



## **UAEU Alumni Survey Academic Year 2012-2013**

### **Analysis and key findings Summary**

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June 2015

## UAEU Alumni Survey 2012-2013

### Introduction

In 2012-2013 the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHESR) introduced the first system-wide profile of graduate students across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, providing important information such as employment, further study or other activities, whether in Abu Dhabi, the UAE or abroad. The initiative known as “The Abu Dhabi Graduate Destination Survey” is managed by ADEC which includes executing the alumni survey and releasing the outcomes and survey response to the Abu Dhabi based institutions. Institutions conduct the telephonic interviews of their graduates using the personalized survey links of the respondents developed by ADEC survey platform. UAEU participates in ADEC Graduate Destinations Survey (GDS) and utilizes the outcomes of the survey to assess the employment status of its graduates. This annual survey was developed by ADEC in coordination with the UAEU and other institutions. In efforts to familiarize higher education institutes with the survey, ADEC’s provided training for the institutional research teams within Abu Dhabi’s higher education institutions to conduct the telephone interviews themselves.

ADEC surveyed Spring and Summer graduates. UAEU used to conduct alumni survey for the graduates of an academic year, therefore, UAEU conducted survey for the Fall graduates as well and used same survey instrument as implemented by ADEC. This gives an awareness about the overall rates of alumni employment (who graduated in an academic year). The survey response of the respondents who graduated in Spring and summer semesters was provided by ADEC and Fall data was collected by UAEU.

The survey was conducted by making telephone calls to the graduates. For academic year 2012-13, the total number of UAEU graduates was 1789. A total of 1014 valid responses were collected through the alumni survey.

### Survey population

Survey population comprised of UAEU graduates of 2012-2013, who had completed their program of study at the UAEU. One thousand seven hundred and eighty nine (1,789) students graduated in 2012-2013. The response rate was (57%) for the year 2012-2013 survey. The alumni surveys were usually conducted at the end of the academic year and once the graduating student data for all three terms of the academic year is available.

IRAS<sup>1</sup> and ADEC administered the survey using a telephone interviewing method to contact the graduates. The graduates who were contacted and were not able to give the interview at that call time were also followed up, and call backs were set-up with them at their convenient time.

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## Analysis

Analysis has been undertaken by employment status of the graduates, (44%) of respondents identified themselves as employed and (56%) as un-employed in the 2012-2013 survey. The various categories of the different survey questions have been analysed by cross-tabulating them with the respondents job status. This has been done to know the difference between the two groups for every question (item) of the survey wherever applicable. Only valid responses have been included in the analysis. **No response (missing values) for any item of the survey questionnaire is excluded from the analysis.**

### Key findings of the 2012-2013 alumni survey:

- Of all the graduates who completed the survey (77%) were female and (23%) were male graduates
- Almost three in seven of the respondents (44%) were employed, of these (25%) were female as compared to the male proportion of (19%) who were employed
- Eight in ten of the **male** respondents (83%) were employed
- The majority of the respondents (80%) were employed in the “Government” sector
- Of the employed graduates (39%) of them almost took a period of three months to attain their current position
- Of the employed graduates (73%) of them were the resident of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi
- Approximately (56%) of graduates who reported being unemployed indicated that **unavailability/lack** of job opportunities was a key element towards their unemployment status
- Graduates with the highest rates of **employment** were the holders of degrees in Medicine, Graduate Studies and Engineering respectively
- Graduates with the highest rates of **un-employment** were the holders of degrees in Humanities & Social Sciences, Education and Food & Agriculture
- (76%) of the employed graduated indicated that they were satisfied with their job
- (73%) of the **employed** graduates said that their education at UAEU was relevant to the their current employment tasks and assignment
- Nine in ten (92%) of the respondents expressed their entire satisfaction with their educational experience at UAEU
- (89%) of the respondents articulated that their experience at UAEU helped them to develop the skill of **working with others**
- (89%) of the respondents expressed that their experience at UAEU helped them to develop the skill of **learning on their own**
- (86%) of the respondents said that their experience at UAEU helped them to develop the skill of **time management**
- Only (28%) of the respondents used the career advice services

## Discussion

The trends pertaining to outcomes of the alumni surveys were pretty consistent. The majority of the employed graduates were UAE nationals. Overall, the significant proportion of both segments of graduates whether employed or not, expressed their strong satisfaction, towards the services and support provided by the UAEU, from its core academic and administrative ends. Majority of the graduates were employed in the **Government sector**, and almost took a period of **three months** on average in successfully attaining a position in the labour market. Overall, three in four of the graduates were females. As indicated from the survey response that almost (44%) of the respondents were employed, most of the **female** graduates were un-employed, the rate of successfully attaining the job was much higher in the male graduates. Of the female graduates almost (33%) were employed as indicated by the respondents the survey. Male graduates represented a significant lower proportion of the respondent population but their success rate, in attaining the employment was significantly higher as compared to the female respondents. Almost eight in ten of the male respondents indicated being employed.

Of the un-employed graduates majority of them reported **lack** of job opportunities, as a vital hindrance towards their un-employed status. This risk factor has been consistently and continuously identified by the un-employed graduates in the previously conducted Alumni surveys. This issue might be addressed by regularly sending emails to the graduates on the jobs that are available and also by conducting regular annual career/job fairs, which enables the graduates to interact with different employers and also using social networks like (Facebook, Twitter etc.) to keep posting graduates about the job opportunities in addition to **referring** graduates to the **UAEU Alumni Affairs** online resources and **career advice services**. UAEU might also offer training courses to the graduates on improving computing, communication and English language proficiency skills. Also, conducting employed alumni and expected to graduate students meetings, where employed graduates can share their job experience. Inviting different organization for workshops on the market trends and future manpower needs and providing details of unemployed graduates to the Abu Dhabi Tawteen Council would substantially reduce the unemployment rates.

The survey also asked alumni to rate their overall experience with the services provided at UAEU by means of a three step ordinal scale, ranging from “Satisfied” to “Not sure”. The ratings were sought from the respondents at the three point ordinal scale and then segregating the response by employed and un-employed respondents. While referring to their experience with UAEU services both segments (whether employed or un-employed) overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction, the rate of satisfaction expressed was significantly high. These ratings clearly indicate the robust satisfaction of UAEU graduates with the quality of services and education UAEU has been providing to the community. A huge proportion of respondents expressed their robust satisfaction with the skills (**writing, speaking and thinking**) they gained and education/training which was given to them at UAEU, to prepare them to be an effective entity of the competitive labour market. Both segments (whether employed or un-employed) of the graduates considerably expressed their satisfaction with the UAEU provided services and standard of education, the respondents did not limit themselves up to the services only, but they significantly showed their confidence towards what they learnt and how the education and training which they experienced during their stay at the UAEU impacted and transformed their personalities.