



LIMERICK INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY  
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA  
LUIMNIGH

# CAREERS SERVICE

---

## **First Destinations Report 2010**

### **Overview of All Graduates Executive Summary**

## **First Destinations Survey – Graduates 2010**

<b><i>Contents</i></b>	<b><i>Page No.</i></b>
1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 Overview of Results	3
1.2 Historical Comparative Analysis 2007 – 2010	4
1.2 Progression within the Institute	5
1.3 How do graduates source employment	5
<b><i>Institution Overview</i></b>	
2.0 Institution Overview	
2.1 Current Status of Graduates	6
2.2 Location of Employment	7
2.3 Nature of Employment	8
2.4 Salaries	8
2.4 Source of Graduate Employment	9
<b><i>Schools Overview</i></b>	
<b>3.0 Schools Overview</b>	
3.1 School of Art & Design	10
3.2 School of Business & Humanities	11
3.3 School of the Built Environment	12
3.4 School of Science Engineering & IT	13

## **1.0 Introduction**

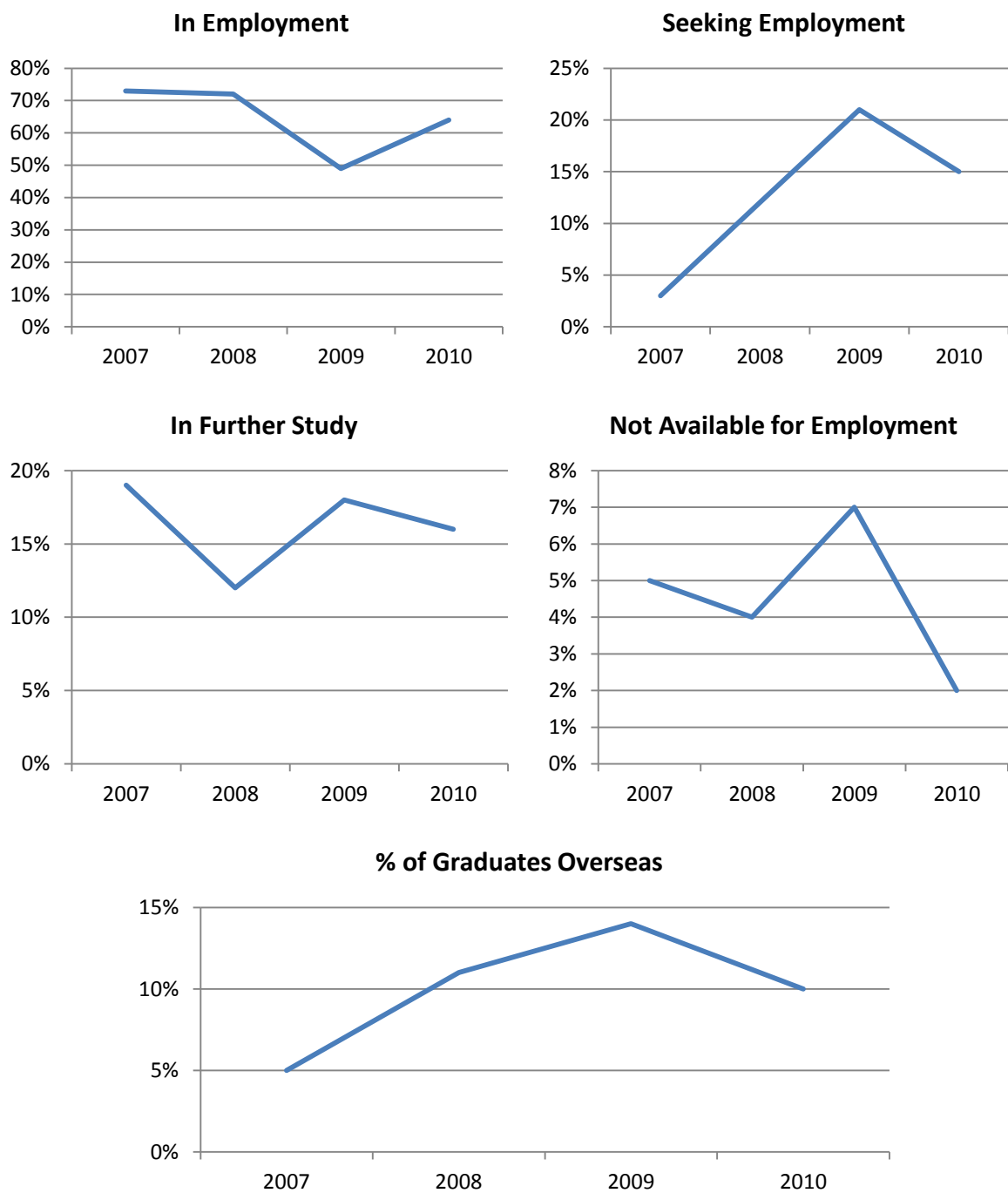
The First Destinations Report, compiled annually at Limerick Institute of Technology presents detailed information relating to the circumstances of graduates approximately one year after graduation. The survey was conducted in May 2011 with an initial postal campaign to all graduates and an option of completion by hard copy or utilising on-line survey management software SurveyMonkey.com. Additionally, a follow-up SMS campaign using the new in-house text alert system was launched. There were 1322 graduates, 877 completed their education at LIT and were subject to the survey, a further 445 continued in the institute to higher awards and therefore are not subject to the survey at this time. Of the 877 surveyed, 400 responses were received, representing an average response rate of 46%. This represented a decreased response rate on 2010 by 8%. This varies from a minimum response rate per programme of 31% to 100% which means this data provides a very comprehensive and accurate account of the employment status of the graduates of 2010 some nine months after graduation. This data is a useful resource for school-leavers, institute management, employers, policy makers and the general public.

The facts and figures presented in the report will be instrumental in communicating the importance of higher education and helping to illustrate how education benefits the individual, society, research activity and the region and country in general. The information is particularly pertinent during the period of downturn in the economy and reflects considerable difficulties in the employment market for graduates.

### **1.1 Overview of Results**

- **64% of graduates went directly into employment, a considerable increase from 49% in 2009.**
- **64% of Level 6 & 7 graduates continued to higher awards in the Institute**
- **79% of graduates have secured employment or further study opportunities**
- **The employment figure includes 10% employed overseas. This figure has decreased by 3% from 2009 and is back in line with 2007 statistics.**
- **16% continued on to some form of further study, down 2% from 2009.**
- **13% of Level 8 graduates continued to postgraduate education, 6% of whom continued in LIT.**
- **15% were seeking employment, down 6% from 2009 but still up considerably from only 3% in 2007.**
- **4% of graduates have availed of voluntary or unpaid internship opportunities.**
- **51% of graduates in employment are in full-time employment, 24% in part-time employment**
- **The most popular region of employment is the Mid-West with 53% of graduates remaining in the region**

## 1.2 Historical Comparative Analysis 2007 - 2010



The comparative statistics are critical in reflecting the impact of the current economic downturn on the employment and further study trends of LIT graduates. While employment figures have been falling in recent years we have seen a significant increase this year from 49% to 64%. Interestingly, only 51% of graduates state they are in full-time employment, with 23% in part-time employment. This reflects the flexibility of recent graduates and their eagerness to gain employment, even if only part-time.

### **1.3 Progression within the Institute**

LIT promotes an environment of progression and this is reflected in the report. A large number of graduates of Level 6 & Level 7 programmes continue in the Institute. This year we have also seen a considerable increase in the number of Level 8 graduates remaining in the Institute to complete Postgraduate study both research and taught.

- 69% of Higher Certificate (Level 6) continued
- 58% of Bachelor Degree (Level 7) continued
- 6% of Honours Bachelor (Level 8) continued

The number of Level 8 graduates continuing in the Institute has doubled since 2009 reflecting the increased number of taught and research postgraduate opportunities available.

### **1.4 How do Graduates source employment?**

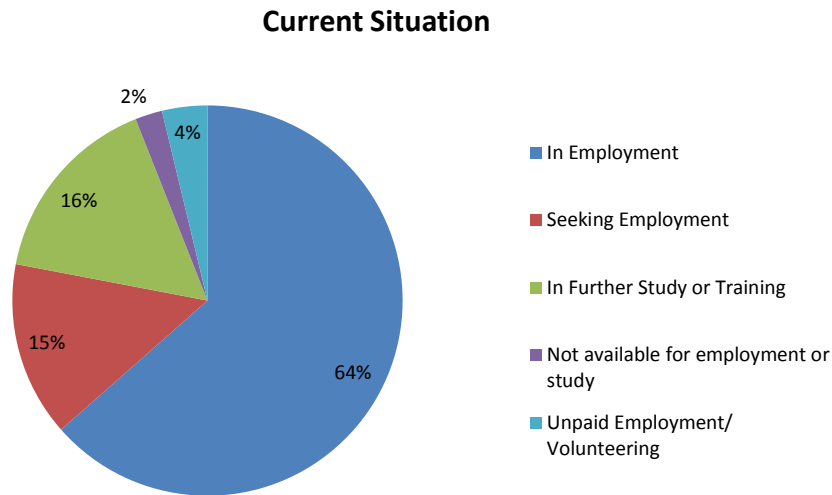
In terms of sourcing their graduate employment, graduates have been resourceful and the most common sources of graduate employment are:

- Other 35%
- Speculative Approach to Employers 25%
- Internet 12%
- LIT Careers Service 6%

Of those who stated “other” the majority sourced employment through friends and family. This is closely followed by Speculative Approaches to Employers which reflects the changing nature of the jobs market and the ‘hidden jobs market’.

## 2.0 Institution Overview

### 2.1 Current Status of Graduates:

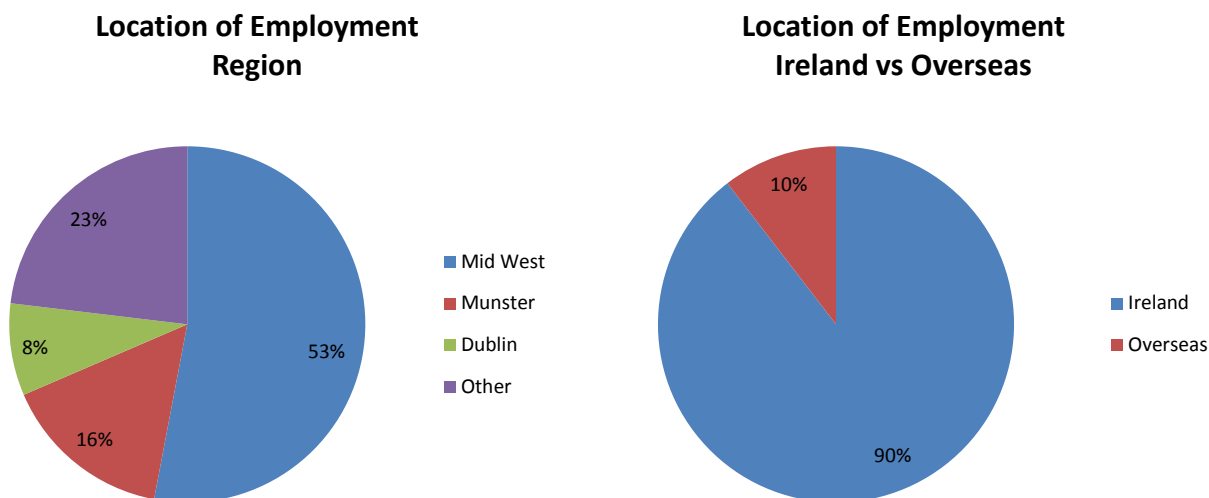


- This year, in spite of the considerable change in the economic climate, 64% of Graduates have gone into relevant employment. This represents a significant improvement on 49% in employment in 2009.
- 6% of LIT graduates are availing of voluntary employment or unpaid internships reflecting the willingness of graduates to gain relevant experience and the increased number of government sponsored internship programmes for the unemployed such as Jobbridge.
- The survey shows that 15% of the Class of 2010 went on to some form of postgraduate or further study.

Not all graduates continue to employment as many are attracted to postgraduate and further study options. For many this is an opportunity to diversify into a new field if their original field of study has been particularly badly hit by the recession e.g. Construction Sector. For others, it is a reflection of the increased competition for graduate positions and the realisation that 4<sup>th</sup> level education is becoming increasingly common.

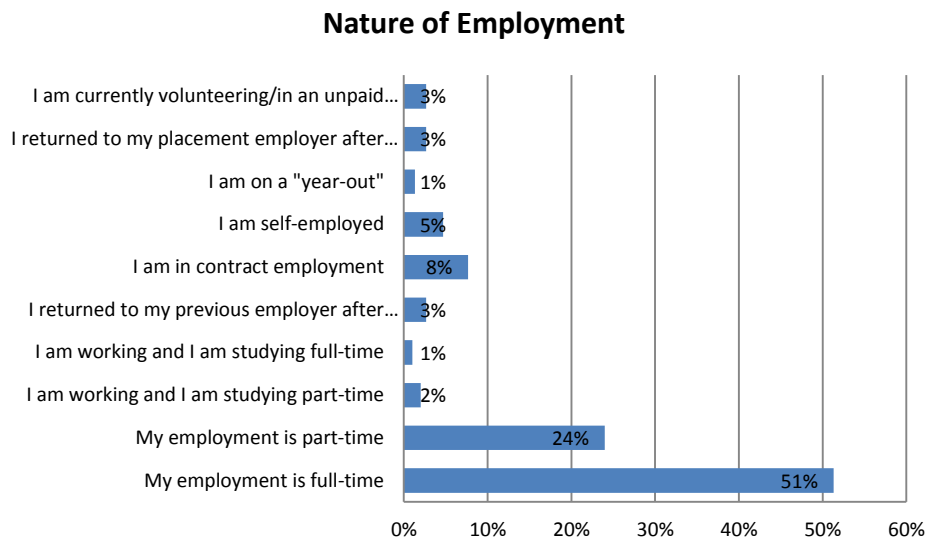
- 6% of Level 8 graduates of the Institute continued to postgraduate study in Limerick Institute of Technology an increase of 100% since 2009

## 2.2 Region of Employment



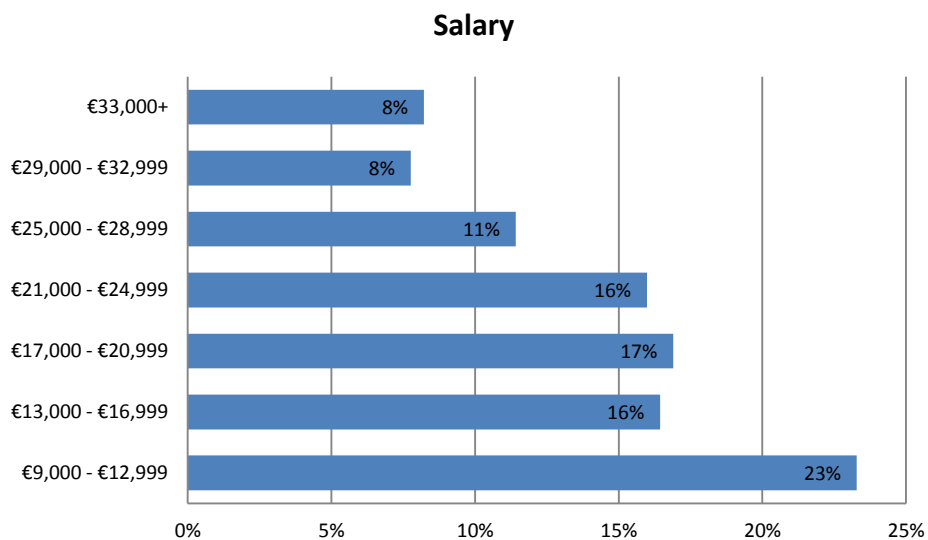
- Limerick Institute of Technology continues to produce graduates who enter the local and regional economy and gain employment within the Mid-West (Limerick, Clare & Tipperary). The highest proportion of graduate at 53% remained in the region, an assuring statistic in spite of the considerable challenges facing the region at present.
- Only 8% of graduates have sourced employment in Dublin, reflecting the opportunities, cost of living and lifestyle preferences of graduates
- 10% of graduates are employed overseas, down 4% from 2009 still reflecting the increasing national migration figures. Of the 10%, the majority are in the UK. Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the US are also represented.

### 2.3 Nature of Employment



- Only 51% of Graduates who are in employment are in full-time employment.
- 24% of those in employment are in part-time employment reflecting the flexibility of Graduates and their eagerness to gain employment.
- 5% of Graduates are self-employed and this is across all disciplines with the largest proportion being Art & Design graduates.

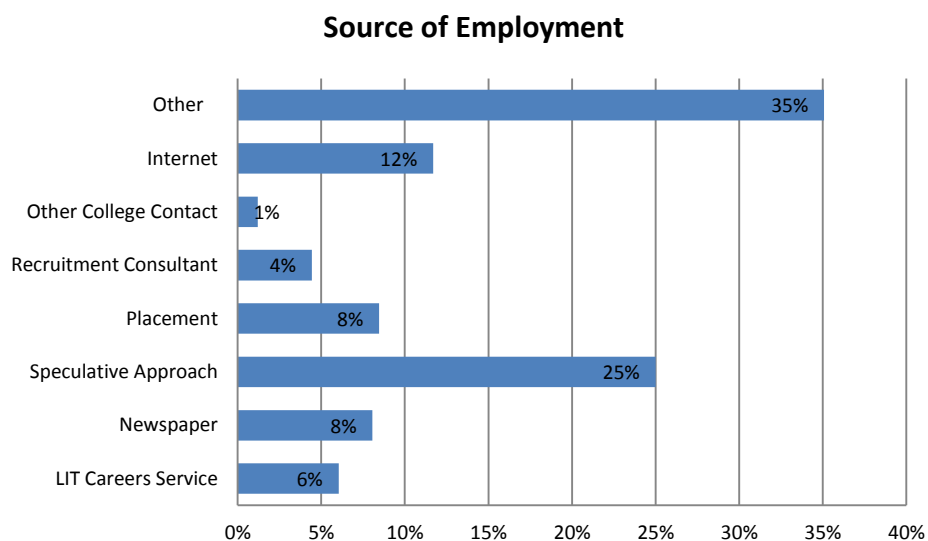
### 2.3 Salaries



- Not all graduates provide salary information
- 33% of graduates are achieving an annual salary of between €17,000 - €25,000 per annum which remains in line with national averages.
- 8% of graduates are continuing to achieve in excess of €33,000+.
- 23% are earning under €13,000 per annum reflecting the large numbers in part-time employment



## 2.4 Source of Graduate Employment

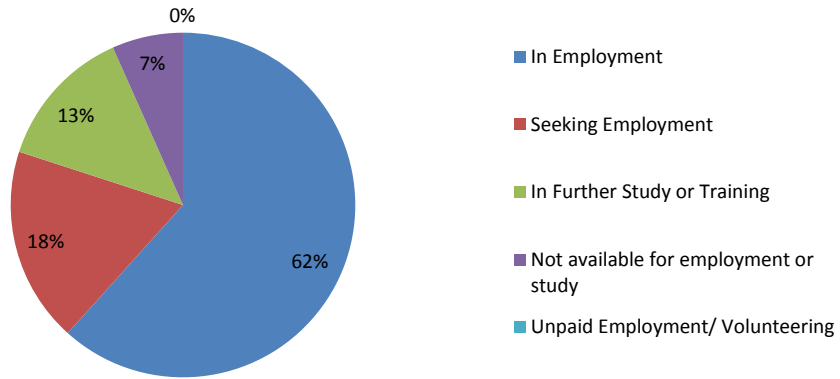


- The majority (35%) of respondents sourced their employment by “other” means. On closer inspection this was using networks such as friends and family
- This is followed by speculative approaches to employers (25%) which reflects the so called hidden jobs market that regularly exists in a tight jobs market.
- 8% of graduates returned to their placement employer underlining the on-going value of work placement programme to graduates
- LIT Careers Service & Other College Contacts combine to represent 7% demonstrating the strong links between the college and the external jobs market.

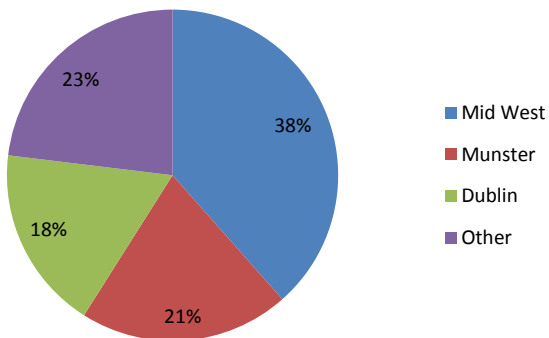
## 3.0 Schools Overview

### 3.1 School of Art & Design

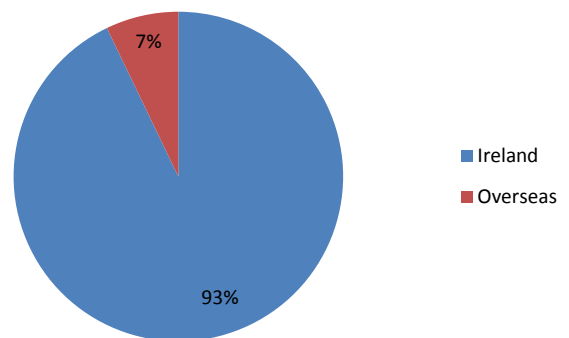
Current Situation



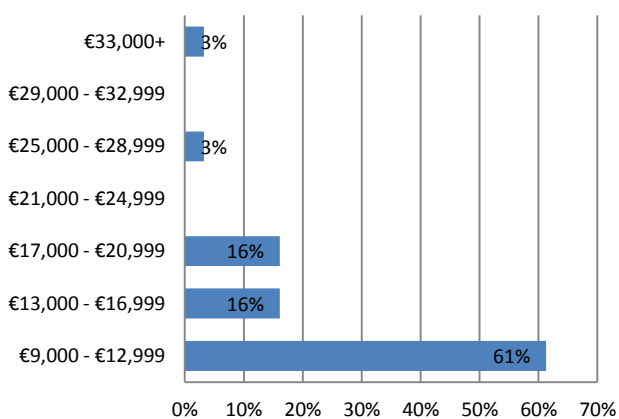
Location of Employment Region



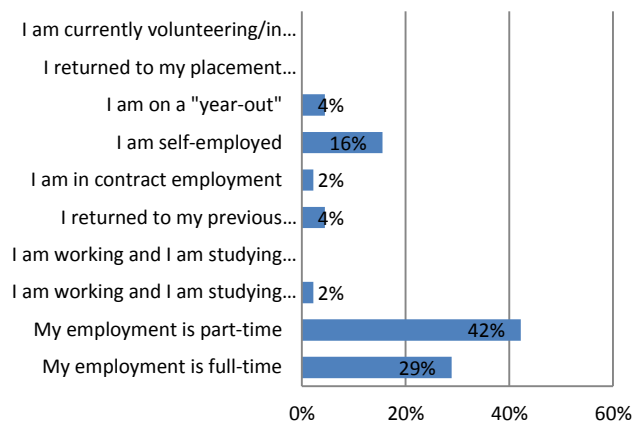
Location of Employment Ireland vs Overseas



Salary

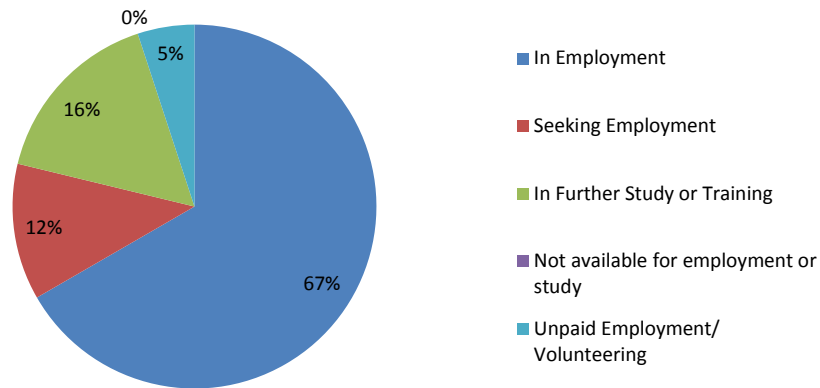


Nature of Employment

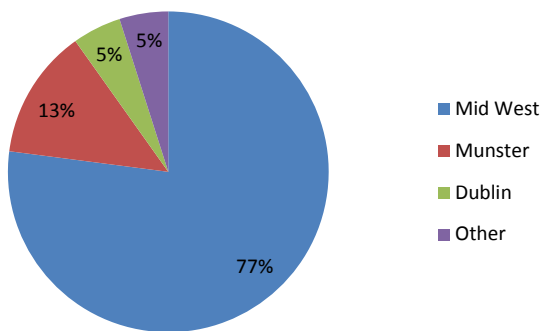


## 3.2 School of Business & Humanities

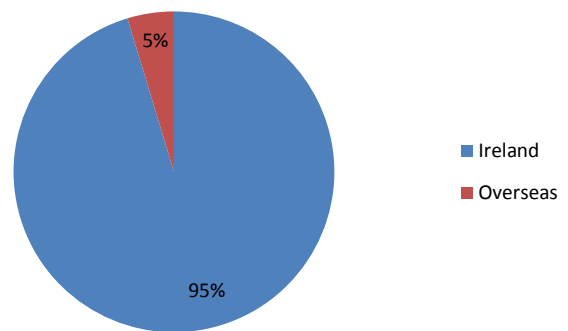
Current Situation



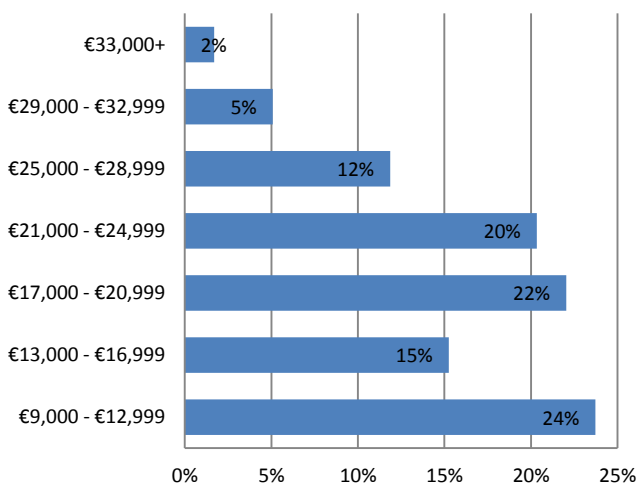
Location of Employment Region



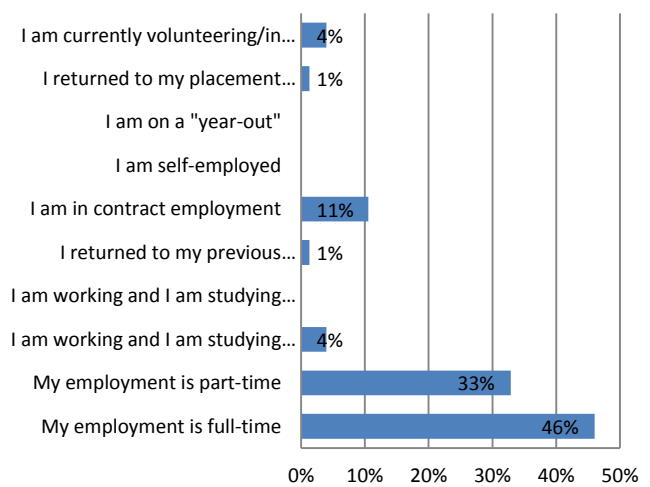
Location of Employment Ireland vs Overseas



Salary

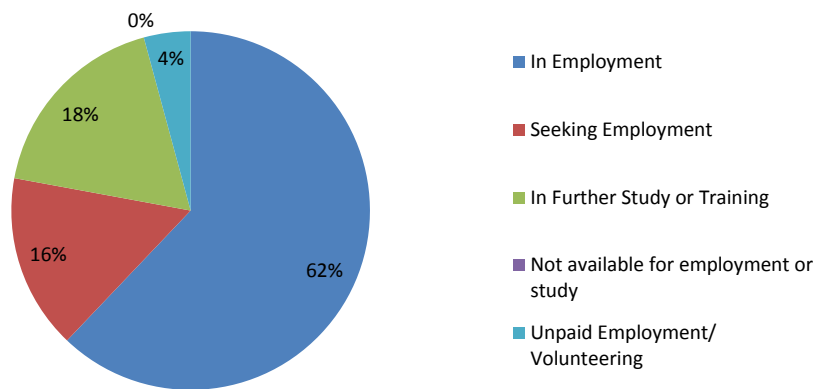


Nature of Employment

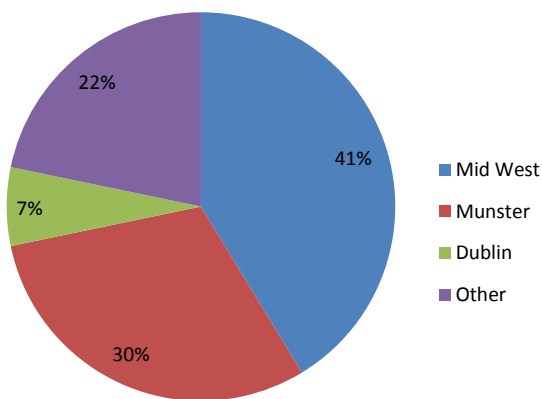


### 3.3 School of the Built Environment

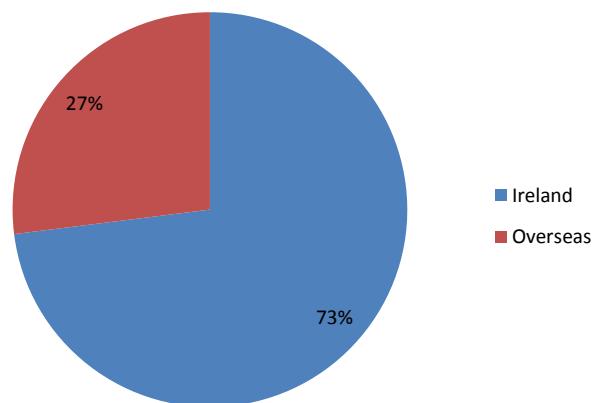
Current Situation



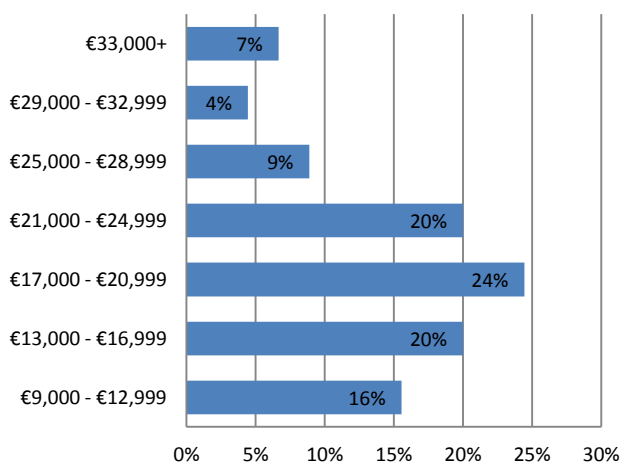
Location of Employment Region



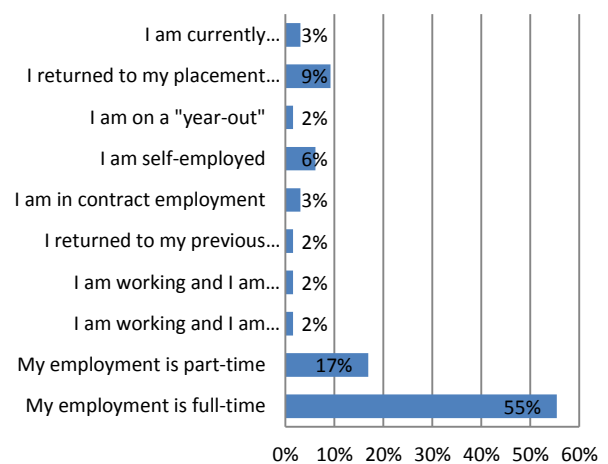
Location of Employment Ireland vs Overseas



Salary

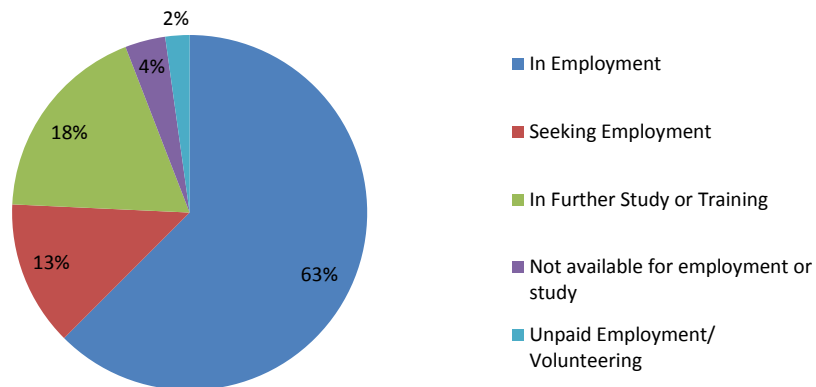


Nature of Employment

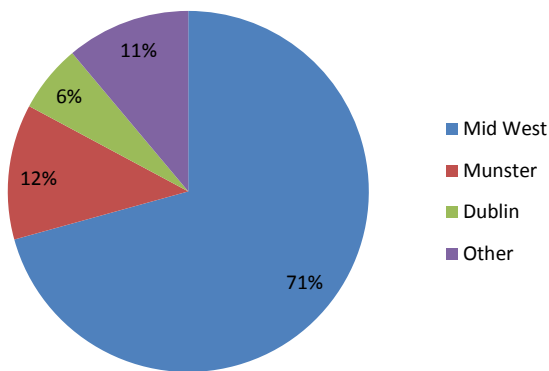


### 3.4 School of Science, Engineering & IT

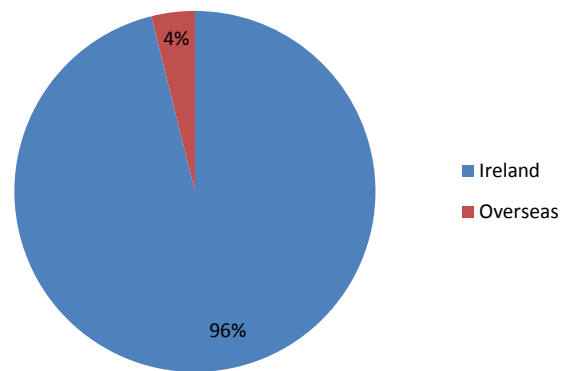
Current Situation



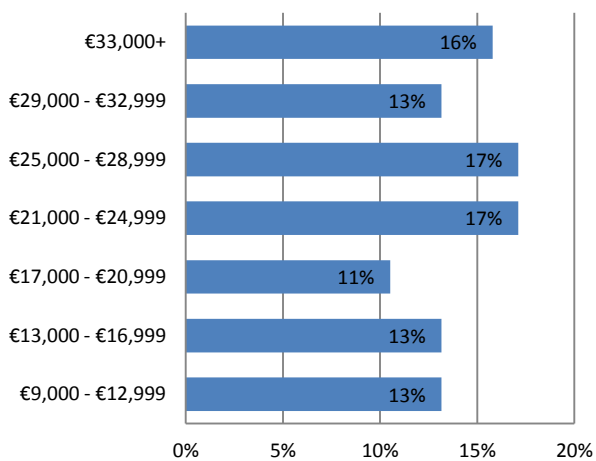
Location of Employment Region



Location of Employment Ireland vs Overseas



Salary



Nature of Employment

