Student survey instrument

It is important to note that this survey was delivered online using a dynamic delivery in which students were presented sets of items based on their responses to prior items. Thus, while the survey instrument appears long, no students were presented with all items.

Introductory text

Research background
This collaborative project responds to growing social and economic demands for graduates who can negotiate rapidly transforming employment contexts. We are seeking comprehensive and accurate responses, which will be treated with respect and confidentiality.

What does participation involve?
Participation is voluntary, and participants may freely withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice or negative consequences. Participation will comprise completion of a questionnaire that will take approximately 20 minutes.

Confidentiality
Your written responses are confidential: only the research project team will have access to these. This means that responses cannot be traced back to you in any documentation emerging from this research. Research documents will be secured in a locked cabinet, and computer data will be secured through the use of passwords in institutional IT systems. Lecturers and tutors will not have access to the responses of students.

Publication of results
The results may be drawn upon for academic papers and conference presentations. Individual information will not be included or identifiable in any way.

Queries
Please direct general queries about this study to Dr Sarah Richardson (esage@acer.edu.au) or Professor Dawn Bennett at dawn.bennett@curtin.edu.au

Ethics Committee Approval
This study has been approved by the Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee, no. HURGS_02_14. If needed, verification of approval can be obtained either by writing to the Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee, c/- Office of Research and Development, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth, 6845 or by telephoning 9266 2784.
There are 53 questions in this survey

**Introduction**

1 [INTRO2]
I have been informed of and understand the purpose of the study.

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the study and my participation.

I understand that I can withdraw my participation at any time without prejudice or negative consequences.

I understand that results will be published in the form of a report, academic papers and presentations. *No information that might identify me will be used in published material.*

Based upon the above information, please indicate your consent to participate in the study by completing the statement of consent below:

I agree to participate in this study, titled: *Strategies Enhancing Graduate Employability (SAGE)* *
Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

2 [INTRO3]
Unfortunately you cannot participate in this survey unless you agree to accept the ethics statement.

If you wish to change your mind, select 'yes' above

Otherwise, select 'next' to exit

**About my institution (university or TAFE)**

3 [UNI1]
I am attending ... institution 
? (What is the name of your university or TAFE?)
About my previous education

4 [PAST1]  
I completed the previous education before starting my current course:  
Please choose all that apply:  
- High School  
- TAFE  
- University  
- Other  
? Select as many as relevant

5 [PAST2]  
I finished high school in ...  
? (which year?)

6 [PAST3]  
I completed ... at high school  
? e.g. VCE, International Baccalaureate, A Levels

7 [PAST4]  
I finished TAFE in ...  
? (Which year?)

8 [PAST5]  
I studied ... at TAFE  
? (e.g. certificate, diploma, ...)

9 [PAST6]  
I finished my university course in ...  
? (Which year?)

10 [PAST7]  
I studied ... at university  
? (e.g. bachelor degree in biology)

11 [PAST7]  
I completed my course at the same university  
Please choose only one of the following:  
- Yes  
- No

12 [PAST8]  
I completed the following kind of education ...

13 [PAST9]  
I completed my previous education in ...  
? (Which year?)
I completed my previous education at ...?
(Which institution?)

**About my work experience**

I have the following work experience
- None
- Part time work
- Full time work

I did this work between ...?
(Start year and end year)

I did the following type of work ...?
(Give a short description)

On average, I worked this many hours per week ...

**About me**

My gender is ...
- Female
- Male
- Transgender

I am ... years old

I am ...
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Non-Indigenous

My nationality is ...
- Australian
- Another nationality

My nationality is ...
24 [ME6]
My first language is...
- English
- Another language

25 [ME7]
My first language is...

**About my parents**

26 [PARENT1]
The highest level of education my parents have is...
- Mother, father or both parents has a postgraduate qualification (Masters or PhD)
- Mother, father or both parents has a Bachelor degree
- Mother, father or both parents has a TAFE qualification
- Mother, father or both parents has completed high school
- Neither parents have completed high school
- I do not know

**About me as a student**

27 [STU1]
My degree programme is...
?(e.g. bachelor of science)

28 [STU2]
My major or intended major is...
?(e.g. chemistry)

29 [STU3]
I choose this major because...
- I had a high enough ATAR score to be accepted
- I liked this discipline at school
- I think it will lead to an interesting career
- I want to have a high income in the future
- Other
? (Mark all that are relevant)

30 [STU6]
If 'other', please specify

31 [STU4]
I am currently in the ... year of my degree
- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
32 [STU5]
I am studying ...
- Full time
- Part time

33 [STU6]
I expect to do further study after I finish my current degree
- Yes
- No

About me in the future (1)

34 [FUT1]
Three to five years after graduation I HOPE to be doing .....?
(eg working as a ..., studying for a PhD, ...)

35 [FUT2]
I think that employers look for the following things in graduates ...
?
(List as many things as you can think of)

36 [FUT3]
A professional in my major's study area has the following characteristics ...
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
?
(List at least three characteristics)

37 [FUT5]
I see the following differences between me as a person and these professional characteristics (the ones you listed above)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- Other
?
(List as many as you can think of)
38 [FUT6]
The strategies I plan to use to develop these characteristics are ...

39 [FUT7]
The timeframe for these strategies is ....
? (e.g. in the next six months)

40 [FUT4]
I used the following information sources to come up with the characteristics of a professional in my major's study area ....
- My parents
- My family
- My friends
- My school
- Teaching staff at my university or TAFE
- Internet
- Other
? (Choose all that are relevant)

41 [FUT14]
If 'other', please specify

About me in the future (2)

42 [FUT12]
Three to five years after graduation I EXPECT to be doing the following ...
? (Give a description of what you expect your life to be like)

43 [FUT8]
What I learn in my degree will prepare me for my future work and career in the following ways ....
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- Other
? (List as many as you can think of)

44 [FUT11]
In my experience at this institution in the current academic year, I have talked about my career plans with teaching staff or advisors ...
- Never
- Sometimes
- Often
- Very often

[This item replicates one in the AUSSE instrument and was shared with the research team by the Australian Council for Educational Research]
45 [FUT9]
In 15 years time I EXPECT to be doing the following ...
? (Give a short description of what you expect your life to be like)

Professional identity

The items in this section were developed by Adams, Hean, Sturgis and Clark (2006) for use with higher education students.

46 [IDENT1]
I have a clear idea of what I am studying to become (i.e. the professional role I am likely to have in the future)

- Yes
- No

47 [IDENT2]
Thinking about this professional role – referred to here as ‘this profession’ – please indicate how much you agree with the following statements

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- Agree
- Strongly agree

- I feel I have strong ties with members of this profession
- I feel like I am a member of this profession
- I am often ashamed to admit that I am studying for this profession
- I find myself making excuses for belonging to this profession
- I try to hide that I am studying to be part of this profession
- I am pleased to belong to this profession
- I can identify positively with members of this profession
- Being a member of this profession is important to me
- I feel I share characteristics with other members of the profession

48 [IDENT3]
Thinking about graduates who have done the same degree as you please indicate how much you agree with the following statements

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- Agree
- Strongly agree

- I feel I have strong ties with those who have done the same degree as me
http://graduateemployability.curtin.edu.au/

— I feel like I am a member of a community of those who have done the same degree as me
— I am often ashamed to admit that I am doing this degree
— I find myself making excuses for doing this degree
— I try to hide that I am doing this degree
— I am pleased to belong to the group of people who have done the same degree as me
— I can identify positively with others who have done the same degree as me
— Being a member of the group of graduates who have done the same degree is important to me
— I feel I share characteristics with others who have done the same degree as me

Managing career and work life

The items in this section were kindly shared with the research team by the Ithaca Group (nd). They were developed as a self-assessment questionnaire for the Core Skills for Work Framework but have not been published.

49 [MANAGE1]
When I think about identifying career and work options, I ...

• Could use some advice to see where my interests and experience fit into the world of work
• Can see some work options that suit me, but would benefit from some further advice
• Draw on my personal skills and interests and familiar processes to develop my career and address barriers and skill gaps where I can
• Balance my circumstances, experience, skills, goals and options with the complexities of the world of work, seeking trusted advice if required
• Manage the ongoing complexities of long term career development through personal reflection and response to actual and potential changes

? Select all that are relevant

50 [MANAGE2]
When it comes to finding work I ...

• Can see what’s required for some jobs, but need some help with how to apply for work
• Can find and apply for suitable job opportunities using a few familiar job-finding and application techniques
• Am comfortable with finding job vacancies and can present my skills and experience in relation to job requirements
• Have developed broad job seeking skills and use contacts and networks to advance my career
• Successfully rely on my experience, reputation and established networks to identify opportunities where my interests and skill set are a strong match with the potential role

? Select all that are relevant
In order to develop the relevant skills and knowledge required for my work and career, I ...

- Participate in training for my role when it is offered but am not always confident in asking for help
- Take steps to develop skills and qualifications for my role and sometimes ask for feedback on my work
- Use both formal and informal learning to develop my skills and knowledge for my role and am starting to recognise the importance of on-going learning
- Regularly use feedback and self-reflection to improve my performance and set my own learning challenges in order to develop my career path
- Continually reflect on my performance and seek and use feedback as an integral part of my work, and I have innovative ways of managing my own learning and contributing to the learning of others

Select all that are relevant

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to give the following feedback on my current degree and how it is helping me prepare for my future work and career ...

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to these questions. Thank you for your participation.

Thank you for completing this survey.

References


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