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University of London
Graduate outcomes research 2022-23

Final report 20 March 2024

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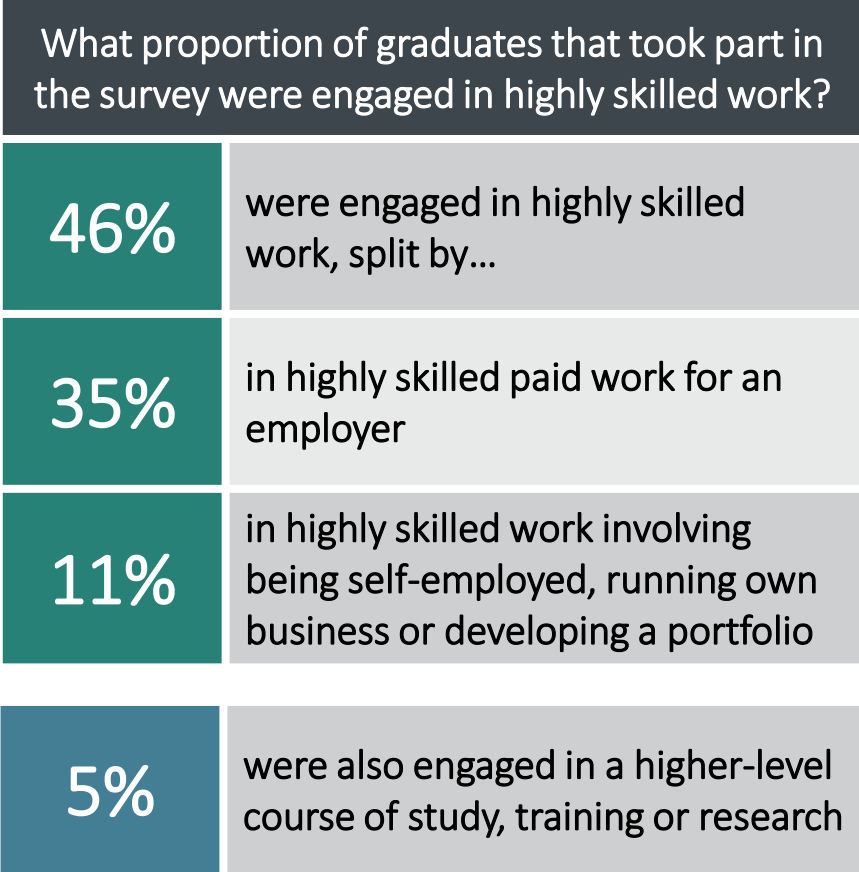
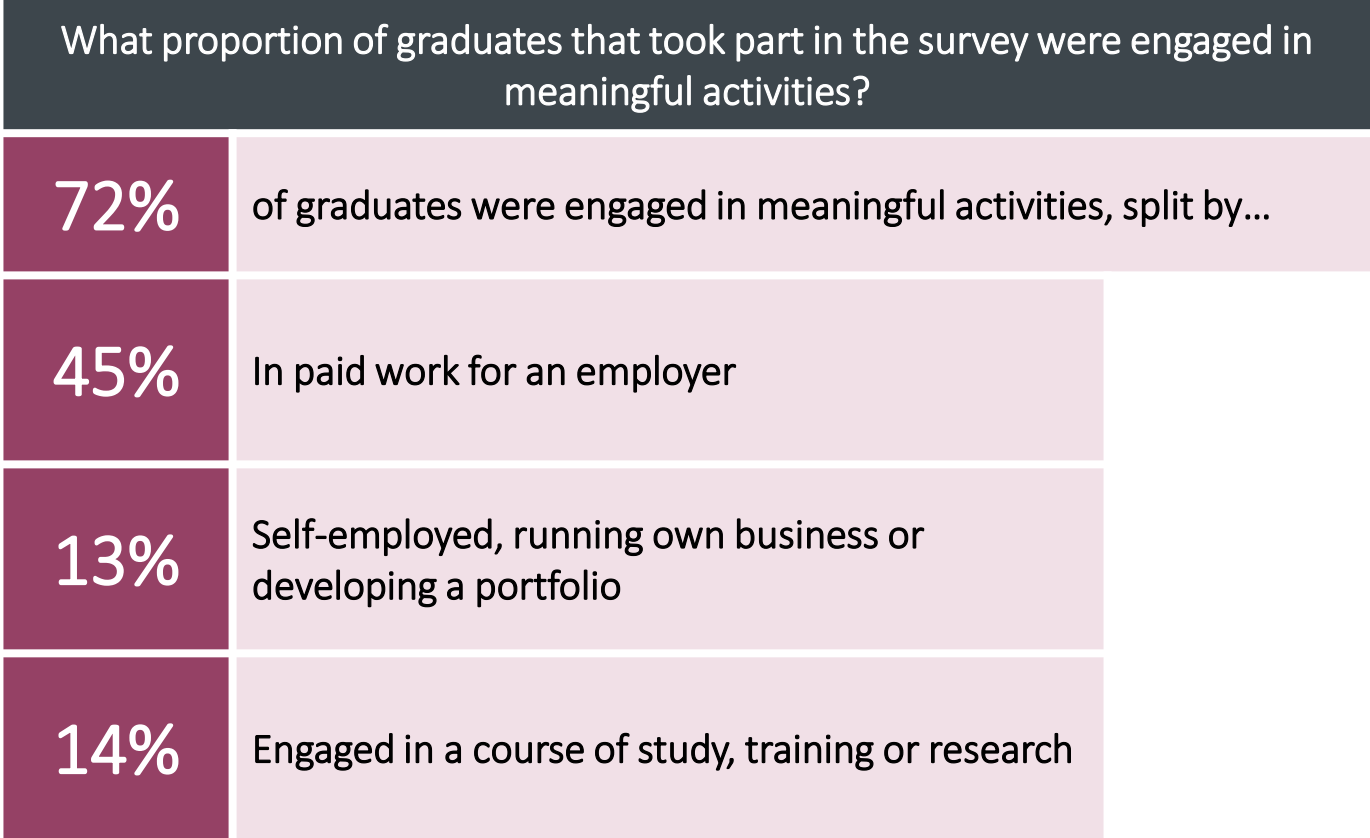


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Executive summary

Executive summary | Graduate outcomes

In 2023, University of London (UoL) launched a pilot of their graduate outcomes study, which aimed to understand what graduates – defined as those who completed their studies within the last 6 months of the time of being sent the survey – were engaged in after completing their studies with UoL. The research achieved a sample of 605 responses. Below is a top-line overview of graduate outcomes.



14% were engaged in other activities or retired, and 13% were unemployed and looking for work.

Executive summary | Studying with University of London

The study also explored graduate perceptions of their degree or course. Below shows some of the notable insights.

88%	agreed they have gained specialised knowledge and expertise
80%	agreed they have improved their career prospects
80%	agreed they have gained confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems
79%	agreed their enthusiasm for further learning increased
77%	agreed they can present themselves with confidence

Insights are based on a set of 12 agreement statements.



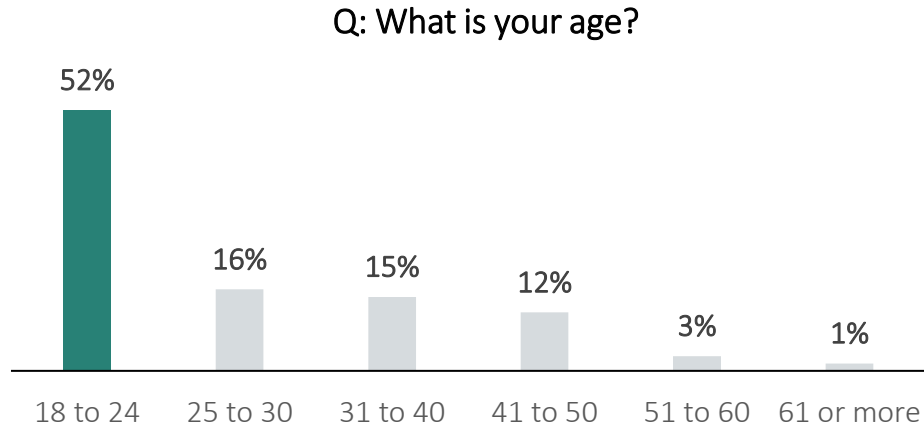
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Survey sample

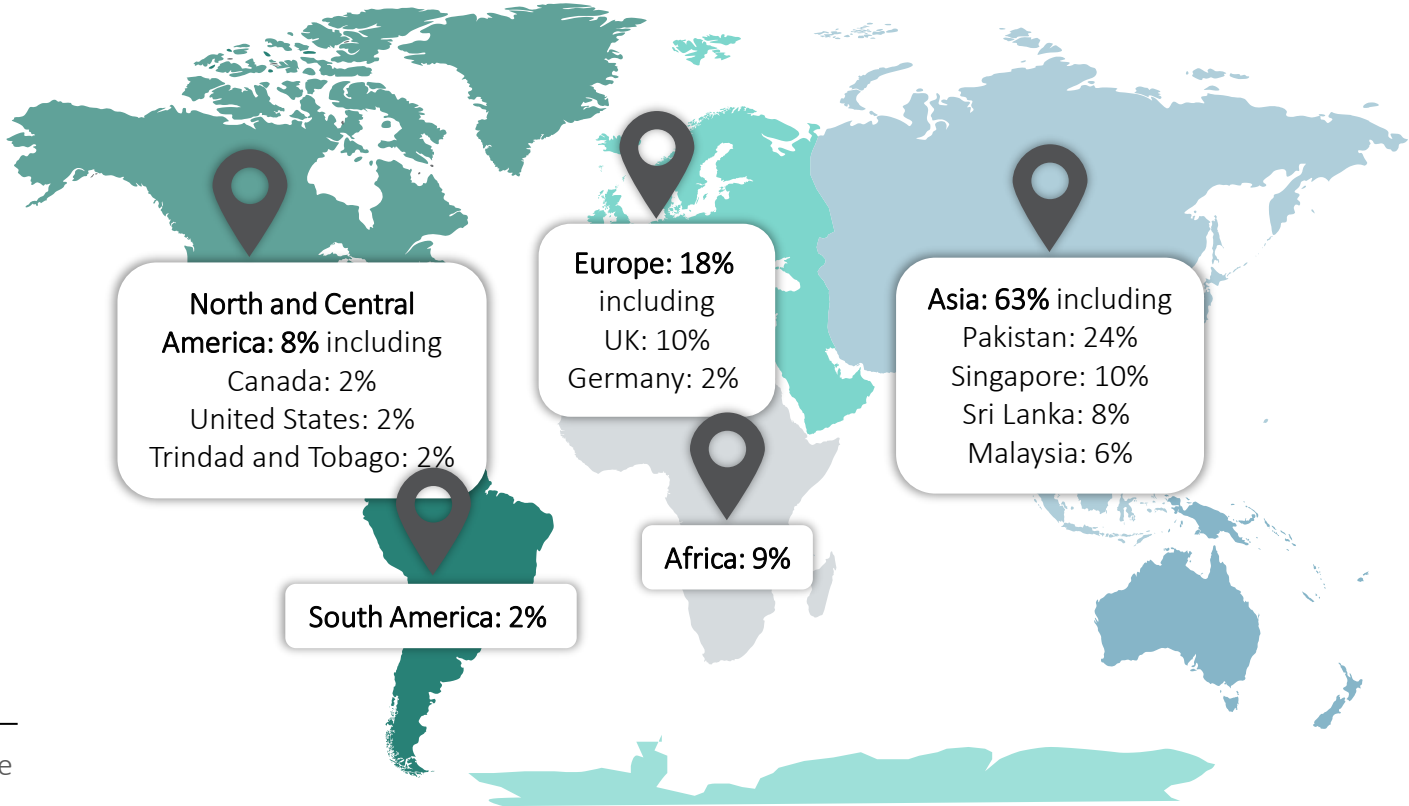
Profile of respondents: age and country

Overall, the study achieved a sample of 605 responses. Fieldwork was split into two groups (cohorts A+B and cohort C+D).

Cohorts A+B consisted of 793 recent graduates and cohorts C+D consisted of 5,515 recent graduates (defined as those who graduated within the last 6 months at the time of being sent the survey). The surveys achieved an overall response rate of around **10%**. The sample of the survey is in line with the population data for both groups. Further detail comparing the sample to the population data can be found in the appendix B.



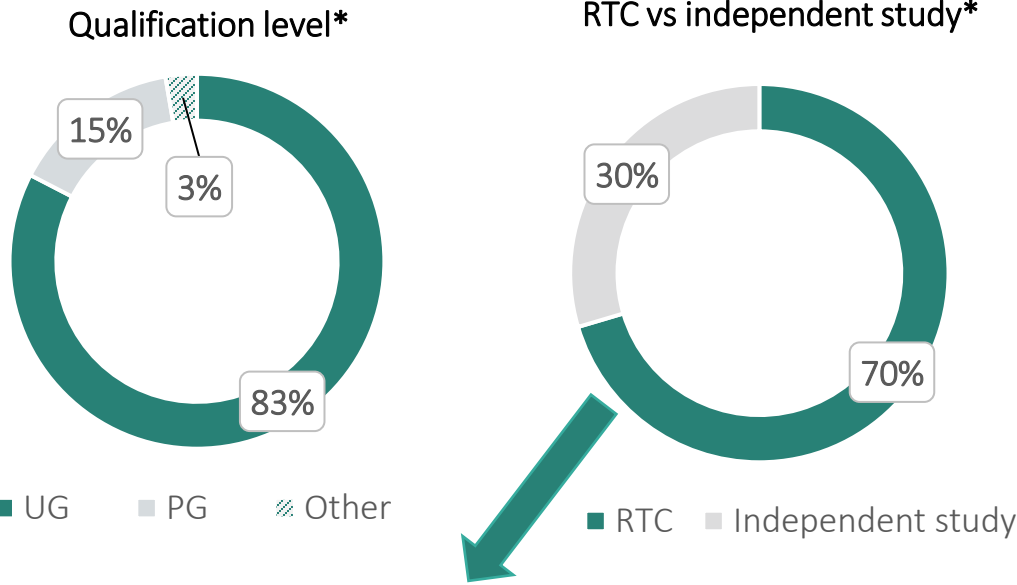
Q: In which country are you living?*



Base n = 605. *Country: Percentages are shown for countries with >10 respondents.

Profile of respondents: UoL qualifications completed

Graduates were asked to outline what proportion of their course was studied at a University of London Recognised Teaching Centre (RTC) – those who specified ‘for none of my course’ were categorised as independent study.



The highest proportion of RTC graduates were from the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), with 11% of total graduate responses.

UoL course domain*	% of sample
Undergraduate Laws	37%
EMFSS	32%
Business Administration	7%
Computer Science / computing programmes	5%
Professional Accountancy	4%
International Foundation Programme	2%
International Sports Management	2%
Information Security	2%
Other domains: Philosophy, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, Postgraduate Laws, Data Science, English, Epidemiology, Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, Supply Chain Management, School of Advanced Study, Theology, Public Health, Global Health Policy, History, Marketing (PG), Organizational Psychology and HR Management, Petroleum Geoscience, Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies	Collectively: 10% Individually: 1% or less

Domain: Base n = 594. *Qualification level: Base n = 553, Other includes Pre-UG courses (2.5%) and Non-credit bearing courses (0.2%). *RTC v independent study: Base n = 553.

Profile of respondents: Graduates' main activity

Graduates' main activity is based on what respondents stated their 'most important' activity they were engaged in was, at the time of being surveyed*. 45% of graduates were in paid employment, 14% of graduates were engaged in a course of study, training or research and 13% were self-employed, running own business or developing a portfolio. 14% were engaged in other activities or retired, and 13% were unemployed and looking for work.



Base n = 605. *Further detail of main activity by domain can be found in appendix C.

Graduates in paid employment

45% of the graduate sample were in paid employment

Details of employment

Employment status*

- 77% in highly skilled employment
- 19% in underemployment

Career stage*

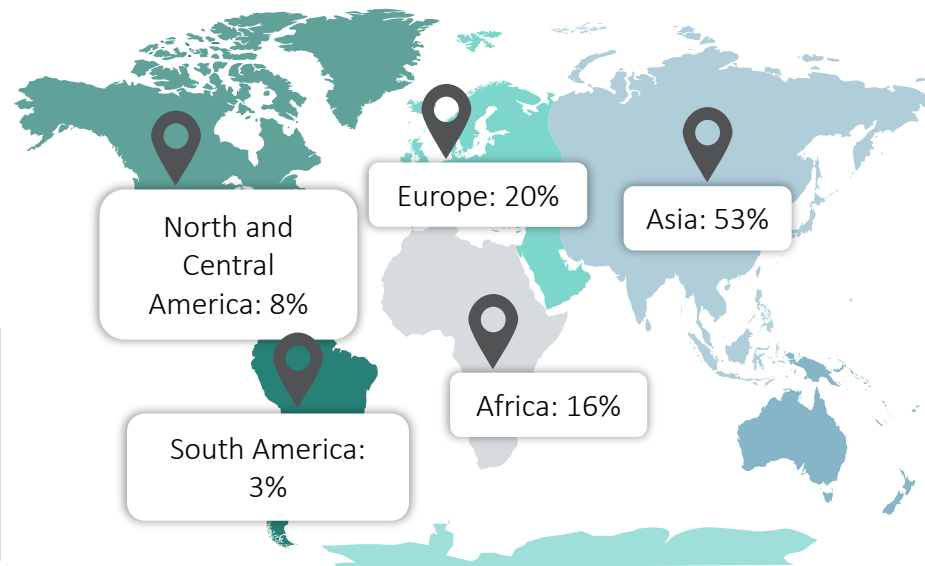
- 40% Career Starters
- 41% Career Developers
- 14% Career Changers

Top 3 countries

- Singapore (13%)
- Pakistan (12%)
- UK (11%)

Top sectors

- Law (13%)
- IT, technology & telecommunications (12%)
- Accountancy & financial services (12%)
- Banking and investment (11%)
- Teaching & other educational activities (8%)



Details of UoL study

UG vs PG*

- 76% UG graduates
- 23% PG graduates

RTC vs independent

- 60% at RTC
- 40% independent study

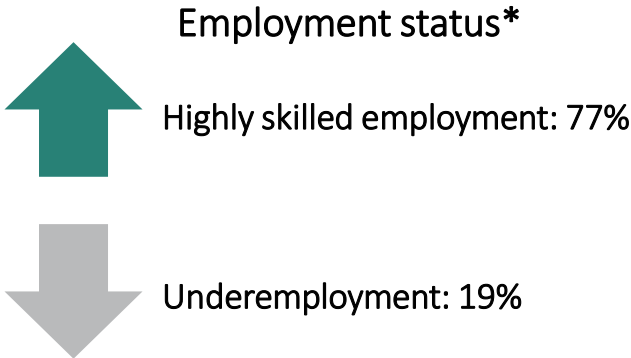
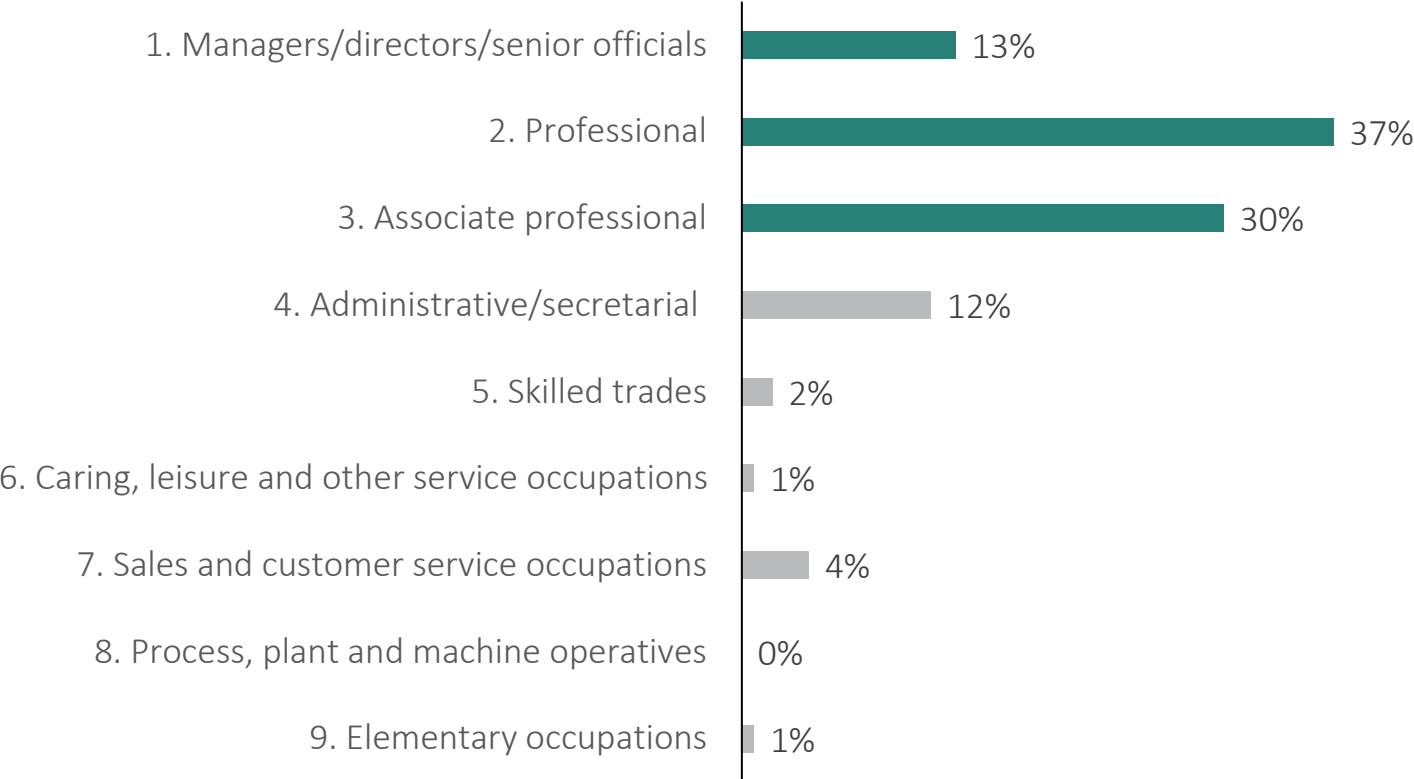
Top course domains*

- EMFSS (36%)
- Undergraduate Laws (23%)

Paid employment: which occupations were they in?

77% of respondents in paid employment were in highly skilled employment and 19% were underemployed.

Q: What was your job title?* – Coded into occupation groups

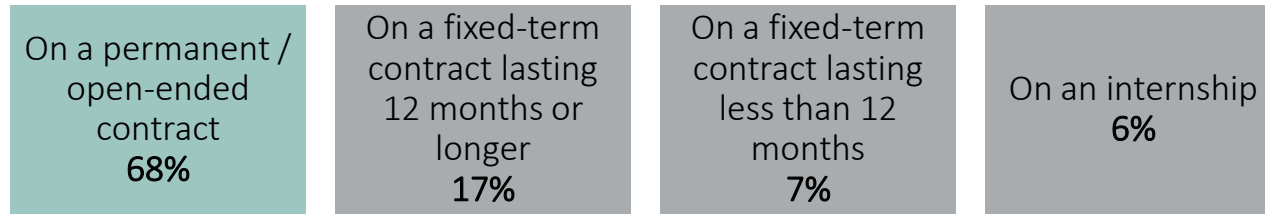


Base n = 262. *Job title / Employment status: Not sure = 5%. The occupation groups are based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). Highly skilled employment defined as those in SOC codes 1 to 3. Underemployment defined as those in SOC codes 4 or above.

What was the nature of their paid employment?

Nearly all graduates in paid employment were working full time (93%) and 68% of were on a permanent / open-ended contract. 41% of those that stated they had worked for their employer before or during their UoL studies stated that their employer provided them with a form of support for their studies.

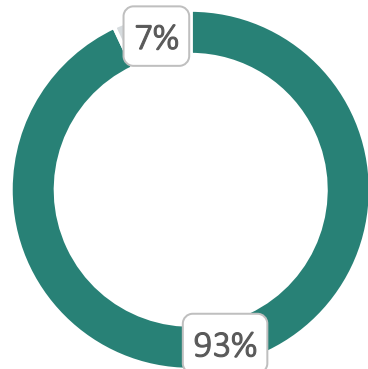
Q: Which of the following best describes the basis on which you were employed?*



Q: In which of the following ways did your employer support you during your University of London study?* (Multi choice)

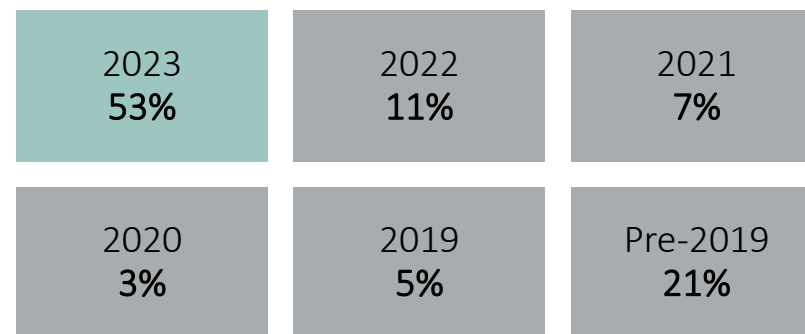
Support	%
I was not given any support by my employer	58%
I was given study leave	21%
My tuition fees were paid in full or part	20%
I was given mentoring or supervision directly related to my studies	7%
I was given a grant to cover my tuition fees and living expenses	1%

Full time vs Part time



■ Full time ■ Part time

Q: In which year did you start this employment?

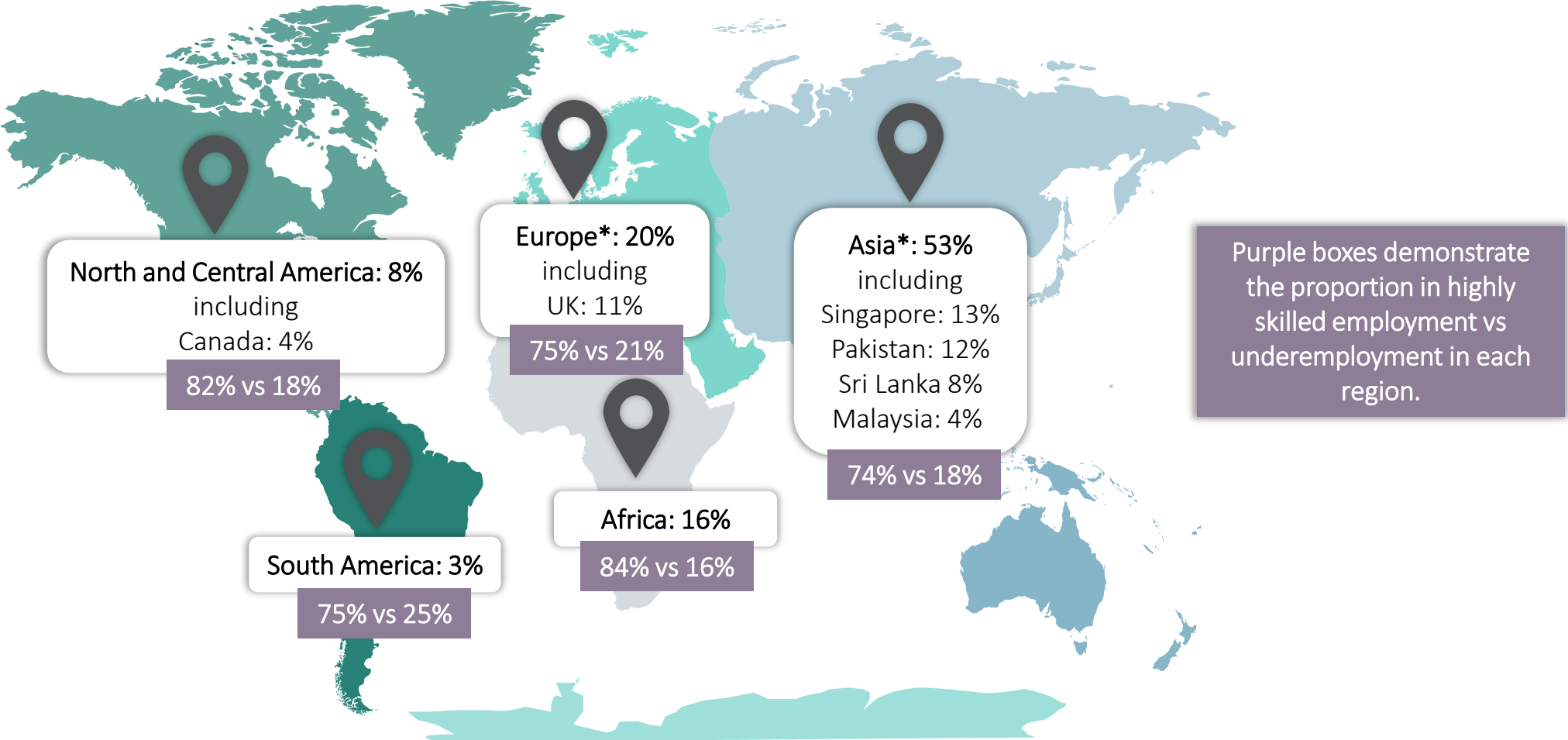


Base n = 275. *Contract: Other = 2%. Employer support: Base n = 150. Only shown to those that stated they worked for their employer before or during their UoL studies.

Where were graduates in paid employment based?

Reflecting UoL’s global footprint, over half of graduates in paid employment were working in Asia – however, there was a spread of respondents across various countries.

Q: In which country was your place of work? (Grouped by continent)



Base n = 275. Countries with n>10 specified. *Highly skilled employment vs underemployment: Asia – Not sure = 7%, Europe – Not sure = 4%.

Paid employment: which sectors were graduates working in?

Survey graduates in paid employment were spread across a range of sectors.

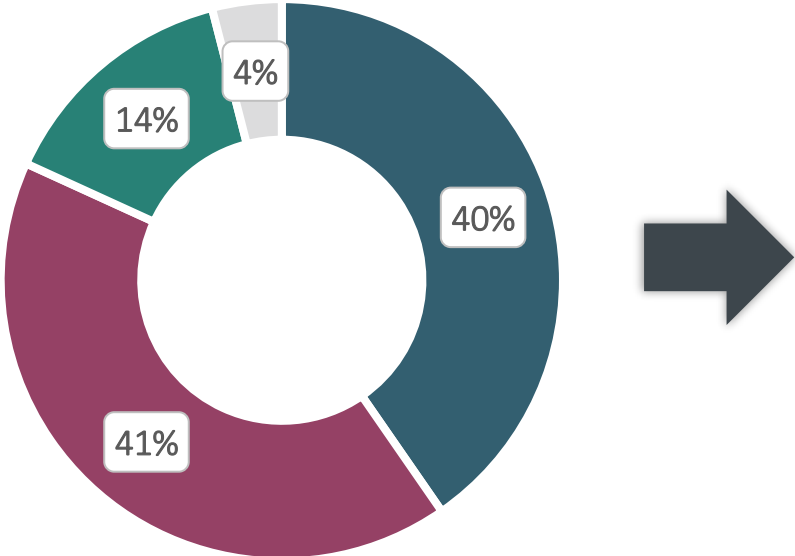
Sector	No. of respondents	Notable results, if any
Law	36	35 of these respondents had completed a UG Law degree
IT, technology & telecommunications	34	9 had completed Computer Science / computing programme, 3 Information Security, 3 Data Science
Accountancy & financial services	32	22 had completed EMFSS, 5 Professional Accountancy
Banking and investment	29	18 had completed EMFSS, 3 Professional Accountancy
Teaching & other educational activities	23	3 had completed PGCE, 3 LATHE
Consultancy	14	7 had completed EMFSS
Energy, natural resources & the environment	14	-
Charities, NGOs & international development	13	-
Hospitality, leisure and tourism	11	-
PR, advertising marketing and communications	11	-
Health and social care	10	2 had completed Epidemiology
Policy and government	10	-

Base n = 275. Sectors with n equal or above 10 shown. EMFSS = Programmes in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, PGCE = Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, LATHE = Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.

Paid employment: what career stage were graduates in?

Most graduates in paid employment defined themselves as either Career Developers (41%) or Career Starters (40%).

Q: Which of these three career stages do you most identify with?



- Career Starter – limited work experience/using studies to launch career
- Career Developer – extensive work experience/using studies to enhance career
- Career Changer – extensive work experience/using studies to change career
- None

Examples of job roles and organisations

Career Starter: Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company
Career Developer: Paralegal at OPEC Fund
Career Changer: Consultant Physician at King’s College Hospital

Career Starters were more likely to be undergraduates (54%), whereas Career Developers were more likely to be postgraduates (73%).

Career Starters were also more likely to have studied at an RTC (69%), while Career Developers and Career Changers were more likely to have undertaken independent study (58% and 20%, respectively).

Base n = 275.

Paid employment: what motivated them to take their roles?

In terms of reasons for deciding to take their job, 76% of graduates cited ‘aspirational’ reasons compared to 24% who stated more ‘practical’ reasons. In addition, 84% agreed that their work was meaningful and 73% agreed their work fit in with their future plans.

Q: What was the main reason for you deciding to take the job?

Reason	%
It was a way of getting into my chosen career area	19%
To gain and broaden my experience in order to get the type of job I really want	15%
It was an opportunity to progress within my existing career area	14%
It fitted into my career plan / it was exactly the type of work I wanted	13%
It was a job I already had	13%
It was an opportunity to explore a different career area	12%
In order to earn a living	6%
To see if I would like the type of work it involved	2%
It was the best job offer I received	2%
The job was well-paid	2%
In order to pay off debts	1%
It was in the right location	<1%

Key
Aspirational reasons
Practical reasons

Some notable differences in the data included that graduates who studied at RTCs were more likely to state aspirational reasons (82%), compared to those undertaking independent study (66%). In line with this finding, Career Starters (who were more likely to have studied at RTCs), were more likely to select aspirational reasons (88%) compared to Career Developers and Career Changers (68% and 67%, respectively). Career Starters were also more likely to feel that their work fit in with their future plans (85%), compared to Career Starters and Career Changers (69% and 51%, respectively).

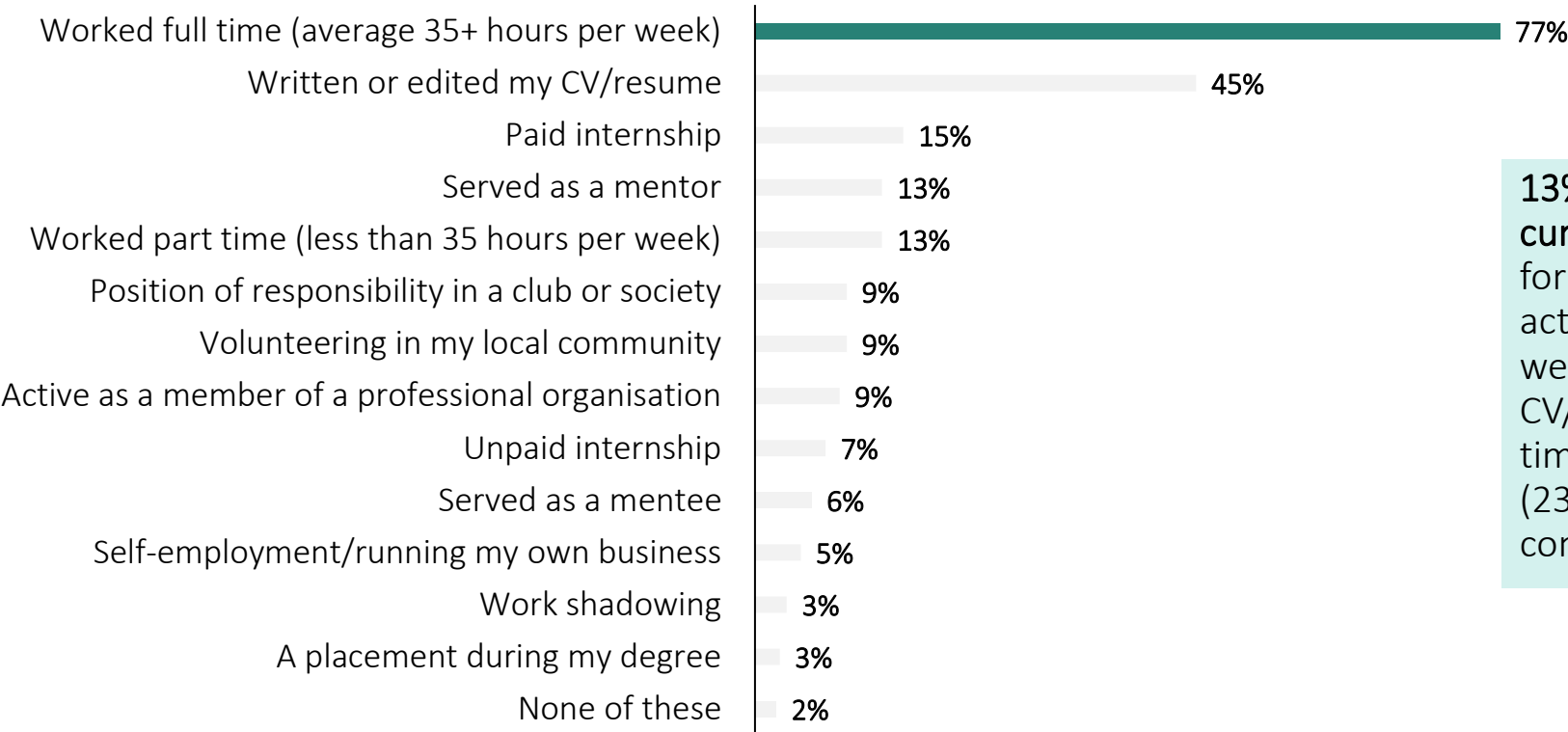
Base n = 275.

Paid employment: what did they do to support their employability?

Nearly all graduates indicated that they had undertaken some form of action to support their employability (98%).

No notable differences were evident in the data regarding actions undertaken to support employability, including between those in highly skilled employment and those in underemployment.

Q: Looking at the past 12 months, which of the following have you undertaken to support your employability?
(Multi choice)



13% of the total sample were currently unemployed and looking for work. The top employability actions undertaken by this group were: written or edited my CV/resume (58%), worked part time (23%), Unpaid internship (23%) and Volunteering in local community (23%).

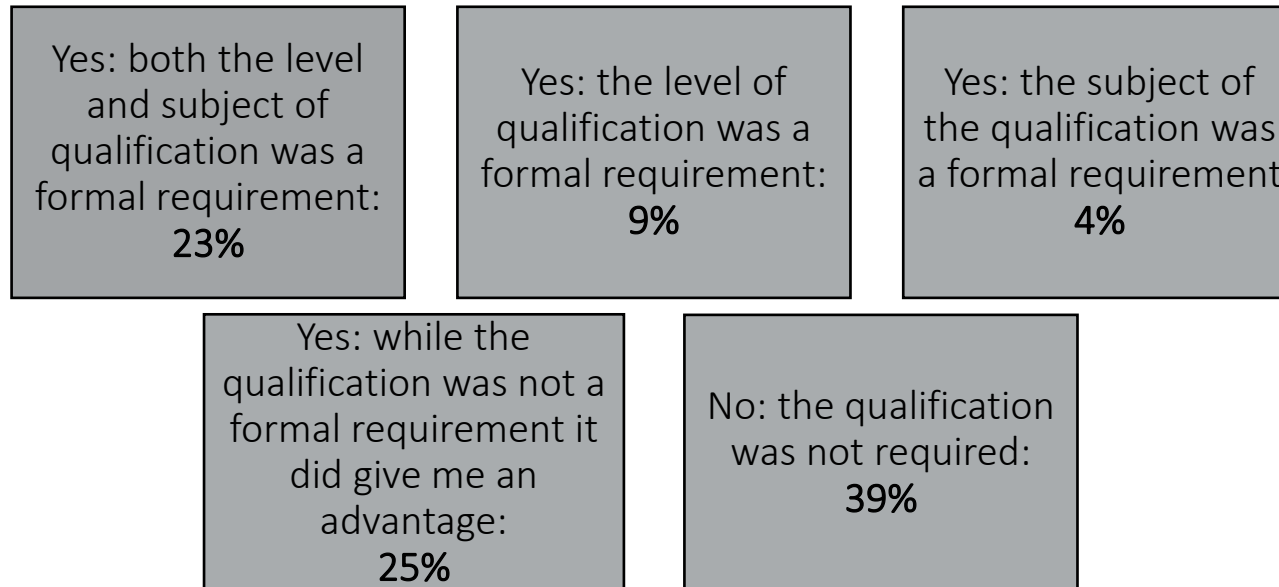
Base n = 275.

Paid employment: to what extent were graduates using their UoL degree?

In terms of using their UoL degree, 35% of graduates in full time paid employment stated that their UoL qualification was a formal requirement for their job in some way and 25% stated that this qualification had given them an advantage. Additionally, 67% agreed they were using what they learnt during their studies in their current work.

Career Developers were more likely to feel that they were using what they had learnt during their studies (78%), compared to Career Starters and Career Changers (61% and 56%, respectively).

Q: Did you need the University of London qualification that you completed to get the job?* (Graduates in full-time paid employment only)



"I liked how flexible and helpful the university was with the studies offered by the university and the help they gave after our degree ended."

"It was a great experience learning at one of the recognised learning institutions."

Base n = 257. *Value of degree: Don't know – 2%..

Graduates who were self-employed, developing a portfolio or running their own business

Self-employed: 13% were involved in other employed activities

In this group, 42% were self-employed/freelancing, 41% running their own business and 17% developing a portfolio.

Details of other activities

Employment status*

- 86% in highly skilled employment
- 10% in underemployment

Career stage*

- 36% Career Starters
- 44% Career Developers
- 15% Career Changers

Top countries

- Pakistan (35%)
- Malaysia (8%)
- Sri Lanka (6%)

Top sectors

- Law (24%)
- Retail and wholesale activities (12%)
- Consultancy (10%)
- IT, technology & telecommunications (8%)
- Construction, the built environment & property (5%)
- Teaching & other educational activities (5%)

Details of UoL study

UG vs PG*

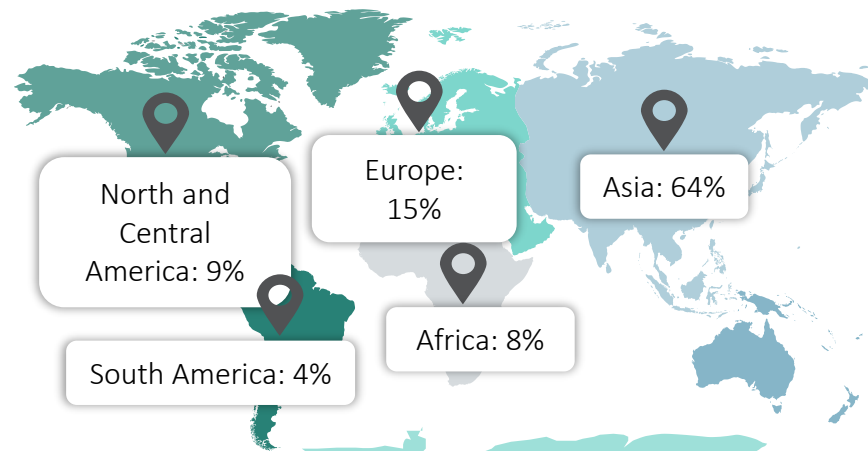
- 84% UG graduates
- 13% PG graduates

RTC vs independent

- 69% at RTC
- 31% independent study

Top course domains*

- Undergraduate Laws (45%)
- EMFSS (30%)

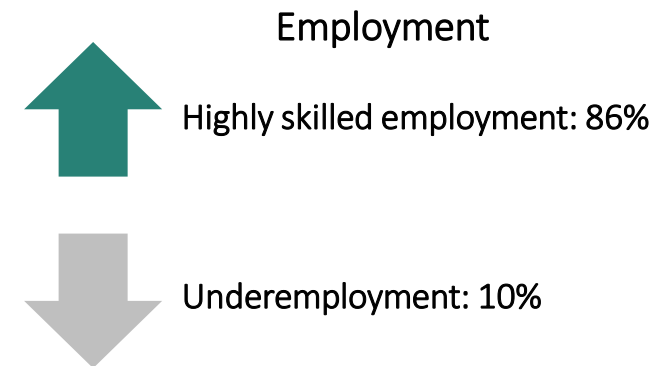
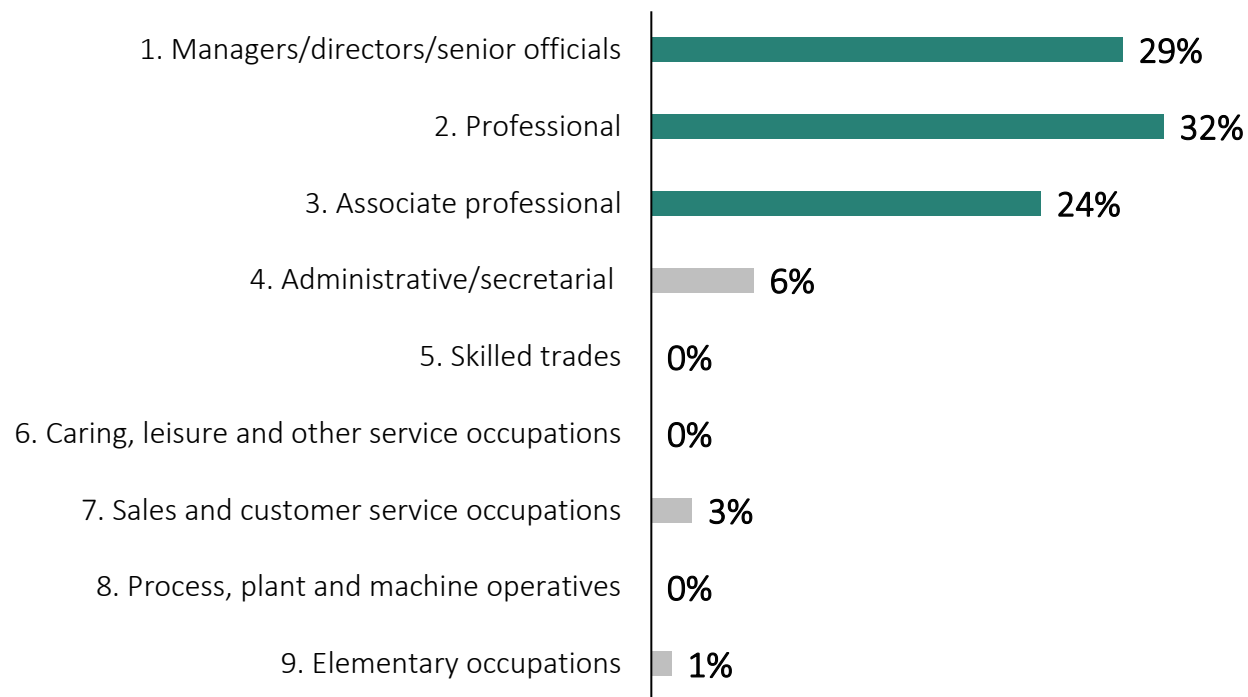


Self-employed: which occupations were they in?

86% of respondents who were self-employed, running their own business or developing a portfolio were in highly skilled employment – with only 10% underemployed.

Results did not show many statistically significant differences when segmenting employment status by variables such as career stage, mode of study and sector – this may be due to the smaller sample size.

Q: What was your job title?* – Coded into occupation groups



Base n = 78. *Job title / Employment status: Not sure = 4%. The occupation groups are based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). Highly skilled employment defined as SOC codes 1 to 3. Underemployment was defined as SOC codes 4 or above.

Self-employed: what was the nature of their activity?

72% of graduates in this group were engaged with this work/activity before or during their UoL studies and 59% were undertaking this activity full time.

Q: Were you engaged in this work or activity either before or during your University of London study?

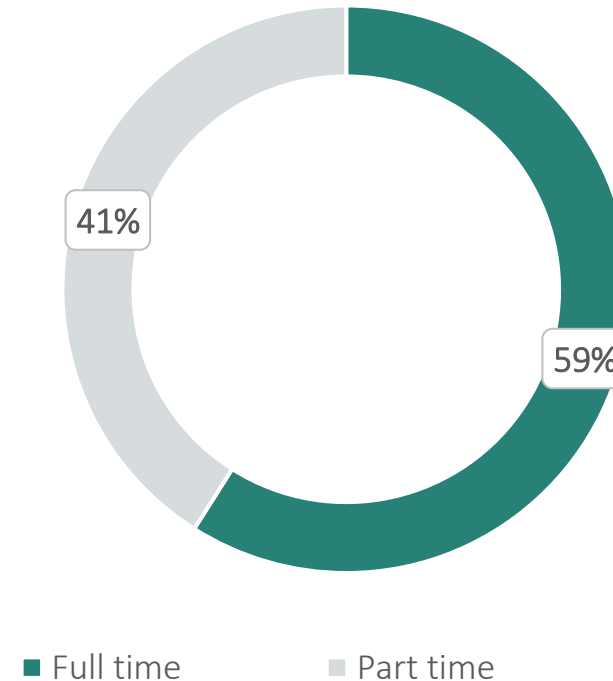
I was engaged in this work or activity during my University of London study
29%

I wasn't engaged in this work or activity either before or during my University of London study
28%

I was engaged in this work or activity both before and during my University of London study
22%

I was engaged in this work or activity before my University of London study
21%

Full time vs Part time

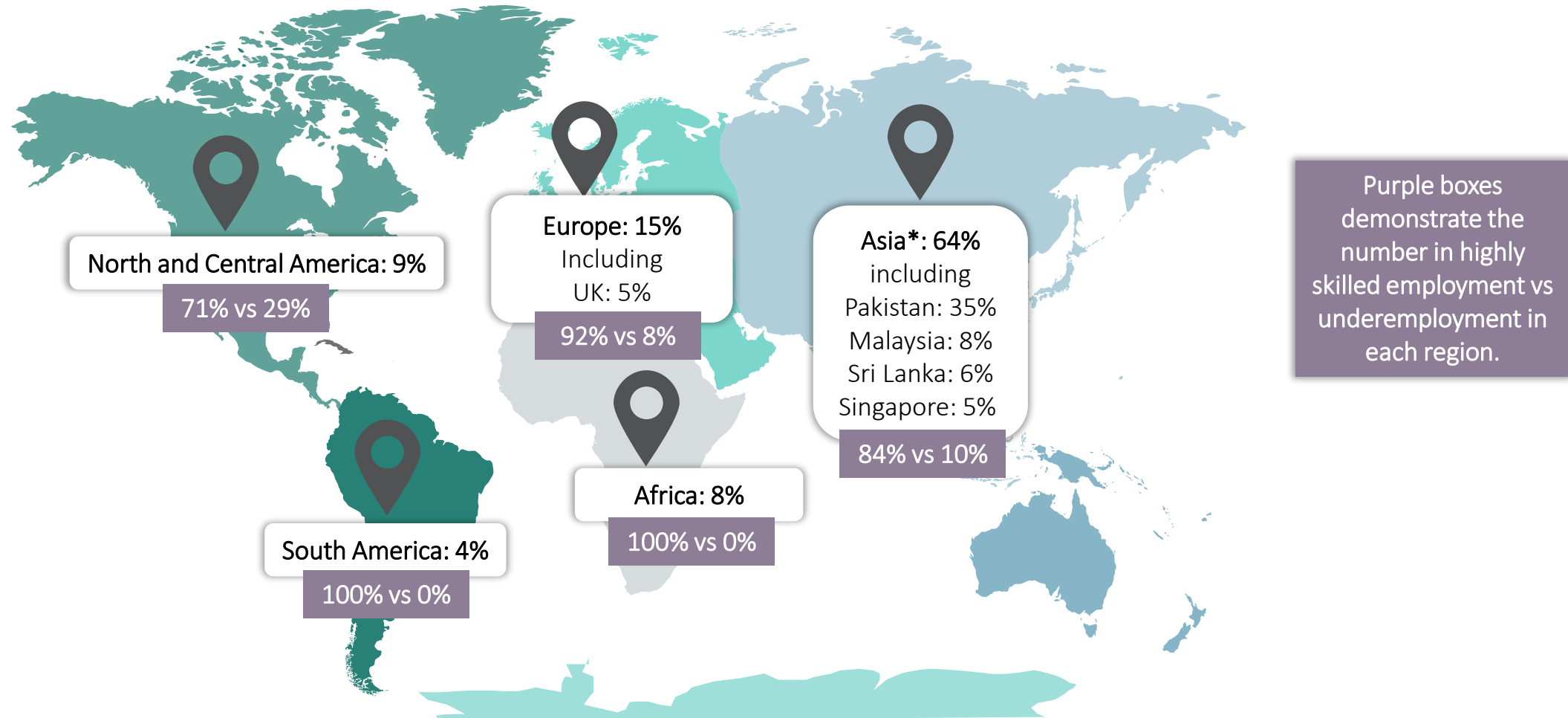


Base n = 78.

Self-employed: where were graduates in this group based?

Reflecting UoL's global footprint, the majority of these graduates were based in Asia, with the top country being Pakistan.

Q: In which country did you carry out this work or activity? (Grouped by continent)



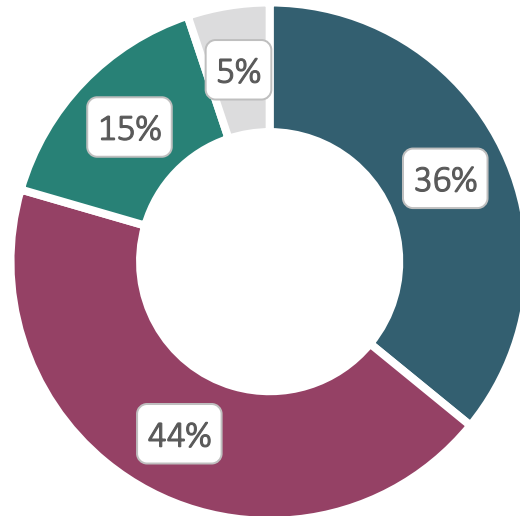
Purple boxes demonstrate the number in highly skilled employment vs underemployment in each region.

Base n = 78. Countries with n equal to or greater than 5 shown. *Highly skilled employment vs underemployment: Asia – Not sure = 6%.

Self-employed: what career stage were graduates in?

Most of these graduates in this group defined themselves as either Career Developers (44%) or Career Starters (36%).

Q: Which of these three career stages do you most identify with?



- Career Starter – limited work experience/using studies to launch career
- Career Developer – extensive work experience/using studies to enhance career
- Career Changer – extensive work experience/using studies to change career
- None

Base n = 78.

Examples of job roles and organisations

Career Starter: Legal Researcher at Nishan Premathiratne Law Chamber (Self-employed/freelancing)

Career Developer: Business Owner at [customs services] (Running their own business)

Career Changer: Computer Scientist at Transloadit (Developing a portfolio)

Results did not show any notable differences when segmenting perceived career stage by variables such as course level, mode of study and sector.

Self-employed: what motivated them to do this activity?

In terms of reasons for deciding to take their job, 68% of graduates cited 'aspirational' reasons related to career motivations compared to 32% who stated more 'practical' reasons. In addition, 90% agreed that their work was meaningful and 83% agreed their work fit in with their future plans.

Q: What was the main reason that you decided to take up this work or activity?

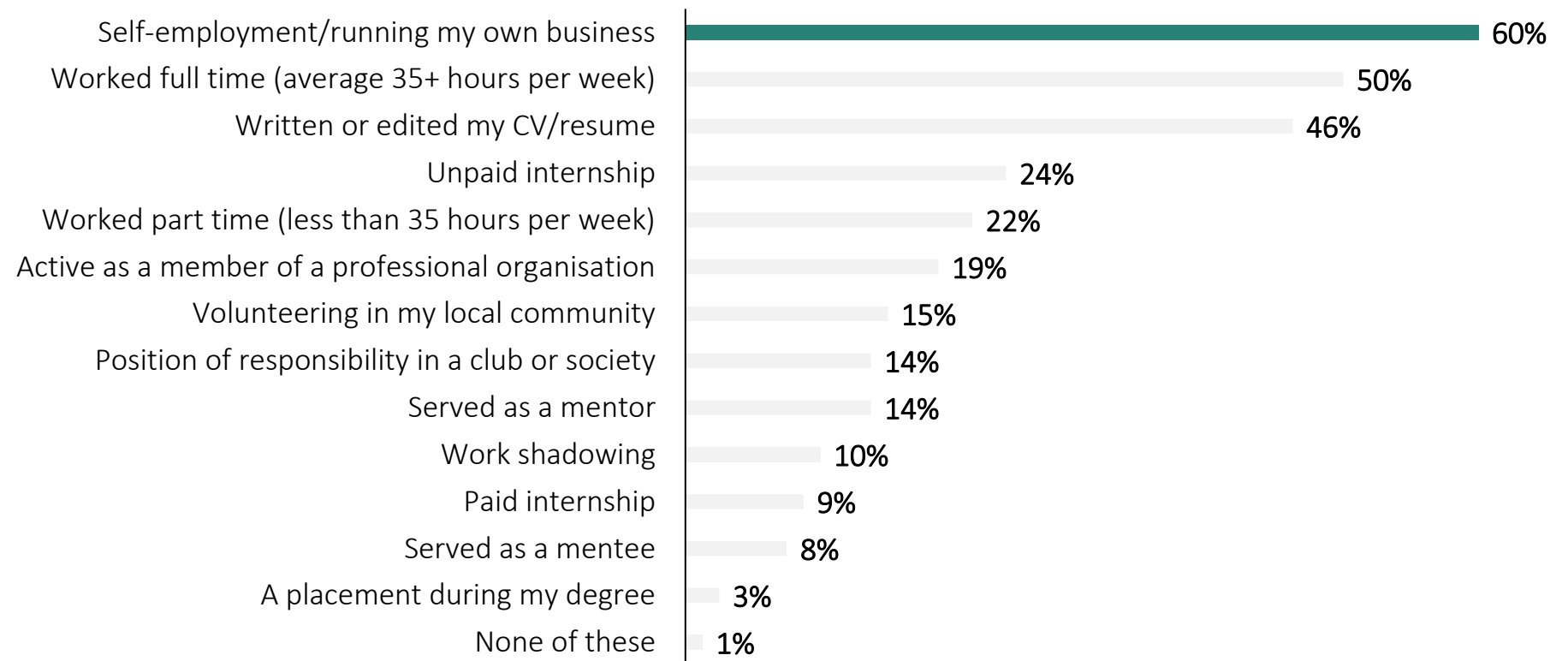
Reason	%	Key
It was a way of getting into my chosen career area	21%	Aspirational reasons
It fitted into my career plan / it was exactly the type of work I wanted	15%	Practical reasons
It was an opportunity to progress within my existing career area	12%	
To work in my family business	12%	
It was an opportunity to explore a different career area	10%	
It was a job I already had	10%	
The job was well-paid	6%	
To gain and broaden my experience in order to get the type of job I really want	5%	
To see if I would like the type of work it involved	5%	
In order to earn a living	4%	

Base n = 78.

Self-employed: what did they do to support their employability?

Nearly all graduates indicated that they had undertaken some form of action to support their employability (99%).

Q: Looking at the past 12 months, which of the following have you undertaken to support your employability?
(Multi choice)



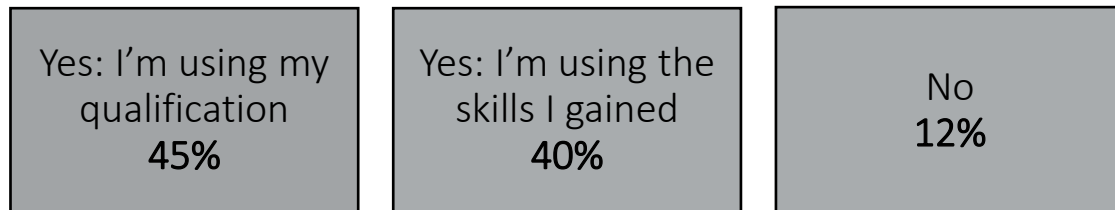
Base n = 78.

Self-employed: to what extent were graduates using their UoL degree?

85% of graduates stated that they were using their UoL qualification in their current activity.

Results did not show notable differences by variables such as career stage, mode of study and sector – this may be due to the smaller sample size.

Q: Are you using the qualification that you completed at University of London or skills you gained there in this work or activity?



"UoL helped me to study as per my needs. I wish to study more with the skills and knowledge gained during the time."

Developing a creative, artistic or professional portfolio

"I appreciate UoL for giving me the opportunity and flexibility to earn my LLM even while working and from the confines of my home country."

Running own business

"Thank you for providing us with a top notch distance-learning facility"

Self employed / freelancing

Base n = 78. Don't know = 4%.

Graduates in study or training

14% of graduates were engaged in study or training

Details of study or training

Top qualification types

- 28% Higher degree, mainly by taught course
- 22% Undergraduate degree
- 16% Postgraduate diploma or certificate
- 19% Other professional qualification

Top institutions

- University of London (37%)
- Registered with a training provider (11%)
- Brickfields Asia College (5%)
- The University of Law (4%)

Career stage*

- 69% Career Starters
- 18% Career Developers
- 8% Career Changers

Top courses

- Law and Legal Studies (48%)
- Politics and International Relations (5%)
- Accounting and Finance (5%)
- Statistics and Data Science (5%)

Top countries

- Pakistan (24%)
- UK (14%)
- Malaysia (7%)
- USA (7%)

Details of UoL study

UG vs PG*

- 90% UG graduates
- 4% PG graduates

RTC vs independent

- 81% at RTC
- 19% independent study

Top course domains*

- Undergraduate Laws (50%)
- EMFSS (29%)
- Business administration (5%)

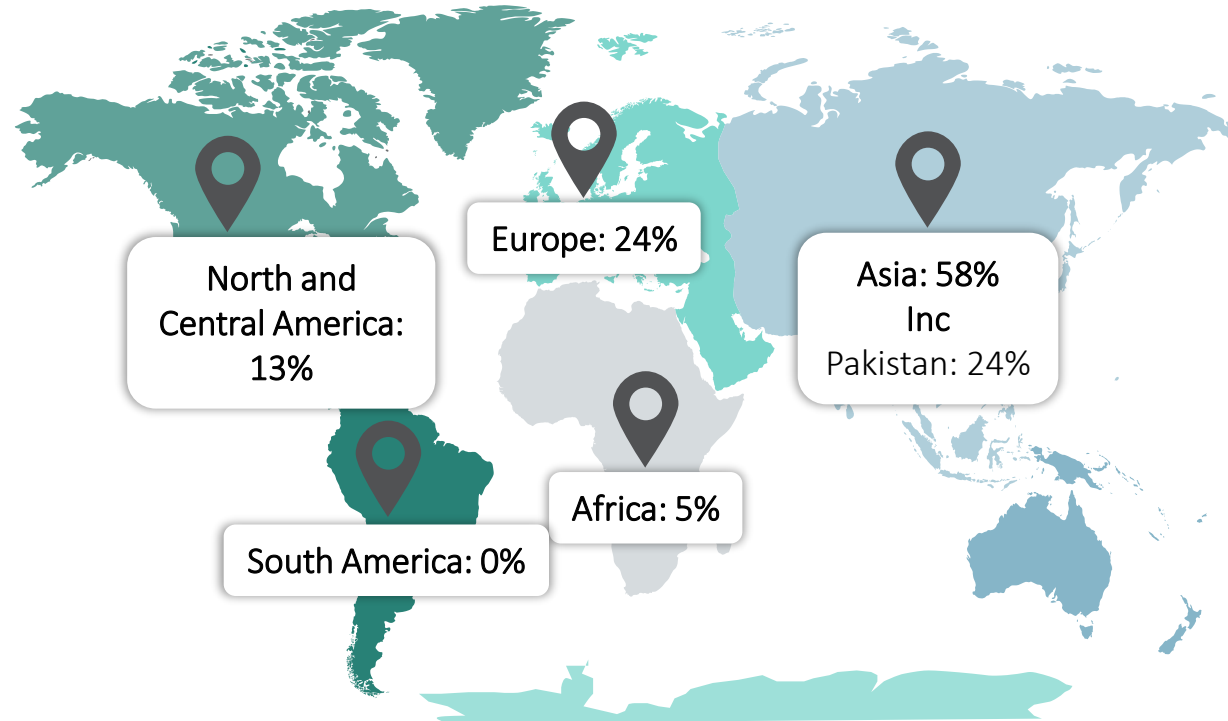
Base n = 85. *Career stage: None = 5%. UG vs PG: Pre-UG graduates not shown. Course domains: Only 5% or above shown.

Which graduates were undertaking study or training?

The majority of graduates engaged in study or training identified as Career Starters.

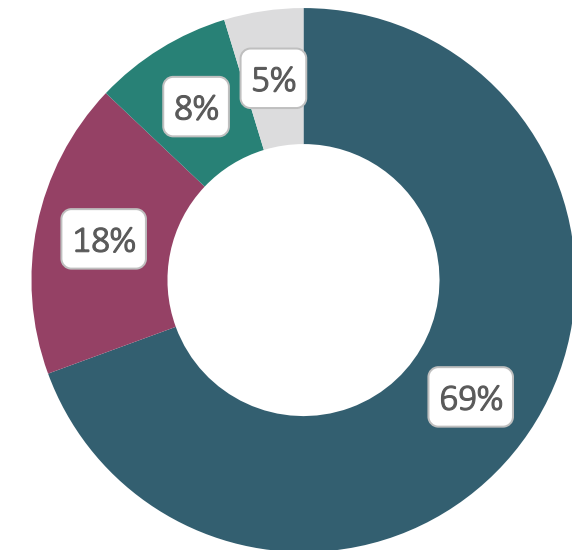
50% of graduates engaged in study or training completed a course in Undergraduate Laws with UoL. Since 90% of these graduates reported moving onto Law and Legal studies, this suggests these graduates are following an expected career pathway. Likewise, 29% completed a course in EMFSS – with 71% of this subgroup reporting undertaking a course in a related course area.

Q: In which country were you studying? (Grouped by continent)



Base n = 85.

Q: Which of these three career stages do you most identify with?

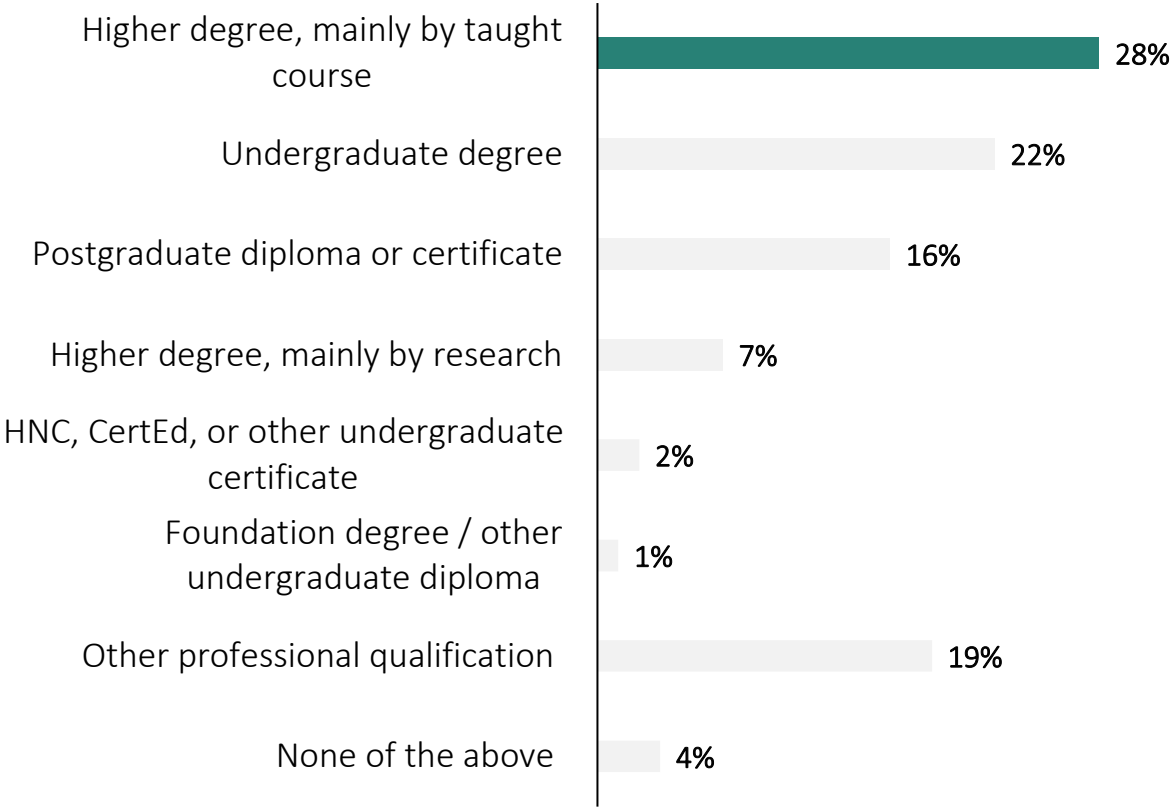


- Career Starter – limited work experience/using studies to launch career
- Career Developer – extensive work experience/using studies to enhance career
- Career Changer – extensive work experience/using studies to change career
- None

What was the nature of their study or training?

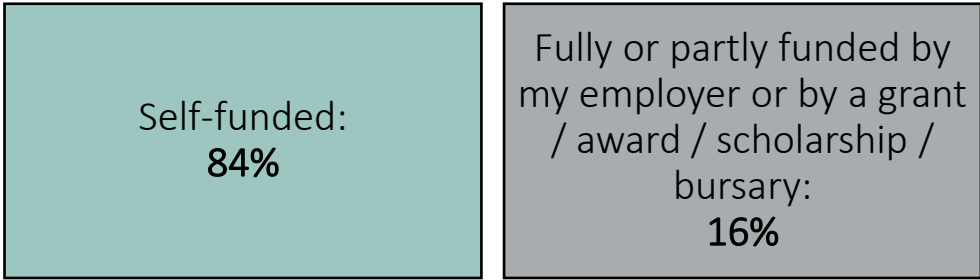
28% were engaged in a higher degree taught course and 22% were engaged in an undergraduate degree. The majority (84%) were self-funding their studies.

Q: Which of the following best describes the type of qualification you have completed / are currently studying?

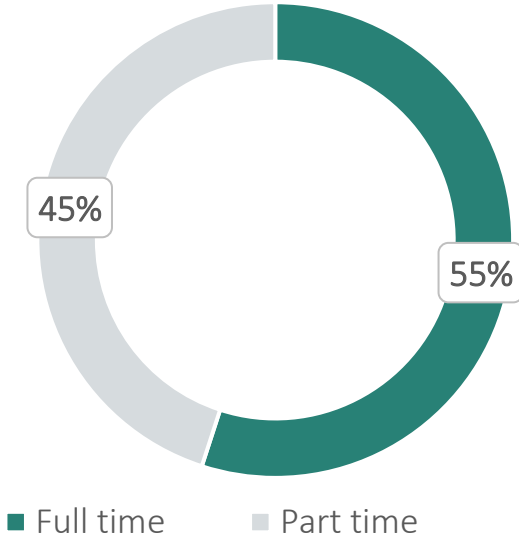


Base n = 85

Q: How were you mainly funding your study, training or research?



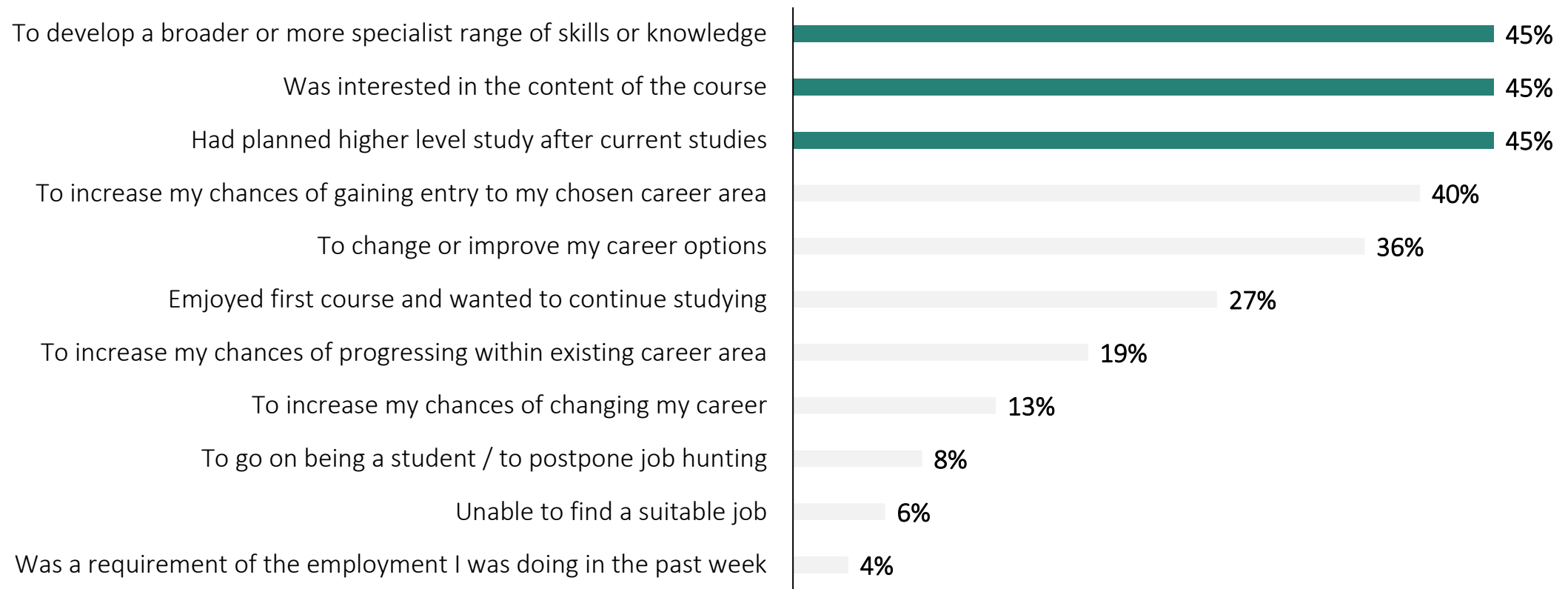
Full time vs Part time



What motivated them to do study or training?

Top motivations included developing more specialist skills, interest in the content of the course or because they had already planned to engage in higher level study after the completion of their current studies.

Q: Why did you decide to undertake the study that you were doing? (Multi choice)



Base n = 85.

Further study or training

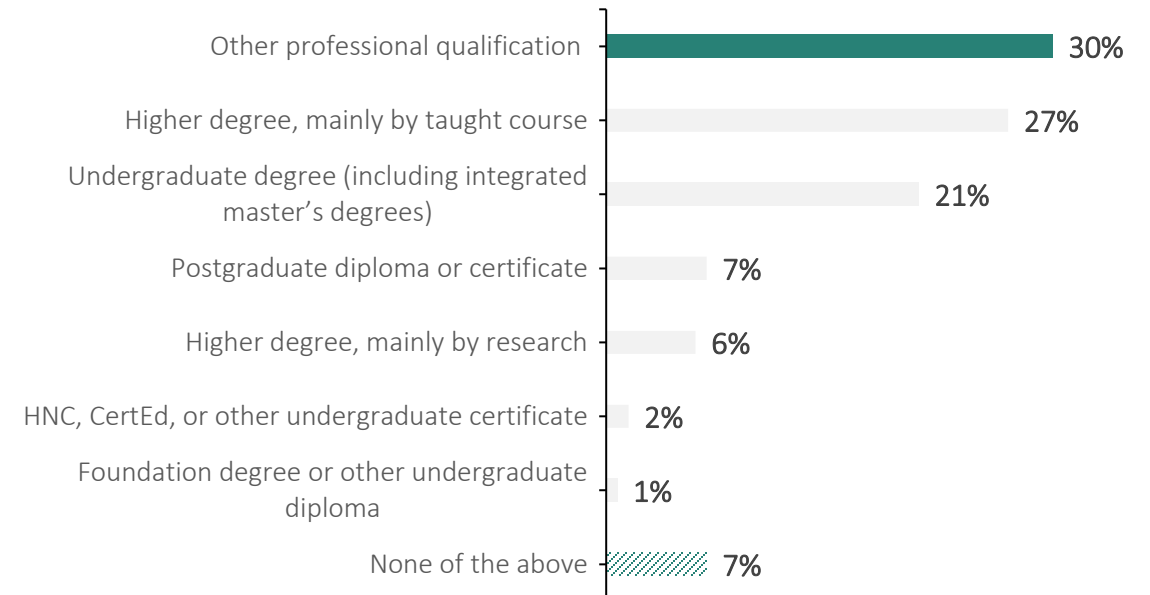
Which graduates have undertaken further study since completing their studies with UoL?

22% of graduates reported having undertaken further study since completing their UoL qualification.

- 19% of unemployed graduates were engaged in further study.
- Graduates were most likely to have undertaken further study in the UK (20%), Pakistan (14%) and Sri Lanka (9%).
- The most common university for graduates to be registered with was the University of London (19%). Otherwise, graduates were most likely to be using alternative providers (21%) such as Coursera, Chartered Institute of Bankers or ACCA.
- 62% of these graduates were studying full time.
- 77% of graduates were self-funding further study.
- The most popular domain involved in further study were law and legal studies (38%). Other domain areas were: business administration (4%), and banking and finance (2%).
- In line with the sample distribution, respondents in Pakistan were more likely to have enrolled in a law or legal studies course (75%) than respondents from any other country.

Main activity	Engaged in further study (%)
Engaged in other activities or retired	30%
Self-employed, running own business or developing a portfolio	28%
Paid work for an employer	22%
Engaged in a course of study, training or research	19%
Unemployed and looking for work	12%

Q: Which of the following best describes the type of qualification you have completed/are currently studying?

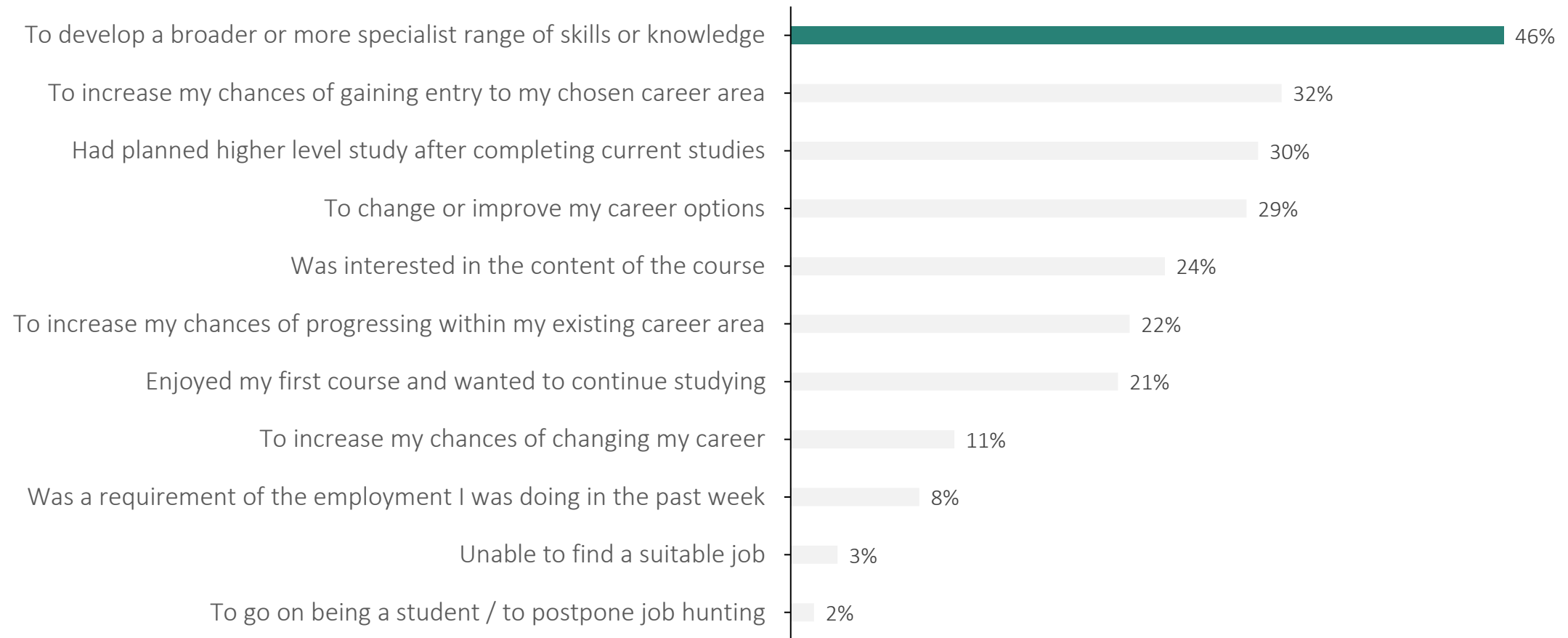


Base n = 133.

What motivated them to undertake further study?

Most graduates cited that they wanted to develop their skills or knowledge further after graduating. Top reasons provided here were fairly similar to the reasons provided by those who were engaged in study or training at the time of being surveyed.

Q: Why did you decide to undertake the study that you were/are doing? (Multi choice)



Base n = 133.



SHIFT
INSIGHT

Experiences at UoL

UoL study experience

The top ways graduates felt their degree course supported them included: acquiring specialist knowledge and expertise, improving career prospects and gaining confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems.

Graduates who studied at RTCs were more likely to feel that: they can present themselves with confidence (80%), their interpersonal skills had improved (73%) and they had the opportunity to socialise with new people (73%) – indicating some positive aspects about studying at RTCs. Those who were unemployed were less likely to feel that their course had helped them gained confidence in tackling unfamiliar problems (62%), potentially suggesting an area of support.

Q: Please read the following statements about your degree course and indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.

