



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 18/19

## 2018/19 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 18/19. 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 January and February of 2019. SFC provide the destination data in a database file prepopulated where a student's destination is known, e.g. SDS, continuation into a HE or FE course. The college contact students with unknown destinations and are required to return completed data to the SFC by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

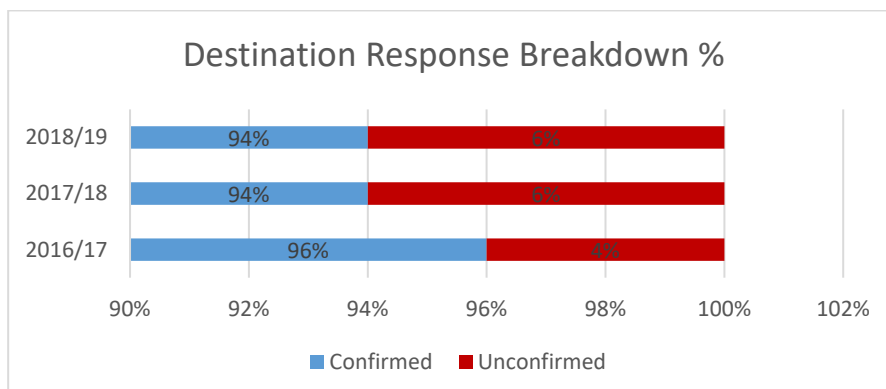
The college teams use this report and statistical information as part of self-evaluation, review and action planning.

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		
2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
210 Enrolments	189 Enrolments	174 Enrolments
Survey based on 167 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 144 students that the SFC had identified.	Survey based on 138 students that the SFC had identified.
<b>160 responded</b>	<b>136 responded</b>	<b>132 responded</b>
Response rate of <b>96%</b>	Response rate of <b>94%</b>	Response rate of <b>94%</b>

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



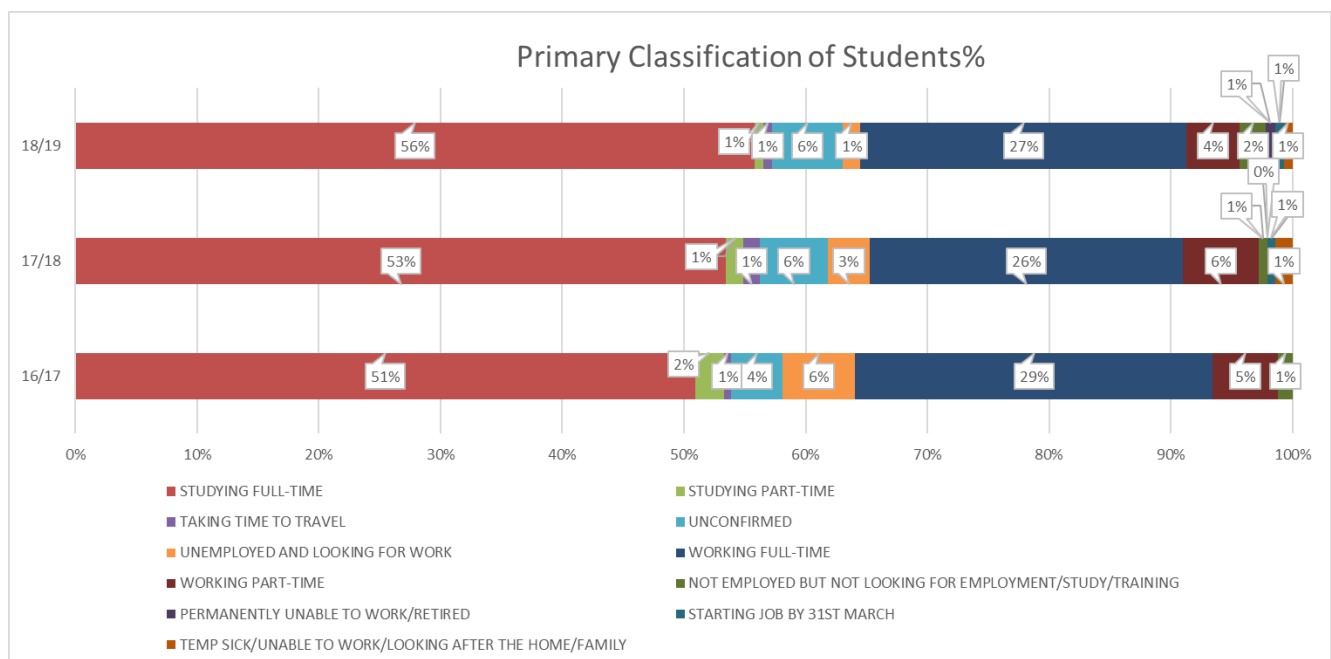
## Main Findings

### Student Destination Overview

The college established the nature of 130 student destinations as indicated below.

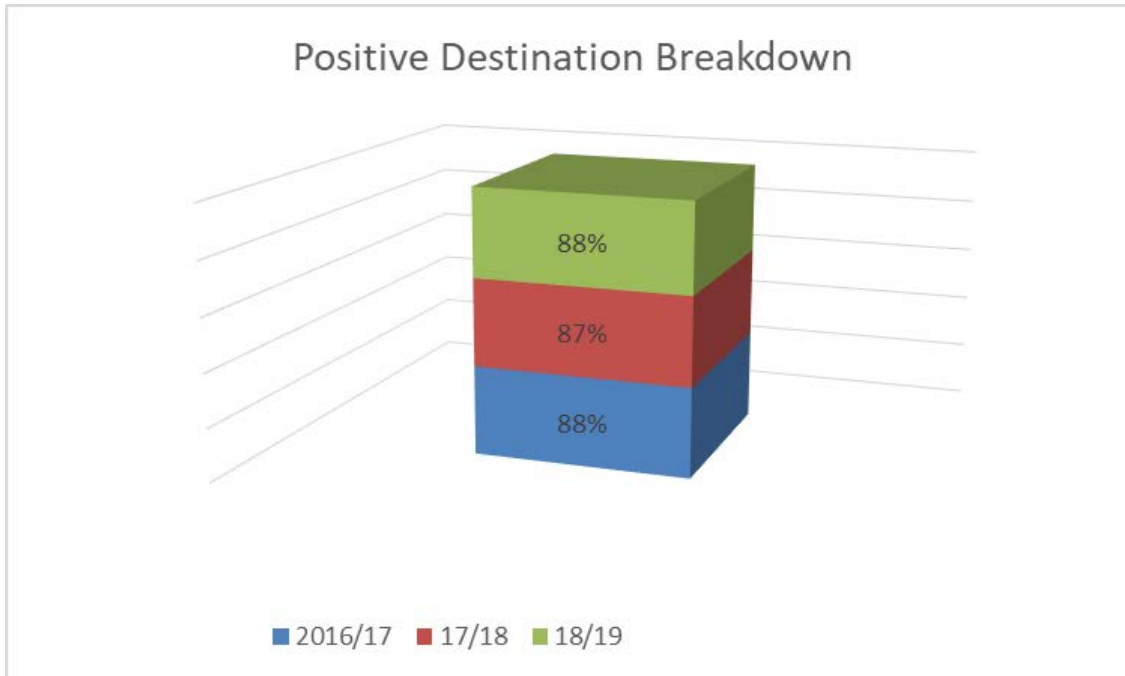
Primary Classification of Destination	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
Target Students	167		144		138	
Studying full-time	85	51%	77	53%	77	56%
Studying part-time	4	2%	2	1%	1	1%
Taking time out in order to travel	1	1%	2	1%	1	1%
Unconfirmed	7	4%	8	6%	8	6%
Unemployed and looking for work	10	6%	5	3%	2	1%
Working full-time	49	29%	37	26%	37	27%
Working Part-time	9	5%	9	6%	7	4%
Not employed but not looking for employment, further study or training	2	1%	1	1%	3	2%
Permanently unable to work/retired					1	1%
Starting job by 31st march			1	1%	1	1%
Temp sick/unable to work/looking after the home/family			2	1%	1	1%

- There is a further 5% increase over the three-year period in the percentage of students known to be studying full time, compared to the previous two years.
- A total of 57% of all students have continued to study either full or part-time
- Those known to be in unemployed and looking for work has reduced by 5%.



## Positive Destination Breakdown

88% of our students are in a positive destination, full or part time study or full or part time employment. This is a slight increase of 1% on positive destinations from 17/18. 8% students have unconfirmed destinations in 18/19, this is the same figure as 17/18 and 2% increase from 16/17.



## Employment Destinations

32% of WHC 18/19 students are in full time or part time employment, a slight decrease of 1% from 17/18. Full time employment is 27% with 4% part time employed, 9% are linked to Modern Apprenticeships.

The statistics show the employer industry and category selected by the students; almost all took up local employment opportunities filter the 18/19 [statistical data](#) sheet for details.

Employer_Industry	16/17	17/18	18/19
Student Responses	55	48	44
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4	10	0
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities		1	0
D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply			2
F: Construction	2	3	2
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	11	2	4
H: Transport and storage	3	2	3
I: Accommodation and food service activities	12	13	12
K: Financial and insurance activities			1
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	0	0	0
N: Administrative and support service activities		3	1

<b>Employer_Industry</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1	0	1
P: Education	1	0	0
Q: Human health and social work activities	8	2	5
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	8	9	8
S: Other service activities	3	2	1
Unknown	1	1	4

## Employment Category

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

<b>Employment % Overall</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>
Total Destination Responses	<b>167</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>138</b>
Total Number of Students in Employment	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>

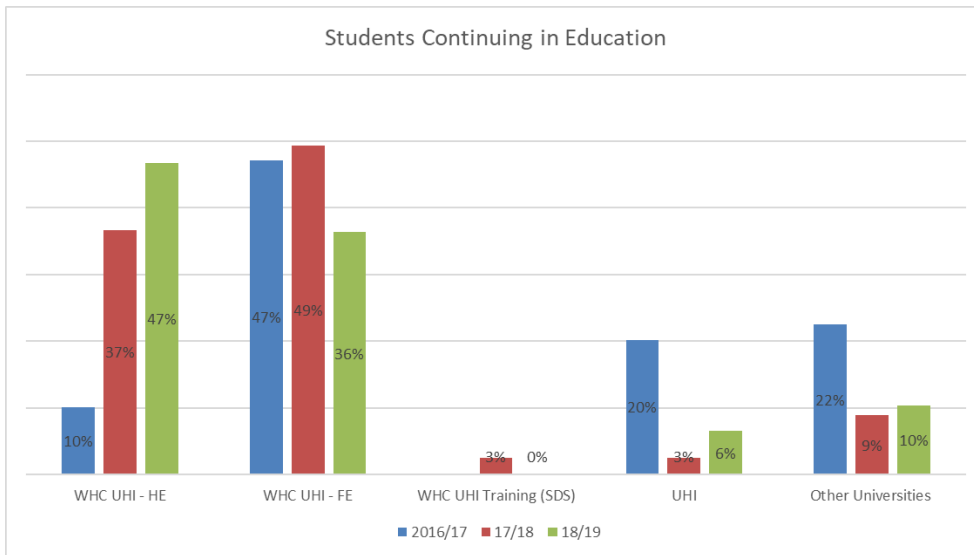
<b>Employment Categories</b>	<b>16/17</b>		<b>17/18</b>		<b>18/19</b>	
Total Employed Responses	<b>58</b>		<b>48</b>		<b>44</b>	
Employed FT or PT	53	<b>91%</b>	43	<b>90%</b>	37	<b>84%</b>
Self-employed/Freelance	2	<b>3%</b>	3	<b>6%</b>	2	<b>5%</b>
Voluntary/other unpaid work	1	<b>2%</b>	1	<b>2%</b>	1	<b>2%</b>
Modern Apprenticeship	2	<b>3%</b>	1	<b>2%</b>	4	<b>9%</b>

## Students Continuing in Education

<b>Students Continuing in Education</b>	<b>2016/17</b>		<b>2017/18</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	
West Highland College (UHI) - HE	9	<b>10%</b>	29	<b>37%</b>	36	<b>47%</b>
West Highland College (UHI) - FE	42	<b>47%</b>	2	<b>49%</b>	28	<b>36%</b>
WHC UHI Training (SDS)			2	<b>3%</b>		
University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)	18	<b>20%</b>	7	<b>3%</b>	5	<b>6%</b>
Other Universities	20	<b>22%</b>	39	<b>9%</b>	8	<b>10%</b>

There continues to be an increase in students progressing within WHC onto HE qualifications, 10%. Almost all these students are undertaking one of the HNCs now delivered by WHC.

Progression onto a higher level of FE course has however decreased by 13% in 18/19



## Conclusion

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

There is a continued increase of progressing students from FE to HE within WHC

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, are 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. A database file has now been created by SFC which allows multiple users access, this has been a positive change.

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

### 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 continues to be successful