

## Summary of 2010 Survey

### **2010 Survey on employment conditions of USI graduates:**

#### **Holding a Masters a plus, but all indicators good across the board**

The Career Service at Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) has announced the results of the annual survey conducted in June 2010 on professional placement of its graduates. Graduates were interviewed at 1 and 5 years post-graduation, aligning with the methodology used by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. Of the 827 graduates contacted, 49% responded to the questionnaire, for a total of 401 graduates.

The study demonstrates the improvement of employment conditions for USI graduates at 5 years after graduations, on various fronts: increase in the employment rate, mobility, compensation and satisfaction regarding the respective profession.

#### **Occupation indicators stable and good**

Concerning employment, the data at one year after graduation paints a very positive picture, with 94% occupied (of these, 75% work and 16% study). Of those who work, 14% carry out their work activities while concurrently studying and 6% (16 respondents) seek employment (of whom 31% (5) have a bachelor degree, 37% (6) a master degree, and 19% (3) a diploma in architecture. 50% (8) of the stated sub-set have had at least one employment experience.

At five years after graduation, the picture is even more positive, with 98% of graduates occupied (of whom 93% work (with concurrent work and study at 5%) and 5% have made other choices. 2% (3 respondents) of the graduate sample are in search of a (new) job: the average age is 31, and the average graduate has already gained more than 4 years of professional experience.

#### **Increasing level of mobility**

In addition to increasing professional experience, mobility is also on the rise: at one year after graduation, 57% of graduates stay in Ticino, and at a 5 year interval this number drops to 51%, while occupation rises in other Swiss Cantons, from 17% (at one year after earning the diploma) to 25% (5 years after graduation).

#### **Salaries vary significantly between the bachelor and master**

Concerning salaries, differences emerge in professional placement between holders of bachelor and master degrees. With both degrees, the time to secure employment is very brief, averaging approximately 1.5 months. However, significant differences emerge regarding compensation: in Switzerland, at one year after earning a bachelor degree, the average graduate earns 49,250 CHF annually compared to 68,500 CHF for a graduate

with a two-year master degree. Still within Switzerland, the compensation at 5 years after graduation averages 90,000 CHF annually.

### **Studies consistent on occupation and student satisfaction**

74% of those who participated in the survey followed a work activity consistent with their education at USI, and 90% declared that they are satisfied with their current occupation. The percentage at 5 years after graduation, respectively, is 71% (consistency with field of study) and 96% (satisfaction).

### **For more information**

More detailed information, including graphs and methodology of the 2010 survey of graduates, is available at the following link

- USI Career Service, 058.666.46.06, [careerservice@usi.ch](mailto:careerservice@usi.ch)
- USI Media & Communication Service, 058.666.47.92, [press@usi.ch](mailto:press@usi.ch)