

Distance and Continuing Education
University of Ruhuna
Graduate Employability Survey – 2022 March

Response Rate for the Survey

No. of Degree Awardees	221
Completed Questionnaires	216
Response Rate	98%

Gender of the Graduates

Gender	%
Male	10
Female	90
Total	100

Ethnicity of the Graduates

Ethnicity	No. of Graduates
Sinhala	215
Tamil	1
Total	216

Living Area of the Graduates

Living Area	%
Urban	10
Semi-Urban	29
Rural	61
Total	100

English Language Proficiency of the Graduates

Type of English Proficiency	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Average (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)
Reading	15%	42%	36%	6%	1%
Writing	9%	42%	42%	6%	1%
Speaking	4.6%	26%	52.8%	12%	4.6%
Listening	16.2%	39.4%	37.5%	6.5%	0.4%

Computer Literacy of the Graduates

Type of Computer Literacy	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Average (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)
Microsoft Office	14%	51%	22%	10%	3%
Social Media	15%	50%	26%	8%	1%
Graphic Design	1%	17%	25%	32%	25%
Email communication	12.1%	29.6%	35.2%	18.5%	4.6%
Networking	4%	20%	26%	28%	22%
Web Designing	2%	14%	23%	22%	39%

Other skills and competencies of the Graduates

Skill/Competency	Extensive experience in the skill area (%)	Good experience in the skill area (%)	Some experience in the skill area (%)	Little experience in the skill area (%)	No experience in the skill area (%)
Emotional Intelligence	23%	35%	32%	10%	0%
Working Under Pressure	31.5%	36.6%	26.4%	5.1%	0.4%
Teamwork	45%	41%	12%	2%	0%
Public Speaking	27%	38%	30%	5%	0%
Leadership	33.3%	36.1%	27.3%	3.3%	0%
Critical Thinking	22.2%	40.3%	32.4%	5.1%	0%
Storytelling	26%	38%	30%	6%	0%
Familiarity with subjects & Terminology	30%	46%	20%	4%	0%
Ability to apply Theory to Practice	30.6%	40.7%	25%	3.7%	0%
Personal stress management	26%	36%	31%	6%	1%
Self-direction and motivation	27%	34%	33%	6%	0%

Ethical conduct	54%	31%	13%	2%	0%
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Graduates who have taken more than scheduled period for the completion of the Degree Program

Taken more than scheduled period for the completion of the degree program	No. of Graduates	%
Yes	176	81
No	40	19

Reasons for taking more than scheduled period for the completion of the degree program

Reason	Definitely Not (%)	Probably Not (%)	Possibly (%)	Probably (%)	Definitely (%)
Repeating the course units	11	7	24	41	17
Illness of family members	54	21	7	11	7
Illness of my self	54	25	11	6	4
Become a parent	43	11	19	20	7
Employment related issues	43	20	15	15	7
Economics problems	36	17	24	16	7
Natural disasters	52	25	8	11	4
Lack of Guidance/Support from the family	60	25	8	4	3
Lack of Guidance/Support from the university	56	32	5	4	3
Lack of vision	66	27	3	3	1
Changing the subjects	71	23	3	2	1

Graduates Experience on Higher Education

	Not at all (%)	Rarely (%)	Occasionally (%)	Well (%)	Very Well (%)
Prepared you for employment.	3.7%	4.2%	14.8%	29.6%	47.7%
Prepared you for further study.	4%	6%	20%	38%	32%
Prepared you for being self-employed/freelance or for starting up your own business.	18%	11%	38%	21%	12%

Graduates preference on continuing their higher studies

Preference on Higher Studies	Yes (%)	No (%)
Continue Higher Studies	80	20
Engaged in full-time further study, training, or research	16	84
Engaged in part-time further study, training or research	24	76

Employment Status of the Graduates

	Full-Time Employed (%)	Part-Time Employed (%)	Seasonally Employed (%)	Freelancer (%)	Self Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)
Before enrolling to the degree program	9.7%	15.7%	2.8%	9.3%	4.6%	57.9%
During the period of study	23.6%	18.5%	5.5%	7%	8.8%	36.6%
After completion of the program	22%	11%	4%	10%	6%	47%

Sector of Employment of Graduates

Sector	No of Graduates	%
Government Sector	32	46.4
Semi-Government Sector	17	24.6
Private	20	29.0

Need of the BA qualification to get a job

Intention about getting a BA qualification	No of Graduates	%
Yes: the qualification was a formal requirement	7	10.1
Yes: while the qualification was not a formal requirement it did give me an advantage	11	16.0
No: the qualification was not required	50	72.5
Don't know	1	1.4

Relevancy of the subjects studied to the current job

	No of Graduates	%
Highly relevant	11	14.9
Somewhat relevant	24	32.4
Neither relevant nor irrelevant	8	10.8
Somewhat not relevant	8	10.8
Irrelevant	23	31.1

Employment by current position

	No of Graduates	%
Executive or senior management	1	1.4
Middle management	11	16.0
Front-level management	5	7.2
Intermediate or experienced (senior staff)	14	20.3
Entry-level	38	55.1

Gross pay per month be for the main employment

	No of Graduates	%
Less than Rs. 25,000	22	31.4
Rs. 25,000 – Rs. 50,000	38	54.3
Rs.50,001- Rs. 75,000	9	12.9
Rs. 75,001 – Rs.10,0000	1	1.4
More than Rs.100,000	0	0

Satisfaction with the current job

	% of Graduates				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The job is well-paid	10.5	32.8	12	31.3	13.4
It is in the right location	16.4	49.3	6	16.4	11.9
I like the type of work it involved	16.4	49.3	10.4	17.9	6
There is an opportunity to progress in the organization	18	35	16	19	12
I am satisfied with my current job	21	42	9	22	6

Reasons for hindering finding a job

	Definitely Not (%)	Probably Not (%)	Possibly (%)	Probably (%)	Definitely (%)
High competition for jobs	18	5	30	26	21
Little work experience	40	14	26	16	4
Few or no skills	65	15	14	5	1
Few networking options	61	12	17	6	4
Lack of communication skills	68	12	14	4	2
Lack of English language skills	52	21	20	6	1
Lack of IT skills	56	16	21	6	1
Lack of Guidance/Support from the university	70	10	14	3	3
Residing in remote area	60	12	15	8	5
Lack of vision	81	8	5	5	1
Waiting for government graduate employment schemes	24	10	22	18	26

Evaluation of the degree program quality and relevance

	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
The freedom of course unit selection was good	50.5%	47.2%	2.3%	0%	0%
Overall quality of lecturers is good	51%	46%	2%	1%	0%
I had high level of interest of the lectures delivered.	45%	50%	5%	0%	0%
It was possible to have personal and social interactions with lecturers	43%	49%	6%	2%	0%
Teaching Methods were good	42%	53%	4%	1%	0%
Learning Process was good	44%	52%	3%	1%	0%
Lecturers/Instructors were good	50%	46%	3%	1%	0%

Classrooms were well equipped	38%	51%	5%	5%	1%
Textbooks/Reference/LMS were adequate	35%	44%	13%	6%	2%
Tutorials were useful	44.9%	51.8%	2.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Practical Training was good	30%	50%	12%	7%	1%
Research Skills were adequate	27%	51%	15%	6%	1%
Program didn't Promote memorizing Lecture Notes	35%	54%	8%	3%	0%
Workload Assigned was Bearable	35%	58%	6%	1%	0%
Examinations were conducted as scheduled	20%	33%	15%	22%	10%
Results were released on time	17%	33%	15%	25%	10%
The overall quality of the program is good	38%	49%	11%	2%	0%

Perception on applying University rules fairly to the graduands at the University

	% of Graduates
All the time	76.67
Most of the time	17.14
Some of the time	2.86
Rarely	1.43
Not sure	1.90

Graduates Perception on Reasons for university rules have not been applied fairly

	No of Graduates responded
Gender	8
Race	1
Religion	0
Appearance	4

Perception on treat by the lecturers at the university

	No of Graduates responded
Treated same way as everyone else	146
Treated better than others	66
Treated worse than others	4

Experience on any types of bullying/harassment at the university

	No of Graduates responded
yes	1
no	215