**Graduate Outcomes Survey 2026**

[Instruction to HEI: HEIs should obtain personal information, as specified in the code book, from the graduate. This can be done using the graduate’s record in the institution’s student administration system.]

[Filters are marked in yellow text.]

**Section 1 – Main Destination**

**\*Q.1 How would you describe your situation on 31 March 2026?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Working full-time only | ○A |
| Working part-time only | ○B |
| Due to start a job in the next 3 months | ○C |
|  |  |
| In full-time further study or training only | ○D |
| In part-time further study or training only | ○E |
|  |  |
| Working full-time and studying part-time, including professional training | ○F |
| Working part-time and studying full-time, including professional training | ○G |
| Working part-time and studying part-time, including professional training | ○H |
|  |  |
| Unemployed and looking for work | ○I |
|  |  |
| Other Activity (e.g. engaged in childcare/domestic responsibilities, retired from employment, not able to work due to sickness or disability, travelling, volunteering etc.) | ○J |

[Filter when selected – go to either Section 2 (if A, B, C, F, G, H selected) or Section 3 (if D or E selected) or Section 5 (if I or J selected)]

**Section 2 - Employment**

[Section 3 filters from Q.1 – those who answer with responses A, B, C, F, G or H are directed here.]

**\*Q.2A What is your job title?**

[Free text]

**\*Q.2B What is your occupation?**

[Instruction to HEIs: These occupations may be ordered according to most commonly provided responses. Examples of specific occupations should also be provided below each occupation below, and these are provided in guidance documentation.]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Manager, director or senior official | ○ |
| Professional | ○ |
| Associate professional and technical | ○ |
| Administrative and secretarial | ○ |
| Skilled trades | ○ |
| Caring, leisure and other service | ○ |
| Sales and customer service | ○ |
| Process, plant and machine operative | ○ |
| Elementary | ○ |
| Postdoctoral researcher | ○ |
| I don’t know/unknown | [Free text] |

**\*Q.2C What is the name of the company/organisation/school that you are working for?**

[Free text]

**\*Q.2D1 Where do you mainly work?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) | ○ |
| Overseas | ○ |

[Filter when selected – go to either Q.2D2 (county if Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) selected) or Q.2D3 (country if Overseas selected)]

**\*Q.2D2 What county do you mainly work in?**

[Drop down list of Irish counties, aligned with the HEA SRS.]

**\*Q.2D3 What country do you mainly work in?**

[Drop down list of countries excluding Ireland, aligned with HEA SRS.]

**\*Q.2E What does the company/organisation/school that you are working for mainly do?**

[Instruction to HEIs: These sectors may be ordered according to most commonly responses. Examples of specific sectors should also be provided below each sector below, and these are provided in guidance documentation.]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | ○ |
| Industry | ○ |
| Construction | ○ |
| Wholesale and retail trade | ○ |
| Transportation and storage | ○ |
| Accommodation and food services | ○ |
| Information and communication | ○ |
| Financial, insurance and real estate | ○ |
| Professional, scientific and technical | ○ |
| Administrative and support service | ○ |
| Public administration and defence | ○ |
| Education | ○ |
| Human health and social work | ○ |
| Other | ○ |
| I don’t know | [Free text] |

**\*Q.2F Are you:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| An employee? | ○ |
| Self-employed / freelance / running or starting up own business? | ○ |

[Respondents who indicate they are “An employee” go to Q.2G. Otherwise go directly to Q.2H.]

**\*Q.2G What is the nature of your employment?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Permanent or open-ended contract | ○ |
| Fixed term contract lasting 12 months or longer | ○ |
| Fixed term contract lasting less than 12 months | ○ |
| Temporary (including substitute teaching), casual or employed through an agency | ○ |
| Graduate programme | ○ |
| Unpaid | ○ |

[Respondents who indicate they are “Unpaid” go to Q.2I.  Otherwise go directly to Q.2H.]

**\*Q.2H What is your annual salary band, before tax?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Up to €19,999 | ○ |
| €20,000 - €29,999 | ○ |
| €30,000 - €39,999 | ○ |
| €40,000 - €49,999 | ○ |
| €50,000 - €59,999 | ○ |
| €60,000 - €69,999 | ○ |
| €70,000 - €79,999 | ○ |
| €80,000 - €89,999 | ○ |
| €90,000 - €99,999 | ○ |
| €100,000 + | ○ |
| I am in an unpaid position | ○ |
| I have flexible income (hourly, by project etc.) | ○ |
| I’d rather not say | ○ |

**\*Q.2I Did you do a work placement/work experience/internship as part of your course?**

Institutions should use terminology appropriate to work placement/work experience/internship arrangements in their institution.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes, this was a mandatory component of my course | ○ |
| Yes, this was an optional component of my course | ○ |
| No, I didn’t do any accredited work placement/work experience/internship | ○ |

**\*Q.2J How long did your work placement/work experience/internship last in total?**

Institutions should use terminology appropriate to work placement/work experience/internship arrangements in their institution.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 6 weeks or less | ○ |
| More than 6 weeks but less than 4 months | ○ |
| Between 4 and 6 months | ○ |
| More than 6 months | ○ |

**\*Q.2K Did you need the qualification you recently obtained to get the job (or start your business if self-employed)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes: the qualification was a formal requirement | ○ |
| Yes: while the qualification was not a formal requirement, it gave me an advantage | ○ |
| No: the qualification was not required | ○ |
| No: I was already in the job when I received the qualification | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

**\*Q.2L How did you first find out about the job?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| My institution’s careers service (e.g. jobs board, email) | ○ |
| Another institution source (e.g. lecturer/website/former graduate/academic department) | ○ |
| Media (e.g. newspaper/magazine advertisement) | ○ |
| Personal contacts, including family and friends | ○ |
| Social media/professional networking sites | ○ |
| I already worked there (including on an internship/placement) | ○ |
| Employer website | ○ |
| Recruitment site (e.g. job search websites, including Public Appointments Service) | ○ |
| Speculative application | ○ |
| Other | ○ |

**\*Q.2M Please rate the relevance of your course to your job on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very irrelevant and 5 is very relevant.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very irrelevant | ○ |
| Irrelevant | ○ |
| Neither irrelevant nor relevant | ○ |
| Relevant | ○ |
| Very relevant | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

[Those who responded with A, B or C to Q.1 go directly to Section 4.

Those who responded with F, G, or H to Q.1 go directly to Section 3.]

**Section 3: Further study or training**

[Section 3 filters from Q.1 – those who answer with responses D, E, F, G or H are directed here.]

**Q.3A1 Where are you studying?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) | ○ |
| Overseas | ○ |

[Filter when selected – go to either Q.3A2 (county if Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) selected) or Q.3A3 (country if Overseas selected)]

**\*Q.3A2 What county are you studying in?**

[Drop down list of Irish counties, aligned with HEA SRS.]

**\*Q.3A3 What country are you studying in?**

[Drop down list of countries excluding Ireland, aligned with HEA SRS.]

**Q.3B What is the name of your programme provider?**

[Free text]

**Q.3C What is the title of the programme you are pursuing (e.g. MA in History)?**

[Free text]

**\*Q.3D What is the area of study of your programme?**

[Drop down list of ISCED broad fields of study, aligned with HEA SRS.]

**\*Q.3E What award level are you pursuing?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Further Education | NFQ Level 5 Certificate (or equivalent) | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 6 Advanced Certificate (or equivalent) | ○ |
|  | Other further education award | ○ |
|  |  |  |
| Higher Education  Major Award | NFQ Level 6 (or equivalent) Higher certificate | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 7 (or equivalent) Ordinary bachelor degree | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 8 (or equivalent) Higher diploma | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 8 (or equivalent) Honours bachelor degree | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 9 (or equivalent) Postgraduate certificate/diploma | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 9 (or equivalent) Masters taught degree | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 9 (or equivalent) Masters degree by research | ○ |
|  | NFQ Level 10 (or equivalent) Doctorate/PhD degree | ○ |
|  |  |  |
| Higher Education Non-major award | Micro-credential (at NFQ levels 6-8, or equivalent) | ○ |
|  | Micro-credential (at NFQ level 9, or equivalent) | ○ |
|  | Other non-major award | ○ |
|  |  |  |
| Professional Training | Professional training qualification for professional body membership or licensure | ○ |

**\*Q.3F Are you studying:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mainly on campus/in person | ○ |
| Mainly online / by distance education | ○ |
| Blended learning i.e. a mixture of on campus/in person and online/distance education | ○ |
| In the workplace | ○ |

**\*Q.3G What is the main reason you decided to undertake further study, training or research?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Because it is a requirement for finding and progressing in future employment | ○ |
| To change or improve my career options | ○ |
| Ongoing professional development | ○ |
| To develop a broader or more specialist range of skills or knowledge | ○ |
| Because I was interested in the content of the course | ○ |
| Because I had enjoyed my first course and wanted to continue studying | ○ |
| I had been unable to find a suitable job | ○ |
| Other reason | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

[Go directly to Section 4.]

**Section 4: Graduate outlook**

[Graduates from Section 2 and Section 3 are filtered to Section 4. See filter instructions in those Sections.]

**\*Q.4A. To what extent are you using the knowledge, skills or competencies you developed during your course in your current work/study?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Not at all | ○ |
| A little | ○ |
| Quite a bit | ○ |
| Very much | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

**\*Q.4B. To what extent do you find your current work/study meaningful?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Not at all | ○ |
| A little | ○ |
| Quite a bit | ○ |
| Very much | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

**\*Q.4C. To what extent does your current work/study fit with your future plans?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Not at all | ○ |
| A little | ○ |
| Quite a bit | ○ |
| Very much | ○ |
| I don’t know | ○ |

[Go directly to Section 6.]

**Section 5: Unemployment and Other Activity**

[Section 5 filters from Q.1 – those who answer with responses 9 or 10 are directed here. Those who respond with response 9 receive Q.5A. Those who respond with response 10 receive Q.5B. Both receive Q.5C.]

[Q5.A filters from Q.1 – those who answer with response 9 to Q.1 are directed to Q.5A.]

**\*Q.5A Have you held a job since you finished your course?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes, but I was let go/made redundant/the contract ended | ○ |
| Yes, but I resigned from my job to seek employment elsewhere | ○ |
| No, I have been looking for a job since graduation | ○ |
| No, I was travelling but I’m now looking for a job | ○ |
| No, I experienced temporary illness but I’m now looking for a job | ○ |
| No, I was engaged in childcare or other domestic responsibilities, but I’m now looking for a job | ○ |
| Other (please specify) | [Free text] |

[Go directly to Q.5C.]

[Q5.B filters from Q.1 – those who answer with response 10 to Q.1 are directed to Q.BA.]

**\*Q.5B Are you:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Engaged in childcare or other domestic responsibilities | ○ |
| Taking time out (e.g. to travel) | ○ |
| Volunteering | ○ |
| Retired | ○ |
| Caring for a family member/other | ○ |
| Not able to work due to illness or disability | ○ |
| Unemployed and not seeking employment | ○ |
| I’d prefer not to say | ○ |
| Other (please specify) | [Free text] |

**\*Q.5C Are there any particular barriers you feel are preventing you from engaging in employment or further study?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lack of relevant experience | ○ |
| A difficult jobs market in Ireland | ○ |
| Visa difficulties | ○ |
| Qualification recognition difficulties | ○ |
| Lack of options for further study | ○ |
| Cost of further study | ○ |
| Family Commitments/Caregiving | ○ |
| Housing / living costs | ○ |
| Poor health | ○ |
| Other (please specify) | [Free text] |

[Go directly to Section 6.]

**Section 6: Experience of higher education**

[All graduates receive this final question.]

**Q.6A How likely are you to recommend your course to family or friends?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very likely | ○ |
| Likely | ○ |
| Neither likely or unlikely | ○ |
| Unlikely | ○ |
| Very unlikely | ○ |

Institutions may add further questions to the survey at their discretion.