



University of the
Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

West Highland College UHI



College Leaver Destination Report 17/18

2017/18 College Leavers Destination Report

Survey Background

The WHC internal report is based on data collected from further education (FE) students who completed their study in 17/18. The report refers to destination data from the previous two years allowing comparison over a three-year period allowing the identification of trends. UHI undertake the HE destination survey with our higher education students.

Information on the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) guidance and methodology is contained in the appendix at the end of the report.

The college conducted the destination survey with students between the end of January and into early March 2019. The college were required to return this data to the SFC by the 15th March 2019.

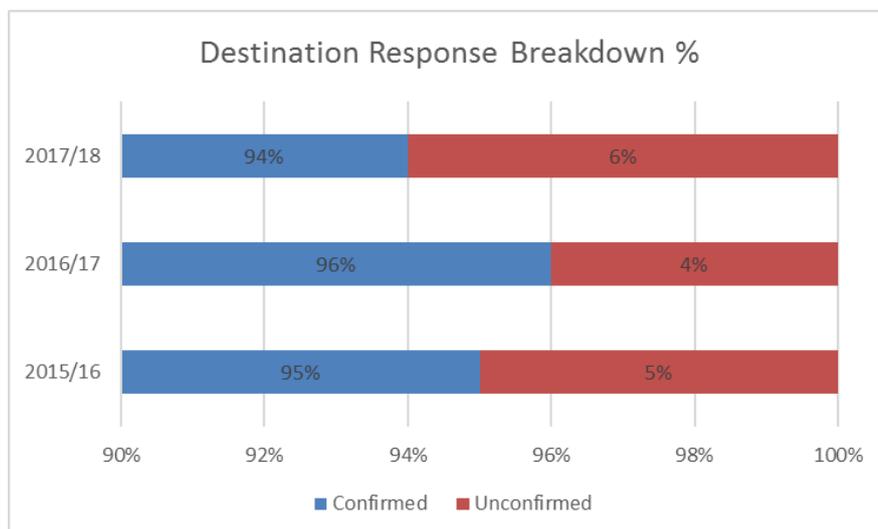
The college teams use this report and statistical information as part of self-evaluation and action planning.

Only students enrolled on full time and short full time further education courses were included in this survey. Certificate in Maritime Skills is a short full time course.

Destination Response Breakdown Over 3 Years

Academic Year		
2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
215 Enrolments	210 Enrolments	Enrolments
Survey based on 164 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 167 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 144 students that the SFC had identified.
155 responded	160 responded	136 responded
Response rate of 95%	Response rate of 96%	Response rate of 94%

The improved college approach to collecting information has continued to produce high response rates.



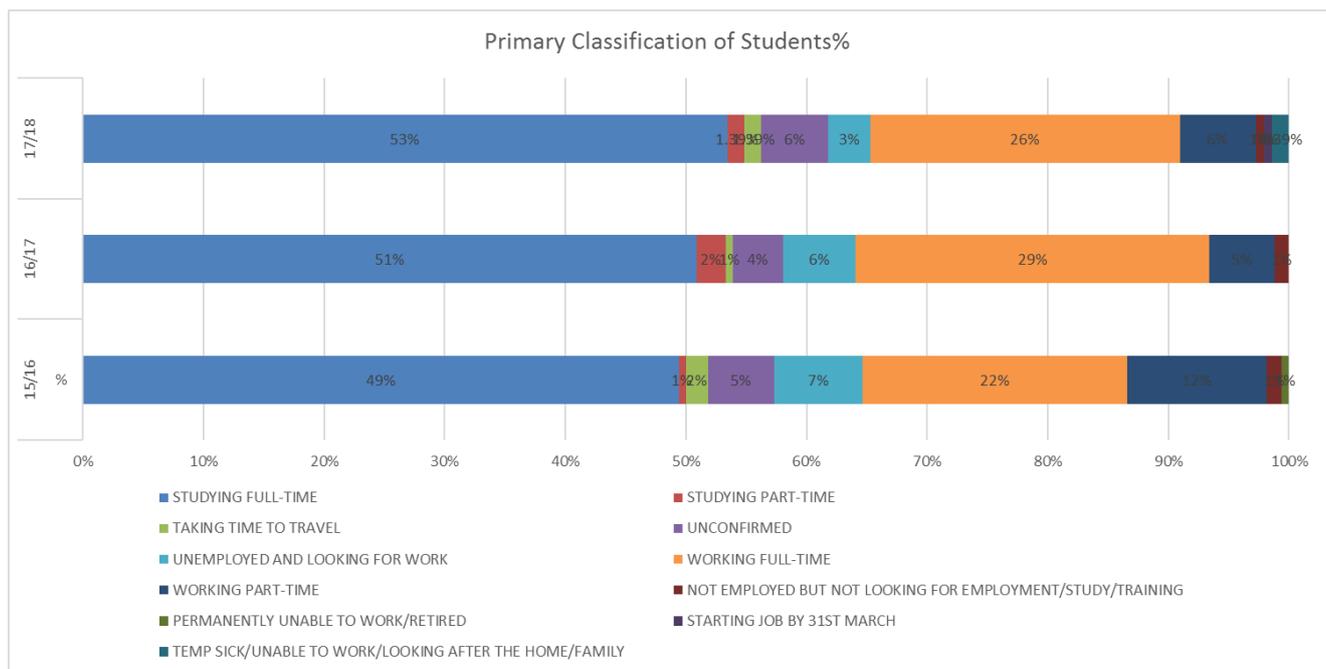
Main Findings

Student Destination Overview

The college established the nature of 136 student destinations as indicated below.

Primary Classification of Destination	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
Target Students	164		167		144	
Studying full-time	81	49%	85	51%	77	53%
Studying part-time	1	1%	4	2%	2	1%
Taking time out in order to travel	3	2%	1	1%	2	1%
Unconfirmed	9	5%	7	4%	8	6%
Unemployed and looking for work	12	7%	10	6%	5	3%
Working full-time	36	22%	49	29%	37	26%
Working Part-time	19	12%	9	5%	9	6%
Not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training	2	1%	2	1%	1	1%
Permanently unable to work/retired	1	1%				
Starting job by 31st march					1	1%
Temp sick/unable to work/looking after the home/family					2	1%

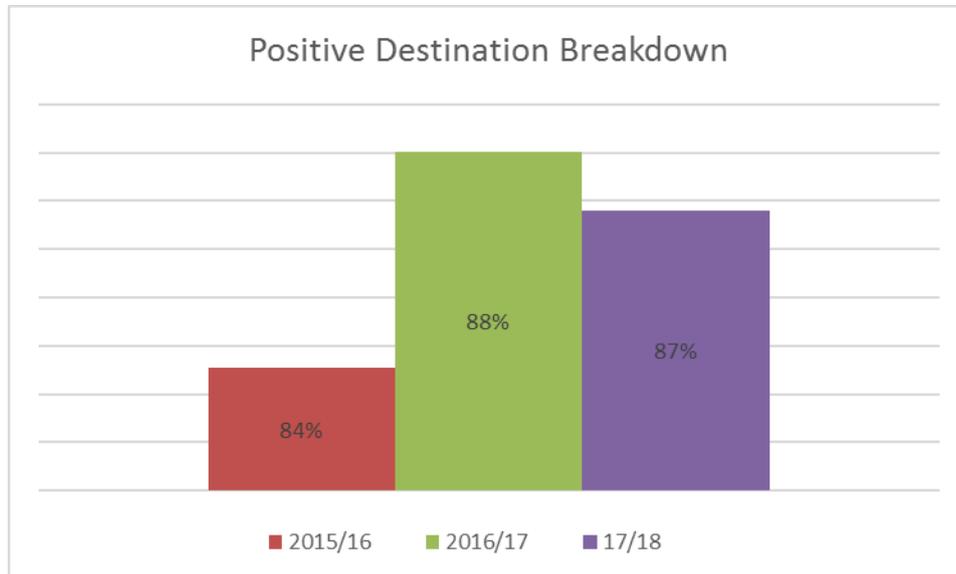
- There is a further 2% increase over the three-year period in the percentage of students known to be studying full time, compared to the previous two years.
- Those known to be in unemployed and looking for work has reduced by 3%



Positive Destination Breakdown

87% of our students are in a positive destination, full or part time study or full or part time employment. This is a slight decrease of 1% on positive destinations from 16/17.

It is important to note that when looking at statistics, the slight increase of 2% unknown destinations has influenced this year’s figures.



Employment Destinations

33% of WHC 17/18 students are in full time or part time employment, a slight decrease of 1% from 16/17. Full time employment is 26% with 6% part time employed with 1% linked to modern apprenticeships.

There was a large increase of students, 25%, in 17/18 stating that their course relates to their current employment, 71% overall compared to 46% in 16/17.

The new statistics show the employer industry and category selected by the students; almost all took up local employment opportunities see data for breakdown.

Employer_Industry	15/16	16/17	17/18
Student Responses	50	55	48
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	4	10
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities			1
F: Construction	3	2	3
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2	11	2
H: Transport and storage	4	3	2
I: Accommodation and food service activities	12	12	13
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	1	0	0
N: Administrative and support service activities			3
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2	1	0
P: Education	3	1	0

Employer_Industry	15/16	16/17	17/18
Q: Human health and social work activities	6	8	2
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	6	8	9
S: Other service activities	6	3	2
Unknown	2	1	1

Employment Category

The table below gives a breakdown of student numbers by employment category and the percentage.

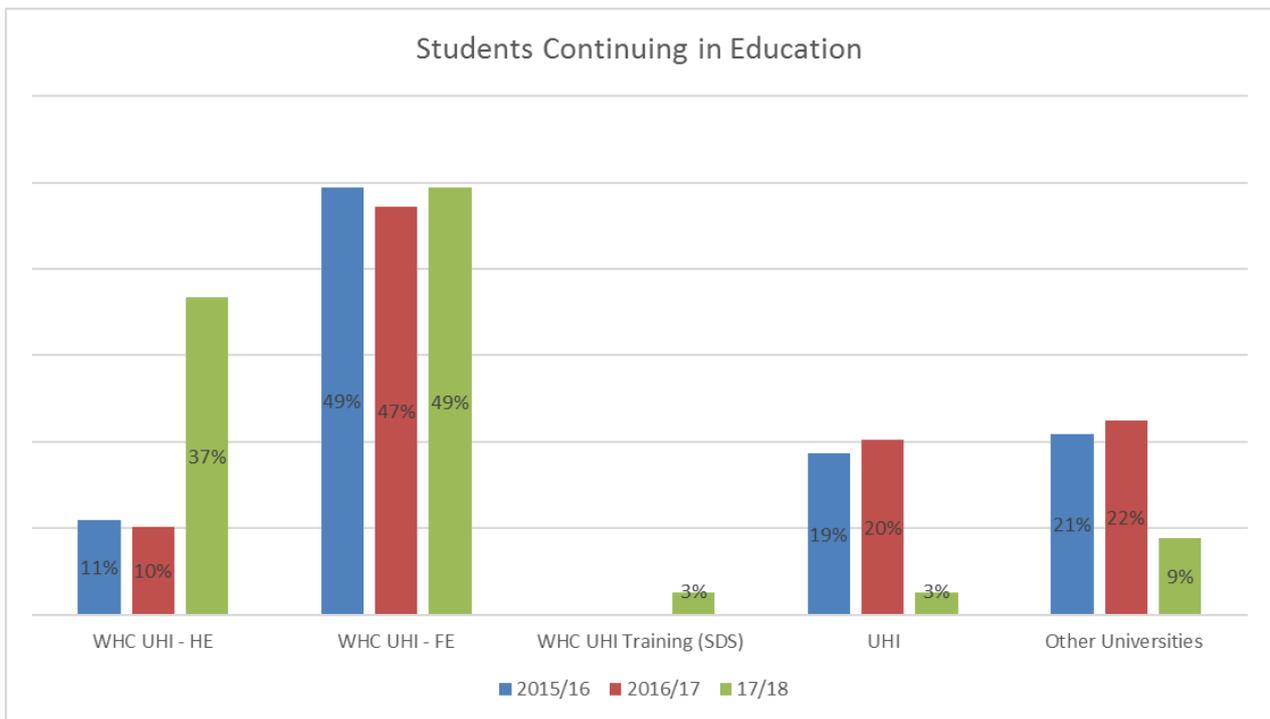
Employment % Overall	15/16	16/17	17/18
Total Destination Responses	164	167	144
Total Number of Students in Employment	55	58	48
	34%	35%	33%

Employment Categories	15/16		16/17		17/18	
Total Employed Responses	55		58		48	
Employed FT or PT	41	75%	53	91%	43	90%
Self-employed/Freelance	5	9%	2	3%	3	6%
Voluntary/other unpaid work	3	5%	1	2%	1	2%
Modern Apprenticeship	6	11%	2	3%	1	2%

Students Continuing in Education

Students Continuing in Education	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
West Highland College (UHI) - HE	9	11%	9	10%	29	37%
West Highland College (UHI) - FE	48	59%	42	47%	39	49%
WHC UHI Training (SDS)					2	3%
University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)	17	21%	18	20%	2	3%
Other Universities	8	10%	20	22%	7	9%
	82		89		79	

There appears to be a significant increase in students undertaking HE qualifications with WHC, almost all of these students are undertaking HNCs now delivered by WHC and not via a UHI partner. Of the 29 WHC UHI HE students, five students from the L6 NQ Outdoor Leadership course have progressed onto the first year of a SOAS degree programme. The 17/18 CLD data categories includes a new option, Training (SDS).



Conclusion

Most WHC students are in a positive destination, six months on from achieving their course qualification.

A detailed breakdown of destination data is accessible to staff and gives analysis by sector for employment or by course and college/university detail.

More detail on employer information is now available in the survey allowing analysis to be drawn about the impact on a local economy level.

Appendix 1

Scottish Funding Council Guidance

In June 2014, SFC brought together the colleges involved in the pilot year, to review the data gathering process and to advise on any changes required for the 2013/14 survey. No significant changes were made to the survey questionnaire and it was agreed that student destination information could also be taken from close relatives, lecturers and fellow students, provided those involved in the survey were confident that the information was accurate and reliable. Slight changes have been implemented for the collection of data from 2015/16 onwards. A minimum of 3 attempts to contact a student must be evidenced and logged prior to the use of destination information from other sources. This information continues to be required for auditable purposes.

Prior to issuing the survey spreadsheets to each College, SFC through their links with Skills Development Scotland, were able to pre-populate the spreadsheet with student data already captured by SDS and FES returns, this continues to reduce the number of students that WHC has to contact directly

The key data requested by SFC:

- Primary Classification (Destination)
- Industry of Employer (where applicable)
- Training Programme
- Training Vocational Area
- Destination of Further Study (where applicable)
- Destination Source (where applicable)

Additional data requested in

15/16 and 16/17	17/18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work detail • Employer name • Employer related – (was the course undertaken related to the employment that the student identified in the survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting job by 31st march • Temp sick/unable to work/looking after the home/family

Methodology

In 2012/13 the survey was undertaken between October and December 2013. This was changed in the 2013/14 survey to take place in January/February the survey continues to be undertaken during this time and an improvement in response rates has been noted.

In the first 2 years, direct telephone contact with students proved to be the most effective way of gathering the required data. However, in 2014/2015 on reflection with the key holders and staff that undertook to contacting the students direct telephone did not give us the expected results.

At this point a range of contact methods was put in place which have proved more successful in 2015/16 and continue to be so. These have included emails, social media, messaging and the use of area specific phone numbers being used by key members of staff at different times of the day. This approach has continued to be successful