

Medr statistics

Graduate Outcomes, 2022/23

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Summary: This publication contains results of the Graduate Outcomes survey for respondents who studied at higher education providers in Wales, and respondents from Wales who studied at higher education providers across the UK.

Theme: Higher Education

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Graduate Outcomes Survey

Main points

What are graduates doing?

Of graduates from Welsh higher education (HE) providers who responded to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey:

- 68% were in paid employment, 1% were doing voluntary or unpaid work, 7% were doing further studies and 11% were doing a combination of work and further studies.
- 6% were unemployed and 7% were doing another activity such as travelling, caring for someone, or retired.

Of graduates from Wales studying anywhere in the UK who responded to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey:

- 70% were in paid employment, 1% were doing voluntary or unpaid work, 6% were doing further studies and 11% were doing a combination of work and further studies.
- 4% were unemployed and 7% were doing another activity such as travelling, caring for someone, or retired.
- Full-time undergraduate respondents from the most deprived Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) quintile were less likely to be in full-time employment or full-time further studies, and more likely to be in part-time employment, than those from the least deprived WIMD quintile.
- 6% of full-time undergraduate respondents were unemployed; this was the same for all WIMD quintiles.

Where are graduates working?

Of graduates who responded to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey and said work was their most important activity:

- 88% of those from Wales who studied at a Welsh HE provider stayed in Wales to work.
- 20% of those who studied at a Welsh HE provider but were from the rest of the UK stayed in Wales to work.
- 43% of those from Wales but studied at a HE provider in the rest of the UK returned to Wales to work.

Graduate reflections

Of graduates from Welsh higher education providers who responded to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey:

- 84% agreed or strongly agreed that their current activity was meaningful.
- 69% agreed or strongly agreed that their current activity utilised the skills that they learnt during their studies.
- 75% agreed or strongly agreed that their current activity fits with their future plans.

Introduction and background

The Graduate Outcomes survey is a survey of graduates approximately 15 months after course completion and is delivered by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes data includes students who completed eligible programmes of study between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023 and completed the survey, or at least the minimum response required to be included. This report includes responses from graduates who either studied at a Welsh higher education provider and graduates from Wales who studied at higher education providers anywhere in the UK.

17,740 graduates from Welsh higher education (HE) providers completed, or partially completed, a response to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey. This was a response rate of 41% from the target population of 43,245 from Welsh higher education providers.

Across all providers in the UK, 13,780 graduates whose permanent address on entry to their course was in Wales provided a completed or partially completed response to the 2022/23 survey. This was a response rate of 49% from the target population of 28,055.

The response rate to the 2022/23 Graduate Outcomes survey was lower than in previous years. To help users of the data understand this issue, HESA have included additional contextual information in [User Guide](#) on their website.

What are respondents doing 15 months after graduation?

Respondents who studied at a Welsh HE provider

Table 1: Activities of respondents who studied at a Welsh HE provider, 2018/19 to 2022/23

Activity	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Full-time employment	52%	53%	57%	58%	56%
Part-time employment	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%
Unknown pattern of employment	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Voluntary or unpaid work	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Employment and further study	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%
Full-time further study	10%	10%	8%	6%	6%
Part-time further study	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Unknown pattern of further study	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	6%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Unemployed	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%

[Data in Figure 4 on the HESA website](#)

Table 2: Activities of respondents by provider country, 2022/23

Activity	Provider country			
	Wales	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Full-time employment	56%	58%	62%	60%
Part-time employment	12%	12%	10%	11%
Unknown pattern of employment	1%	1%	1%	1%
Voluntary or unpaid work	1%	1%	1%	1%
Employment and further study	11%	10%	10%	10%
Full-time further study	6%	5%	5%	6%
Part-time further study	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown pattern of further study	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	7%	6%	6%	6%
Unemployed	6%	6%	4%	5%

[Data in Figure 4 on the HESA website](#)

- 56% of respondents from Welsh providers in the 2022/23 survey were in full-time employment, a slight decrease from the previous two years. This was lower than the percentage for graduates who studied in the rest of the UK (England: 58%, Northern Ireland 62%, Scotland 60%) where there was also a decrease over the past two years of the survey.
- 12% of respondents from Welsh providers in the 2022/23 survey were in part-time employment, one percentage point higher than the previous four years of the survey. This was the same percentage for graduates who studied at English providers in 2022/23 and higher than the percentage for graduates who studied at providers in Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- The percentage of respondents from Welsh providers doing further studies has fallen each year from 2019/20, particularly for those in full-time further studies. However, graduates from Welsh providers were slightly more likely to be doing further studies than those studying in the rest of the UK in 2022/23.
- 6% of respondents to the 2022/23 survey from Welsh providers were unemployed. This figure has varied by one percentage point in either direction in the previous four years. In 2022/23 the percentage of respondents from Welsh providers who were unemployed was the same as for respondents from English providers, but higher than respondents from Northern Irish or Scottish providers at 4% and 5% respectively.

Respondents who studied anywhere in the UK

Table 3: Activities of respondents from the UK by permanent address on entry to their course, 2022/23

Activity	Country of respondent's permanent address on entry			
	Wales	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Full-time employment	58%	58%	63%	61%
Part-time employment	12%	12%	11%	12%
Unknown pattern of employment	1%	1%	1%	0%
Voluntary or unpaid work	1%	1%	1%	1%
Employment and further study	11%	11%	10%	11%
Full-time further study	6%	5%	5%	4%
Part-time further study	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown pattern of further study	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	7%	6%	6%	6%
Unemployed	4%	5%	3%	4%

[Data in Figure 4 on the HESA website](#)

- 58% of respondents in 2022/23 from Wales were in full-time employment. This was the same percentage for respondents from England. Respondents from Scotland (61%) and Northern Ireland (63%) were more likely to be in full-time employment.
- Overall, 71% of respondents from Wales were working, 6% were in further studies and 11% were doing a combination of working and further studies.

Table 4: Activities of full-time undergraduate respondents from Wales who studied anywhere in the UK by Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 Quintile, 2022/23

	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile (Q1=most deprived and Q5=least deprived)				
Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Full-time employment	50%	50%	51%	54%	54%
Part-time employment	17%	13%	14%	12%	11%
Unknown pattern of employment	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Voluntary or unpaid work	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Employment and further study	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Full-time further study	5%	8%	8%	9%	9%
Part-time further study	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Unknown pattern of further study	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	8%	9%	8%	6%	6%
Unemployed	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%

[Note] This table excludes any students whose postcode on entry to their course could not be found in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

[Data in Figure 6 on the HESA website](#)

- In the 2022/23 survey, 50% of full-time undergraduate respondents from the 20% most deprived areas of Wales (WIMD quintile 1) were in full-time employment compared to 54% from the 20% least deprived areas (WIMD quintile 5).
- 17% of respondents from the most deprived WIMD quintile were in part-time employment compared to 11% in the least deprived WIMD quintile.
- Respondents from the most deprived WIMD quintile were also less likely to be doing further studies on a full-time basis. Full-time further studies accounted for 5% of respondents from the most deprived WIMD quintile compared to 9% of the least deprived WIMD quintile.
- The proportion of respondents who were unemployed was the same across all WIMD quintiles at 6%.

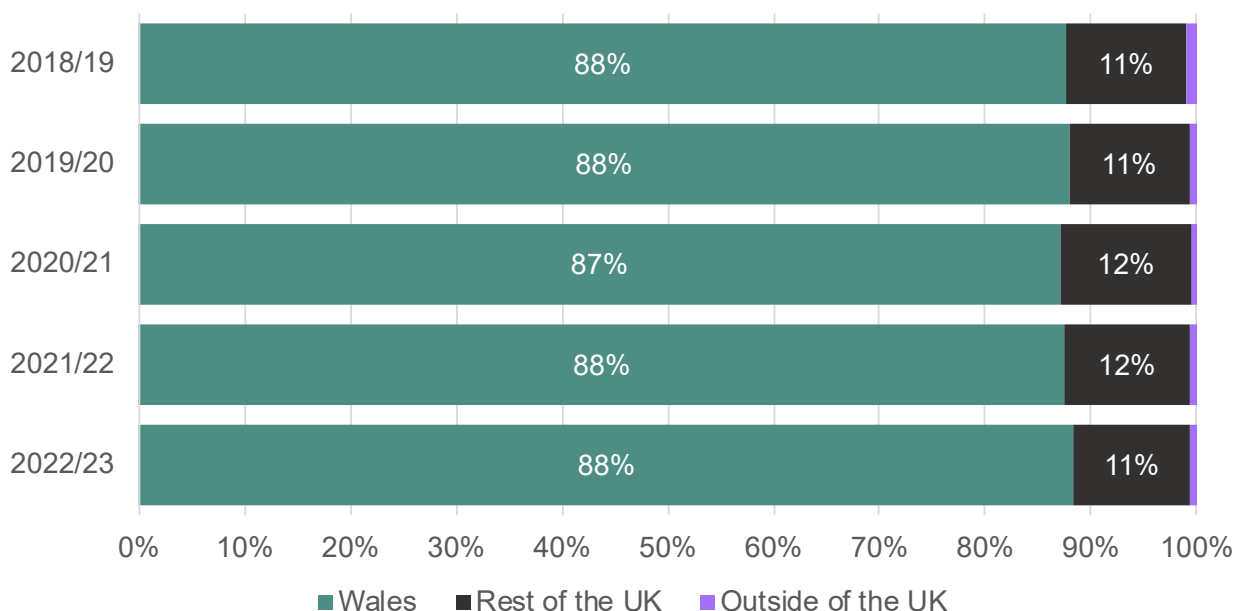
Work locations

The data in this section includes respondents who indicated that work was their most important activity and the country they were working in was known.

The percentages in this section differ from what is published on the HESA website in [Figure 16](#) as we have included respondents who are working outside of the UK and those working in an unknown region of England. Chart 2 also includes any respondents who are from an unknown region of England.

Respondents who studied at a Welsh HE provider

Chart 1: Work locations of respondents from Wales who studied at a Welsh HE provider, 2018/19 to 2022/23



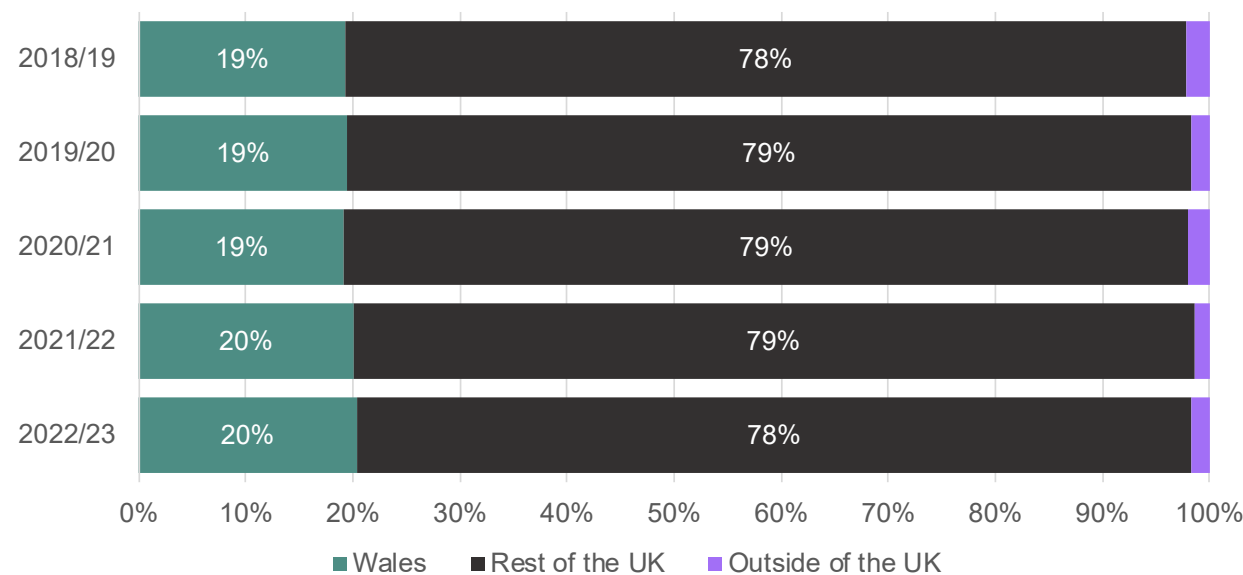
Data in Table 1.1 of the accompanying spreadsheet

In the 2022/23 survey, of respondents whose permanent address on entry to their courses was in Wales and who studied at a Welsh HE provider:

- 88% of respondents stayed in Wales to work.
- 11% of respondents were working in the rest of the UK.
- 1% of respondents were working outside of the UK.

The proportion of these respondents staying in Wales to work hasn't changed much over the past five years of the Graduate Outcomes survey.

Chart 2: Work locations of respondents from the rest of the UK who studied at a Welsh HE provider, 2018/19 to 2022/23



Data in Table 1.2 of the accompanying spreadsheet

For respondents who studied at a Welsh HE provider and whose permanent address on entry to their course was in the rest of the UK:

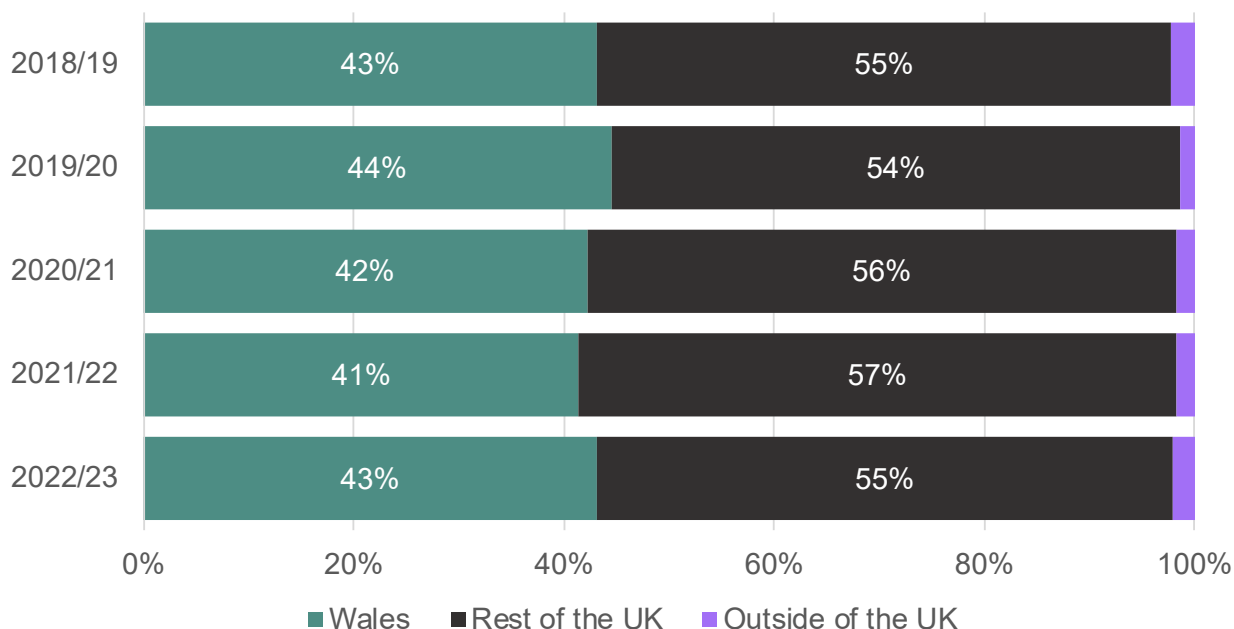
- 20% of respondents stayed in Wales to work.
- 78% of respondents were working in the rest of the UK.
- 2% of respondents were working outside of the UK.

These proportions have been stayed at roughly the same level throughout the last five years of the Graduate Outcomes survey.

Respondents from Wales who studied elsewhere in the UK

Chart 3 does not include the small number of respondents from Wales who studied at a further education provider in England or Northern Ireland as Medr does not receive the data for respondents from those providers.

Chart 3: Work locations of respondents from Wales who studied at a HE provider elsewhere in the UK, 2018/19 to 2022/23



Data in Table 1.3 of the accompanying spreadsheet

For respondents whose permanent address on entry to their course was in Wales but studied at a HE provider elsewhere in the UK. From the 2022/23 survey:

- 43% of respondents returned to Wales to work.
- 55% of respondents were working elsewhere in the UK.
- 2% of respondents were working outside of the UK.

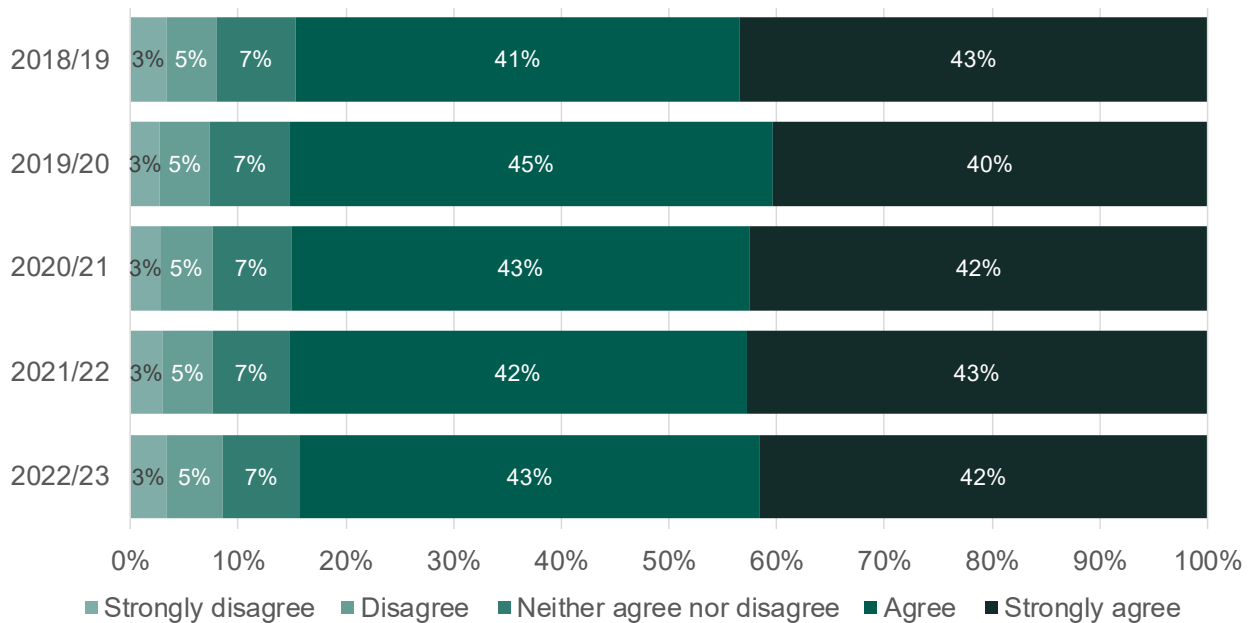
These figures were similar to the previous four years of the survey although they have varied by a couple of percentage points in either direction.

Graduate reflections on their activities

Graduates were asked three questions to summarise their feelings about their current activities, whether those activities were employment, further studies or something else. The wording of these questions varies slightly depending on the activities respondents were involved in during the census week. Answers to these questions have been aggregated for reporting in this publication.

This section summarises the responses from those who studied at Welsh providers from the five most recent years of the Graduate Outcomes survey.

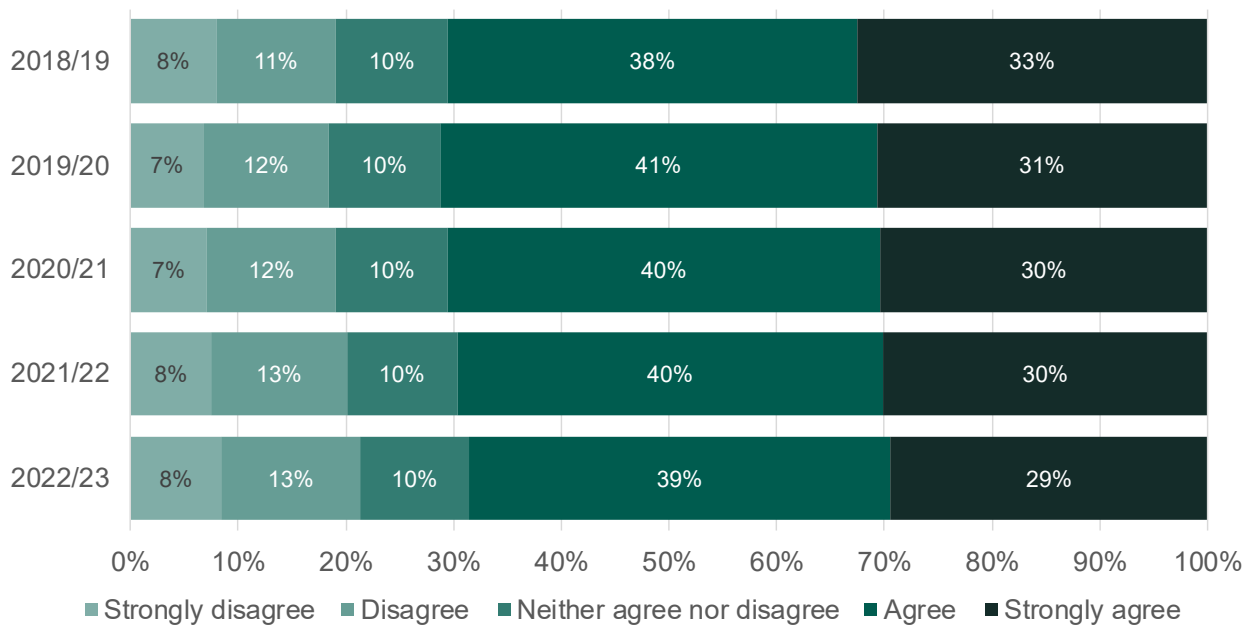
Chart 4: Responses to whether a respondent thinks their current activity is meaningful, 2018/19 to 2022/23



[Data in Figure 17 on the HESA website](#)

- 84% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their current activity was meaningful.
- There has been very little change in how respondents have answered this question in the last five years of the survey.

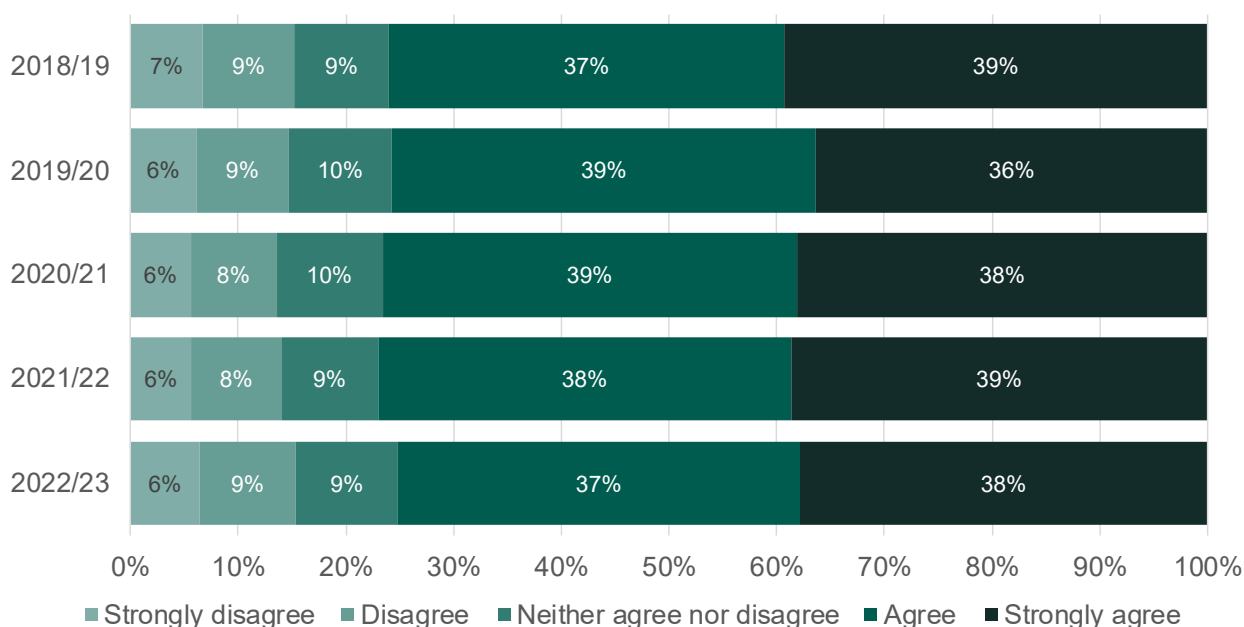
Chart 5: Responses to whether a respondent thinks their current activity utilises what they learnt during their studies, 2018/19 to 2022/23



[Data in Figure 17 on the HESA website](#)

- Just over two thirds (69%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they utilised what they learnt in their studies in their current activity. This figure fell by one percentage point each year from the 2019/20 survey.
- The percentage of respondents who disagreed with this increased from 11% in 2018/19 to 13% in 2022/23. 8% of respondents strongly disagreed, a similar proportion to previous years.

Chart 6: Responses to whether a respondent thinks their current activity fits with their future plans, 2018/19 to 2022/23



[Data in Figure 17 on the HESA website](#)

- Three quarters (75%) of 2022/23 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their current activity fits with their future plans. This is a drop of two percentage points compared to the previous two survey years, and one percentage point lower than in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Salaries of full-time UK domiciled graduates who obtained first degree qualifications and entered full-time employment

The data in this section includes respondents who indicated that work was their most important activity and were working full-time after obtaining a first degree qualification. The weighted median salaries come from [Figure 14 on the HESA website](#) which also has further breakdowns by subject and skill.

The weighted median salary of these respondents in the 2022/23 survey from Welsh providers was £27,975 (£28,500 from English providers, £29,990 from Scottish providers and £27,949 from Northern Irish providers).

Definitions and Glossary

HESA publish definitions for the [Graduate Outcomes survey](#) on their website.

Academic Year

The academic year is the academic year that a respondent graduated, with their responses being provided about 15 months later.

Weighted median salary

Weighted median salary is a way of calculating the middle salary (50th percentile) when there are different groups or categories involved. This method accounts for groups of different sizes, giving more weight to groups with more people. This means the salaries of graduates from smaller groups are not over-represented and don't have a disproportionate effect on the overall median.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

We have used the 2019 version Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) as a measure of deprivation for the areas that a respondent comes from. More information about the WIMD is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Where a respondent is from

Where a respondent is from is based on their permanent address on entry to their course.

Quality and methodology information

Please see the accompanying Quality and methodology document for more information.

Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

All of our statistics are produced and published in accordance with a number of statements and protocols to enhance trustworthiness, quality and value. These are set out in Medr's [Statement of Compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

These official statistics demonstrate the standards expected around trustworthiness, quality and value in the following ways.

Trustworthiness

These statistics have been published according to Medr's [Statement of Compliance](#) and [pre-release access to official statistics policy](#).

Quality

The data source for this information is the HESA Graduate Outcomes survey. HESA publish the results as Accredited Official Statistics on their website. Most of the statistics in the report match what is published by HESA. The exception to this is the data looking at the country that respondents work in where we have used a slightly different populations.

HESA publish information on the [survey methodology](#) and a [quality report](#) on their website. When producing this report it is checked by statistical analysts in Medr.

Value

These statistics provide an insight into the outcomes of graduates from Welsh higher education providers, and graduates from Wales who studied across the UK. Producing these statistics helps to provide evidence for anyone with an interest in what students do following their studies and whether they feel their studies were beneficial.

Related statistics

The Graduate Outcomes results are published by HESA in the [HE Graduate Outcomes Data](#) section of their website. This includes additional breakdowns for some of the information in this report looking at graduates personal characteristics and characteristics of the courses they studied.

Earlier reports in this series were published on gov.wales.

Contact information

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics.

Feedback, questions, and requests for further data can be directed by email to: hestats@medr.cymru

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