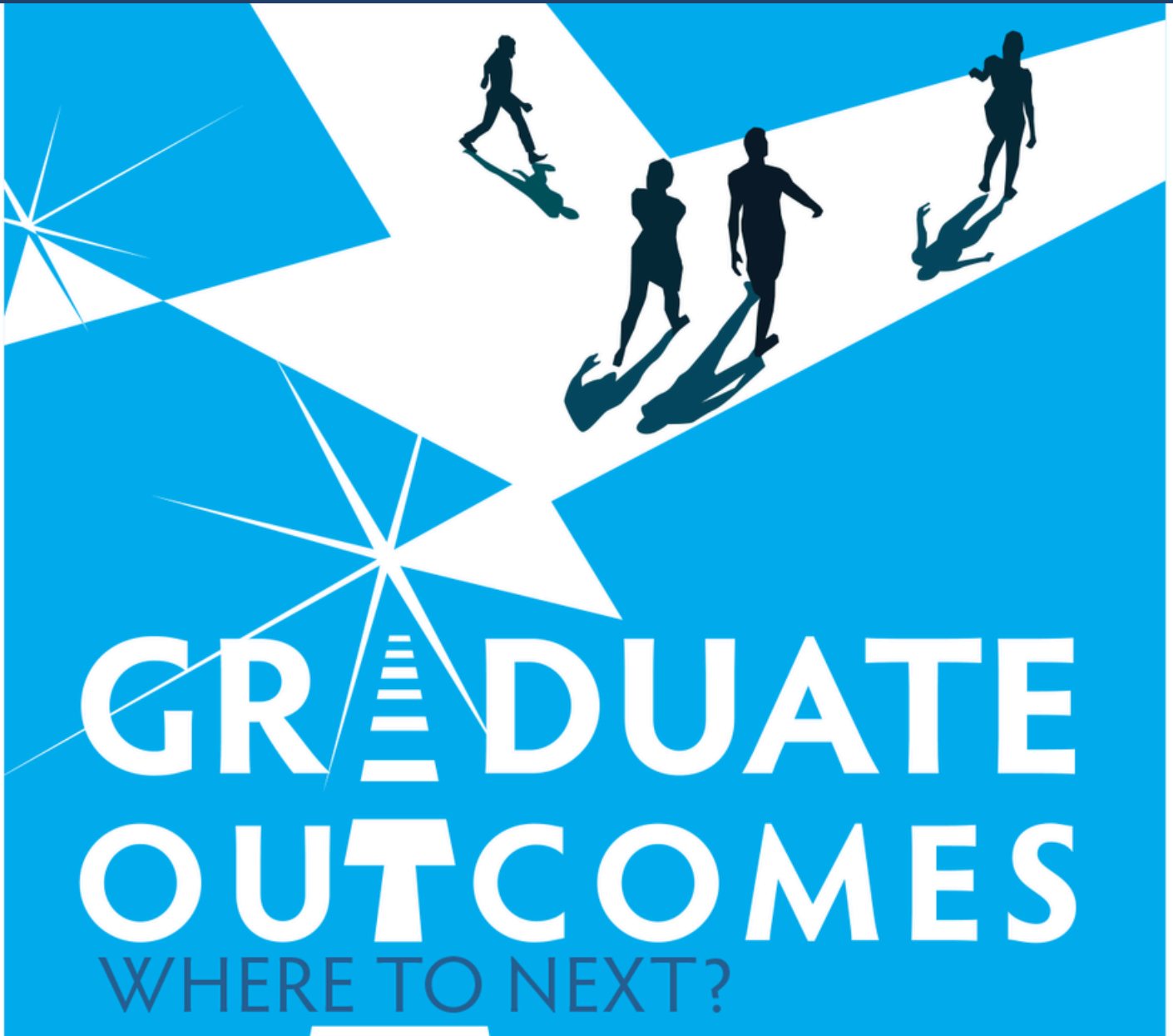


# Graduate Outcomes for Postgraduate Research Degree Graduates - Class of 2023



# Overview of Graduate Population



**2,031**

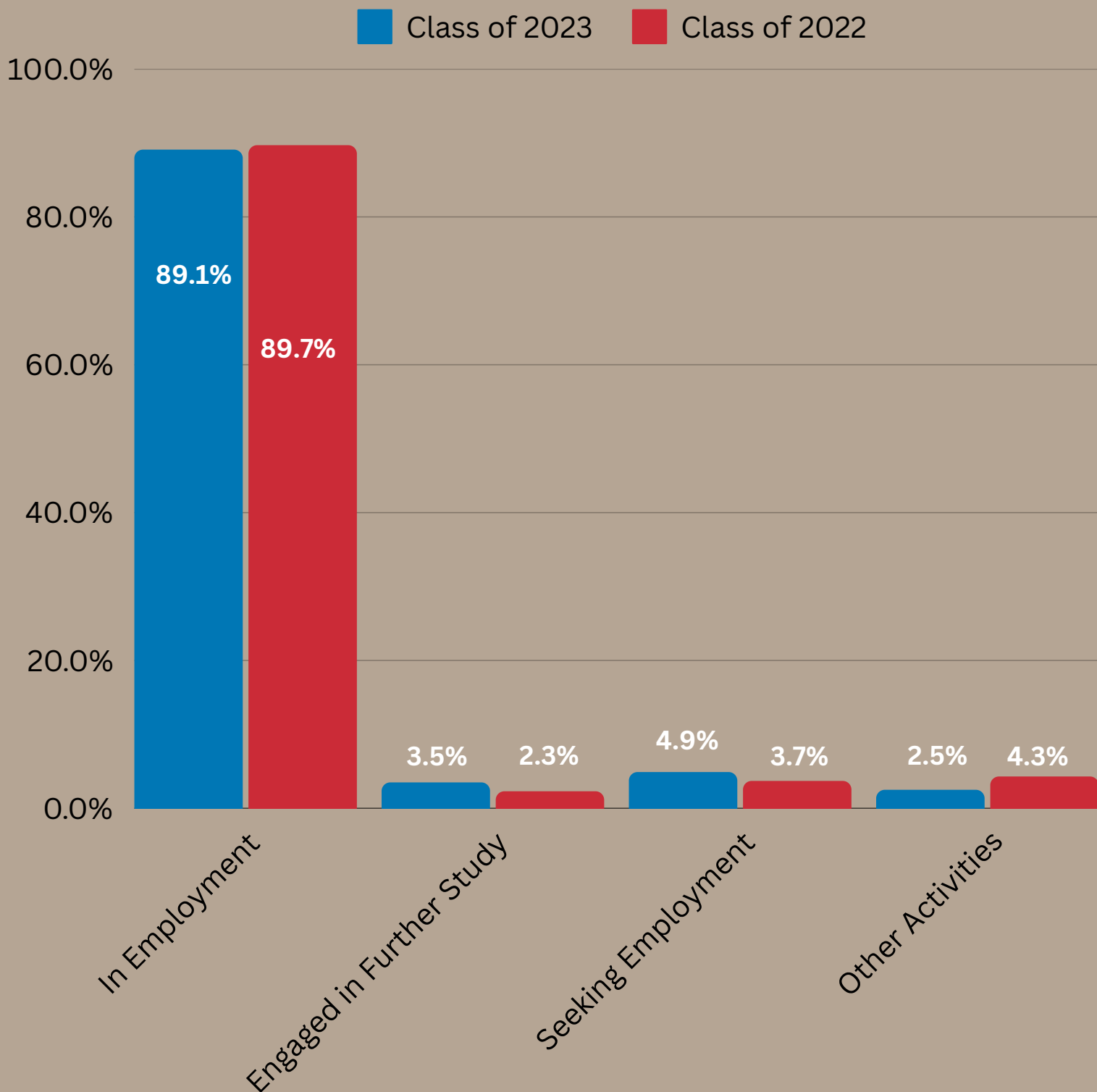
There were 2,031 Postgraduate Research Degree graduates (**51.7%** female, **48.3%** male) in 2023.

Postgraduate Research Degree Graduates includes graduates from Research Masters and PhD programmes.

**89.1%**

**89.1%** of Postgraduate Research degree graduates were in employment nine months after graduation. This compares to **89.7%** for the Class of 2022 graduates.

# Main Graduate Destination



# Fields of Study Information

- 23.5% of Postgraduate Research graduates studied Natural Sciences, Maths and Statistics followed by Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction (17.7%) and Health and Welfare (16.1%).
- Business, Administration and Law graduates had the highest employment rate by field of study (97.9%) followed by Social Sciences, Journalism and Information graduates (96.8%) and Health and Welfare graduates (95.0%).
- The largest employers are Universities, the HSE and Schools.



# Employment Outcomes

- Of the graduates in employment, **61.5%** have permanent or open-ended contracts.
- The most common occupation for graduates nine months after graduation is Professional Occupations (**58.1%**).
- Of the graduates who were willing to share their salaries, **14.5%** earned over €80,000, with **72.7%** earning more than €40,000.



## Employment Outcomes

- Nine months after graduation, **81.3%** of employed graduates are working in Ireland. Dublin is the most common county of employment (**37.8%**), followed by Cork (**18.3%**) and Galway (**8.4%**).
- In 2023, **27.9%** of graduates completed internships. This is up from **22.3%** in 2022.
- The most common sources of employment include already having worked there (**21.9%**), Recruitment Sites (**18.3%**) and Personal Contacts (**14.7%**).

# Further Study

- Of those Postgraduate Research Degree graduates in further study, **43.6%** were studying Natural Sciences, mathematics and Statistics.
- Health and Welfare (**11.4%**) and Education (**10.1%**) were the next most popular fields of further study.
- The most common reasons for undertaking further study was to change or improve their career options (**31.3%**) followed by to develop a broader range of range of skills or knowledge (**18.7%**).

# Graduate Reflections

- Just over three in four graduates consider their course Very Relevant or Relevant to their job (**75.6%**).
- This is higher than the average (**64.8%**) for the class of 2023.
- A total of **62.9%** said they were “likely” or “very likely” to study the same qualification again, if they had their time over. This is higher than the 2022 figure of **62.0%**.



# For further information:



[Full dashboard of results](#)



[HEA Graduate Outcomes](#)



[@GradSurveyIRL](#)

If you have any further queries, suggestions or ideas for future Info-Byte topics, please contact [graduatesurvey@hea.ie](mailto:graduatesurvey@hea.ie).

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David Reilly & Valerie Harvey

Statistics Unit

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