



UAEU Alumni Survey Academic Year 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

Analysis and key findings Summary

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UAEU Alumni Survey

Methodology

Survey Population

The population for the two surveys comprised of UAEU graduates year **2010-2011 and 2011-2012**, who had completed their program of study at the UAEU. One thousand eight hundred and eight (1,808) students graduated in 2010-2011 and one thousand seven hundred and twenty nine (1,729) in 2011-2012. The response rate was (77%) and (66%) for the year 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 surveys respectively. 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.

IEPSU designed and administered the survey questionnaire by posting the web based survey link to the email addresses of the graduates. The survey online link was not able to generate the satisfactory response rate. Considering low response issues and to increase these rates – a telephone interviewing method for the purpose of conducting an Alumni survey was used 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.

A comprehensive questionnaire was designed, covering all the facets of the objective sought through the execution of this particular survey i.e. collection of a specific information pertaining to the UAEU graduates about their current employment status, perceptions about the quality of services provided to them and experiences they gained while staying at UAEU.

Analysis

Analysis has been undertaken by job status of the graduates, (46%) of respondents identified themselves as employed and (54%) as un-employed in the 2010-2011 survey. Similarly, (39.5) of the respondents identified themselves as employed and (60.5%) as un-employed in the 2011-2012. 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 2010-2011 alumni survey:

- Of all the graduates who completed the survey (76%) were female and (24%) were male graduates
- Two in five of the UAEU graduates (46%) were employed, of these (26%) were female as compared to the male proportion of (20%) who were employed
- Of the employed graduates (80%) were UAE **nationals**
- Eight in ten of the **male** graduates (82%) were employed
- The majority of the UAEU graduates (69%) were employed in the “Government” sector
- Of the employed graduates (43%) of them almost took a period of three months to attain their current position
- Approximately (93%) 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, Engineering and Business & Economics respectively
- Graduates with the highest rates of **un-employment** were the holders of degrees in Humanities & Social Sciences, Education and Sciences
- Nearly (66%) of the graduates were the residents of Abu Dhabi. The proportion of graduates from Abu Dhabi was significantly higher than the graduates of other Emirates
- Of all the graduates who completed the survey (83%) were nationals and of these (45%) were employed
- Of all the graduates who completed the survey only (2%) were involved in taking up further studies

Key findings of the 2011-2012 alumni survey:

- Of all the graduates who completed the survey (75%) were female and (25%) were male graduates
- Two in five of the UAEU graduates (40%) were employed, of these (20%) were female as compared to the male proportion of (20%) who were employed
- Of the employed graduates (82%) were UAE **nationals**
- Eight in ten of the **male** graduates (77%) were employed
- The majority of the UAEU graduates (72%) were employed in the “Government” sector
- Of the employed graduates (41%) of them almost took a period of three months to attain their current position
- Of the employed graduates (67%) of them were the resident of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

- Approximately (81%) 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 and Agriculture
- Nearly (62%) of the graduates were the residents of Abu Dhabi. The proportion of graduates from Abu Dhabi was significantly higher than the graduates of other Emirates
- Of all the graduates who completed the survey (83%) were nationals and of these (40%) were employed

Discussion

The survey response for both surveys was basically analysed by dividing the respondents into two groups with respect to their employment status i.e. employed and un-employed. 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 less than (45%) 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 less than (35%) were employed as indicated by the respondents in both the surveys. 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 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 the graduates to the UAEU Alumni Affairs online resources. 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 experiences with the student support services provided at UAEU by means of a five step ordinal scale, ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”. The ratings were sought from the respondents at the five point ordinal scale and then further combined into two categories i.e. “agree” and “disagree” and then segregating the response by employed and un-employed respondents. For all the services both segments (whether employed or un-employed) overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction, the rate of satisfaction expressed was significantly high for all the services UAEU offered to its students. These ratings clearly indicate the robust satisfaction of UAEU graduates with the quality of student support services (such as residential facilities, transportation and food services etc.). A huge proportion of respondents expressed their robust satisfaction with the skills they learnt 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.

The survey provides valuable information on graduates employment status, and their views and perceptions about the effectiveness of education and training they received at UAEU and also about their current employment. The regular monitoring of the UAEU graduates survey response and dissemination of its key findings, provides UAEU community awareness about the standing of their graduates in the labour market and their views about the quality of education at UAEU.