



MiSoC MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN...

Growing the dedicated research experts of the future

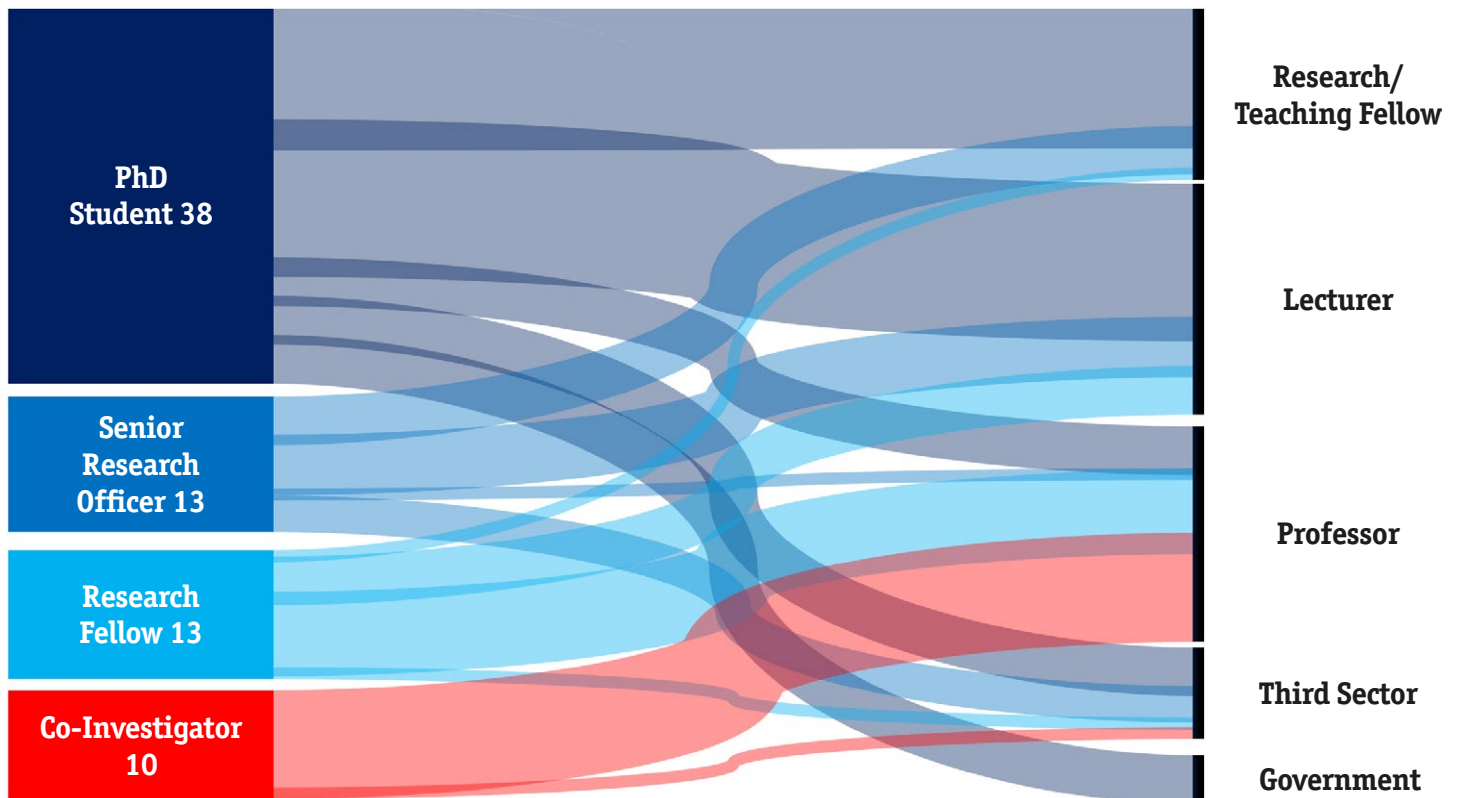
As the ESRC's longest consecutively funded research centre, MiSoC has played a major role in training today's leaders in the quantitative social sciences

Our PhD students, post-doctoral scholars and named researchers are found at all levels of UK and international academia and within leading think tanks and governmental organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Resolution Foundation, and the Office for National Statistics.

Sustained interdisciplinary working, an active research culture and freedom from teaching and administrative

responsibilities means that our team members can focus on applying the latest methodological developments to the most pressing scientific and social problems. Our early career researchers are trained to contribute in a range of disciplinary and applied settings, as well as to make upward progression within the centre itself.

The figure below provides a summary of where our former team members currently are today.





1 Postgraduate research students



The successful careers of 38 of our former PhD students are outlined on the previous page. As of 2022, we have eight more studying with us, including six directly funded in the 2019-2024 programme.

Our students receive expert scientific supervision from the senior MiSoC team on topics linked to our research programme. Housed within the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, MiSoC research students partake in the active and multidisciplinary research environment of the institute as a whole, which includes world-leading survey methodologists, economists, public health scholars, demographers and sociologists. As members of the ESRC SeNSS doctoral training partnership they also have exposure to leading academics and fellow studentship holders across 10 partner institutions in the south east.

As members of MiSoC, our students benefit from the expertise of our dedicated communications team, which help them reach policy makers and the public from the very beginning of their research careers. All MiSoC PhD students are participants in our Research Area Key Advisor Groups allowing them to leave the programme with non-academic networks already in place.

Our students are active members of our scientific team, whose research contributions contribute to overall success of the grant, in both their solo-authored papers and collaborations with MiSoC advisors. Our students achieve scholarly impact by publishing during their PhDs and also after the leave by obtaining lectureships in the UK and abroad. They also achieve impact beyond the academy: for instance, under the supervision of MiSoC Principal Investigator Emilia Del Bono and MiSoC researcher Angus Holford.

Sonkurt Sen contributed to ongoing debates about diversity in the Economics profession, presenting his research to the British Academy with his work featured in *The Telegraph* and *The Guardian*. Joshua Fullard provided evidence on a range of issues related to education, including work on teacher diversity and the competitiveness of teacher pay featured in most of the major broadsheets and daily news outlets, *The Economist*, and *The Times Educational Supplement*.

2 Pre- and post-doctoral training for our researchers



In addition to postgraduate research studentships, MiSoC also builds capacity through funded pre- and post-doctoral researcher positions.

Our pre-doctoral researchers provide support for MiSoC Co-Investigators throughout the entire research process, from data management through writing. Our pre-doctoral positions provide early opportunities for co-authorship as well as serving as a gateway to PhD programmes, as in the case of our former Research Officer [Paulino Font-Gilabert](#) who used his research training in MiSoC as a starting point to pursue a PhD in Economics.

MiSoC also hosts two- and three-year post-doctoral positions, where early career researchers collaborate closely with MiSoC Co-Investigators to produce world-leading research, as well as receive mentorship and training to build on their research, presentational and outreach skills and to support their own independent research trajectories.

MiSoC post-doctoral researchers receive the same policy exposure and communications support as our students, alongside funding for training and conference attendance. Their work is featured in all of the major broadsheet newspapers, presented in our policy advisory groups, and they are given time and support to cultivate independent relationships and research trajectories.

The success of our model is visible in the presence of our [former postdoctoral researchers](#) at varying levels of seniority in leading academic departments, in think tanks and in international and government departments.

3 Opportunities for external and internal advancement



While most of our students and early career researchers leave the centre for opportunities elsewhere, MiSoC also offers paths to advancement within the centre itself.

[Emilia Del Bono](#), our Principal Investigator, began as a postdoctoral researcher at ISER in 2005 and went on to become a Co-Investigator and then Principal Investigator of MiSoC.

Two of the other MiSoC Co-Investigator began their careers as postdoctoral researchers at ISER over a decade ago and progressed to Professor during their time within MiSoC.

Four of our current named Research Fellows advanced from PhD or fixed-term positions to become permanent members of MiSoC staff.