

Graduate
Employability
Survey

2021

University of Colombo

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Introduction

Graduate Employability survey 2021 was conducted during the General Convocation held in year 2022 for the graduands who completed their final examinations in year 2020. Employability information of graduands are considered in this survey before the convocation is held.

Data for the survey report were collected through a structured questionnaire which was sent by the University Grants Commission and it has been modified slightly by adding few more questions.

It was made mandatory for the graduands to fill the questionnaire to collect the Cloak before the convocation and the survey was conducted In online mode.

Questionnaires filled by the graduates from the following Faculties & Institutes were analyzed and the response rate of the survey is also given in the Table 01 below.

Table 01: Survey Completion Rates

Entity	Number Graduated	Number of Questionnaires Filled	Response Rate
Faculty of Arts	466	463	99%
Faculty of Education	127	121	95%
Faculty of Law	244	240	98%
Faculty of Management & Finance (FMF)	398	386	97%
Faculty of Medicine	252	222	88%
Faculty of Science	445	431	97%
Sri Palee	146	142	97%
UCSC	267	264	99%
IIM	187	181	97%
UCIARS	42	37	88%
Total	2574	2487	97%

Abbreviations:

IIM: Institute of Indigenous Medicine

UCSC: University of Colombo School of Computing

UCIARS: University of Colombo, Institute of Agro-technology and Rural Science

Methodology

Methodology of the Graduate Employment Survey 2021 was done similarly to the methodology adopted in previous years; i.e. data were collected using a structured questionnaire filled by the responding

graduates. The questionnaire sent by the University Grants Commission which was used in previous rounds of the survey was used in 2021 as well with few new additions to it. The questionnaire is attached to this report as Appendix.

The questionnaire was sent to the students of the faculties, Campus & Institutes along with the convocation letters while instructing them to complete the online survey to collect the cloak from the University.

It was made mandatory for all the graduands to fill the questionnaire to collect the cloak before the convocation.

The report for year 2021 consists of following sections:

Section 01: Background Characteristics of Graduates

Section 02: Labor Market Prospects of Graduates of University of Colombo

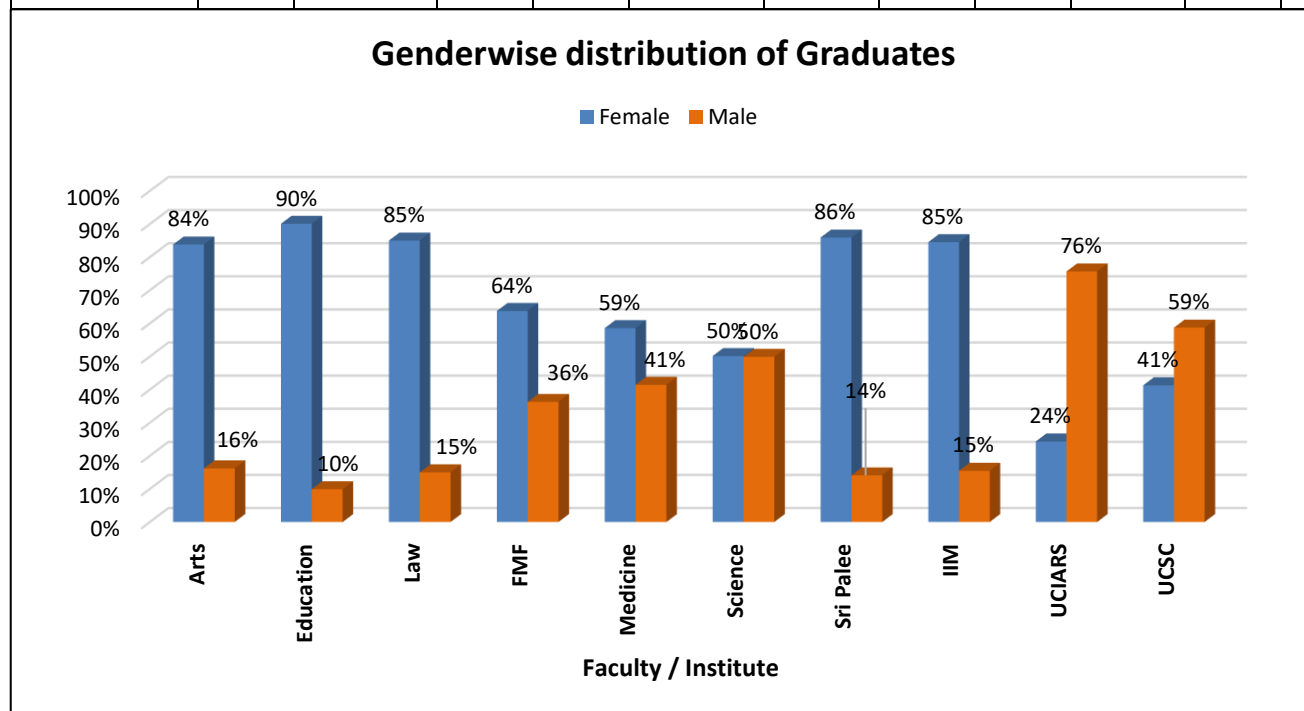
Section 03: Variation of the Employment Rate

Section 01: Background Characteristics of Graduates of University of Colombo

This section covers background factors; Social Background, English Background and Other Background characteristics of graduates.

Table 02: Social Background of Graduates

Gender	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Female	84%	90%	85%	64%	59%	50%	86%	85%	24%	41%	68%
Male	16%	10%	15%	36%	41%	50%	14%	15%	76%	59%	32%



Graph 01: Gender wise Distribution of the Graduates

According to Table 2, most of the graduates of University of Colombo are female graduands (68%).

Table 3: English Language Competency of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
OL English Background											
Distinction	30%	48%	68%	69%	96%	84%	25%	77%	5%	88%	65%
Ordinary Pass and Less	70%	52%	32%	31%	4%	16%	75%	23%	95%	12%	35%
AL English Background											
Distinction	10%	6%	27%	31%	72%	41%	4%	23%	0%	56%	31%
Ordinary Pass and Less	90%	94%	73%	69%	28%	59%	96%	77%	100%	44%	69%

According to Table 3, 65% of the graduands have received a Distinction for English language in Ordinary Level examination while only 31% of the graduands have received Distinction for English language in Advanced Level examination. Majority of the graduands have performed well in English language in Ordinary Level examination.

Table 4: World of Work Exposure while in University

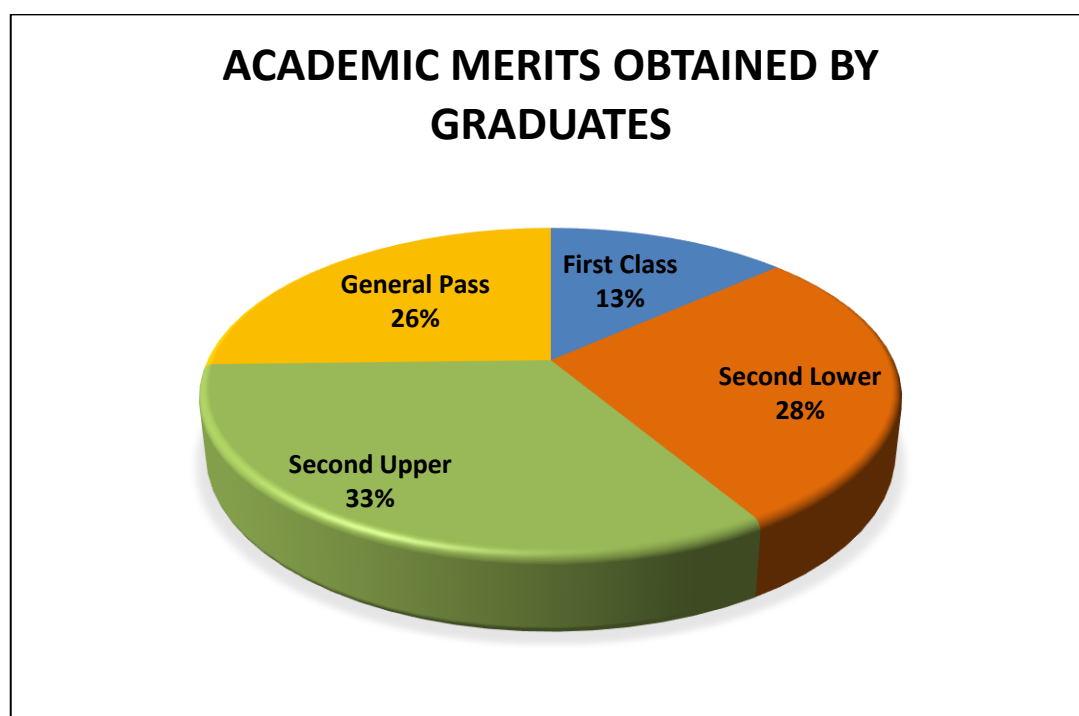
	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Extra-curricular activities	64%	29%	50%	60%	42%	69%	59%	167%	22%	70%	64%
No of Respondents	442	118	107	386	130	427	139	73	36	263	2121
Vocational training	32%	64%	88%	78%	100%	30%	37%	100%	37%	80%	55%
No of Respondents	437	119	43	384	30	420	140	78	35	262	1948
Other educational/Professional qualifications	48%	42%	100%	76%	100%	29%	67%	100%	56%	26%	52%
No of Respondents	428	112	82	385	20	417	132	71	36	254	1937
Full/part-time employment	24%	45%	88%	54%	100%	37%	33%	100%	65%	34%	41%
No of Respondents	439	119	41	383	37	426	134	28	37	259	1903
Internships	99%	100%	58%	100%	92%	100%	100%	96%	100%	100%	94%
No of Respondents	307	112	227	383	217	319	126	178	21	260	2150

According to Table 4, we can identify that 94% of the graduates have undergone an internship and 55% have undergone vocational trainings. Also a majority of the graduands have done Extra Curricular activities (64%) while 52% of the graduates have obtained Professional Qualifications.

Work Experience in the questionnaire refers to full or part time employment while studying in the university. Table 4 also shows that 41% of the graduands have done full/ part time jobs while studying in the university.

Table 5: Academic Merits Obtained

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
First Class	12%	30%	0%	25%	9%	13%	8%	8%	0%	15%	13%
Second Lower	28%	13%	52%	18%	31%	27%	35%	33%	26%	19%	28%
Second Upper	48%	55%	21%	42%	31%	16%	32%	28%	11%	34%	33%
General Pass	12%	2%	27%	15%	29%	45%	25%	31%	63%	31%	25%
No of Respondents	460	121	240	385	221	430	142	181	35	264	2479



Graph 02: Overall Distribution of Academic Merits by the Graduates

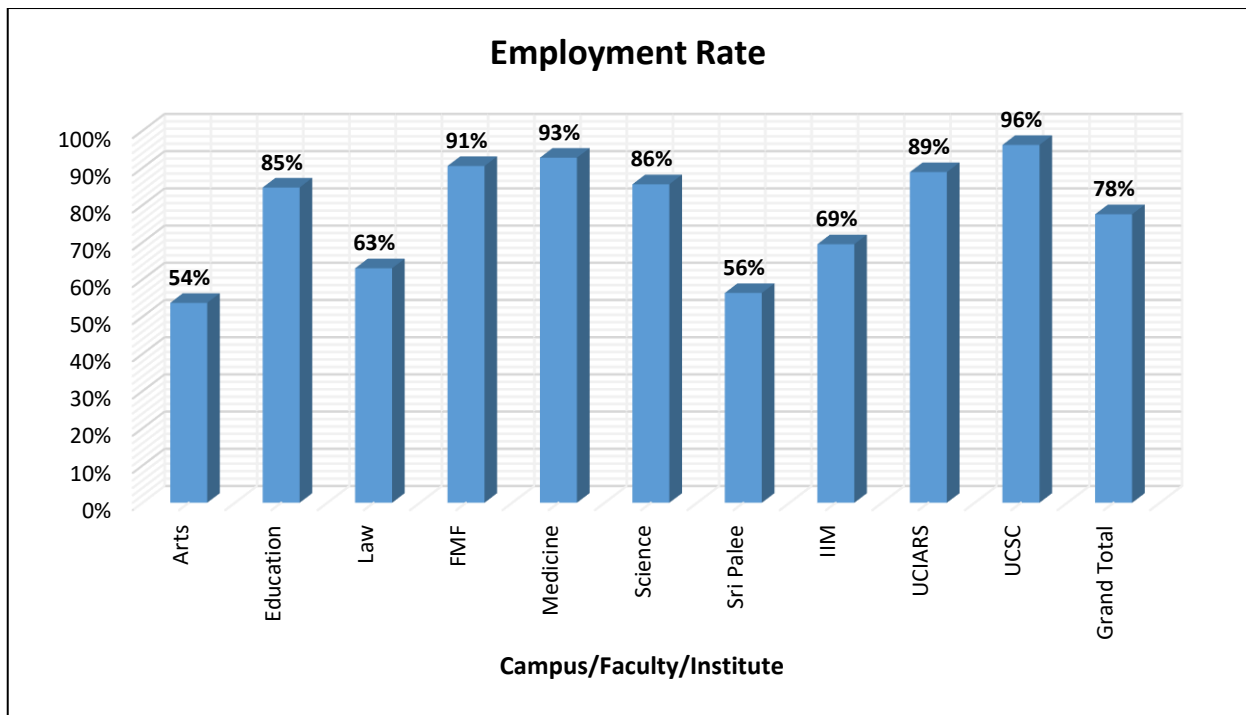
Table 5 shows the percentage of graduates who have obtained First Class (13%), Second Upper (28%), Second Lower (33%) and General Passes (25%) in the degree programme. Majority of the graduates have obtained Second Upper/ Lower passes (61%) while a minority have obtained First Classes (13%).

Section 02: Labor Market Prospects of Graduates of University of Colombo

This section summarizes the responses of graduates on their current labor market status which categorizes respondents into few groups as Permanent Employment, Temporary/Contract Employment, Self-employed, Under-employed, Unemployed, continuing higher studies, Not looking for a job. These are the opinions of the responding graduates.

Table 6: Employability of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Female	51%	87%	64%	88%	95%	88%	53%	68%	100%	94%	74%
Male	67%	67%	58%	94%	89%	84%	78%	75%	85%	97%	85%
Overall	54%	85%	63%	91%	93%	86%	56%	69%	89%	96%	78%
No of Female Respondents to Employability	356	106	202	243	130	216	115	149	9	108	1634
No of Male Respondents to Employability	72	12	36	137	91	215	18	28	27	154	790
*Total Respondents to Employability	428	118	238	380	221	431	133	177	36	262	2424



Graph 03: Overall Employability of the Graduates

Note: For the Faculty of Law, graduates need one more year (on average) to complete Attorney at Law qualification. Medical Graduates must wait approximately 9 months after graduation to start the internship.

*Note: Out of the total respondents, only the graduands who have responded related to employability have been considered in Table 6.

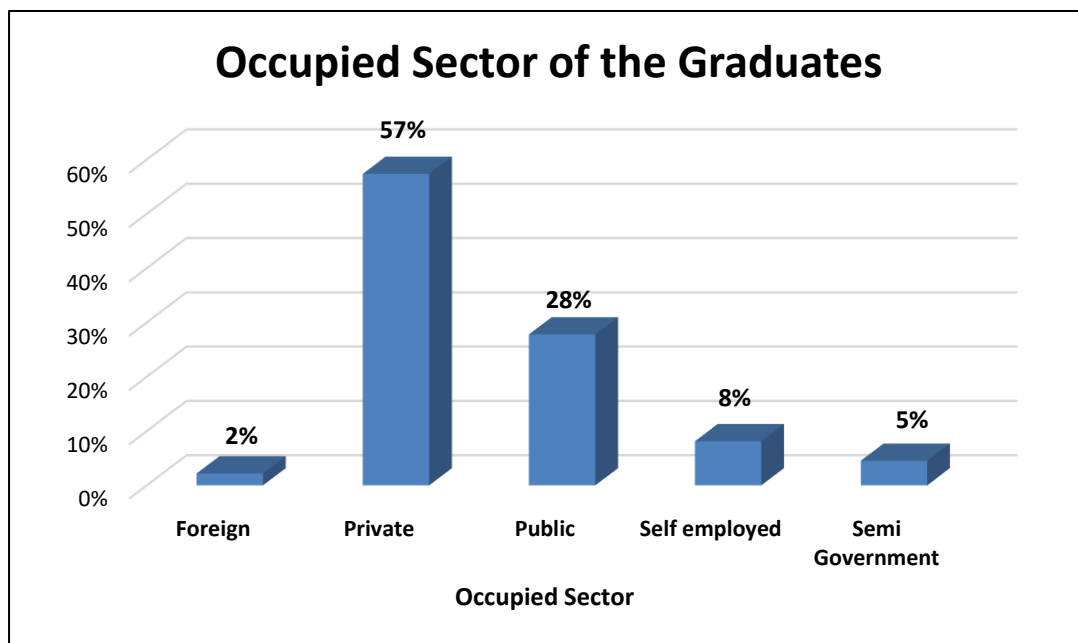
Table 6 confirms that 74% of the graduates who are already employed are females while 85% of the employed graduates are males and the Overall employability is 78% at the time of convocation.

Table 7: Gross Salary of the Employed Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Less than 20,000	19%	6%	68%	6%	0%	2%	38%	10%	3%	1%	13%
20,000 - 29,999	19%	4%	16%	10%	1%	5%	14%	6%	0%	1%	8%
30,000 - 39,999	17%	8%	4%	18%	2%	8%	18%	12%	9%	0%	10%
40,000 - 49,999	19%	22%	4%	19%	9%	28%	11%	33%	47%	2%	17%
50,000 - 59,999	15%	58%	3%	12%	79%	16%	14%	20%	22%	5%	22%
60,000-75,000	4%	0%	2%	11%	5%	14%	3%	13%	6%	5%	8%
Over 75,000	4%	0%	2%	12%	2%	10%	0%	1%	6%	11%	7%
Over 100,000	2%	0%	1%	9%	1%	11%	3%	3%	3%	48%	11%
Over 200,000	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%	6%	0%	2%	3%	27%	5%
No of respondents	236	99	165	341	207	363	72	121	32	244	1880

Table 8: Occupied Sector of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Foreign	2%	1%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	2%	0%	4%	2%
Private	53%	9%	69%	86%	8%	57%	63%	39%	16%	86%	57%
Public	23%	80%	14%	6%	86%	29%	15%	24%	47%	6%	28%
Self employed	12%	5%	14%	3%	3%	7%	15%	31%	6%	2%	8%
Semi Government	10%	5%	1%	2%	3%	4%	6%	4%	31%	2%	5%
No of respondents	248	99	167	343	205	369	80	121	32	257	1921



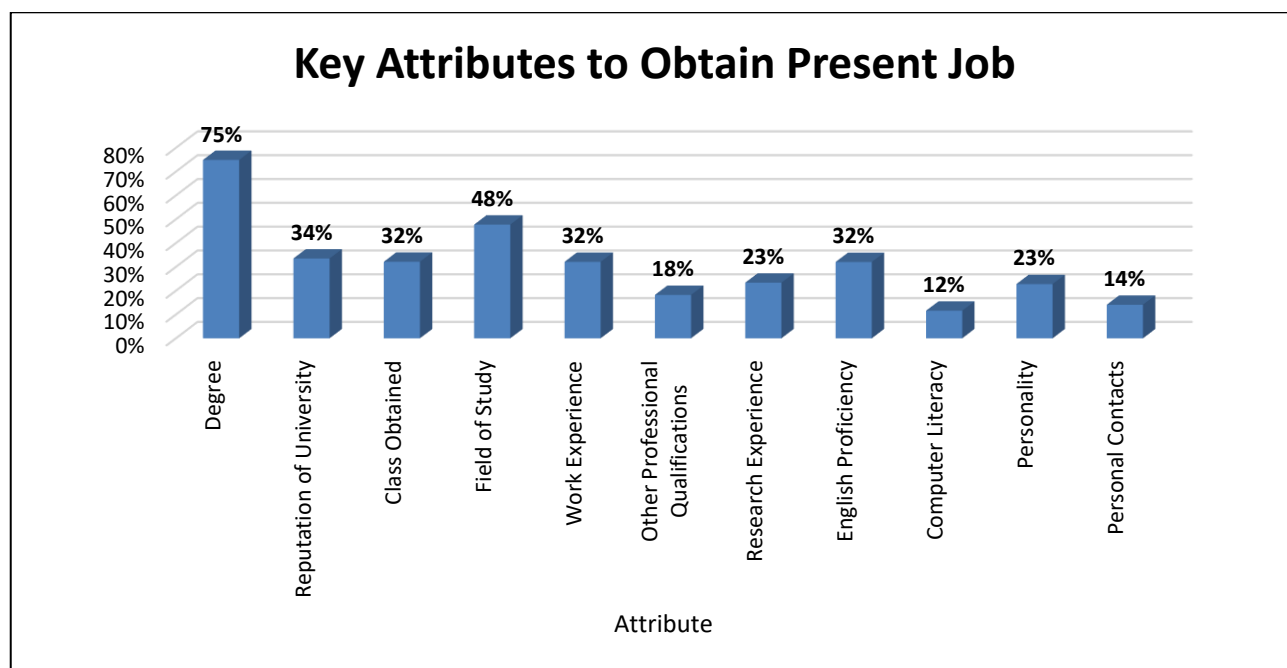
Graph 04: Occupied Sector of the Graduates

When considering the Table 8, it is evident that 57% of the graduands are occupied in private sector whereas a 28% is occupied in Public sector.

*Note: Out of Total respondents, only the graduands who have responded regarding the sector of employment were considered.

Table 12: Key Attributes to Obtain Present Job

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total	Attribute
Degree	62%	85%	69%	75%	84%	80%	61%	67%	53%	85%	75%	University
Reputation of University	16%	19%	30%	46%	14%	43%	19%	26%	9%	59%	34%	
Class Obtained	30%	25%	34%	39%	22%	34%	29%	35%	3%	35%	32%	
Field of Study	35%	23%	37%	49%	26%	62%	47%	50%	34%	75%	48%	
Work Experience	30%	19%	20%	52%	7%	29%	27%	25%	22%	53%	32%	Professional
Other Professional Qualifications	24%	10%	17%	27%	4%	14%	36%	16%	44%	13%	18%	
Research Experience	22%	15%	21%	19%	18%	36%	30%	24%	19%	21%	23%	
English Proficiency	33%	23%	27%	46%	14%	34%	29%	26%	3%	38%	32%	Skills
Computer Literacy	15%	9%	5%	12%	4%	15%	18%	2%	6%	18%	12%	
Personality	29%	12%	21%	24%	8%	23%	42%	21%	19%	26%	23%	Personal
Personal Contacts	14%	7%	19%	18%	4%	14%	23%	15%	16%	13%	14%	
No of Respondents	282	102	182	347	209	370	83	131	32	256	1994	



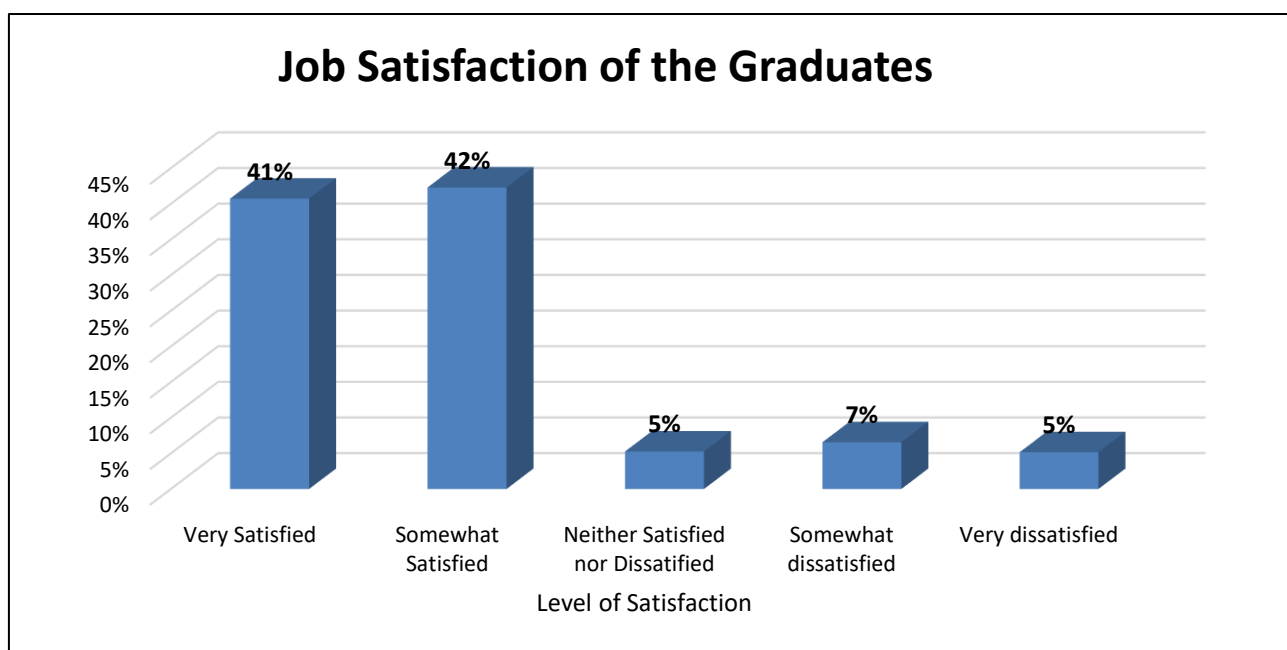
Graph 05: Key Attributes to Obtain the Present Job

When considering about the key attributes that affect the graduands to obtain the current job according to their opinion, Majority of the graduands think that degree (75%) and the Field of Study (48%) are the two main attributes that affect the employment in terms of University Education.

English Proficiency (32%) and the Computer Literacy (12%) are the other two main attributes considered by the graduands when considering the attributes which influence the employability.

Table 13: Job Satisfaction of the Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Very Satisfied	26%	68%	37%	34%	34%	45%	23%	39%	38%	63%	41%
Somewhat Satisfied	40%	20%	44%	54%	43%	43%	52%	42%	47%	31%	42%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	9%	2%	7%	3%	9%	4%	14%	6%	3%	1%	5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	14%	0%	7%	5%	8%	6%	5%	9%	3%	2%	7%
Very dissatisfied	10%	10%	5%	4%	5%	2%	5%	4%	9%	3%	5%
No of Respondents	250	99	173	343	205	364	77	122	32	255	1920



Graph 06: Job Satisfaction of the Graduates

Considering the Job Satisfaction of the graduates, Majority of the graduates are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their current job (83%) and only 17% of the graduates are either not satisfied or neutral on the satisfaction.

Section 03: Variation of Employment Rate

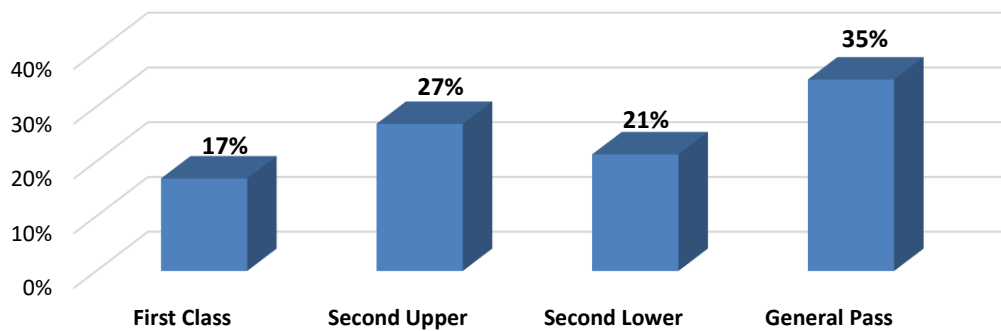
This section covers, variations of the employment rate (already employed) by selected individual characteristics and degree characteristics within each Faculty & Institute. Degree characteristics are represented by Type of Degree (General vs. Special), Extra-curricular activities, Vocational Training (Internships), Professional Qualifications & Work Experience.

All of the following statistics are related to the **already employed respondents** among the graduands who have responded to the employability section in the questionnaire.

Table 14: Employment by Degree Characteristics

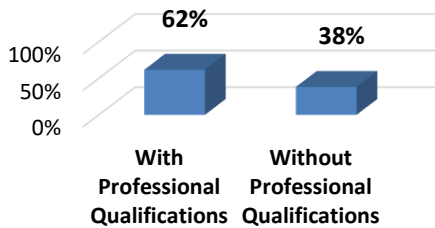
	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
First Class	16%	29%	0%	26%	10%	12%	11%	11%	0%	15%	15%
Second Upper	47%	57%	25%	43%	32%	17%	29%	28%	13%	35%	33%
Second Lower	24%	11%	53%	17%	31%	27%	31%	35%	23%	19%	26%
General Pass	13%	3%	22%	14%	26%	44%	29%	27%	63%	31%	26%
Number of Employed Respondents	228	100	150	344	204	369	75	123	30	252	1875
With Internship	56%	90%	46%	96%	90%	45%	68%	99%	52%	100%	75%
Without Internship	44%	10%	54%	4%	10%	55%	32%	1%	48%	0%	25%
Number of Employed Respondents	221	96	146	341	203	350	75	121	29	246	1828

Employability based on the Merit Obtained by Graduates



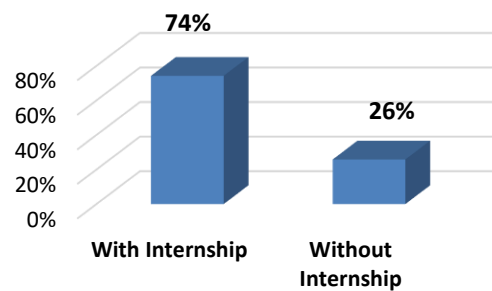
Graph 07(a)

Employability based on Completion of Other Professional Qualifications by Graduates



Graph 07(b)

Employability based on completion of Internship by Graduates



Graph 07(c)

Graph 07(a): Employability of Graduates based on Merit Obtained

Graph 07(b): Employability of Graduates based on completion of other Professional Qualifications

Graph 07(c): Employability of Graduates based on completion of Internship during degree

According to Table 14, among graduates who are already employed, 17% of the graduates have obtained a First Class, 27% of the graduates have obtained a Second Upper, 21% of the graduates have obtained a Second Lower and 35% of the graduates have obtained a General Pass.

Also 74% of the employed graduates have done an internship during their degree programme and 62% of the employed graduates have obtained Professional qualifications.

Appendix

Employability Study of Graduates 2021

This is the official census form for all graduates this year.

Please complete the survey and bring a **printout** on the day you are attending to the university to get the cloak (as the cloak will not be issued without filling the questionnaire) and help improve and reform the quality of higher education in Sri Lanka. The estimated time to complete this survey is less than 15 minutes. Note that your answers are anonymous and that they will be protected by law.

*Sections are mandatory to answer

1) * Gender: Male Female

1a) Differently abled: Yes No

2) GCE (A/L) Examination: District: Z-Score:

3) Contact Details: email: Telephone:
[Personal Email is preferred for the Tracer Studies done after few years from Graduation]

4) Faculty/ Institution: _____ Name of the Degree:.....
Eg. BSc Business Administration(Business Economics)(Honours)

5) Department: _____

6) Degree type:

General (3 years) General (4 years) Special Honours

• If **special**, please specify area of specialization: _____

7) Medium of Instruction

English Sinhala Tamil

8) Class received:

First Class Second Upper Second Lower General Pass

9) English Language Proficiency

9.1 The Grade you received for GCE(O/L) **English Language**

A B C S F

9.2 The Grade you received for GCE(A/L) **General English**

A B C S F

9.3 The level you passed in English at the University (at Orientation Programme)

1 2 3 4 Exempted

9.4 English language proficiency at the University Level (as per your own understanding) (Mark with a '✓')

	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Speaking				
Listening				
Reading				
Writing				

10) Computer Literacy (Mark with a 'v' to all that apply)

Have not used a computer at all		Capable of using MS Office Packages	
Owns a laptop/ Any Digital Device		Owns a desktop computer	
Comfortable browsing the web		Using the computer to search jobs	
Use email regularly		Capable of writing computer programmes	

11) To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Mark with a 'v' the desired level)

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Teaching methods used at the university are effective					
Learning process is suitable for current job environment					
Quality of lecturers is good					
IT facilities are satisfactory					
Learning is mostly done by memorizing the lecture notes					
Student centered teaching is practiced in the university					
Practical training is a part of the university education					

12) Does your study programme stipulate a mandatory Internship prior to Obtaining the Degree /Full Professional Qualification?

Yes No

If Yes,

12.1) Is the Internship Training

- Compulsory with Credits
- Compulsory without Credits
- Elective with Credits
- Elective without Credits

12.2) Did the university provide support to find an Internship Training?

Yes

No

12.3) Duration of the Internship:

13) *Were you involved in any of the following during your university years?

	No	Yes	If yes, please specify
Extra-curricular activities			
Vocational training			
Other educational/ Professional qualifications			
Full time employment			
Part time employment			

14) * What is your current employment status?

- Permanent Employment
- Temporary/Contract employment
- Part Time Employment
- Self employed
- Underemployed
- Not looking for a job
- Continuing higher studies
- Not employed

[*Underemployed - not having enough paid work or not doing work that makes full use of their skills and abilities]

Answer questions 15 - 24 ONLY if you are currently **employed** (Permanent/Temporary/Contract/Self-employed/Underemployed) otherwise skip to question 25)

15) Name of the organization currently employed and the Job Title:

.....

16) Which sector are you employed in?

- Public Private Semi Government Self Employed
- Foreign

17) The position you hold currently?

- Senior Management Middle Management Junior Management
- Management Trainee Support Staff (Clerical/Secretarial) Teacher
- Lecturer Doctor Entrepreneur
- Administration Consultant Trainee

Other: Please Specify

18) To which economic sector does your current job belong to

- Agriculture /Dairy Bank Finance/ Insurance Construction / Engineering Education

- Manufacturing Health care Hotels/ Travels/Tourism IT
- Power and Energy Telecommunication Trade Plantation
- Public Administration & Defense Professional, Scientific & technical
- Legal and Justice

Other If other, please specify

19) What is your current gross monthly salary (In Rupees)?

- Less than 20,000 20,000-29,999 30,000-39,999 40,000-49,999
- 50,000-59,999 60,000-75,000 Over 75,000 Over 100,000
- Over 200,000

20) How did you find this job?

- Newspaper Gazette Online Personal contacts
- Competitive Exam Continuing with the same job held during university education
- Via Internship Via University Career Guidance Unit/ Career Fair
- Other If other, please specify _____

21) What are the most important aspects in getting this job? (Check all that applies)

- Degree Class of degree Reputation of university
- Field of study Research experience Personal contacts
- Previous work experience English proficiency Other professional qualifications
- Your Personality Computer literacy
- Other If other, please specify _____

22) Is this job related to the field you studied for your degree?

23) How satisfied are you with this job?

24) When did you find your current job?

- During the University (while being a university student)
- After sitting the final exam
- After releasing the result

25) What do you think are the main obstacles for you to get a job? Please give details. (Select all that apply)

- Lack of IT Knowledge and skills
- Lack of English language proficiency
- Lack of working experience
- Lack of Personal contacts
- Competitiveness in the job market
- Lack of professional qualifications

Other (Please specify in brief):

.....

26) If you are currently Unemployed, how likely are you to get Employed in future?

- Within 1 Year
- Within 2 Years

27) What are your career goals/ higher educational goals for the next two years? (Mark with an "v" to all that applies)

- Find a better job
- Migration
- Further studies
- Find a job
- Research
- Private Business
- Other If other, please specify _____

28) How satisfied are you with your university education?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Thank you for completing this census. We appreciate the time you have spent in providing us with feedback that will help reform and improve the higher education of Sri Lanka.

