



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 16/17

2016/17 College Leavers Destination Report

Survey Background

West Highland College UHI (WHC) along with a majority of UHI partner Colleges, were involved in the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) College Leavers Destination Survey pilot for 2012/13 college leavers. This was the basis for the survey, which is now a mandatory requirement for all colleges to undertake with their students.

This WHC internal report is based on data collected from further education (FE) students who completed their study in 16/17. UHI survey HE students. Destination data from the previous two years, is referred to for the purpose of comparison and to identify trends.

Information on SFC guidance and methodology can be found in the appendix.

Analysis

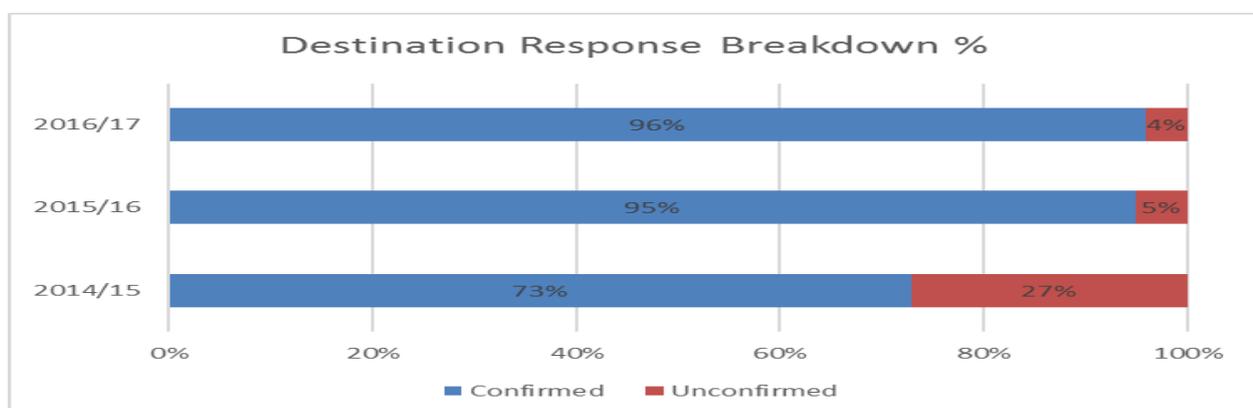
The college conducted the destination survey with students between the end of January and into early February 2018. The college returns this data to SFC by the 9th March 2018.

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		
2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
203 enrolments	215 Enrolments	210 Enrolments
Survey based on 171 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 164 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 167 students that the SFC had identified.
124 responded	155 responded	160 responded
Response rate of 73%	Response rate of 95%	Response rate of 96%

The college has improved the approach to collecting information and therefore there is a high response rate of 96% for 2016/17.



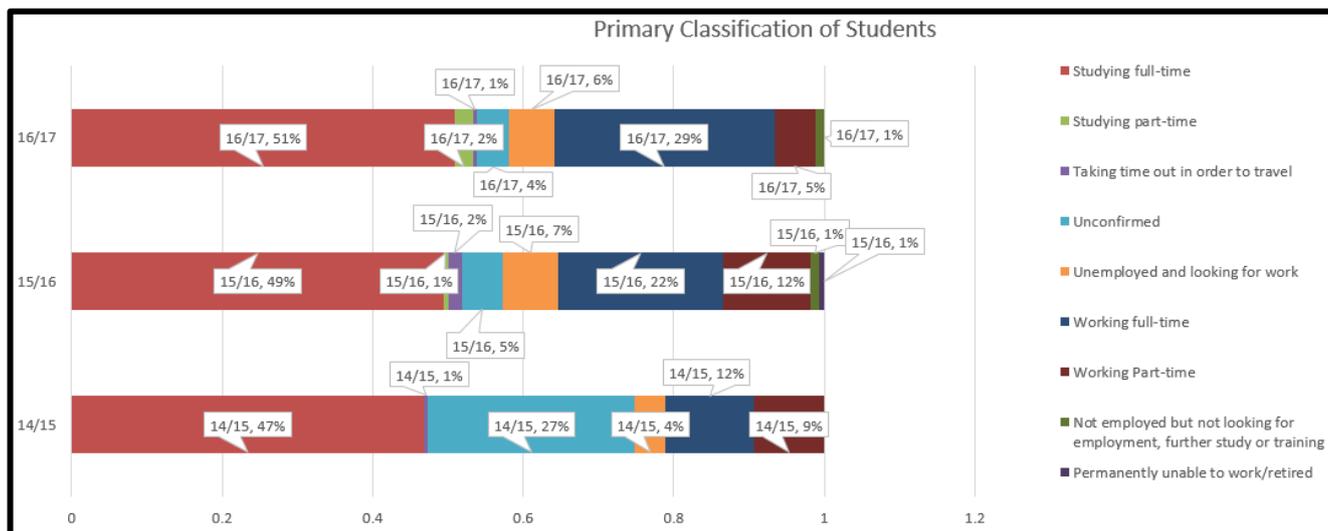
Main Findings

Student Destination Overview

The college established the nature of 160 student destinations as indicated below.

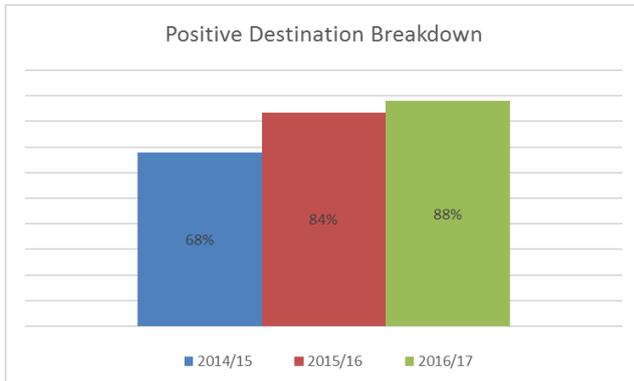
Primary Classification of Destination	14/15	14/15	15/16	15/16	16/17	16/17
Studying full-time	80	47%	81	49%	85	51%
Studying part-time			1	1%	4	2%
Taking time out in order to travel	1	1%	3	2%	1	1%
Unconfirmed	47	27%	9	5%	7	4%
Unemployed and looking for work	7	4%	12	7%	10	6%
Working full-time	20	12%	36	22%	49	29%
Working Part-time	16	9%	19	12%	9	5%
Not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training			2	1%	2	1%
Permanently unable to work/retired			1	1%		
Total Students		171		164		167

- There is a 2% increase in the percentage of students who are known to be studying in full time, compared to the previous year.
- There is a 7% increase in students who confirmed they are in full time employment, compared to the previous year.



Positive Destination Breakdown

88% of students are in a positive destination, full or part time study or full or part time employment. This is a 2% increase on positive destinations from 15/16.



The college continues to improve on the percentage of positive destinations. It is important to note that when looking at data, the college was unable to determine destinations for 27% of its 14/15 students. Therefore, a direct comparison cannot be drawn to this year.

Employment Destinations

34% of WHC 16/17 students are in full time or part time employment, the same as 15/16 students. More of these students (7%) are in full time employment.

SFC improved survey questions in 15/16 to include whether student employment is related to the course studied whilst at college. Out of all the students who are employed, 46% of students stated that their course relates to their current employment, this is a slight drop from 59% in 15/16

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

Most students continue to secure employment within the Accommodation and food service activities see employer industry breakdown below.

Employer_Industry	15/16	16/17
Student Responses	50	55
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	4
F: Construction	3	2
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2	11
H: Transport and storage	4	3
I: Accommodation and food service activities	12	12
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	1	0
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2	1
P: Education	3	1
Q: Human health and social work activities	6	8
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	6	8
S: Other service activities	6	3
Unknown	27	1

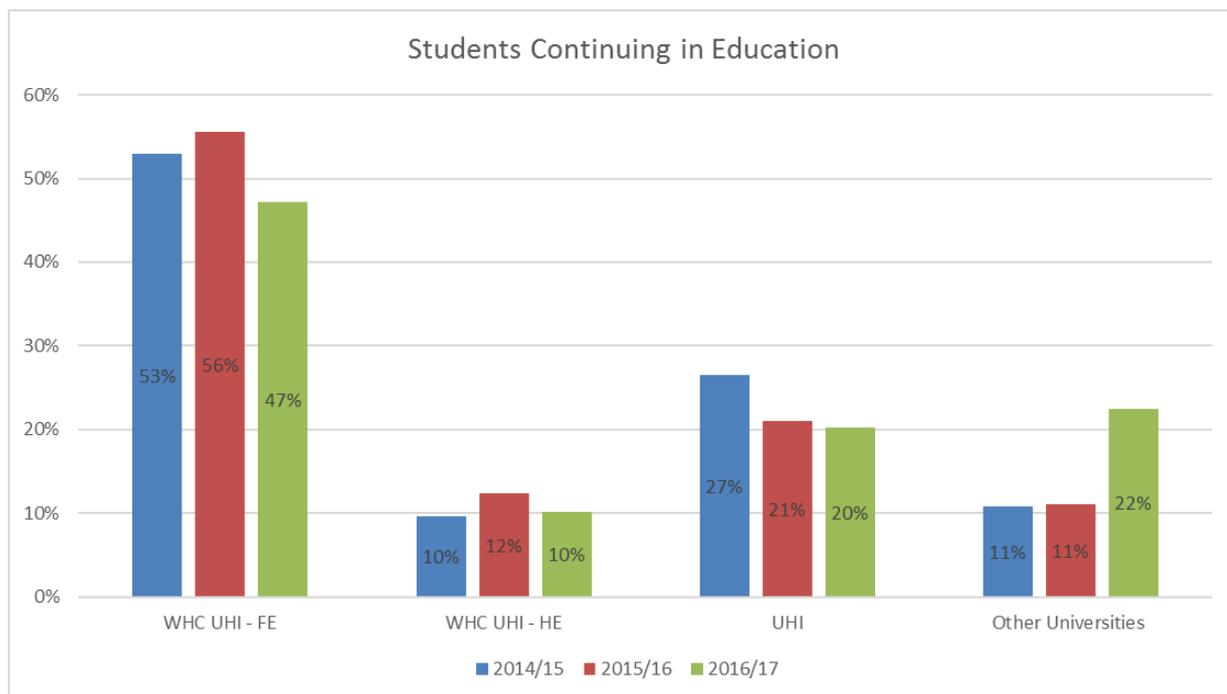
Employment Category

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

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

Students Continuing in Education

Data from CLD Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
West Highland College (UHI) - FE	44	45	42
West Highland College (UHI) - HE	8	10	9
University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)	14	17	18
Other Universities	14	9	20
	80	81	89



Positive destination conclusions for 2016/17 students

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

- Work detail
- Employer name
- Employer related – (was the course undertaken related to the employment that the student identified in the survey)

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.

The following actions were put in place to improve result:

Actions 14/15	Outcome
Short turn around, be ready and prepared earlier	Dates were put in the calendar to start preparation for survey in December with preparatory information sent to all staff to be involved
In May of the year of study at the final course committee meeting Course Leaders/lecturers will be asked to complete a spreadsheet with the proposed progression route of their students	Not fully implemented some lecturers were better than others at providing the information.
Students will be informed that they may be contacted by the college and the importance of this contact by their CL	Information leaflet part of the induction pack detailing all student feedback and surveys. Talk at induction with students
An email will be sent to students to enhance the phone contact	Template text sent to Customer Service staff undertaking the contact. The student personal email addresses where provided by registry Response rate to be researched
Phone contact will be over a longer period of time	Implemented that CS staff phone at differing points of the day/evening
Local area code phone to be used (where possible) when contacting students	The use of the main centre telephone number was successful in the rural locations
Additional Implementations for 15/16	
Use of SFC form provided in the survey guidance	Amended for staff to use when phoning the students – positive feedback from staff Merged data for each location of course with the form and sent to main CS contact to distribute to team members undertaking contact with students
Email text with information from form above to send to students	Only 5% of students returned the information via email
Only one inputter to the SFC SS – allocated to quality administrator	Made collation of final data more streamlined and easier to monitor Keeps data secure
Additional Implementations for 16/17	
SFC provided the data to us in separate WHC locations spread sheets	No splitting required of main SFC data, and re collation of data to main sheet. Individual sheets of data were filtered for each centre and allocated in a more timely manner