

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2018

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# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2018

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## ROA Fact Sheet

ROA-F-2018/9

Researchcentrum voor Onderwijs en Arbeidsmarkt | ROA  
*Research Centre For Education and the Labour Market | ROA*

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2018

To what extent facilitates Maastricht University her students in their preparation for entering the labour market? Are Maastricht University alumni employable in both the short and the long run? This factsheet shows to what extent alumni from all faculties are and will remain employable, and is based on alumni research among three cohorts in 2017. The first cohort graduated in academic year 2015-2016, the second cohort graduated in academic year 2011-2012, and the third cohort graduated in academic year 2006-2007.<sup>1</sup>

## Position in the labour market

Of all Maastricht University alumni who graduated 1.5 years ago, 91% is reported to be part of the labour force, nearly half of the 9% reported out of the labour force is still studying.<sup>2</sup> Five and ten years after graduation more alumni are part of the labour force, 95% and 96% respectively.

Table 1 shows the unemployment rates for UM alumni by cohort and faculty. Alumni are unemployed if they are, at the time of the survey, not working but searching for work. Of the alumni who graduated 1.5 years ago, 7% turn out to be unemployed, whereas the cohorts five and ten years after graduation have an unemployment rate of 2% and 3% respectively. These percentages are comparable to those of last year.<sup>3</sup> The unemployment rate 1.5 years after graduation is with 7% a little higher than the average among alumni from all Dutch universities (which equals 5%).

The unemployment rates vary substantially across faculties, as shown by Table 1.<sup>4</sup> The highest unemployment rate is found among the alumni from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 1.5 years after

graduation. This percentage is much higher than among alumni from other faculties graduated in the same year, and it is also much higher than the percentage of unemployed alumni from the same faculty, who graduated approximately five and ten years ago.<sup>5</sup> Also among alumni from Health, Medicine and Life Sciences and Psychology and Neuroscience the unemployment rate among alumni from the most recent cohort is larger than among alumni from the other two cohorts, though the differences are not so large as for Arts and Social Sciences. The lowest unemployment rates are found among alumni from the School of Business and Economics. In the most recent cohort the unemployment rate is zero and for the other two cohorts 1%.

TABLE 1.

Percentage of students who are unemployed

	% unemployed		
	2015-2016	2011-2012	2006-2007
Humanities and Sciences	5	7	x
Business and Economics	0	1	1
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	6	1	1
Arts and Social Sciences	23	6	5
Psychology and Neuroscience	7	4	4
Law	8	2	7
Maastricht University	7	2	3

x = too few cases

## Trends in unemployment

Figure 1 shows the trend in the unemployment rate among the UM alumni who graduated 1.5 years before the survey for the period 2005 to 2017.<sup>6</sup> Related to the economic crisis, we observe an increase in the unemployment rate between 2007 and 2013. In the following two years, the UM wide unemployment rate

1 The response rates for these graduation cohorts are: 16.5% for 2015-2016, 26% for 2011-2012, 21% for 2006-2007. Because of the low initial response rate, alumni from the cohorts 2015-2016 and 2011-2012 were additionally called to remind them of responding to the questionnaire.

2 Based on the ILO definition of (un)employment.

3 See ROA-F-2017/1.

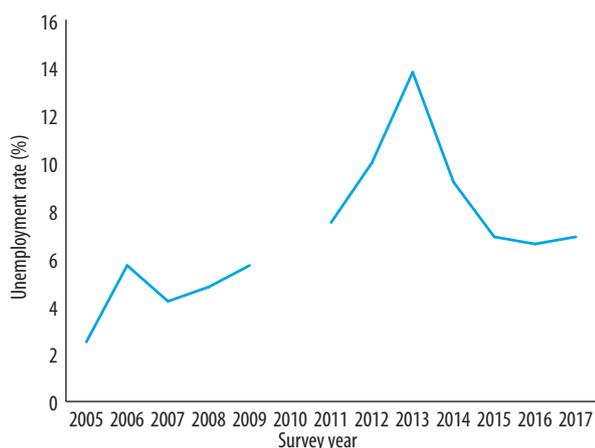
4 There is a difference in the unemployment rates within the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences. The unemployment rate 1.5 years after graduation is 7% for alumni from Health and Life Sciences and 4% for alumni from Medicine. Five and ten years after graduation the unemployment rate among Health and Life Sciences alumni is 2% and 1% respectively. Among Medicine alumni this percentage is zero for both cohorts.

5 Last year, the percentage unemployed among alumni from Arts and Social Sciences 1.5 years after graduation was 6%. The high unemployment rate of this year's most recent cohort seems to be an outlier.

6 The trend in unemployment rates five and ten years after graduation are not shown as there is not much variation over time.

decreased again. Since 2015, the unemployment rate is stable around 7%.<sup>7</sup>

**FIGURE 1.**  
Trends in unemployment rates 1.5 years after graduation



## Vertical and horizontal match

It is not only important to have a job; the requirements of the job should also match the alumni's education. A well-matched job not only shows that the knowledge and skills acquired during their study time at the UM are used in the labour market, but such a job often also implies higher job satisfaction, more career opportunities and less sickness absence.<sup>8</sup> Table 2a shows the extent to which UM alumni experience a vertical match. For each graduation cohort, the percentage of alumni is shown that have job at university master level. The table shows that the majority of UM graduates is able to find a job at the attained educational level. 68% of the alumni who graduated 1.5 years ago, has a job at university master level. The probability of a vertically matched job seems to increase with the years since graduation. Among the UM alumni who graduated approximately five and ten years ago, respectively 70% and 77% has a job at university master level. Across faculties there is variation in the percentage alumni with

<sup>7</sup> The extremely high unemployment rate among alumni from Arts and Social Sciences prevent the overall UM unemployment rate to decline further in 2017.

<sup>8</sup> See for example: Lee, Y., & Sabharwal, M. (2016). Education-Job match, salary, and job satisfaction across the public, non-Profit, and for-Profit sectors: Survey of recent college graduates. *Public Management Review*, 18(1), pp 40 – 64.

a vertical match. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences appears to have the lowest percentage of graduates that are vertically matched 1.5 and five years after graduation (56% and 45% respectively). These relatively low percentages are in sharp contrast to the relatively high percentage of alumni who graduated ten years ago at the same faculty (81%). Among alumni from Humanities and Sciences who graduated in 2011-2012, 91% has a job at university master level. Alumni from Health, Medicine and Life Sciences also have a relatively high vertical match percentage five years after graduation (86%).<sup>9</sup> Alumni from Psychology and Neuroscience have a somewhat below average probability of a vertically well-matched job 1.5 and five years after graduation (61% and 64% respectively), but a high probability of a job at university master level ten years after graduation (85%).

**TABLE 2a.**  
Percentage of graduates who have a vertical match

	% working at university level or higher		
	2015-2016	2011-2012	2006-2007
Humanities and Sciences	60	91	x
Business and Economics	65	65	73
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	77	86	77
Arts and Social Sciences	56	45	81
Psychology and Neuroscience	61	64	85
Law	64	68	77
Maastricht University	68	70	77

x = too few cases

Table 2b shows the percentage of Maastricht University graduates that is currently working in their own field of study or a related field of study, the so-called horizontal job match. Similar to Table 2a, the majority of Maastricht University graduates is able to find a job that is in their own - or a related - field of study. Of the cohort 1.5 year after graduation, 74% is horizontally well-matched, whereas for the cohorts five and ten years after graduation 79% and 78% respectively is horizontally well-matched. Again, differences across faculties exist. Alumni from Humanities and Sciences as well as from Arts and Social Sciences report on average

<sup>9</sup> There are differences among Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences alumni. Across cohorts, the percentages Health and Life Sciences alumni with a vertical match are 62%, 78% and 72% respectively. In contrast, all Medicine alumni are vertically matched 1.5 and five years after graduation. Ten years after graduation this percentage is 97%.

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a relatively low percentage of horizontally matched jobs. However, this might be due to the general character of most master programmes belonging to these faculties.<sup>10</sup> The percentage of alumni who experience a horizontal match is, among all cohorts, relatively high for Health, Medicine and Life Sciences.<sup>11</sup> Psychology and Neuroscience alumni ten years after graduation, as well as Law alumni five years after graduation also have above average probability of a job in their own (or a related) field of study.

TABLE 2b.

Percentage of graduates who have a horizontal match

	% working in own or related field of study		
	2015-2016	2011-2012	2006-2007
Humanities and Sciences	55	70	x
Business and Economics	71	81	81
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	85	89	83
Arts and Social Sciences	56	48	49
Psychology and Neuroscience	74	68	88
Law	67	86	71
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>

x = too few cases

## Income and working hours

Table 3 shows the median monthly gross income and weekly working hours across the three cohorts and six faculties. On average, 1.5 years after graduation, Maastricht University alumni have a median monthly income of €2,600. The median income increases to €3,800 and €4,500, five and ten years after graduation respectively. While School of Business and Economics alumni appear to consistently have a relatively high median income across the cohorts, it should be noted that these graduates also report a relatively high median weekly working hours. Except for alumni from the School of Business and Economics, most UM alumni work between 36 and 40 hours per week, which boils down to a full-time job.

<sup>10</sup> The vast majority of the FHS and FASoS alumni who are not horizontally matched indicate that their current job did not require a specific field of study.

<sup>11</sup> These percentages are mainly driven by Medicine alumni, for all cohorts around 95% of the Medicine alumni is horizontally matched.

For most faculties, the median income ten years after graduation is about doubled compared to 1.5 years after graduation. This does not hold for the alumni from Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, who start with a relatively high median income 1.5 years after graduation.<sup>12</sup> Ten years after graduation, they have a below average median income, leaving ahead alumni from the School of Business and Economics as well as alumni from Law. Alumni from Psychology and Neuroscience have the lowest median income five and ten years after graduation. This might be due to a lower number of working hours, which in turn can be related to the relatively high percentage of alumni that is self-employed next to their job for an employer.<sup>13</sup>

TABLE 3.

Median monthly income and weekly working hours

	gross income per month (median)			regular working hours per week (median)		
	2015	2011	2006	2015	2011	2006
	2016	2012	2007	2016	2012	2007
Humanities and Sciences	x	3,775	x	40	40	x
Business and Economics	2,870	4,800	5,500	40	45	45
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	3,000	3,950	4,200	37	40	36
Arts and Social Sciences	1,800	3,000	3,900	40	40	40
Psychology and Neuroscience	1,893	2,900	3,500	37	38	38
Law	2,277	3,600	4,800	40	40	40
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>

x = too few cases

## A look at employability in the broad sense

As the UM has employability of its students high on the agenda, this factsheet continues by putting emphasis

<sup>12</sup> This observation mostly applies to alumni from Health and Life Sciences as the median monthly income among Medicine alumni sharply increases between the cohorts 1.5 and ten years after graduation, from €3400 to €6746.

<sup>13</sup> Whereas 10% of the alumni from Psychology and Neuroscience both works for an employer and are self-employed, this percentage is only 6.7% for the UM as a whole (five years after graduation). See also ROA-F-2018/4E.

on specific employability measures.<sup>14,15</sup> Employability is all about getting and remaining employed, especially in an ever changing labour market. In that sense, employability does not only deal with having a job, but also with being able to keep this job and, in case of losing a job, with the probability of being able to find a comparable job.

Table 4 shows graduates' perceived risk of losing their current job as well as the perceived probability of finding a comparable job if needed. In general, the vast majority of the graduates feel quite secure about their current job. Only 9% and 8% of the alumni five and ten years after graduation expect to lose their current job in the upcoming five years. Additionally alumni from both cohorts feel confident in finding a comparable job if they would lose their current job, namely 76% and 71% for the 2011-2012 and 2006-2007 cohorts respectively.

Across faculties, we observe differences in the perceived probability of remaining employed. Five years after graduation, alumni from the School of Business and Economics are most confident in maintaining their job and finding a comparable job if they would lose their job. Only 3% expects to lose their current job in the next five years. If needed, 84% of the School of Business and Economics alumni expects to get a comparable job. Alumni from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences also perceive a relatively low risk of losing their job five years after graduation (5%), whereas they perceive an average probability of finding a comparable job in case they would need to find one. Alumni from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences who graduated about ten years ago, perceive more difficulties in finding a comparable job. On the contrary, alumni from Psychology and Neuroscience who graduated ten years ago expect to lose their job less often and expect to find a comparable job more often than similar alumni who graduated five years ago. Among alumni from Law those who graduated about ten years ago perceive a much lower

14 See Community at the Core: Strategic Programme 2017-2021 for Maastricht University's strategy on graduate employability.

15 In 2017, the questionnaire among UM alumni five and ten years after graduation has been revised in order to be able to comment more on (the broad concept of) employability of former UM students. The NAE (questionnaire 1.5 years after graduation) does not have this focus.

risk of losing their current job than Law alumni five years after graduation.

TABLE 4.

Percentage of alumni who estimate to lose their jobs and percentage of alumni who estimate to be able to find a comparable job after losing their job

	% risk losing current job		% find comparable job	
	2011	2006	2011	2006
	-	-	-	-
	2012	2007	2012	2007
Humanities and Sciences	9	x	70	x
Business and Economics	3	5	84	78
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	13	10	73	69
Arts and Social Sciences	5	11	75	62
Psychology and Neuroscience	19	4	67	79
Law	11	5	73	71
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>

x = too few cases

Employability comprises more than getting and remaining employed. A broader definition of employability also includes aspects such as job satisfaction, (fulfilling) job content and lifelong learning.<sup>16</sup>

Table 5 shows for UM alumni (from the different faculties) both the degree of job satisfaction and the extent to which their jobs have a broader societal impact. Generally, most UM graduates appear to be satisfied with their current job: 81% and 78% of the UM alumni are (very) satisfied with their current job five and ten years after graduation. Moreover, approximately two thirds of the Maastricht University alumni tend to have jobs that have a broader societal impact. Differences across faculties, and to a lesser extent over the two cohorts, do exist. Five years after graduation, alumni from Health, Medicine and Life Sciences are most satisfied with their job: 91% is (very) satisfied with their current job. Ten years after graduation, this holds for 75%. Alumni from Psychology and Neuroscience and from Law are most satisfied with their jobs ten years after graduation. Five years after graduation, respectively 74% and 71% is satisfied.

16 See ROA-R-2017/2

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Alumni from Health Medicine and Life Sciences (86%) and Humanities and Sciences (80%) report the highest societal impact five years after graduation.<sup>17</sup> Among School of Business and Economics alumni, these percentages are relatively low (around 47%).

**TABLE 5.**

Percentage of UM graduates who are satisfied with their current job and percentage of UM graduates that realise societal impact within their current job

	% satisfied with job		% broader societal impact	
	2011	2006	2011	2006
	-	-	-	-
	2012	2007	2012	2007
Humanities and Sciences	80	x	80	x
Business and Economics	80	80	47	52
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	91	75	86	81
Arts and Social Sciences	79	69	63	67
Psychology and Neuroscience	74	84	67	56
Law	71	88	65	71
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>

x = too few cases

Table 6 shows the degree of lifelong learning among UM alumni. We distinguish between training participation in the last two years and informal learning on-the-job.<sup>18</sup> On average, five and ten years after graduation 36% and 33% of UM alumni had followed a job-related training in the past two years. This is relatively low compared to the Dutch average of 63% among high educated workers.<sup>19</sup> The differences between cohorts and faculties are distinct. Focusing on the graduation cohort of 2011-2012, 60% of alumni from the faculty of Humanities and Sciences participated in formal training, whereas only 24% of alumni from the faculty of Arts and Social Sciences did so. Also among the UM alumni who graduated in 2006-2007, the training participation is lowest for alumni from Arts and Social Sciences (15%). Alumni from Law and the School of Business

<sup>17</sup> We do not have enough observations to draw conclusions for alumni from Humanities and Sciences who graduated about ten years ago.

<sup>18</sup> Informal learning is defined as the percentage of working time spent on tasks from which one can learn. See also ROA-F-2017/4E for comparisons with the Dutch working population.

<sup>19</sup> ROA-F-2017/4E

and Economics have the highest training participation among this cohort.

Informal training is measured as the percentage of working time alumni usually spend on tasks from which one can learn. On average, a little less than half of the working time is spent on tasks from which UM alumni can learn. There are not so many differences across faculties.

**TABLE 6.**

Percentage UM alumni spend on formal - and informal training in their job

	% training participation		% informal learning	
	2011	2006	2011	2006
	-	-	-	-
	2012	2007	2012	2007
Humanities and Sciences	60	x	48	x
Business and Economics	36	42	43	46
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	31	30	47	40
Arts and Social Sciences	24	15	39	42
Psychology and Neuroscience	32	33	50	46
Law	47	42	48	38
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>

x = too few cases

## Satisfaction with study at Maastricht University

UM alumni are also asked to look back to their study at Maastricht University and indicate whether they would choose the same study again. We report on this in Table 7. Among the youngest cohort, 75% of all UM alumni would choose the same study at the UM again. Across all faculties and cohorts, at least two thirds of the graduates would choose the same study at the UM again.

**TABLE 7.**

Percentage of alumni who would choose the same study again

	2015-2016	2011-2012	2006-2007
Humanities and Sciences	95	75	x
Business and Economics	81	79	78
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	73	81	70
Arts and Social Sciences	65	75	73
Psychology and Neuroscience	67	66	75
Law	79	85	84
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>75</b>

x = too few cases

## Appendix A

TABLE 8.  
Unemployment<sup>1</sup>

	2010 T+1 2008-2009	2011 T+1 2009-2010	2012 T+1 2010-2011	2013 T+1 2011-2012	2014 T+1 2012-2013		2015 T+1 2013-2014	2016 T+1 2014-2015	2017 T+1 2015-2016
Business and Economics	-	4.9	6	6.3	5.7		3.6	0.0	0
Health and Life Sciences	-	4.4	8.3	16.4	10.3		9.2	8.0	7.1
Medicine	-	0	1.7	2.5	3.3		2.7	0.0	3.9
Arts and Social Sciences	-	23.9	25.5	33.3	13.7		5.9	5.6	22.9
Psychology and Neuroscience	-	11.4	16.7	25.6	7.6		10.3	14.1	7.3
Law	-	8.8	7.1	14.3	16.2		10.3	14.6	7.7
<b>Maastricht University</b>	-	7.5	10	13.8	9.2		6.9	6.6	6.9
	2010 T+5 2003-2004	2011 T+5 2004-2005	2012 T+5 2005-2006	2013 T+5 2006-2007	2014 T+5 2007-2008	2015 spring T+5 2008-2009	2015 fall T+5 2009-2010	2016 T+5 2010-2011	2017 T+5 2011-2012
Business and Economics	2.2	5.4	1.9	0	0	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.2
Health and Life Sciences	1.7	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.5	4.3	5.3	3.3	1.7
Medicine	0	1.5	0	0	1.3	0.0	4.9	0	0
Arts and Social Sciences	x	3.8	10.1	5.7	4.8	4.4	6.7	1.5	5.7
Psychology and Neuroscience	7	10.3	4.2	0	4.3	7.5	2.5	4.9	4.4
Law	4.3	5	0	6.8	3.8	2.6	1.8	0	1.6
<b>Maastricht University</b>	2.5	4.4	2.7	3.2	2.6	2.6	3.4	1.5	2.2
	2010 T+10 1998-1999	2011 T+10 1999-2000	2012 T+10 2000-2001	2013 T+10 2001-2002	2014 T+10 2002-2003	2015 spring T+10 2003-2004	2015 fall T+10 2004-2005	2016 T+10 2005-2006	2017 T+10 2006-2007
Business and Economics	3	2.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	0	1.6	1.1
Health and Life Sciences	0.6	2	1.2	3.1	3.7	0.6	2.6	1.6	1.4
Medicine	0	2.6	1.8	0	2	3.6	1.5	1.2	0
Arts and Social Sciences	x	x	x	x	x	4.3	11.5	4.4	4.6
Psychology and Neuroscience	0	0	3.8	0	4.9	2.0	3.1	1.7	3.7
Law	1.5	0	6.1	1.6	0	1.4	0	0	6.9
<b>Maastricht University</b>	1.7	2	2	2	2.1	1.5	3	1.7	2.6

<sup>1</sup> too little information on the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences.

x = too few cases

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