



Local retention rates for University of Sheffield first degree graduates and leavers obtaining other undergraduate qualifications

Methodology

Survey group – all full-time first degree graduates who responded to the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

Definition of local – the postcodes used were S1 – S14 (inc), S17, S20, S35, S36 (representing the areas covered by Sheffield City Council).

Definition of 'in employment' - all those reported as being in employment (full-time, part-time, self-employment, voluntary and unpaid employment). Local employment was identified using the postcodes shown above.

Definition of 'in further study' – all those reported as being in full-time study. Local further study was defined as taking place at the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and other institutions eg FE colleges whose postcode fell within the range of postcodes shown above.

Background information

This data is taken from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) surveys for 2009/10, 2008/9 and 2007/8.

It is important to note that this data collection is part of a national survey and that the information it provides relates to a reference date approximately six months after graduation. It consequently only provides a snap-shot at a point when many graduates are still in a transitional period between study and work. It cannot, therefore, be relied upon to give any reliable indication of longer-term retention rates. In particular, the timing of the survey may result in inflating the proportion of graduates identified as being employed in the Sheffield area. The following factors should be born in mind when looking at the local retention data:

- Each year we obtain employment data for graduates in Medicine, a significant number of whom take up Foundation posts in local hospitals. It is not known to what extent these individuals continue their medical careers in Sheffield but it is likely that a number will leave the city after this initial placement.
- We continue to obtain employment data for graduates from the School of Nursing and Midwifery who studied on a part-time basis. Most of these individuals are local men and women who remain in the region after graduation and pursue careers in local hospitals and clinics.
- A number of graduates remaining in the city at a point six months after graduation are working in jobs that we would classify as 'stop-gap' eg call centre work, bar work, temporary clerical work in government departments, retailing. There are a number of factors contributing to this eg the desire of students to stay in a city they have become very attached to while studying; the decision to stay close to friends who may still be students; the effects of student debt which can encourage new graduates to accept the first job they are offered in order to guarantee an income after graduation;

some students will not begin to consider their future career until after graduating and will use the first months after graduation to gain basic work experience while they decide upon their longer-term goals.

2009/10 results

In 2009/10 there were 3908 full-time first degree graduates and leavers obtaining other undergraduate qualifications of whom 3204 responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 82.0%

| | No | % |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| In all employment | 2092 | 65.3% of those of known destination |
| In local employment | 400 | 19.1% of total entering employment |
| | | |
| Total in all further study | 688 | 21.5% of those of known destination |
| Total in local further study | 392 | 57.0% of total entering further study |
| | | |
| Total in employment or further study | 2780 | 86.8% of those of known destination |
| Total in local employment or further study | 792 | 28.5% of total entering employment or further study |

2008/9 results

In 2008/9 there were 4201 full-time first degree graduates and leavers obtaining other undergraduate qualifications of whom 3339 responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 79.5%.

| | No | % |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| In all employment | 2104 | 63.0% of those of known destination |
| In local employment | 498 | 23.7% of total entering employment |
| | | |
| Total in all further study | 771 | 23.1% of those of known destination |
| Total in local further study | 458 | 59.4% of total entering further study |
| | | |
| Total in employment or further study | 2875 | 86.1% of those of known destination |
| Total in local employment or further study | 956 | 33.3% of total entering employment or further study |

2007/8 results

In 2007/8 there were 4392 full-time first degree graduates and leavers obtaining other undergraduate qualifications of whom 3349 responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 76.3%.

| | No | % |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| In all employment | 2226 | 66.5% of those of known destination |
| In local employment | 529 | 23.8% of total entering employment |
| | | |
| Total in all further study | 622 | 18.6% of those of known destination |
| Total in local further study | 323 | 51.9% of total entering further study |
| | | |
| Total in employment or further study | 2848 | 85.0% of those of known destination |
| Total in local employment or further study | 852 | 29.9% of total entering employment or further study |