Graduate Outcomes: Tracking the Pathways of Graduates from UK Universities

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HESA data

- Students
- Universities
- Staff
- For prospective students
- Graduates
Tracking the Pathways of Graduates from UK Universities

- Purpose of data collection
- History of data collection
- Survey design
- Resources required
- Onward use of the data
Purpose of collecting data on graduate outcomes
Why do we collect data about graduates?

- Statutory requirement for funding
- Supports prospective students
- High demand for the data from researchers, press, policy
- Demonstrates value of higher education
History of the data collection
Timeline

1994/95
First Collections

2002/03
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
Longitudinal DLHE

2017/18
Graduate Outcomes Survey
First Destinations/Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)

- Census approach
- 6 months after graduation
- Conducted annually
- Run by universities
- Data submitted to HESA
Longitudinal DLHE

• Follow up survey
• Three years after DLHE
• Sample survey
• Conducted every two years
• Run by a central survey contractor
HESA

Fundamental review

- Ran from July 2015 – July 2017
- Two consultations
- Culminated in the development of Graduate Outcomes

**Future proof**
Fundamental consideration of future data requirements.

**Improve efficiency**
Improve efficiency of data collection.

**Fit-for-purpose**
Revisit methodology to ensure fit-for-purpose for future usage.

**Support legislation**
Take into account recent legislative developments, and support developing ones.
Graduate Outcomes

- Replaces the DLHE and Longitudinal surveys
- Census approach (600,000+ each year.)
- 15 months after graduation
- Run by a central survey contractor, funded by universities
- Steering group to oversee delivery
- Use of linked data
Survey design
What kind of questions will graduates be asked?

- What are they doing – working, further study, etc?
- Where are they working?
- What role have they taken?
- Information on entrepreneurs and creatives
- Linked data to understand earnings
What kind of questions will graduates be asked?

• What are they studying?
• Level of qualification
• Where are they studying?
• Future plans
• Meaningful and important
• Using what they learnt in their studies
Methodology

• Survey carried out:
  − Online
  − Over the telephone
  − On paper (in some instances)

• Response rates
  − 80% UK-domiciled full time students
Resources required
First Destinations/DLHE resourcing

• Universities resource:
  - Running the survey
  - Processing the data (coding, quality assurance)
  - Cost estimated to be around £4.5 million a year

• HESA
  - Supporting universities in the collection process
  - Developing systems to collect the data
  - Processing the data (quality assurance)
  - Supplies the data back to universities and government agencies
Graduate Outcomes resourcing

- **Universities resource:**
  - Pay a subscription to HESA
  - Supply contact details to HESA

- **HESA**
  - Oversees the survey contractor running the survey
  - Supplies the data back to universities and government agencies

- **Survey contractor**
  - Running the survey
  - Processing the data (coding, quality assurance)
Onward use of the data
Types of data output

- National Statistics statistical first release
- UK Performance Indicators
- HESA open data publications
- Heidi Plus
- Data supply to universities and government agencies
- Public dissemination through HESA data and analysis services
Performance Indicators – Employment of Leavers

Chart 11 - Percentage of UK domiciled full-time first degree leavers in employment and/or further study by academic year
Custom data service

- Complements the range of publications
- Customised extracts of data to meet specialised requirements
- Receive around 1,200 enquiries annually
- Data supplied under contract
- New HE Impact Report
Custom data service

Academic research
Graduate recruitment
Equal opportunities monitoring

Consultancy
Business and investment planning
Internal research and reporting

Student dissertations

Personal queries

Trend analysis
Publications

Spatial distribution
Market assessment
League tables
Travel analysis

Reports
League tables
£23,000

Typical salary range: £20,000.00 - £26,000.00

Average salary across the UK after taking a similar course

£19,000.00 after six months (salary range: £16,000.00 - £22,000.00)
£24,000.00 after 40 months (salary range: £20,000.00 - £28,000.00)

Go on to work and/or study

This is what students are doing six months after finishing the course.

Social Policy

85%

85%

Now working
Doing further study
Studying and working
Unemployed
Unemployed and working
Other

10%
5%
15%
10%
10%
60%
Success as a Knowledge Economy:
Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice

May 2016
TEF Metrics

- The teaching on my course
- Assessment and feedback
- Non-continuation rates
- Rates of employment or further study
Data protection

• Personal and sensitive data

• Counts - rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

• Percentages not published if they are fractions of a small group of people (fewer than 22.5).

• Averages not published if they are averages of a small group of people (7 or fewer).

• Collection notices
Summary
Tracking the Pathways of Graduates from UK Universities

- Data has been collected since 1994/95
- Recent updates – now collecting the Graduate Outcomes survey
- Survey investigates activities of graduates after leaving university
- Survey funded by UK universities
- Data put to a wide range of uses
Thank you

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