

Graduate surveys in Finland

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Forest Departments, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry



Outline

- Forest studies in the University of Helsinki (UH)
- Surveys of The Society of Finnish Professional Foresters (SFPF)
- Surveys of the UH career services (UHCS)
- Information gathered by the UH departments of Forest sciences
- Data availability
- Conclusions



Forestry Education in the University of Helsinki

- Forestry education since 1908
- Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in 1924
- The Viikki Campus 6,000 students and 1,500 teachers
- MScFB programme 2006->, CBU 2007->





Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry



- 9 Departments
- 3 Forest science Departments, 4 majors
 - Department of Forest Ecology (VITRI)
 - Department of Forest Resource Management
 - Department of Forest Economics, Forest Products Marketing
- Specializing in 17 disciplines
 - Forest Soil Science, Forest Tree Ecology, Peatland Ecology and Forestry, Silviculture, Tropical Silviculture, Forest Pathology, Forest Tree Breeding, Forest Zoology, Wildlife Management, Forest Resource Inventory, Forest Planning, Forest Technology, Wood Technology, Forest Economics and Policy, Forest Economics and Management, Forest Products Marketing



Graduates



- 54 graduates annually at UH (Joensuu ~35)
 - 17 Forest ecology, 24 Forest economics, 13 Forest resource management and technology
- By 5/2008 1 MScFB graduate



Surveys of The Society of Finnish Professional Foresters



- Three annual surveys together with three other labour market organizations:
 - Students' labour market survey
 - Recent graduates survey (all graduates)
 - Labour market survey (union members)
 - Annually changing part, 2007 wellbeing at work



Focus areas of the recent graduates survey

- Study history (major, years, thesis work, unionization)
- Applying for work (where, what, how, success)
- Graduates in the labor market (what, where, quality)
- Average income





Recent graduates survey 2007

- Annual study, most recent one in 2007
- Sample: employment the year after graduation
- Sample size: 857, of which 87 foresters (UH & UJ)
- Email questionnaire, addresses from Universities and the unions' registers
- Response rate 63,5% (among foresters 70,1%)





Short summary of the results 1/3

- 85% of those who applied for work found work
 - 72% of those found work related to prior studies
 - Finding work took 2,4 months
 - 14% found work through networks
- 41% had been unemployed
 - 1,3 times
 - for 3,5 months





Short summary of the results 2/3

- In April 2007 70% employed (10% PhD, 16% unemployed ->3%)
 - 90% worked in the forest- or related sector
 - 80% on relevant academic level
 - 59%in private sector, 41% in public (major and gender dependent)
 - 57 % have fixed term positions (15% willingly)
 - 20% of women abroad vs. 0% of men





Short summary of the results 3/3

- Average income 2549€ (-> 4105€)
 - men 2600€ (->4365€), women 2480€ (->3376€)
 - private 2651€, public 2394€
 - economics & marketing > resource management > ecology





Surveys of the UH career services



- Two annual surveys
 - Recent graduates (year of graduation)
 - Career follow up (5 years after graduation)
- Data detailed but report on faculty level due to small n's
- National surveys (80% of questions similar between all universities)



UHCS recent graduates survey 2007



- Annual, most recent study from 2007
- Sample size: 257 (BSc, MSc [N 209], licentiate, PhD)
- Response rate: 51,8%
- Aim of study: satisfaction with studies & rate and quality of employment
 - quality: work content, position, area of employee
- Method: sampling from UH student registration, paper questionnaire sent home together with diploma. Possible to reply online



Surveys of the UH career services: Results



- Results (all 9 faculties, N=1412)
- Right after graduation 11% unemployment rate (Agr & For 5,4%)
- 5 years after graduation 2% unemployment rate

	all	Agr & For*
Permanent position	51%	31,7%
Fixed term position	20%	61,0%
Entrepreneur	5%	6,1%
Studies and others	22%	1,2%

^{* %} of working people



Departments' data collection



- Departments keep track of the working places of their graduates
- Mostly based on personal contacts
- Sometimes active calling/emailing



Data availability

- The Society of Finnish Professional Foresters
 - data available for research purposes
 - detailed data of foresters
 - possibility to influence?
- The University of Helsinki career services
 - data available for research purposes
 - detailed data, but reported on faculty level
 - possibility to influence the questions small
 - best practices being developed
- Statistics Finland
 - data available upon purchase
 - according to degrees



Conclusions

- Three "groups" collecting data, 5 different "sets"
- A lot of data available but not necessarily compatible (yet)
- A year after graduation 16% unemployed
- 3% of the union's members unemployed
 - ~70-80 % of forest graduates unionized
- 90% of employed people work in the forest sector
- 80% have work with academic relevance

