



Department
for Education

Extending LEO data to identify students living overseas, 2015/16 tax year – Experimental statistics

28 March 2019

We have released additional experimental analysis alongside our main publication tables

We have included new analysis using data from the Student Loan Company to help identify students that move overseas after graduating.

We would welcome feedback from our users on how useful this data is, and whether our proposed categorisation of the data (see table 3) are the most clear and effective way to present the data.

Please let us know if you have any comments, questions or suggestions. You can email us at HE.LEO@education.gov.uk

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About this release

This statistics publication provides information on experimental statistics published alongside our standard Longitudinal Education Outcomes release. We have included some new experimental statistics to provide an initial look at how the Student Loans Company data can help identify graduates moving overseas, and how this improves the accuracy of LEO outcome measures.

We expect to publish information on this topic in future, but this may not be updated in the format provided in this release.

Feedback

We would welcome feedback on these experimental statistics. Please let us know if you have any comments, questions or suggestions. You can email us at HE.LEO@education.gov.uk

1. Background

Employment outcomes in the LEO dataset are based on UK tax and out of work benefit records. If a graduate moves overseas it is likely that we will have no employment/benefits information for that period of time.

Currently, those moving overseas would not count as having a 'positive outcome' – i.e. in sustained employment and/or further study – where they might actually be employed or studying abroad. Therefore the LEO figures underestimate the 'success' of the HE sector (and by extension individual Higher Education Institutions), as measured by how many graduates have a positive labour market outcome.

We have recently received new information that could help identify individuals that have moved overseas. When graduates who are repaying student finance move overseas for more than 3 months, they are obliged to inform the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their country of residence and earnings, such that they can be charged the correct amount of repayment on their loan. We have been provided with data from SLC which provides details of graduates who have informed SLC they have moved overseas.

By matching the SLC data to the LEO dataset, this will enable us to flag graduates who should not be categorised as 'activity not captured' or as having 'no sustained destination'. Whilst this would not provide detailed information about their current labour market outcomes, it would allow us to identify where activity is not captured because of a graduate moving overseas, and we can isolate these graduates in order to more accurately calculate the distribution of outcomes.

DfE currently only receives this data for DfE funded students i.e. students originally from England and EU loan borrowers at English universities. We will still be unable to identify those who have moved overseas if they did not take out a student loan or if they are living overseas after having repaid their loan. We are aware that the quality of this data relies on graduates informing SLC when they move overseas.

2. Analysis

Initial analysis of this data has been done using information for the 2015/2016 tax year. We have not yet matched the SLC data for the 2016/2017 tax year, so the figures in this analysis cannot be compared directly to the figures in the main tables of this publication.

We have focused here on cohorts one, three and five years after graduation in the 2015/16 tax year. The data show that in each cohort, around 1.6% of graduates have been flagged as overseas; this percentage remains quite consistent across graduating years, and for several years after graduation.

Table 1: Percentage moved overseas by graduating cohort

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female first degree graduates from English HEIs and FECs
Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

Years after graduation	Overseas (%)
One (2013/14 cohort)	1.5%
Three (2011/12 cohort)	1.6%
Five (2009/10 cohort)	1.6%

Source: LEO data

Looking at outcome categories, we found that we could identify around 11% of those currently classified as 'activity not captured' as having moved overseas, and furthermore 6.5% of those currently classified as 'no sustained destination'. This means that when those moving overseas are isolated, the largest impact will be to reduce the amount of graduates that need to be categorised as having a negative outcome.

Table 2: Percentage moved overseas by outcome

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female first degree graduates from English HEIs and FECs
 Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

Outcome	Overseas (%)
Unmatched	0.3%
Activity not captured	10.9%
No sustained destination	6.5%
Sustained employment only	0.5%
Further study only	1.4%

Source: LEO data

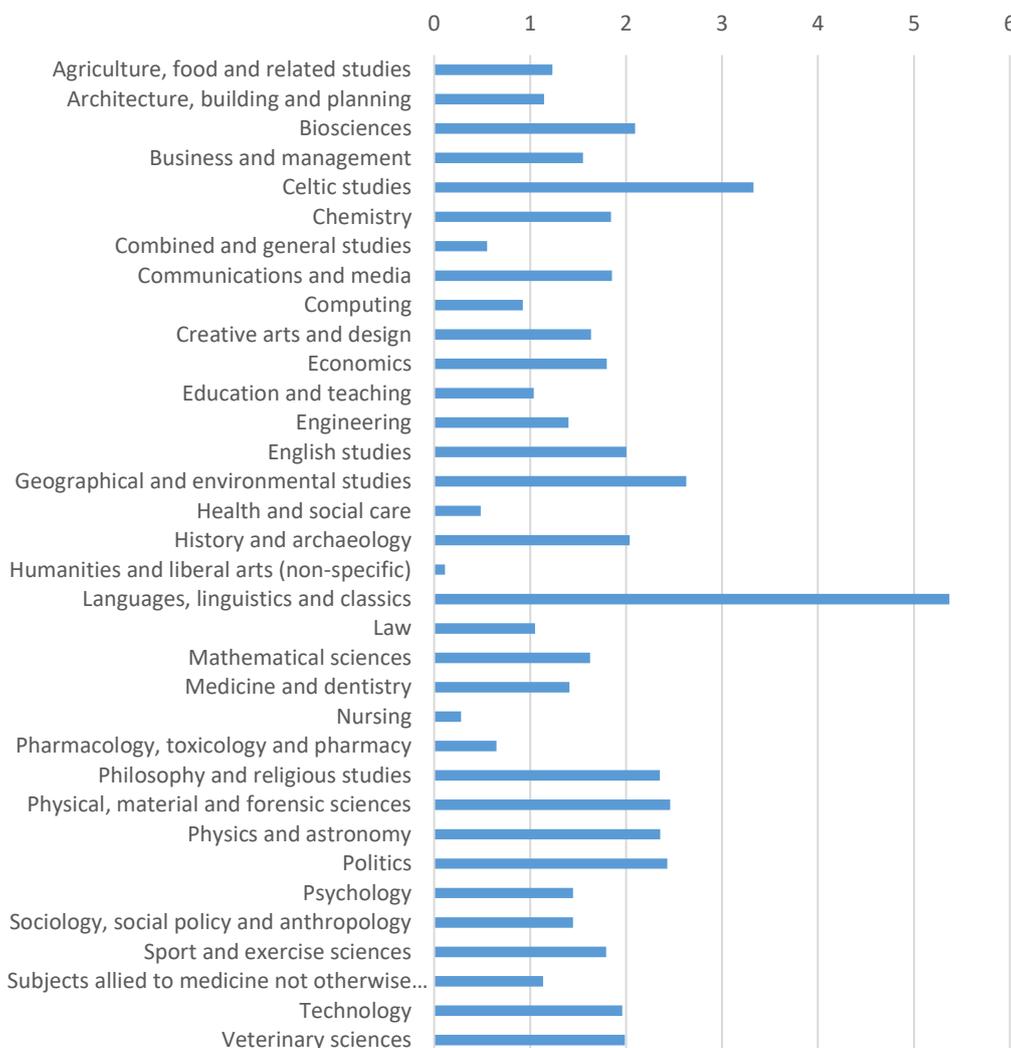
Finally, looking at a breakdown by subject, on average 5.4% of language graduates had moved overseas, the next highest percentage being amongst Celtic Studies graduates (3.3%). For all other subjects, fewer than 3% of graduates had moved overseas, with the lowest percentages amongst humanities (0.1%) and nursing (0.3%) graduates.

Figure 1: Percentage moved overseas by subject

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female first degree graduates from English HEIs and FECs
 Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

Overseas percentage by subject

Average across all cohorts



Source: LEO data

3. Outcomes of graduates moving overseas

Using this data, we calculate employment and further study outcomes excluding those that are known to have moved overseas from the denominator (number of matched graduates), meaning that those who are abroad are no longer classified as having a 'negative' outcome. Many of those overseas will be in employment¹, so it is incorrect to classify them as simply having no activity or sustained destination.

Table 3: Activity of graduates one, three and five years after graduation, including percentage moved overseas

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female first degree graduates from English HEIs and FECs
Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

Years after graduation	Number of graduates	Overseas (%)	Unmatched (%)	Number of graduates matched to LEO data	Activity not captured (%)	No sustained destination (%)	Sustained employment only (%)	Sustained employment, with or without further study (%)	Further study, sustained employment or both (%)
One (2013/14 graduating cohort)	304,150	1.5	0.9	296,958	4.9	7.9	67.8	81.8	87.2
Three (2011/2012 graduating cohort)	279,317	1.6	2.2	268,752	6.5	5.9	73.7	84.6	87.6
Five (2009/2010 graduating cohort)	253,530	1.6	2.4	243,389	8.4	5.2	75.6	84.5	86.4

Source: LEO data

Table 3 presents analysis of this data in the format of the overall LEO outcome figures, with an extra column added to show the percentage of all graduates who have moved overseas. We can compare these figures the corresponding table in the 2015/16 LEO publication,² shown below in Table 4.

Table 4: Activity of graduates one, three and five years after graduation

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female first degree graduates from English HEIs and FECs
Cohorts: 2009/10 (5 years after graduation), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

	Number of graduates	Unmatched (%)	Number of graduates matched to LEO data	Activity not captured (%)	No sustained destination (%)	Sustained employment only (%)	Sustained employment, with or without further study (%)	Further study, sustained employment or both (%)
One (2013/14 graduating cohort)	304,150	0.9	301,380	5.3	8.3	67.2	81.0	86.4
Three (2011/2012 graduating cohort)	279,317	2.2	273,300	7.2	6.2	72.9	83.6	86.5
Five (2009/2010 graduating cohort)	253,530	2.4	247,525	9.1	5.5	74.8	84.5	85.4

Source: LEO data

Those who have moved overseas were mostly previously classified as 'activity not captured' or 'no sustained destination'; now they have been isolated then the percentage of graduates in these categories have reduced, and the percentages in positive outcomes have increased. For example, one year after graduation previous figures showed that 86.4% of graduates were in further study, employment or both, and the updated figures now put this at 87.2%; at five years after graduation the increase is a full percentage point (85.4% to 86.4%). These changes are mirrored by corresponding reductions in the percentages of negative outcomes.

¹Table 2 above shows that some have an employment or study record in the UK - graduates must inform SLC if they spend 3 months or more overseas within a tax year, and so it is possible that they also spend time in the UK in the same year

²This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/graduate-outcomes-2015-to-2016>, and the table shown was first presented as Table 3 in the publication.

4. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

5. Technical information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this publication. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

6. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-higher-education-graduate-employment-and-earnings> <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

Reference: Extending LEO data to identify students living overseas, 2015/16 tax year



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