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DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS

from Higher Education Institutions
Longitudinal Survey of the 2004/05 cohort

Key Findings Report Published 2009



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Summary

Overview of activities 3.5 years after graduation

Three-quarters (76.1%) of leavers were in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) on 24 November 2008 while 6.1% were in part-time paid work only.

6.7% of leavers were combining work & further study while 5.7% were in further study only.

2.6% of leavers were assumed to be unemployed.

82.9% of full-time UK domiciled leavers and 83.2% of part-time UK domiciled leavers were working only on 24 November 2008 (including those in full-time paid work only (including self-employed), part-time paid work only, and voluntary/unpaid work).

Leavers with postgraduate qualifications were most likely to be in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) 78.8%) followed by those with a first degree (75.7%) and leavers with other undergraduate qualifications (71.1%)

Approximately one quarter (24.3%) of full-time leavers who obtained a first class honours degree were combining work & further study or in further study only compared with 8.8% of those who obtained a third class degree.

Full-time first degree leavers in medicine & dentistry (97.2%), engineering & technology (94.3%) and business & administrative studies (93.5%) were more likely to be in work, including those combining work & further study, than leavers in other subjects. Full-time first degree leavers in biological sciences (25.1%), physical sciences (24.7%) and mathematical sciences (20.5%) were among the most likely to be in further study, including those combining work & further study.

A higher proportion of male leavers (80.5%) were in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) than female leavers (73.0%) while female leavers (9.2%) were more likely than male leavers (3.5%) to be in part-time paid work only.

82.9% of leavers who were in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) at the time of the Longitudinal Survey stage. 59.6% of those who had been in part-time paid work only were now engaged in full-time paid work only (including self-employed).

Two-thirds (66.8%) of those who had been in further study only at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work only (including self-employed) at the Longitudinal Survey stage.

Employment

Of all UK domiciled leavers who were engaged in employment (including full-time, part-time and other) on 24 November 2008, 81.1% were working in occupations classed as 'graduate occupations'.

The median salary of UK domiciled full-time leavers in full-time paid work (including self-employed) in the UK was £24,500. For part-time leavers working full-time the median salary was £32,000.

UK domiciled full-time leavers with a postgraduate qualification who were in full-time work in the UK had a higher median salary than those with a first degree or other undergraduate qualifications (£27,000 compared with £24,000 and £22,000 respectively).

65.5%¹ of UK domiciled leavers in employment were working in the same region as their region of domicile before entering higher education.

¹ This figure excludes leavers with unknown region of domicile and unknown region of employment.

54.8%² of UK domiciled leavers in employment were working in the same region as the higher education institution from which they gained their qualification in 2004/05.

77.9%³ of UK domiciled leavers who were working at both the Early Survey stage and at the Longitudinal Survey stage were working in the same region at both stages.

The most common reasons leavers gave for taking their current job were because 'It fitted in with my career plans', 'In order to earn a living' and 'To broaden my experience or develop general skills'.

Study

Nearly two thirds (63.5%) of leavers who were engaged in further study or work and further study on 24 November 2008 were aiming for postgraduate qualifications. 14.3% were aiming for professional qualifications.

Among UK domiciled full-time leavers who were engaged in further study, a third (33.8%) of males were aiming for a higher degree mainly by research compared with around a quarter (24.0%) of females.

In general UK domiciled leavers who were engaged in further study were most likely to study in the same subject area as that of the qualification they gained in 2004/05.

Half (50.2%) of UK domiciled full-time leavers who were undertaking further study reported that the length of their course was 'Between 1 and 3 years'.

The most common reason leavers gave for undertaking further study was 'To change or improve my career options'.

Other qualifications achieved

Over a third (38.2%) of UK domiciled leavers had gained a further qualification since 2004/05.

41.3% of UK domiciled other undergraduate leavers who had obtained a further qualification since 2004/05 achieved a first degree.

A quarter (25.2%) of leavers with a first degree who had obtained further qualifications since 2004/05 had obtained a postgraduate diploma or certificate and around one fifth (21.7%) had obtained a higher degree mainly by taught course.

Activity history

90.0% of leavers had been engaged in at least one period of full-time employment since 2004/05 and 20.1% had experienced at least one period of part-time employment.

Nearly one fifth (19.6%) of leavers had been in full-time study or training at some point during the three and a half years since gaining their qualification in 2004/05.

11.7% of leavers reported at least one period of unemployment since 2004/05.

Nearly two thirds (64.8%) of leavers who had experienced at least one period of employment had been engaged in graduate occupations only.

Over a quarter (27.5%) of leavers had been engaged in only one activity during the three and a half year period. Only 8.6% had been involved in five or more activities.

² This figure excludes those who studied at the Open University and those with unknown region of employment.

³ This figure excludes leavers with unknown region of employment at both surveys, but includes leavers who were employed outside the UK at the early survey and were employed overseas at the Longitudinal Survey stage.

Satisfaction

Postgraduates were generally more satisfied with their higher education experience than first degree and other undergraduate leavers. Over four fifths (82.5%) of postgraduates were content with their choice of qualification type.

Over half of postgraduates (58.8%) indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different subject, compared to 41.0% of first degree leavers and 45.9% of other undergraduates.

Of the first degree leavers, nearly two thirds (65.5%) of medicine & dentistry leavers indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different subject. A quarter (24.9%) of first degree leavers studying mass communications & documentation indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen a different subject to study.

39.3% of leavers were 'Very satisfied' with there career to date and a further 47.6% were 'Fairly satisfied'.

Introduction

This report presents findings from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) Longitudinal Survey, conducted during winter 2008/09. The survey was carried out among the cohort of students who completed a higher education course at an institution in the UK in 2004/05. The aim of the survey was to collect information on the activities of leavers approximately three and a half years after leaving higher education.

Background

The DLHE Survey is carried out by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the central source for the collection and dissemination of statistics about publicly funded higher education in the UK. There are two stages to the survey. The first stage is a census of individuals who have completed higher education courses in the UK. This stage is carried out approximately six months after the courses end and is referred to as the Early Survey.

The second stage is a follow-up survey that looks at the destinations of leavers up to three and a half years after they qualified. This stage is referred to as the Longitudinal Survey. The Longitudinal Survey, by contrast, is not a census survey but is instead based on a sample of the students who responded to the Early Survey.

Methodology

Sample design

The 2004/05 DLHE Longitudinal Survey involved re-contacting a sample of leavers from the 2004/05 leaving cohort who completed an Early Survey questionnaire and inviting them to complete a follow-up questionnaire. There were 430,290 leavers eligible to take part in the census survey in 2004/05, of which 319,260 (74%) took part.

The Longitudinal Survey is based on two sub-samples of the 319,260 leavers who responded to the Early Survey in 2004/05. 71,390 leavers were selected from across all institutions, but with some groups of leavers being over-sampled relative to other groups, so that the sample is intentionally skewed towards foundation degree leavers, those who completed a Masters or Doctoral degree and non-white leavers. This cohort was known as Sample A and 26,245 responses were received. In addition 89,605 of the remaining 247,870 graduates for whom an email address was available were contacted (Sample B) resulting in a further 15,155 responses to the survey. After some work to determine it feasible to do so, it was agreed by IFF Research and HESA that it was possible to combine Sample A and Sample B for analysis purposes. Therefore the total number of responses is 41,395. The rationale for the over-sampling in Sample A was to ensure that the Longitudinal Survey would have sufficient numbers of graduates in key sub-groups to allow for separate statistical analyses of these groups.

Data collection

The data have been collected using a mixture of postal, telephone and online questionnaires. The approach used depended on the contact details provided by the HE institution. The different modes were used sequentially:

1. All leavers in Sample A with an email address were invited by email to complete an online questionnaire. A week after the initial email, a reminder was sent out with another reminder sent a few days later. The same approach was taken for all leavers in Sample B with an email address.
2. Two weeks after the initial email, leavers in Sample A who did not respond to the questionnaire sent by email plus all other leavers (in Sample A) for whom a postal address was available were sent a postal questionnaire. A reminder and second questionnaire were sent out a month after the initial mailing.
3. Contact attempts were then made by telephone for leavers in Sample A who had not responded to the questionnaire online or by post and for whom a telephone number had been provided. Up to seven calls were made to each respondent.

Data collection was undertaken by IFF Research.

Questionnaire coverage

The questionnaire covered the following topics:

- main activity on 24 November 2008 (all leavers)
- details of current employment (leavers in employment)
- details of course and qualification aims (leavers in further study)
- other qualifications obtained since 2004/05 (all leavers)
- details of all activities since 2004/05 (all leavers)
- satisfaction with course taken in 2004/05 and career to date (all leavers)
- additional questions for those who completed a research degree in 2004/05 (not included in this report)

Report structure

Chapter 1 of this report provides an overview of leavers' activities on 24 November 2008. Chapter 2 then concentrates on those engaged in employment. Chapter 3 is concerned with those undertaking further study and also examines any further qualifications that had been obtained by leavers since leaving higher education in 2004/05. The activity histories are discussed in Chapter 4, while Chapter 5 looks at leavers' satisfaction with their courses and their careers to date.

Throughout the report, references are made to tables; this series of Excel tables is a separate product and can be downloaded from www.hesa.ac.uk/publications/dlhe_longitudinal.

Report conventions

Base numbers shown in charts have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages in charts and tables are rounded to one decimal place, therefore percentages may not sum to exactly 100%.

Bases declared in charts are weighted. Base numbers reflect numbers of leavers who answered particular questions in the survey, hence these may differ between charts and tables.

Throughout the report 2004/05 refers to the cohort who left higher education in 2004/05, took part in the Early DLHE Survey six months later and then answered questions about their activities on 24 November 2008. 2002/03 refers to those who left higher education in 2002/03, took part in the Early DLHE Survey six months later and who took part in the first ever DLHE Longitudinal Survey answering questions about their activity on 27 November 2006.

1. Activity 3.5 years after graduation

This chapter looks at the main activities of leavers three and a half years after their graduation, specifically their activities on 24 November 2008. Time series comparisons between this survey and the results of the 2002/03 Longitudinal Survey have been made where appropriate.

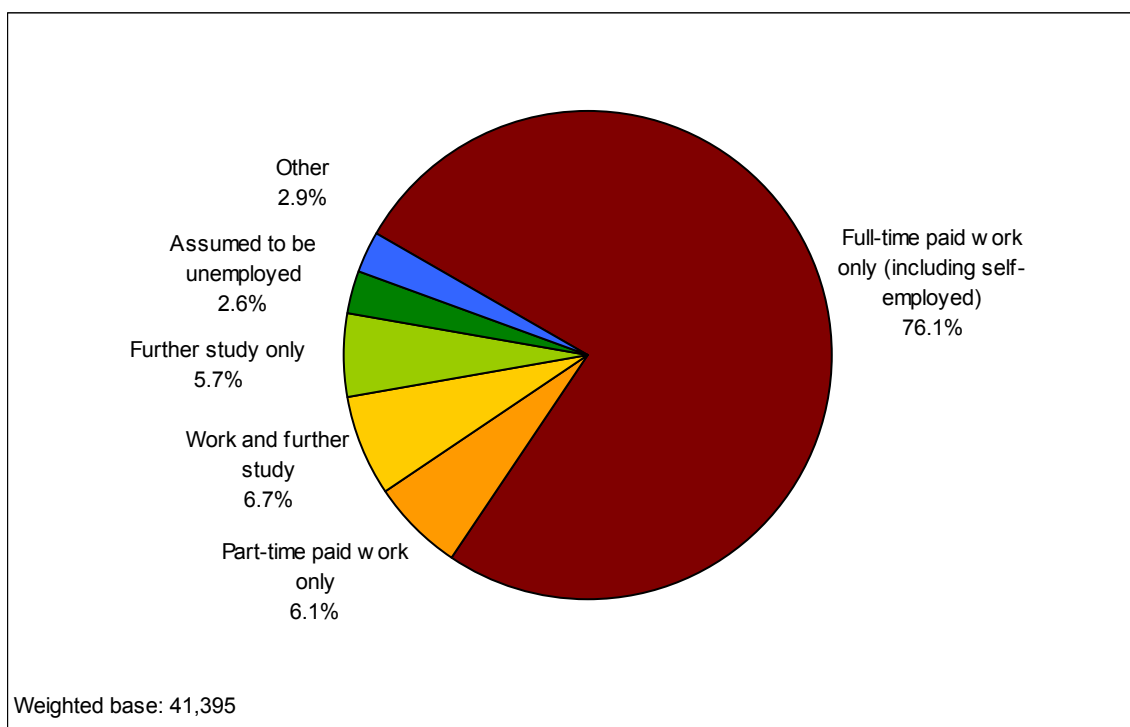
1.1 Overview

This section begins by focussing on the activities of all leavers who took part in the 2004/05 Longitudinal Survey, and then looks in more detail at UK domiciled leavers. The activities of UK domiciled leavers are examined by mode of study, level of qualification, class of first degree and subject studied. The different destinations of these leavers are then analysed with respect to gender, age, disability and ethnicity. The section concludes by comparing the main activity reported at the Longitudinal Survey stage with that reported at the Early Survey stage.

Throughout chapters 1 and 2 the label 'full-time paid work' will be used to mean 'full-time paid work only (including self-employed)'. It is implicit therefore that those leavers who were full-time self-employed are included in this shortened label.

Figure 1.1 shows the proportion of all leavers responding to the survey in each activity category three and a half years after graduating. As the chart shows, approximately three quarters (76.1%) of leavers were working full-time, 6.1% working part-time and 2.6% assumed to be unemployed.

Figure 1.1 Destinations of leavers by activity on 24 November 2008



Of the weighted survey population of 33,715 leavers who had studied for their 2004/05 qualification full-time and responded to the survey, 77.2% were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage (Table 1.1). In total, 89.2% of these leavers were in either full-time or part-time employment, or were engaged in voluntary or other unpaid work, including those working whilst studying. The proportion studying was 12.9%, with approximately half of these leavers (6.5%) combining study and work. The proportion assumed to be unemployed was 2.7%.

Of the weighted population of 7,680 part-time leavers, 71.1% were in full-time paid work on 24 November 2008 and 11.1% were in part-time paid work. In total, 91.0% of part-time leavers were working and 2.2% were assumed to be unemployed. A smaller proportion of part-time leavers were engaged in further study compared with full-time leavers; 10.2% of part-time leavers were involved in further study, the majority of whom were combining their study with work (7.6%).

Figure 1.2 Destinations of leavers by activity, domicile and year

	Year and domicile			
	2002/03		2004/05	
	UK	Other EU	UK	Other EU
Work only	80.5%	78.5%	82.9%	81.5%
Work & study	8.8%	7.4%	6.7%	6.1%
Study only	4.9%	9.4%	5.5%	8.5%
Assumed unemployed	2.3%	3.6%	2.6%	2.3%
Other	3.4%	1.0%	2.2%	1.6%
Base (weighted)	23345	835	39350	2045

Figure 1.2 compares the percentages involved in each activity for the 2002/03 survey and 2004/05 survey analysed by domicile. The percentages of both UK domiciled and EU domiciled leavers engaged in either full-time or part-time employment, or were engaged in voluntary or other unpaid work were slightly higher for the 2004/05 leavers (82.9% of UK and 81.5% of EU) than for the 2002/03 leavers (80.5% of UK and 78.5% of EU). The proportion of leavers involved in both work and further study at the same time decreased for both groups of students, while there was a slight increase in those undertaking further study among the UK domiciled leavers (4.9% of 2002/03 leavers to 5.5% of 2004/05 leavers), although there was a decrease among EU domiciled leavers. Those leavers domiciled from the EU were still more likely to be involved in further study (8.5%) than UK leavers were (5.5%). The proportions of leavers who were assumed to be unemployed were similar across both regions.

1.2 Main activities of UK domiciled leavers

Over three-quarters (76.1%) of UK domiciled leavers were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage and 6.2% were working part-time. 6.7% of leavers were both working and studying while 5.5% were studying only. A small proportion was assumed to be unemployed (2.6%).

Analysis of the destinations of UK domiciled leavers by attributes of their qualification and demographic characteristics shows some substantial differences between different groups of leavers. The main differences concern mode of study, class of first degree, subject, gender, age, ethnicity and disability.

1.2.1 Mode of study

Overall, UK domiciled leavers who studied full-time in 2004/05 were slightly more likely to be working full-time (77.3%) at the Longitudinal Survey stage than leavers who studied part-time (70.8%). Part-time leavers were more likely to be working part-time (11.2%) than full-time leavers (5.0%) (Table 1.2). There was little difference in the total proportion working (full-time, part-time and voluntary/other unpaid work) between full-time and part-time leavers: 82.9% of full-time leavers and 83.2% of part-time leavers. Meanwhile, 2.7% of full-time leavers were assumed to be unemployed compared with 2.2% of part-time leavers. A higher percentage of the full-time leavers (6.2%) were studying only, compared with part-time leavers (2.7%). Part-time leavers were more likely to be unavailable for employment (3.8%) than full-time leavers (1.6%).

Figure 1.3 UK domiciled full-time leavers by activity on 24 November 2008

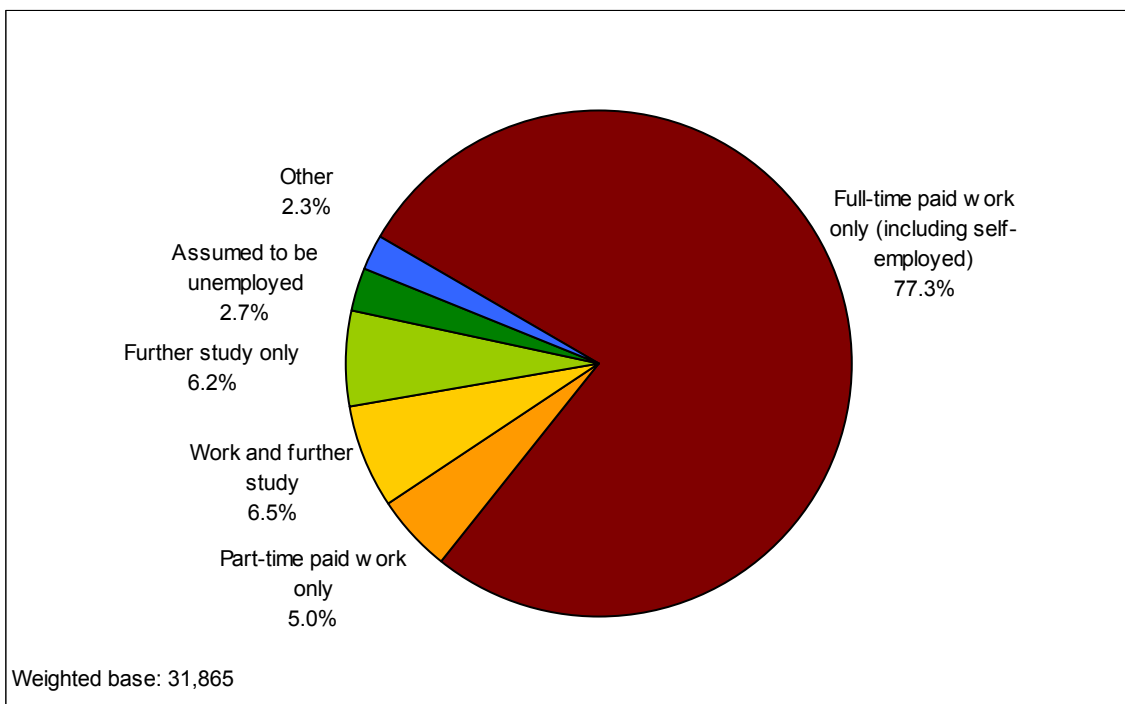
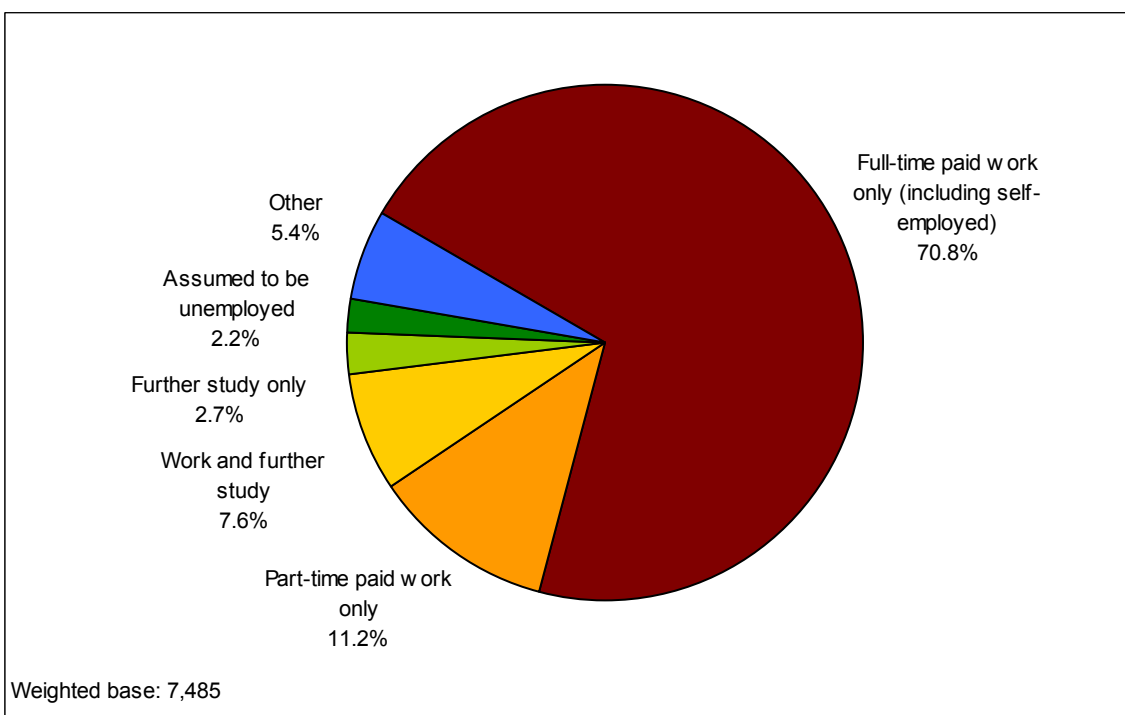


Figure 1.4 UK domiciled part-time leavers by activity on 24 November 2008



1.2.2 Level of qualification

Figure 1.5 UK domiciled leavers by activity, level of qualification and year

Activity	Year and Level of Qualification					
	Postgraduate		First degree		Other undergraduate	
	2002/03	2004/05	2002/03	2004/05	2002/03	2004/05
Full-time paid work only (including self-employed)	75.6%	78.8%	74.3%	75.7%	65.6%	71.1%
Part-time and other work(1)	9.2%	8.1%	5.2%	5.7%	12.6%	12.0%
Work and further study	7.9%	5.9%	8.6%	6.9%	11.7%	8.0%
Further study only	2.2%	2.6%	6.2%	6.8%	3.0%	3.4%
Assumed to be unemployed	1.3%	1.7%	2.5%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%
Other	3.8%	2.9%	3.2%	2.0%	4.0%	2.3%
Base (weighted)	5285	9220	15520	26600	2535	3530

(1) includes part-time paid work only, voluntary/unpaid work and employment mode unknown

In the 2004/05 survey the majority of postgraduate leavers were working full-time only (78.8%). 8.1% were involved in part-time or other forms of work, 5.9% were combining work with study, 2.6% were studying only and 1.7% were assumed to be unemployed. These figures showed a slight increase in the proportion of postgraduates working full-time from this survey (78.8%) compared with the 2002/03 survey (75.6%) while the proportions involved in both work and study simultaneously had decreased from 7.9% of 2002/03 leavers to 5.9% of 2004/05 leavers.

In total, 81.5% of leavers with a first degree were working only, 6.9% were combining work and study (a decrease from 2002/03 (8.6%)), 6.8% were studying only and 2.8% were assumed to be unemployed. Of these leavers, 75.7% were working full-time only and 5.7% were involved in all other types of work.

83.1% of leavers with other undergraduate qualifications were working. The proportion working full-time had increased from 65.6% for 2002/03 leavers to 71.1% for 2004/05 leavers. The percentage combining work and study fell from 11.7% in 2002/03 to 8.0% in 2004/05, although the proportion involved in study only was almost the same (3.0% in 2002/03 and 3.4% in 2004/05).

Leavers with other undergraduate qualifications were less likely to be in full-time work (71.1%) than those with postgraduate qualifications (78.8%) or first degrees (75.7%). Postgraduate leavers were marginally less likely to be unemployed than first degree and other undergraduate leavers with 1.7% in this activity compared with 2.8% of those with a first degree and 3.2% of other undergraduates. First degree leavers were most likely to be involved in further study only (6.8%) compared with 2.6% of postgraduate leavers and 3.4% of other undergraduate leavers.

1.2.3 Class of first degree

Among full-time first degree leavers with a reported class of degree there was a relationship between class of degree and the likelihood of pursuing further study (study only or study and work). Those who were awarded a first class honours were more likely than those with lower degree classes to be in further study. 24.3% of those with a first class degree were in further study compared with 13.8% of those with an upper second while those with third class honours/pass were less likely to be in further study (8.8%).

Figure 1.6 UK domiciled first degree leavers by mode of study, class of first degree and activity

	Activity on 24 November 2008					Base
	<i>Work only</i>	<i>Work and further study</i>	<i>Further study only</i>	<i>Assumed to be unemployed</i>	<i>Other</i>	
Full-time	81.7%	6.7%	7.1%	2.9%	1.5%	24015
First class honours	72.1%	9.0%	15.3%	2.2%	1.4%	2825
Upper second class honours	82.3%	7.0%	6.8%	2.7%	1.3%	11725
Lower second class honours	83.2%	5.9%	5.6%	3.5%	1.8%	6980
Third class honours / Pass	84.3%	4.4%	4.4%	4.8%	2.1%	1115
Unclassified	86.8%	6.4%	3.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1370
Part-time	79.4%	8.2%	3.9%	2.3%	6.2%	2590
First class honours	75.7%	10.6%	4.4%	0.8%	8.4%	275
Upper second class honours	80.3%	9.3%	3.4%	2.8%	4.2%	820
Lower second class honours	81.0%	5.7%	4.9%	3.6%	4.8%	680
Third class honours / Pass	79.3%	9.3%	2.9%	2.2%	6.2%	200
Unclassified	78.2%	7.9%	3.7%	1.0%	9.3%	610

Leavers with first class honours were more likely to be pursuing further study only (15.3%) than combining further study with work (9.0%). In contrast, those with second and third class honours were more evenly split across the two categories of work & further study and further study only. Of those who gained an upper second, 7.0% were working and studying simultaneously and 6.8% were studying only. For those with a lower second 5.9% were both working and studying and 5.6% undertaking further study only. Of those with a third class honours or pass 4.4% were in each category.

Among full-time leavers those with first class honours were less likely than those with a lower degree class to be working (72.1% compared with 82.3% of those with an upper second) (Table 1.3). This difference was not as marked among part-time leavers with 75.7% of part-time leavers with first class honours in work compared with 80.3% of those with an upper second.

1.2.4 Subject

The activities of leavers from full-time courses also varied by subject studied. Figure 1.7 below summarises the subjects of full-time first degree leavers with the highest and lowest percentages in each activity. Employment was more common among leavers in medicine & dentistry (97.2%), engineering & technology (94.3%) and business & administrative studies (93.5%). Those who studied physical sciences (78.1%), biological sciences (80.0%) and combined subjects (83.3%) were less commonly in work. However, a quarter of those who studied biological sciences (25.1%) or physical sciences (24.7%) and one fifth (20.5%) of mathematical science leavers were pursuing further study. Leavers who studied mass communications & documentation (4.7%), creative arts & design (4.7%) and computer science (3.7%) were most likely to be assumed unemployed.

Figure 1.7 Percentage of full-time first degree leavers in work, study or assumed unemployed

	<i>Work (incl. work & study)</i>		<i>Study (incl. work & study)</i>		<i>Assumed unemployed</i>	
Highest	<i>Medicine & dentistry</i>	97.2%	<i>Biological sciences</i>	25.1%	<i>Mass communications & documentation</i>	4.7%
Second highest	<i>Engineering & technology</i>	94.3%	<i>Physical sciences</i>	24.7%	<i>Creative arts & design</i>	4.7%
Third highest	<i>Business & administrative studies</i>	93.5%	<i>Mathematical sciences</i>	20.5%	<i>Computer science</i>	3.7%
Third lowest	<i>Combined</i>	83.3%	<i>Mass communications & documentation</i>	7.4%	<i>Engineering & technology</i>	1.5%
Second lowest	<i>Biological sciences</i>	80.0%	<i>Education</i>	7.3%	<i>Medicine & dentistry</i>	0.4%
Lowest	<i>Physical sciences</i>	78.1%	<i>Computer science</i>	5.8%	<i>Veterinary science</i>	0.3%

1.2.5 Gender

At every qualification level, a higher proportion of males were in full-time work than females. In total, 80.5% of males were working full-time compared with 73.0% of females while 3.5% of males and 9.2% of females were working part-time. This gender difference was the greatest among part-time first degree leavers where 57.3% of female leavers were working full-time compared with 76.1% of male leavers (Table 1.1). It should be noted that the profile of part-time leavers can be quite different to full-time leavers and therefore figures should be interpreted with care.

Females were more likely to be working part-time than males regardless of their level of qualification, although this was most pronounced among part-time leavers. For example, among the other undergraduate leavers, 17.9% of female part-time leavers were working part-time compared with just 2.2% of males. The difference between the proportion of males and females working part-time was the smallest among full-time first degree leavers where 5.6% and 2.4% of females and males worked part-time, respectively.

Among all leavers, males were more likely to be assumed unemployed than females. This gender difference was greatest among part-time leavers who studied other undergraduate qualifications, with 7.2% of males and 1.3% of females assumed unemployed. This was lowest among part-time postgraduate leavers where 1.8% of both males and females were assumed to be unemployed.

Figure 1.8 UK domiciled leavers by gender, activity and year

Activity	Year and Gender			
	2002/03		2004/05	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Full-time paid work only (including self-employed)	70.1%	78.6%	73.0%	80.5%
Part-time and other work(1)	9.5%	3.3%	9.2%	3.5%
Work and further study	10.2%	6.9%	7.5%	5.7%
Further study only	4.7%	5.4%	5.6%	5.5%
Assumed to be unemployed	1.6%	3.2%	2.0%	3.4%
Other	3.9%	2.7%	2.8%	1.4%
Base (weighted)	13610	9735	23370	15980

(1) includes part-time paid work only, voluntary/unpaid work and employment mode unknown

These gender differences were generally consistent with the results of the 2002/03 Longitudinal Survey which are shown in Figure 1.8 above. Overall, males were more likely to be working full-time than women with the proportion increasing slightly from 78.6% among 2002/03 leavers to 80.5% for 2004/05 leavers. For both the 2002/03 and 2004/05 longitudinal surveys females were more likely to be combining work and study (10.2% in 2002/03 and 7.5% in 2004/05) than males (6.9% and 5.7%) although the gap had reduced.

1.2.6 Age

Table 1.2 shows the destinations of UK domiciled leavers analysed by level of qualification, gender and age.

UK domiciled leavers who were aged 24 years and under in July 2005 were more likely to be studying than those aged 25 or over (13.5% compared with 10.1%). Detailed analysis of the activities shows that the 25 and over age group were more likely to be working part-time (11.2%) compared with the under 25s (3.3%) whilst the younger group were more likely to be working full-time (78.5% compared with 71.7% of the older group). In addition, the younger respondents were more likely to be pursuing further study alone; 6.9% of those under 25 compared to 3.1% of those aged 25 and over.

Women aged 25 or over were less likely to be working full-time and more likely to be working part-time than women under 25. In total 77.0% of women aged under 25 worked full-time compared with 66.4% of women aged 25 or over, whilst 15.7% of the younger age group were working part-time compared with 3.9% of the older age group. This difference between older and younger women was seen at each qualification level. There was not an equivalent pattern among male leavers.

In general, leavers in the older age group were more likely to be involved in both work and further study (7.0%) than in further study only (3.1%). There was a more even split among the younger age group with 6.6% combining work and study and 6.9% in further study only.

1.2.7 Ethnicity

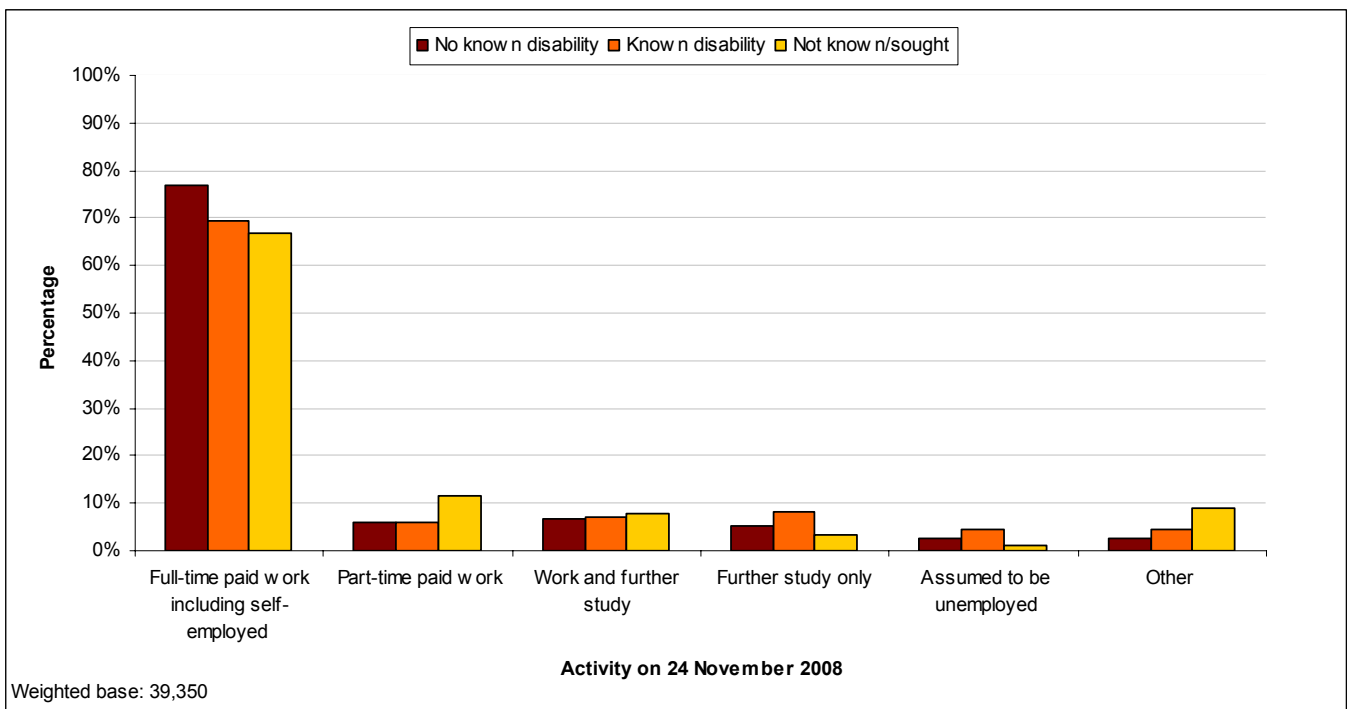
Figure 1.9 UK domiciled leavers by mode of study, ethnicity and activity

	Activity on 24 November 2008					Base (weighted)
	Work only	Work & study	Study only	Assumed unemployed	Other	
Full-time	82.8%	6.5%	6.2%	2.7%	1.7%	31865
White	83.1%	6.6%	6.2%	2.3%	1.7%	27150
Black	78.8%	6.8%	6.3%	6.4%	1.7%	625
Asian	82.6%	5.2%	5.5%	4.7%	1.9%	2565
Other (incl. Mixed)	76.0%	7.4%	8.2%	6.1%	2.3%	450
Unknown	82.6%	6.8%	6.3%	2.9%	1.3%	1080
Part-time	83.3%	7.6%	2.7%	2.2%	4.2%	7485
White	83.8%	7.2%	2.7%	1.8%	4.5%	6270
Black	79.4%	7.5%	4.3%	5.9%	2.9%	180
Asian	81.8%	5.2%	2.1%	7.3%	3.6%	315
Other (incl. Mixed)	78.6%	8.7%	3.6%	4.6%	4.5%	75
Unknown	80.5%	12.3%	1.9%	2.8%	2.5%	645

Figure 1.9 provides a split of activity by mode of study and ethnicity. The main differences in activities were seen between leavers of black origin and those of white or Asian origin. Asian and white full-time leavers were more likely to be in work than black leavers (83.1% of white and 82.6% of Asian compared with 78.8% of black leavers). Among full-time leavers there was little difference between the different ethnic groups in the percentages of leavers who were just studying or were both working and studying at the same time. Black part-time leavers were more likely to be studying (7.5% both working and studying and 4.3% in study only) than white (7.2% and 2.7%) or Asian (5.2% and 2.1%) leavers. Black full-time leavers were also more likely to be assumed unemployed (6.4%) than white full-time (2.3%) or Asian full-time (4.7%) leavers. Asian part-time leavers were most likely to be assumed unemployed (7.3%) compared with black part-time (5.9%) or white part-time (1.8%) leavers.

1.2.8 Disability

Figure 1.10 UK domiciled leavers activity and disability

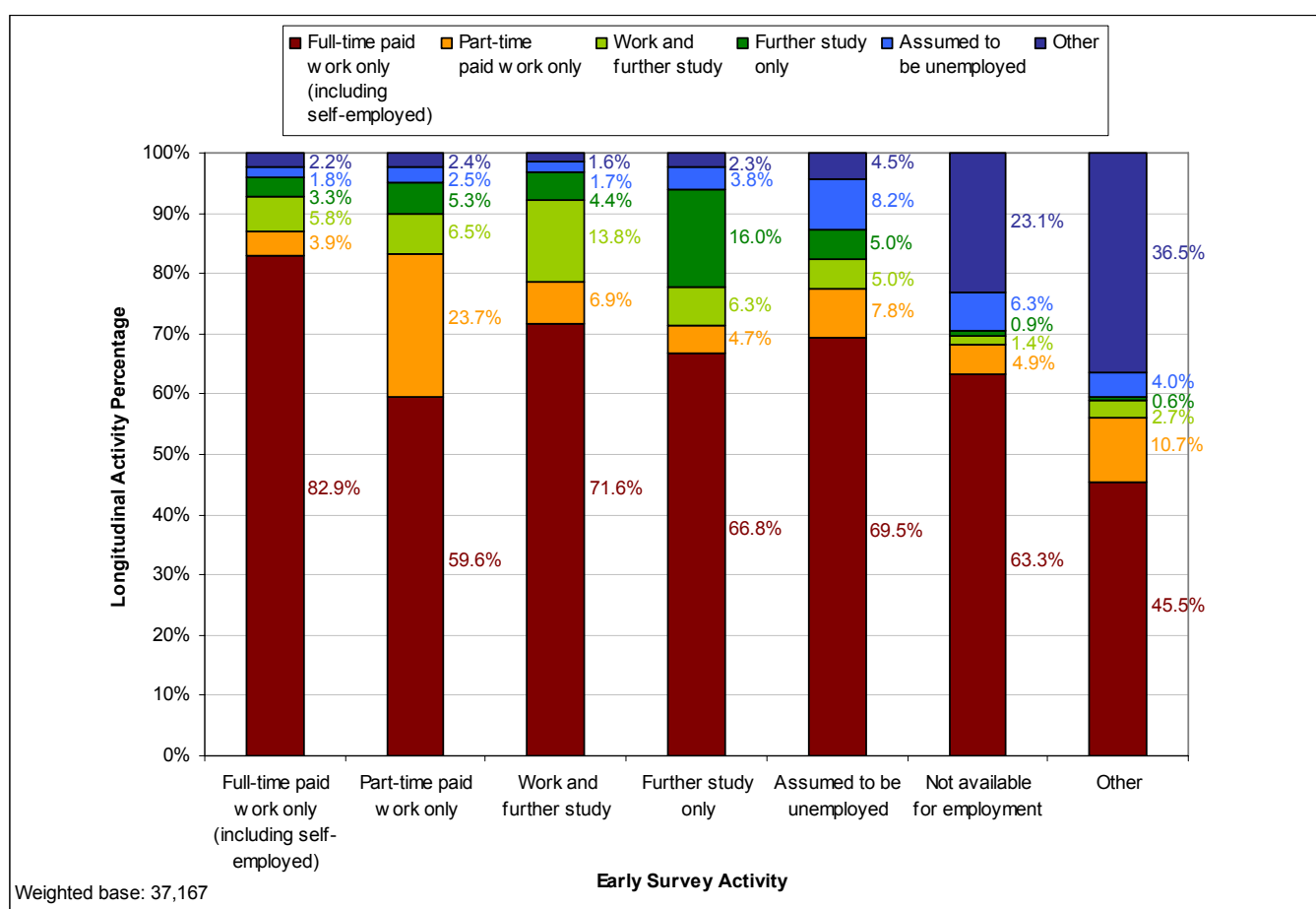


The activities of UK domiciled leavers also varied by their disability status. Leavers with a known disability were less likely to be involved in full-time work (69.4%) than those with no known disability (76.9%). This difference was not as substantial among leavers in part-time employment with 5.8% of those with a known disability and 6.0% of those with no known disability involved in part-time work. Those with a known disability were more likely to be involved in further study only (8.2%) compared with 5.4% of those with no known disability. Leavers with a known disability were also more likely to be assumed to be unemployed (4.7%) than those with no known disability (2.5%).

1.2.9 Main activity at 3.5 years compared to main activity at 6 months

Most leavers who were in full-time work at the Early Survey stage were in this activity at the Longitudinal Survey stage (82.9%). The majority of leavers engaged in part-time paid work only at the Early Survey stage were engaged in full-time work at the Longitudinal Survey stage (59.6%). 23.7% of leavers in part-time paid work only at the Early Survey stage were also in part-time work at the Longitudinal Survey stage. Of those both in work and further study at the Early Survey stage 71.6% were in full-time work only while 13.8% were engaged in a combination of both work and further study. 4.4% were engaged in further study only. The majority of leavers who were engaged in further study at the Early Survey stage were involved in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage (66.8%). 6.3% of leavers who were undertaking further study at the Early Survey stage were engaged in both work and further study at the Longitudinal Survey stage while 16.0% were again undertaking further study only. Over two thirds (69.5%) of leavers who were assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage were engaged in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage. A further 7.8% were engaged in part-time paid work only and 8.2% of the leavers assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage were again assumed to be unemployed at the Longitudinal Survey stage.

Figure 1.11 UK domiciled leavers by activity at the Early Survey stage and activity at the Longitudinal Survey stage



Most postgraduate leavers in full-time paid work at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage (86.3% of full-time leavers and 83.9% of part-time leavers) (Table 1.4). For full-time postgraduate leavers the majority of those undertaking both work and further study at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage (74.0%) with a further 13.7% again undertaking both work and further study. Of those involved in further study only at the Early Survey stage, 62.2% were engaged in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage with 17.0% again undertaking further study only and 9.1% combining work and further study. Of those assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage 78.8% were engaged in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage with 5.3% again unemployed.

Most first degree leavers who were in full-time paid work at the Early Survey stage were also in this activity at the Longitudinal Survey stage (82.3% of full-time leavers and 79.9% of part-time leavers). Of the full-time leavers the majority of those engaged in further study only (68.0%) or in both work and further study at the Early Survey stage (72.0%) were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage while 17.7% of those undertaking further study only and 13.7% of those engaged in both work and further study were engaged in the same activity at the Longitudinal Survey stage. Among part-time first degree leavers, 32.7% of those engaged in part-time paid work only at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage while 50.0% remained in part-time paid work. Nearly three quarters (71.7%) of full-time first degree leavers who were assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage while 7.9% were again assumed to be unemployed. For part-time first degree leavers who were assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage 40.1% were in full-time paid work and 29.1% in part-time paid work only, with a further 7.1% still assumed to be unemployed.

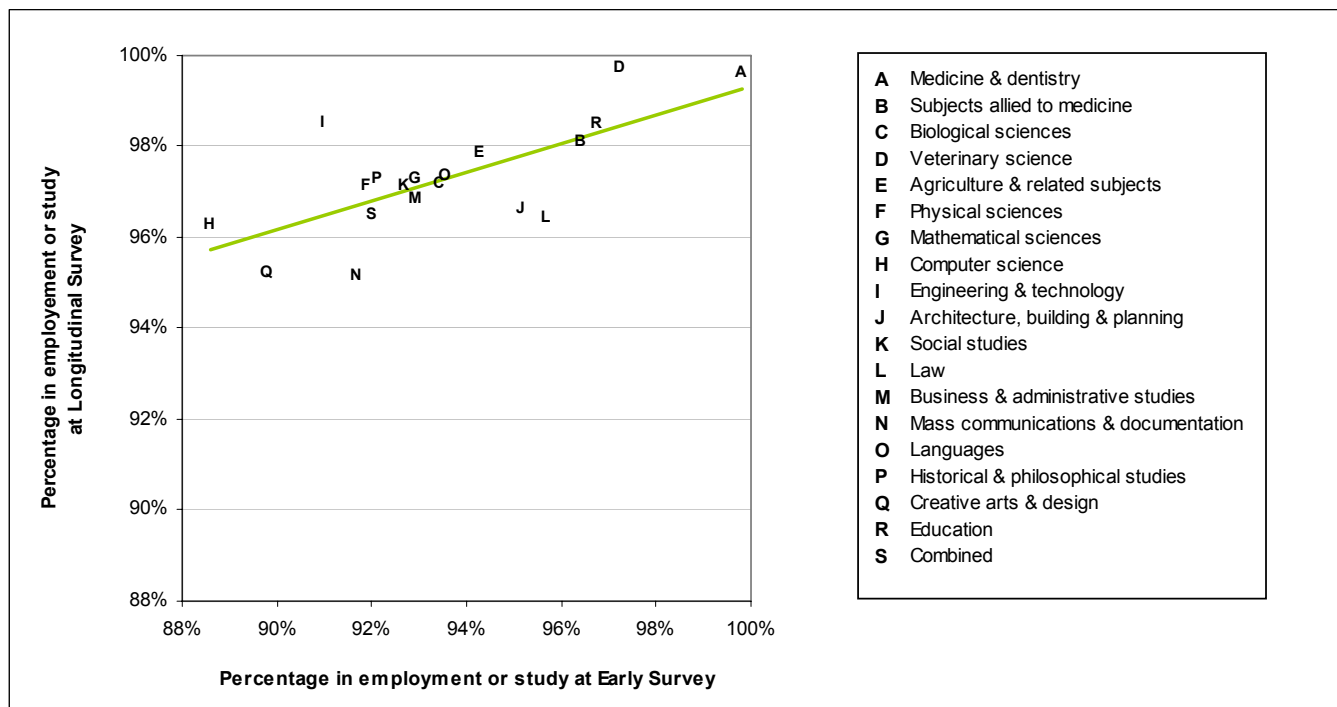
Among full-time other undergraduate leavers 80.3% of those in full-time paid work at the Early Survey stage were in full-time work at the Longitudinal Survey stage. Of those who were engaged in part-time paid work at the Early Survey stage 43.0% were in full-time paid work while 38.5% were again engaged in part-time paid work. For part-time leavers 84.2% who were engaged in full-time paid work at the Early Survey stage were again in full-time paid work on 24 November 2008. 33.4% of those in part-time paid work at the Early Survey stage were in full-time paid work and 48.2% were again engaged in part-time paid work at the Longitudinal Survey stage. From this group, 10.4% of full-time leavers who were assumed to be unemployed at the Early Survey stage were again assumed to be unemployed at the Longitudinal Survey stage.

Figure 1.12 UK domiciled leavers' main activity at the Early Survey stage by activity at the Longitudinal Survey stage

Activity on 15 April 2005/ 16 January 2006	Activity on 24 November 2008									Base (weighted)
	Full-time paid work only (including self-employed)	Part-time paid work only	Voluntary/unpaid work only	Employed mode unknown	Work and further study	Further study only	Assumed to be unemployed	Not available for employment	Other	
Full-time paid work only (including self-employed)	82.9%	3.9%	0.2%	0.3%	5.8%	3.3%	1.8%	1.6%	0.1%	23150
Part-time paid work only	59.6%	23.7%	0.4%	0.2%	6.5%	5.3%	2.5%	1.7%	0.1%	3065
Voluntary/unpaid work only	66.4%	4.9%	4.2%	1.1%	5.3%	9.9%	2.5%	5.2%	0.5%	265
Work and further study	71.6%	6.9%	0.2%	0.2%	13.8%	4.4%	1.7%	1.1%	0.1%	4135
Further study only	66.8%	4.7%	0.5%	0.3%	6.3%	16.0%	3.8%	1.3%	0.3%	4825
Assumed to be unemployed	69.5%	7.8%	0.6%	0.3%	5.0%	5.0%	8.2%	2.6%	1.0%	2000
Not available for employment	63.3%	4.9%	1.4%	0.9%	6.3%	9.4%	3.1%	9.8%	0.8%	1555
Other	45.5%	10.7%	2.7%	0.6%	4.0%	8.5%	13.6%	11.9%	2.4%	360

Figure 1.13 below compares the overall outcomes of UK domiciled full-time first degree leavers who responded to the Early Survey stage with those who responded to the Longitudinal Survey stage. For each subject area the percentages of leavers who were engaged in employment or study (or both) were calculated out of all those who were eligible for work or study and the percentages compared for each subject area. This method is based on that used in the production of the Performance Indicators Employment Indicator statistics. The plot shows positive correlation between the outcomes at each survey stage. The addition of the line of best fit identifies those subject areas where the Early outcomes may predict the later outcomes reasonably well. These are close to the line and include subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences, languages and education. Conversely, those which are further away from the line (engineering & technology, law, mass communications & documentation and creative arts & design) have outcomes at the Early Survey stage which may be less useful for predicting longitudinal outcomes. Those subjects that are below the best fit line have had a lower than predicted increase in the proportion in work or further study while those above the line have had a higher than predicted increase.

Figure 1.13 Percentages of UK domiciled full-time first degree leavers' in employment, further study or both at each survey by subject area



2. Employment

This chapter looks at UK domiciled leavers who were in employment three and a half years after graduation and includes those undertaking both work and further study. First, the section looks at the industrial sector that leavers are likely to be working in followed by their type of occupation which is classified as being a 'graduate' or 'non-graduate' occupation. This classification was devised by Elias & Purcell (2004).

Salary levels are then examined before addressing region and country of employment. Finally, this section examines the factors believed to be important for obtaining the current job, reasons for accepting the job and how the leaver found their job.

2.1 Industrial Sector

Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 show the proportion of full-time and part-time postgraduate, first degree and other undergraduate leavers, respectively in each industrial sector, classified by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC(92)), by the subject studied.

The most common industry for full-time postgraduate leavers to be working in at the Longitudinal Survey stage was the education sector (49.0%). This was also the most popular among postgraduate part-time leavers (30.3%). A higher proportion of postgraduate leavers who studied education were working in the education sector (81.1%) than other subjects. Employment in the education sector was also common among leavers in languages (35.0%), historical & philosophical studies (34.8%) and creative arts & design (25.4%). (Table 2.1)

In total 17.1% of full-time postgraduate leavers in employment worked in property development, renting, business & research activities. The majority (of the 17.1%) had studied law with 80.9% of full-time law postgraduates entering this industry and 38.4% of those who studied computer science were working in this sector. The health & social work industry accounted for 7.3% of full-time postgraduate leavers in employment. 69.0% of leavers who studied subjects allied to medicine and 56.8% of medicine & dentistry leavers respectively worked in this industry.

The most common industries for full-time first degree leavers to be working in at the Longitudinal Survey stage were property development, renting, business & research activities (24.2%), education (16.5%) and health & social work (15.9%). Property development, renting, business & research activities was the most common destination for leavers in law and architecture & related subjects, (63.8% and 60.0% of these leavers respectively were working in this industry). Two-thirds (67.1%) of first degree leavers who studied education were working in the education sector, as were 32.1% of those who studied combined subjects and 27.8% who studied languages. The majority of first degree leavers with qualifications in medicine & dentistry (93.5%) and other subjects allied to medicine (71.2%) were working in the health & social work industry. The most common industries for part-time first degree leavers were health & social work (29.6%) followed by the education sector (18.3%). (Table 2.2)

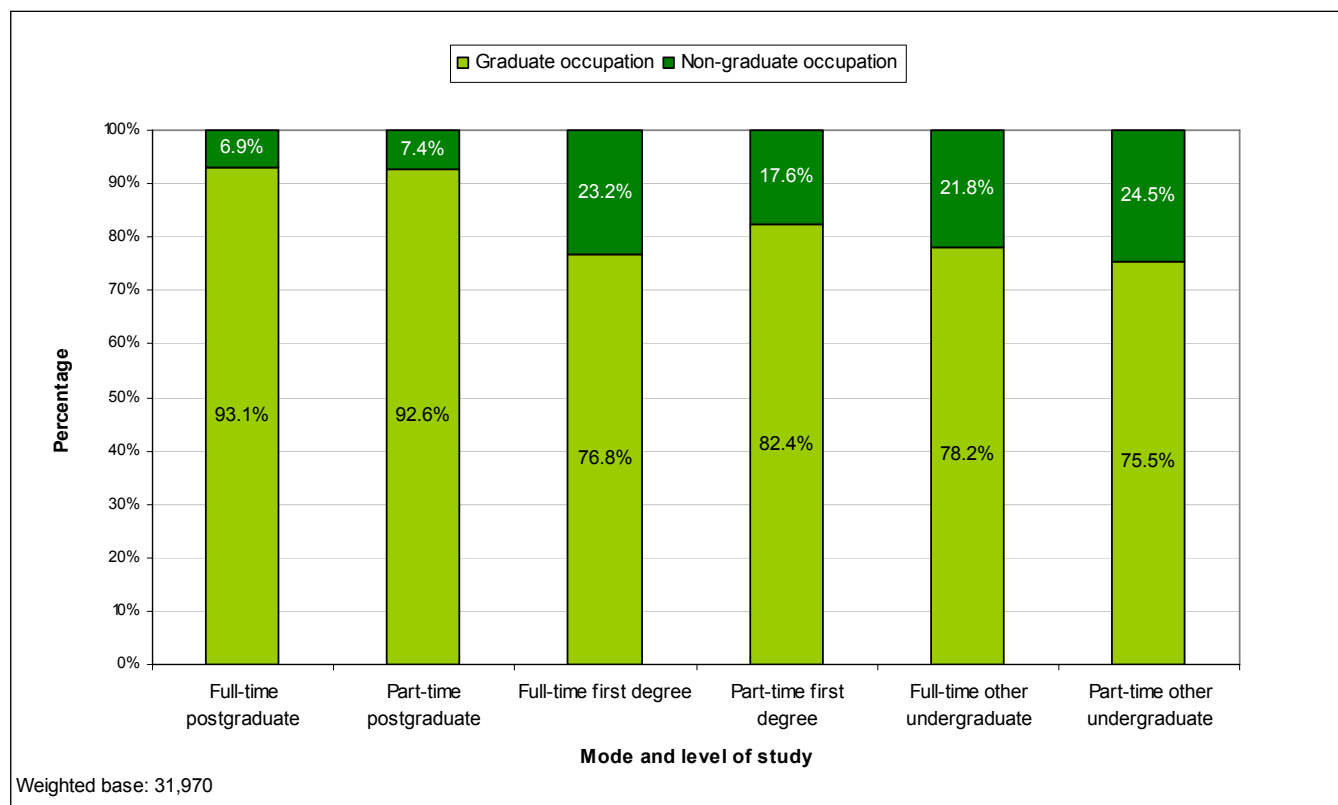
The most common industry for full-time leavers with other undergraduate qualifications was health & social work (52.9%) with 90.6% of those who studied subjects allied to medicine working in this industry. Health & social work was also the most common industry (26.6%) among part-time other undergraduate leavers with 86.7% of those studying subjects allied to medicine working in the industry.

2.2 Type of occupation

Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 show the percentages of full-time and part-time leavers working in each occupation as classified by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2000) by subject of study. The majority (70.8%) of full-time postgraduate leavers who were working were employed in professional occupations. For part-time postgraduate leavers 45.1% were in professional occupations and a further 29.7% were employed as managers and senior officials. First degree leavers were involved in a wider range of occupations with 36.5% of full-time leavers and 27.6% of part-time leavers working in professional occupations. A further 28.8% of full-time and 37.3% of part-time leavers were employed in associate professional and technical occupations.

Each occupation can be classified as being a 'graduate' or 'non-graduate' occupation according to the classification scheme devised by Elias & Purcell (2004). Figure 2.1 below shows the percentages of leavers employed in each type of occupation. Those leavers whose occupations were unknown have been excluded from these figures.

Figure 2.1 UK domiciled leavers by mode of study, level of qualification and occupation type



For both modes of study postgraduate leavers were much more likely to be in 'graduate' occupations (93.1% of full-time and 92.6% part-time leavers) than first degree and other undergraduate leavers.

Figure 2.2 UK domiciled leavers by subject area and occupation type at each survey stage

	Early survey stage(1)			Longitudinal Survey Stage(2)		
	Graduate occupation	Non-graduate occupation	Total	Graduate occupation	Non-graduate occupation	Base (weighted)
All subjects	72.3%	27.7%	234585	81.1%	18.9%	31970
Medicine & dentistry	99.4%	0.6%	6050	98.9%	1.1%	755
Subjects allied to medicine	93.9%	6.1%	30690	95.2%	4.8%	3715
Biological sciences	55.3%	44.7%	16885	76.3%	23.7%	2350
Veterinary science	93.4%	6.6%	475	86.0%	14.0%	65
Agriculture & related subjects	53.1%	46.9%	2065	69.0%	31.0%	290
Physical sciences	64.4%	35.6%	7640	80.5%	19.5%	1115
Mathematical sciences	69.8%	30.2%	2805	82.3%	17.7%	470
Computer science	67.6%	32.4%	11880	77.9%	22.1%	1735
Engineering & technology	77.1%	22.9%	11740	73.8%	26.2%	1620
Architecture, building & planning	90.4%	9.6%	5405	90.6%	9.4%	645
Social studies	64.6%	35.4%	19390	78.1%	21.9%	2650
Law	65.7%	34.3%	7400	86.1%	13.9%	1410
Business & administrative studies	66.1%	33.9%	30250	74.0%	26.0%	3940
Mass communications & documentation	56.9%	43.1%	6540	71.0%	29.0%	860
Languages	53.0%	47.0%	11050	73.5%	26.5%	1655
Historical & philosophical studies	52.3%	47.7%	8855	70.5%	29.5%	1355
Creative arts & design	54.4%	45.6%	18305	70.5%	29.5%	2540
Education	91.8%	8.2%	34570	93.3%	6.7%	4465
Combined	68.6%	31.4%	2585	72.1%	27.9%	340

(1) Percentages are based on all responses to the Early survey with known occupation type

(2) Percentages are based on weighted responses to the Longitudinal survey with known occupation type

Figure 2.2 above shows the percentages of leavers in graduate and non-graduate occupations at each survey stage split by the subject they gained their 2004/05 qualification in. In general there was a rise in the percentage who were employed in graduate occupations from the Early Survey stage (72.3%) to the Longitudinal survey stage (81.1%). The percentage of leavers employed in graduate occupations at the Longitudinal Survey stage compared with the Early Survey stage had fallen for those who had studied medicine & dentistry (99.4% to 98.9%), veterinary science (93.4% to 86.0%) and engineering & technology (77.1% to 73.8%). All other subject areas had seen a rise with the largest increases in biological sciences (55.3% to 76.3%), languages (53.0% to 73.5%) and law (65.7% to 86.1%). At the Longitudinal Survey stage those who studied subjects allied to medicine (95.2%), education (93.3%) and architecture, building & planning (90.6%) also had high proportions in graduate occupations. Leavers from agriculture & related subjects (69.0%), creative arts & design (70.5%) and historical & philosophical studies (70.5%) were less likely to be employed in graduate occupations at the Longitudinal survey stage.

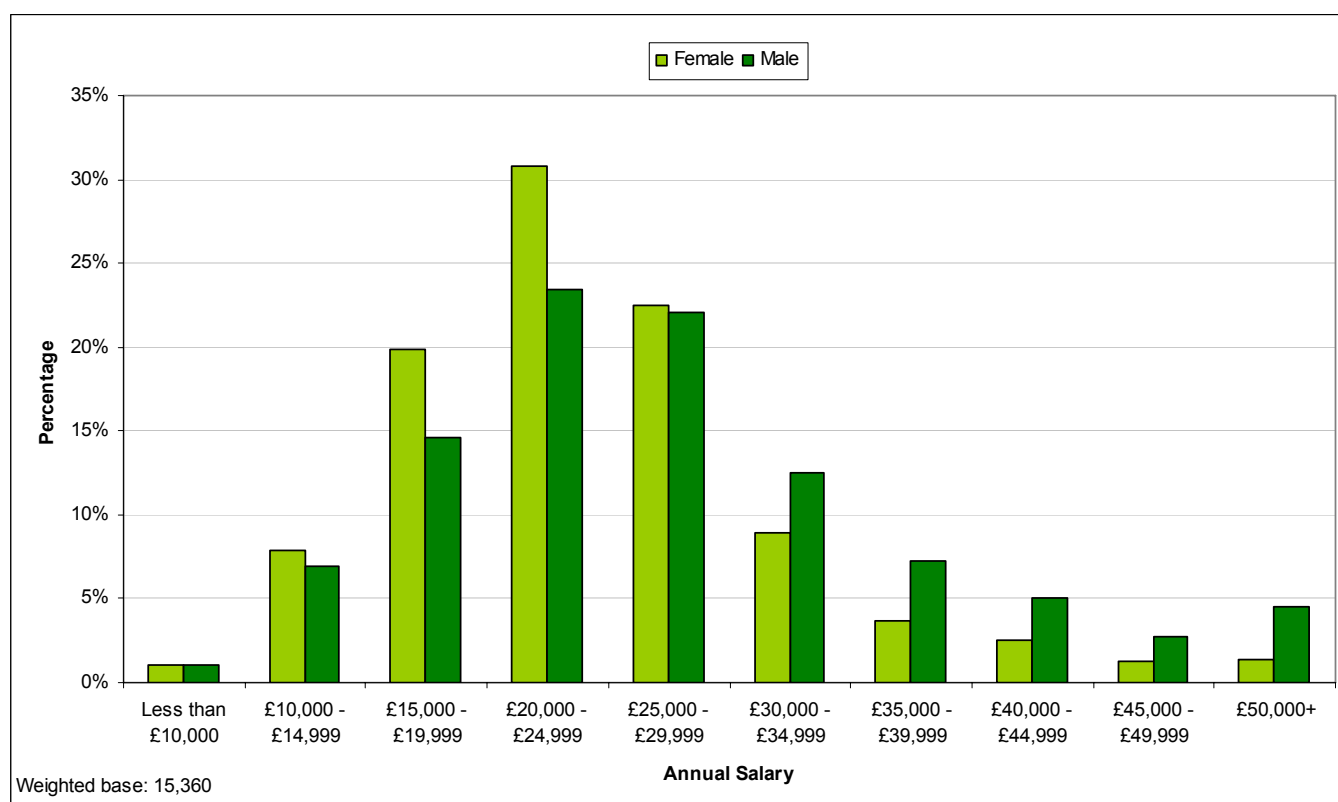
2.3 Salary

This section analyses the salaries of UK domiciled leavers who were in full-time paid work only in the UK and makes comparisons between their salaries at the Early Survey stage and Longitudinal Survey stage.

The median salary of UK domiciled full-time leavers who were working full-time at the Longitudinal Survey stage was £24,500. For part-time leavers the median salary for those working full-time was £32,000. Among full-time leavers, postgraduates had the highest median salary (£27,000) followed by first degree leavers (£24,000) and other undergraduates (£22,000) (Table 2.5). This trend was the same for part-time leavers with part-time postgraduate leavers earning median salaries of £38,000 compared with £28,500 for first degree leavers and £26,000 for other undergraduates.

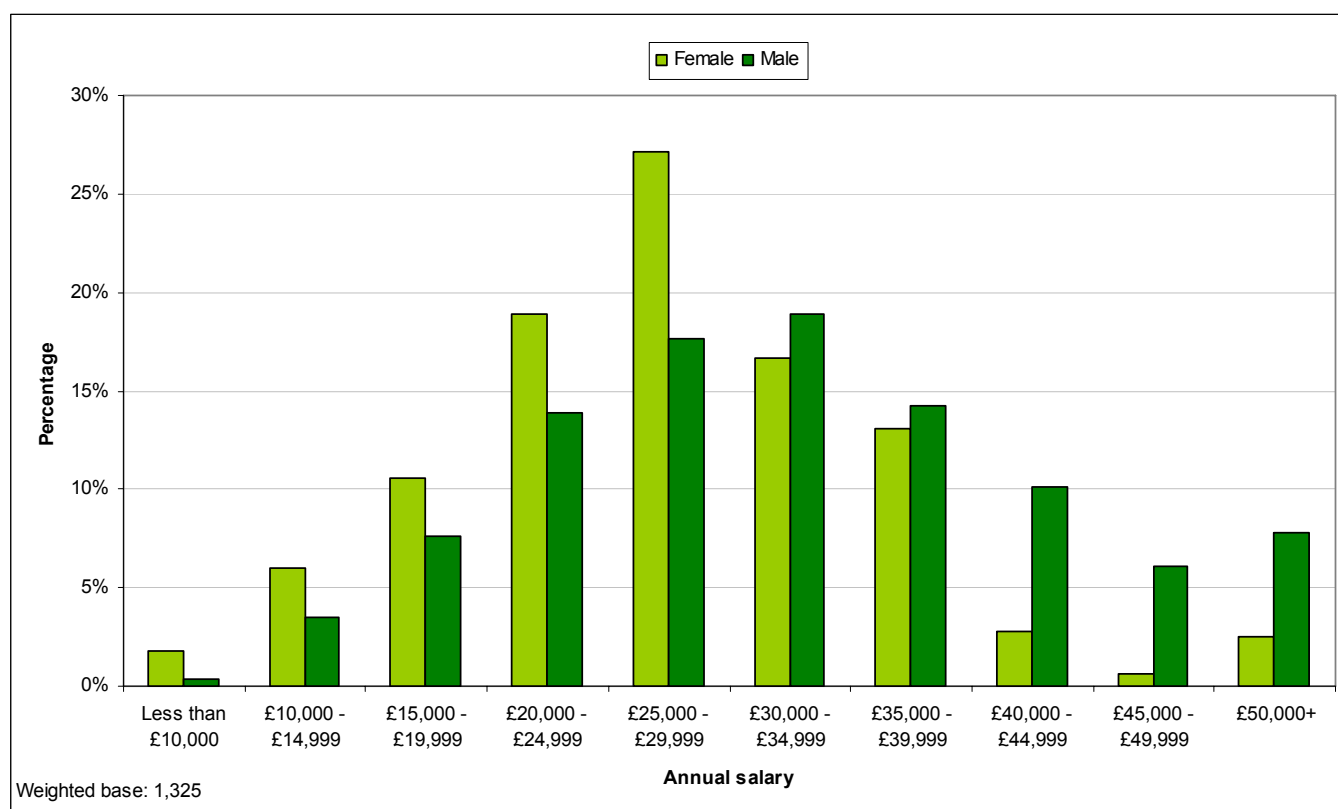
The salary distribution of first degree leavers who were in full-time employment is illustrated for full-time and part-time leavers in Figures 2.3 and 2.4.

Figure 2.3 UK domiciled full-time leavers who obtained first degree qualifications in full-time paid work by salary band and gender



There was a £2,000 difference in the median salaries of full-time first degree male and female leavers although as figure 2.3 shows, a larger proportion of men were in higher paid jobs. There was a larger difference between the salaries of part-time male and female leavers with first degrees where the male median salary was £30,000; that is £3,000 higher than for females (£27,000). There was also a larger difference between the distribution of male and female leavers with a much larger proportion of male leavers in the highest two salary bands (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4 UK domiciled part-time leavers who obtained first degree qualifications in full-time paid work by salary band and gender



Leavers were likely to have increased their salary between the Early Survey stage and Longitudinal Survey stage at all qualification levels (Table 2.6). For full-time leavers the postgraduate median salary increased from £20,000 at the Early Survey stage to £27,000 at the Longitudinal Survey stage (Figure 2.5). The first degree median salary increased from £17,000 to £24,000 and the other undergraduate salary from £18,000 to £22,000. This pattern was also evident for part-time leavers with the postgraduate median salary increasing from £30,000 at the Early Survey stage to £38,000 at the Longitudinal Survey stage. For leavers with first degrees the median salary increased from £24,000 to £28,500 and for other undergraduate leavers the median salary from £22,000 to £26,000.

Figure 2.5 UK domiciled leavers in full-time paid UK employment by academic year, mode, level and median salary at each survey stage

	2002/03		2004/05	
	Median salary at Early survey(1)	Median salary at Longitudinal survey(2)	Median salary at Early survey(1)	Median salary at Longitudinal survey(2)
Full-time	£17,000	£22,000	£18,000	£24,500
Postgraduate	£19,000	£25,000	£20,000	£27,000
First degree	£16,000	£21,600	£17,000	£24,000
Other undergraduate	£17,000	£19,200	£18,000	£22,000
Part-time	£26,000	£30,000	£27,000	£32,000
Postgraduate	£30,000	£35,000	£30,000	£38,000
First degree	£23,000	£26,000	£24,000	£28,500
Other undergraduate	£20,000	£23,695	£22,000	£26,000
Total responses	80,230	14,855	85,585	24,540

(1) Median salaries calculated for the Early survey stage are based on all UK domiciled respondents in full-time paid employment, total is actual number of responses

(2) Median salaries calculated for the Longitudinal survey stage are based on UK domiciled respondents in full-time paid employment in the UK, total is weighted responses

In general, median salaries were higher for the 2004/05 leavers at both the Early Survey and Longitudinal Survey stages compared with those reported by the 2002/03 leavers. The median salary for full-time leavers in 2002/03 increased from £17,000 at the Early Survey stage to £22,000 at the Longitudinal Survey stage. For the 2004/05 full-time leavers the median salary increased from £18,000 to £24,500 between the two survey dates.

Median salaries varied by subject studied particularly for full-time first degree leavers (Table 2.7). Those who gained their 2004/05 qualification in medicine & dentistry were earning the largest salaries with over 50% of those in full-time employment earning £35,000 or more - a median salary of £42,000. Median salaries were also higher for those who had studied veterinary science (£33,000), engineering & technology (£28,000) and architecture, building & planning (£27,500).

2.4 Region of employment

This section looks at the geographical region leavers were employed in and makes comparisons with their original region of domicile and the location of the Higher Education Institution (HEI) they attended.

Of all UK domiciled leavers who were in employment at the Longitudinal Survey stage over a fifth (22.7%) were working in London (Table 2.8) with a further 12.1% working in the South East. Looking at the geographical distribution of UK domiciled leavers' regions of employment by their region of domicile, leavers from all regions were most likely to work in the same region as they were originally living. Figure 2.6 below shows the pattern of movement across all UK government office regions.

Figure 2.6 UK domiciled leavers who entered employment by region of domicile and region of employment

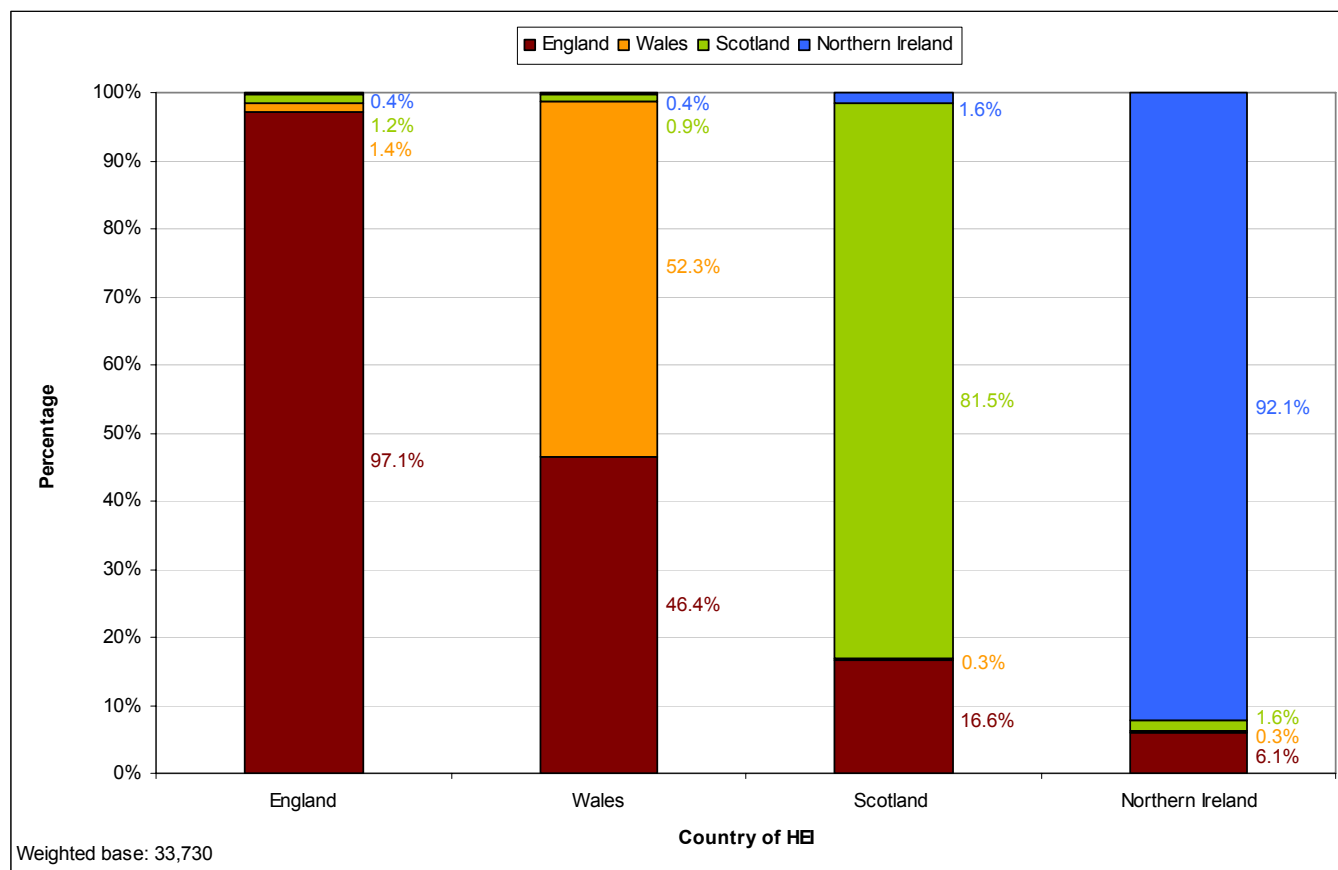
Region of domicile 2004/05	Region of employment on 24 November 2008														Base (weighted)
	North East	North West	Yorkshire and The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	England region unknown	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man	
North East	65.5%	3.7%	7.5%	1.2%	1.2%	1.9%	7.8%	2.0%	1.5%	4.1%	0.7%	2.9%	0.0%	0.1%	1455
North West	0.9%	68.8%	5.4%	2.4%	2.6%	1.3%	7.4%	2.1%	1.5%	5.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.0%	0.1%	3545
Yorkshire and The Humber	2.6%	5.4%	67.3%	4.2%	1.5%	1.5%	9.3%	2.1%	0.9%	3.8%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2510
East Midlands	2.4%	4.0%	5.4%	52.4%	5.5%	3.4%	12.9%	5.0%	2.5%	4.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	2305
West Midlands	0.9%	3.8%	1.8%	3.6%	62.6%	1.4%	9.6%	4.3%	3.6%	5.7%	2.0%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	2980
East of England	0.6%	1.6%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	48.4%	24.9%	9.0%	2.7%	4.9%	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2815
London	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	4.0%	79.5%	7.6%	1.9%	2.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4445
South East	0.6%	1.3%	0.8%	1.7%	1.2%	2.8%	28.5%	52.1%	4.0%	5.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	5135
South West	0.4%	1.7%	1.1%	0.9%	2.0%	1.3%	14.8%	9.7%	60.5%	3.7%	2.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	2935
England region unknown	0.3%	9.2%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%	33.2%	18.3%	15.0%	8.5%	0.5%	2.0%	0.0%	0.3%	95
Wales	0.3%	4.6%	1.2%	1.1%	2.7%	1.8%	7.6%	3.6%	5.7%	1.4%	69.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%	1520
Scotland	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	4.7%	1.7%	1.1%	0.2%	0.3%	87.1%	0.1%	0.0%	2965
Northern Ireland	1.0%	2.7%	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%	3.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	3.6%	84.1%	0.1%	980
Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man	0.0%	8.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%	10.3%	3.6%	7.7%	4.5%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%	59.8%	140

Leavers with unknown region of domicile and/or region of employment have been excluded

Leavers domiciled in Scotland (87.1%) were the most likely to be in employment in the same region at the Longitudinal Survey stage. Those domiciled in Northern Ireland (84.1%) and London (79.5%) were also very likely to be employed in the same regions. Leavers domiciled in the East of England (48.4%), South East (52.1%) and East Midlands (52.4%) were least likely to be working in their region of domicile. This pattern was similar for postgraduates and first degree leavers although other undergraduate leavers were more likely to stay in their home region. High proportions of other undergraduate leavers domiciled in Northern Ireland (98.2%), Scotland (95.8%) and London (89.1%) were employed in their region of domicile.

Most leavers from institutions in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were employed in the same country at the Longitudinal Survey stage (Figure 2.4). Nearly all leavers from institutions in England who were employed in the UK (97.1%) were working in England, while 92.1% of those from institutions in Northern Ireland were working in Northern Ireland. 81.5% of leavers from institutions in Scotland employed in the UK were employed in Scotland, while 16.6% were employed in England. Leavers from institutions in Wales were less likely to be employed in the same country, with 52.3% employed in Wales and 46.4% employed in England.

Figure 2.7 UK domiciled leavers employed in the UK by country of HEI and country of employment



Leavers with other undergraduate qualifications who attended institutions in Scotland were the most likely to be working in Scotland at the Longitudinal Survey stage (96.5%). 83.8% of postgraduate leavers who attended institutions in Scotland and 79.2% of first degree leavers who attended institutions in Scotland were working in Scotland at the Longitudinal Survey stage (Table 2.9). Similarly, 100% of employed leavers with other undergraduate qualifications who attended institutions in Northern Ireland were employed in Northern Ireland compared to 93.0% of postgraduate and 90.8% of first degree leavers.

There was a different pattern for leavers who attended institutions in Wales. Just over half of employed first degree leavers from institutions in Wales (54.7%) worked in England (the South West (13.4%) and London (12.1%) being the most popular destinations) while 44.1% remained in Wales. In contrast, 63.4% of postgraduate and 81.3% of other undergraduate leavers from institutions in Wales were working in Wales.

At all levels of study, the majority of employed leavers reported that they were working in the same region at the Longitudinal Survey stage as they had been at the Early Survey stage (Table 2.10). Postgraduate leavers who were employed in Northern Ireland (98.0%), Scotland (94.6%) and Wales (91.0%) at the Early Survey stage were most likely to be working in the same region at the Longitudinal Survey stage. First degree leavers were more likely to have moved region between the Early Survey stage and the Longitudinal Survey stage survey. Over a quarter of leavers who were working in Wales at the Early Survey stage (25.7%) were working in England at the Longitudinal Survey stage compared with 8.9% of postgraduates and 3.7% of other undergraduates moving across these regions. There was also more movement to London among leavers with first degrees. Of those working in the East and the South East of England at the Early Survey stage over a fifth (20.1% and 20.4% respectively) were working in London at the Longitudinal Survey stage, with a further 8.1% moving to London from the South West, 8.0% from the East Midlands and 7.8% from the West Midlands.

2.5 Country of employment

Of all leavers who were in employment 6.8% were working outside the UK. UK domiciled leavers were more likely to be working in the UK (96.4%) than those domiciled outside the UK (29.2%). Of the UK domiciled leavers in employment those with postgraduate qualifications (4.0%) and first degrees (3.6%) were more likely than those with an other undergraduate qualification (1.9%) to be working outside the UK.

Figure 2.8 Leavers who entered employment by domicile, level of qualification and location of employment

	Within the UK	Outside the UK	Base (Weighted)
All leavers	93.2%	6.8%	36860
UK	96.4%	3.6%	35100
Postgraduate	96.0%	4.0%	8510
First degree	96.4%	3.6%	23400
Other undergraduate	98.1%	1.9%	3190
Other EU	29.2%	70.8%	1760
Postgraduate	20.9%	79.1%	895
First degree	37.9%	62.1%	825
Other undergraduate	..	..	40

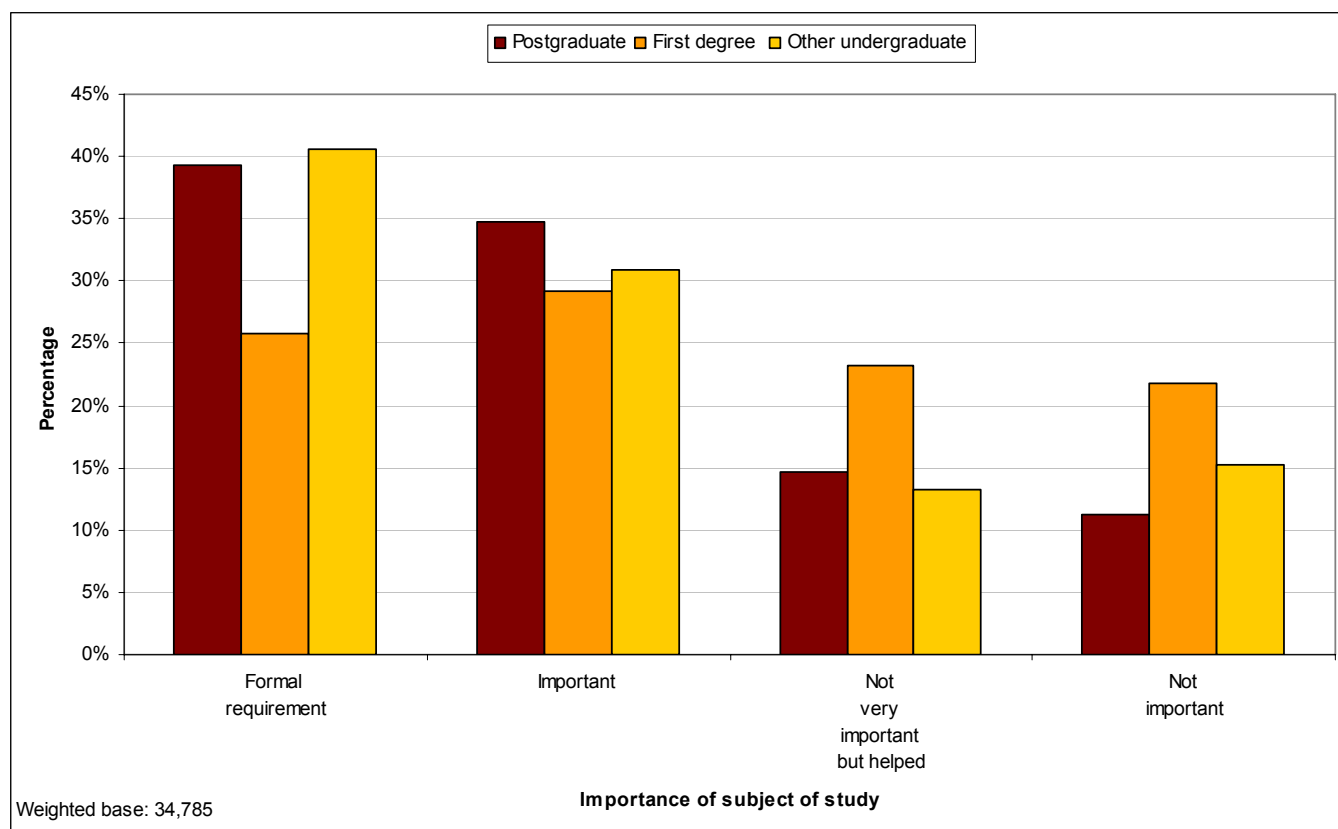
First degree leavers who were domiciled from outside the UK were more likely to have found employment in the UK (37.9%) than those leavers with a postgraduate qualification (20.9%).

2.6 Importance of different factors in gaining employment

Leavers who were employed were asked to rate the importance of various factors in gaining their employment on a scale ranging from a 'Formal requirement', 'Important', 'Not very important but helped' and 'Not important'. The factors included the type of qualification they obtained, the subject studied, degree class and evidence of skills. Responses to this question are shown in Table 2.11 split by qualification level and subject.

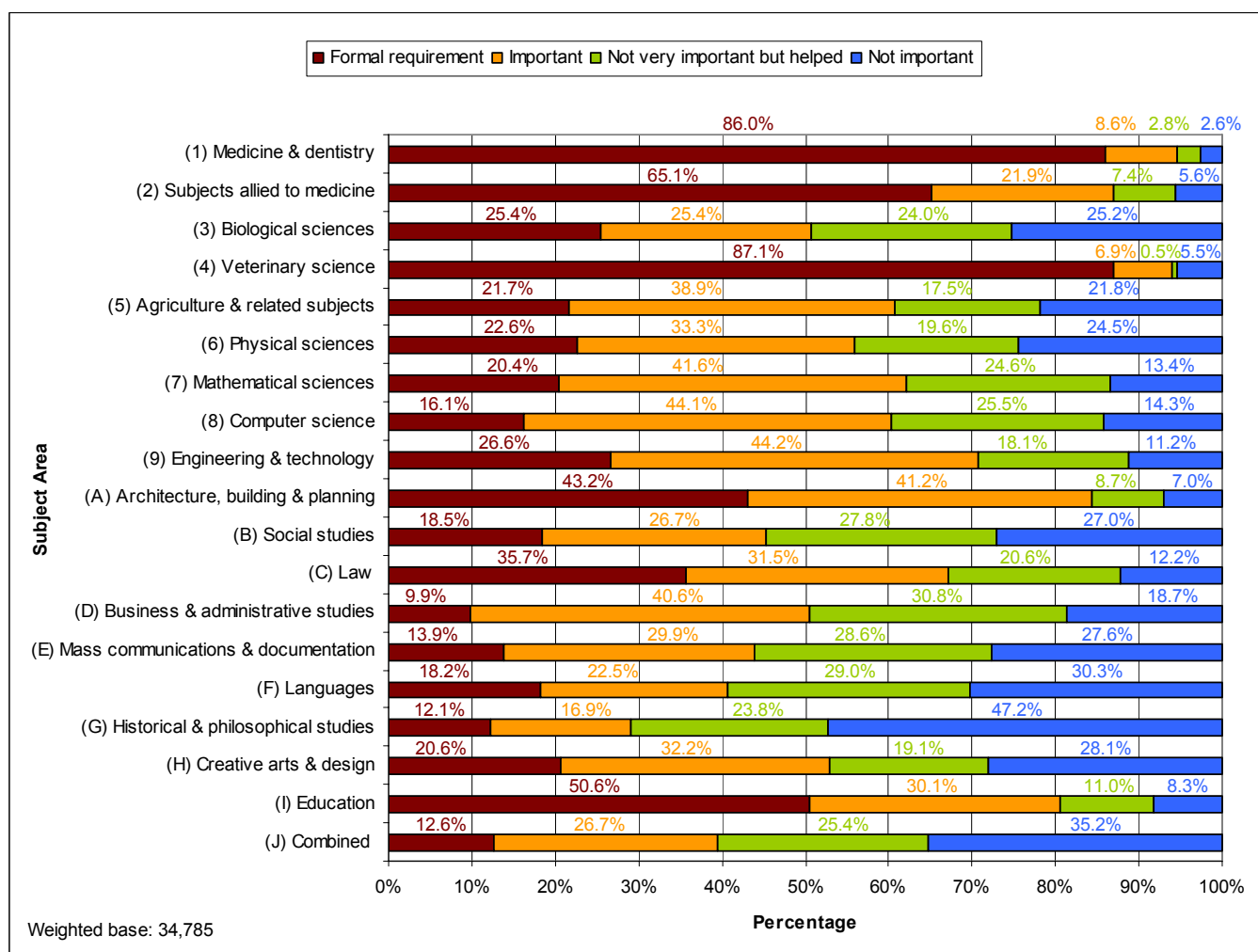
Qualification type was more likely than other factors to have been a 'Formal requirement' for all levels of study with this being the case for 50.3% of postgraduates, 42.7% of first degree and 44.2% of other undergraduate leavers. 25.0% of postgraduates, 25.1% of first degree leavers and 24.5% of other undergraduates said it was 'Important'. (Table 2.11)

Figure 2.9 UK domiciled leavers in employment by level of study and importance of subject



The importance of the subject studied also varied by the level of qualification. 39.3% of postgraduate leavers rated the subject they studied as a 'Formal requirement' with 34.8% indicating that it was 'Important'. Other undergraduate leavers seemed to share a similar view with 40.6% indicating that it was a 'Formal requirement' and 30.9% indicating that it was 'Important'. For first degree leavers subject of study seem to be less important when gaining their current job with 25.8% indicating that it was a 'Formal requirement' and 29.2% indicating that it was 'Important' (Figure 2.9).

Figure 2.10 UK domiciled leavers in employment by subject area and importance of subject



The importance of the subject studied in gaining employment also varied by the original subject studied. Among UK domiciled leavers in employment who studied veterinary science 87.1% reported that subject was a formal requirement when going into their current employment. This was also high among those who studied medicine & dentistry (86.0%) and subjects allied to medicine (65.1%). Nearly half (47.2%) of those in employment who had studied historical & philosophical studies reported that their subject was not important in gaining their current job.

Leavers rated the class or grade of their qualification as much less likely to have been a formal requirement of their job compared with the other characteristics of their qualification. 14.0% of postgraduates indicated that it was a 'Formal requirement' with 11.5% of first degree leavers and 25.6% of other undergraduates indicating it was a 'Formal requirement'. A further 32.3% of postgraduates, 31.3% of first degree leavers and 25.7% of other undergraduates indicated that the class or grade of their qualification was 'Important'.

2.7 Reasons for taking the job

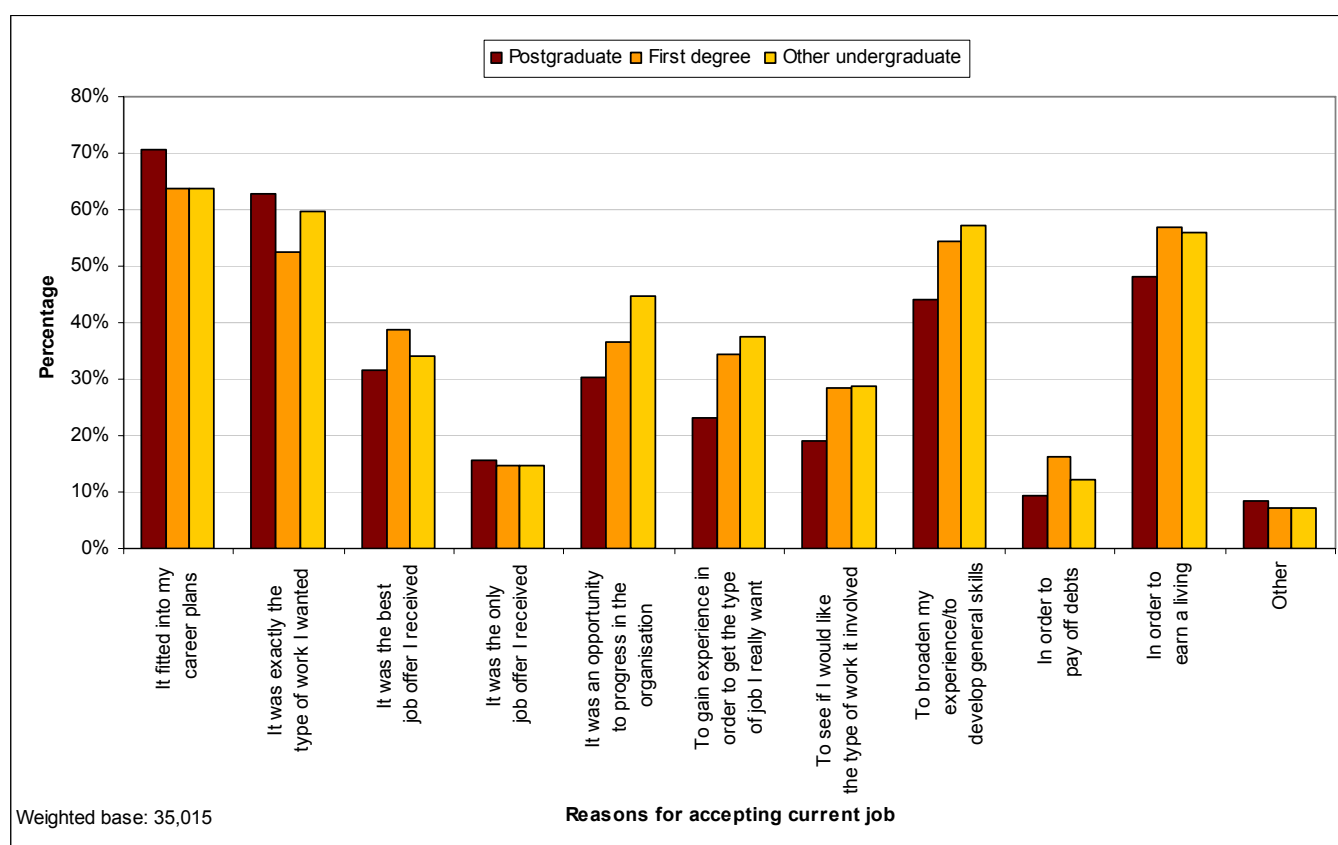
In addition to being asked about which factors they thought were important in obtaining their employment, leavers were also asked about their reasons for accepting the job they were doing. Respondents were asked to indicate from a list of reasons all the reasons that helped them decide to take the job.

The most common reasons are shown in Table 2.12 by qualification level and subject. 70.6% of postgraduates, 63.9% of both first degree and other undergraduate leavers indicated that they chose the job because 'It fitted into my career plans'. Other common reasons were that 'It was exactly the type of work I wanted' (62.8% of postgraduates, 52.6% first degree and 59.7% other undergraduates), 'To broaden my experience/develop general skills' (44.2%, 54.5% and 57.2% of postgraduates, first degree and other undergraduates) and 'In order to earn a living' (48.1% of postgraduates, 56.9% of first degree and 55.9% of other undergraduates).

As illustrated in figure 2.11 there were some differences in the reasons why leavers from different qualification levels accepted their current job.

First degree and other undergraduate leavers were more likely than postgraduates to indicate that the reasons for taking the job they were doing on 24 November 2008 were 'To broaden my experience/develop general skills' (54.5% of first degree leavers and 57.2% of other undergraduates compared to 44.2% of postgraduates) and 'To see if I would like the type of work it involved' (28.5% of first degree leavers and 28.8% of other undergraduates compared to 19.0% of postgraduates). Postgraduate leavers were more likely to indicate that 'It fitted into my career plans' (70.6%) or 'It was exactly the type of work I was wanted' (62.8%).

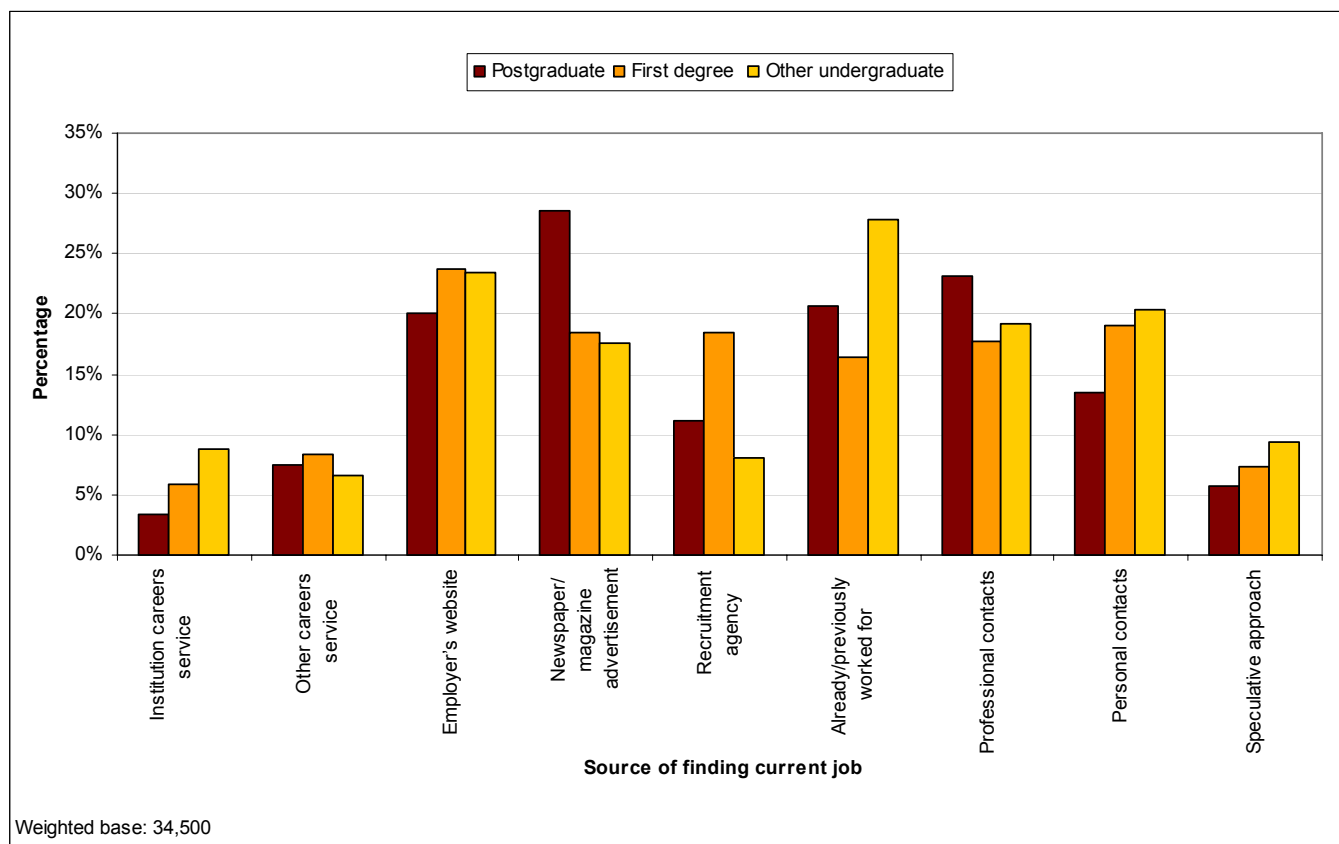
Figure 2.11 UK domiciled leavers in employment by qualification level and reasons for accepting current job



2.8 Source of finding job

As figure 2.12 shows, the most popular sources of finding a job were newspaper/magazine advertisements or websites, which 28.6% of employed postgraduates reported using to find out about their current job. Employer's websites were the most common source among first degree leavers (23.7%) and 27.8% of other undergraduates said they already worked for the organisation. Table 2.13 shows a full breakdown by level and subject of study.

Figure 2.12 UK domiciled leavers in employment by level of qualification and source of finding job



Postgraduate leavers were less likely to have found out about their job from their institution's careers service (3.3%) than first degree (5.9%) and other undergraduate leavers (8.8%).

3. Study, training and research

This chapter focuses on those leavers who were engaged in further study, training or research on 24 November 2008, including those who were combining work and further study. It includes analysis by level, mode and subject of original qualification gained in 2004/05 against factors such as qualification aim, subject, length of course, source of funding and type of institution at which the further study is being undertaken at. Section 3.5 examines the reasons for undertaking further study. The final section concentrates on the leaver's highest qualification achieved since gaining their 2004/05 qualification.

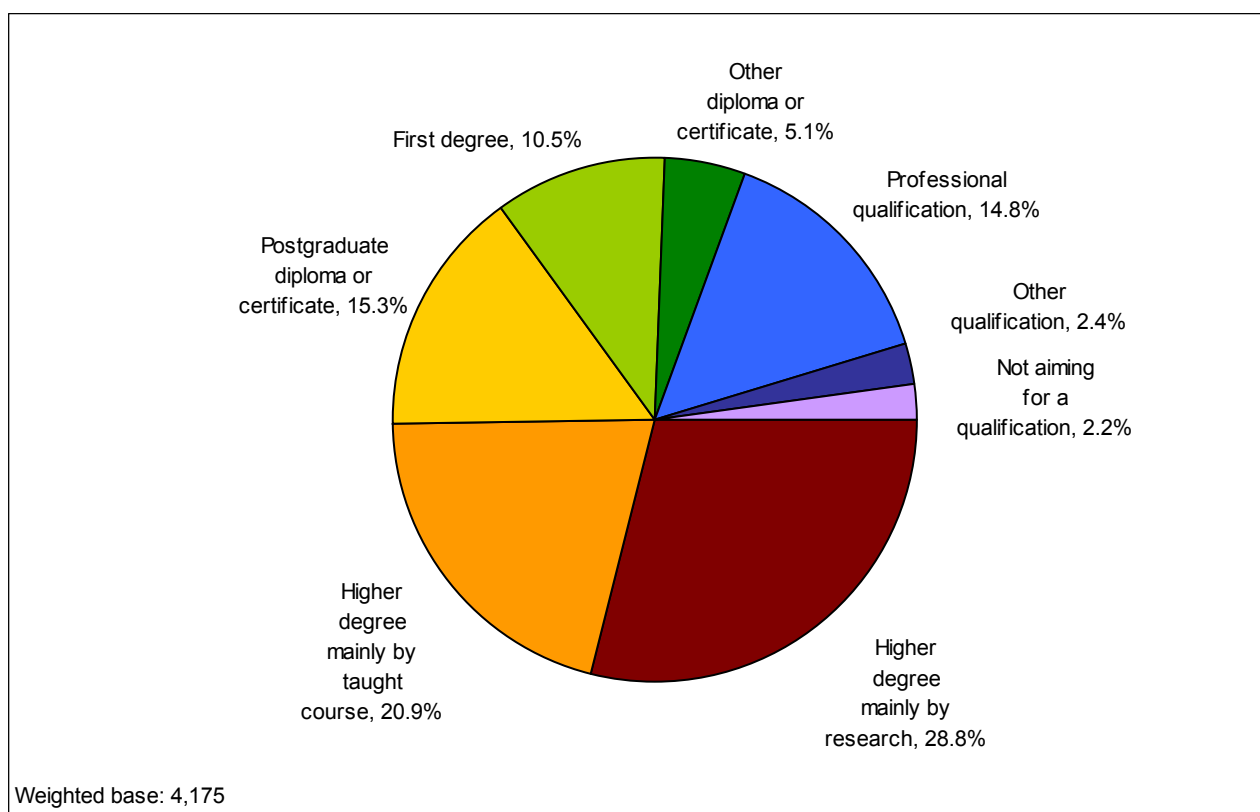
'Further study' will be used to mean 'Further, study, training or research' throughout this chapter.

3.1 Type of qualification

This section focuses on those who were engaged in further study on 24 November 2008 and analyses this activity by the qualification aim of the further study, domicile, gender, level of qualification and mode of study.

Figure 3.1 shows the percentage of full-time leavers by qualification aim of their further study. Overall, nearly a half of all full-time leavers engaged in further study (49.7%) were studying for a higher degree, either mainly by research or mainly by taught course (42.5% in 2002/03).

Figure 3.1 Full-time leavers 2004/05, who were engaged in further study by qualification aim



Of all full-time postgraduate leavers engaged in further study, 49.2% (47.3% in 2002/03) were undertaking a higher degree mainly by research on 24 November 2008. A further 17.2% (16.1% in 2002/03) were undertaking a higher degree mainly by taught course and 10.6% (9.1% in 2002/03) were working towards a postgraduate diploma or certificate (Table 3.1).

Of the full-time first degree leavers engaged in further study, 27.6% (23.3% in 2002/03) were undertaking a higher degree mainly by research on 24 November 2008 and 22.0% (19.9% in 2002/03) were undertaking a higher degree mainly by taught course. Almost one in ten (9.5%, compared with 7.4% in 2002/03) of full-time first degree leavers engaged in further study were studying for another first degree on 24 November 2008 (Table 3.1).

Over a third (37.7%) of full-time other undergraduate leavers engaged in further study were studying for a first degree on 24 November 2008 (45.6% in 2002/03), with a further 19.7% (10.7% in 2002/03) aiming for a professional qualification.

Almost two thirds (65.6%) of all full-time Other EU domiciled male postgraduate leavers engaged in further study were undertaking a higher degree mainly by research on 24 November 2008, this compares with 52.9% of full-time UK domiciled male postgraduate leavers, although it should be noted that base numbers for Other EU leavers are low. The figures for full-time female postgraduate leavers undertaking a higher degree mainly by research were 46.9% and 38.9% respectively for UK and Other EU domiciled (again base numbers for Other EU are low).

Figure 3.2 Leavers 2004/05, who entered further study by level of qualification, gender and qualification aim

	Postgraduate	First degree	Other diploma or certificate	Professional qualification	Other qualification	Not aiming for a qualification	Base (weighted)
Postgraduate	72.7%	4.6%	4.6%	9.7%	3.1%	5.3%	855
Female	71.9%	3.8%	5.4%	9.3%	4.3%	5.3%	535
Male	74.1%	6.0%	3.2%	10.4%	1.0%	5.2%	320
First degree	65.3%	9.5%	5.4%	15.0%	2.5%	2.2%	3665
Female	64.2%	10.9%	6.3%	13.7%	2.8%	2.0%	2280
Male	67.2%	7.1%	3.9%	17.1%	2.0%	2.7%	1385
Other undergraduate	25.5%	38.4%	11.4%	18.5%	4.7%	1.6%	380
Female	28.0%	42.5%	10.2%	12.4%	4.8%	2.0%	255
Male	20.4%	30.1%	13.8%	30.5%	4.4%	0.7%	125
Total	63.5%	10.9%	5.7%	14.3%	2.8%	2.7%	4900

The remainder of this chapter focuses on UK domiciled leavers who were engaged in further study on 24 November 2008.

Figure 3.3 UK domiciled full-time leavers 2004/05 who entered further study by qualification aim and gender

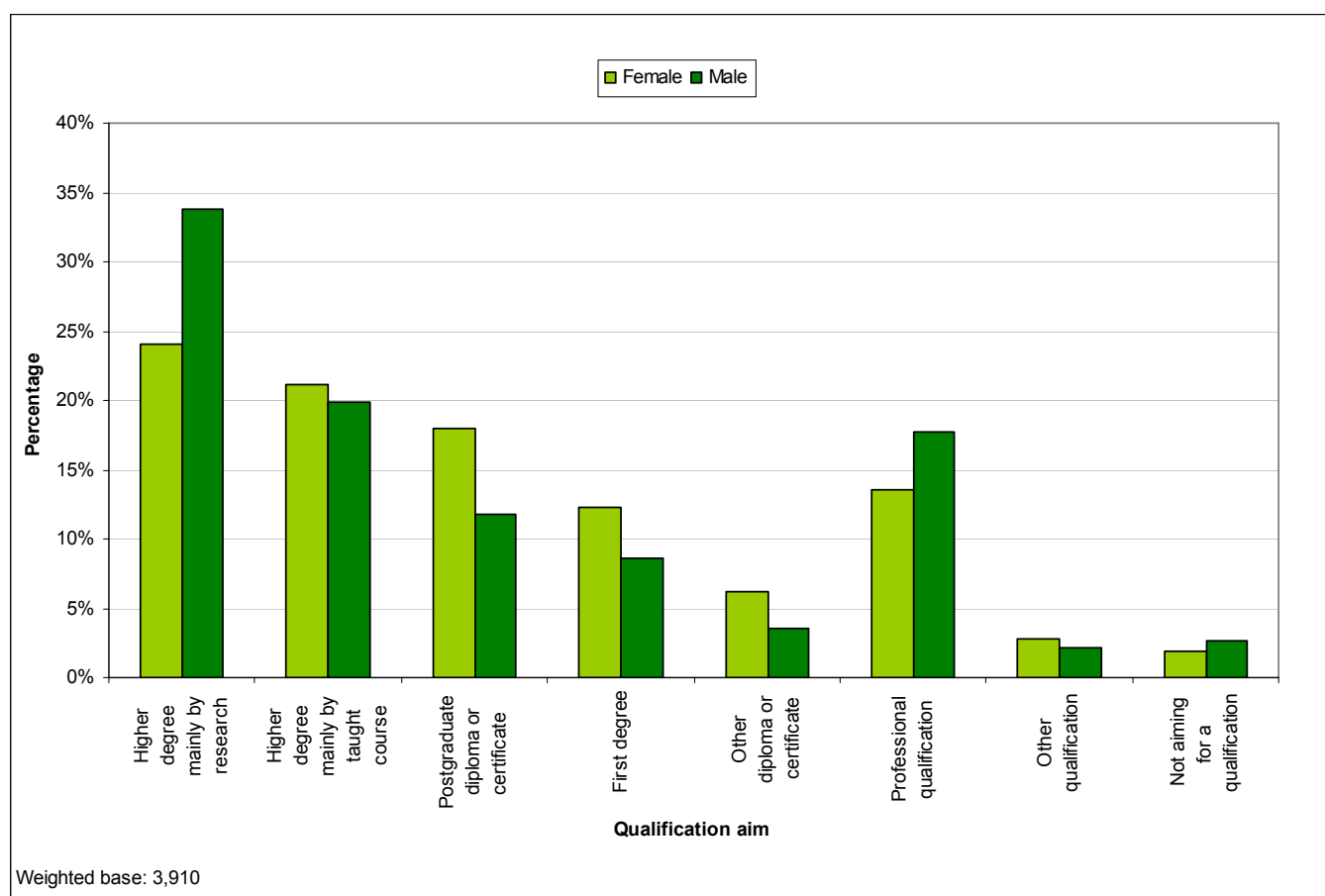


Figure 3.3 shows the gender distribution of UK domiciled full-time leavers who were engaged in further study on 24 November 2008, by qualification aim. 33.8% of male leavers and 24.0% of female leavers were undertaking a higher degree mainly by research on 24 November 2008. A further 19.9% of males and 21.2% of females were studying for a higher degree mainly by taught course.

Of the full-time UK domiciled first degree leavers engaged in further study, 33.5% of men and 22.7% of women were studying for a higher degree mainly by research on 24 November 2008. A further 20.8% of men and 22.2% of women were studying for a higher degree mainly by taught course. Approximately one third (33.0%) of full-time UK domiciled male other undergraduate leavers were studying for a first degree on 24 November 2008. This percentage was higher for female other undergraduate leavers at 40.2% (Table 3.1).

Among part-time leavers 44.7% of those who were engaged in further study were aiming for a higher degree either mainly by research (20.8%) or taught (23.9%). 13.0% were aiming for a first degree and a further 11.9% were studying for a professional qualification.

3.2 Subject

Across each subject area of study in 2004/05, UK domiciled leavers were more likely to choose the same subject area of further study than to choose one of the other subject areas, this can be seen in figure 3.4. Of those studying architecture, building & planning, 69.6% studied within the same subject area for their further study. The proportions were also high for law (69.3%) and medicine & dentistry (69.0%). Lower proportions were seen in mass communications & documentation and mathematical sciences. Of the mass communications & documentation leavers, there was more of a spread across subject of further study, with the highest proportions in business & administrative studies (17.4%), mass communications & documentation (12.6%), education (11.4%) and social studies (11.3%). Of the mathematical sciences leavers 25.3% were studying mathematical sciences on 24 November 2008, but a higher proportion (28.4%) went on to study business & administrative studies (Table 3.2).

Figure 3.4 UK domiciled leavers 2004/05, who entered further study by subject area and proportion entering the same subject area of further study

Subject of study 2004/05	<i>Percentage studying in same subject area</i>	<i>Percentage studying a different subject</i>	Base (Weighted)
Medicine & dentistry	69.0%	31.0%	60
Subjects allied to medicine	52.3%	47.7%	425
Biological sciences	43.4%	56.6%	675
Veterinary science	..	..	10
Agriculture & related subjects	..	..	50
Physical sciences	52.5%	47.5%	320
Mathematical sciences	25.3%	74.7%	90
Computer science	38.2%	61.8%	115
Engineering & technology	42.1%	57.9%	115
Architecture, building & planning	69.6%	30.4%	90
Social studies	30.8%	69.2%	370
Law	69.3%	30.7%	105
Business & administrative studies	60.2%	39.8%	340
Mass communications & documentation	12.6%	87.4%	65
Languages	22.3%	77.7%	335
Historical & philosophical studies	37.6%	62.4%	265
Creative arts & design	35.1%	64.9%	255
Education	50.9%	49.1%	220
Combined	..	..	35

3.3 Source of funding

The most common sources of funding indicated by UK domiciled leavers undertaking further study on 24 November 2008 were self-funding (34.8%), grant/award (34.6%) and employer support (28.2%).

Among postgraduate (59.4%) and first degree (62.0%) leavers engaged in further study, those aiming for a professional qualification were the most likely to have their qualification funded by their employer. Half of first degree leavers studying for another first degree self-funded their study, and a further 37.0% funded their study with a grant/award.

Over half of UK domiciled first degree leavers studying for a higher degree mainly by taught course funded this further study themselves (53.8%), whereas over three quarters of first degree leavers studying for a higher degree mainly by research were funded by a grant/award (79.7%).

For UK domiciled postgraduate leavers undertaking a higher degree on 24 November 2008, 49.4% of those studying by research were funded with a grant/award and a further 33.2% were self-funded. Of those leavers undertaking a higher degree mainly by taught course, most were funded by their employer (40.3%) or they funded their study themselves (39.1%) (Table 3.3).

3.4 Length of course and type of institution

The majority of UK domiciled leavers who were undertaking further study on 24 November 2008 were doing so for 'Between 1 and 3 years' (50.2% of full-time leavers and 49.8% of part-time leavers) or 'More than 3 years' (30.9% of full-time leavers and 29.0% of part-time leavers).

Male full-time postgraduate leavers were most likely to be undertaking a course lasting more than three years (52.7%) while the majority of both males and females from other qualification modes and levels were more likely to be following courses of between six months and three years (table 3.4).

The majority of UK domiciled leavers studying at higher education level on 24 November 2008 were undertaking their study at a university. The percentages ranged from 82.7% for part-time postgraduate diploma or certificate to 99.4% for full-time higher degree mainly by research. Among leavers studying other types of qualifications, higher proportions were at universities, except for part-time professional qualifications (41.2% at 'Private training company') and part-time other qualifications (40.0% at 'College of Further Education') (Table 3.5).

3.5 Reason for undertaking further study

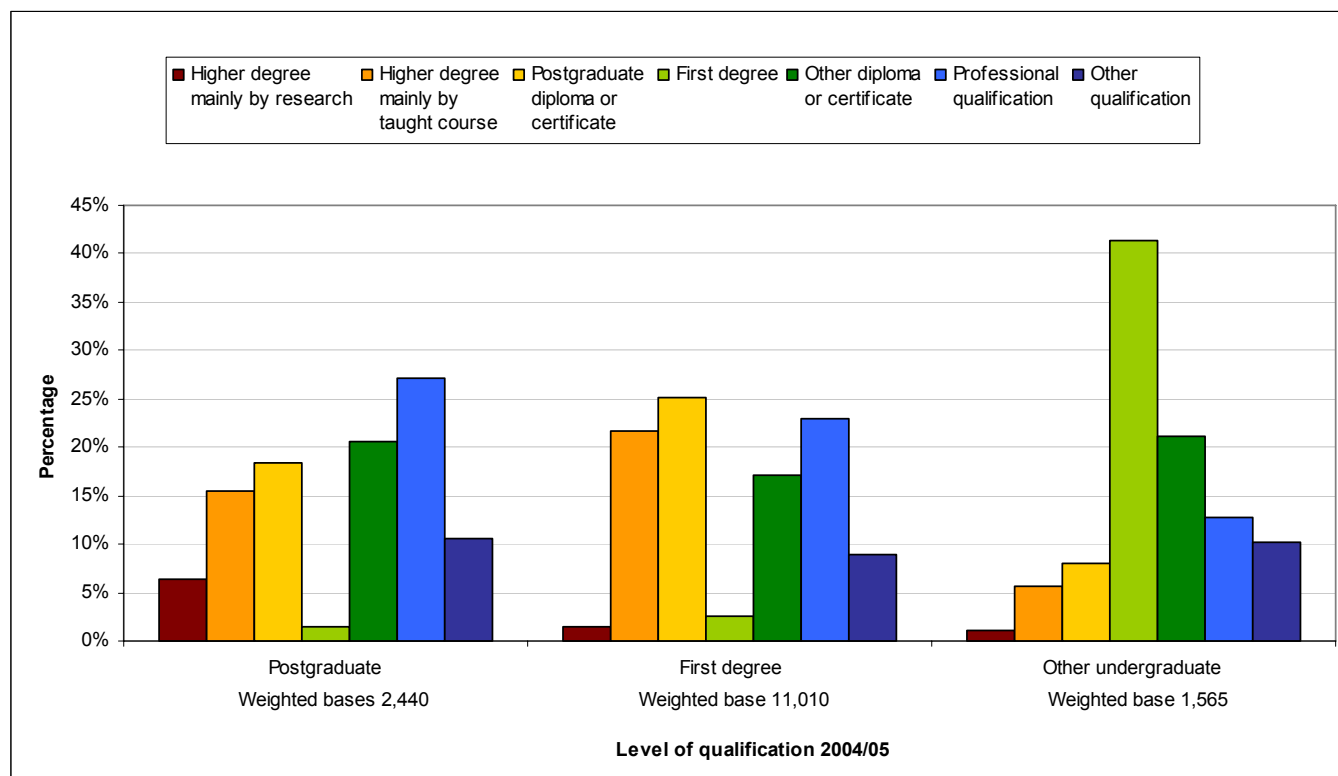
Leavers were asked to indicate from a list of options their reasons for undertaking further study, training or research. Multiple answers were permitted and for this reason, the percentages may sum to more than 100.

The reason given by most UK domiciled leavers for undertaking further study, training or research was 'To change or improve my career options'. In total, 78.2% of those in full-time further study and 73.6% of those in part time further study selected this reason from the list. For those undertaking full-time further study, 61.4% responded that they wanted 'To develop a more specialist set of skills or knowledge' and 64.6% of those undertaking part-time further study responded that they wanted 'To develop a broader range of skills or knowledge'. Across all modes and levels of further study, the highest percentage response to a single option was among those engaged in study on a full-time higher degree mainly by taught course, of whom 86.5% responded 'To change or improve my career options' (Table 3.6).

3.6 Highest qualification achieved since leaving

Leavers were asked about any other qualifications that they had achieved since qualifying with their 2004/05 qualification. For those UK domiciled leavers who have obtained a qualification since 2004/05, Table 3.7 looks at the highest qualification they have achieved by gender and level of qualification in 2004/05, while figure 3.5 shows highest qualification achieved by level of qualification in 2004/05.

Figure 3.5 UK domiciled leavers 2004/05 who achieved further qualifications by level of qualification and level of highest qualification achieved since leaving



Of all UK domiciled other undergraduate leavers, 41.3% had achieved a first degree since gaining their 2004/05 qualification. A slightly higher proportion of male other undergraduate leavers achieved a first degree since leaving (44.8%) compared with female other undergraduate leavers (39.5%). Of the UK domiciled first degree leavers that gained a further qualification since 2004/05, 48.4% had achieved a type of postgraduate qualification. This proportion was slightly higher for females (51.4%) than males (43.7%). Of all postgraduate leavers going on to further study 40.4% achieved another postgraduate qualification (Table 3.7).

Figure 3.6 UK domiciled leavers 2004/05 by level of qualification and achievement of further qualifications

	Achieved a further qualification	Did not achieve a further qualification	Base (weighted)
All leavers	38.2%	61.8%	39350
Postgraduate	26.5%	73.5%	9220
First degree	41.4%	58.6%	26600
Other undergraduate	44.3%	55.7%	3530

4. Activity history

The questionnaire included an activity history for all leavers to complete. This asked for details of all the main activities that the leavers had been engaged in since gaining their 2004/05 qualification, up until the census date of 24 November 2008. This chapter presents the findings of the activity history data and examines leavers' experiences of different types of activities, numbers of activities and types of occupations. Throughout this chapter, the analysis includes leavers' current activity, the activity they were engaged in on 24 November 2008.

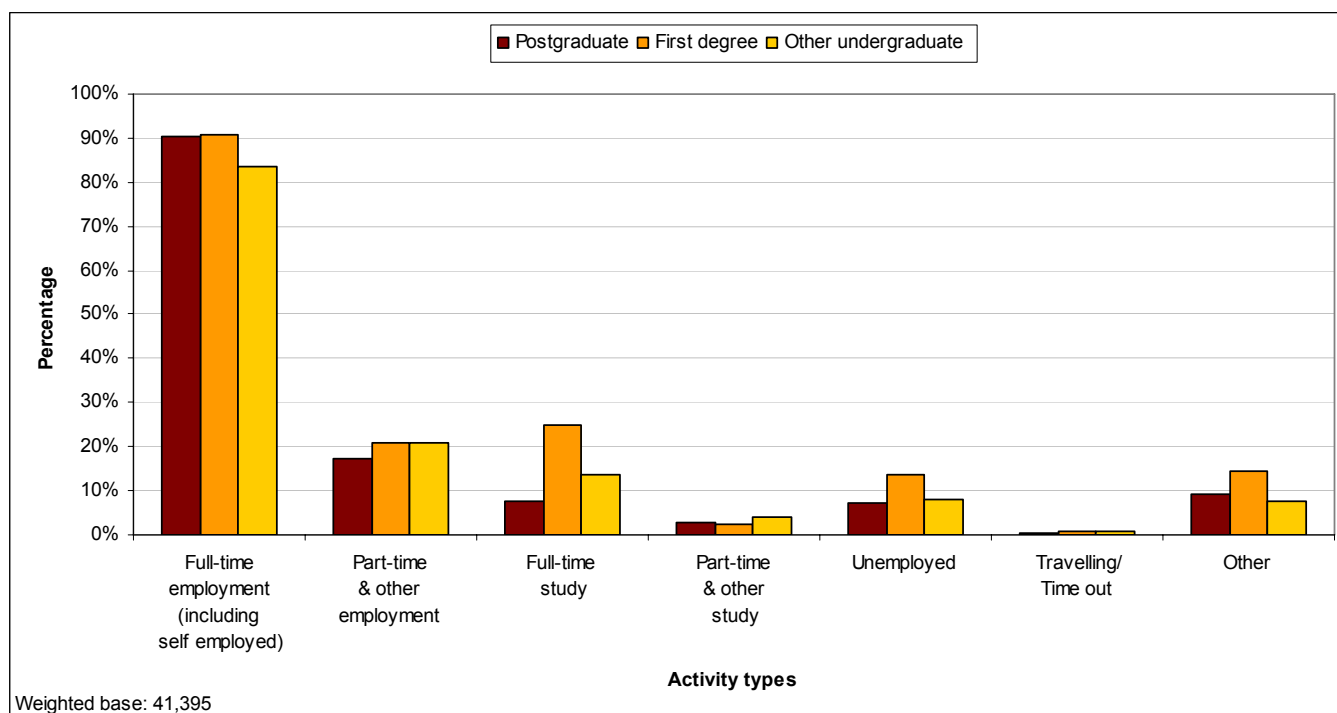
Throughout chapter 4 the label 'full-time work' will be used to mean 'full-time work only (including self-employed)'. It is implicit therefore that those leavers who were full-time self-employed are included in this shortened label.

4.1 Experience of different activities

Most leavers had been engaged in at least one period of employment since gaining their 2004/05 qualification with 90.0% having been employed full-time and 20.1% employed part-time (Table 4.1). Nearly one fifth (19.6%) had been engaged in full-time study at some point and 11.7% reported that they had been unemployed at least once.

In general, female leavers were less likely to have had a period of full-time employment (88.2%) than male leavers (92.7%) but female leavers were more likely to have been involved in part-time work (23.2%) than male leavers (15.6%). Female leavers were also more likely to have been in full-time study (20.4%) than males (18.5%) and less likely to have been unemployed (9.6%) than males (14.7%). There were also differences in the types of activity undertaken between those leavers who were aged 24 years and under on 31 July 2005 and the leavers who were aged 25 and over. Among female leavers, a higher proportion of those aged 24 years and under (93.5%) had experienced full-time work than those aged 25 years and over (79.8%). This split was less among males with 93.1% of those aged 24 years and under having been engaged in full-time work compared with 91.9% of the older age group. Female leavers aged 25 years and over were more likely to have been engaged in part-time work (26.4%) than the younger group (21.2%). However, among males, the younger age group were more likely to have worked part-time (17.5%) at some point during the three and a half years than those aged 25 years and over (11.7%). Both male and female leavers aged 24 years and under were more likely to have been in full-time study (23.6% of males and 27.6% of females aged 24 years and under) than male and female leavers aged 25 years and over (8.7% of males and 8.9% of females).

Figure 4.1 Leavers by level of qualification and experience of different activities



Leavers with postgraduate (90.5%) and first degree (90.7%) qualifications were more likely to have been engaged in full-time employment than leavers with other undergraduate qualifications (83.5%). Postgraduates were slightly less likely to have had a period of part-time work (17.2%) than first degree leavers (21.0%) and other undergraduates (20.9%). As shown in Figure 4.1 a higher proportion (24.8%) of first degree leavers had been involved in a period of full-time study than postgraduate (7.8%) and other undergraduate (13.7%) leavers. Those with a first degree were also more likely to have reported a period of unemployment (13.8%) than other undergraduate (8.1%) and postgraduate leavers (7.3%).

Leavers with postgraduate qualifications who studied engineering & technology (97.9%) and architecture, building and planning (97.8%) were the most likely to have experienced at least one period of full-time employment (Table 4.2). Those who had studied historical & philosophical studies were least likely to have been in full-time employment (72.9%) although over a quarter (26.9%) had been engaged in part-time work during the three and a half years since gaining their 2004/05 qualification. Approximately one fifth of postgraduate leavers who studied mathematical sciences (20.2%), biological sciences (19.8%) and law (19.5%) had experienced full-time study. Postgraduate leavers who studied agriculture & related subjects were most likely to report a period of unemployment (18.1%). (Table 4.2)

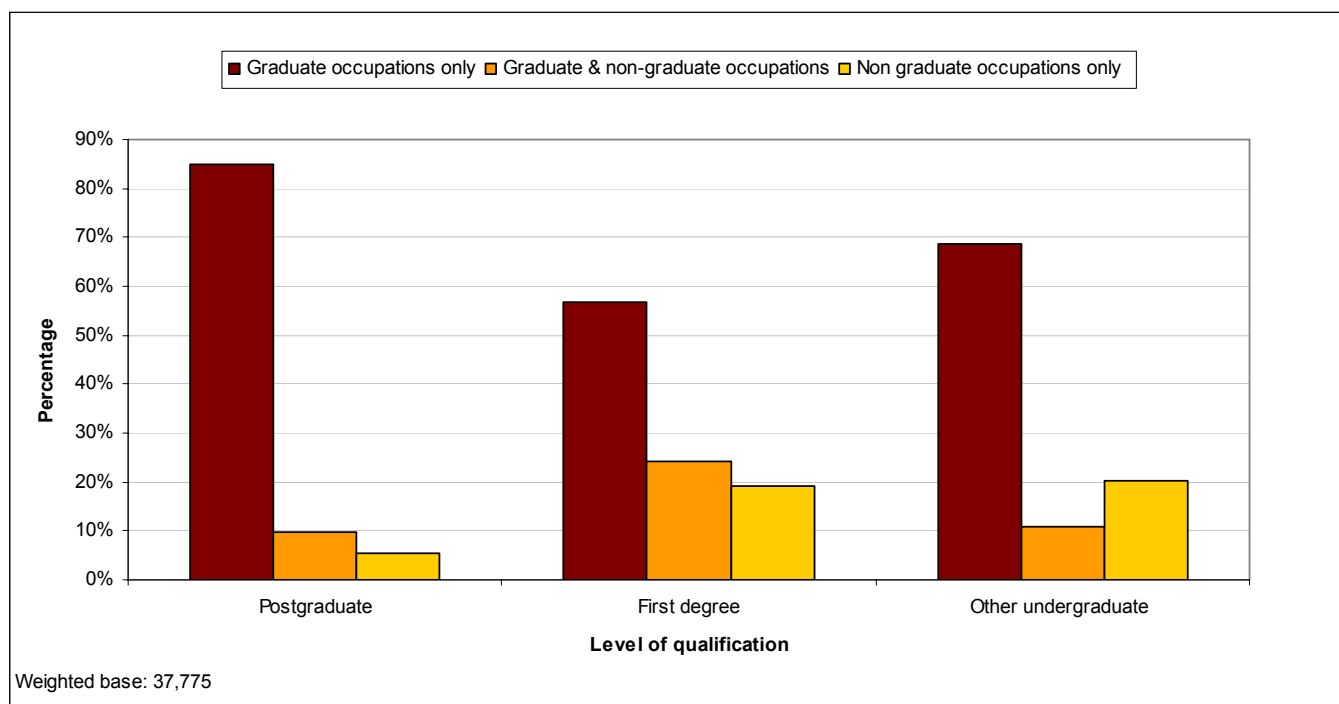
The majority (90.7%) of first degree leavers had experienced at least one period of full-time employment. Those who studied medicine & dentistry (98.1%) and veterinary science (97.6%) were most likely to have been in full-time employment. Nearly a third (31.4%) of first degree leavers who studied creative arts & design had experienced at least one period of part time work. High proportions of first degree leavers who studied law (52.9%), physical sciences (44.3%) and biological sciences (40.0%) had been engaged in full-time study. Around a fifth of first degree leavers who had studied mass communications & documentation (20.5%) and creative arts & design (19.3%) reported at least one period of unemployment during the three and a half years.

4.2 Experience of graduate and non-graduate occupations

Each period of employment reported by leavers in the activity history grid was classified as being a 'graduate' or 'non-graduate' occupation according to the classification scheme devised by Elias & Purcell (2004). Those with unknown occupations or occupations which could not be classified as graduate or non-graduate have been excluded from this analysis. For those leavers who had experienced at least one period of employment (full-time, part-time or other) they were grouped as those who had only experienced graduate occupations, those who had experienced a mix of graduate and non-graduate jobs and a final category of those who had only experience of non-graduate jobs.

Nearly two thirds (64.8%) of leavers who had at least one period of employment during the three and a half years had worked only in graduate occupations (Table 4.3). Approximately one fifth (19.5%) had experienced a mixture of graduate and non-graduate occupations and 15.7% had no experience of graduate jobs at all. These proportions are similar for both male and female leavers. 64.5% of female leavers and 65.1% of male leavers who had reported at least one period of employment had only been employed in graduate occupations. When disaggregated by age, differences become more apparent. A higher proportion of leavers aged 25 years and over for both genders had experienced graduate occupations only (81.1% of females and 79.9% of males) compared with the leavers aged 24 years and under where just over a half (54.4% of female and 57.7% of males) reported working only in graduate occupations.

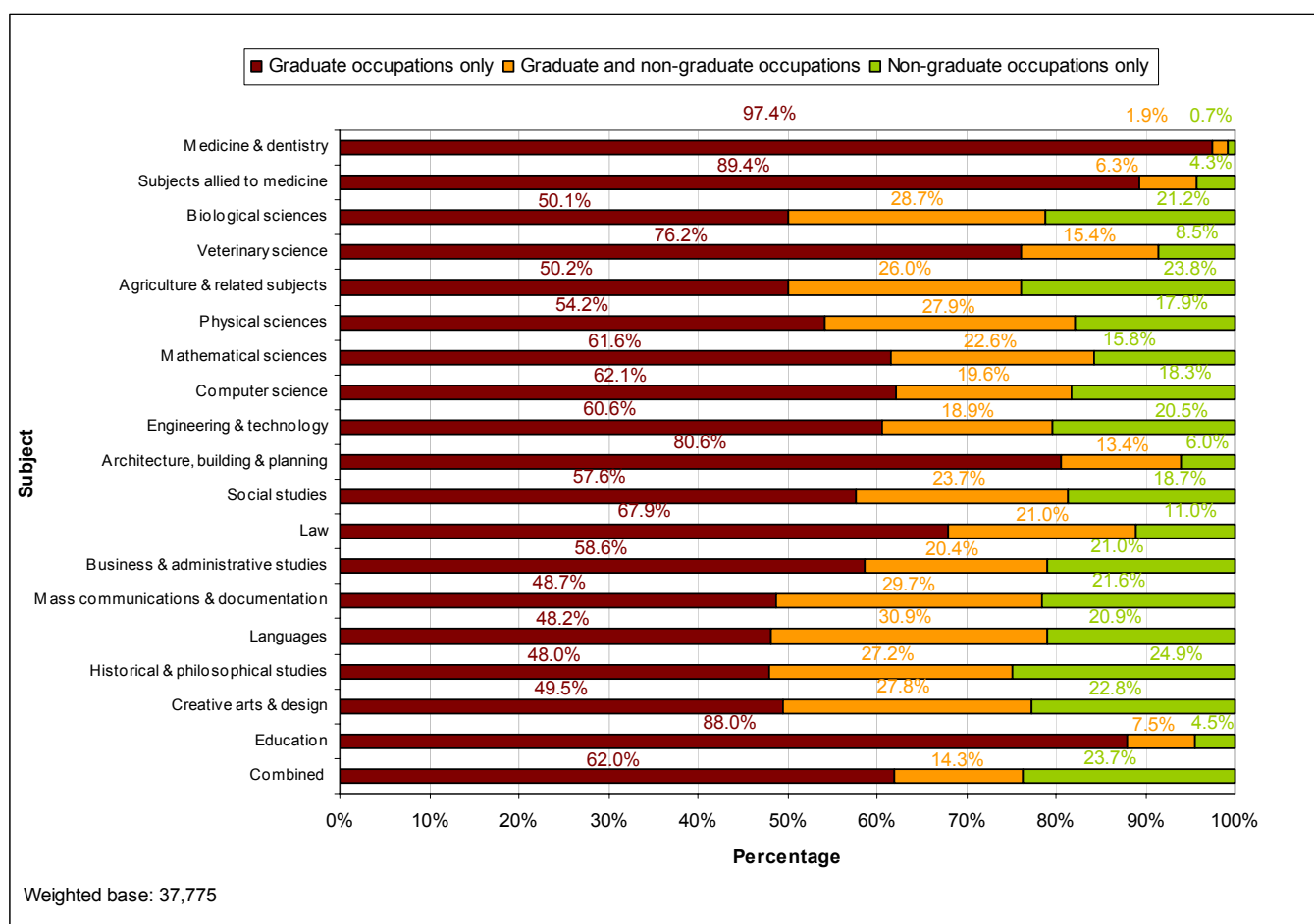
Figure 4.2 Leavers with at least one period of employment by level of qualification and experience of graduate and non-graduate occupations



Level of qualification was also a significant factor when comparing occupation types as shown in figure 4.2 above. Leavers with postgraduate qualifications who reported at least one period of employment were more likely to have only worked in graduate occupations (85.0%) compared with first degree leavers (56.7%) and other undergraduate leavers (68.8%). Postgraduate leavers were least likely to have been employed in non-graduate occupations only (5.3%) compared with 19.1% of first degree leavers and 20.1% of other undergraduates. First degree leavers were most likely to have experienced a mixture of graduate and non-graduate occupations (24.3%) compared with postgraduates (9.7%) and other undergraduate leavers (11.0%).

Experience of graduate and non-graduate occupations also varied by the subject that leavers studied for their 2004/05 qualification, as shown in figure 4.3 below. 97.4% of medicine & dentistry leavers had been employed only in graduate occupations compared with 48.0% of leavers having studied historical & philosophical studies. Those who had studied languages were most likely to have experienced a mixture of graduate and non-graduate occupations (30.9%). Those who had studied historical & philosophical studies (24.9%) and agriculture & related subjects (23.8%) were most likely to have experienced non-graduate occupations only. (Table 4.4)

Figure 4.3 Leavers with at least one period of employment by subject area and experience of graduate and non-graduate occupations.



Among postgraduate leavers, the proportions who had only experienced graduate employment were high across all subjects of study, in particular those who studied subjects allied to medicine (94.9%), medicine & dentistry (94.6%) and education (92.7%) (Table 4.4). Those who studied languages (25.3%) and agriculture & related subjects (22.5%) were the most likely of all postgraduate leavers to have been employed in a mixture of graduate and non-graduate occupations. Very few postgraduates who studied medicine & dentistry (0.3%) and architecture, building & planning (0.9%) had been employed in non-graduate jobs only.

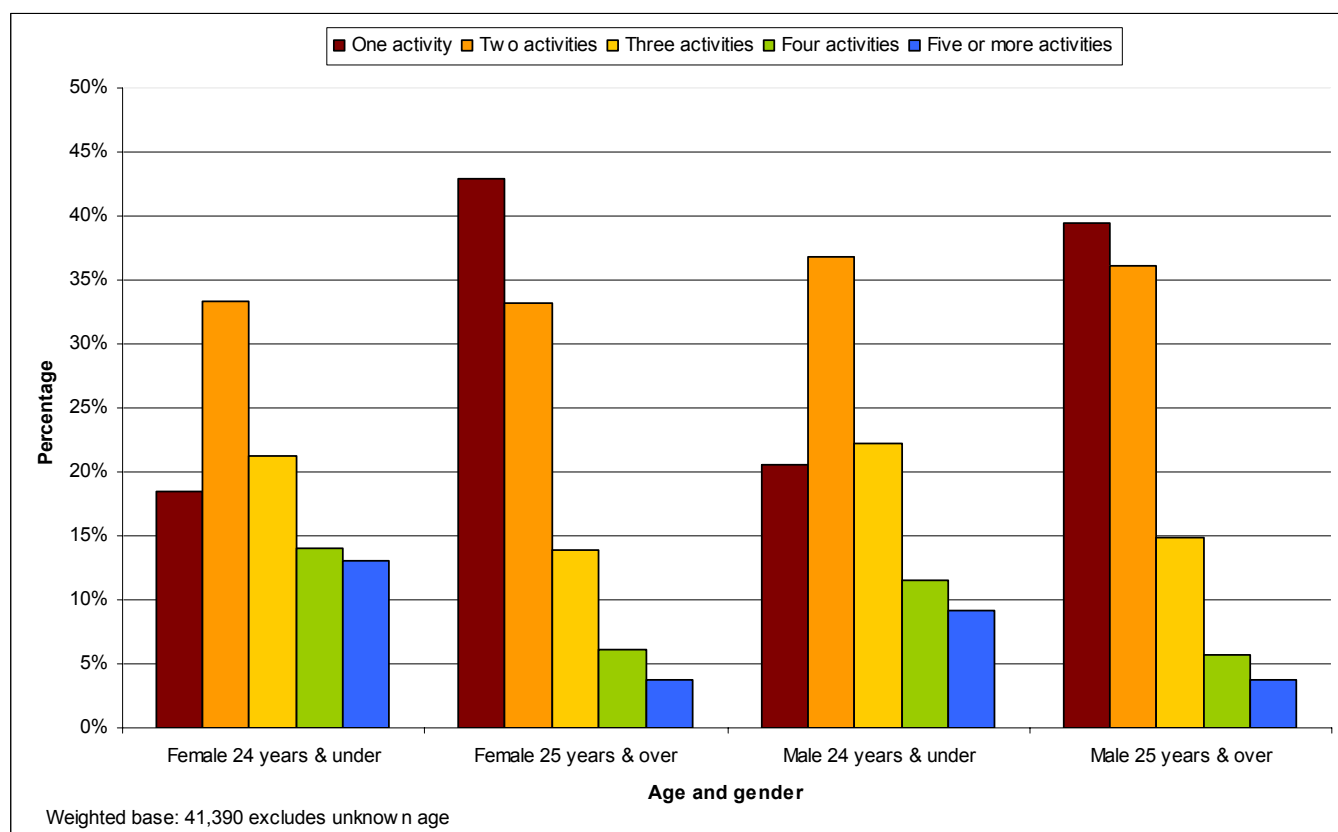
Just over half (56.7%) of all first degree leavers who had experienced at least one period of employment had worked only in graduate jobs. The proportion of leavers who had been engaged in graduate jobs only varied by subject with 97.9% of first degree leavers studying medicine & dentistry being employed in graduate occupations only to 41.8% of those who studied mass communications & documentation. Approximately one third of first degree leavers who had studied mass communications & documentation (33.3%) and biological sciences (32.0%) had experienced a mixture of graduate and non-graduate jobs. First degree leavers who had studied medicine & dentistry (0.8%) and architecture, building & planning (5.0%) were least likely to have only experienced non-graduate occupations.

The pattern was similar among leavers with other undergraduate qualifications who had been engaged in at least one period of employment during the three and a half years since they gained their 2004/05 qualification. Those who had studied subjects allied to medicine were most likely to have experienced graduate jobs only (95.0%). Leavers who had studied agriculture & related subjects were more evenly split across the three categories with 27.8% having been employed only in graduate occupations, 31.1% experiencing a mixture of graduate and non-graduate employment and 41.1% having been employed in only non-graduate occupations. Other undergraduates who studied computer science were most likely to have only experienced non-graduate occupations (46.2%).

4.3 Number of activities

The responses collected in the activity history indicated the total number of activities each leaver had been involved in during the three and a half years since gaining their 2004/05 qualification. Each job, period of study or any other type of activity are counted as a separate activities. Over a quarter (27.5%) of all leavers had been engaged in one activity during the three and a half year period (Table 4.5). Approximately one third (34.6%) reported two activities. Only 8.6% of leavers recorded five or more different activities. Analysing number of activities recorded by male leavers and female leavers did not reveal any substantial differences. 27.9% of females and 26.9% of males reported one activity, 33.3% of females and 36.6% of males reported two activities and 9.5% of females and 7.3% of males reported five or more activities. Analysis of numbers of activities by age did reveal some significant differences as shown in figure 4.4 below.

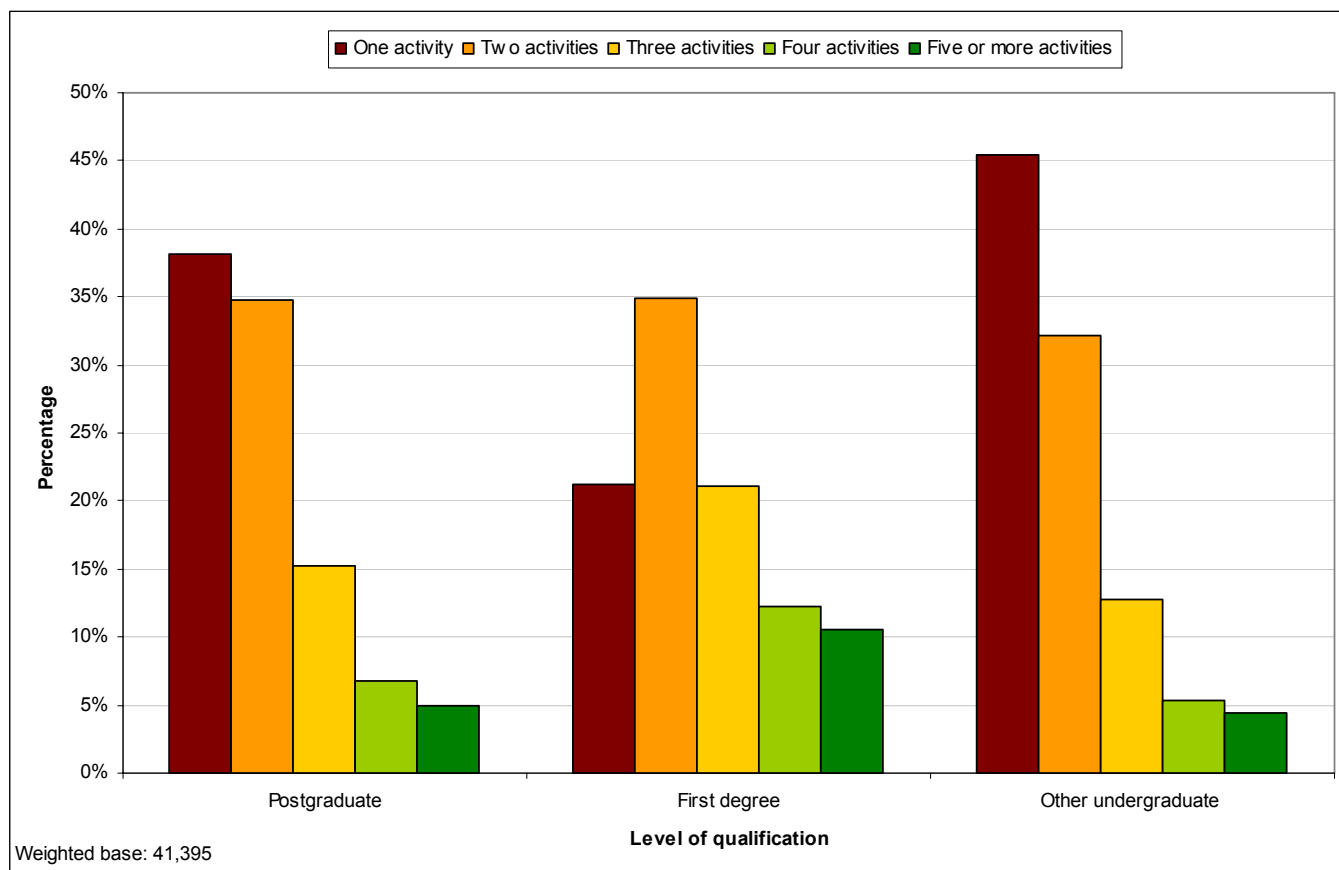
Figure 4.4 Leavers by age and gender and number of activities reported in 3.5 year period



Both females (42.9%) and males (39.4%) who were aged 25 years and over on 31 July 2005 were more likely to have been involved in one activity over the three and a half years than the younger group of leavers (18.5% of females aged 24 years and under and 20.5% of males in the same age group). Those leavers in the 24 years and under age group were more likely to have been involved in a higher number of activities than those in the 25 years and above age group. 13.0% of females aged 24 years and under reported five or more activities compared with 3.8% of females aged 25 and over. 9.1% of male leavers aged 24 years and under reported five or more activities compared with 3.8% of male leavers aged 25 years and above. (Table 4.5)

Level of qualification was also significant when comparing number of activities as shown in Figure 4.5 below. Leavers with other undergraduate qualifications (45.5%) were most likely to have been engaged in one activity since gaining their 2004/05 qualification, followed by 38.2% of those with postgraduate qualifications. First degree leavers (21.2%) were least likely to have to have been in one activity but most likely to have been in multiple activities with 12.3% reporting four activities and 10.5% reporting five or more activities.

Figure 4.5 Leavers by level of qualification and number of activities reported in 3.5 year period



Among postgraduate leavers nearly half of those who had studied education (48.3%) and subjects allied to medicine (46.3%) had been involved in only one activity during the three and a half years since gaining their 2004/05 qualification. Those who had studied mass communications & documentation (13.6%), historical & philosophical studies (10.4%) and 10.3% of those who had studied physical sciences were most likely to have been engaged in five or more different activities. (Table 4.6)

For first degree leavers 39.8% of those who had studied education and 39.5% of those who studied subjects allied to medicine had remained in one activity throughout the three and a half year period with a further 35.0% of those who studied education reporting just two activities. Just 10.0% of those who studied law had been engaged in one activity continuously since gaining their 2004/05 qualification with 33.7% reporting two activities and 12.8% reporting five or more. First degree leavers who studied languages and historical & philosophical studies had changed activity the most, with 17.0% and 16.0% respectively recording five or more activities. Other undergraduate leavers revealed a different pattern when disaggregated by subject. 58.9% of those who studied subjects allied to medicine, 53.8% of those who studied architecture, building & planning and 53.7% of those who studied social studies remained in one activity during the three and a half year period since gaining their 2004/05 qualification.

5. Satisfaction

This chapter looks at leavers' satisfaction with their higher education experience and their career since leaving higher education. Leavers were asked if they were now to choose whether or not to do the course leading to the qualification they gained in 2004/05, what the likelihood is that they would choose the same institution, subject or qualification type. They were also asked to consider whether or not they would do something other than study if they were to choose again. Finally in this section, leavers were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their career to date.

5.1 Likelihood of choosing a different subject

The majority of leavers would not have changed the subject they studied if they were choosing to take their course again. 11.3% (13.6% in 2002/03) of leavers indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen a different subject while 15.3% (15.3% in 2002/03) indicated that it was 'Likely' (figure 5.1).

Leavers who were assumed to be unemployed were more likely than those in other activities to indicate that they would have chosen a different subject (22.4% thought it 'Very likely' and 20.4% 'Likely') (Table 5.2).

Generally postgraduates indicated that they were happier about the subject they chose compared with first degree and other undergraduates. 58.8% of postgraduates indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' and 23.7% indicated that it was 'Not very likely' that they would have chosen a different subject, compared with 41.0% and 26.3% respectively for first degree leavers and 45.9% and 26.1% respectively for other undergraduates.

Table 5.3 looks at the likelihood of choosing a different subject by subject studied. 24.9% of first degree leavers studying mass communications & documentation and 17.5% of first degree leavers studying business & administrative studies indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen a different subject, compared with only 1.2% of veterinary science and 4.3% of medicine & dentistry first degree leavers. At the other end of the scale, 65.5% of medicine & dentistry and 55.0% of education first degree leavers indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different subject (Table 5.3).

For postgraduate leavers, the feeling was quite different. 13.3% of agriculture & related subjects and 13.2% of computer science leavers indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen a different subject. In contrast, 65.6% of education and 64.6% of law leavers indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different subject (Table 5.3).

5.2 Likelihood of choosing a different institution

Just under half of leavers (45.0%) indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different institution (this compares with 43.0% in 2002/03), a further 31.6% indicated that it was 'Not very likely' (32.0% in 2002/03).

Other undergraduates were the least happy with their choice of institution. 9.0% indicated that they were 'Very likely' to have chosen a different institution (compared with first degree leavers (6.0%) and postgraduate (4.7%)). Postgraduates were the happiest with their choice of institution with 49.2% indicating that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different institution (compared with first degree leavers (44.1%) and other undergraduates (39.2%)) (Table 5.1).

Overall, male other undergraduates were the least satisfied with their choice of institution, 30.2% indicated that they would have chosen a different institution (11.5% 'Very likely' and 18.6% 'Likely'), although this category is based on the lowest number of leavers. In contrast, only 15.0% of female postgraduates were unhappy with their choice of institution (5.0% in the 'Very likely' category and a further 10.0% in the 'Likely' category for choosing a different institution) (Table 5.1).

Across all activities, close to half of the leavers indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different institution. The lowest percentage answering 'Not likely at all' was among those leavers assumed to be unemployed (37.0%) and the highest percentage was among those in 'other' activities (55.5%).

8.1% of postgraduates studying creative arts & design indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen a different institution and a further 17.1% indicated that it was 'Likely'. A combined proportion of 27.0% of postgraduates studying mathematics were either 'Very likely' (2.1%) or 'Likely' (24.9%) to have chosen a different institution. First degree leavers studying creative arts & design were more dissatisfied with their choice of institution than those studying the majority of other subject areas (9.2% 'Very likely' and 20.2% 'Likely' to have chosen a different institution), but the proportion was even higher for first degree leavers who studied mass communications & documentation (10.5% and 20.6% respectively) (Table 5.5).

5.3 Likelihood of choosing different qualification type

Approximately half of all leavers (50.4%) indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different qualification type should they be choosing it now (46.3% in 2002/03), with only 6.5% indicating that it was 'Very likely' (8.8% in 2002/03).

A high proportion of postgraduates (82.5%) appeared content with their choice of qualification type with 58.2% of females indicating that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different type of qualification, compared with 52.4% of males. Other undergraduate leavers were the least happy with the type of qualification they chose, 42.3% claimed that would have chosen a different qualification (Table 5.1).

Across all leavers, 60.6% of those who were in voluntary or other unpaid work indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different qualification, although base numbers are relatively low. 29.5% of those assumed to be unemployed indicated that it was either 'Very likely' or 'Likely' that they would have chosen a different type of qualification (Table 5.6).

Taking subject studied and level of qualification into account, 70.4% of medicine & dentistry postgraduate leavers indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' that they would have chosen a different type of qualification, compared with only 39.6% of those studying computer science. It was a similar situation for first degree students with the highest proportion indicating 'Not likely at all' in medicine & dentistry (69.6%) and the lowest proportion in computer science (39.6%) (Table 5.7).

5.4 Likelihood of doing something other than study, training or research

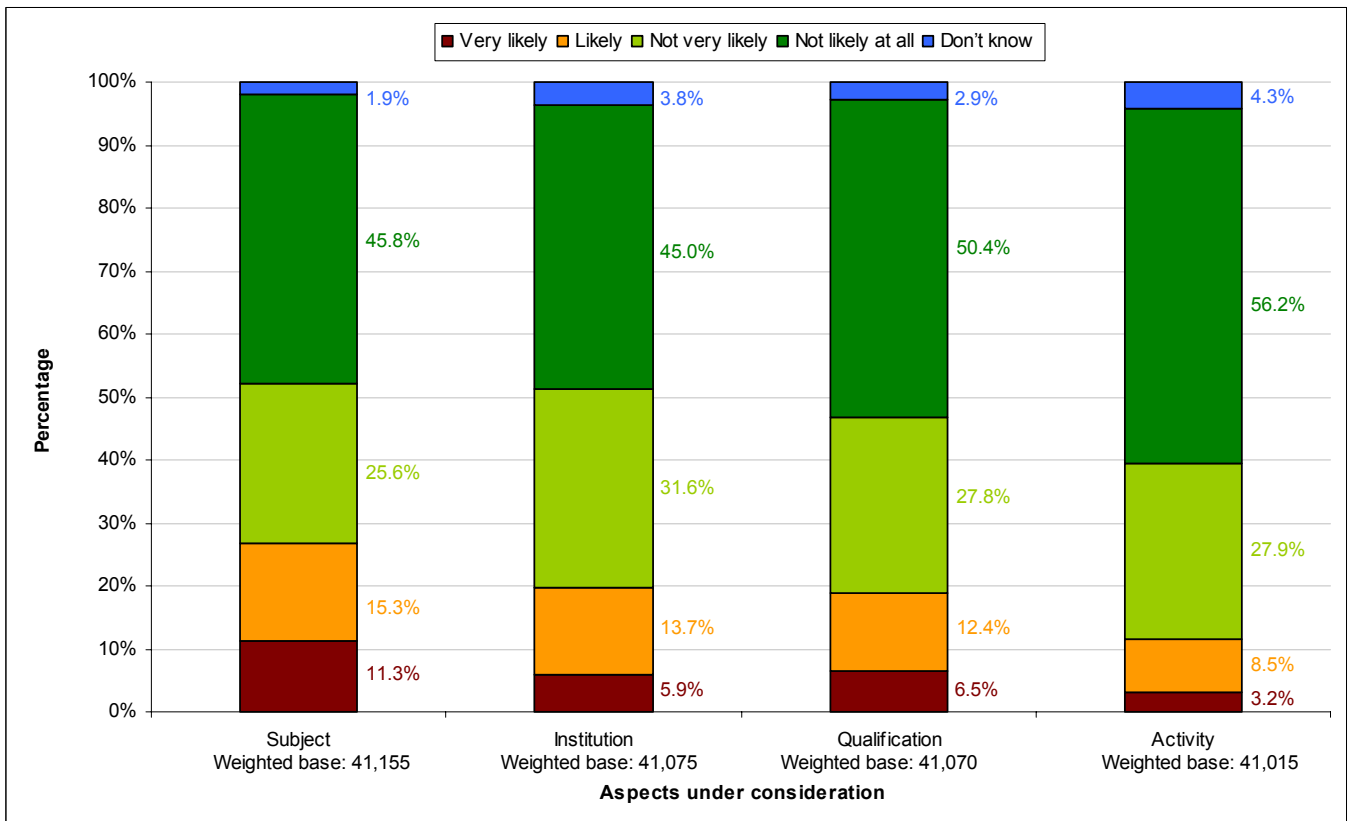
The majority of leavers (84.1%) indicated that it was 'Not very likely' or 'Not likely at all' that they would have done something other than study, training or research which resulted in them gaining their 2004/05 qualification (81.2% in 2002/03).

Male other undergraduates were more likely to have chosen to do something other than study, training or research if choosing their course again (6.4% 'Very likely' and 17.2% 'Likely'). For other groups of leavers, less than 4% indicated that it was 'Very likely' that they would have chosen something else to do than study, training or research (Table 5.1).

Those who were assumed to be unemployed on the survey date were the most likely, in retrospect, to have chosen to do something other than study, training or research (16.9% indicated that it was 'Likely' and 8.3% 'Very likely' that they would do something else). Those combining both work and further study on 24 November 2008 were the least likely to regret their decision to undertake the study, training or research which led to their 2004/05 qualification (65.9% indicated that it was 'Not likely at all' with a further 22.9% indicating 'Not very likely') (Table 5.8).

The most satisfied groups of leavers were mathematical science postgraduates, veterinary science and mathematical science first degree leavers and agriculture & related subjects postgraduates with 92.8%, 92.7%, 91.3% and 91.3% respectively indicating that they were either 'Not very likely' or 'Not likely at all' to have done something other than study, training or research. Other undergraduates who studied biological sciences or mass communications & documentation were 'Very likely' or 'Likely' to have undertaken something other than study, training or research (37.3% and 30.7% respectively), although base numbers in these categories are relatively small (Table 5.9).

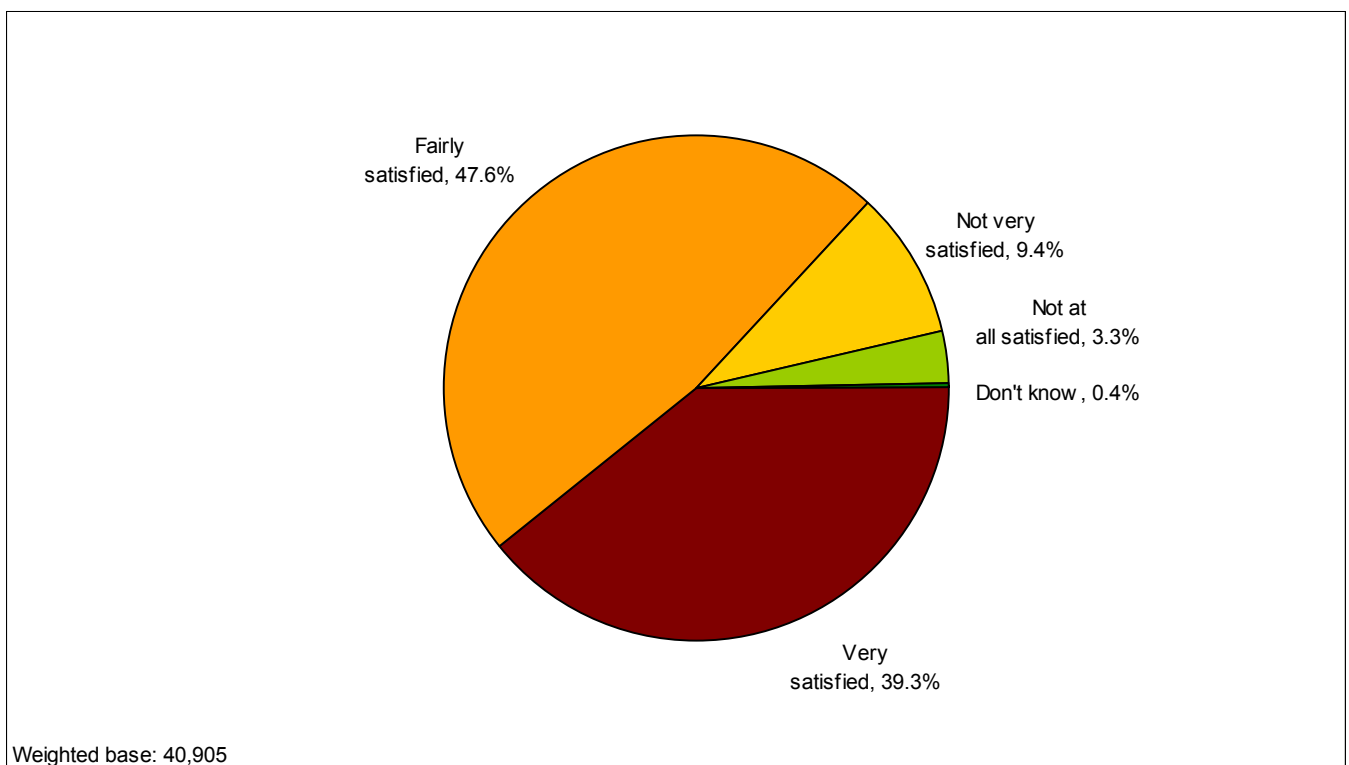
Figure 5.1 Likelihood of choosing course in 2004/05 differently



5.5 Overall satisfaction with career and value for money

Most leavers were satisfied with their career to date; 39.3% were 'Very satisfied' with a further 47.6% 'Fairly satisfied' (figure 5.2). Part-time leavers were generally more satisfied than full-time leavers with 90.0% indicating that they were either 'Very satisfied' or 'Fairly satisfied' with their career (43.5% were 'Very satisfied'). For full-time leavers, 38.3% indicated that they were 'Very satisfied' and 47.9% were 'Fairly satisfied' with their career to date, an overall total of 86.2% satisfaction (Table 5.10).

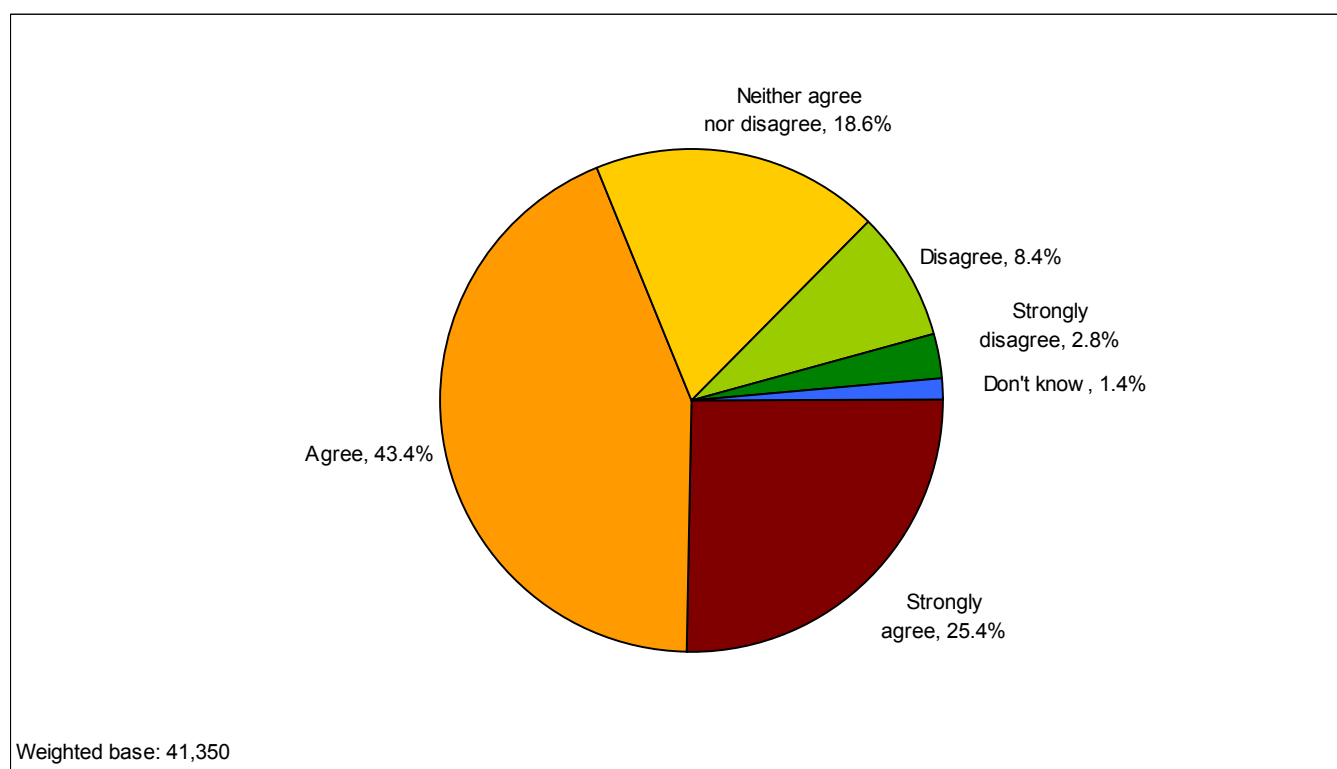
Figure 5.2 Overall satisfaction with career to date



Across all modes and levels of qualification, higher proportions of females than males answered that they were 'Very satisfied' with their career up to 24 November 2008. For both the full-time and part-time leavers, female postgraduates were the most satisfied (47.0% and 47.7% respectively were 'Very satisfied') (Table 5.10).

When asked if the course completed in 2004/05 was good value for money, 25.4% strongly agreed and a further 43.4% agreed that it was good value for money (figure 5.3). A higher proportion of part-time leavers than full-time leavers indicated that their course was good value for money. In particular, part-time first degree leavers were the most positive about their course being good value for money with 37.2% answering that they 'Strongly agree' and a further 43.9% indicating that they 'Agree'. Within this category, males agreed more than females that their course was good value for money (81.6% of males 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree' compared with 80.7% of females) (Table 5.10). It should be noted that the 2004/05 cohort of leavers would not have paid 'top-up fees'.

Figure 5.3 The course completed in 2004/05 was good value for money



Of all UK domiciled leavers, postgraduates represented the highest proportion who were 'Very satisfied' with their career (45.2%), followed by other undergraduates (41.1%) and first degree (37.0%). Across all levels of qualification, a higher proportion of white leavers were 'Very satisfied' than other ethnic groups were (45.6% of postgraduates, 37.8% of first degree and 41.6% of other undergraduates). Of the other ethnic groups, black leavers had the highest proportion who indicated that they were 'Very satisfied' (40.6% of postgraduates, 32.4% of first degree and 39.2% of other undergraduates), but overall, the percentage of black leavers who indicated that they were 'Very satisfied' or 'Fairly satisfied' was generally lower than for all other ethnic groups (Table 5.11).

Not only were UK domiciled postgraduate leavers the most satisfied with their career but they also had the highest proportions who agreed that the course completed in 2004/05 was good value for money (35.2% indicated that they 'Strongly agree' and 41.5% indicated that they 'agree' that their course was good value for money). White leavers agreed more than the other ethnic groups that their course was good value for money and this was closely followed by black leavers (Table 5.11).

Leavers who were assumed to be unemployed were generally the most dissatisfied with their career up to 24 November 2008 (23.1% were 'Not at all satisfied' with a further 29.8% 'Not very satisfied'). A high proportion of those leavers engaged in activities other than employment or further study, training or research were 'Not at all satisfied' (25.1%) with a further 8.5% who were 'Not very satisfied'. The most satisfied group of leavers were those in full-time paid work (89.2% indicated that they were 'Very satisfied' or 'Satisfied'). Of those combining both work and further study, 88.5% indicated that they were 'Very satisfied' or 'Satisfied') (Table 5.12).

In terms of subject studied, those who gained a first degree in Education were generally satisfied with their career with 54.3% indicating that they were 'Very satisfied'. In contrast, first degree leavers who studied creative arts & design were the least satisfied with 7.3% indicating that they were 'Not at all satisfied' (Table 5.13).

First degree leavers on combined courses were those who most agreed with the statement that the course they completed in 2004/05 was good value for money (85.2% agreed or strongly agreed), this was followed by postgraduate education leavers (80.9%). Leavers, who in 2004/05 gained a postgraduate qualification in agricultural & related subjects, had the lowest proportions disagreeing that their course was good value for money (3.9% indicated 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree') (Table 5.13).

Figure 5.4 UK domiciled leavers 2004/05 who entered full-time UK employment by salary band and satisfaction with career to date

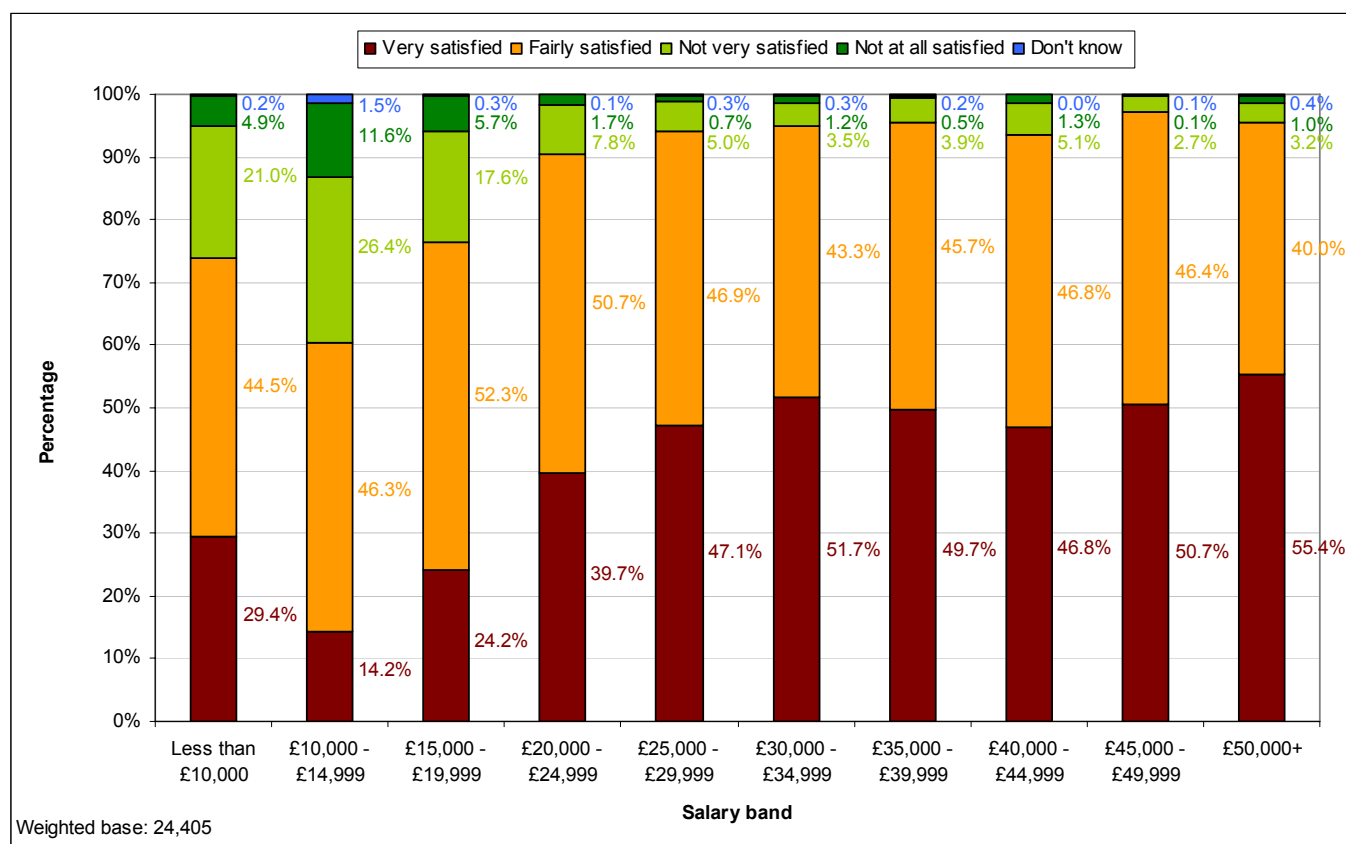


Figure 5.4 shows that UK domiciled leavers in full-time UK employment earning the higher salaries were generally more satisfied with their career to date than those on lower salaries. 55.4% of those in the highest salary bracket (over £50,000) were 'Very satisfied' compared with only 14.2% in the £10,000 to £14,999 bracket. Those leavers earning between £30,000 and £34,999 had the second highest proportion (51.7%) who were 'Very satisfied' with their career (Table 5.14).

The leavers who were earning the highest salaries on 24 November 2008 were generally more likely to agree that their course was good value for money than those earning lower salaries. Within the salary bands £40,000 - £44,999; £45,000 - £49,999 and £50,000+, the percentages who agreed or strongly agreed were 80.6%, 82.1% and 81.9% respectively (Table 5.14).

Definitions

The HESA Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) target population contains all United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) domiciled students reported to HESA for the reporting period 1 August 2004 to 31 July 2005 as obtaining relevant qualifications and whose study was full-time or part-time (including sandwich students and those writing-up theses). Awards from dormant status are not included in the target population.

Relevant qualifications for inclusion in the DLHE return are postgraduate degrees, postgraduate diplomas and certificates, Postgraduate Certificates in Education (PGCE), first degrees (excludes intercalated degrees), Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE), foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HND) or Higher National Certificates (HNC). The population for the DLHE return does not necessarily represent the full cohort graduating during the reporting period; examples of those excluded are professional qualifications (e.g. associate membership or membership of a body such as the Institute of Bankers) and undergraduate diplomas and certificates (other than foundation degrees, HND, DipHE, HNC and CertHE).

The reference dates for this Early Survey return were 15 April 2005 (if the leaver obtained the qualification between 1 August 2004 and 31 December 2004) and 16 January 2006 (if the leaver obtained the qualification between 1 January 2005 and 31 July 2005).

The DLHE Longitudinal Survey was based on two samples of the 319,260 students who responded to the Early survey. Responses were received from 41,395 of the sample.

The reference date for the DLHE Longitudinal Survey was 24 November 2008.

Rounding strategy

Due to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998, HESA implements a strategy in published and released tabulations designed to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. These data are derived from the HESA non-statutory populations and may differ slightly from those published by related statutory bodies. This strategy involves rounding all numbers to the nearest multiply of 5. A summary of this strategy is as follows:

- 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0
- All other numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5

So for example 3 is represented as 5, 22 is represented as 20, 3286 is represented as 3285 while 0, 20, 55, 3510 remain unchanged.

This rounding strategy is also applied to total figures; the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column will rarely match the total shown precisely. Note that subject level data calculated by apportionment will also be rounded in accordance with this strategy.

Average values, proportions and FTE values prepared by HESA are not affected by the above strategy, and are calculated on precise raw numbers. However, percentages calculated on populations which contain 52 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '.' as are averages based on populations of 7 or fewer.

Level of qualification obtained

Postgraduate qualifications are doctorate degrees, masters degrees, higher bachelors degrees, postgraduate diplomas and certificates, and PGCE.

First degrees are first degrees, first degrees with eligibility to register to practice (doctor/dentist/veterinary surgeon), first degrees with qualified teacher status (QTS)/registration with the General Teaching Council (GTC), enhanced first degrees and first degrees obtained concurrently with diplomas.

Other undergraduate qualifications are foundation degrees and all other higher education qualifications not included above which are within the scope of the DLHE return.

Age

Age is as at 31 July 2005.

Domicile

Domicile data was supplied to HESA in the form of postcodes (UK domiciled students) or country codes. Postcodes were mapped to counties, unitary authorities and UK nations following consultation with Geoplan Postcode Marketing. Countries were mapped to geographical regions following consultation with the Department for Education and Skills. Where no data was supplied about the student's domicile, fee eligibility was used to determine whether domicile was European Union, including the UK, or not.

UK domiciled students were those whose normal residence was in the UK, including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Of those students who were not UK domiciled, other EU students were those whose normal residence was in countries which were European Union members as at 1 December 2004. Non-EU students were those whose normal residence prior to commencing their programme of study was outside the EU.

Ethnicity

It is HESA's intention to adopt national classifications where they exist and are appropriate. However, in this instance, there is no coding structure for ethnicity that is applicable throughout the UK, as variations to the Census 2001 ethnicity coding were adopted in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. To accommodate requirements for institutions in these regions to report locally to their devolved administrations, the coding frame has been revised. Home domiciled students are required to report their ethnic origin and for the purpose of this field, this means those domiciled in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. However, HESA advises that the figures reported in analyses are derived from a subset which may not be representative of the total student population.

The following entries have been grouped together and this may mean that the ethnicity groupings used in previous years may not now be comparable:

The ethnic category 'White' includes the entries:

White (only available for continuing students who commenced their programme of study before 1 August 2001)

White – British

White – Irish

White – Scottish

Irish Traveller

Other White background

The ethnic category 'Other (including mixed)' includes the entries:

Mixed - White and Black Caribbean

Mixed - White and Black African

Mixed - White and Asian

Other Mixed background

Other Ethnic background

Disability

The disability categories indicate the type of disability that a student has on the basis of their own self-assessment. For continuing students, where the information is not already known, institutions have the option of recording the student's disability as not sought. As a result, some institutions have not returned disability data for some of their students. In addition, students are not obliged to report a disability. HESA therefore advises that the figures reported in analyses are derived from a subset which may not be representative of the total student population.

Subject areas

In 2002/03 a new subject classification was introduced called the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). This subject classification looks similar to that previously published but has been devised in a different way. Therefore subject data is not comparable to that previously published.

Additionally, from 2002/03, a new procedure of apportionment was introduced. Under apportionment, each headcount is, where necessary, divided in a way that in broad-brush terms reflects the pattern of a split programme. This is analogous to the use of FTE calculations, but should not be confused with them, since the splits used for apportionment are conventional rather than data-based.

For split programmes not involving an initial teacher training (ITT) component, the apportionment algorithm is as follows:

- 50%:50% for a balanced two-way split;
- 66.667%:33.333% for a major/minor two-way split;
- 33.333%:33.333%:33.333% for a balanced three-way split.

ITT students at undergraduate level who also have a specialism subject recorded (typically, secondary ITT students) are apportioned 50% to the 'Education' subject area and the remaining 50% is further apportioned according to the algorithm for non-ITT students. Where no subject other than education is recorded, or where the student is on a PGCE course, apportionment is 100% to the 'Education' subject area.

Location of institution

The allocation of an institution to a geographical region was done by reference to the administrative centre of that institution. There may be students registered at institutions who are studying in regions other than that of the administrative centre of the institution.

The Open University was counted as a wholly English institution. The administrative centre is located in England, although The Open University teaches throughout the UK.

Classification of first degrees

The classification of an undergraduate degree indicates the qualification class that the student obtained. Certain qualifications obtained at first degree level are not subject to classification of award, notably medical and general degrees. These, together with ordinary degrees, were included within the unclassified category. Third class honours, fourth class honours and the pass category were aggregated. Lower second and undivided second class honours were aggregated.

Mode of study

Full-time includes full-time and sandwich study, plus those writing-up theses following full-time study.

Part-time includes part-time study, full-time study on courses lasting less than 24 weeks, block release or studying during the evenings, plus those writing-up theses following part-time study.

The Standard Occupational Classification

In 2003 HESA adopted the new SOC2000 Standard Occupational Classification (which replaced SOC90), for comparability of sector data with other areas of the economy. A variant of the SOC2000 was created for the coding of occupational information collected in the DLHE surveys. The classification is termed SOC (DLHE) and details are available on the HESA website.

Type of occupation

This was defined using four character SOC 2000 code groups.

This mapping of SOC 2000 codes was derived from Elias & Purcell's report 'SOC (HE) A Classification of occupations for studying the graduate labour market' (Institute for Employment Research, Warwick) (2004).

The Standard Industrial Classification

The Standard Industrial Classification of economic activities (SIC) provides a framework for the collection, tabulation, presentation and analysis of data about economic activities. This version (SIC(92)) is aligned with similar classifications in all member states of the European Union and is obligatory in all cases where the UK is required to transmit to the European Commission statistics broken down by economic activity.

Location of employment

This field describes the location of the HE leaver's place of work. Data is supplied to HESA in the form of postcodes for employment in the UK or country codes. Postcodes are mapped to government office regions and UK countries using the National Statistics Postcode Directory.

Activity categories

In the Longitudinal survey leavers are able to report separately what they are doing in relation to both employment and study and a matrix of possible outcomes is constructed. This matrix is used to define the key categories of outcomes such as employed and unemployed.

As leavers report separately what they are doing in relation to employment and further study, it is possible to be involved in either employment only, further study only or employment and further study. Therefore where the terms employment and further study are used, it is important to note that:

- employment includes those in employment only, and those in both employment and further study
- further study includes those in further study only, and those in both employment and further study.

Matrix of standard categories for publication from Longitudinal DLHE

Employment circumstances	Full-time study	Part-time study	Study mode unknown	Not in study
Employed full-time in paid work	D	D	D	A
Employed part-time in paid work	D	D	D	B
Self-employed/freelance	D	D	D	A
Voluntary work/other unpaid work	D	D	D	C
Employed mode unknown	D	D	D	H
Permanently unable to work/retired	G	G	G	G
Temporarily sick or unable to work/looking after the home or family	E	E	E	G
Taking time out in order to travel	G	G	G	G
Unemployed and looking for employment, further study or training	E	F	F	F
Not employed but NOT looking for employment, further study or training	E	E	E	O
Something else	E	E	E	O

Publication categories

A	Full-time paid work only (including self-employed)
B	Part-time paid work only
C	Voluntary/unpaid work only
H	Employed mode unknown
D	Work & further study
E	Further study only
F	Assumed to be unemployed
G	Not available for employment
O	Other

Employment

Employment only includes those leavers who reported that they were in full-time paid work (including self-employed/freelance), part-time paid work, employed with unknown mode, voluntary or unpaid work, and who were not also in study, training or research.

Full-time employment only includes those who reported that they were in full-time paid work (including self-employed/freelance) and who were not also in study, training or research.

Combination of work and further study includes those who reported that they were in full-time paid work (including self-employed/freelance), part-time paid work, employed with unknown mode, voluntary or unpaid work, and who were also in full-time or part-time study, training or research.

Unemployment

Assumed to be unemployed includes those students who gave their employment circumstances as unemployed and looking for employment, further study or training.

Further study

Further study only includes those who gave their employment circumstances as temporarily sick or unable to work/looking after the home or family, not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training, or something else and who were also either in full-time or part-time study, training or research.

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