



Graduates
Yorkshire

How do they picture themselves now?

A survey of the early career paths of the
Graduates of 2003 from Yorkshire Universities

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Student to teacher



From chemistry set
to bio-chemist



Happy snapper to fashion
photographer



From buying brands
to creating them



Crossing bridges to
building bridges



From computer geek
to IT girl

Three Years On...
A Survey of the Early Career Paths of the Graduates of 2003 from the Yorkshire Universities

Final Report, April 2007

Executive Summary

This study was undertaken by the Regional Graduate Employment and Training Group on behalf of Yorkshire Higher Education Institutions and Yorkshire Forward as part of the Yorkshire Forward funded Graduates Yorkshire initiative. The survey follows on from the reports published in 2004, 2005 and 2006 which surveyed the early career paths of the graduates of the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 from the Yorkshire Universities. The aims of the survey were to explore graduate:

- 1 reasons for career decisions
- 2 reasons for moving outside or within the region
- 3 reasons for lifestyle and location choices.

Methodology

1. This study reused the methodology utilized by previous surveys by carrying out the data collection online. This facilitated the rapid collection of data from respondents – once they had completed their online form, it was stored centrally with other returns ready for subsequent analysis. Conducting the survey in this way also reduced (to an extent) data synthesis and analysis as survey data were in an easily-digestible and analysis-ready format.
2. A collaborative mailshot directing graduates to the survey URL was sent from the Yorkshire Higher Education Institutions to all UK domiciled full-time first-degree graduates from the year 2003 who had stayed in the region at the time of the 2003 FDS survey; and a stratified sample of graduates from the year 2003 who, at the time of the 2003 FDS, had already left the region.
3. Respondents had approximately six weeks (end of January 2007 – March 2007) within which to access the URL and complete the survey, with optional entry into a prize draw as an incentive.
4. As with previous years, letters were sent to approximately 10,000 graduates selected by the criteria in Section 2. There were 742 respondents to the survey, which represents an approximate response rate of slightly less than 10% within the sample. 21% of respondents were aged 20-24, with a representative spread across the region's ten participating universities – given their respective sizes (Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan Universities having the largest proportion of respondents). Ethnicity was broadly representative of the region – 96% white and the gender balance was 39% males compared with 61% females (almost identical to last year's survey). Degree class was representative, with the majority awarded 2:1 and 2:2 grades (78%), and the disciplines studied appeared representative of the courses on offer. The largest groups of respondents were within Business and Administrative Studies (19%), Physical Sciences (11%), and Subjects Allied to Medicine (11%).

Research Findings – Graduate Destinations

5. The average level of debt at graduation was found to be £11,442 per person for the 531 respondents who provided appropriate details of this. Over half the whole sample (51%) had undertaken regular paid employment while a student, primarily for financial reasons (92%). 62% of these had worked up to 15 hours a week, and although 38% had exceeded this, 68% indicated that undertaking such paid employment did not have a detrimental effect on their studies. In fact, 69% of the respondents who had worked while a student felt that this had improved their employability.
6. At graduation, 39% of respondents had had a definite career aim and stuck to it, while 30% had had a general aim and were now doing something related. 6% were doing something different from their original aim at graduation, while 10% had no firm career idea at graduation.

Employment

7. In 2004, 76% (603) of respondents were in employment; 62% of the 603 employed respondents were employed in a full-time *permanent* capacity, with 25% on a full-time *temporary* contract, while 11% were working part-time on either permanent or temporary contracts.
8. In 2007, 91% (662) were employed; 79% of the total 552 employed were working in full-time permanent employment, while 15% were on full-time temporary contracts and 6% were working in a part-time capacity (either permanent or temporary).
9. Of all those in employment in 2004, 72% were working in Yorkshire. Of these, 38% were working in West Yorkshire, 18% in South Yorkshire, 7% in North Yorkshire and 9% in East Yorkshire. Of those working outside the region, 7% of the employed sample were working elsewhere in the North of England, 7% in the South (excluding London), 5% in London, 7% in the Midlands and 3% elsewhere (UK and overseas).
10. In 2007, 55% of all the employed respondents were working in the Yorkshire region, with 29% of these working in West Yorkshire, 13% in South Yorkshire, 6% working in North Yorkshire and 7% working in East Yorkshire. Of those working outside Yorkshire, 11% are working elsewhere in the North of England, 12% in the South of England (excluding London), 9% in the Midlands, 10% are working in London and 4% elsewhere (UK and overseas).
11. These data show that in 2004 almost two thirds of those in employment were working in the Yorkshire region. By 2007, this proportion has decreased to a little over half of those in employment. These results are consistent with those found in last year's survey.
12. Of the 493 people who were employed and gave salary details in 2004, over one third (37%) were earning £10,000 to £14,999 with 35% earning from £15,000 up to £19,999. The mean overall salary for UK workers was £16,111, with the mean salary for Yorkshire jobs at £16,105. Within the region, the South Yorkshire average was £16,060, the West Yorkshire average was £16,452, the East Yorkshire average was £15,691 and the North Yorkshire average at £14,742. Comparisons with other regions show that the North of England (excl. Yorkshire) had an average salary in 2004 of £15,874, the South of England (excl. London) had an average of £16,315, London salaries averaged £18,023, and the Midlands' average was £15,267.
13. There were 536 respondents from those employed in 2007 who provided salary details and of these 82% were earning £10,000 to £29,999, with 51% earning £20,000 to £29,000. In contrast with 2004 when the figure was 4%, 17% were earning over £30,000 in 2007. The overall mean salary in 2007 had risen across all regions,

standing at £23,679 for UK workers and £23,824 for those in Yorkshire. In South Yorkshire the 2007 average was £25,270, slightly higher than the West Yorkshire average of £24,062. East Yorkshire had a mean salary from our respondents of £21,998, and North Yorkshire £21,847. The North of England (excl. Yorkshire) had a 2007 average of £22,275; the South of England (excl. London) averaged £22,343. London salaries had a mean of £28,577 while the Midlands was £21,946. Compared across the three year period, average salaries in Yorkshire enjoyed almost the same proportional increase as those in London.

Further study

14. In 2004 – 20% of graduates stated that they were undertaking further study, compared with 16% undertaking further study in 2007.
15. In 2004 75% of those who were studying, were studying a subject related to their first degree; 52% were studying towards Postgraduate, Professional or Research Degree qualifications.
16. By 2007, there were fewer people studying with 16% of all respondents studying with/without employment. Of these, 63% were studying a subject related to their first degree: 58% studying towards Postgraduate, Professional or Research Degree qualifications. This slight increase in professional study may reflect the influence of employers requesting that their staff train for further qualifications, or may reflect people wanting a change of career.

Unemployment and Other Destinations

17. Of the graduates unemployed/unavailable for work, the proportions decreased from 5% of the whole sample in 2004 to 3% in 2007. Overall there were approximately half as many people not in work 3 years after graduation – 19 respondents in 2007 as opposed to 37 in 2004.