

# Labor Market Insertion in the Galician University System: Graduates and Master's Degree Graduates

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## Abstract

Since its establishment in 2001, one activity Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ACSUG) has periodically carried out is the production of labour market insertion studies on graduates from the Galician University System (SUG). ACSUG has been a pioneer in this area, establishing a project to monitor and analyse the employment situation of graduates. In 2013, these studies were expanded to also include master's degrees graduates.

The current structure of university studies, organised as graduate, master's, and doctoral degrees following adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), requires better understanding of the academic and employment situations faced by graduates with official university master's degrees, and these studies also complement existing information on undergraduates.

The purpose is to periodically compile information about these graduates in relation to their educational and employment situations. These reports also provide useful data for other universities working to improve planning and fine-tuning of their academic programmes. A more student-centred method of teaching and learning is promoted, as established in the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). On the other hand, by analyzing key factors related to integration of the graduates into the labor market, and to the demand for educational programs existing in the community, these studies also provide universities with relevant information they can analyze when designing strategies for increasing the employability of their graduates, or when adjusting the range of degree programs they will offer.

**Key words:** graduates; master's degree graduates; labor market insertion; employment; workplace; work; job; employability; competencies.

## 1. Introduction

The establishment over the years of an annual periodicity for these studies has allowed a history of results to be obtained, which now allows analysis of the evolution of various factors over time. In this paper, we study some aspects about graduates such as: who are working, where are working, the time taken to find a first job related to the degree/master's degree and which competencies are important for the performance of the job.

**Section 2** includes the technical data of these studies: graduates during the academic year between 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (EIL0506 to EIL1112) and Master's degree graduates during the academic year between 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 (EILMasteres0910 to EILMasteres1112) (both studies shall be designated with the acronym EIL "Study of Labor Market Insertion" followed by the academic year they refer to).

**Section 3** and **Section 4** present some results obtained and general conclusions.

All information about ACSUG publications are available in the website:

<http://www.acsug.es/en/insercion>

## 2. Technical Data

**Graduates** (diplomas, bachelor's degree, engineering technician, engineers, architecture, architecture technician, degrees). Labor market insertion studies by ACSUG in recent years, in particular, the past seven, guarantee the comparability of results by using a similar methodology in all of them, including the same or similar questionnaire. The study population consists of SUG graduates from EIL0506 to EIL1112. **Table 1** shows size of population, sample and fieldwork's date. In the design of the sampling, a maximum permissible error of 10% with a confidence level of 95% was established when selecting the sample for each degree program and campus.

Academic year	EIL0506	EIL0607	EIL0708	EIL0809	EIL0910	EIL1011	EIL1112
Population	10,280	8,689	9,216	8,846	8,922	9,289	8,106
Sample	5,362	4,569	4,830	4,965	5,004	5,114	4,687
% surveyed	52.16%	52.58%	52.41%	56.13%	56.09%	55.05%	57.82%
Fieldwork	May 2008	May-June 2009	May-November 2010	October 2011	December 2012	December 2013	December 2014

**Table 1.** Surveys conducted amongst SUG graduates.

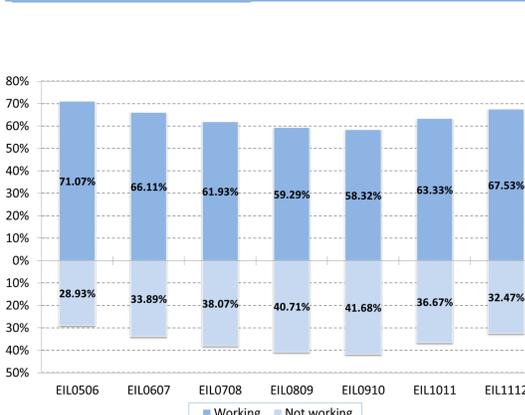
### Master's degree graduates

The study population consists of Master's degree graduates from EILMasteres0910 to EILMasteres1112. In order to ensure maximum representativeness for each of the Master's Degree programs in the SUG, an exhaustive study was performed by contacting each and every one of the individuals included in the study population. The overall sampling error for the SUG Master's Degree graduates was +/-1,32% (EILMasteres0910), +/-1.31% (EILMasteres1011) and +/-1.23(EILMasteres1112), with a 95% confidence level. **Table 2** shows size of population, sample and fieldwork's date.

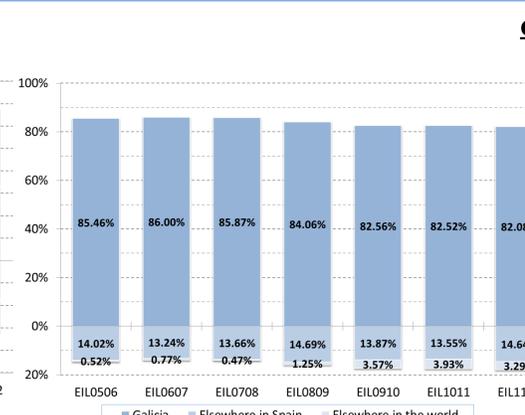
Academic year	EILMasteres0910	EILMasteres1011	EILMasteres1112
Population	1,633	2,099	2,728
Sample	1,261	1,526	1,907
% surveyed	77.21%	72.70%	69.90%
Fieldwork	May-June 2013	June-July 2014	June-July 2015

**Table 2.** Surveys conducted amongst SUG Master's degree graduates.

## 3. Results



**Figure 1.** Working (at the time the survey was conducted). Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.



**Figure 2.** Work place (at the time the survey was conducted). Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.

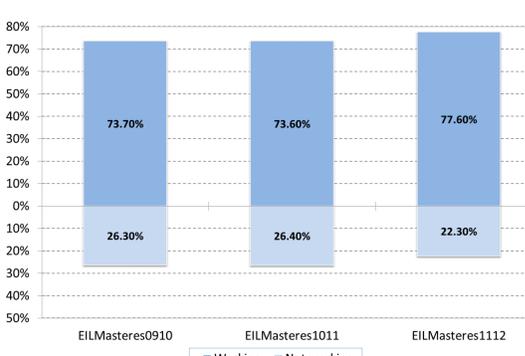


**Figure 3.** Average time (in months) in finding employment. Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.

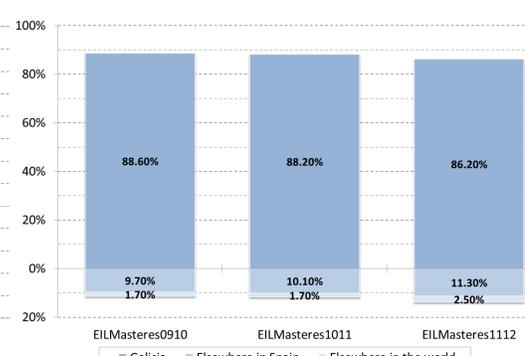
EIL	Most valued	Least valued
EIL0506	Motivation (4.50) Learning abilities (4.48) Problem-solving ability (4.45) Learning abilities (4.53)	Creativity (3.70) Leadership ability (3.44) Foreign language knowledge (3.26) Creativity (3.72)
EIL0607	Motivation (4.51) Problem-solving ability (4.45) Learning abilities (4.55)	Leadership ability (3.42) Foreign language knowledge (3.29) Creativity (3.78)
EIL0708	Motivation (4.51) Problem-solving ability (4.47) Learning abilities (4.49)	Leadership ability (3.60) Foreign language knowledge (3.39) Broad general knowledge (3.73)
EIL0809	Motivation (4.45) Problem-solving ability (4.44) Learning abilities (4.59)	Leadership ability (3.52) Foreign language knowledge (3.31) Broad general knowledge (3.81)
EIL0910	Motivation (4.57) Problem-solving ability (4.56) Learning abilities (4.64)	Leadership ability (3.58) Foreign language knowledge (3.46) Broad general knowledge (3.83)
EIL1011	Motivation (4.64) Problem-solving ability (4.62) Learning abilities (4.45)	Leadership ability (3.62) Foreign language knowledge (3.43) Creativity (3.51)
EIL1112	Motivation (4.42) Problem-solving ability (4.44)	Leadership ability (3.39) Foreign language knowledge (3.09)

**Table 3.** Most and least valued competencies. Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.

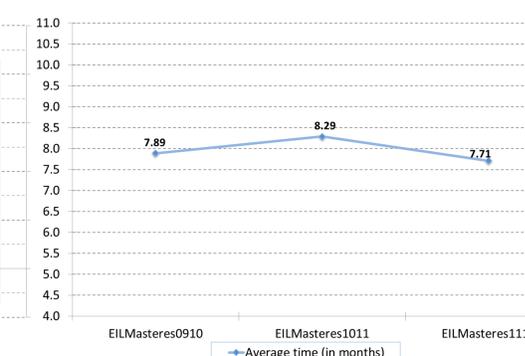
### Master's degree graduates



**Figure 4.** Working (at the time the survey was conducted). Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.



**Figure 5.** Work place (at the time the survey was conducted). Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.



**Figure 6.** Average time (in months) in finding employment. Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.

EIL	Most valued	Least valued
EIL0910	Problem-solving ability (4.36) Ability to assume responsibility (4.36) Working in a team capacity (4.12)	Working in a team capacity (4.12) Computer skills (4.06) Foreign language knowledge (4.03)
EIL1011	Problem-solving ability (4.39) Ability to assume responsibility (4.39) Adaptability (Multi-tasking) (4.35)	Foreign language knowledge (4.15) Computer skills (4.11) Creativity (3.86)
EIL1112	Problem-solving ability (4.40) Problem-solving ability (4.39) Written/oral communication skills (4.39)	Foreign language knowledge (4.15) Computer skills (4.12) Creativity (3.84)

**Table 4.** Most and least valued competencies. Results for SUG overall. Comparison with previous studies.

## 4. Conclusions

- As seen in **Figure 1** the percentage of graduates working at the time of the survey (67.53%) has remained at level similar to those observed in EIL0607. Regarding Master's degree graduates the percentage of graduates working (77.60%) has increased in comparison with previous studies (73.60%-73.70%), as can be seen in **Figure 4**.
- With respect to the workplace, **Figure 2** and **Figure 5**, graduates and Master's degree graduates are mostly working in Galicia (82.08%-88.60%) with (9.70%-14.69%) working in another Autonomous Community in Spain. An increase can be seen in the percentage of graduates are working outside Spain (0.47%-3.93%), as graduates as Master's degree graduates.
- The average time it took a SUG graduate to find his or her first job was 9.79 months (EIL1112), is shown in **Figure 3**. There is a notable increase with previous studies. In comparison, the average time from master's degree graduates was 7.71 months (EILMasteres1112), as can be seen in **Figure 6**.
- Graduates and Master's degree graduates were asked to assess a list of competencies (abilities, attitudes and knowledge) in terms of their need for job performance, as can be seen **Table 3** and **Table 4**. The competencies perceived as most important for the current job performance are learning abilities, problem-solving ability and motivation by graduates, and problem-solving ability and ability to assume responsibility by master's degree graduates.

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