

USI link

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Special issue

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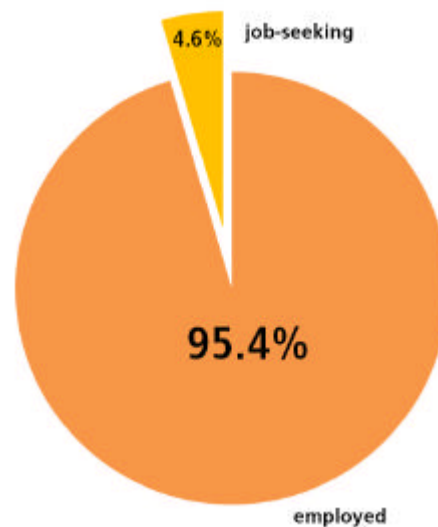
2007 survey of graduates



Graduate job hunting: a success story for everyone

The vocational integration of graduates is important for USI just as it is for all higher education institutes. While efforts are mainly concentrated on providing high quality education and scientific research, a careful eye is always kept on the world of work. The reality that graduates must face is far from simple: today's labour market is dynamic, its needs change rapidly and graduates must be able to prove that they have mastered specialist skills, that they are flexible and that they are able to adapt to a whole range of situations. A university cannot hand out a foolproof formula for each and every situation but it must provide its students with the analytical tools needed to successfully tackle the most complex and unexpected problems. Only in this way can its graduates reap the rewards of successful vocational integration. The numbers confirm that USI is on the right track, despite the fact that competition – even among the universities themselves – has become increasingly aggressive. In this scenario, the Stage&Placement Service has every right to be satisfied with the results of the 2007 survey. The success of the vocational integration of USI graduates is a success for everyone involved: professors, assistants and administrative staff alike who support the students with professionalism during their studies here at USI. But it is above all a success for the students – past, present and future – because our alumni have been excellent ambassadors for USI in the world of work, demonstrating the value of the qualifications awarded by our university.

Piero Martinoli, President



The 2007 survey of graduates, in brief

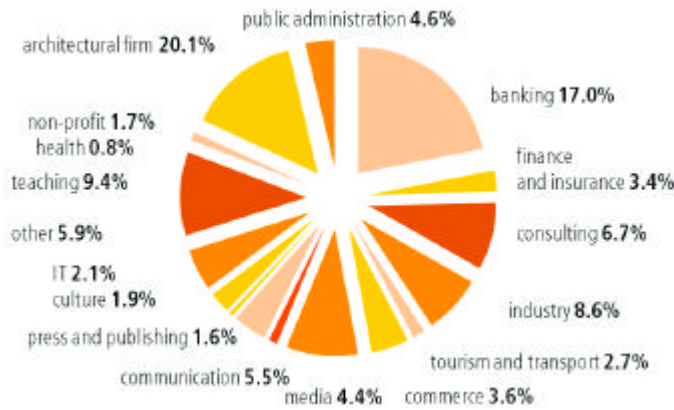
The 2007 survey presents a comforting picture of the vocational integration of the University of Lugano's graduates. The percentage of students in employment stands at 95.4%, up 4.2% on last year's figures. As in the past, the time taken to find employment after graduating is still very short: an average of 2.3 months. The 2007 survey also highlights a growing tendency to be more mobile: job-hunting solely in Ticino has decreased while the number of graduates finding an occupation in other cantons and abroad has increased as has the tendency to diversify the

work experience within the first 6 years of graduation. The main vocational openings continue to be in the banking/finance sector and, for graduates of the Accademia, architectural firms. The survey also shows that as the years pass, a growing number of USI graduates reach middle management and executive positions: the percentage has risen from 11% to today's 16%. As regards the vocational integration of its graduates, USI is therefore in line with the rest of Switzerland and in a privileged position on the international stage.



Sectors of employment and classification

Graduates in Economics and Communication Sciences mainly find employment in the banking and finance sector. Considering their specialist training, the most natural vocational opening for graduates of the Accademia di architettura are architectural firms. Most USI graduates hold an employment contract (84.3%), are on open-ended contracts (80.1%) and are in full-time employment (86.2%). 76.5% have a job which is consistent with the type of training they received at USI and 92% claim to be satisfied with their current employment.

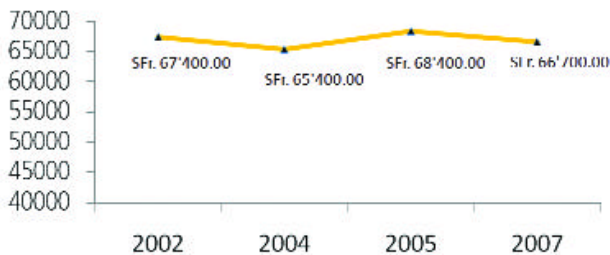


► Sectors of employment

- Top 10 Recruiter**
- UBS
 - RTSI
 - Cornèr Banca
 - BSI
 - Credit Suisse
 - Price Waterhouse Coopers
 - Città di Lugano
 - Banca del Gottardo
 - Corriere del Ticino
 - Banca Stato

Salary

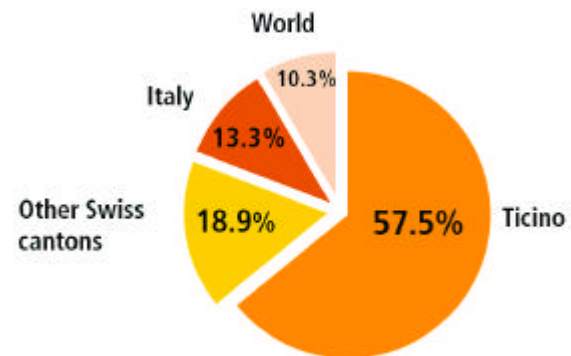
The average income of USI graduates working in Switzerland is 66,700 Sfr. per year, with negligible variations throughout the surveyed population. The pay rises as professional experience is gained: one year after graduation the average pay is around 55,200 Sfr. and rises to 76,200 Sfr. six years after graduation.



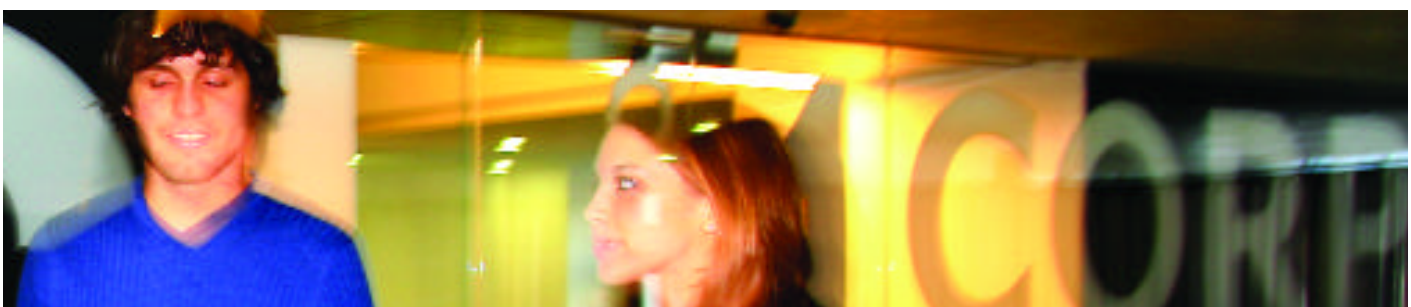
► Salary

Place of work

More than half of USI's graduates find employment in Ticino (57.5%). Of those who decide to leave the canton, most find work in another region of Switzerland (almost 1 USI graduate in 5). The others – around 1 graduate in 4 – opt for a career outside Switzerland. More than 40% of the foreign graduates find work in Switzerland after graduating from USI.



► Place of work



Employment: 2002-2007 trend

Comparison with the results of previous surveys shows how the situation has remained steady over the last five years, with some highly positive aspects: vocational integration is still rapid – on average graduates find a job just a little more than 2 months after graduating – and the percentage of graduates in employment has risen, reaching 95.4%, with negligible variations among the three different faculties. In particular, 92.6% of USI graduates have found employment while 2.8%

have made alternative lifestyle choices. Of the 4.6% that are still job-seeking, more than 42% have received at least one job offer and 80% have already worked on average for 2 years. In recent years there have not been significant changes in the average pay while there is a marked rise in mobility; the percentage of USI graduates that remain in Ticino has continued to drop each year, from 77% in 2002 to 57.5% today.

SURVEY	2002	2004	2005	2007
% employed	92.3%	90.5%	91.2%	95.4%
Integration times (months)	1.9	2.7	2.3	2.3
Average salary (in SFr., for graduates working in Switzerland)	67.400	65.400	68.400	66.700
Work in Ticino	77%	67%	64%	57%



Benchmarking against other universities

Benchmarking against neighbouring universities is useful to better read the data of the 2007 survey on the vocational integration of University of Lugano graduates. The table at the bottom of the page highlights the encouraging situation of USI's graduates. Comparison of vocational integration times,

employment rates and average salaries shows how USI alumni enjoy a privileged position with nearby Italy and also indicate that, on the basis of the data of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, the situation for graduates of the three faculties is in line with that of the rest of Switzerland.

	USI	SWITZERLAND (Federal Statistical Office)	ITALY (Alma laurea)
% employed	95.4% (92.6% in work)	92.8% (85.3% in work)	93% (45% in work)
Integration times (months)	2.3	4	6
Average monthly salary, SFr.	66.700	70.100	29.100
Survey year and population surveyed	2007 Graduates 2000/2005	2005 Graduates 2004	2006 Graduates 2004

Note on the methodology adopted in the 2007 survey: in this survey, carried out in March 2007, all graduates between 2000 and December 2005 from the faculties of Communications Sciences, Economics and the Accademia di architettura were included for a total of 1196 graduates. The percentage response, which was the same for all three faculties, was 46.7% for a total of 559 graduates.

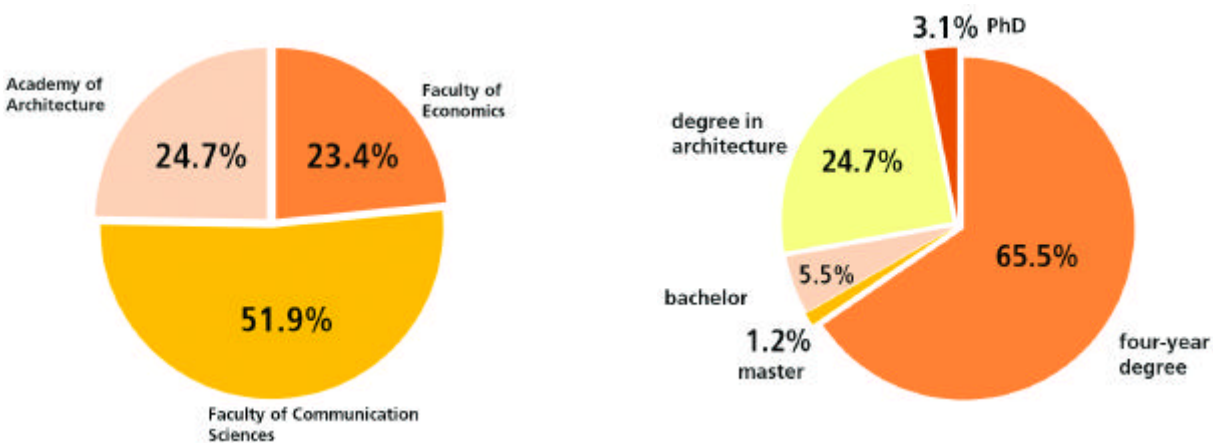
Translator's Note: the term "employed" (translating Italian "occupato") is based on the Swiss Federal Statistical Office definitions, and includes all persons in work (i.e. jobholders, 92.6% of USI graduates) as well as graduates who have made alternative life choices (2.8% of USI graduates). The term "job seekers" refers to graduates who are actively looking for a job.

University of Lugano graduates – a profile

The 2007 survey involved 1,196 graduates; i.e. those awarded their degree between 2000 and December 2005. It still does not include graduates of the Faculty of Informatics, set up in 2004. Who are USI graduates? 35.7% come from the canton of Ticino; around 1 in 4 have their roots in another Swiss canton while the rest are foreigners.

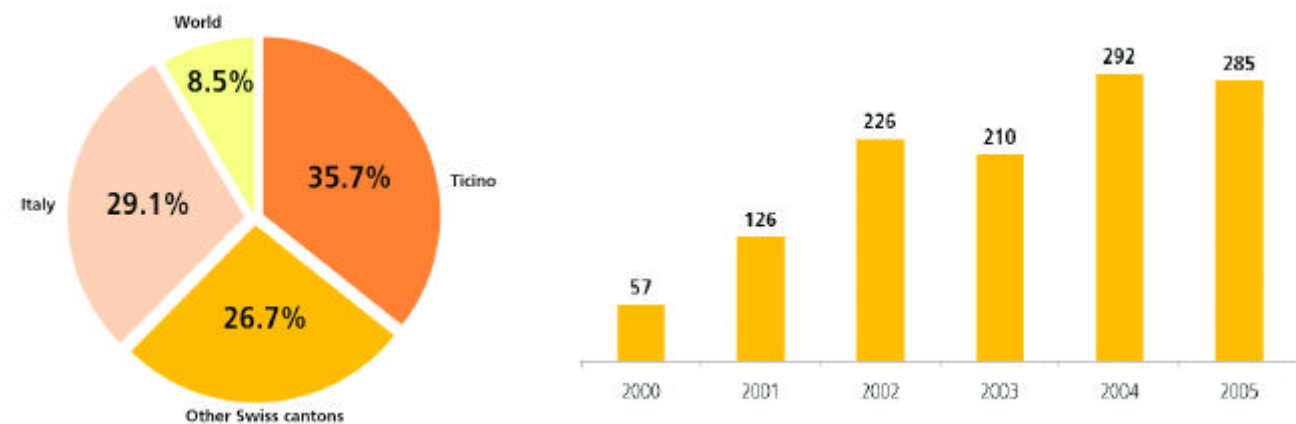
The make-up of USI graduates is highly international: indeed, they come from around forty different nations. Italian students represent the majority followed, in decreasing order, by Germany, Romania, Spain and Argentina. Most of USI's graduates speak four European languages: besides Italian – the mother-tongue of 70% of the

graduates – they know English, French and German. There are just as many men as women and the subdivision by faculty shows that around half have studied Communication Sciences, one quarter Economics and the remaining quarter Architecture.



▶ graduates by faculty

▶ graduates by qualification



▶ graduates by origin

▶ graduates by year of graduation

Stage&Placement: at the service of students, graduates and companies

The excellent results of the 2007 survey of graduates would not have been possible without the decisive contribution of Stage&Placement, the office for students and graduates that brings students closer to the world of work. Dr. Silvia Invrea, the Office Manager, explains how it does this.

What is S&P's goal?

Our office aims to smooth the transition from the academic world to the world of work, not only by concretely helping students to find internship or employment but also helping them during the course of their studies to plan a career path by providing information, training, contacts and incentives that help identify the vocational opening which best matches their academic and personal profile.

In practice, what activities do you organize?

We invite professionals to the university to talk about their experience, we organize company presentations as well as training and guidance activities that become occasions to get to know the various professional realities. We manage an online database that contains all

the internship and job offers for USI students and graduates (some 1,800 offers have been posted in 4 years) and helps match supply and demand. We also offer our students personal assistance in preparing the tools needed to find employment: curriculum, letter of presentation and application, job-hunting methods (advertisements, databases, etc.) and recruitment methods (mock interviews, assessments, etc.). We keep in touch with alumni, supporting them in their career changes and in building their own professional network and we keep track of their career both in the year-book and by means of surveys like the one presented in this special issue of *USILink*.

Is your work also directed at companies? What are the advantages for USI and potential employers?

We want to disseminate information about our university and its educational pathways to potential employers and at the same time better understand their needs. The office invites companies to come to the university and present their companies, it offers them access to

the database to advertise their internship and employment opportunities to around 2,000 students and 1,800 graduates and it naturally helps organize the internship. To help companies find new specialized personnel from our Masters program each year we publish the «CVBook» with the curricula of all the students enrolled on a two-year Masters program, accessible on-line by companies that collaborate with us, and «USI e Carriere», a booklet distributed free of charge at the university containing detailed information about companies and firms interested in offering our students job opportunities. For the more active and attentive companies our office has also created the «Network USImpresa» which lists all the companies and groups wishing to collaborate on an ongoing basis with USI and to bridge the gap between the academic world and the world of work through ad hoc meetings and joint work experiences.

Projects for the future?

One priority is to increase contacts with our alumni. Seven years have passed since the first degrees were awarded and now we have almost 2000 alumni, of whom many are now established professionals. We believe it is important to cultivate these relationships – both between ex-students and USI and among the alumni themselves – to enable them to take advantage of a network of potentially advantageous contacts. This network is important also from a professional point of view, while at the same time it enhances the value and reputation of the USI “brand”.



▶ The S&P office, from the left: Silvia Invrea, manager, Alessandra Spagnolo Mantovani and Simona Bolis

The Stage&Placement office in numbers

Contacts with companies	560
Offers	1820, of which
	1012 internship offers
	808 job offers
On campus meetings with companies	125, of which
	68 company presentations
	39 Visiting Employers
	18 Joining the world of work workshops
Students who have been on an internship	700
Personal vocational guidance and review of CVs	670
Surveys of graduates	5

Stage&Placement's activities

- ▶ Internship and job offers database
- ▶ On campus meetings with companies and vocational guidance
- ▶ Visiting Employers Program
- ▶ In-Company Visits
- ▶ Workshops Joining the world of work
- ▶ Seminars Successful Applications
- ▶ Coordination of internship and Field Projects
- ▶ USI Career Forum
- ▶ Personalized vocational guidance
- ▶ Network USImpresa
- ▶ Survey of graduates
- ▶ CV Book of students on two-year Masters courses
- ▶ Newsletter with all the news and the offers of the month
- ▶ USI&Carriere Guide
- ▶ Placement of Alumni