



Results of the Central Graduate Survey for the 2018 Graduation Year
Starting a Career · Employment Situation · Study

Results of the Central Graduate Survey for the 2018 Graduation Year

Starting a Career · Employment Situation · Study

In the period 1st June to 31st August 2019 the University of Göttingen surveyed its graduates from the Class of 2018.

The Class of 2018 comprises all graduates who sat a final exam in the period 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018 at the University of Göttingen and did not re-register for a further degree or a doctorate.

For the Class of 2018 this yielded a basic population of 4,014 graduates, of which 1,691 graduates took part in the survey. After deducting all the graduates who we were unable to reach, this equals a net response rate of 44.7 per cent. Compared to preceding years, this is once again a stable and representative response rate and enables a broad analysis and use of the survey results.

This analytical report offers insights into the results of the survey of the Class of 2018 and sets them in the context of the results of the previous surveys.

Key topics of the survey were:

- ➔ What professions and occupations have the graduates entered?
- ➔ What was their experience of moving from studying to work?
- ➔ What skills are required of them in their roles?
- ➔ How do they rate their studies in retrospect?

Retrospective assessment of degree programmes and the information provided about starting working life and career progress helps the University to develop the courses on offer and provides potential future students with better information about the available offerings.

The results and analyses of the survey are also provided to the faculties in the form of reports and their own data-sets, enabling the faculties to undertake their own independent analyses.

The Central Career Service, the Key Competencies Department, the Central Student Advisory Service and the International Office also receive special analyses of the survey of the Class of 2018.

More detailed analyses and themed analyses can be found on the Graduate Survey [homepage](#) of the University of Göttingen.

1. Survey design and response rate from the Class of 2018

A very successful survey of the Class of 2018

In the period 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018, a total of 5,599 students received an academic degree at the University of Göttingen.

The Graduate Survey of the Class of 2018 elected to survey only those graduates who completed a Bachelor's or Master's degree, a State Examination, an Ecclesiastical Examination or a doctorate in the given period, and did not re-register for a subsequent semester at the University of Göttingen. On this basis, 4,014 graduates were invited to take part in the Graduate Survey.

In total 1,691 graduates from the Class of 2018 took part in the survey, which equals a net response rate of 44.7 per cent and a slight rise in the response rate in comparison to the previous year.

Unfortunately 232 graduates did not take part, some because no current contact details were available and others because they actively refused to take part. That equals a share of 5.78 per cent.

In comparison to the Class of 2014, participation using mobile devices, such as tablets and smartphones, has increased by 25 per cent and now makes up a share of 38.9 per cent. The questionnaire was answered in English by 11.5 per cent of the survey participants.

With regard to the representative nature of the survey data considering its relevance to the entire Class of 2018 there were no apparent significant biases in the distribution of biological genders compared to their share of the basic graduate population.

The share of international graduates in the Class of 2018 totalled 15.6 per cent; the share of international students that took part in the survey was 14.9 per cent. Here there is likewise no significant difference, therefore this survey group can be included the responses in the subsequent analyses.

It was also clear that the survey participants did not differ significantly from the basic population with regard to country of birth and nationality.

Furthermore, considering aspects of relevance to the studies (type of degree, faculty, standard course length), there is no significant difference to the basic population.

There were only slight biases in relation to the number of semesters and the examination grades. It appears that the graduates who took part in the survey tended to have completed their studies faster and graduated with a better examination grade than the basic population. Therefore generalisation concerning these variables should be avoided.

2. Starting a career

The success of our graduates in starting a career and how their professional lives develop are important indicators of the quality of studies for the University of Göttingen.

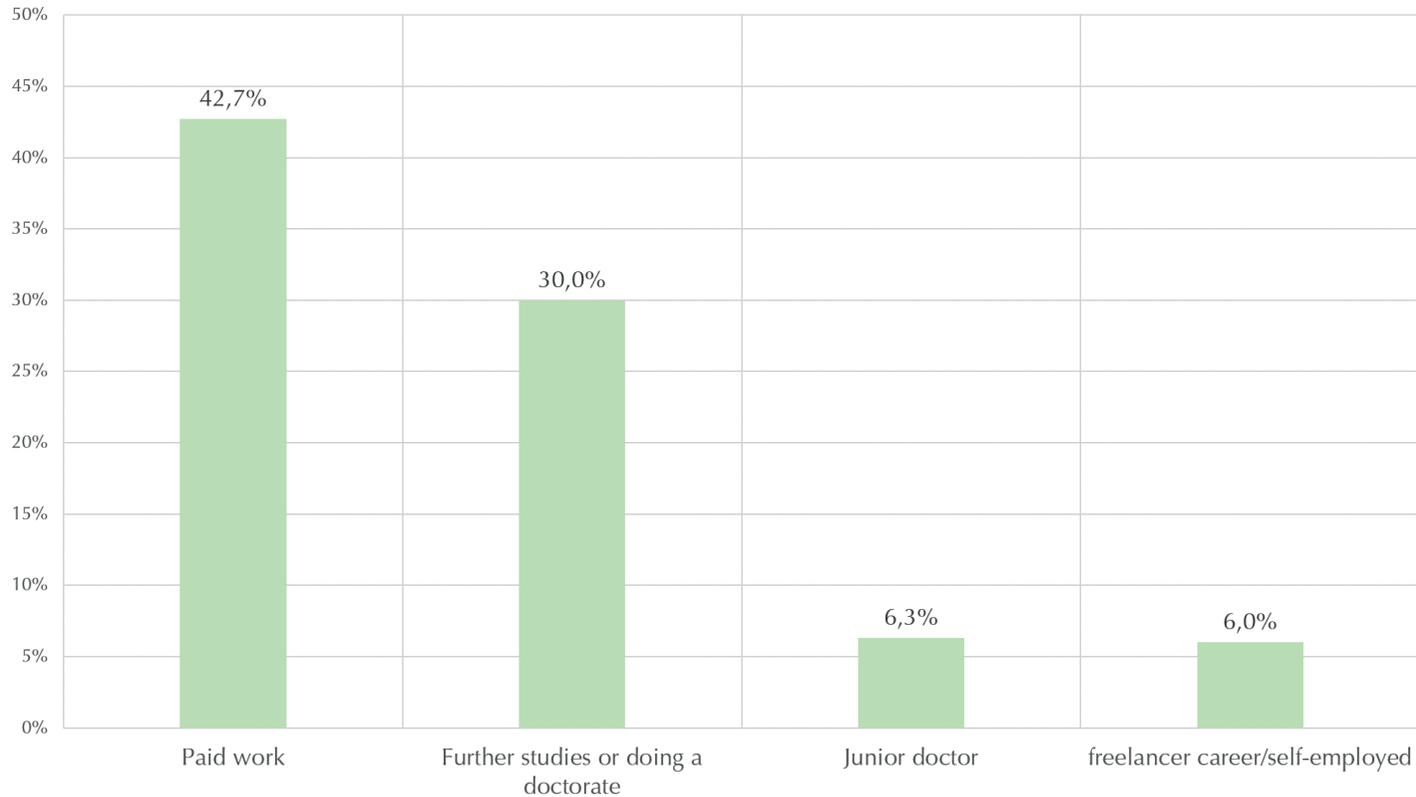
We use this information to evaluate the extent to which the skills that are taught qualify them for working life and how demand is developing for the specialists we educate. It also provides an important insight into how demands are changing in the business world and how faculties and university institutions can support students during their studies to manage the transition into professional life.

In the following we offer a brief outline of the performance indicators for the start of Göttingen graduates' careers.



2.1. After graduation

Illustration 1: Current employment situation at the time of the survey



Question: Which of the following correctly describe your current situation?

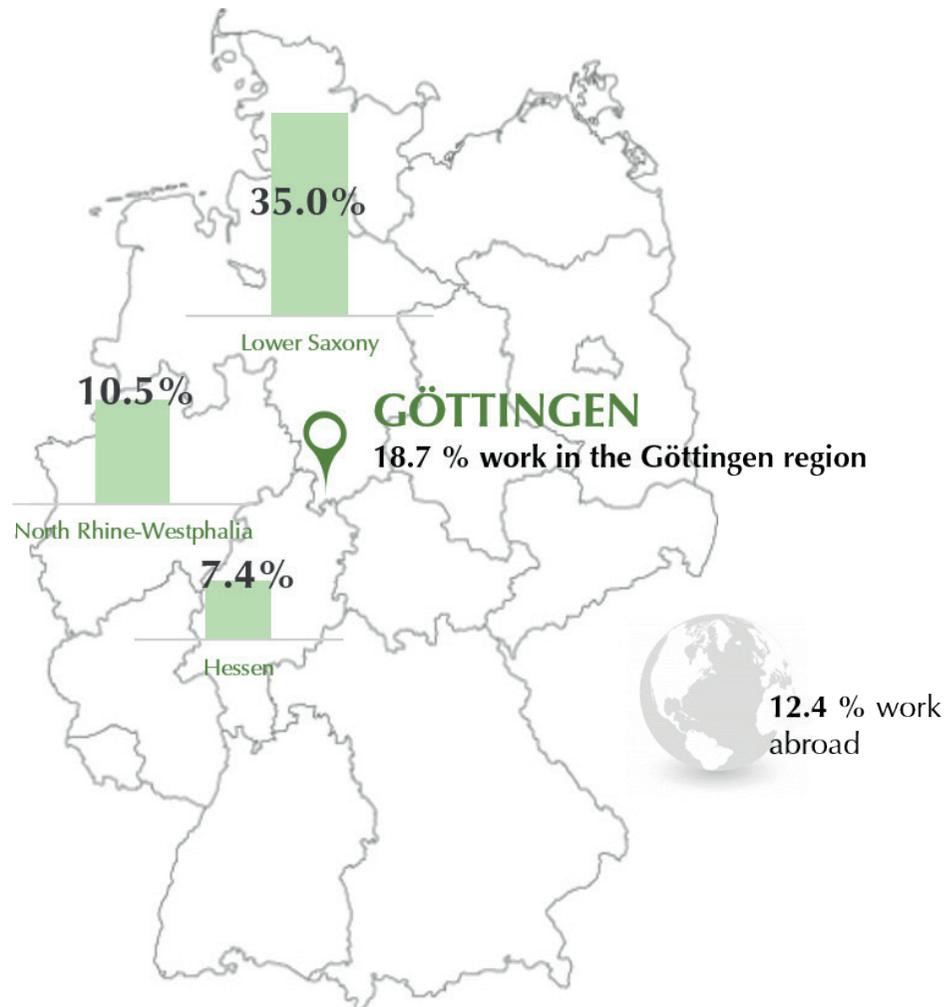
In total 42.7 per cent of graduates are in paid employment nine to twenty months after graduation or gaining a doctorate from the University of Göttingen. The employment rate from all categories surveyed was 64.8 per cent, while 34.1 per cent are taking a further degree, a doctorate, or a post-doctoral qualification for professorship, and 5.2 per cent are in vocational education and training.

The highest percentage shares of graduates in paid employment came from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (59.7%), the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics Department (57.3%) and the Faculty of Business and Economics (54.8%). In the Faculty of Theology 17.2 per cent are taking vocational education and training. At the time of the survey, 63.8 per cent of Faculty of Law graduates were taking a legal internship. The highest proportion of graduates taking a further degree and/or a doctorate at the time of the survey came from the Faculty of Geoscience and Geography with 51.6 per cent.

The details of this employment is analysed below.

2.2. Region of employment

Illustration 2: Work region



Question: In which region are you working?

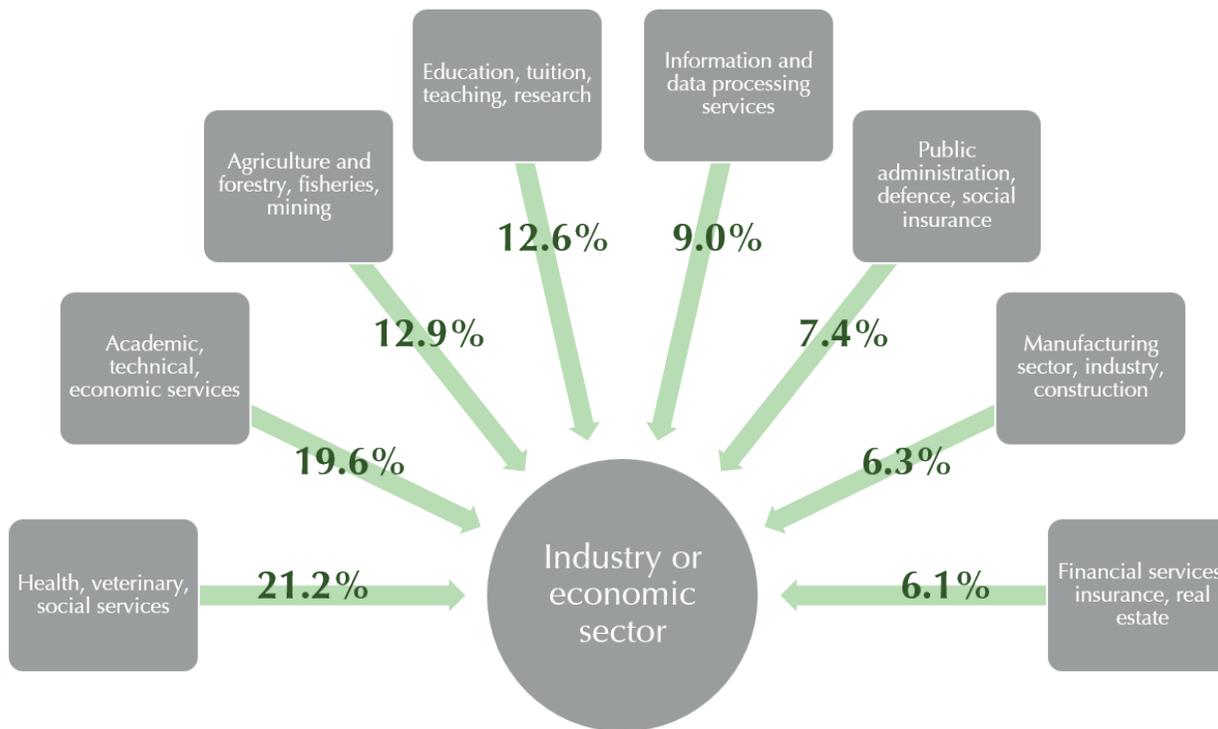
In total 35 per cent of graduates pursue their careers in Lower Saxony and 18.7 per cent in the city and region of Göttingen. Furthermore, 10.5 per cent work in North Rhine-Westphalia and 7.4 per cent in Hessen.

These percentage shares were also reflected in the previous years and are therefore a stable indicator of employment in the area.

A share of 12.4 per cent of graduates is employed abroad. This share of graduates has not changed in comparison to the Class of 2017. This 12.4 per cent is made up of 17 per cent of EU graduates and 48 per cent of non-EU international graduates.

2.3. Sector

Illustration 3: Employment sector



Question: Which industry or economic sector are you in?

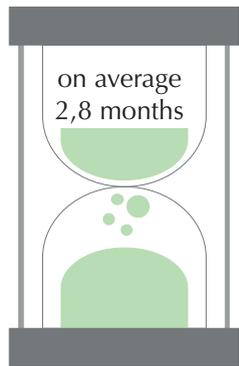
Graduates in paid employment work in the health, veterinary and social care sectors (21.2 per cent), followed by the academic, technical and economic services sectors with a share of 19.6 per cent.

Looking at the employers in the city and region of Göttingen, these are above all the University of Göttingen, the University Medical Centre, the University's IT competence centre (Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung Göttingen, GWDG), the Max Planck Institute, the City of Göttingen, Satorius, Sycor, Ottobock and the Federal State of Lower Saxony.

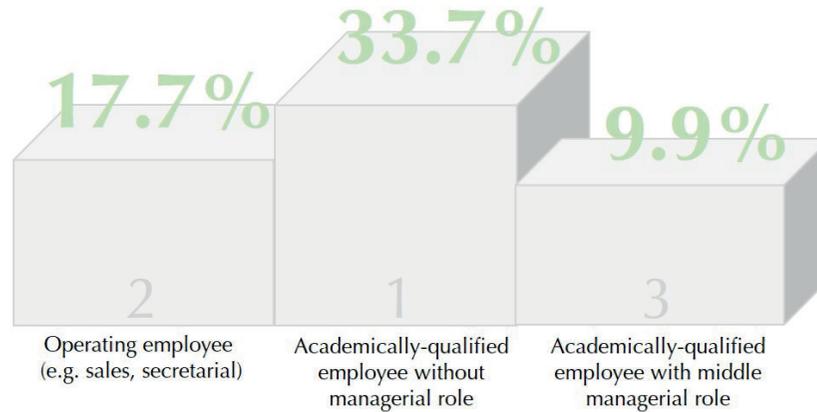
The structure of the actual job profiles is examined in the following analyses.

2.4. Time taken to find a job, professional position and work hours

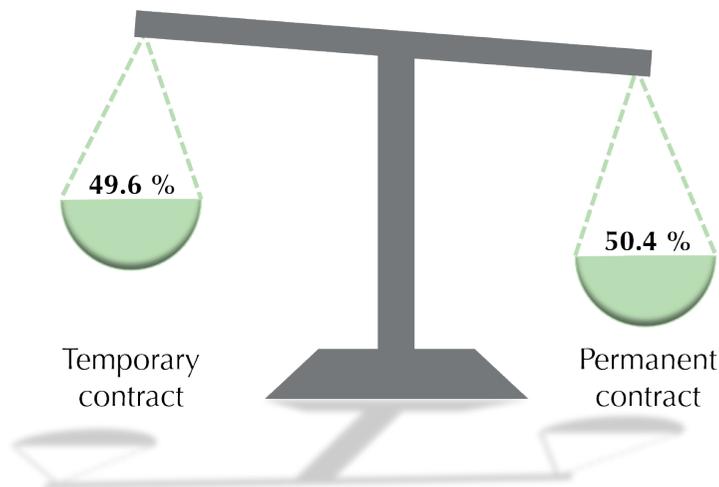
Illustration 4 to 6: Time taken to find a job, professional position and work hours per week



Question: How many months did your search for this work take in total?



Question: What is your occupational status?



Question: Is your contract permanent or temporary?

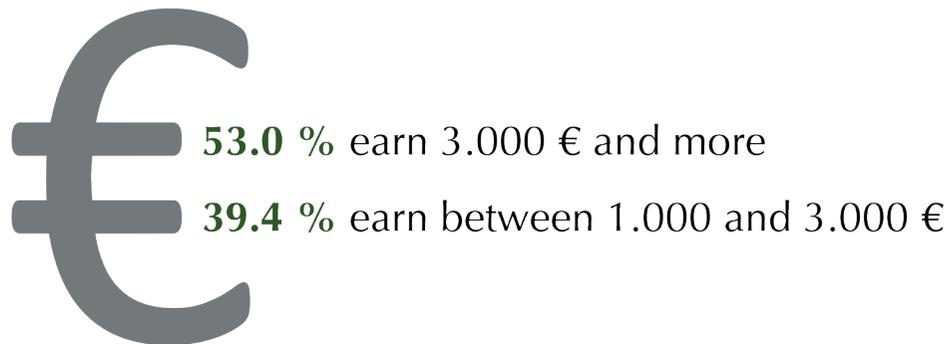
On average the search for employment took about 2.8 months. So in comparison to the previous year, there is a reduction in the amount of time spent searching for work of one month. The most successful strategy was to apply for an advertised post (54.3 %).

The largest share of graduates from the Class of 2018 is currently employed as scientifically qualified individuals (33.7%), followed by individuals who are qualified employees (17.7%).

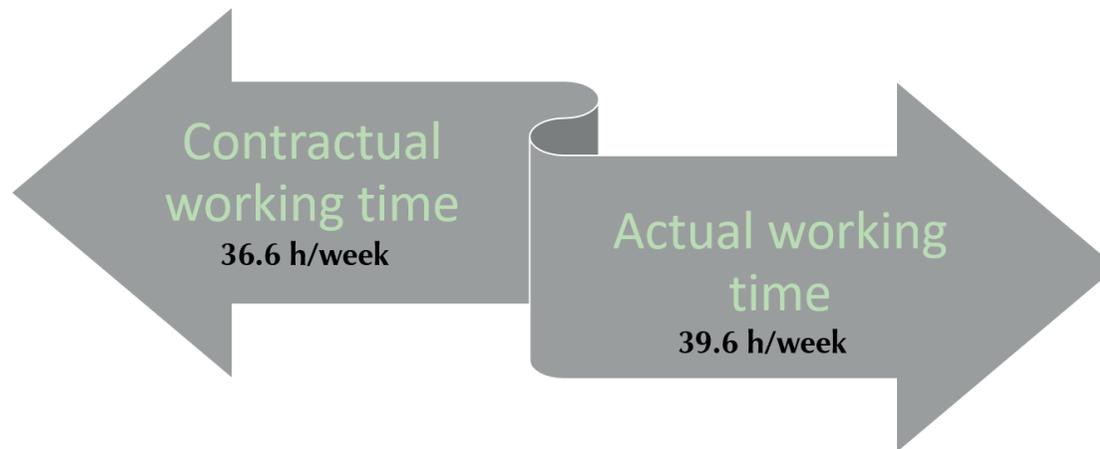
For 49.3 per cent of graduates, the contract of paid employment is permanent. Looking at the work hours of the graduates in paid employment, almost 40 per cent benefit from flexible work hours and work in trust-based flexitime, 28.8 per cent work in a controlled flexitime model and 23.5 per cent work in a home office.

2.5. Contracted work hours and income

Illustration 7 and 8: Gross monthly income and working-time models



Question: How high is your gross monthly income (before deduction of taxes and social insurance costs) including regular monthly bonuses?



Question: How many hours a week do you work on average?

The average gross monthly income can be described as follows: 7.5 per cent of graduates earn less than 1,000 euros, 39.3 per cent earn between 1,000 and 3,000 euros and 10.4 per cent earn more than 5,000 euros per month.

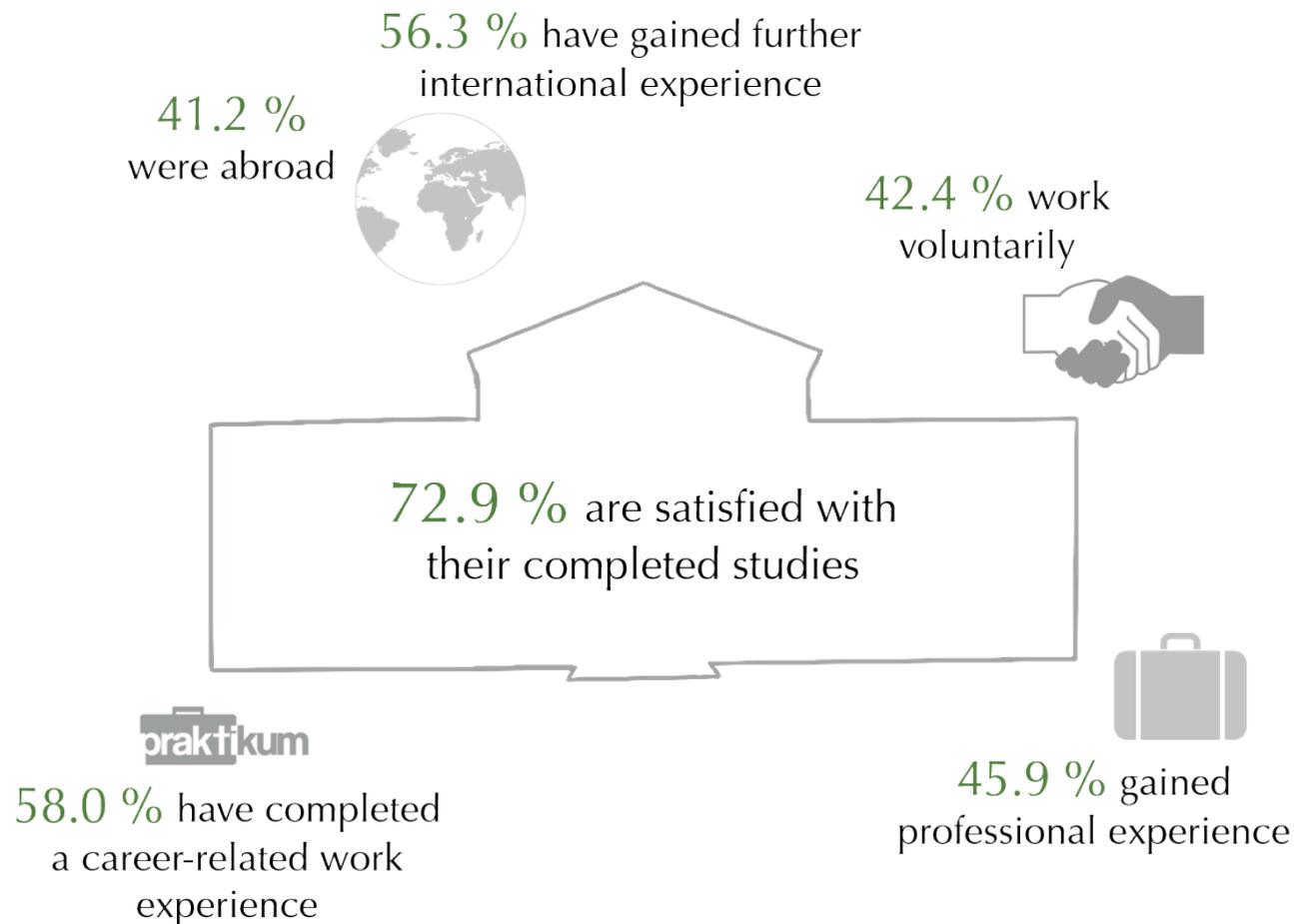
These jobs call for on average 36.6 contractually-agreed work hours per week and average overtime of three hours per week.

The highest average difference between contractually-agreed and actual work hours was recorded by the Medical Faculty, with average weekly overtime of more than eight hours compared to the contractually-agreed work hours of 39.8 hours per week.

All in all, 65.7 per cent of graduates describe their work as satisfying. This is based primarily on their satisfaction with their professional situation, the potential for development, and their tasks. The graduates are less satisfied with their income and the workload.

3. Studying at the University of Göttingen

Illustration 9: Satisfaction with studies and working whilst at the university



Looking at the participating graduates' assessment of the degree studies they completed, it is clear that 73 per cent are satisfied with them. In comparison to the previous year there is a steady rise in satisfaction.

It is still possible to discern a high degree of both mobility and commitment in the Class of 2018 during their studies.

For instance, 41.1 per cent of graduates spent time abroad during their studies, with a 61.1 per cent share having this time credited towards their degree. Fifty-six per cent have gained further international experiences on their degree, e.g. by attending courses in a foreign language or from the teaching in international aspects of the subject.

While at university, 42.4 per cent of the graduates volunteered in some capacity, however only 7.9 per cent had this work credited towards their degree.

One or more internships were taken by 59.8 per cent of the graduates during their studies.

4. Summary of results

At the time of the survey, more than half of the graduates from the Class of 2018 were in employment. The length of time spent searching for employment lasted on average about 2.8 months, which is one month less than the time taken by the Class of 2017. Bachelors take on average 1.97 months, Masters 2.91 months, graduates with a State Examination took 1.52 months, and PhD graduates needed on average 3.99 months to find employment. So for almost every level of qualification the average time taken to find work is less than three months. The employment agency's "Blickpunkt Arbeitsmarkt April 2019" data on academics shows that Masters' students search for three to four months .

The majority of posts are as a scientifically qualified employee without a managerial role, a slightly larger proportion of the contracts is permanent, and the average work hours amount to over 37 hours per week, which represents a high proportion of full-time employment. Job satisfaction is high, only the workload and the income are rated as less satisfactory by a higher share of the graduates.

Satisfaction with studying at the University of Göttingen is also high. Here and there, we should make improvements in the services and study structures. Mobility and commitment whilst studying are consistently high, and Göttingen graduates make use of them during their degree studies.

Thank you.

¹ <https://statistik.arbeitsagentur.de/Statischer-Content/Arbeitsmarktberichte/Berufe/generische-Publikationen/Broschuere-Akademiker.pdf>, p. 48, accessed on 21.10.2019

Much obliged.



University of Göttingen
Student and Academic Services

Teaching and Learning Quality Management
Wilhelmsplatz 2
37073 Göttingen (Germany)

Tel.: +49 551 39-24888

E-Mail: absolventenbefragung@uni-goettingen.de

Information:

www.uni-goettingen.de/Absolventenbefragung

www.alumni-uni-goettingen.de