

CIRCLE Programme Report Series

CIRCLE Visiting Fellowship Follow-up Report January – June 2018



In partnership with:



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Information included in this report has been generated from data provided by our CIRCLE Visiting Fellowship alumni.

We would like to thank our Fellows for their contribution and congratulate them on their numerous achievements.

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Cover Photo: Farmers carrying out zai micro-dozing on their crops, Ghana. Research Uptake Activity by Dr Mercy Derkyi, Cohort 1 CVF. Image by Dr Mercy Derkyi.

Table of Contents

Tables and Figures	5
Tables.....	5
Figures	6
Introduction.....	7
Experience since returning	8
Mentoring.....	10
Researcher Development Framework (RDF)	11
Change in role.....	11
Opportunities and challenges to use CIRCLE skills	12
Ongoing connections	14
Institutional Early Career Research Support	15
Institutional Strengthening Programme.....	16
Publications	18
Peer-reviewed publications since January 2018	18
CIRCLE Research since January 2018.....	19
Grant / Funding Applications.....	20
Collaborations.....	21
Conferences, seminars and other events	23
Next Steps.....	24

Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 1. Number and proportion of responses by Cohort	7
Table 2. Number and proportion of responses by Gender	7
Table 3. CVFs’ rating of their experience of participating in the CIRCLE Fellowship.....	8
Table 4. % of CVFs rating their experience of the CIRCLE Fellowship as Good or Very Good by Cohort.....	8
Table 5. % of CVFs rating experience of the CIRCLE Fellowship as Good or Very Good 6 months post-fellowship by Cohort.....	8
Table 6. % of CVFs reporting they are mentors at their institution by Cohort.....	10
Table 7. Data on CVFs’ promotions organised by Cohort.....	11
Table 8. Number of internal and external events CVF's shared experiences at.....	12
Table 9. Percentage of respondents with ongoing connections with CIRCLE-related groups	14
Table 10. % of CVFs who are a part of the home institution’s ISP Team, by Cohort.....	16
Table 11. Cohort comparison of peer-reviewed publications since January 2018	18
Table 12. Gender comparison of peer-reviewed publications since January 2018.....	18
Table 13. Journal reputation of CVF peer-review submissions	18
Table 14. Cohort comparison of CIRCLE research publications since January 2018	19
Table 15. Gender comparison of CIRCLE research publications since January 2018	19
Table 16. Journal reputation of CVF CIRCLE research submissions.....	19
Table 17. Number applications CIRCLE groups are involved in	20
Table 18. Number and total amount of grant applications organised by outcome.....	20
Table 19. Activities funding was applied for.....	20
Table 20. Types of organisations applied to	21
Table 21. The number and type of research collaborated on by respondents.....	21
Table 22. Types of activities collaborated on	21
Table 23. Key outputs from collaborations	21
Table 24. Cohort comparison of types of CIRCLE actors collaborated with.....	23
Table 25. Cohort comparison of number of events attended and presented at	23
Table 26. Number of events attended by country	23
Table 27. Types of groups organising events	23

Figures

Figure 1. Proportion of responses by Gender by Cohort.....	7
Figure 2. CVFs' rating of their experience in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship.....	8
Figure 3. Cohort breakdown of CVFs' positive responses in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship.....	9
Figure 4. Gender breakdown of Fellows' positive responses in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship	10
Figure 5. Opportunities where CVFs have applied the skills acquire through CIRCLE	12
Figure 6. Challenges hindering CVFs applying the skills acquire through CIRCLE	13
Figure 7. Cohort comparison of the main challenges hindering the use of CIRCLE-acquired skills	13
Figure 8. Cohort comparison of ongoing connections with CIRCLE-related groups (%)	14
Figure 9. Respondents perception of change in support for early career researchers (%).....	15
Figure 10. Respondents perception of how their ISP had progressed	17
Figure 11. Cohort comparison of respondent's perception of how their ISP had progressed.....	17
Figure 12. Comparison of collaboration outputs with previous Follow-up Reports	22

Introduction

This report summarises responses from the CIRCLE Visiting Fellowship (CVF) Follow-up Survey for Cohort’s 1, 2, and 3. This survey covers the period from January to June 2018. As such, Cohort 1 are 2.5 years post-fellowship, Cohort 2 are 1.5 years post-fellowship, and Cohort 3 are 0.5 years post-fellowship. This is also the first Follow-up Survey Cohort 3 have completed since returning to their home institutions.

The report provides combined data for all three cohorts and where differences are substantial, these are discussed. As a principle aim of CIRCLE is to have a gender balance, an analysis by gender is provided where applicable. Results are also compared with the prior reporting period for Cohort’s 1 and 2, where results of the Follow-up Survey conducted 2-years and 1-year post-fellowship respectively were reported.

All data covered in this report is sourced from the CVF Follow-up Survey apart from the Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP) section. Data for the number of CVFs involved in their home institution’s ISP is sourced from data submitted by institutions as part of the CIRCLE ISP Extension reapplication process, as it was deemed more comprehensive.

74/96 (77%) CVFs completed the post-fellowship Follow-up Survey conducted in July 2018. The proportion of responses by Cohort and gender are as follows.

	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONDENTS	% OF COHORT
COHORT 1	25	34	76
COHORT 2	21	28	72
COHORT 3	28	38	82

Table 1. Number and proportion of responses by Cohort

	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONDENTS	% OF GENDER
FEMALE	41	55	84
MALE	33	45	70

Table 2. Number and proportion of responses by Gender

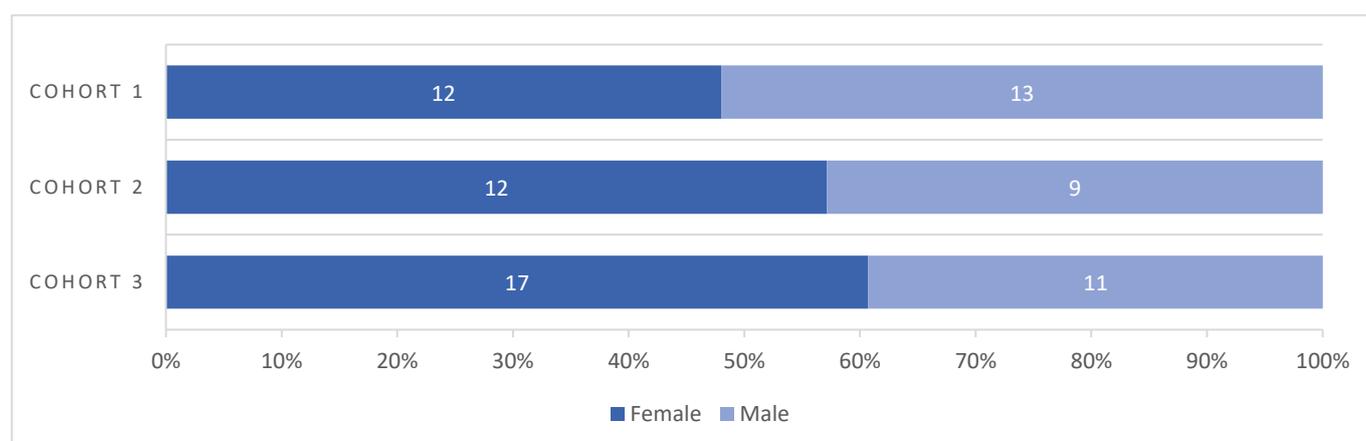


Figure 1. Proportion of responses by Gender by Cohort

Experience since returning

55/74 (74%) of CVFs rated their overall experience of participating in the CIRCLE Fellowship as Good or Very good.

	COUNT
GOOD	33
VERY GOOD	22

Table 3. CVFs' rating of their experience of participating in the CIRCLE Fellowship

This was consistent across genders. However, this was not consistent across all three cohorts, as seen below.

	GOOD OR VERY GOOD (%)
COHORT 1	72
COHORT 2	62
COHORT 3	86

Table 4. % of CVFs rating their experience of the CIRCLE Fellowship as Good or Very Good by Cohort

For Cohort 1, this is a substantial drop from the previous reporting period, where 92% of CVFs reported Good or Very good experiences. Cohort 2 on the other hand, have followed a similar rate, with 67% of Cohort 2 CVFs rating their experience as Good or Very good in the previous reporting period.

A comparison of Cohort 3 responses at 6 months post-fellowship with Cohorts 1 and 2 from their 6 months post-fellowship surveys shows similar rates, as seen below:

	GOOD OR VERY GOOD (%)
COHORT 1	91
COHORT 2	82
COHORT 3	86

Table 5. % of CVFs rating experience of the CIRCLE Fellowship as Good or Very Good 6 months post-fellowship by Cohort

CVFs were asked to rate their experience in the following areas since returning from their fellowship:

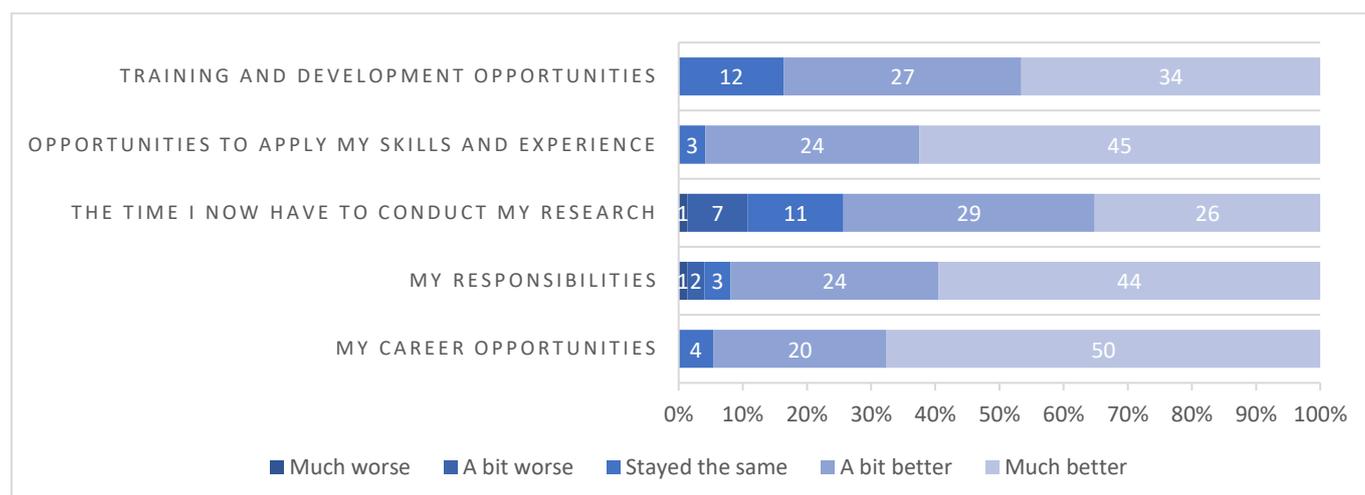


Figure 2. CVFs' rating of their experience in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship

As seen above, the majority of responses for all questions were positive, with opportunities to apply skills and experience and career opportunities the most positive. This is consistent with responses from previous reporting periods for Cohort's 1 and 2.

Time to conduct research is the area with the least improvement and has worsened in 8/74 cases. This is consistent with previous reporting on Cohort 1 and 2. This is followed by training and development opportunities, where 12/74 responded that they had stayed the same and their responsibilities, which has got worse 3/74 cases and stayed the same in 3/74 cases.

CVFs offered the following details of the time constraints they have had since returning, indicating that the increased visibility and responsibilities that have been imparted onto CVFs as a result of taking part in the CIRCLE Fellowship is impacting on their time availability:

The visibility I gained in my home institution due to involvement in CIRCLE programme has attracted more responsibilities. I have mixed feelings about this development. Good for me due to improved visibility. Not too exciting because of reduced time for personal development due to heightened responsibilities.

My workload has increased considerably and so has my responsibilities. However, I am more exposed to research and training opportunities now than before my CIRCLE fellowship.

The time to conduct research is now limited for I have been appointed the Deputy Principal of the College of Social Sciences and the office is taking much of my time.

Figure 3 breaks down the positive responses by Cohort. Positive responses are those where respondents said 'A bit better' or 'Much better'. As can be seen, a greater proportion of Cohort 3 have reported positive experiences in each reporting area since returning from their fellowship. 100% of Cohort 3 CVFs have had positive experiences in their career opportunities, their responsibilities, and opportunities to apply their skills and experience.

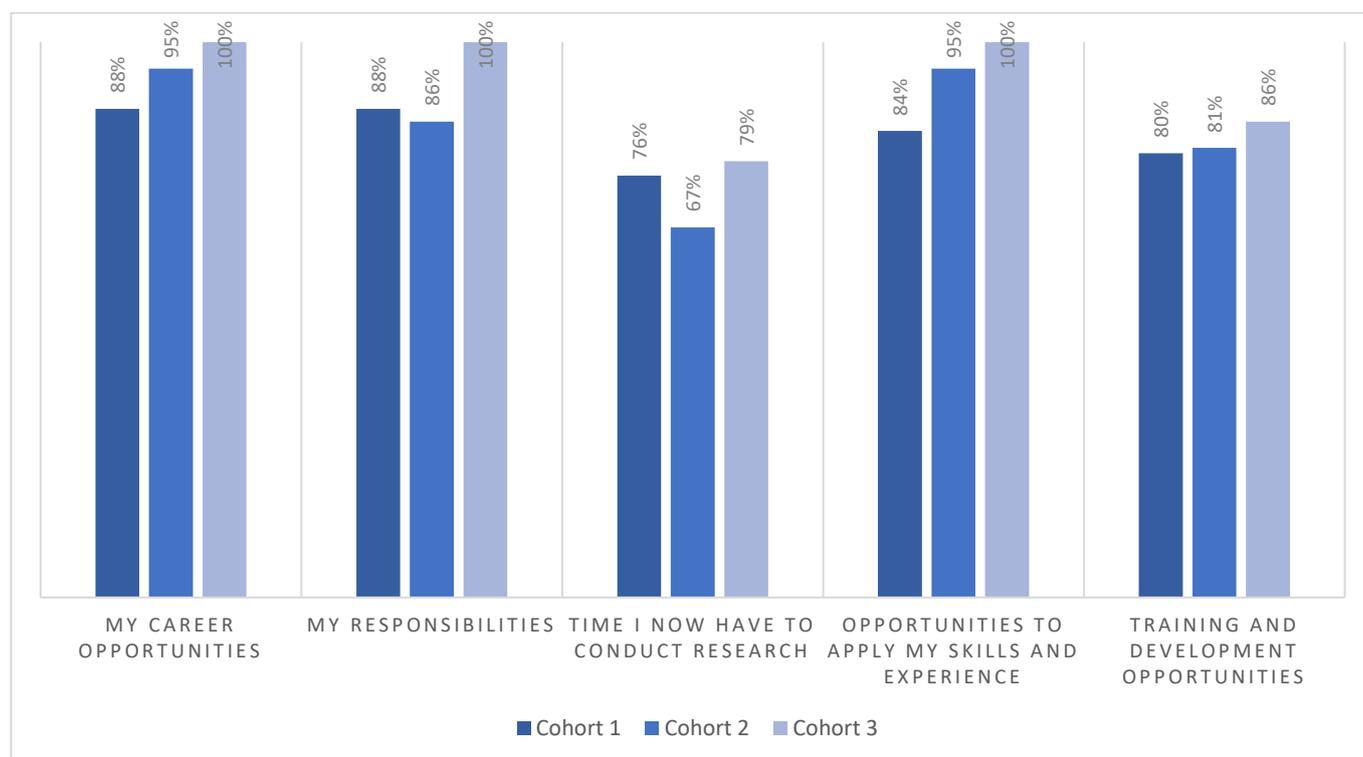


Figure 3. Cohort breakdown of CVFs' positive responses in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship

See Figure 4 below for a gender breakdown of the positive responses to each category. In all but one category, a greater proportion of male respondents have had a positive experience since returning from their fellowship.

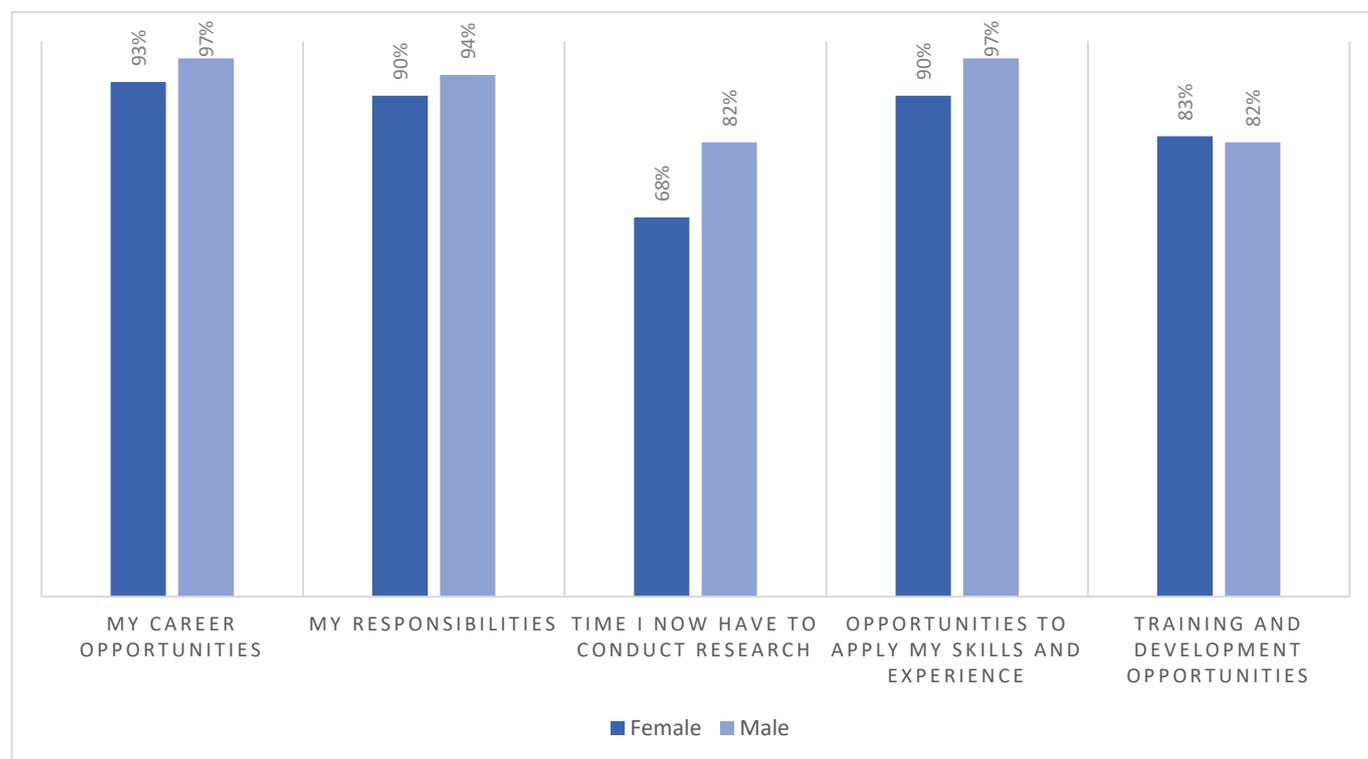


Figure 4. Gender breakdown of Fellows' positive responses in a variety of areas since returning from their fellowship

Mentoring

61/74 (82%) reported that they were currently mentors at their institution, with 7 actively mentoring a CVF at their institution at the time of survey completion. This is a much higher proportion than previously reported by Cohort 1 and Cohort 2, where 16/25 (64%) and 17/24 (71%) respectively reported being mentors. However, there are large disparities between Cohort's, with Cohort 2 displaying a large increase in mentors, see below:

	NO. OF MENTORS	% OF RESPONDENTS	% OF COHORT
COHORT 1	17	68	52
COHORT 2	20	95	69
COHORT 3	24	86	71

Table 6. % of CVFs reporting they are mentors at their institution by Cohort

From the data collected in this survey, it is also more likely for males to be mentors (91%) than females (78%).

Researcher Development Framework (RDF)

53/74 (72%) respondents indicated that they are still using the RDF. Again, there are differences between the Cohorts. 67% of Cohort 1 indicated they still use the RDF, a slight drop since the previous reporting period where 76% indicated continued use. 81% of Cohort 2 respondents indicated continued use, a significant increase since their last survey where 63% indicated continued use. 71% of Cohort 3 continue to use the RDF. 47 respondents use the RDF at least every few months.

Of those that no longer used the RDF, 4 indicated time constraints, 3 indicated that they use other frameworks at that their institution or that RDF-use is not standard practice, 1 indicated it did not provide value, 2 indicated it was too complicated to use effectively, and 4 indicated they would use it in the future.

Change in role

19/74 (26%) CVFs reported that they had been promoted in the last 12 months, with 12 of these indicating that this promotion was influenced by their participation in CIRCLE.

CVFs offered the following details of their promotions, indicating that their increases in publications and the skills learnt on the CIRCLE Fellowship contributed significantly:

I was promoted to Senior Lecturer and the journal published from CIRCLE work and grants received were used as points scored for me

Regarding the promotion, I was Assistant Researcher and after I published CIRCLE paper, I submitted the necessary documents required for a promotion and was promoted to an Associate Researcher.

I have gained my PhD at last and thanks to the influence of CIRCLE, I learnt time and resource management. I am currently a Senior Lecturer and I am being considered for an Associate Professorship post partly based on the publications I did during and after the CIRCLE fellowship.

See below for a breakdown by Cohort.

	NO. OF PROMOTIONS	% OF COHORT	INFLUENCED BY CIRCLE (%)
COHORT 1	11	44	64
COHORT 2	1	5	100
COHORT 3	7	25	57

Table 7. Data on CVFs' promotions organised by Cohort

For Cohort 1, this an improvement on their previous reporting period where 28% reported they had been promoted in the last 12 months. This suggests that there are long-term benefits of participating in the CIRCLE Fellowship Programme, as the skills, knowledge, and experience gained continues to benefit career progression many years after completion.

For Cohort 2, this is a large drop in promotions as 28% reported promotions in the last survey.

A higher proportion of female CVFs have reported promotions since January 2018, with 30% reporting promotions compared with 21% of males.

Opportunities and challenges to use CIRCLE skills

56/74 (76%) respondents shared opportunities they have had to use the skills gained through CIRCLE in their post-fellowship period. As seen below, the most commonly cited opportunity is through sharing their experiences, skills, and/or knowledge at conferences and/or workshops and through mentoring.

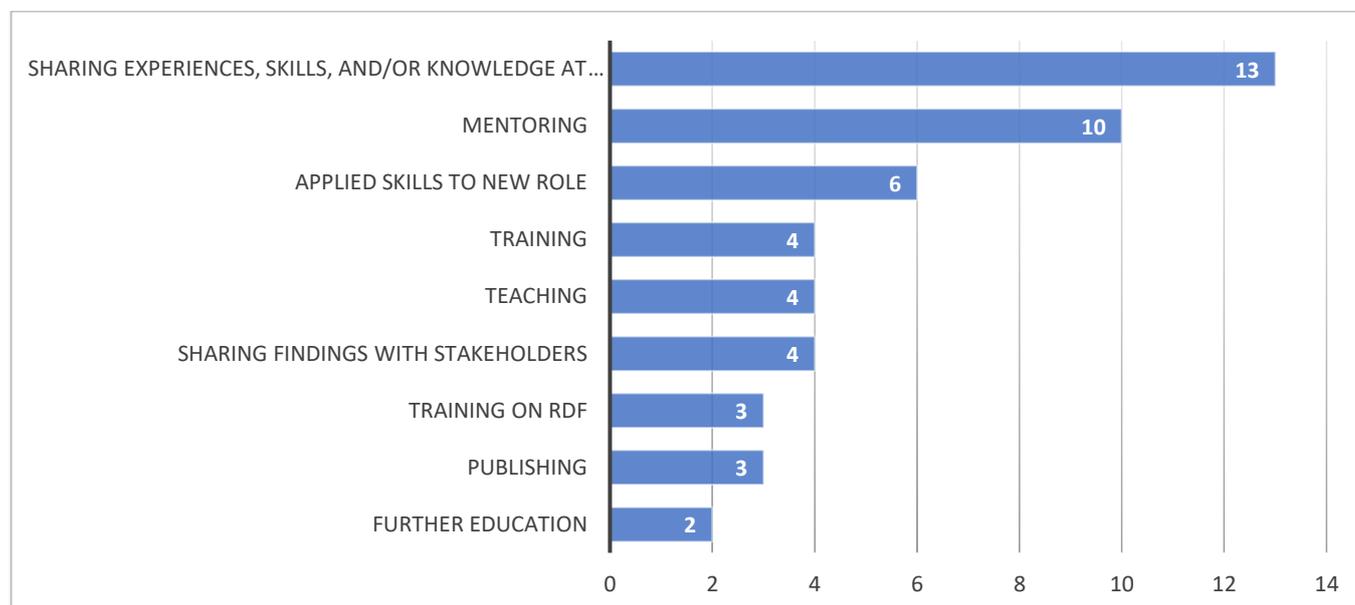


Figure 5. Opportunities where CVFs have applied the skills acquire through CIRCLE

Sharing experiences, skills, and/or knowledge at conferences and/or workshops include both internal and external events. These are distributed as follows:

INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL & EXTERNAL	DON'T KNOW
2	6	2	3

Table 8. Number of internal and external events CVF's shared experiences at

Some examples of how CVFs have used their CIRCLE experience are shared below:

Networking skills have enabled me to identify opportunities to collaborate with other academics in applying for research grants. I also have been invited to collaborate on research projects within my CIRCLE research subject area.

I have organised up to 5 workshops aimed at building capacity of graduate students in my institution. I am currently part of up to 4 research collaborations both within and outside my university.

The skills I acquired in the area of grant searching and proposal writing at the host institution equipped me to win my recent grant of \$20,000.00 from DANIDA under the Building Stronger University III initiative. Following the mentoring training during the post fellowship workshop in Kenya, I have successfully formed a research team consisting of 7 PhD students and 5 MPHIL students. I mentor them in the areas of research planning and implementation, time management and networking using RDF tools. Furthermore, I mentor them in the areas of thesis writing, oral presentation skills, manuscript writing, etc. This has significantly increased the research output of the team from which 7 manuscripts have been submitted since January with 4 already published in high impact factor journals.

CVFs were also asked to share any challenges they had encountered in applying the skills they had developed during CIRCLE. 44 respondents faced challenges since returning to their home institution. As seen below, time constraints have been the greatest challenge for returning CVFs, while the resources on offer, funding, and wider support at their home institution are all major challenges.

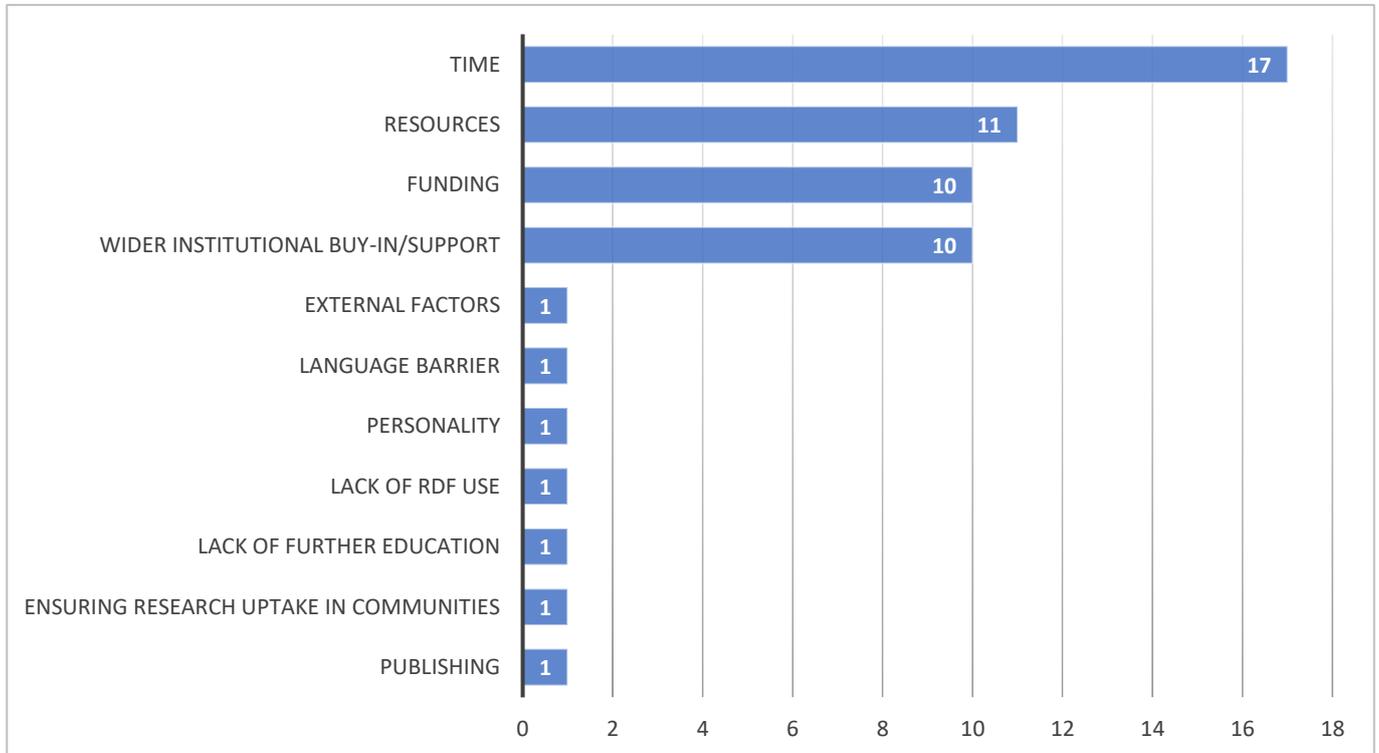


Figure 6. Challenges hindering CVFs applying the skills acquire through CIRCLE

Figure 7 below details the proportion of responses by Cohort for the 4 main challenges. Proportionally, Cohort 3 face greater challenges with gaining wider institutional buy-in/support, securing funding, and having sufficient resources. Cohort 2 face the greatest challenges in having enough time to apply their CIRCLE skills while Cohort 1, as with Cohort 3, struggle for resources.

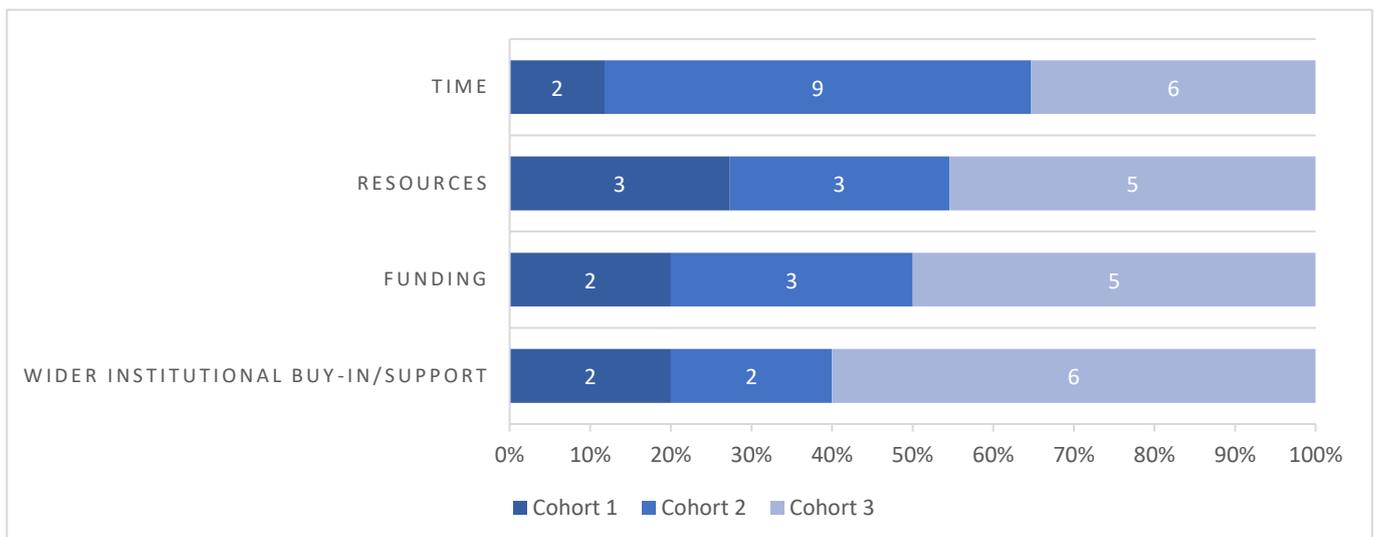


Figure 7. Cohort comparison of the main challenges hindering the use of CIRCLE-acquired skills

The following are some of the challenges as reported by returning CVFs:

I intended to expand my CIRCLE research work through research uptake and to explore other clean and affordable energy conversion technologies, but funding has been a major challenge. Furthermore, I am facing excess workload challenges arising from administration and teaching.

The most critical challenge is that of up-to-date research facilities which I enjoyed during my CIRCLE fellowship.

I have changed, but the system and people around me are still changing.

Ongoing connections

The connections between CVFs and other academics and institutions that have been created through the CIRCLE Fellowship Programme are an important mechanism for ensuring the sustainability of CIRCLE successes. For each type of connection, the majority of respondents were still in contact or were actively collaborating with their connections. See table below:

	% STILL IN CONTACT OR ACTIVELY COLLABORATING
HOST SUPERVISOR	84
SPECIALIST ADVISOR	53
OTHER ACADEMIC AT HOST INSTITUTION	62
OTHER CVFS OUTSIDE THEIR HOME INSTITUTION	82

Table 9. Percentage of respondents with ongoing connections with CIRCLE-related groups

However, there are considerable differences across the Cohort's for all connections except for other CVFs outside their home institution:

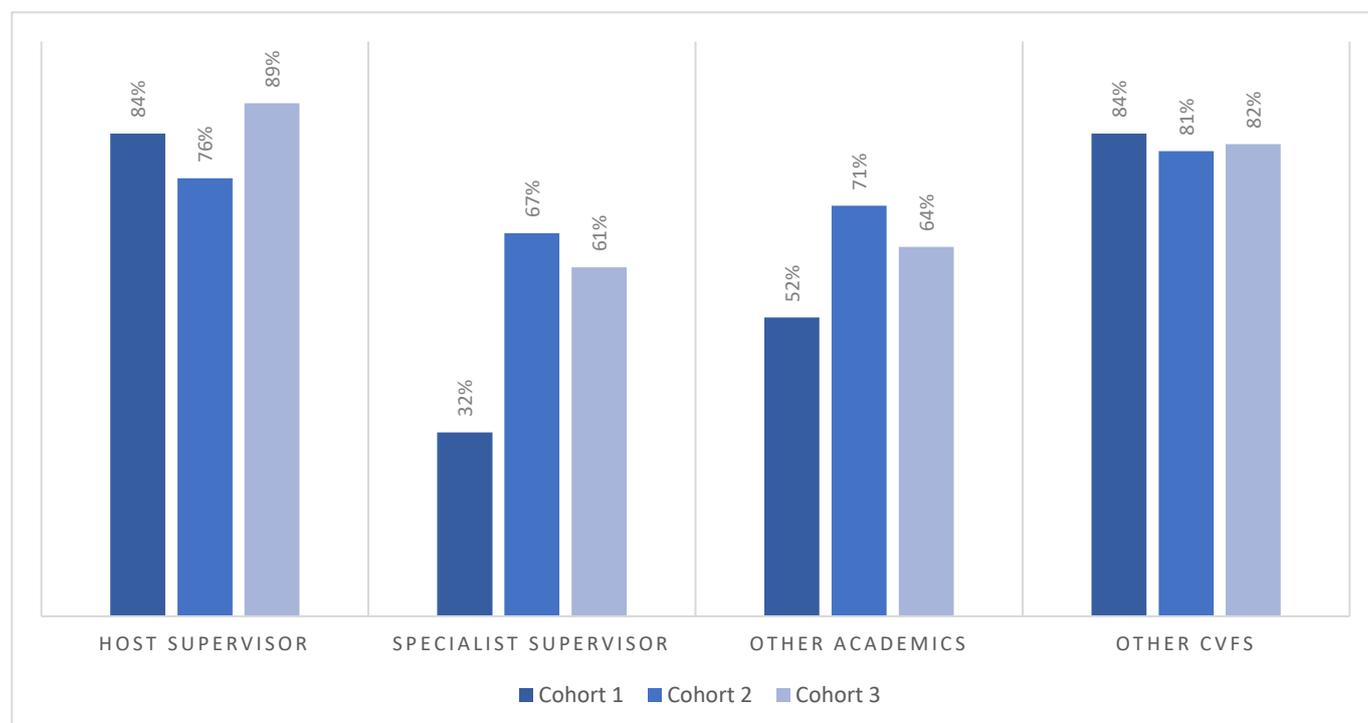


Figure 8. Cohort comparison of ongoing connections with CIRCLE-related groups (%)

Cohort 3 CVFs were more likely to be in contact with or actively collaborating with their host supervisors at 89%, whereas for Cohort 2 this was 76%. This is to be expected as Cohort 3 had just completed their fellowship. Cohort's

1 and 2 responses to whether they are still connected with their host supervisor dropped by the same percentage points from the previous reporting period; 84% of Cohort 1 reported they were still in contact or actively collaborating with their host supervisors since January 2018 whereas 96% were in the prior reporting period. For Cohort 2, 76% reported contact or collaboration in the current survey whereas 88% did in the previous. As time away from their host increases, it is to be expected that less CVFs will stay in contact with their host supervisor. Nevertheless, it is still a large proportion of respondents evidencing the sustainability of the CIRCLE Fellowship Programme.

Cohort 1 were much less likely to be in contact or collaborating with their specialist advisor, with only 32% being in contact or collaborating with their specialist advisor, which is significantly lower than the last reporting period (44%). The proportion may be falling due to the end of CIRCLE Fellowship Programme which supported these connections and the completion of collaborative projects.

Cohort 2 were most likely to be in contact with or actively collaborating with other academics at their host institution. Cohort 2's 71% response rate is lower than the previous reporting period of 88%. Cohort 1 have had a significant drop since the last reporting period where 72% reported contact with other academics. Again, the proportion may be falling due to the end of CIRCLE Fellowship Programme which supported these connections and the completion of collaborative projects.

Contact with or collaboration with other CVFs outside their home institution is consistent across the Cohort's. However, for Cohort 2 the 81% reported is significantly lower than the 96% reported in the previous report.

44/74 (59%) CVFs were undertaking further research linked to their CIRCLE research projects during the reporting period. Cohort 3 fellows have reported significantly lower on this question, with 43% of respondents detailing there are currently undertaking further CIRCLE research as opposed to 68% for Cohort 1 and 71% for Cohort 2. A higher proportion of Cohort 2 respondents (71%) have detailed they are continuing to undertake research related to their CIRCLE research than compared with the last reporting period (63%).

Institutional Early Career Research Support

CVFs were asked to comment on whether there had been a change in the discussion or provision of early career researcher support in the last 12 months. As can be seen below, the majority of respondents in both instances have reported an increase. For question 1, there is consistency across the Cohort's and we see a significantly higher reporting of increase that in previous reporting. For the previous reporting period, Cohort's 1 and 2 reported 63% and 72% increases respectively.

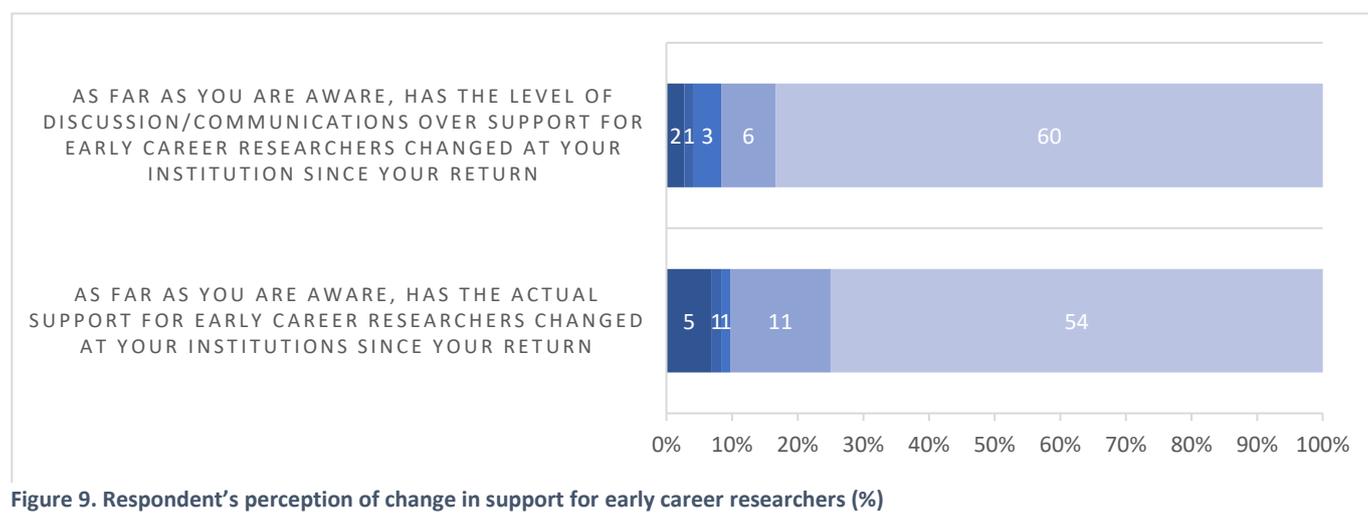


Figure 9. Respondent's perception of change in support for early career researchers (%)

The following selected comments were provided by CVFs:

Early researchers are now given the opportunities to interact with senior colleagues, especially through the ISP activities. My home institution's ISP activities also include sourcing and sharing calls for grants to the young researchers, which increase the opportunities for early researchers to get further research opportunities.

The institution is encouraging young researchers to apply for various opportunities, like training and workshops. Sometimes the institution prepares a workshop on how successful applications can be done. Additionally, Senior Researchers sometimes prepare joint fundable project proposals with young researchers.

The Central Office of Research has taken off. It is in its first year of operations. It coordinates the activities of about 5 units in the university related to research and staff welfare. The COR took it upon itself as one of its mandate to revive the old practices in the university of mentoring early career researchers into the system.

There is a marked difference between Cohort's for responses to the second question regarding whether there has been actual change in support. Cohort's 1 and 2 have similar responses, with 83% and 80% respectively indicating increases in actual support. However, only 64% of Cohort 3 believe there has been an increase in support. Nevertheless, these are still high numbers compared with initial Follow-up Surveys of Cohort 1, where reports of improvements in actual support were 48% of responses at 1-year post-fellowship. Therefore, we can see the benefits of the CIRCLE Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP) taking root.

Institutional Strengthening Programme

55/96 (57%) CVFs have been included in their home institution's institutional strengthening programme (ISP).¹ The proportion of Cohort 3 CVFs who are part of their institution's ISP team is less than Cohort's 1 and 2. This is not entirely unexpected, as Cohort 3 CVFs have been at their host institution for the last 12 months and may not have been involved in the ISP prior to joining the Fellowship Programme. See below:

COHORT 1	55%
COHORT 2	79%
COHORT 3	41%

Table 10. % of CVFs who are a part of the home institution's ISP Team, by Cohort

Female CVFs are more likely to be included in their institution's ISP, with 67% of female CVFs included and 45% male CVFs included.

Roles that CVFs currently hold in the ISP include:

- ISP Coordinator
- Workshop facilitator
- General ISP team member
- RDF Coordinator
- CVF Committee member

Activities that CVFs had been involved in included:

- Arranging and facilitating workshops for early career researchers
- Organising/delivering training on the RDF
- Organising/delivering training on mentoring
- Organising/delivering training on proposal writing

¹ This data has been sourced from institutions through the reapplication process for the CIRCLE ISP Extension. In the Follow-up Survey, 38/74 respondents indicated that they are part of their home institution's ISP, representing 51% of respondents, slightly lower than the more comprehensive reapplication data.

- Supporting the implementation of ISP activities
- Attending ISP Team meetings
- Evaluation of CVF achievements and experiences in the CIRCLE Fellowship Programme

CVFs were asked how they thought the ISP had progressed at their institution in the last 6 months:

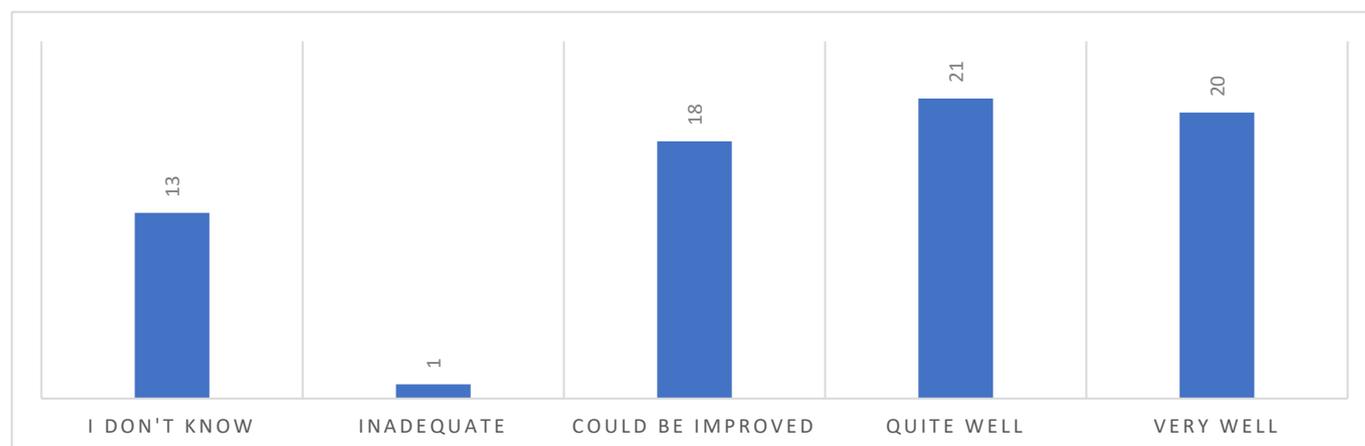


Figure 10. Respondent's perception of how their ISP had progressed

The majority of respondents (55%) believed that the ISP was doing either Quite well or Very well at their institution. Nevertheless, a large proportion (19/74) also felt the ISP could be improved or was inadequate. These negative responses covered 14 of the 22 institutions who had CVFs respond to this survey. While common challenges and successes can be generalised, the following examples highlight issues with providing a summative evaluation of the CIRCLE ISP, as challenges and successes are inevitably individualised across the institutional network. A more in-depth ISP Progress Report will be completed in October 218 and published alongside this report on the ACU website.

Great progress. The event promotes collaboration and networking among all staff members of the institution. All staff members of different department participated in the programme.

ISP is still revolving around the CIRCLE family, there is need to make an all-inclusive and institutional agenda in the University.

There are significant differences across the Cohort's, as detailed below, with Cohort 2 being the most positive about their institution's ISP. For Cohort 1 and 2, there has been a slight increase in their positive perceptions of their institution's ISP since the last reporting period. Cohort 1 has increased from 48% positive responses to 54% and Cohort 2 from 63% to 67%.

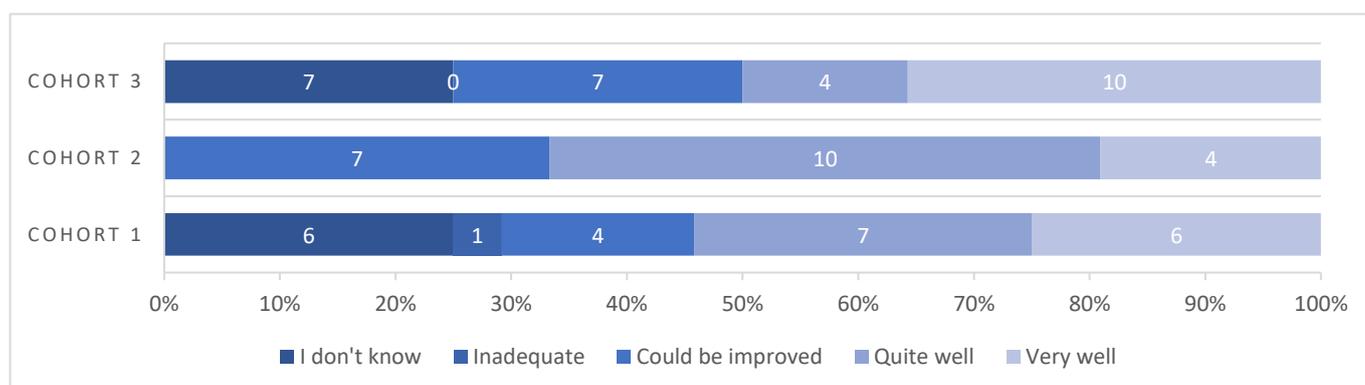


Figure 11. Cohort comparison of respondent's perception of how their ISP had progressed

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications since January 2018

48/74 (65%) respondents had submitted a total of 128 peer-review journal articles since January 2018. Of those, 34 CVFs had a total of 51 articles successfully published. See below for a breakdown by Cohort.

COHORT	NO. CVFS SUBMITTED	% OF COHORT RESPONDENTS	ARTICLES SUBMITTED	% OF TOTAL ARTICLES SUBMITTED	NO. CVFS PUBLISHED	ARTICLES PUBLISHED	% OF COHORT SUBMISSIONS	% OF TOTAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED
1	16	64	42	33	13	18	43	35
2	15	71	35	27	10	14	40	27
3	17	61	51	40	11	19	37	37

Table 11. Cohort comparison of peer-reviewed publications since January 2018

The proportion of Cohort 3 CVFs submitting peer-review journal articles is lower than Cohort's 1 and 2. However, Cohort 3 have been more prolific since January 2018, submitting the greatest number of articles and having the biggest proportion of total articles published. Nevertheless, Cohort 1 are slightly more successful in translating their submissions into published articles, with 43% of their submissions making it to publication.

GENDER	NO. CVFS SUBMITTED	% OF GENDER RESPONDENTS	ARTICLES SUBMITTED	% OF TOTAL ARTICLES SUBMITTED	NO. CVFS PUBLISHED	% OF CVFS SUBMITTING BY GENDER	ARTICLES PUBLISHED	% OF TOTAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED
FEMALE	27	66	55	43	20	74	28	55
MALE	21	64	73	57	14	67	23	45

Table 12. Gender comparison of peer-reviewed publications since January 2018

Seen in the table above, female CVFs have a greater proportion of articles published since January 2018, with females publishing 55% of articles. Moreover, the data collected displays that while males submitted a greater number of articles for publication, female CVFs were more likely to be published in the reporting period. This could be due to the targeted support CIRCLE offered to female CVFs.

Journal details were provided for 76 of the peer-review articles submitted. Publications were checked against Scimago, Scopus and well-known publisher websites to check whether they had been published by a reputable source. Those that were not identified as reputable were checked against Beall's list of predatory journals as well as other online sources.²

These peer-review journal submissions were distributed as follows:

	SUBMITTED	PUBLISHED / ACCEPTED, WAITING PUBLICATION	REJECTED	TOTAL
SJR Q 1 – 2	7	16	0	23
SJR Q 3 – 4	2	10	0	12
OTHER REPUTABLE	5	26	0	31
NOT REPUTABLE	2	3	0	5
NOT ENOUGH DATA	4	1	0	5
	20	56	0	76

Table 13. Journal reputation of CVF peer-review submissions

² Beall's list is not currently being updated and as such it has been used in conjunction with other resources.

Where journal and publisher information were provided by CVFs, and data was available online to source reputability, 93% were submitted to reputable journals, and 79% of these have either been published or are awaiting publication.

CIRCLE Research since January 2018

31/74 (42%) respondents had submitted a total of 44 peer-review journal articles based on their CIRCLE research since January 2018. Of those, 14 CVFs had a total of 15 successfully published. See below for a breakdown by Cohort and gender.

	NUMBER OF CVFS SUBMITTED	% OF COHORT RESPONDENTS	SUBMITTED	% OF TOTAL SUBMITTED	NUMBER OF CVFS PUBLISHED	PUBLISHED	% OF COHORT SUBMISSIONS	% OF TOTAL PUBLISHED
COHORT 1	8	32	10	23	6	5	50	33
COHORT 2	10	48	10	23	4	4	40	27
COHORT 3	13	46	24	55	4	6	25	40

Table 14. Cohort comparison of CIRCLE research publications since January 2018

Cohort 3 have submitted the greatest amount of CIRCLE research articles since January 2018. This is to be expected as they finished conducting their CIRCLE research in December 2017. However, as a percentage of total Cohort submissions, Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 have been more able to translate their submissions into published articles.

	CVFS SUBMITTING	% OF GENDER RESPONDENTS	ARTICLES SUBMITTED	% OF TOTAL SUBMITTED	CVFS PUBLISHED	% OF GENDER SUBMITTED	ARTICLES PUBLISHED	% OF ARTICLES SUBMITTED PUBLISHED
FEMALE	21	51	29	66	11	52	11	38
MALE	10	30	15	34	3	30	4	27

Table 15. Gender comparison of CIRCLE research publications since January 2018

The percentage of female respondents submitting CIRCLE research is much higher than male respondents. Moreover, the female percentage of total CIRCLE research submissions (66%) is higher than their proportion of total survey respondents (55%), suggesting they are having better outcomes from the CIRCLE Fellowship. Additionally, a greater proportion of female CVFs that are submitting CIRCLE research are being published (52% when compared with 30% of males). The proportion of submitted articles being published is also greater for females.

Journal details were provided for 36 of the CIRCLE research submissions since January 2018. As above, publications were checked against Scimago, Scopus and well-known publisher websites to check whether they had been published by a reputable source. Those that were not identified as reputable were checked against Beall's list of predatory journals as well as other online sources.

These CIRCLE research peer-review submissions were distributed as follows:

	SUBMITTED	PUBLISHED / ACCEPTED, WAITING PUBLICATION	REJECTED	TOTAL
SJR Q 1 – 2	5	8	0	13
SJR Q 3 – 4	0	5	0	5
OTHER REPUTABLE	3	11	0	14
NOT REPUTABLE	1	1	0	2
NOT ENOUGH DATA	2	0	0	2
	11	25	0	36

Table 16. Journal reputation of CVF CIRCLE research submissions

Where journal and publisher information were provided by CVFs, and data was available online to source reputability, 94% of CIRCLE research articles were submitted to reputable journals, and 75% of these have either been published or are awaiting publication.

Grant / Funding Applications

40 (54%) respondents had been involved in a total of 74 grant/funding applications since January 2018. 20 females had been involved in a total of 41 applications while 20 males had been involved 33. While the number of CVFs involved in grant/funding applications were proportionally similar across the Cohort's, there were disparities in the number of applications those fellows were involved in. Cohort 1 were involved in 27 applications, Cohort 2 involved in 22 and Cohort 3 involved in 25.

25/74 (34%) applications were led by CVFs, with 12 led by a female CVF and 13 led by a male CVF. 21/40 (53%) respondents involved in funding applications had been the lead applicant.

Applications involved the following:

HOME INSTITUTION	HOST INSTITUTION	OTHER CVFS	SPECIALIST ADVISOR
47	2	10	3

Table 17. Number applications CIRCLE groups are involved in

37/40 (93%) of CVFs involved in applications reported that their grant funding applications had been supported through their CIRCLE research and or/experience.

CVFs provided further details on 68 of the applications. The status and amount applied for of applications with details provided are as follows:

	NO. OF APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AMOUNT (USD)
SUCCESSFUL	14	471,250
IN PROGRESS / COMPILING APPLICATION	17	17,262,192
PENDING	26	4,168,318
UNSUCCESSFUL	11	292,600

Table 18. Number and total amount of grant applications organised by outcome

Some examples of these applications include a successful application for \$155,000 to the International Fund for Agricultural Research for a new research project, which the reporting CVF lead on at their home institution. They indicated that CIRCLE contributed to this through support in proposal development and research grant administration skills. Another example of a successful application included an application to UNESCO for \$93,000 to support a project inventorying oral traditions, expressions, local knowledge and practices of the Korekore of Hurungwe, which included collaboration between CVFs. The reported CVF noted that 'CIRCLE offered me the ability to articulate objectives and action plans for the project'.

Activities that funding was applied for:

EXISTING RESEARCH	NEW RESEARCH	CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE	TRAINING/ CAPACITY BUILDING	FELLOWSHIP/ INTERNSHIP	PHD
6	46	9	16	5	3

Table 19. Activities funding was applied for

Type of organisation applied to:

HOME UNIVERSITY	HOST UNIVERSITY	INTERNATIONAL	LOCAL/ REGIONAL/ PROVINCIAL	NATIONAL
17	0	44	3	8

Table 20. Types of organisations applied to

29 CVFs reported that they had not been a part of grant/funding applications within their institution between January – June 2018. These CVFs were contacted and asked to provide any information on obstacles and/or gaps in support. At the time of reporting 12 CVFs have responded, 3 from Cohort 1, 3 from Cohort 2, and 6 from Cohort 3.

The most common reported reasons for not participating in a funding application was the timing of the survey (4) and time constraints (4), while 3 had begun a PhD during the time period. Institutional policy was indicated by 1 CVF as an obstacle, while infrastructure and the availability of grants in their research area were each indicated once as an obstacle. Two CVFs indicated health issues as reducing their capacity to be involve in applications.

4 respondents indicated that they were now participating in a grant/funding application, 1 from Cohort 1, 1 from Cohort 2, and 2 from Cohort 3.

Collaborations

48/74 (65%) CVFs have been involved in a total of 107 collaborations since January 2018. 14 CVFs from Cohort 1 participated in 29 collaborations, 13 CVFs from Cohort 2 participated in 25, and 21 CVFs from Cohort 3 participated in 53. 28 collaborators were female and 20 male. 61/107 (57%) collaborations were new collaborations. The type of research collaborated on is summarised below:

CIRCLE RESEARCH	OTHER EXISTING RESEARCH	NEW RESEARCH
11	30	53

Table 21. The number and type of research collaborated on by respondents

As would be expected, the majority of CIRCLE Research collaborations was undertaken by Cohort 3 CVFs, who account for 6/11.

The main activities collaborated on were:

CONFERENCE	PROPOSAL WRITING	PUBLICATION	OTHER
10	48	35	9

Table 22. Types of activities collaborated on

Other activities included data collection and delivery of training/workshops.

The key outputs expected from the collaborations included:

CONFERENCE/ EVENT/ WORKSHOP/ SEMINAR	POLICY STATEMENT/ BRIEF	ARTICLE	BOOK CHAPTER	GUIDELINES/ TOOLKIT/ MANUAL	COMMUNITY OUTREACH	FUNDING	MOU	DEGREE/ ACADEMIC PROGRAMME	OTHER
40	27	60	9	12	32	28	5	10	2

Table 23. Key outputs from collaborations

Other activities included building networks for potential collaborations.

Proposal writing and publications have consistently seen the highest number of collaborations among CVFs, as seen in the previous Follow-up Reports for Cohort 1 and Cohort 2. The distribution of outputs follows a similar pattern to previous reports, with some marked differences, see Figure 12. Two important aims of CIRCLE have been to increase the number of CVFs involved in funding applications and to increase the use of research for policy. As such, the further increase in collaborations for policy statements/briefs and funding is important evidence of the long-term impact of CIRCLE Fellowship Programme and the ISP.

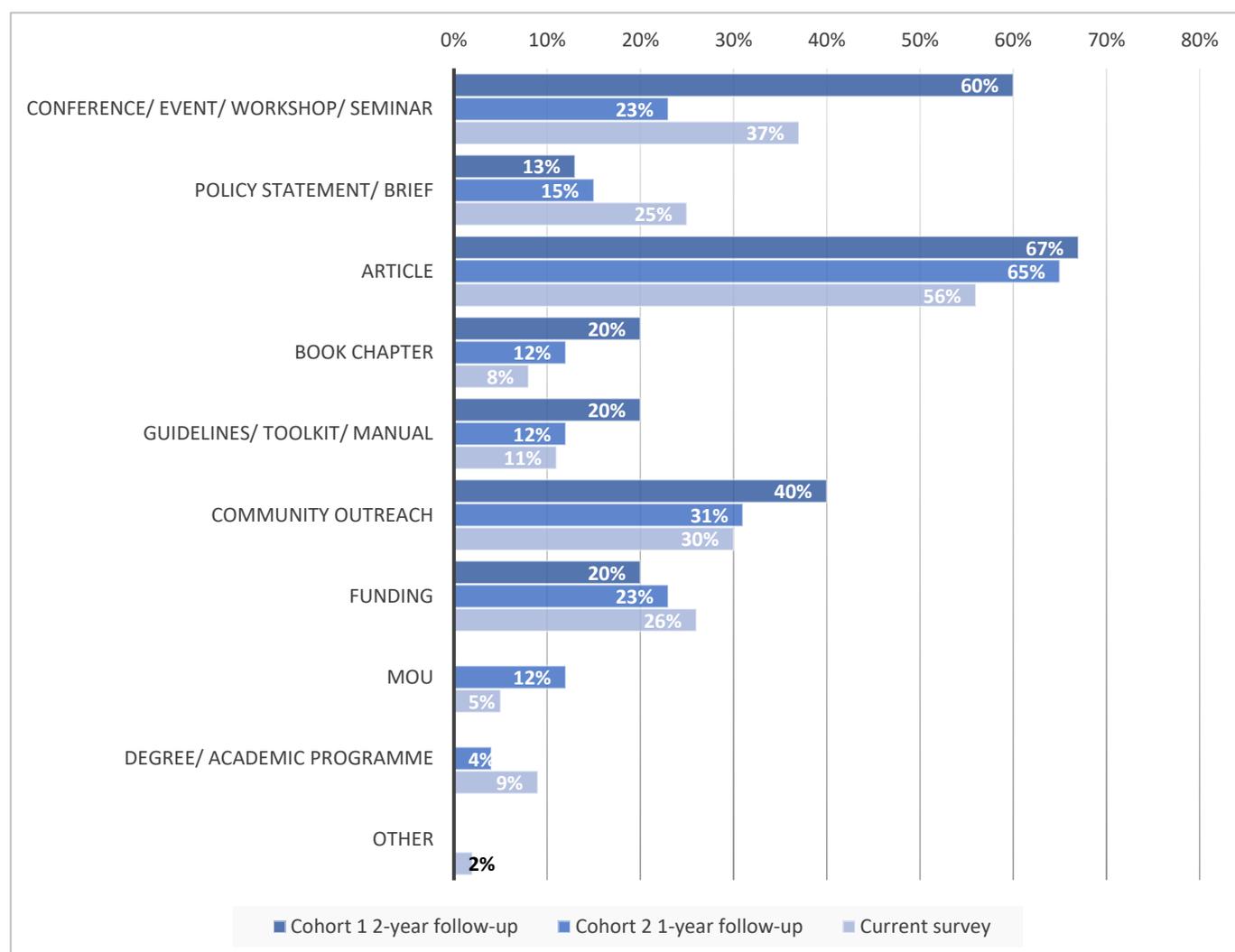


Figure 12. Comparison of collaboration outputs with previous follow-up reports

39 (36%) of the collaborations were reported as developing through participation in CIRCLE. There are disparities between the Cohorts, with 48% of Cohort 1 collaborations being developed through CIRCLE, 36% of Cohort 2's, and 30% of Cohort 3's. For Cohort 1, this is much lower than previously reported, as in the Cohort 1 2-year Follow-up Survey 67% of collaborations were reported as developing through CIRCLE. 85% of the collaborations reported in this survey are ongoing.

The number and types of CIRCLE actors participating in CVF collaborations are displayed by Cohort in the table below. For this reporting period, Cohort 2 and Cohort 3 were more likely to collaborate with their host organisation

and their specialist advisor. This is consistent with prior reports where Cohort 1 had no collaborations with host or specialist advisors (2-year Follow-up) whereas Cohort 2 did.

	HOME	HOST	OTHER CVFS	SPECIALIST ADVISOR	NONE OF THE ABOVE
COHORT 1	19	0	11	0	9
COHORT 2	17	3	5	2	4
COHORT 3	33	6	8	2	2

Table 24. Cohort comparison of types of CIRCLE actors collaborated with

Conferences, seminars and other events

47 CVFs have attended a total of 94 events since January 2018. Cohort 1 were least likely to attend events while Cohort 2 were most likely. However, Cohort 1 were mostly likely to present at the events they attended whereas Cohort 2 were least likely. As would be expected, Cohort 3 CVFs were most likely to present on their CIRCLE research, with 83% of presentations being on their CIRCLE research. This equates to 63% of all CIRCLE research presentations.

	% OF RESPONDENTS ATTENDING EVENTS	NO EVENTS ATTENDED	NO EVENTS PRESENTED AT	PRESENTATIONS ON CIRCLE RESEARCH (%)
COHORT 1	52	20	15	47
COHORT 2	71	37	17	29
COHORT 3	64	37	24	83

Table 25. Cohort comparison of number of events attended and presented at

68% of female CVFs who responded to this survey reported they had attended events, totalling 61 events. 58% of male CVFs had attended events, totalling 33 events. The proportion of female and male CVFs presenting at events was similar, with 61% and 58% respectively. This was also the case for CIRCLE research, with 57% of female CVF presentations being on CIRCLE research, and 58% of male CVFs.

The vast majority of events were held in CIRCLE countries, with Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa accounting for two thirds of event locations.

AUSTRALIA	3	NIGERIA	19
CAMEROON	1	SINGAPORE	1
ETHIOPIA	2	SOUTH AFRICA	7
GHANA	5	SUDAN	2
IRELAND	1	TANZANIA	2
ITALY	1	UGANDA	1
KENYA	1	USA	1

Table 26. Number of events attended by country

The events were organised by the following groups:

CIRCLE HOME INSTITUTION	CIRCLE HOST INSTITUTION	NON-CIRCLE UNIVERSITY	RESEARCH NETWORK	RESEARCH SOCIETY	RESEARCH CENTRE	CVF(S)	OTHER
11	2	9	7	11	6	6	19

Table 27. Types of groups organising events

Other organisers included non-profit organisations, governments, and corporations.

Attendance to 11 events were supported by the home institution and 8 by CIRCLE.

All CVFs who presented their research at events were asked to provide supporting evidence. At the time of reporting 10 CVFs have responded. In total, we received 38 supporting documents; 6 slide decks; 2 posters; 1 paper submission; 5 programmes; 7 letters of invitation; 2 publications; and 15 photos.

Next Steps

Data from this report will be shared with both the wider CVF Alumni, as well as all institutions involved in the CIRCLE Programme. The data in this report provides valuable insights into the benefits of the CIRCLE Visiting Fellowship and has highlighted areas where the CVF Alumni can offer support and advice to their peers and senior institutional staff.

A second Follow-Up Survey will be conducted in January, covering activity between July – December 2018. Two further surveys covering the same topics will be shared with CIRCLE ISP Teams in January, as well as other non-CIRCLE affiliated institutions in the region. Responses to this survey will provide data for our annual CIRCLE Counterfactual Survey, which aims to assess the long- and short-term impact of the CIRCLE programme and highlight ways for our institutions to embed and scale up learning and expertise gained since the programme began.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities