



The
Geological
Society

Earth Science Graduate Outcomes Report

An overview of new degree recipients in the Earth sciences

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2 INTRODUCTION

The Society acquired the latest Earth science focused Graduate Outcomes dataset from the [Higher Education Statistics Agency](#). The survey looks to understand the outcomes of new degree recipients in the Earth sciences. For example, whether graduates are in employment, continuing with further study, doing something unrelated to their degree, or to what extent their qualification played a role.

The Graduate Outcomes (GO) survey replaced the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) for the 2017/18 academic year. With the main difference being that, the DLHE records destinations six months after graduation while the GO survey records this information at 15 months. This is the largest annual social survey conducted in the UK and provides us with insight into career destinations and development.

This summary document reflects the information recorded for the 2017/18 – 2019/20 academic years. We hope that this allows us to understand the Earth science Higher Education sector and the state of the Earth science graduate labour market.

3 RESULTS AND KEY FINDINGS

The dataset includes information on 5,980 graduates across the three academic years (completed + partially completed). Of which 2,415 were female (40%) and 3563 were male (60%).

3.1 2017/2018 Academic year

In total, 2,015 students graduated with 1,329 students (66%) in some form of employment following graduation. Of the 1,329 employed, 889 (67%) students stated that their degree was necessary (either required or advantageous) in securing their job.

When broken down into qualification levels, the proportion varied:

- 63% of First degrees (512)
- 70% of Masters (256)
- 80% of Postgraduates (121)

3.2 2018/2019 Academic year

In total, 1,985 students graduated with 1,286 students (65%) in some form of employment following graduation. Of the 1286 employed, 826 (64%) students stated that their degree was necessary (either required or advantageous) in securing their job.

When broken down into qualification levels, the proportion varied:

- 56% of First degrees (390)
- 72% of Masters (289)
- 76% of Postgraduates (147)

3.3 2019/2020 Academic Year

In total, 1,979 students graduated with 1,362 (69%) students in some form of employment following graduation. Of the 1,362 employed, 872 students (64%) stated that their degree was necessary (either required or advantageous) in securing their job.

When broken down into qualification levels, the proportion varied:

- 58% of First degrees (381)
- 68% of Masters (348)
- 74% of Postgraduates (143)

4 SUMMARY TABLES

This section provides a breakdown of the following for each academic year

- Characteristics
- Subject of study
- Graduate outcomes

4.1 2017/2018 Academic Year

4.1.1 Characteristics

Male	1228	61%
Female	787	39%

4.1.2 Subject of study

	Male	Female	Total
Geology	600	356	956
Applied geology	63	20	83
Engineering geology	39	15	54
Exploration geology	20	*	25
Geotechnology	23	10	33
Earth science	138	117	255
Palaeontology	18	8	26
Geoscience	54	44	98
Hydrogeology	12	7	19
Geological oceanography	11	6	17
Geophysics	76	52	128
Exploration geophysics	8	6	14
Geochemistry	11	*	15
Geohazards	15	13	28
Vulcanology	*	*	6
Geology not elsewhere classified	8	15	23
Marine sciences	42	44	86
Hydrography	8	*	9
Ocean sciences	58	49	107
Atmosphere-ocean interactions	*	*	*
Meteorology	23	14	37
TOTAL	1228	787	2015

4.1.3 Graduate activity

4.1.3.1 First degree

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	54	36	90
Full-time employment	395	253	648
Full-time further study	159	108	267
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	63	33	96
Part-time employment	46	27	73
Part-time further study	6	*	7
Unemployed	50	29	79
Unemployed and due to start further study	*	*	*
Unemployed and due to start work	9	8	17
Unknown pattern of employment	5	2	7
Unknown pattern of further study	*	*	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	17	6	23
TOTAL	806	504	1310

4.1.3.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	16	15	31
Full-time employment	193	122	315
Full-time further study	31	34	65
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	10	*	14
Part-time employment	15	*	20
Part-time further study	0	0	0
Unemployed	17	6	23
Unemployed and due to start further study	*	0	*
Unemployed and due to start work	*	*	*
Unknown pattern of employment	*	*	9
Voluntary or unpaid work	8	*	11
TOTAL	299	194	493

4.1.3.3 Other postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	*	11	15
Full-time employment	78	53	131
Full-time further study	0	*	*
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	*	*	*
Part-time employment	*	*	6
Part-time further study	0	0	0
Unemployed	*	*	7
Unemployed and due to start further study	0	0	0
Unemployed and due to start work	*	0	*
Unknown pattern of employment	*	*	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	*	0	*
TOTAL	95	73	168

4.1.4 Qualification required – those in some form of employment

4.1.4.1 First Degree

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	495	316	811
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	243	164	407
Advantageous	73	32	105
TOTAL	316	196	512
% of total employed	64%	62%	63%

4.1.4.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	224	142	366
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	106	66	172
Advantageous	49	35	84
TOTAL	155	101	256
% of total employed	69%	71%	70%

4.1.4.3 Other Postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	85	67	152
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	50	42	92
Advantageous	17	12	29
TOTAL	67	54	121
% of total employed	79%	81%	80%

4.2 2018/2019 Academic Year

4.2.1 Characteristics

Male	1184	60%
Female	799	40%

4.2.2 Subject of study

	Male	Female	Total
Geology	581	351	932
Applied geology	64	10	74
Industrial geology	*	0	*
Engineering geology	52	9	61
Exploration geology	21	*	25
Geotechnology	18	10	28
Earth science	119	114	233
Palaeontology	19	10	29
Geoscience	51	51	102
Hydrogeology	13	9	22
Mantle & core processes	*	*	*
Geological oceanography	*	7	11
Geophysics	80	44	124
Exploration geophysics	9	*	14
Geochemistry	11	7	18
Geohazards	19	28	47
Vulcanology	*	*	*
Geology not elsewhere classified	8	*	12
Marine sciences	40	51	91
Hydrography	*	*	*
Ocean sciences	56	65	121
Atmosphere-ocean interactions	*	0	*
Meteorology	13	15	28
Large-scale atmospheric dynamics & transport	*	0	*
Total	1184	801	1985

4.2.3 Graduate activity

4.2.3.1 First degree

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	71	44	115
Full-time employment	309	180	489
Full-time further study	153	121	274
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	30	23	53
Part-time employment	59	30	89
Part-time further study	7	*	11
Unemployed	62	50	112
Unemployed and due to start further study	10	9	19
Unemployed and due to start work	16	8	24
Unknown pattern of employment	*	*	*
Unknown pattern of further study	*	*	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	7	7	14
TOTAL	728	476	1204

4.2.3.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	24	15	39
Full-time employment	196	135	331
Full-time further study	33	30	63
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	13	12	25
Part-time employment	15	17	32
Part-time further study	0	0	0
Unemployed	13	*	14
Unemployed and due to start further study	*	8	9
Unemployed and due to start work	*	*	*
Unknown pattern of employment	*	*	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	*	0	*
TOTAL	303	222	525

4.2.3.3 Other postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	12	*	15
Full-time employment	88	73	161
Full-time further study	*	0	*
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	6	*	11
Part-time employment	11	6	17
Part-time further study	*	*	*
Unemployed	8	0	8
Unemployed and due to start further study	0	0	0
Unemployed and due to start work	*	0	*
Unknown pattern of employment	*	0	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	*	0	*
TOTAL	132	93	225

4.2.4 Qualification required – those in some form of employment

4.2.4.1 First degree

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	439	254	693
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	195	119	314
Advantageous	50	26	76
TOTAL	245	145	390
% of total employed	56%	57%	56%

4.2.4.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	234	166	400
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	111	75	186
Advantageous	60	43	103
TOTAL	171	118	289
% of total employed	73%	71%	72%

4.2.4.3 Other Postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	111	82	193
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	58	45	103
Advantageous	24	10	34
TOTAL	82	65	147
% of total employed	74%	79%	76%

4.3 2019/2020 Academic Year

4.3.1 Characteristics

Male	1150	58%
Female	829	42%

4.3.2 Subject of study

	Male	Female	Total
Climate science	13	17	30
Environmental geoscience	66	61	127
Meteorology	27	28	55
Earth sciences	156	131	287
Geology	478	275	753
Geophysics	55	33	88
Palaeontology	27	12	39
Marine sciences	56	70	126
Ocean sciences	51	74	125
Hydrography	11	*	15
Volcanology	*	*	9
Geological hazards	24	19	43
Geochemistry	6	10	16
Exploration geophysics	12	6	18
Geological oceanography	6	*	9
Hydrogeology	17	12	29
Exploration geology	6	*	9
Applied geology	73	37	110
Petroleum geology	35	22	57
Engineering geology	28	9	37
TOTAL	1150	829	1979

4.3.3 Graduate activity

4.3.3.1 First degree

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	80	53	133
Full-time employment	257	185	442
Full-time further study	150	112	262
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	39	22	61
Part-time employment	51	35	86
Part-time further study	7	*	11
Unemployed	28	17	45
Unemployed and due to start further study	*	7	9
Unemployed and due to start work	13	9	22
Unknown pattern of employment	*	*	*
Unknown pattern of further study			
Voluntary or unpaid work	11	5	16
TOTAL	639	451	1090

4.3.3.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	41	27	68
Full-time employment	237	167	404
Full-time further study	31	23	54
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	6	11	17
Part-time employment	16	19	35
Part-time further study	*	0	*
Unemployed	*	21	23
Unemployed and due to start further study	29	*	30
Unemployed and due to start work	*	*	7
Unknown pattern of employment	*	0	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	5	4	9
TOTAL	376	275	656

4.3.3.3 Other postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Employment and further study	8	8	16
Full-time employment	92	73	165
Full-time further study	*	*	*
Other including travel, caring for someone or retired	*	6	9
Part-time employment	7	6	13
Part-time further study	0	*	*
Unemployed	*	*	7
Unemployed and due to start further study	0	0	0
Unemployed and due to start work	0	0	0
Unknown pattern of employment	0	*	*
Voluntary or unpaid work	*	*	*
TOTAL	119	99	218

4.3.4 Qualification required – those in employment

4.3.4.1 First degree

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	388	273	661
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	161	124	285
Advantageous	54	42	96
TOTAL	215	166	381
% of total employed	55%	61%	58%

4.3.4.2 Masters (Research + Thought)

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	295	213	508
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	131	88	219
Advantageous	72	57	129
TOTAL	203	145	348
% of total employed	69%	68%	68%

4.3.4.3 Other Postgraduates

	Male	Female	Total
Total in employment	106	87	193
Formal requirement (subject and/or degree)	63	45	108
Advantageous	20	15	35
TOTAL	83	60	143
% of total employed	78%	69%	74%