

Summary of the 2014 graduates' survey

USI graduates feel the crisis but job placement figures remain high, especially for Swiss citizens

The 11th USI graduates' survey was conducted by the USI Career Service between May and July 2014, involving students who graduated in 2012 (i.e. 1 year from graduation) and in 2008 (i.e. 5 years from graduation) from all four Faculties. Of the 983 graduates concerned, 512 responded to the survey (52.1%).

According to the current guidelines of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, as of this year the data is divided in two categories: graduates who are employed and graduates who are seeking employment. By the said subdivision the 2014 survey shows that, overall, 89.7% of USI graduates have found employment after 1 year (236), and 10.3% are seeking employment (27). It should be noted however for the latter figure that 23 individuals are international graduates (6 Italian, 1 German, and 12 non-UE) and that their average age is 31. Five years after graduation, the overall employment rate rises to 96.1% (171), whereas the unemployment rate falls to 3.9% (7).

The situation is positive for Swiss graduates (individuals living in Switzerland upon graduating from high school), with 95.6% (87) employed 1 year after graduation, and 97.4% (77) employed 5 years after graduation. These figures correspond exactly to the national average provided by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.

Five years after graduation, the breakdown per Faculty is the following: at the Academy of Architecture and at the Faculty of Informatics all graduates (40, resp. 12) have reported to be employed. At the Faculty of Economics, the employment rate is 96.8% (60), against 3.2% (2) of unemployed graduates. Finally, at the Faculty of Communication Sciences, the respective figures are 92.2% (59) employed and 7.8% (5) unemployed.

These figures highlight, on one hand, the undeniable difficulties of the current job market, especially outside of Switzerland, and on the other, they underscore the overall strength of USI's education programmes with the number of employed five years after graduation that is higher than the national average. The job placement period remains satisfactory, averaging at 2.5 months. The form of employment reported by the survey is also significant: 55.6% of 1-year graduates have declared to be engaged with an open-ended contract, whereas for 5-year graduates the percentage rises to 75.2%.

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