

Graduate
Employability
Survey

2022

University of Colombo

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Introduction

Graduate Employability survey 2022 was conducted during the General Convocation held in year 2022 for the graduands who completed their final examinations in year 2021. 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	562	556	99%
Faculty of Education	146	144	99%
Faculty of Law	249	246	99%
Faculty of Management & Finance (FMF)	497	486	98%
Faculty of Medicine	201	192	96%
Faculty of Science	416	409	98%
Institute of Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences (UCIARS)	33	33	100%
Institute of Indigenous Medicine (IIM)	268	264	99%
Sri Palee Campus	161	158	98%
University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC)	265	259	98%
Total	2798	2747	98%

Methodology

Methodology of the Graduate Employment Survey 2022 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 2022 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 2022 consists of following sections:

Section 01: Background Characteristics of Graduates

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

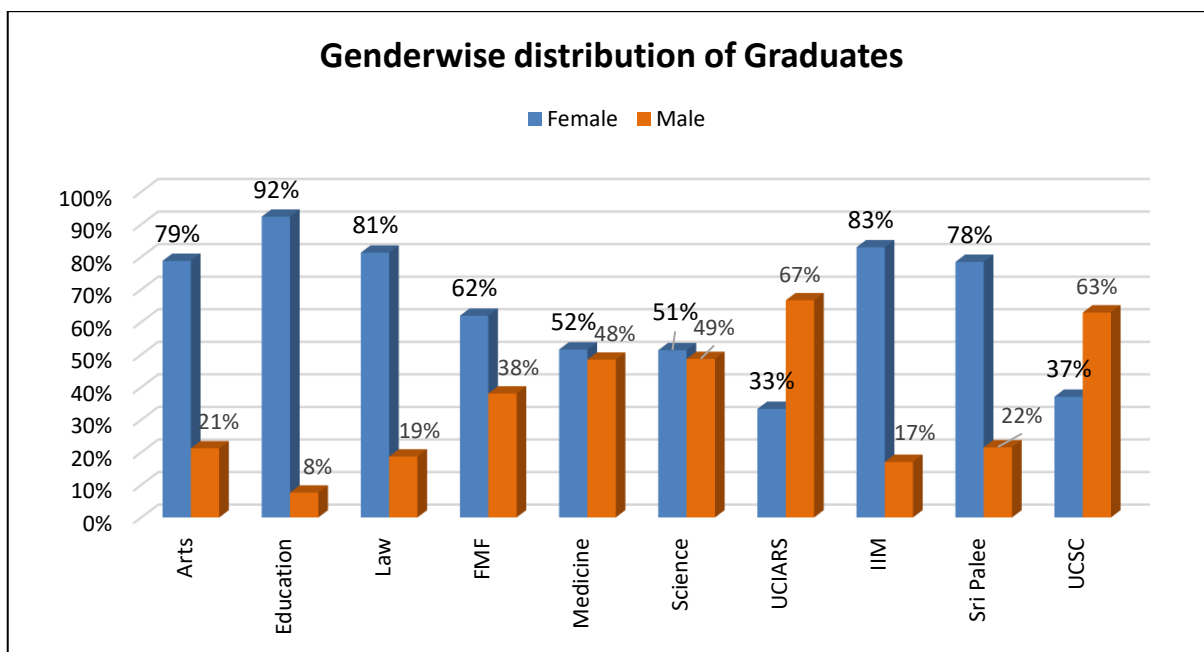
Section 03: Variation of the Employment Rate

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	UCIARS	IIM	Sri Palee	UCSC	Grand Total
Female	79%	92%	81%	62%	52%	51%	33%	83%	78%	37%	67%
Male	21%	8%	19%	38%	48%	49%	67%	17%	22%	63%	33%



Graph 01: Gender wise Distribution of the Graduates

According to Table 2, most of the graduates of University of Colombo are female graduands (67%).

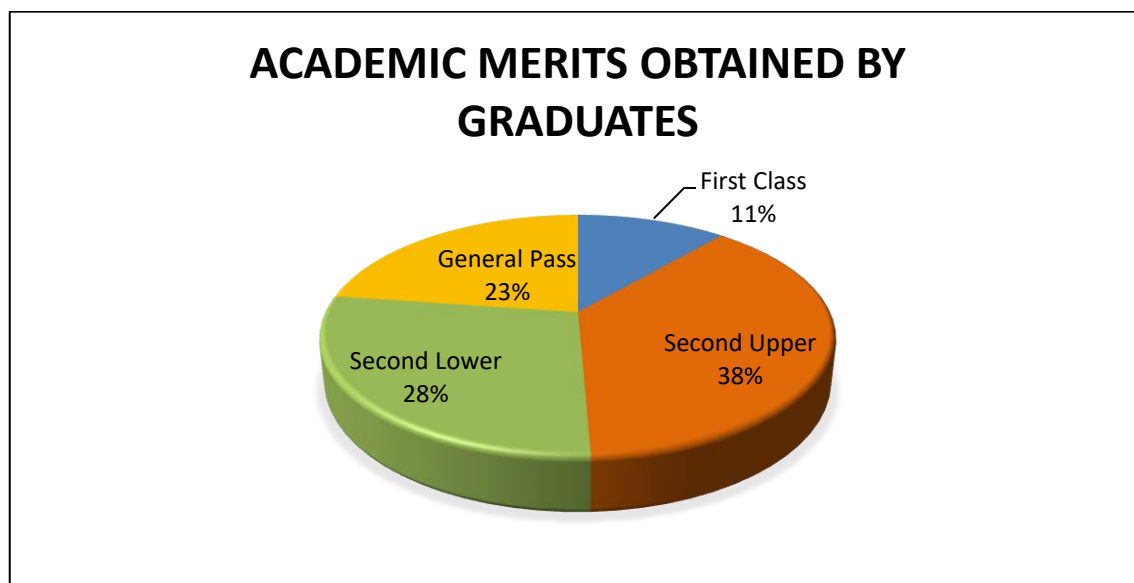
Table 03: English Language Competency of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
OL English Background											
Distinction	33%	29%	59%	62%	98%	89%	16%	85%	15%	81%	61%
Ordinary Pass and Less	67%	71%	41%	38%	2%	11%	84%	15%	85%	19%	39%
AL English Background											
Distinction	15%	8%	33%	34%	81%	58%	4%	31%	3%	59%	35%
Ordinary Pass and Less	85%	92%	68%	66%	19%	42%	96%	69%	97%	41%	65%

According to Table 3, 61% of the graduands have received a Distinction for English language in Ordinary Level examination while only 35% 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 04: Academic Merits Obtained

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
First Class	5%	19%	0%	14%	8%	19%	3%	5%	5%	27%	11%
Second Upper	63%	60%	32%	34%	25%	29%	38%	25%	0%	25%	38%
Second Lower	24%	19%	40%	27%	35%	27%	45%	24%	32%	22%	28%
General Pass	8%	1%	27%	25%	32%	26%	14%	46%	63%	26%	23%
No of Respondents	552	144	246	483	190	409	156	262	19	259	2720



Graph 02: Overall Distribution of Academic Merits by the Graduates

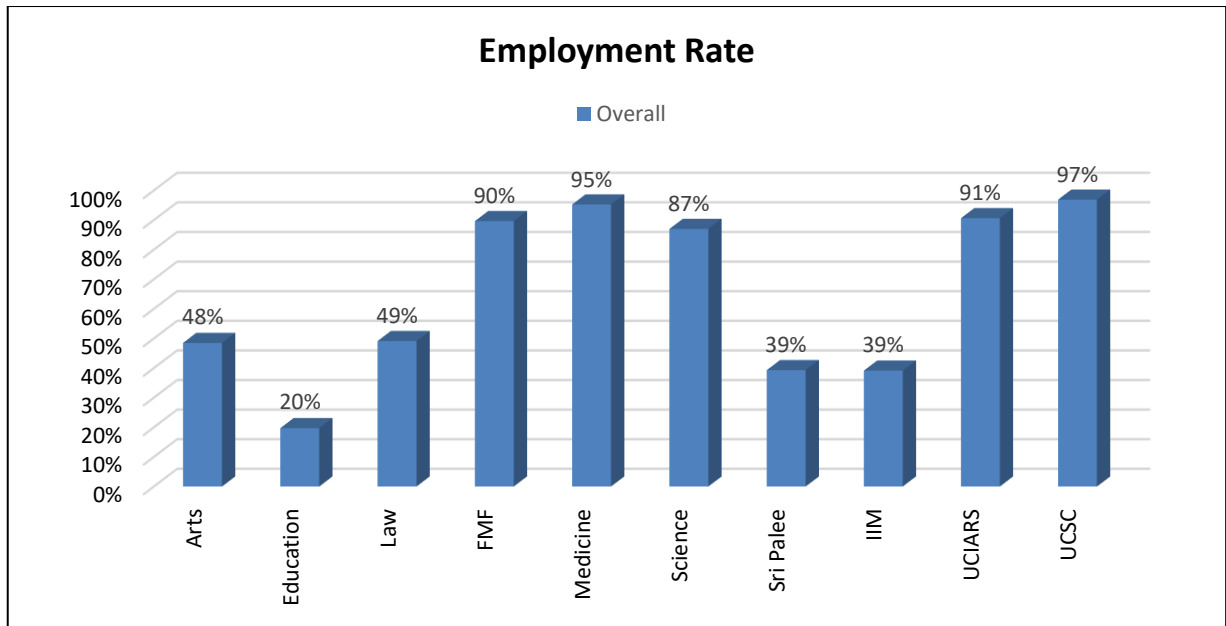
Table 4 shows the percentage of graduates who have obtained First Class (11%), Second Upper (38%), Second Lower (28%) and General Passes (23%) in the degree programme. Majority of the graduates have obtained Second Upper/ Lower passes (66%) while a minority have obtained First Classes (11%).

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 05: Employability of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCI ARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Female	47%	21%	50%	88%	96%	87%	35%	37%	70%	97%	61%
Male	53%	0%	45%	93%	95%	87%	55%	49%	100%	97%	82%
Overall	48%	20%	49%	90%	95%	87%	39%	39%	91%	97%	67%
No of Female Respondents to Employability	417	127	186	298	97	209	116	213	10	96	1769
No of Male Respondents to Employability	115	10	44	185	93	199	29	45	22	162	904
*Total Respondents to Employability	532	137	230	483	190	408	145	258	32	258	2673



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 5.

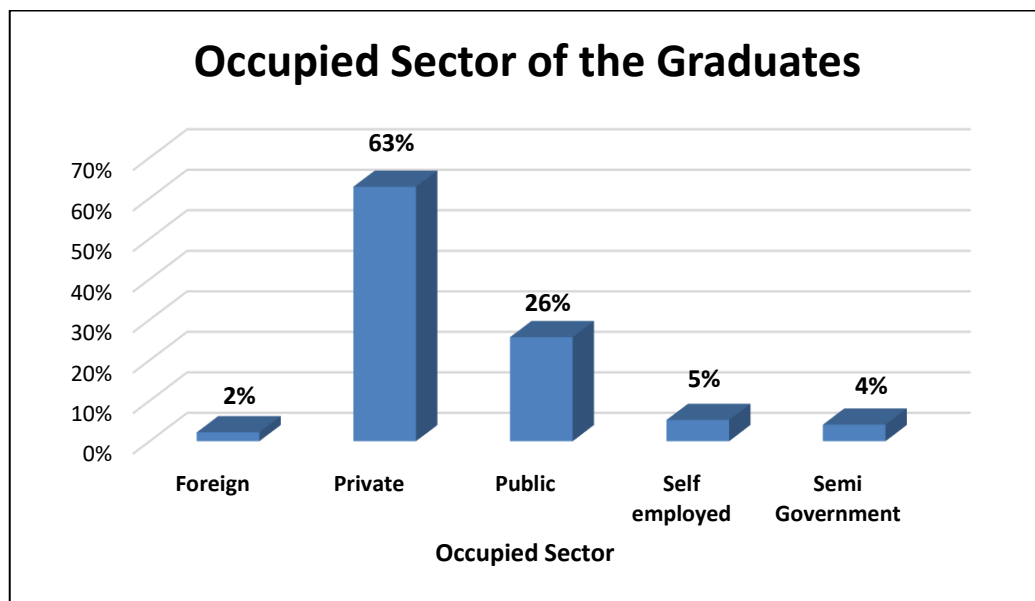
Table 5 confirms that 67% of the graduates who are already employed are females while 61% of the employed graduates are males and the Overall employability is 82% at the time of convocation.

Table 06: Gross Salary of the Employed Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Less than 20,000	27%	42%	67%	6%	1%	4%	31%	4%	7%	2%	12%
20,000 - 29,999	19%	38%	11%	11%	0%	5%	27%	4%	0%	1%	9%
30,000 - 39,999	20%	8%	3%	16%	2%	6%	25%	4%	18%	0%	10%
40,000 - 49,999	12%	8%	8%	21%	10%	31%	6%	9%	36%	2%	16%
50,000 - 59,999	9%	0%	1%	15%	83%	14%	6%	76%	29%	2%	22%
60,000-75,000	7%	0%	4%	12%	2%	10%	2%	0%	7%	4%	7%
Over 75,000	5%	4%	2%	8%	2%	10%	2%	1%	4%	11%	7%
Over 100,000	1%	0%	2%	9%	0%	17%	2%	1%	0%	37%	11%
Over 200,000	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	41%	7%
No of respondents	224	24	92	425	178	346	52	93	28	235	1697

Table 07: Occupied Sector of Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Foreign	3%	0%	3%	3%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Private	67%	48%	70%	88%	5%	55%	71%	11%	18%	91%	63%
Public	8%	16%	12%	5%	91%	35%	11%	77%	54%	5%	26%
Self employed	14%	24%	11%	3%	0%	4%	7%	8%	4%	1%	5%
Semi Government	9%	12%	4%	2%	4%	3%	11%	3%	25%	1%	4%
No of respondents	229	25	107	427	179	342	55	96	28	249	1737



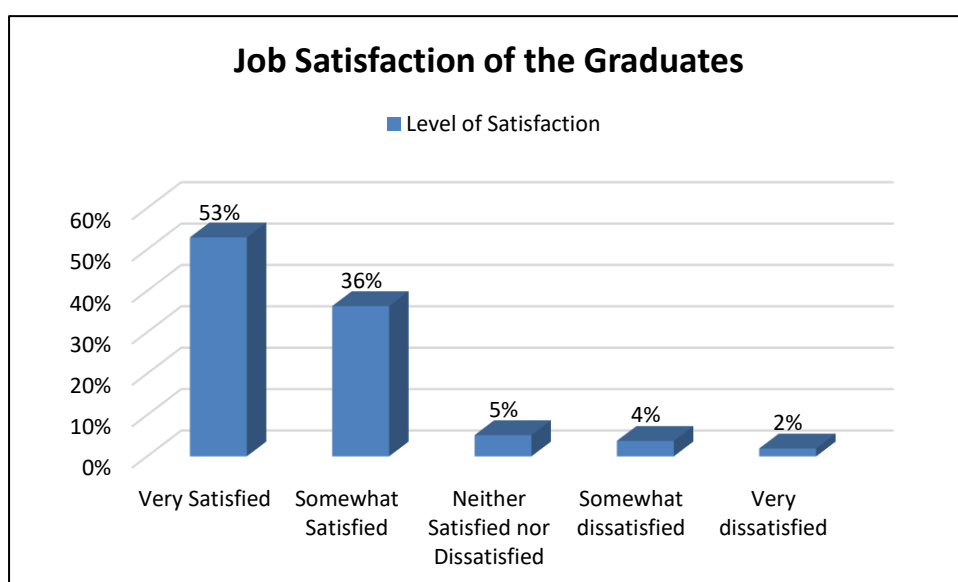
Graph 04: Occupied Sector of the Graduates

When considering the Table 7, it is evident that 63% of the graduands are occupied in private sector whereas a 26% is occupied in Public sector.

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

Table 08: Job Satisfaction of the Graduates

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
Very Satisfied	45%	58%	53%	68%	42%	47%	51%	31%	72%	61%	53%
Somewhat Satisfied	43%	38%	33%	26%	40%	41%	29%	58%	17%	34%	36%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	3%	0%	8%	3%	9%	7%	9%	6%	0%	4%	5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7%	4%	2%	2%	6%	4%	4%	4%	6%	1%	4%
Very dissatisfied	3%	0%	3%	1%	3%	1%	7%	0%	6%	0%	2%
No of Respondents	209	24	90	325	126	227	55	93	18	141	1308



Graph 05: 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 (89%) and only 11% of the graduates are either not satisfied or neutral on the satisfaction.

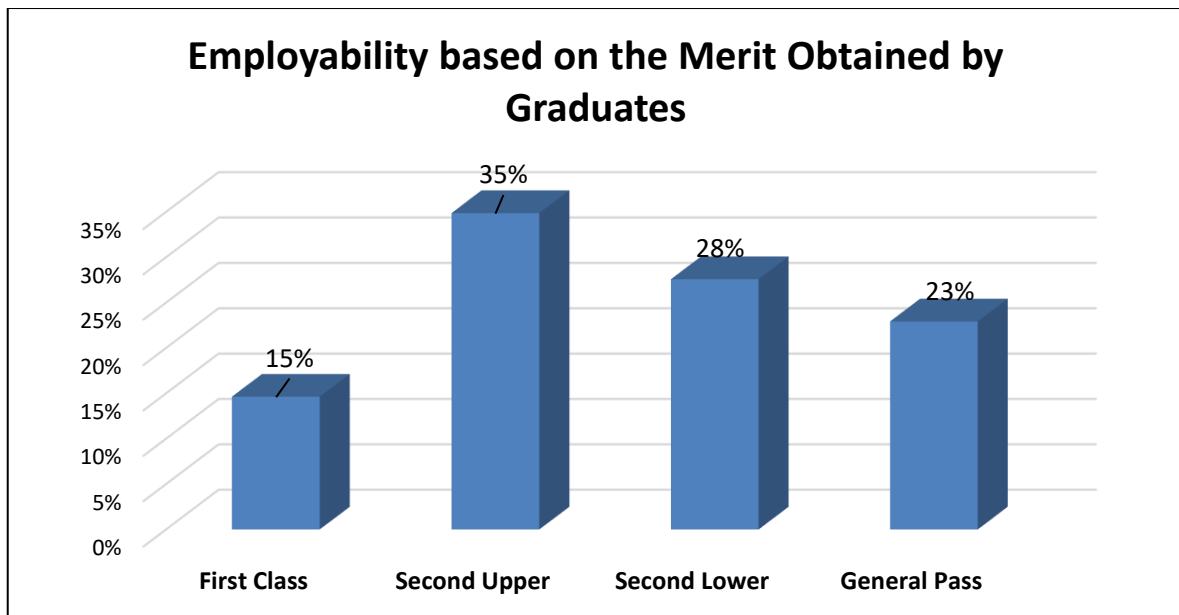
Section 03: Variation of Employment Rate

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 09: Employment by Degree Characteristics

	Arts	Education	Law	FMF	Medicine	Science	Sri Palee	IIM	UCIARS	UCSC	Grand Total
First Class	9%	33%	0%	15%	8%	20%	0%	8%	6%	28%	15%
Second Upper	59%	56%	34%	36%	26%	30%	40%	24%	0%	26%	35%
Second Lower	24%	11%	38%	26%	36%	28%	44%	27%	28%	22%	28%
General Pass	8%	0%	28%	24%	30%	22%	16%	42%	67%	24%	23%
Number of Employed Respondents	256	27	113	430	179	355	55	101	18	250	1784



Graph 06: Employability of Graduates based on Merit Obtained

According to Table 9, among the graduates who are already employed, 15% of the graduates have obtained a First Class, 35% of the graduates have obtained a Second Upper, 28% of the graduates have obtained a Second Lower and 23% of the graduates have obtained a General Pass.

Appendix

Employability Study of Graduates 2022

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.