



Department for the
Economy

Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions – Longitudinal Survey of 2012/13 Qualifiers



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions – Longitudinal Survey of 2012/13 Qualifiers

This bulletin, produced by the Department for the Economy (DfE), is a Northern Ireland (NI) specific summary of a publication produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in collaboration with statisticians from the Department for Education, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Department for the Economy. It provides details of the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) who obtained qualifications at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK during the academic year 2012/13.

There are two stages to the DLHE survey:

Early DLHE

The first stage, known as the Early DLHE, is a census of EU domiciled qualifiers from UK HEIs. This census is administered annually, approximately six months after students complete their course. A NI report on the 2012/13 Early DLHE can be downloaded from the Department's [website](#).

Longitudinal DLHE

The second stage of the survey is a follow up to the 2012/13 Early DLHE, reporting on the same cohort of students, and is carried out approximately **three and a half years after graduation**. It is not a census survey like the Early DLHE, but is instead based on a sample of individuals who responded to the 2012/13 Early DLHE.

This bulletin provides high-level figures for UK domiciled qualifiers from NI institutions¹ based on the Longitudinal DLHE. It was published at the same time as the HESA publication, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/long-destinations-2012-13>

Changes to the Longitudinal Survey

The sampling approach used in the 2012/13 Longitudinal DLHE survey has been modified to provide some analysis of destinations at a HE Provider (HEP) level. The response rate for the survey was similar to previous years, with a rate of 32% for NI HEI leavers.

Further details of this revised sampling approach can be found in the [Methodology](#) section at the end of the bulletin.

This is expected to be the last report on the Longitudinal DLHE, as the new Graduates Outcomes survey will be replacing both the early and longitudinal DLHEs. The new survey will be carried out approximately 15 months after qualifying and the first results are expected to be published in January 2020.

¹ Excluding Open University (OU) - see [Methodology](#) point 9

Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions
Key Points – 2012/13 Longitudinal Survey

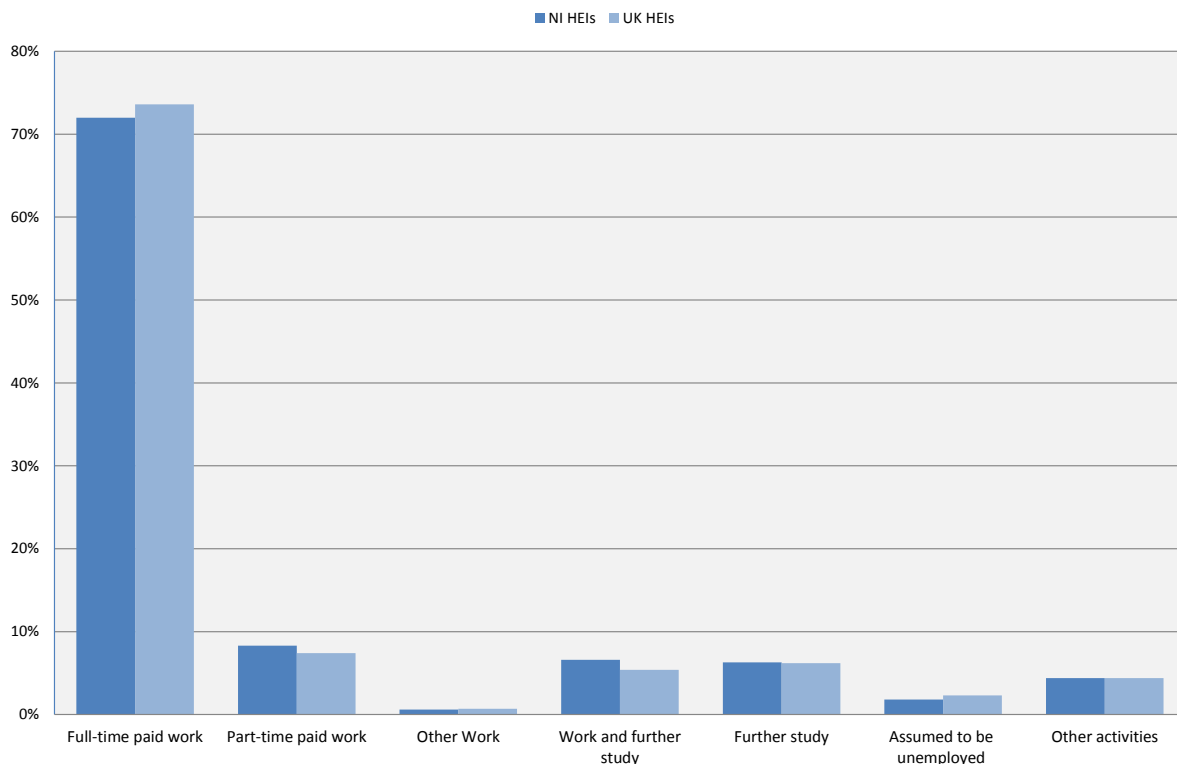
Destinations of leavers from NI HEIs

Based on a weighted total of 2,625 qualifiers from NI Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) whose destinations were known:

- 72.0% were in full-time paid work, compared with 73.6 % for UK HEIs;
- 8.3% were in part-time paid work, compared with 7.4% for UK HEIs;
- 0.6% were in other work, compared with 0.7% for UK HEIs;
- 6.6% were in both work and study, compared with 5.4% for UK HEIs;
- 6.3% were in further study only, compared with 6.2% for UK HEIs;
- 1.8% were assumed to be unemployed, compared with 2.3% for UK HEIs; and
- 4.4% were engaged in other activities, the same as for UK HEIs.

While the percentage in 'Employment' (full-time paid work, part-time paid work, other work and both work and study) was similar for both qualifiers from NI HEIs (87.5%) and UK HEIs (87.1%), a slightly higher percentage of qualifiers from UK HEIs were in full-time paid work (73.6%) compared with those from NI HEIs (72.0%).

Figure 1: Destinations of leavers from NI and UK HEIS – 3 and a half years after qualifying in 2012/13



Destinations of qualifiers from NI HEIs by HE Provider

The table below shows the activity of qualifiers from NI HEIs broken down by HE Provider. **Care should be taken when interpreting any differences between HE Providers due to low sample size and response rates.**

Although Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) (85.8%) had a lower percentage of qualifiers in employment approximately three and a half years after graduation compared with Ulster University (UU) (88.5%), St Mary’s (87.4%) and Stranmillis (90.9%), it had the highest percentage in Further Study only (9.6%), compared with UU (4.1%), St Mary’s (4.2%) and Stranmillis (4.4%).

Table 1: Destinations of qualifiers from NI HEIs by HE Provider

HE Provider	Employment Activity							Employment	Base (weighted)
	Full-time paid work	Part-time paid work	Other work	Work and further study	Further Study	Assumed unemployed	Other Activities		
QUB	71.1%	6.5%	1.0%	7.2%	9.6%	1.3%	3.3%	85.8%	1,030
UU	73.0%	8.8%	0.4%	6.3%	4.1%	2.3%	5.1%	88.5%	1,450
St Mary's	71.8%	11.5%	0.0%	4.1%	4.2%	2.9%	5.5%	87.4%	55
Stranmillis	66.0%	17.9%	0.0%	7.0%	4.4%	0.7%	3.9%	90.9%	90

Destinations of first degree qualifiers from NI HEIs

Based on a weighted total of 1,750 first degree qualifiers from NI HEIs whose destinations were known:

- 72.9% were in full-time paid work, compared with 74.4% for UK HEIs;
- 6.7% were in part-time paid work, compared with 6.3% for UK HEIs,
- 0.7% were in other work, compared with 0.7% for UK HEIs,
- 6.7% were in both work and study, compared with 5.4% for UK HEIs,
- 7.3% were in further study only, compared with 7.0% for UK HEIs;
- 1.9% were assumed to be unemployed, compared with 2.4% for UK HEIs; and
- 3.7% were engaged in other activities, compared with 3.9% for UK HEIs.

As with all qualifiers, the percentage of first degree leavers in ‘Employment’ from NI HEIs (87.0%) was similar to that for UK HEIs (86.8%), with a slightly higher percentage of qualifiers in full-time paid work compared with NI.

Salary

Of the UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs in 2012/13 reported as being in full-time paid employment in the UK, approximately three and a half years after graduation, the median salary reported (to the nearest £500) was £25,000. The figure for UK domiciled leavers from UK HEIs was £27,000.

Location of employment

Of the UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs in 2012/13, whose destinations were known and reported as being in employment in the UK, 83.4% were employed in NI, 14.5% in England, 1.7% in Scotland and 0.3% in Wales.

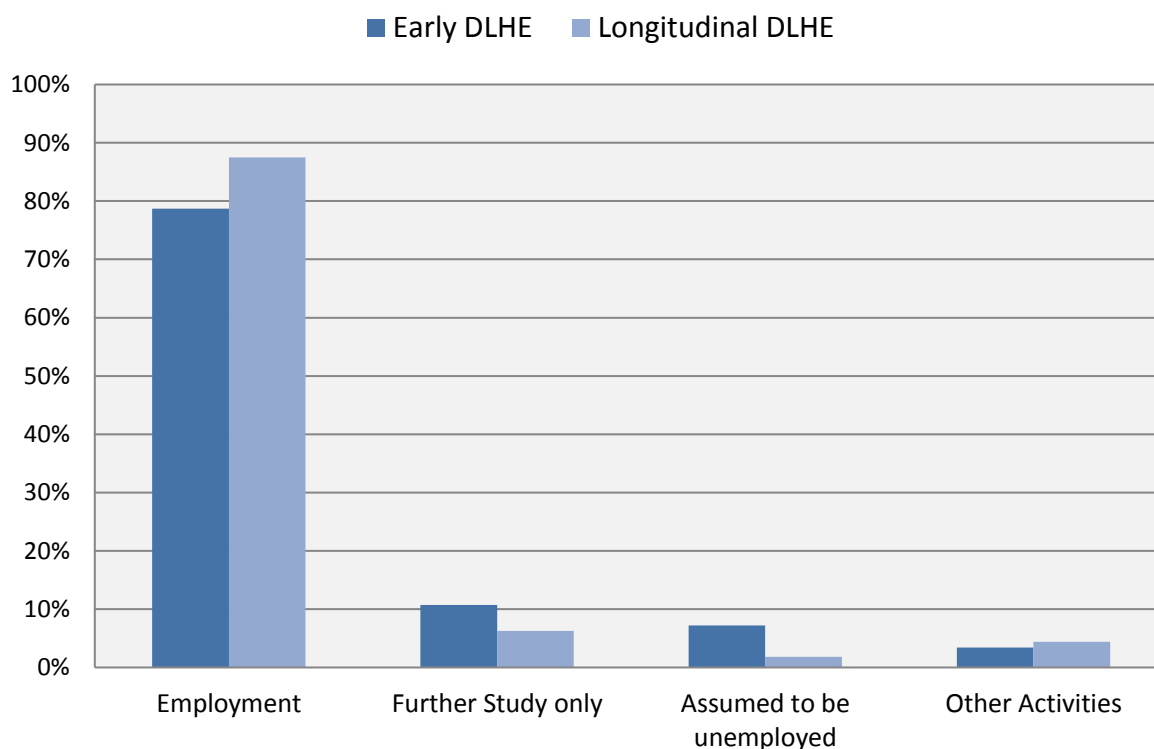
Further study

Of the qualifiers from NI HEIs in 2012/13 who were in further study (including those in work and study) approximately three and a half years after graduation, 66.3% were studying at postgraduate level, 11.5% at first degree level, 21.7% at other undergraduate level, while 0.6% were not aiming for a qualification.

Comparison with the 2012/13 Early DLHE

Destinations - After approximately three and a half years, 87.5% of qualifiers from NI HEIs were in employment compared with 78.7% at approximately six months². There was a decrease in the proportion of qualifiers who were in 'further study only', with 6.3% in this category after approximately three and a half years, compared with 10.7% at approximately six months. Nearly two percent (1.8%) of qualifiers were 'assumed to be unemployed' three and a half years after graduation, compared with 7.2% at six months.

Figure 2: Destinations of UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs – 6 months (Early DLHE) and 3 and a half years (Longitudinal DLHE) after qualifying in 2012/13



² The activity categories in this bulletin have been aggregated to enable comparison between the Early and Longitudinal DLHE. See [Notes and Definitions](#) point 15.

Salary - The median salary for UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs³ in 2012/13 reported to be in full-time paid employment in the UK increased from £21,000, six months after graduation, to £25,000, three and a half years after graduation.

Location of employment – Of the UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs, whose destination was known and reported being in employment in the UK, 83.4% were working in NI after three and a half years, compared with 87.2% after six months. A higher proportion were working in England three and a half years after graduation (14.5%), compared with after six months (8.0%).

Further study - Of the UK domiciled qualifiers from NI HEIs in 2012/13 who were in further study (including those in work and study), 66.3% were studying at postgraduate level approximately three and a half years after graduation compared with 73.6% after six months.

³ The six month DLHE figures in this bulletin differ slightly from the figures in our 2012/13 Early DLHE publication to enable comparison with the Longitudinal DLHE. See [Notes and Definitions](#) point 17.

Methodology for Longitudinal DLHE

1. The longitudinal survey was carried out by IFF Research Ltd on behalf of HESA and was co-funded by the Department for Education, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Department for the Economy.
2. The Longitudinal DLHE is based on a sample of the students who responded to the corresponding Early DLHE survey. Leavers who completed an Early DLHE survey are invited to take part in a follow-up survey 3 and a half years after they qualified.
3. Of the 370,315 leavers who responded to the Early DLHE survey in 2012/13, 50,545 leavers had opted out of any follow-up surveys. These were excluded from the population leaving 319,770 leavers eligible to take part in the Longitudinal DLHE survey.
4. All leavers eligible to take part in the survey (excluding the opt-outs) for which contact details were available were contacted to take part. Initial contact was made by e-mail for those with e-mail address, by phone where no e-mail address was given, or by a postal invite to the online survey for leavers who only had a postal address.
5. At the end of this first phase, randomly sampled key sub-groups were re-contacted in a second phase to ensure sufficient numbers were available for onward statistical analyses. Contact in this second phase occurred solely over the phone.
6. To ensure the final sample was representative of the entire cohort, each leaver has been assigned a weighted value to account for the over-sampling. Figures included in this report are based on the weighted values and suppressions apply to the underlying unweighted population.
7. This method differs slightly to previous surveys. Full details of the sampling process and survey methodology for this and previous surveys can be found in HESA's [definitions](#).
8. The total number of responses for NI HEIs was 2,625, a response rate of 32%.
9. Qualifiers from four NI HEIs, namely QUB, UU, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College, were included in the survey. The Open University (OU) was not classed as a NI HEI at the time of the 2012/13 Early DLHE.

Analysis

10. The Longitudinal DLHE data, and hence results, are weighted to take account of the oversampling of subgroups and the effects of non-response bias. The application of weights is necessary to ensure that the final results are reasonably representative of the true population.

11. The percentages shown in this bulletin are based on weighted data and suppressions apply to the underlying unweighted population. The unweighted total is the actual number of individuals who responded to each question. The weighted totals show the adjusted number of respondents after weights have been applied to take account of oversampling and non-response bias.
12. The figures produced in this bulletin are estimates of the true population value. Even though the effects of non-response bias and oversampling have been taken into account, it is still likely that the estimates will not exactly represent the true population.

Notes and Definitions

13. The data presented in this bulletin are based on a publication produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) in the UK - 2012/13 Longitudinal Survey. HESA is the official agency for the collection of information on publicly funded Higher Education (HE) institutions in the UK.
14. The Longitudinal DLHE survey seeks to track the destinations of students roughly 3 and a half years after they completed their degree. Leavers who completed the Early DLHE survey – approximately six months after completing their degree – were invited to take part in this follow-up survey.
15. The early DLHE survey was redesigned for 2011/12 onwards and as a result the activity categories differ from earlier years, and from the activity categories used in the Longitudinal DLHE. However, the activity categories in the Early and Longitudinal DLHE have been aggregated to allow comparison between the two in this bulletin.
16. The coverage of the HESA Longitudinal DLHE survey consists of all UK and European Union (EU) leavers for whom destinations data are expected and sought from UK HEIs in 2012/13. Both UK and EU domiciled leavers have been included in this bulletin to give a picture of the whole population of responders. However, for some breakdowns (namely salary and location of employment), analysis has focused on UK leavers only.
17. Some of the Early DLHE figures provided in this bulletin differ slightly from those in our 2012/13 Early DLHE publication. The 2012/13 Early DLHE publication on the DfE website looks at UK and other EU domiciled qualifiers. However, in this bulletin, other EU domiciled qualifiers have been excluded from some of the Longitudinal DLHE figures, and to enable comparisons to be made with the Longitudinal DLHE figures, the same has been done to the early DLHE figures.
18. Employment activity categories for the Long DLHE in this bulletin includes those in: Full-time paid work only; Part-time paid work only; Other Work; and Work and further study. Employment activity categories for the Early DLHE includes: Full-time work; Part-time work; Primarily in work and also studying; and Primarily studying and also in work.

19. Further definitions can be found at HESA's [definitions](#)

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