per 1 March 2023. By the beginning of May 2023 an acceptable response rate was reached.

Similar employment surveys have been conducted previously in 1999, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2017, and 2020 on the 785 PhDs graduating in pharmaceutical sciences from 1994 to 2019. The results and conclusions from these surveys are summarized in the report "Hvad sker der med ph.d.'erne fra FARMA?" by Flemming Steen Jørgensen and Marianne W. Jørgensen, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Copenhagen and in the employment surveys 2014, 2017, and 2020 on PhDs in pharmaceutical sciences completed 2010-2019 which were conducted by the Drug Research Academy, graduate programme in pharmaceutical sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. Comparisons with the results from these surveys will be included in this report.

General statistics elaborated on all PhDs in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Copenhagen will also be included in this report.

Furthermore, the Graduate School of Health and Medical Sciences publishes evaluation reports made among graduating PhD students on the different elements of the PhD education, for instance, supervision, courses, stay in another research environment, teaching, graduate programmes, workplace. You can see more on these reports here: <http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/about-the-graduate-school/evaluation/>

Table 1 Overall status of the 2023 survey



111 of 128 PhDs have responded to the questionnaire giving a response rate of 87%. Response rates from previous surveys were between 74% and 88%.

Table 2 Number of PhDs 1999-2023 (split on survey periods)

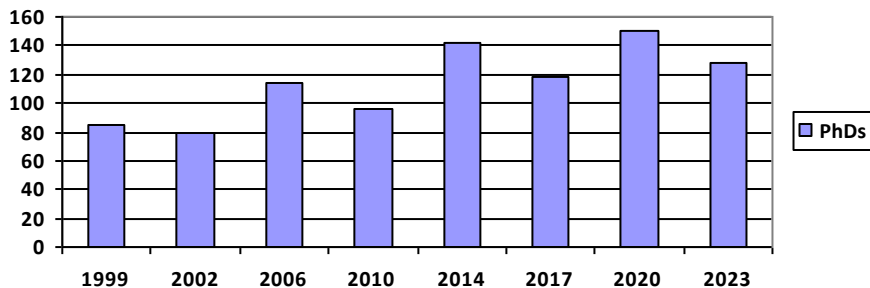
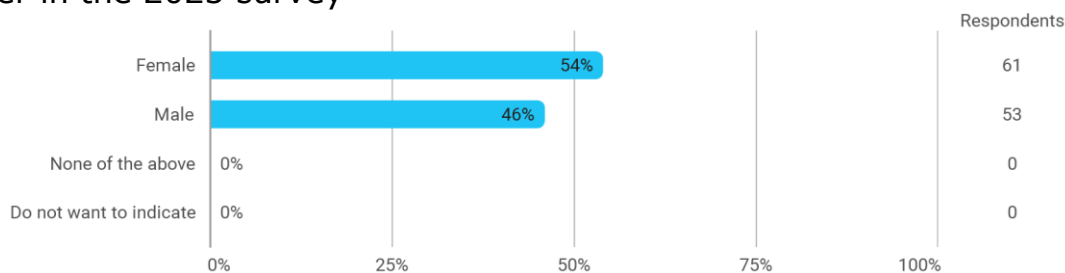


Table 2 shows the number of PhDs graduating in the survey periods from the Department of Pharmacy and Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen (since 2012), the previous Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Copenhagen (2007-2011), the previous University of Pharmaceutical Sciences (2003-2006) and the previous Royal Danish School of Pharmacy (till 2002).

Note that the 1999 survey covers a period of 5 years, the 2006, 2010, and 2014 surveys a period of 4 years, and the 2002, 2017, 2020, and 2023 surveys a period of 3 years.

Table 3 Gender in the 2023 survey



54% of the responses were from female and 46% from male PhDs which is quite close to the gender representation of the 128 PhDs in the period (55% females and 45% males).

We see a considerable difference in gender: At the Department of Pharmacy 65% are female and 45% male, whereas the number are 43% female and 57% male at the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology.

Table 4 Comparison with previous surveys: Gender

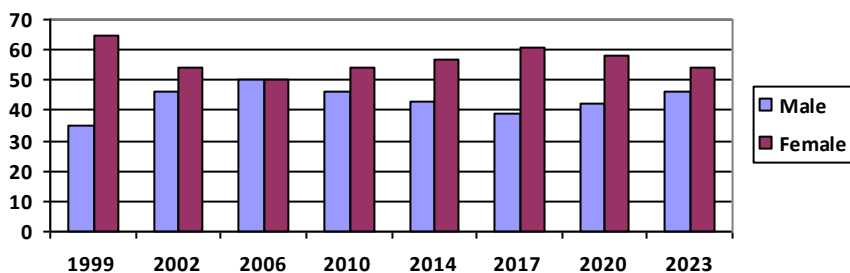
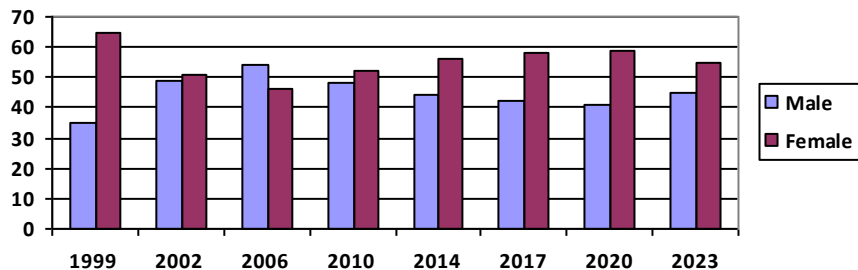


Table 4 shows the percentage of male and female responses in the surveys.

The gender representation of the PhDs in previous surveys range from 50% to 65% from female PhDs and 35% to 50% from male PhDs (of a representation of the 785 PhDs in the whole period (1994-2019) of 55% female and 45% male PhDs).

Table 5 Gender of all PhDs 1999-2023 (split on survey periods)



45% were male and 55% female of the total 913 PhDs graduating in the survey periods covering 1994-2022.

Table 6 Citizenship in the 2023 survey

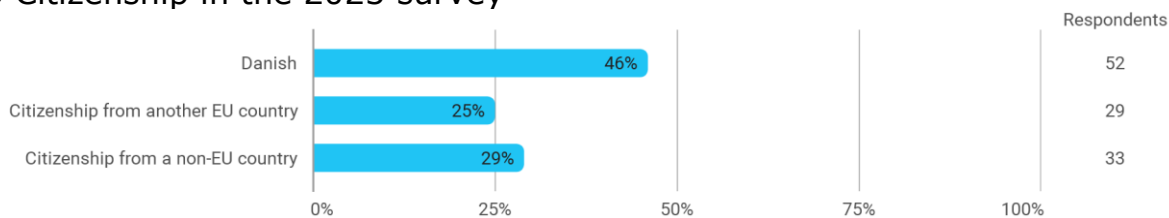


Table 6 shows the percentage of Danish and other citizenship in the survey.

46% of the PhDs in the survey have Danish citizenship. 54% of the responses were from PhDs with a citizenship other than Danish which is a bit higher than the citizenship representation of the PhDs in the period (48% with Danish and 52% with another citizenship than Danish).

47% of the international PhDs in this survey are citizens from other EU countries, 53% are from non-EU countries. 24% of the international PhDs in this survey are Chinese citizens, 15% German, 8% Greek, and 8% Swedish.

The question on citizenship was also asked in the previous surveys on PhDs from 2010-2019.

Table 7 Comparison with previous survey: Citizenship

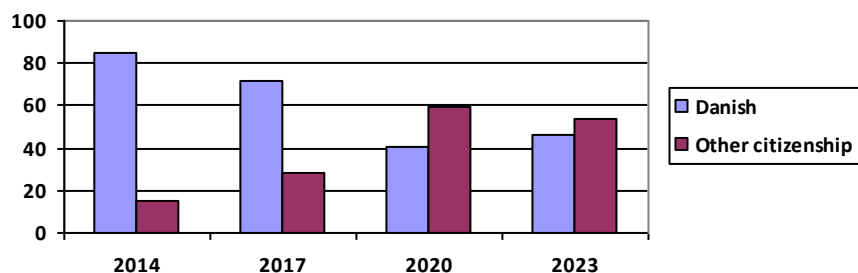
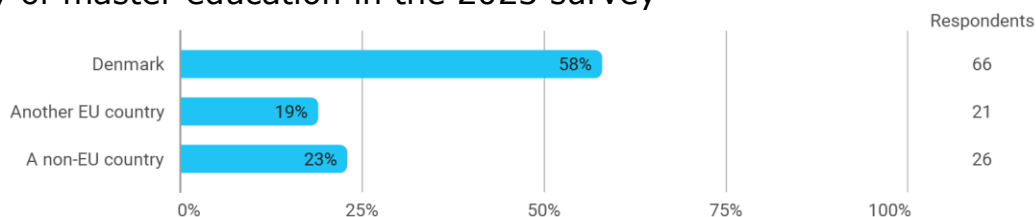


Table 7 shows the percentage of Danish and other citizenship in the surveys.

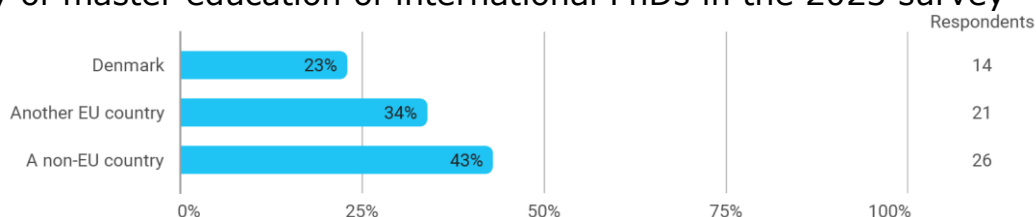
An increase in and a high number of PhDs with another citizenship than Danish is not surprising considering the increase in enrolments of international PhD students especially since 2010. The number is expected to increase as 61% of the PhD students enrolled 2020-2022 hold another citizenship than Danish.

Table 8 Country of master education in the 2023 survey



58% of the respondents had a master education from Denmark, 19% from another EU country, and 23% from a non-EU country. The educations from other countries than Denmark were dominated by China (31%), Germany (21%), and Sweden (10%).

Table 9 Country of master education of international PhDs in the 2023 survey



77% of the international PhDs in the survey hold an MSc from abroad.

Table 10 Comparison with previous survey: Country of master education

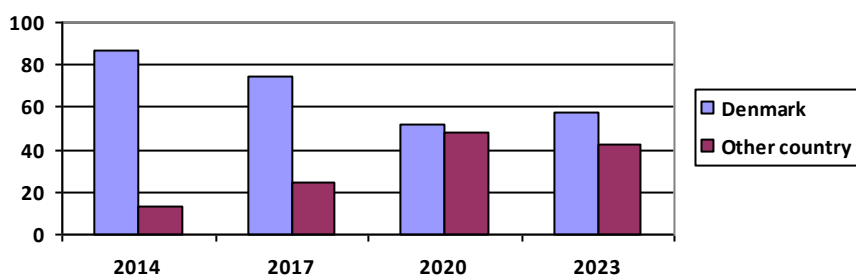
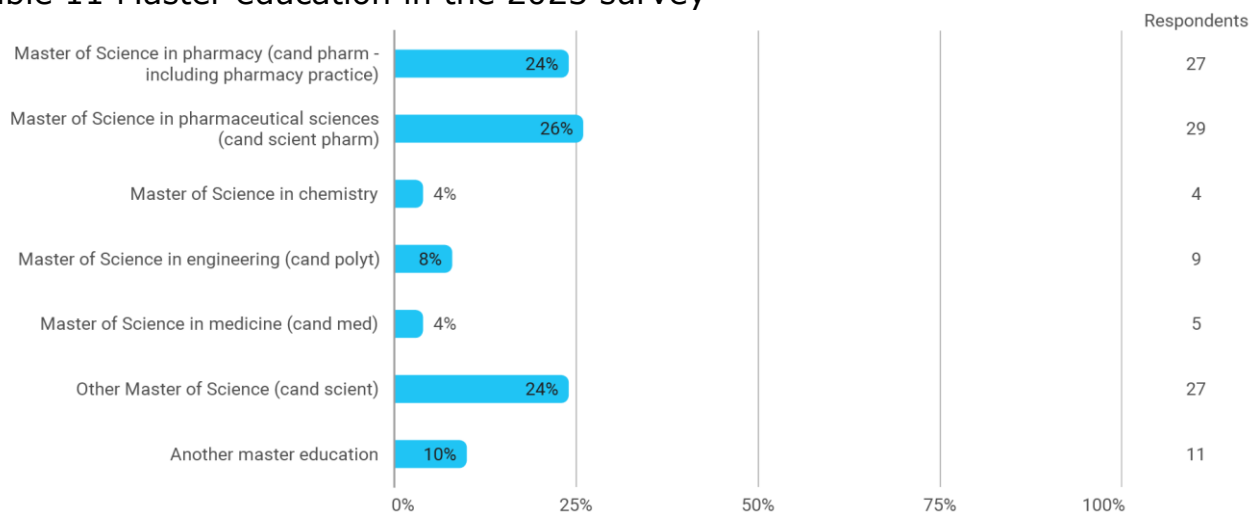


Table 10 shows the percentage of country of master education (Denmark and other country) in the surveys.

The question on country of master education was also asked in the previous survey on PhDs from 2010-2019. There has been an increase in PhDs with a master education from another country than Denmark in the surveys from 2014, 2017, and 2020. From the 2020 to the 2023 surveys there was a slight decrease, from 48% to 42% in PhDs with a master degree from abroad.

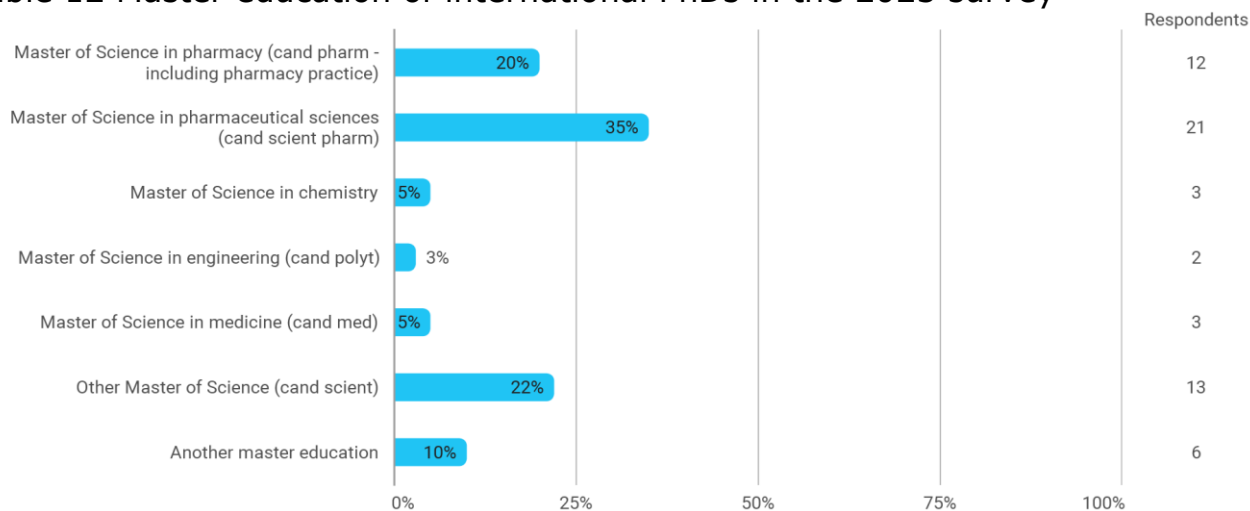
Table 11 Master education in the 2023 survey



50% of the PhDs in the survey hold a master degree in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences and 40% another Master of Science.

We see a considerable difference in master education: At the Department of Pharmacy 69% hold a master degree in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences, whereas the number is 33% at the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology.

Table 12 Master education of international PhDs in the 2023 survey



55% of the international PhDs in the survey hold a hold a master degree in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences and 35% another Master of Science.

Table 13 Comparison with previous surveys: Master education

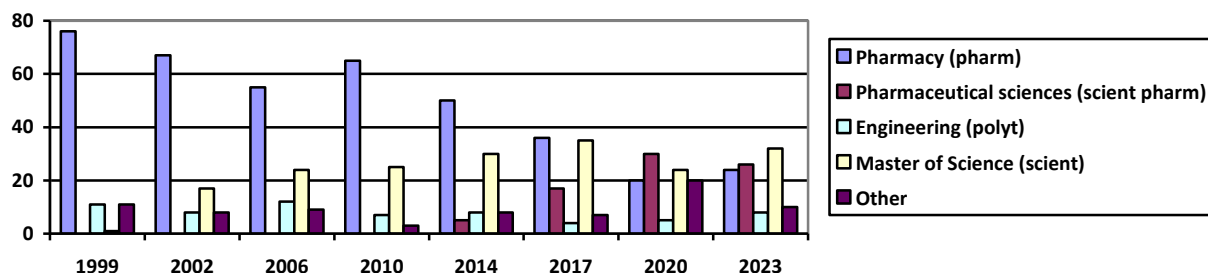


Table 13 shows the percentage of educational background in the surveys.

The category "Master of Science in pharmaceutical sciences (cand scient pharm)" was not included in the 1999-2010 surveys.

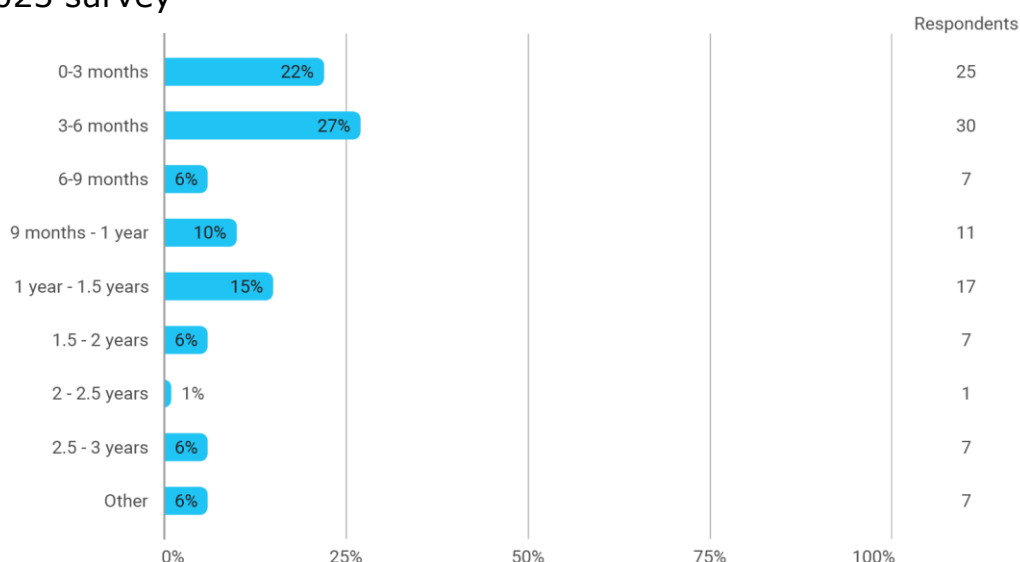
Compared with previous surveys the rate of PhDs with a master degree in pharmacy or in pharmaceutical sciences is at the lowest level (50%) in the 2023 survey which was also the case in the 2020 survey. In the 2006, 2014, and 2017 surveys the number was ranging between 53-55% which was also considerably lower than the 1999, 2002, and 2010 surveys (ranging between 65-76%).

The rate of PhDs with a Master of Science in engineering (8%) has increased slightly since the 2017-2020 surveys (4-5%) and now corresponds to the level of the 1999-2014 surveys (ranging between 7-12%).

The rate of PhDs with other Master of Science educations (32%) has increased since the 2020 survey. A new category in the 2023 survey is an MSc in medicine and 4% of the PhDs in the survey hold this degree.

10% hold other master educations, for instance, a master in veterinary science, medicinal chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering.

Table 14 Duration from obtaining the Master degree to enrolment as a PhD student in the 2023 survey



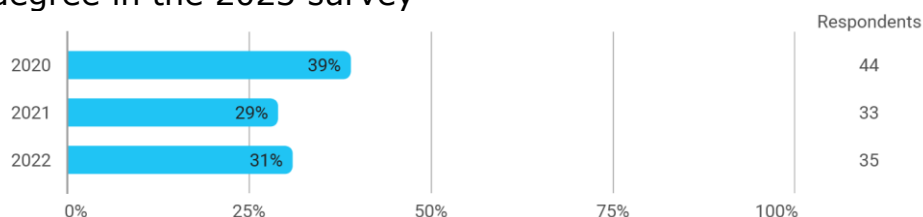
The median duration from master degree to enrolment as a PhD student is 6-9 months. Almost 2 out of 3 have started the PhD studies within 1 year after the master degree. These numbers correspond to the 2020 survey.

The response in "Other" covers 4.5-10 years.

The present level corresponds to the surveys conducted in 2006-2014 where the median duration from master degree to enrolment as a PhD student was also 6-9 months. However, the median duration was higher in the 2017 survey.

The question was not asked in the surveys in 1999 and 2002.

Table 15 Year of PhD degree in the 2023 survey



The 128 PhDs who received this survey graduated in 2020 (44), 2021 (43), and 2022 (41).

Due to the low number of possible responses, potential differences between the years of PhD degree conferment have not been considered.

Table 16 Comparison with previous surveys: Year of PhD degree

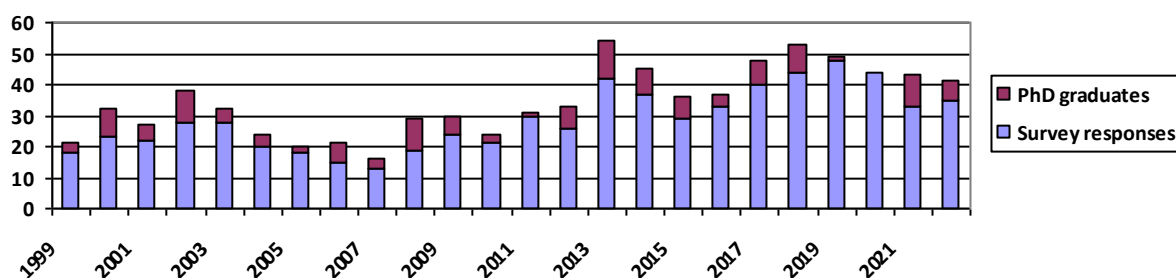
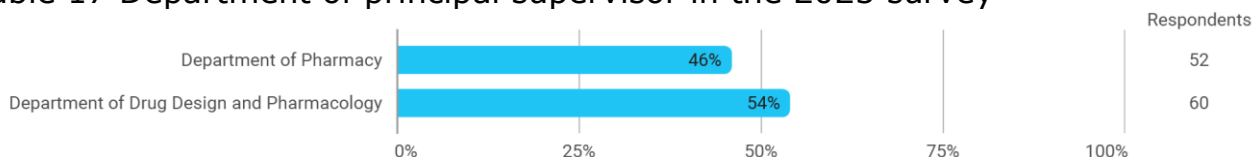


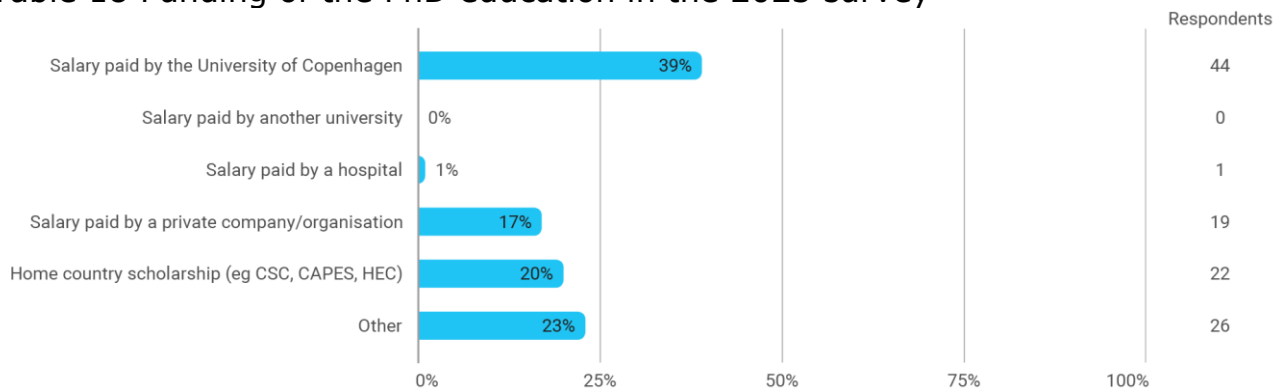
Table 16 shows the number of PhD graduates in pharmaceutical sciences per year and the number of survey responses.

Table 17 Department of principal supervisor in the 2023 survey



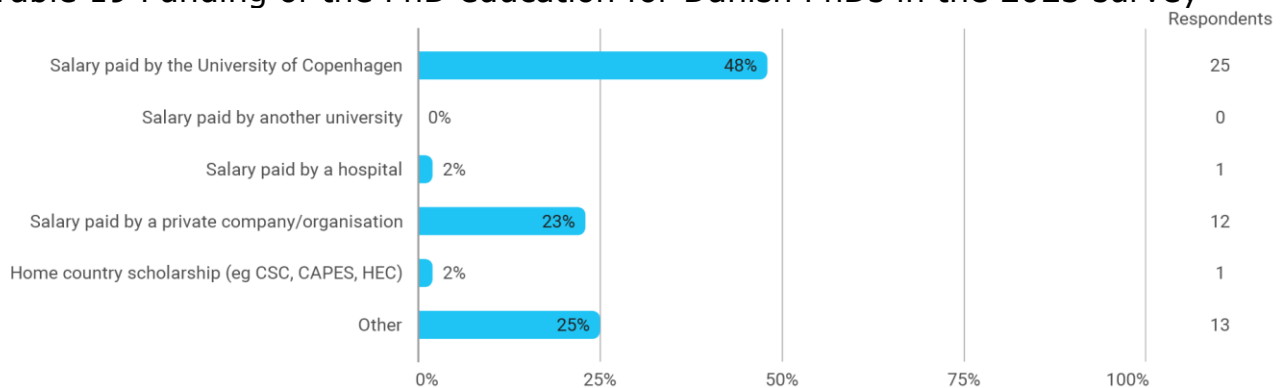
52 of the 60 PhDs from the Department of Pharmacy and 60 of the 68 PhDs from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology have answered the survey.

Table 18 Funding of the PhD education in the 2023 survey



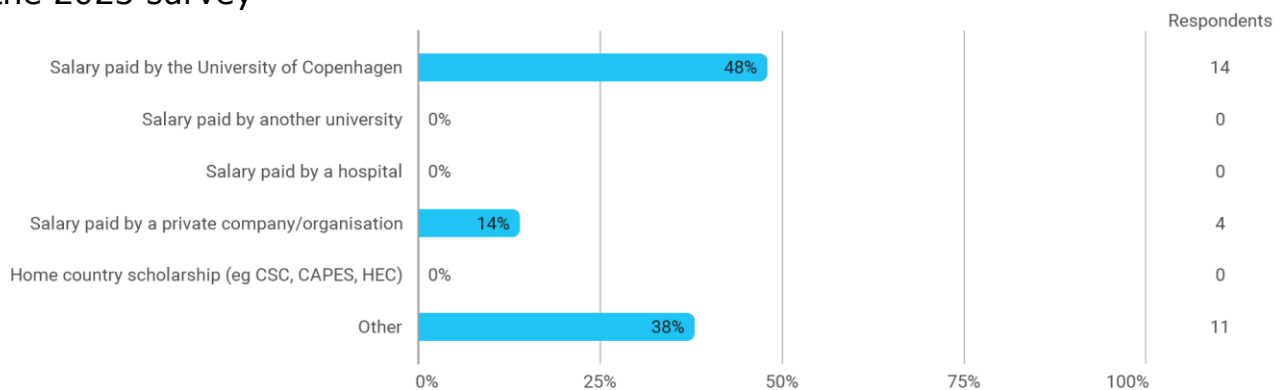
39% of the PhDs in the survey were employed at the University of Copenhagen during the PhD studies.

Table 19 Funding of the PhD education for Danish PhDs in the 2023 survey



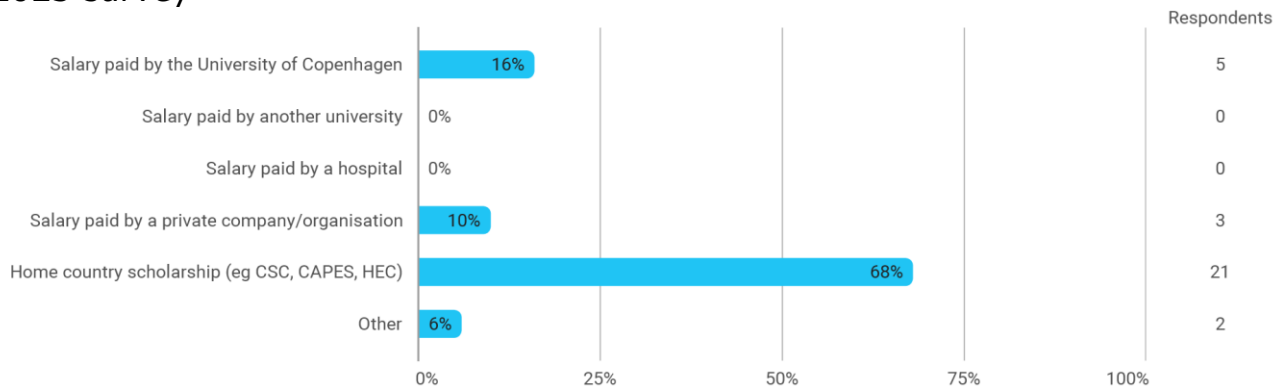
48% of the Danish PhDs in the survey were employed at the University of Copenhagen during the PhD studies.

Table 20 Funding of the PhD education for PhDs from another EU country in the 2023 survey



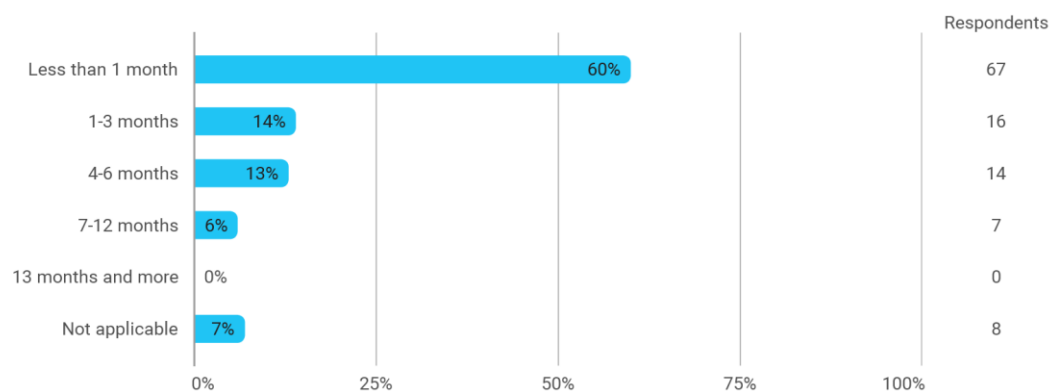
Also 48% of the PhDs from another EU country in the survey were employed at the University of Copenhagen during the PhD studies.

Table 21 Funding of the PhD education for PhDs from a non-EU country in the 2023 survey



Only 16% of the PhDs from a non-EU country in the survey were employed at the University of Copenhagen. 68% were financed by home country scholarships.

Table 22 Duration from obtaining the PhD degree to first employment in the 2023 survey (permanent position or temporary job of a duration of more than 1 month including part-time employment)

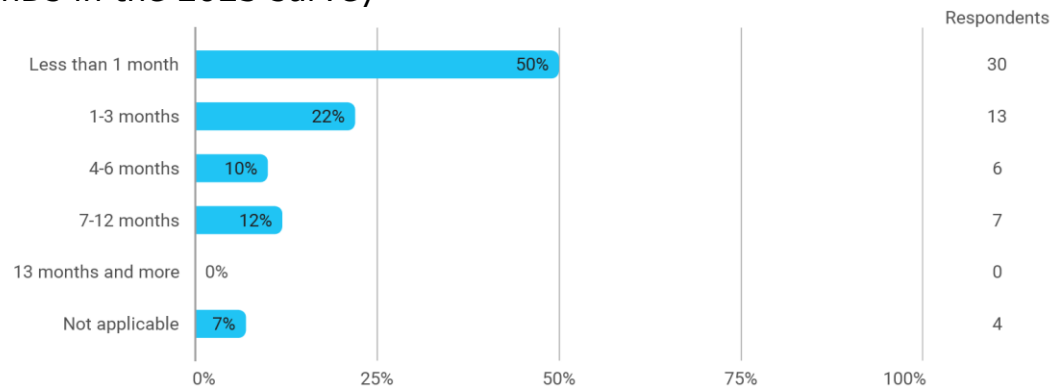


60% of the respondents got their first employment less than 1 month after graduation and 74% within 3 months. This is an increase compared to the 2020 survey when 53% got their first job less than 1 month after PhD graduation but corresponds to previous surveys as shown in table 24 (58-88% getting their first job less than 1 month after graduation).

In all surveys, 73-98% got their first employment within the first 3 months after PhD graduation.

Perhaps it would be more accurate to ask about the duration from handing in the PhD thesis to first employment. However, this would make the comparison with previous surveys inaccurate.

Table 23 Duration from obtaining the PhD degree to first employment for international PhDs in the 2023 survey



50% of the international PhDs got their first employment less than 1 month after graduation and 72% within 3 months which levels the 2020 survey and is still considerably higher than the 2017 survey in which 36% of the international PhDs got their first employment less than 1 month after graduation and 50% within 3 months.

Table 24 Comparison to previous surveys: Duration from obtaining the PhD degree to first employment

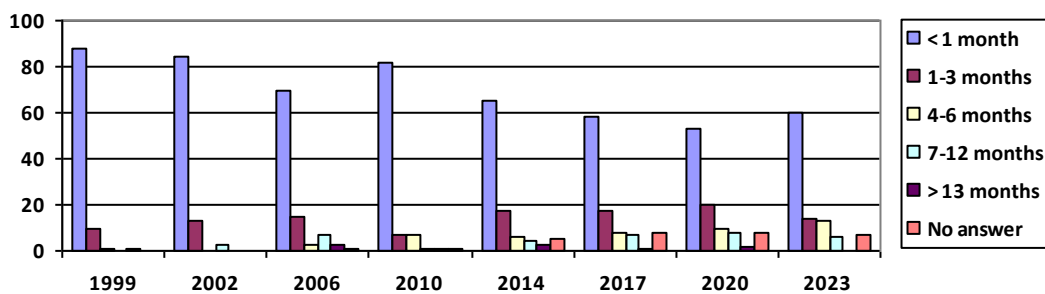


Table 24 shows the duration in percentage from PhD degree to first employment in the surveys.

However, it is most likely that many have had an employment before graduation as the duration of the PhD studies are often more than the formal 3 years' employment as a PhD fellow.

Table 25 Comparison in 2014-2023 surveys: Duration from obtaining the PhD degree to first employment for Danish PhDs

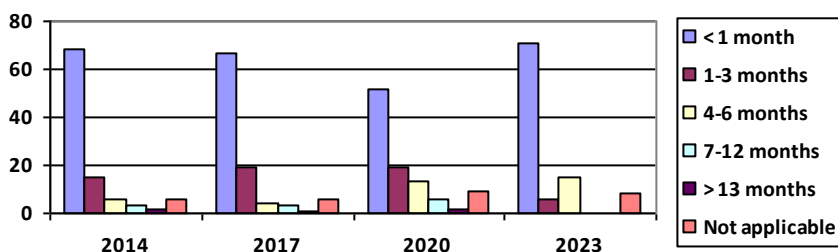


Table 26 Comparison in 2014-2023 surveys: Duration from obtaining the PhD degree to first employment for international PhDs

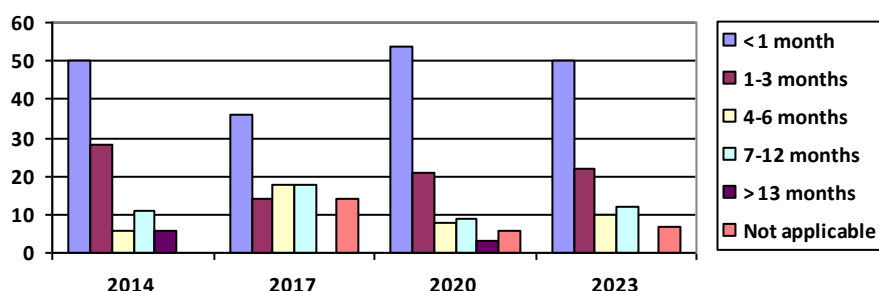
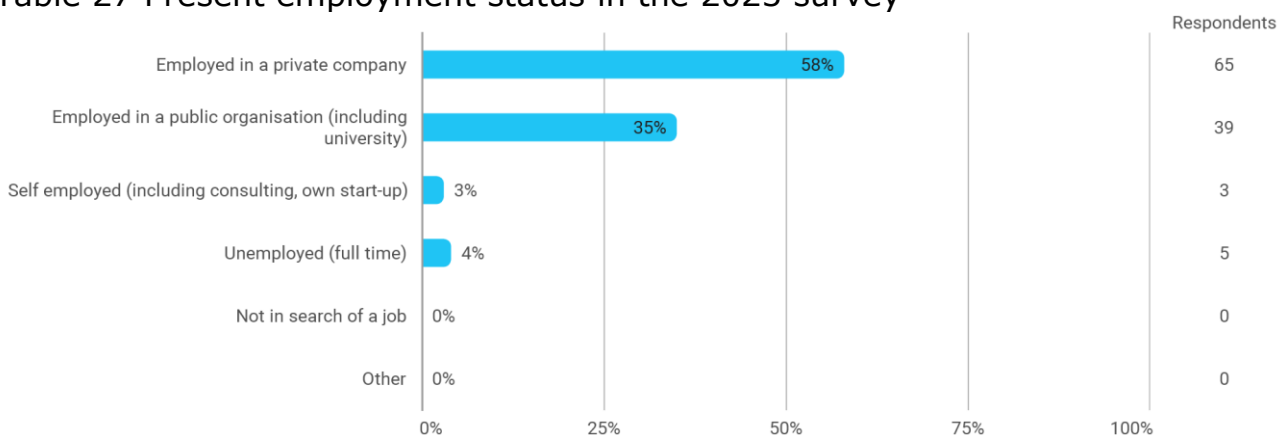


Table 25 and 26 show that it took a longer time for international PhDs than Danish PhDs to get the first employment in the 2014, 2017, and 2023 surveys. In the 2020 survey, this was not the case. In the 2023 survey, 71% of the Danish PhDs got the first job within the first month, and 77% within the first 3 months. As for the international PhDs, 50% got the first job within the first month, and 72% within the first 3 months.

Table 27 Present employment status in the 2023 survey



58% of the PhDs in the survey work in a private company, which is an increase, compared to the 2020 survey (49%) and closer to the 2002-2010 surveys in which 61-62% were employed in a private company. In the 1999 survey, 56% worked in a private company.

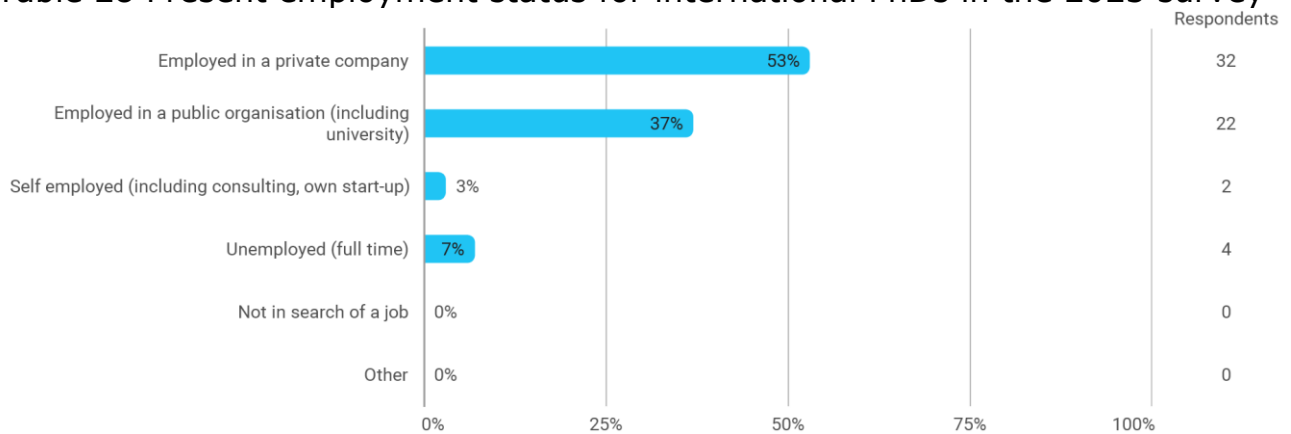
35% of the PhDs in the survey work in a public company or organization, which is less than the 2020 survey (45%).

In the 2023 survey, a new option was introduced: self-employment including consulting, own start-up. 3% in the survey were self-employed.

5 persons in the survey were unemployed 1 March 2023 corresponding to 4% of the respondents. This is the same level as the 2017 and 2020 surveys but above the levels of the 1999-2014 surveys with 1-3% unemployed PhDs.

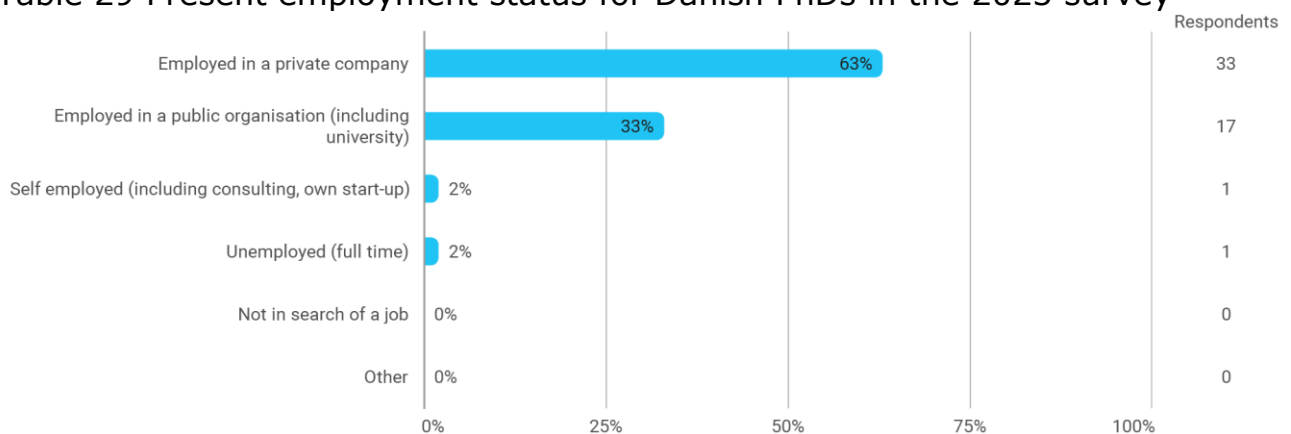
When we look further into the background of the 5 unemployed persons as of 1 March 2023, three of them graduated in 2022 and two in 2021. Three graduated from the Department of Pharmacy and two from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology. Four of them have been employed after the PhD degree. Four of them are international PhDs. Four are females.

Table 28 Present employment status for international PhDs in the 2023 survey



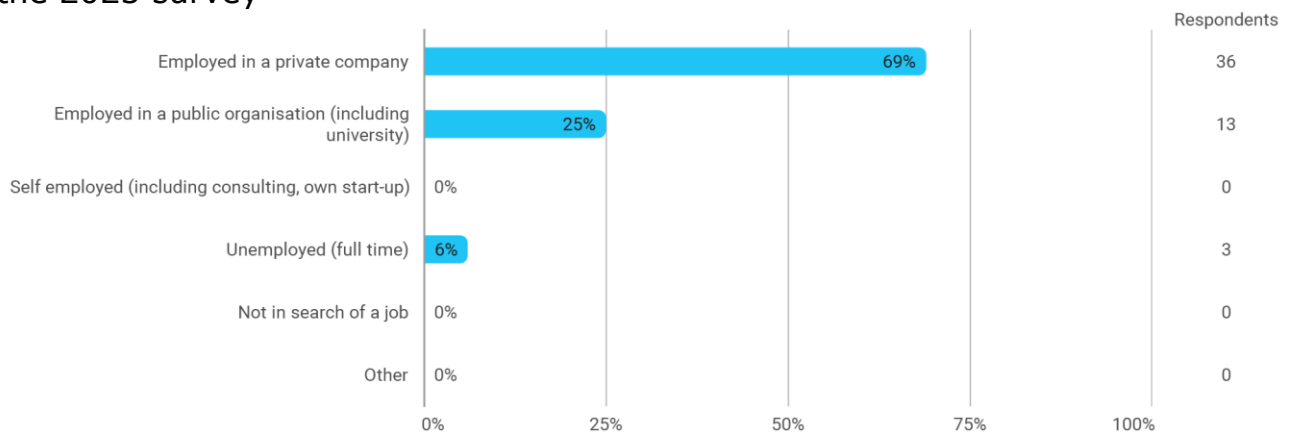
53% of the international PhDs in the survey work in a private company which is an increase compared to the 2020 survey (40%). 37% work in a public company or organization, a decrease from the 2020 survey (56%).

Table 29 Present employment status for Danish PhDs in the 2023 survey



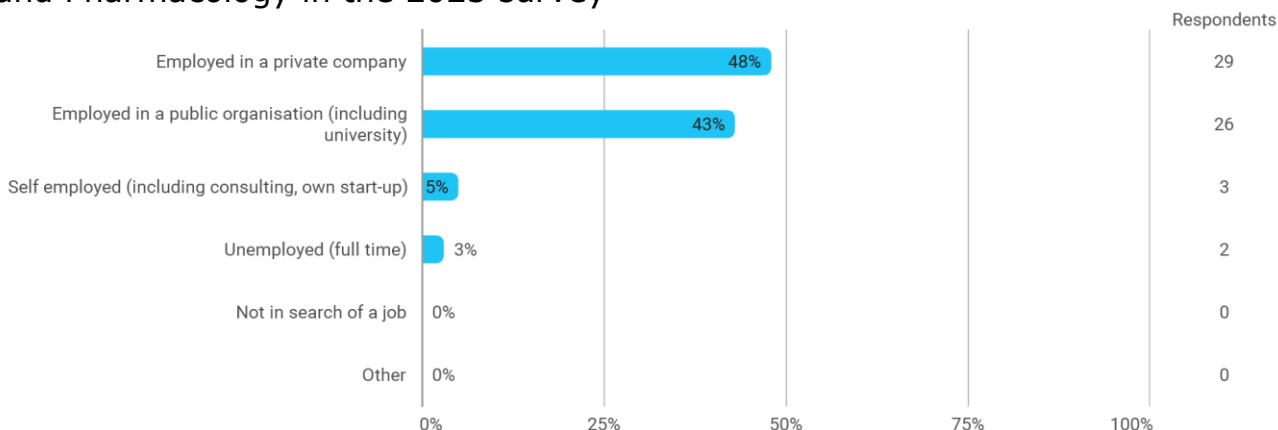
63% of the Danish PhDs in the survey work in a private company. 33% work in a public company or organization.

Table 30 Present employment status for PhDs from Department of Pharmacy in the 2023 survey



69% of the PhDs from the Department of Pharmacy in the survey work in a private company. 25% work in a public organization (including universities).

Table 31 Present employment status for PhDs from Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology in the 2023 survey



48% of the PhDs from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology in the survey work in a private company. 43% work in a public organization (including universities).

Table 32 Present employment status for PhDs from 2017-2019 in the 2020 survey and for PhDs from 2020-2022 in the 2023 survey

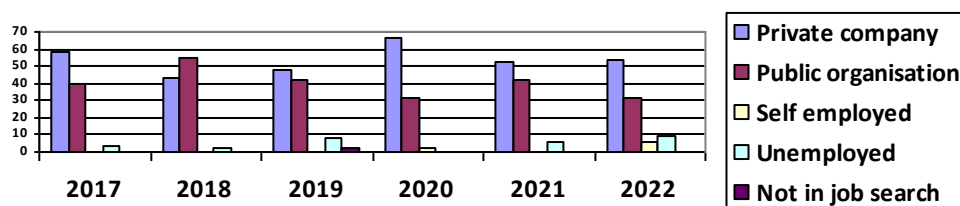


Table 32 shows the employment in a private or public organisation for PhDs from 2017-2022.

In the 2017 survey, the general trend was an increase in the percentage of employment in a private company the older the PhD degree with more than 60% of the PhDs from 2014-2015 to only 27% for PhDs from 2016. This trend could be seen in the 2020 survey with 58% of PhDs from 2017 being employed in a private company, whereas only 43-48% of the PhDs from 2018 and 2019. The trend continues in the 2023 survey with 66% of the PhDs from 2020 being employed in a private company but only 42-54% of the PhDs from 2021-2022.

Table 33 Comparison with previous surveys: Present employment status

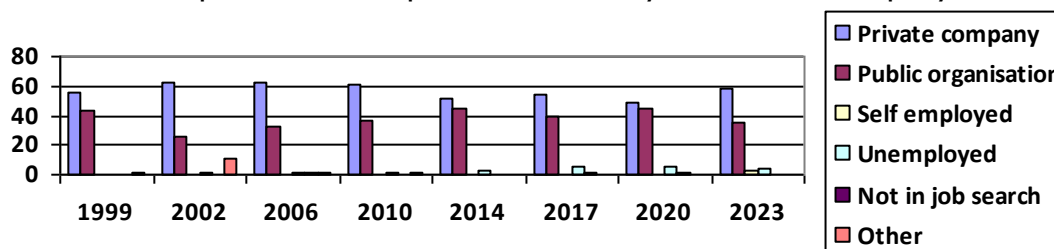
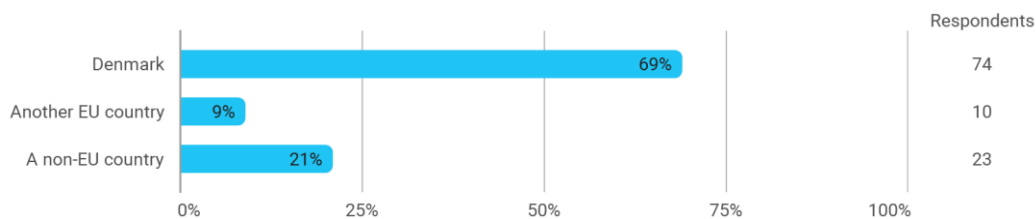


Table 33 shows the percentage of present employment status in the surveys.

Table 34 Country of present employment in the 2023 survey



69% of the PhDs work in Denmark and 30% in another country (9% in another EU country and 21% in a non-EU country). Of the PhDs working in another country than Denmark 30% work in the EU (especially Sweden and Germany), 24% in China, and 9% in Switzerland.

In the 2020 survey, 62% of the PhDs worked in Denmark and 38% in another country. Of the PhDs working in another country than Denmark 54% worked in the EU, 15% in China, 7% in the UK, 7% in the US, and 7% in Vietnam.

In the 2017 survey, 78% of the PhDs worked in Denmark and 22% in another country. Of the PhDs working in another country than Denmark 55% worked in the EU, 20% in the US, and 10% in China.

The question of country of present employment was not asked in surveys prior to 2017.

Table 35 Comparison with previous surveys: Country of present employment

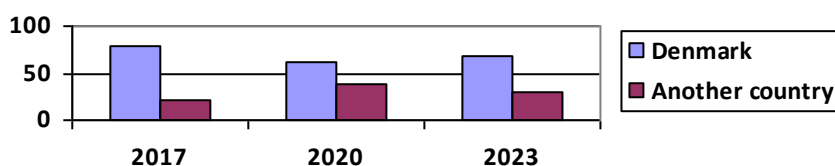
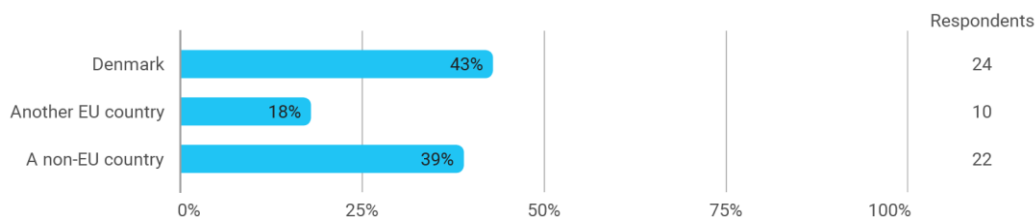


Table 35 shows the percentage of the country of present employment.

Table 36 Country of present employment for international PhDs in the 2023 survey



In the 2023 survey, 43% of the international PhDs work in Denmark and 57% abroad. 18% of the international PhDs work in the EU, 14% in China, 4% in the UK, 4% in Switzerland, and 4% in Canada.

Table 37 Comparison with previous surveys: Country of present employment for international PhDs

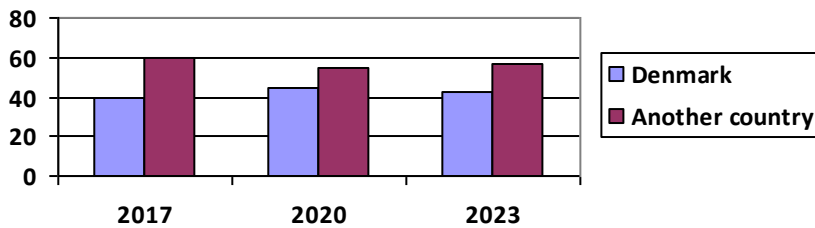
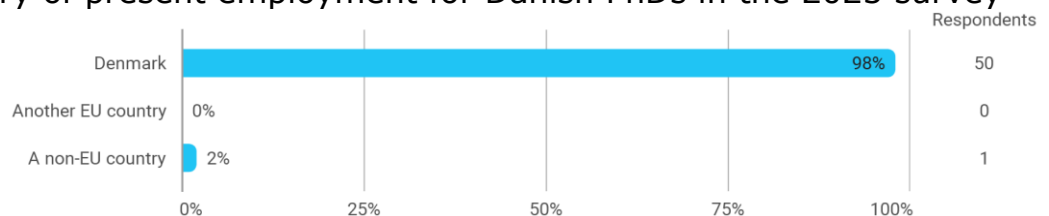


Table 37 shows the percentage of the country of present employment for international PhDs.

In the 2020 survey, 45% of the international PhDs worked in Denmark and 55% abroad. 53% of the international PhDs worked in the EU, 18% in China, 8% in the UK, 8% in the US, and 8% in Vietnam.

In the 2017 survey, 40% of the international PhDs worked in Denmark and 60% abroad. Two out of three of the international PhDs worked in EU or the US.

Table 38 Country of present employment for Danish PhDs in the 2023 survey



In the 2023 survey, 98% of the Danish PhDs from 2020-2022 work in Denmark.

Table 39 Comparison with previous surveys: Country of present employment for Danish PhDs

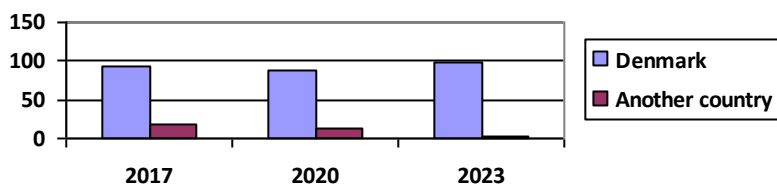
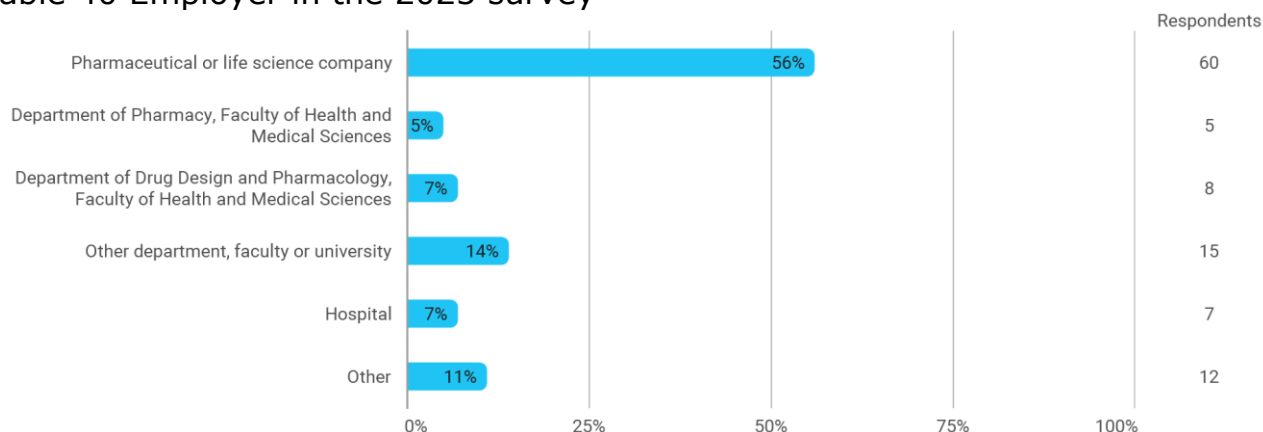


Table 39 shows the percentage of the country of present employment for Danish PhDs.

Table 40 Employer in the 2023 survey



56% of the respondents are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company which is an increase compared to the 2020 survey (38%) and to the 2017 survey (49%) and level the 2002-2010 surveys (52-57%). However, we have changed the employer category from “medicinal and biotech company” in previous surveys to “pharmaceutical or life science company” in the 2023 survey.

73% of the PhDs from Department of Pharmacy in the 2023 survey are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company. Only 41% of the PhDs from Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology in the 2023 survey are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company.

26% of the respondents are employed at a university, which is a lower level than the previous surveys (35% in 2020 survey).

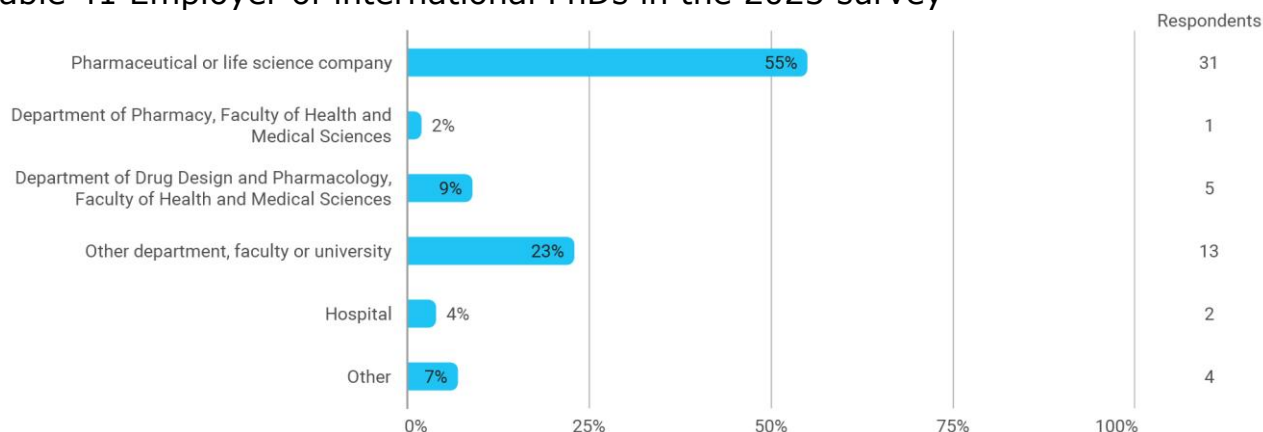
12% are employed at the Department of Pharmacy and the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology, which is considerably lower than in the 6 previous surveys (18-24%).
14% are employed at other departments, faculties, or universities (4-14% in 6 previous surveys).

7% of the respondents work in hospitals, which is a higher level than the 2002-2010 and 2017-2020 surveys (2-3%).

The 12 persons who replied “Other” included, for instance, work in Danish Medicines Agency, consultant and law/patent companies, Danish Cancer Society, Statens Serum Institut, BioInnovation Institute Foundation.

The category “Other” had 10-20% respondents in the 6 previous surveys.

Table 41 Employer of international PhDs in the 2023 survey



55% of the international PhDs are employed in a pharmaceutical or life science company. 34% are employed at a university.

Table 42 Comparison to previous surveys: Employer

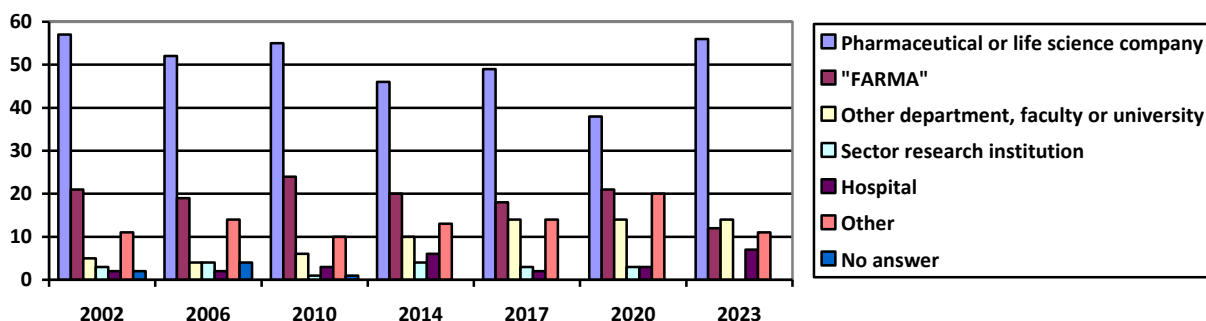


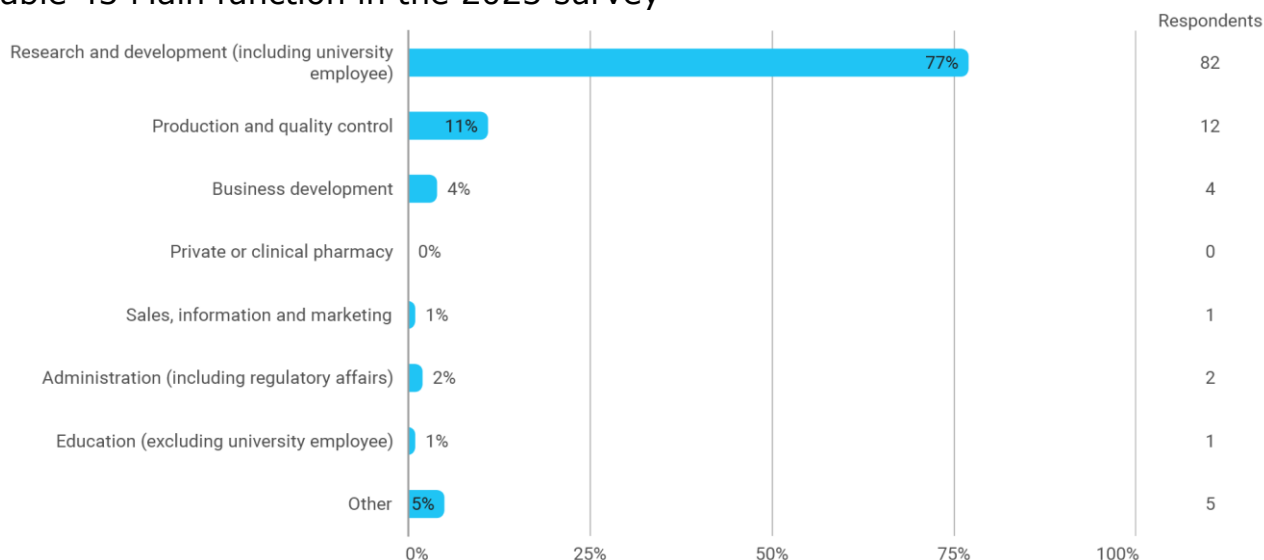
Table 42 shows the percentage of employers in the surveys.

The category "Medicinal or biotech company" was changed into "Pharmaceutical or life science company" in the 2023 survey. The category "Sector research institution" was deleted in the 2023 survey.

"FARMA" corresponds to the Department of Pharmacy and the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology since 2012.

This specific question was not included in the 1999 survey, but another similar question showed that 50% were employed in a medicinal company, 26% at universities and 11% in other public organizations.

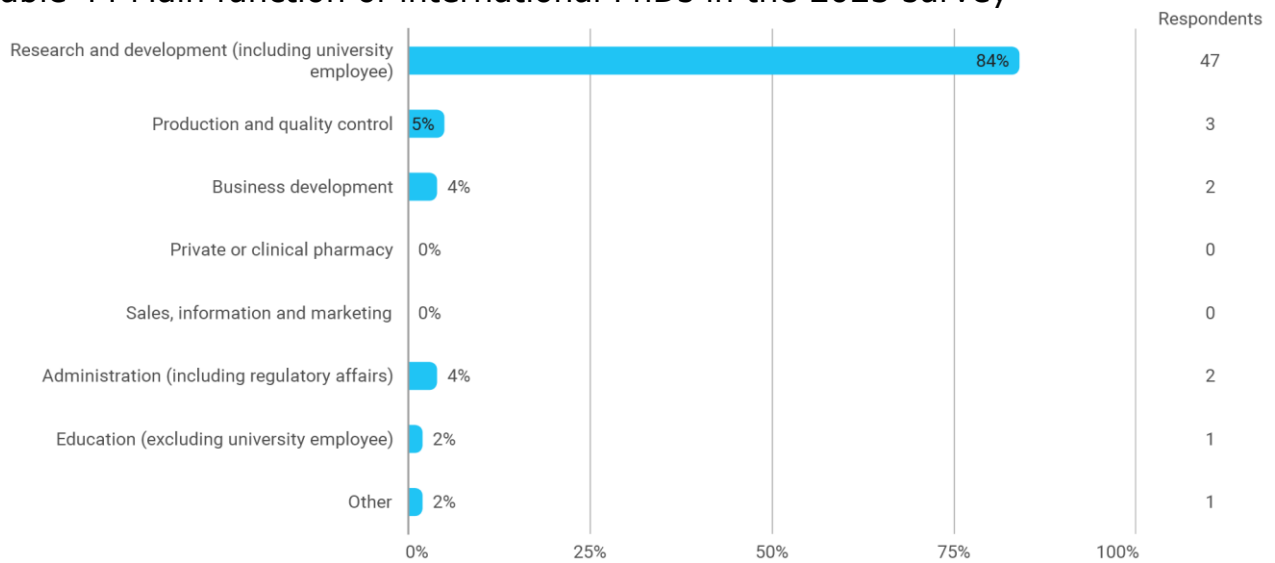
Table 43 Main function in the 2023 survey



77% of the respondents work with main function in R&D, and 11% in production and quality control.

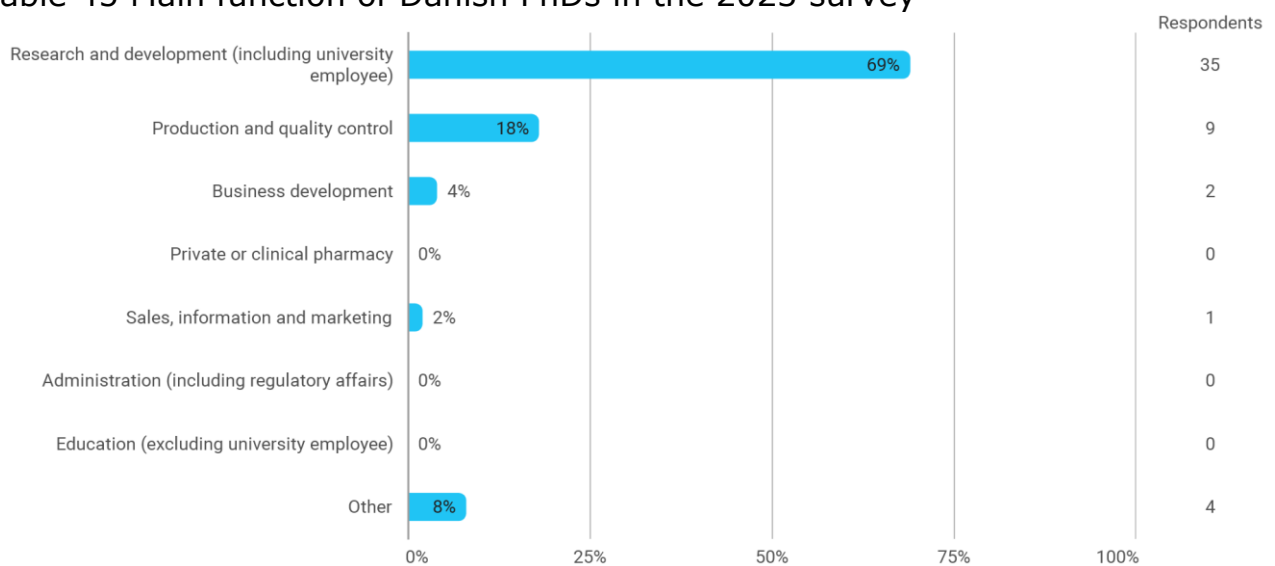
The 5% responding "Other" included for instance being a project manager, project coordinator, working with patents and law, quality assessment.

Table 44 Main function of international PhDs in the 2023 survey



Of the international PhDs in the survey 84% work in research and development which is higher than the average for Danish PhDs in the survey.

Table 45 Main function of Danish PhDs in the 2023 survey



Of the Danish PhDs in the survey 69% work in research and development.

Table 46 Comparison with previous surveys: Main function

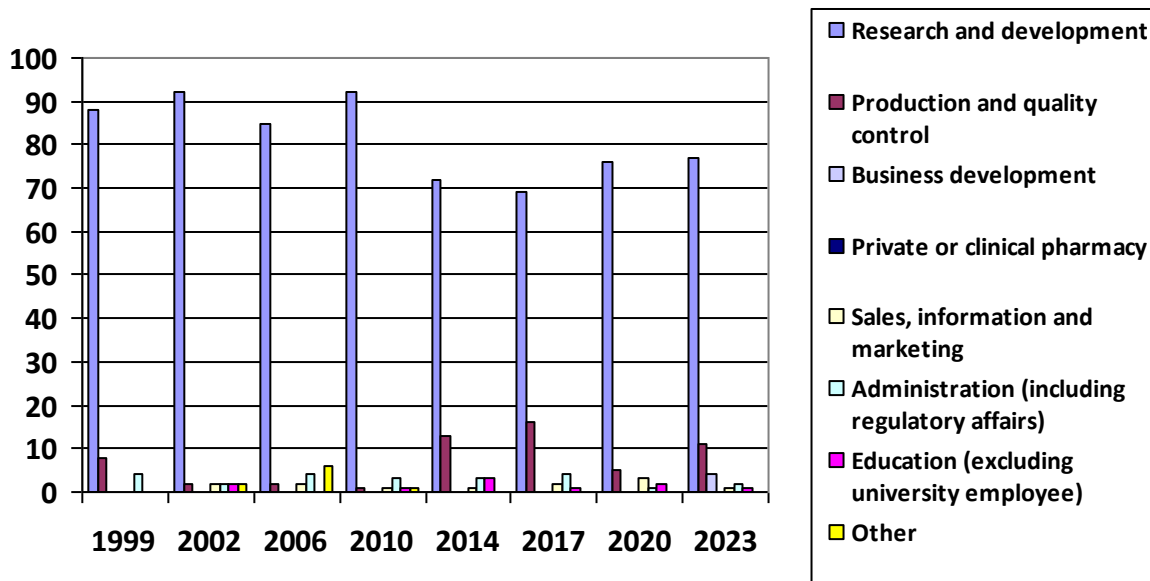
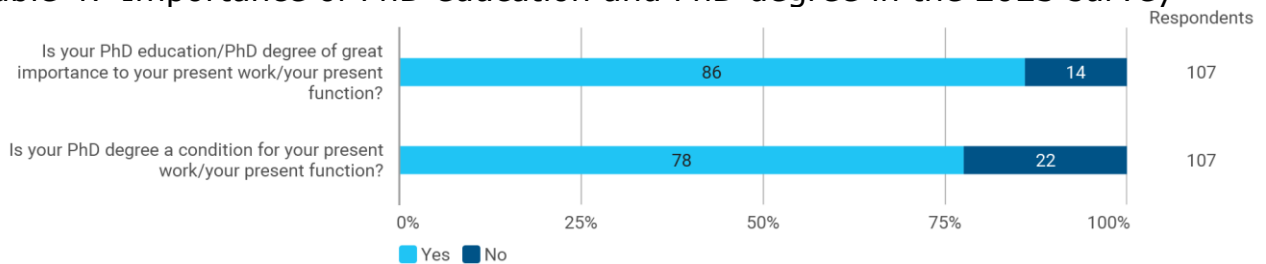


Table 46 shows the percentage of main function in the surveys.

In the 2023 survey, we have included new options: business development, private or clinical pharmacy.

In comparison to the previous survey, the rate working in R&D has increased in the last two surveys. The rate working in production and quality control has increased compared to the 2020 survey. The rate working in R&D is still below the 1999-2010 surveys when 85-92% worked in R&D and above the 1-2% who worked in production and quality control in the in the 2002-2010 surveys (8% in the 1999 survey).

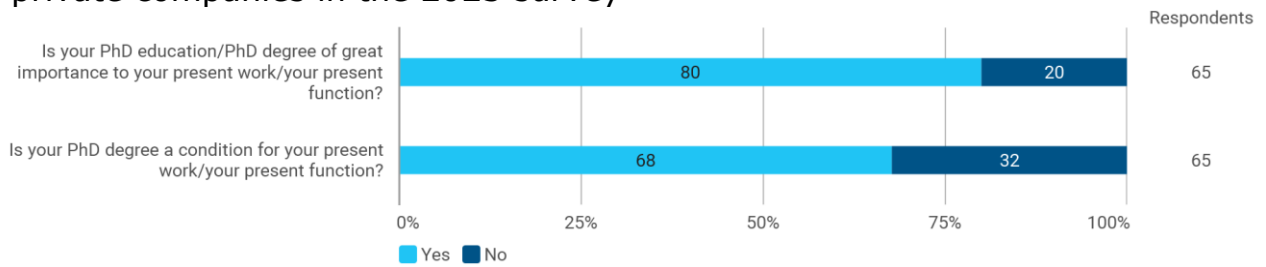
Table 47 Importance of PhD education and PhD degree in the 2023 survey



86% consider their PhD education and PhD degree of being of great importance to their present function.

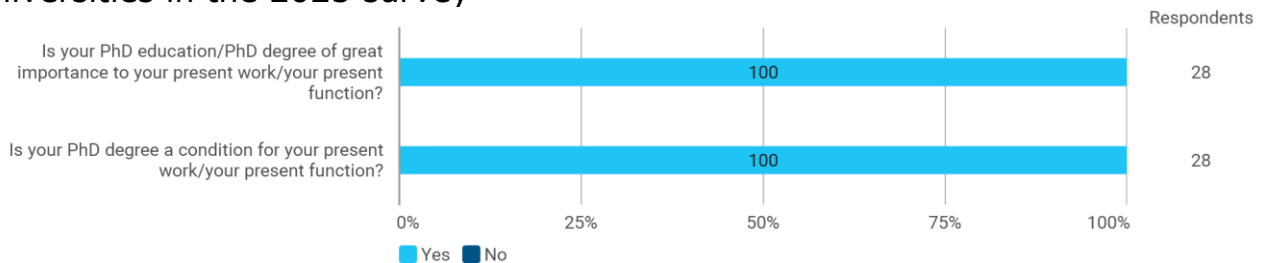
This is an increase compared to the 2017 survey (75%) and 2020 survey (84%) and levelling the previous surveys in 2006 and 2010 when 86-89% considered the PhD education and degree of great importance to their present work/function. The question was not included in the 1999 and 2002 surveys.

Table 48 Importance of PhD education and PhD degree for the PhDs employed in private companies in the 2023 survey



When isolating the answers to these questions from the PhDs working in a private company (table 46) the importance of the PhD education and PhD degree is lower than the answers from all PhDs. However, the PhD has become more important compared to the 2020 survey when 75% considered the PhD of great importance and 62% considered the PhD a condition for their present function.

Table 49 Importance of PhD education and PhD degree for PhDs employed at universities in the 2023 survey



When isolating the answers to these questions from the PhDs working in a university (table 47) the importance of the PhD education and PhD degree is considerably higher than the answers from all PhDs.

Table 50 Comparison with previous surveys: Importance of PhD education and PhD degree, question 1 "Is your PhD education/PhD degree of great importance to your present job/function?"

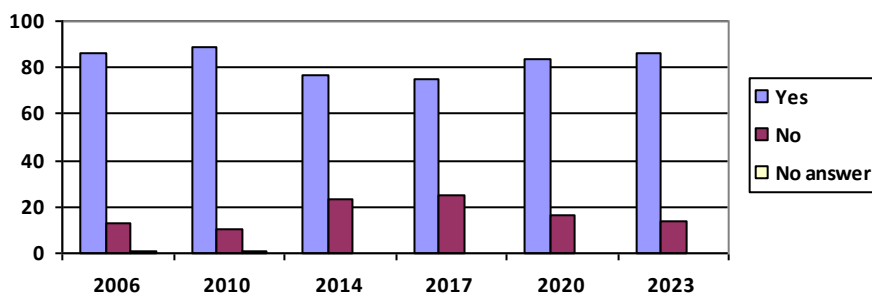


Table 50 shows the percentage of answers in surveys to the question "Is your PhD education/PhD degree of great importance to your present job/function?"

Table 51 Comparison with previous surveys: Importance of PhD education and PhD degree, question 2 "Is your PhD degree a condition for your present work/function?"

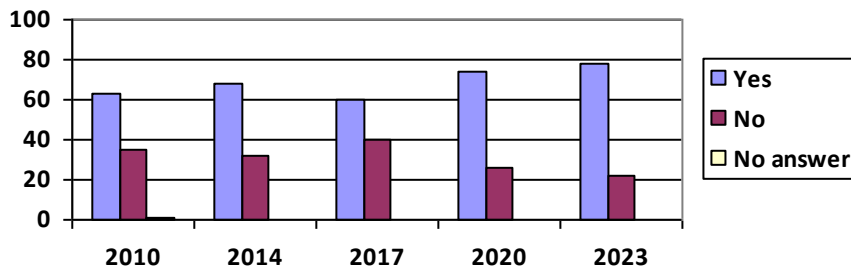
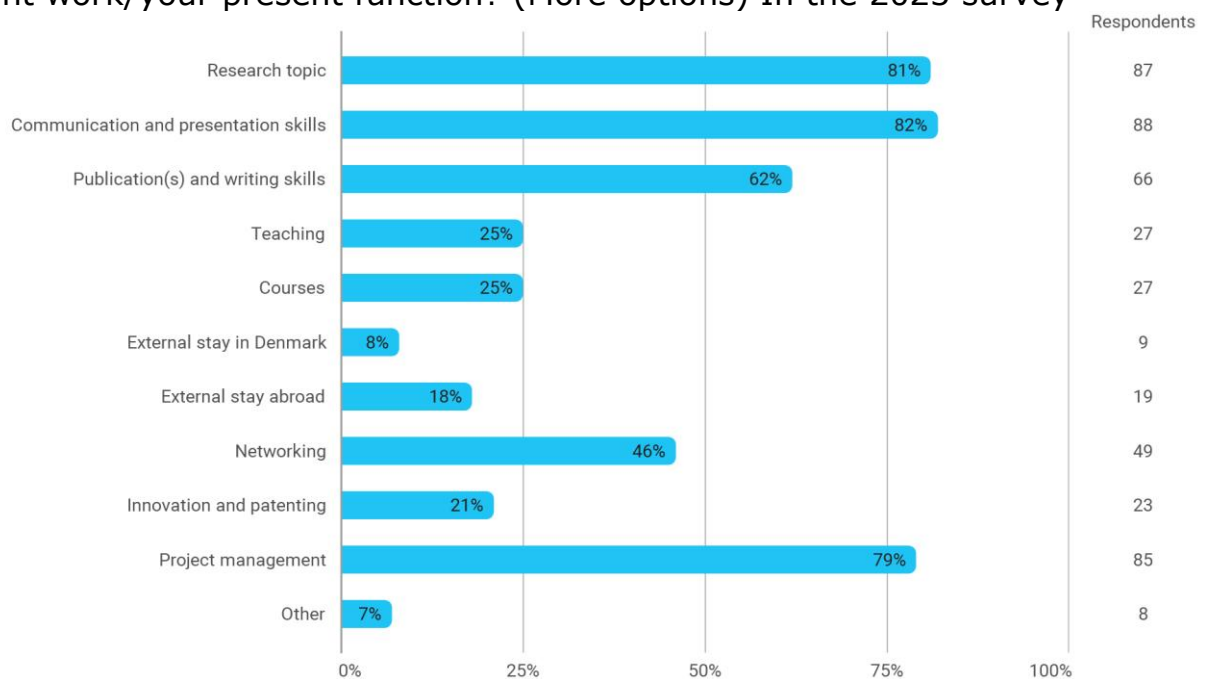


Table 51 shows the percentage of answers in surveys to the question "Is your PhD degree a condition for your present job/function?"

In the 2023 survey, 78% consider the PhD degree to be a condition for their present work/function which is an increase compared to previous surveys. However, 22% didn't consider the PhD degree to be a condition for their present work/function.

Table 52 Which elements in your PhD education are of importance as to your present work/your present function? (More options) In the 2023 survey



In 2023, the elements of the PhD education considered to be of importance to the present work/function are communication and presentation skills (82%), research topic (81%), project management (79%), publication(s) and writing skills (62%) and networking (46%).

In 2020, the elements of the PhD education considered to be of importance to the present work/function are research topic (74%), project management (72%), communication (66%), publications (46%) and networking (45%).

In the 2017 survey, the elements of the PhD education considered to be of importance to the present work/function were project management (70%), research topic (64%), communication (63%), and networking (45%).

In the 2014 survey, the elements of the PhD education considered to be of importance to the present work/function were research topic (69%), communication (54%), publications (42%) and networking (32%). Project management was not a specific category in the 2014 survey but the most frequently mentioned additional skill in an open answer.

The question was also asked in the 2010 survey with the answers: Research topic (40%), publications (17%) and communication (11%). Networking was not a specific category in the 2010 survey.

In general, the respondents consider research topic, project management, and communication as the most important elements of the PhD education in their present work/function. Communication and presentation skills are of increased importance in the present survey, but also research topic, project management and publications. Networking is also of some importance in the 2017 and 2020 surveys.

Some of the respondents who replied "other" mentioned other elements, for instance, animal experiment experience, experience with laboratory techniques, and analytical skills.

Table 53 Comparison of 2014, 2017 and 2020 surveys: Which elements in your PhD education are of importance as to your present work/your present function? (More options)

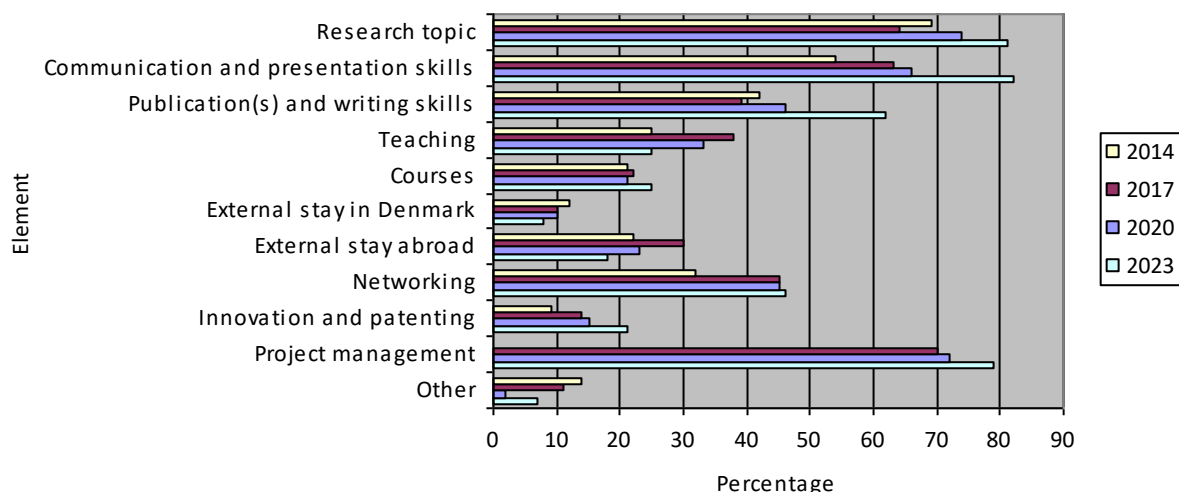


Table 53 shows the importance in percentage of different elements in the PhDs present work/function in the surveys from 2014, 2017, and 2020.

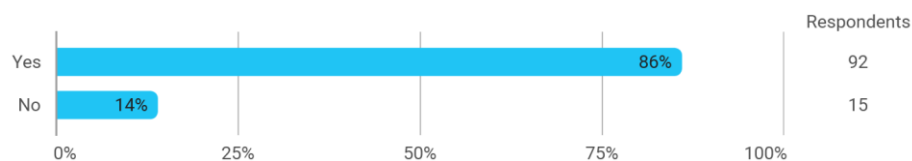
Project management was not included as an element in the 2014 survey. However, it was the most frequently mentioned additional skill in the open question.

In the 2023, the category "Communication" was changed to "Communication and presentation skills", and the category "Publication(s)" was changed to "Publication(s) and writing skills".

Considering your current job, are there any additional skills which would have been relevant in your PhD education?

Several additional skills were mentioned in the open answer, but some of the frequently mentioned additional skills were skills in statistics and programming, people management and team work, soft skills, and introduction to industry.

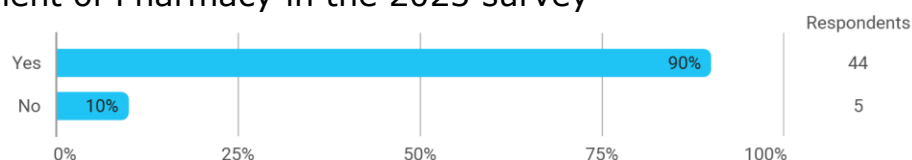
Table 54 Do you work in a field related to your PhD project? In the 2023 survey



86% of the respondents work in a field related to their PhD project which is an increase compared to the 2017 survey (50%) and 2020 surveys (54%). However, we have changed the question in the 2023 survey from “the same field as your PhD project” to “a field related to your PhD project”.

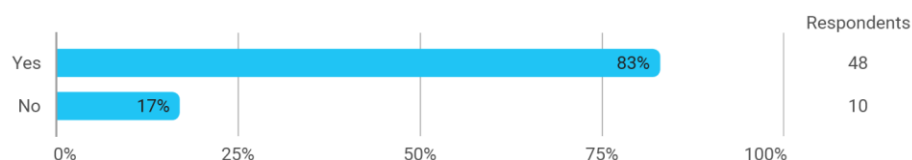
The answers were similar when isolating the answers from Danish and international PhDs.

Table 55 Do you work in a field related to your PhD project? Answers from PhDs from the Department of Pharmacy in the 2023 survey



90% of the respondents from the Department of Pharmacy work in a field related to the PhD project. In the 2020 survey, 63% of the respondents from the Department of Pharmacy worked in the same field as their PhD project.

Table 56 Do you work in a field related to your PhD project? Answers from PhDs from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology in the 2023 survey



83% of the respondents from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology work in a field related to the PhD project. In the 2020 survey, 51% of the respondents from the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology worked in the same field as their PhD project.

Considerations and other comments

The survey was conducted for PhDs who graduated from early 2020 to late 2022 and their employment status as of 1 March 2023. Statistically, this can be problematic as, for instance, the main function may differ considerably between the PhDs from 2020 and those from 2022.

Attention should be made to statistical inference with a small sample size and heterogeneous group.

It could be interesting to make a survey on employment status after, for instance, 5 or 10 years after PhD graduation.

It could also be an idea to include questions about current salary (with a 'Do not wish to share' option). Also questions about the number of jobs since the PhD could be asked in a future survey as some get employment when the employment as a PhD fellow expires or after handing in the PhD thesis but before the PhD defence.

Using an electronic programme makes it easy to isolate the answers from specific groups of PhDs, for instance, reports can be elaborated on the PhDs working in a private company or at the Department of Pharmacy or the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology.

The electronic survey is, however, less flexible and can force respondents to give specific answers. The "no answer" category is practically non-existent.

Questions

Questions to the survey can be addressed to

PhD coordinator Marianne W. Jørgensen marianne.joergensen@sund.ku.dk

University of Copenhagen

Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

Graduate Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Drug Research Academy

Universitetsparken 2

DK - 2100 Copenhagen