

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2019

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# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2019

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## ROA Factsheet

ROA-F-2019/4

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

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2019

How well does Maastricht University (UM) prepare its students for the labour market? What do the career paths of UM alumni look like in the short and medium term, and how do they look back on their studies in Maastricht? This factsheet reports on the employability of master graduates of all faculties as well as their aspirations and expectations with respect to future job mobility. The factsheet is based on alumni research among three cohorts that participated in a survey in 2018. The first cohort graduated in the academic year 2016-2017 (1.5 years prior to the survey), the second in 2012-2013 (five years prior to the survey) and the third in 2007-2008 (ten years prior to the survey).<sup>1</sup>

## Position in the labour market

Of the UM alumni who graduated 1.5 years ago, 95% report being part of the labour force; of those not currently in the labour force, 60% are still studying.<sup>2</sup> Five and ten years after graduation, a smaller proportion of alumni are part of the labour force: 88% and 91% respectively. Studying is mentioned less frequently among these cohorts as the reason they are not presently part of the labour force. Of the cohort that graduated five years ago, almost 25% are still studying, whereas this percentage is close to zero in the cohort that graduated ten years ago.

Table 1 gives an overview of graduates' unemployment rates – that is, the proportion of alumni belonging to the labour force who are currently not working but who are seeking work – by cohort and faculty. Overall, 5% of the 2016-2017 cohort is currently unemployed, whereas the earlier cohorts have unemployment rates of 4% and 2% respectively. These percentages are comparable to those of last year.<sup>3</sup>

Unemployment rates vary considerably across faculties, as shown in Table 1.<sup>4</sup> The highest unemployment rate is found among alumni of FASoS

(Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) 1.5 years after graduation (19%). This percentage is much higher than for alumni who graduated from other faculties in the same year, and much higher than the percentage of unemployed alumni of the same faculty who graduated five and ten years ago.<sup>5</sup>

Similarly, the unemployment rate for the latest cohort of alumni of FPN (Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience), at 8%, is higher than the unemployment rates for alumni from the older cohorts (3% and 0% respectively), though the differences are not as large as for FASoS. Five years after graduation, unemployment is highest among alumni of FSE (Faculty of Science and Engineering), followed by graduates of LAW. For UM graduates as a whole, those who graduated ten years ago have half the unemployment rate of those who graduated five years ago (4% compared to 2%), a trend that holds for most faculties. The only exception is FHML (Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences), where the unemployment rates five and ten years after graduation are 4% and 3% respectively.

TABLE 01.

Percentage of students who are unemployed

	% unemployed		
	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008
Science and Engineering	6	8	X
Business and Economics	1	2	1
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	2	4	3
Arts and Social Sciences	19	5	2
Psychology and Neuroscience	8	3	0
Law	4	7	2
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

X = insufficient data

## Trends in unemployment

Figure 1 shows the trend in the unemployment rate from 2005 to 2018 among UM alumni who graduated 1.5 years before the survey.<sup>6</sup> We observe an increase in unemployment rate between 2007 and 2013, during the economic crisis. Since 2013 the unemployment rate has been falling. This decrease continued over the last year, though unemployment has not yet fallen to pre-crisis

1 Response rates: 23.2% for the 2016-2017 cohort, 33.3% for 2012-2013, 28.8% for 2007-2008. As the initial response rate was low, alumni of the 2016-2017 and 2012-2013 cohorts were phoned to remind them to fill in the questionnaire.

2 Based on the ILO definition of the labour force.

3 See ROA-F-2018/9.

4 There is a difference in unemployment rates within FHML. The unemployment rate 1.5 years after graduation is 3% for alumni of Health and Life Sciences and 0% for alumni of Medicine. Five and ten years after graduation, the unemployment rates among Health and Life Sciences alumni are 7% and 4% respectively. Among Medicine alumni, these figures are 1% and 2% respectively.

5 Last year, the percentage of unemployed alumni of FASoS 1.5 years after graduation was 23%.

6 The trends in unemployment rates for the cohorts that graduated five and ten years ago are not shown as they display little variation over time.

levels.

FIGURE 01.

Trends in unemployment rates 1.5 years after graduation



## Vertical and horizontal match

It is not only important to have a job; the job ought to be a good fit with the graduate's education. A suitable job is one that makes use of the knowledge and skills acquired during the graduate's studies. Such jobs are often linked to higher job satisfaction, better career opportunities and less sick leave.<sup>7</sup>

Table 2a shows the extent to which UM alumni experience a vertical match (i.e. whether they are working in a job that requires a master's degree).<sup>8</sup> The vast majority of graduates succeed in finding such a job. However, the results of the vertical match across the three cohorts vary. On average, 78% of alumni who graduated 1.5 years ago currently hold a job at master's level. Among alumni five years after graduation, a slightly lower proportion, 75%, has a job at this level. For alumni who graduated ten years ago this figure is 86%. There are several differences across faculties. Alumni of FHML<sup>9</sup> and FPN have relatively high proportions (over

80%) of graduates with a good vertical match with their jobs.

TABLE 02a.

Percentage of students with a good vertical match

	% working at master's level or higher		
	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008
Science and Engineering	70	67	X
Business and Economics	74	69	79
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	84	89	93
Arts and Social Sciences	69	63	76
Psychology and Neuroscience	84	82	97
Law	75	75	92
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>

X = insufficient data

TABLE 02b.

Percentage of students with a good horizontal match

	% working in own or related field of study		
	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008
Science and Engineering	72	70	X
Business and Economics	69	84	74
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	84	84	88
Arts and Social Sciences	59	60	52
Psychology and Neuroscience	78	81	77
Law	79	79	74
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>

X = insufficient data

Table 2b shows the percentage of UM graduates with a horizontal match (i.e. those who are currently working in their own or a related field of study). Here, too, we see that most graduates succeed in finding a job in a field that aligns with their field of study.

Among graduates of UM as a whole, 76% have a good horizontal match 1.5 years after graduation, whereas for the cohorts five and ten years after graduation, 80% and 75% respectively have a horizontal match. Again, the figures vary across faculties. FASoS has lower proportions of graduates with a good horizontal match, possibly due to the relatively general character of most master's programmes at this faculty.<sup>10</sup>

7 See e.g. 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), 40–64.

8 In contrast to earlier factsheets, we now report the percentage of UM alumni working in a job that requires a HBO-master or university-master.

9 There are differences among alumni of FHML. The percentages of Health and Life Sciences alumni with a vertical match are 79%, 82% and 88% for those who graduated 1.5, five and ten years ago, respectively. In contrast, all Medicine alumni are vertically matched irrespective of cohort.

10 The vast majority of alumni of FASoS with a poor horizontal match indicate that their current job did not require a specific field of study.

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2019

The percentage of alumni with a good horizontal match is relatively high for all cohorts of FHML.<sup>11</sup> FPN alumni ten years after graduation, and SBE (School of Business and Economics) alumni and FPN alumni five years after graduation, also have an above-average probability of holding a job in their own or a related field of study.

## 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, UM alumni 1.5 years after graduation have a median monthly income of €2,700. This increases to €3,800 and €4,400, respectively, five and ten years after graduation.

Across faculties, there are differences in terms of median income. Alumni of FHML<sup>12</sup> and SBE start with relatively high incomes of €2,759 and €3,000. Although all cohorts of SBE alumni seem to have relatively high median incomes, these graduates also report relatively high median weekly working hours. With the exception of alumni of SBE, most UM alumni work between 37 and 40 hours per week, equivalent to a full-time job.

## Job mobility

Thus far we have focused on statistics pertaining to alumni's current job situation. One recent development is increased flexibility of the labour market; in this context, it is to be expected that alumni are fairly mobile on the job market. In the following, we report on the job mobility of alumni five and ten years after graduation and their expectations about job mobility over the next five years.

Table 4 shows the percentage of graduates who have worked for the same or different employers between graduating and taking part in the survey. In the case of different employers, we distinguish between two

employers and three or more employers. The data relate to alumni who belong to the labour force and are currently employed.<sup>13</sup> In general, there is a clear difference in the number of employers between alumni who graduated five years ago and ten years ago. On average, five years after graduation, 14% worked for three or more employers, while ten years after graduation, 25% worked for three or more employers.

Job mobility varies for alumni from different faculties. Five years after graduation, alumni of FSE and FASoS are most mobile. Slightly over 50% of these alumni still work for their first employer. For the other faculties, this figure is at least 65%.<sup>14</sup> Ten years after graduation, alumni of most faculties have a stay rate of less than 50%, with the exception of those of SBE (51%) and LAW (64%). The number of alumni with three employers since graduation for the cohorts that graduated ten years ago of SBE and of FHML was at least twice that of the cohorts that graduated five years ago.

Table 5 shows the percentage of alumni who would like to work for another company in five years' time and the percentage of alumni who expect to do so. On average, there is considerable overlap between the two figures per cohort. Generally, 47% of UM alumni five years after graduation would like to work for another company in five years and 50% expect this to be the case. The figures for the older cohort are lower, suggesting that, over time, graduates find stable jobs. Ten years after graduation, two thirds of the UM alumni in employment do not want to work for another company.

Here too, however, there are differences across faculties. Alumni of LAW are the least likely to report that they want to be working for another company in five years' time, and are even less likely to expect to do so. For alumni of FASoS (64% of whom want to be working elsewhere in five years' time, a relatively high percentage), there is a considerable difference between this figure and the percentage who actually expect to do so (28%). Alumni of FSE also show a strong desire to switch employers (60%), accompanied by a high expectation of actually doing so (57%).

11 There are differences among alumni of FHML. The percentages of Health and Life Sciences alumni with a horizontal match are 83%, 74% and 81% for those who graduated 1.5, five and ten years ago, respectively. Among Medicine alumni, these figures are 85%, 96% and 100%.

12 There are differences in the median income of graduates of FHML. The former have a median income of €2,659, €3,351 and €4,200 (1.5, five and ten years after graduation, respectively), whereas the corresponding figures for the latter are €3,550, €4,100 and €6,000.

13 Alumni who reported being self-employed as their main work activity at the time of the survey are excluded.

14 Five years after graduation, a higher percentage of Health and Life Sciences alumni than Medicine alumni work for the same employer. Minimal differences are observed between these two groups ten years after graduation.

**TABLE 03.**

Median monthly income and weekly working hours

	Gross income per month (median)			Regular working hours per week (median)		
	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008
Science and Engineering	2569	3710	X	40	40	X
Business and Economics	3000	4600	6225	40	45	45
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	2759	3775	4500	38	40	40
Arts and Social Sciences	1935	2768	3508	37	40	40
Psychology and Neuroscience	2455	3000	3750	38	40	34
Law	2600	3500	4300	40	40	40
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>2700</b>	<b>3800</b>	<b>4400</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>

X = insufficient data

**TABLE 04.**

Percentage of graduates employed by 1, 2 and 3 or more employers since graduation

	% of alumni employed by 1, 2 and 3 or more employers					
	2012 - 2013			2007 - 2008		
	1 employer	2 employers	3 or more employers	1 employer	2 employers	3 or more employers
Science and Engineering	52	17	31	X	X	X
Business and Economics	70	21	9	51	25	24
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	65	18	16	35	33	32
Arts and Social Sciences	52	23	25	46	21	33
Psychology and Neuroscience	68	21	12	48	34	17
Law	66	19	15	64	24	11
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>

X = insufficient data

**TABLE 05.**

Percentage of UM graduates who would like to work for another company in five years' time and percentage who expect to work for another company in five years' time

	% want to work for other company		% expect to work for other company	
	2012-2013	2007-2008	2012-2013	2007-2008
Sciences and Engineering	60	X	57	X
Business and Economics	52	40	49	33
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	43	32	55	32
Arts and Social Sciences	64	28	64	28
Psychology and Neurosciences	39	30	52	37
Law	33	18	30	12
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>

X = insufficient data

# Maastricht University Graduate Surveys 2019

TABLE 06.

Percentage of alumni who would choose the same UM study programme again

	2016-2017	2012-2013	2007-2008
Science and Engineering	93	87	X
Business and Economics	79	76	78
Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	82	75	72
Arts and Social Sciences	74	68	69
Psychology and Neuroscience	80	72	75
Law	77	78	66
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>

X = insufficient data

## Satisfaction with UM study programme

Table 6 shows the percentage of alumni who would choose the same study programme at UM again. Of the most recent graduates, 80% of UM alumni would choose the same programme again.<sup>15</sup> This is slightly higher than the percentages for the cohorts that graduated five and ten years ago: 75% and 73%, respectively.<sup>16</sup> FSE scores highest on this measure: 93% of alumni who graduated in 2016-2017 would again choose to follow the same study programme at UM, whereas 87% of those who graduated in 2012-2013 would choose the same programme again.

<sup>15</sup> Last year, the percentage of alumni who graduated 1.5 years before the survey and would choose the same study programme at UM again was 75%.

<sup>16</sup> The percentages of Medicine alumni who would choose the same UM study programme again are 85%, 81% and 80% (1.5, five and ten years after graduation, respectively), whereas the corresponding figures for Health and Life Sciences alumni are 81%, 70% and 67%.

**TABLE 07.**  
Unemployment

	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	2018 T+1 2016-2017
Sciences and Engineering					13.0		4.0	4.7	4.8	6.3
Business and Economics	-	4.9	6.0	6.3	5.7		3.6	0	0	0.8
Health and Life Sciences	-	4.4	8.3	16.4	10.3		9.2	8.0	7.1	2.8
Medicine	-	0	1.7	2.5	3.3		2.7	0	3.9	0
Arts and Social Sciences	-	23.9	25.5	33.3	13.7		5.9	5.6	22.9	18.6
Psychology and Neuroscience	-	11.4	16.7	25.6	7.6		10.3	14.1	7.3	8.1
Law	-	8.8	7.1	14.3	16.2		10.3	14.6	7.7	4.4
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>		<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>
	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 autumn T+5 2009-2010	2016 T+5 2010-2011	2017 T+5 2011-2012	2018 T+5 2012-2013
Sciences and Engineering						0	6.0	0	7.4	7.5
Business and Economics	2.2	5.4	1.9	0	0	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.0
Health and Life Sciences	1.7	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.5	4.3	5.3	3.3	1.7	6.8
Medicine	0	1.5	0	0	1.3	0	4.9	0	0	1.1
Arts and Social Sciences	X	3.8	10.1	5.7	4.8	4.4	6.7	1.5	5.7	5.0
Psychology and Neuroscience	7.0	10.3	4.2	0	4.3	7.5	2.5	4.9	4.4	3.1
Law	4.3	5.0	0	6.8	3.8	2.6	1.8	0	1.6	6.5
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
	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 autumn T+10 2004-2005	2016 T+10 2005-2006	2017 T+10 2006-2007	2018 T+10 2007-2008
Sciences and Engineering					X	X	X	X	X	X
Business and Economics	3.0	2.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	0	1.6	1.1	1.1
Health and Life Sciences	0.6	2.0	1.2	3.1	3.7	0.6	2.6	1.6	1.4	4.5
Medicine	0	2.6	1.8	0	2.0	3.6	1.5	1.2	0	1.7
Arts and Social Sciences	X	X	X	X	X	4.3	11.5	4.4	4.6	2.0
Psychology and Neuroscience	0	0	3.8	0	4.9	2.0	3.1	1.7	3.7	0
Law	1.5	0	6.1	1.6	0	1.4	0	0	6.9	1.7
<b>Maastricht University</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>

X = insufficient data

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