



# College Leaver Destination Report 20/21

## 2020/21 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 2020/21. 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 March 21, returning the data to the SFC by the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

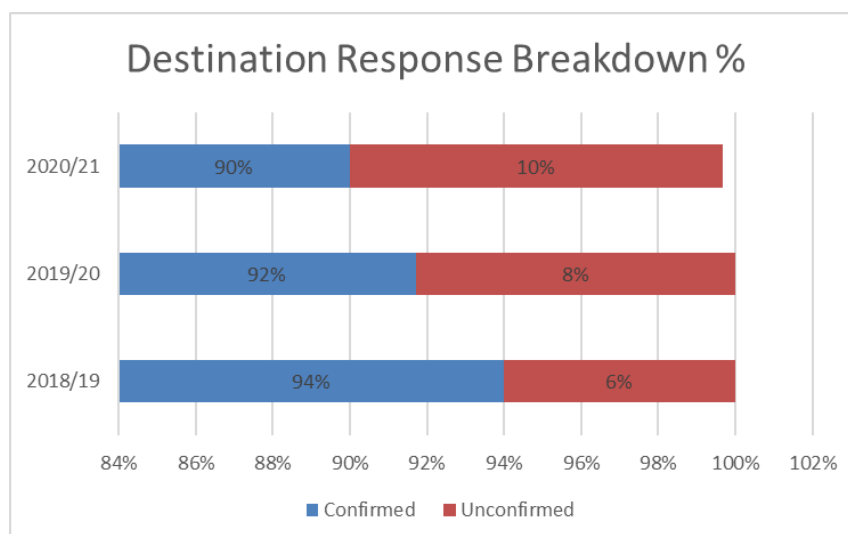
Only students enrolled on full time and short full time further education courses were included in this survey.

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

### Destination Response Breakdown Over 3 Years

| Academic Year   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2018/19   | 2019/20   | 2020/21   |
| Survey based on 167 students that the SFC had identified. | Survey based on 144 students that the SFC had identified. | Survey based on 124 students that the SFC had identified. |
| <b>160 responded</b>                                      | <b>136 responded</b>                                      | <b>112 responded</b>                                      |
| Response rate of <b>94%</b>                               | Response rate of <b>92%</b>                               | Response rate of <b>90%</b>                               |

Our response rate was impacted on due to the lack of student responses to both emails and telephone calls. We believe that this may have been directly linked to the pandemic mixed with an inability to find destinations in our usual way, word of mouth, FB posts and lecturer knowledge.



## Main Findings

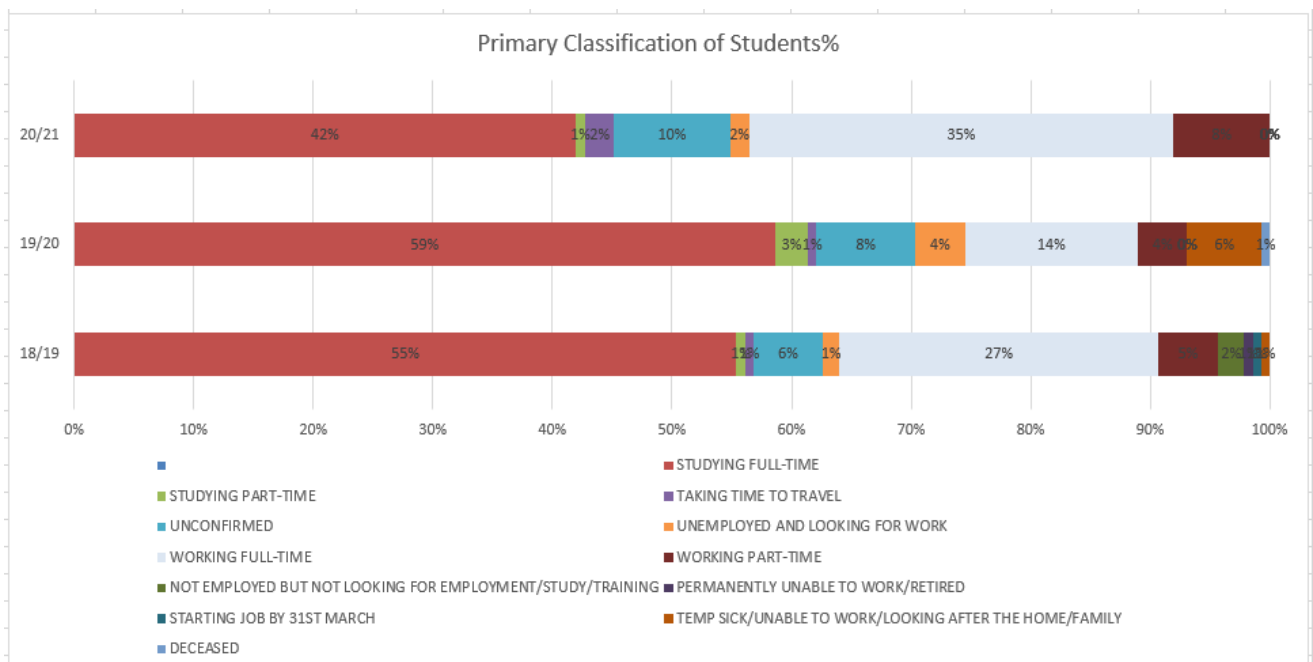
### Student Destination Overview

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

|  | 2018/19    |            | 2019/20    |            | 2020/21    |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Target Student Numbers</b>                              | <b>139</b> |            | <b>145</b> |            | <b>124</b> |            |
| <b>Primary Classification</b>                              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| STUDYING FULL-TIME   | 77         | <b>55%</b> | 85         | <b>59%</b> | 52         | <b>42%</b> |
| STUDYING PART-TIME   | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 4          | <b>3%</b>  | 1          | <b>1%</b>  |
| TAKING TIME TO TRAVEL                                      | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 3          | <b>2%</b>  |
| UNCONFIRMED  | 8          | <b>6%</b>  | 12         | <b>8%</b>  | 12         | <b>10%</b> |
| UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR WORK                            | 2          | <b>1%</b>  | 6          | <b>4%</b>  | 2          | <b>2%</b>  |
| WORKING FULL-TIME  | 37         | <b>27%</b> | 21         | <b>14%</b> | 44         | <b>35%</b> |
| WORKING PART-TIME  | 7          | <b>5%</b>  | 6          | <b>4%</b>  | 10         | <b>8%</b>  |
| NOT EMPLOYED BUT NOT LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT/STUDY/TRAINING | 3          | <b>2%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  |
| PERMANENTLY UNABLE TO WORK/RETIRED                         | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  |
| STARTING JOB BY 31ST MARCH                                 | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  |
| TEMP SICK/UNABLE TO WORK/LOOKING AFTER THE HOME/FAMILY     | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 9          | <b>6%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  |
| DECEASED   |            |            | 1          | <b>1%</b>  | 0          | <b>0%</b>  |

- There is a 17% decrease in the percentage of students known to be studying full time from the previous year
- There is an increase of 21% in the working full-time classification with a further 4% increase in students working part-time

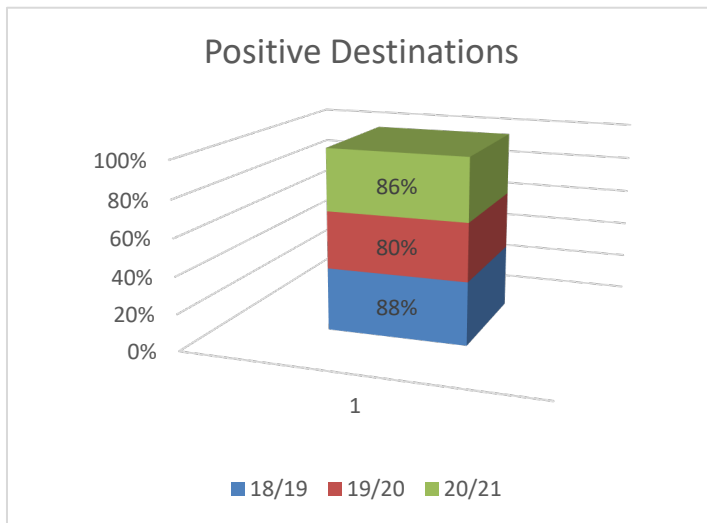
There are more students moving into employment opportunities linked to the buoyant market at this current time.



## Positive Destination Breakdown

86% of our students are in a positive destination, full time study and full-time employment making up 77% of this figure. A further 8% of students continue to work part time with a small reduction in the number of part time study students, 1% down from 3%.

There was a rise of 6% in positive destinations since the previous year in spite of the difficulties in 20/21 that students experienced due to the pandemic.



## Employment Destinations

44% of 20/21 students are in full time or part time employment, an increase of 21% and 4% linked to the overall number of responses received.

| Employment % Overall                   | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Destination Responses            | 139   | 145   | 124   |
| Total Number of Students in Employment | 44    | 27    | 54    |
|  | 32%   | 19%   | 44%   |

## Employment Category

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

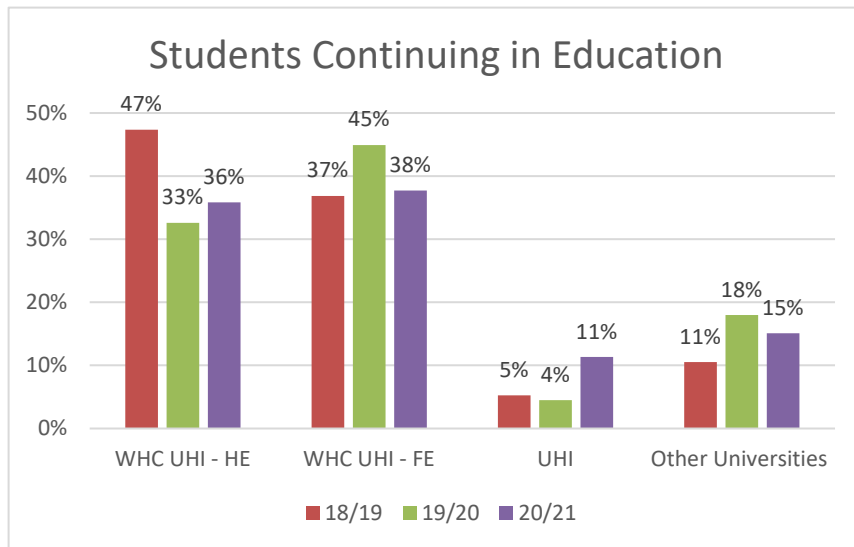
| Employment Categories       | 18/19     |            | 19/20     |            | 20/21     |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Total Employed Responses    | <b>44</b> |            | <b>27</b> |            | <b>54</b> |            |
| Employed FT or PT           | 37        | <b>84%</b> | 25        | <b>93%</b> | 45        | <b>83%</b> |
| Self-employed/Freelance     | 2         | <b>5%</b>  | 2         | <b>7%</b>  | 4         | <b>7%</b>  |
| Voluntary/other unpaid work | 1         | <b>2%</b>  | 0         | <b>0%</b>  | 1         | <b>2%</b>  |
| Modern Apprenticeship       | 4         | <b>9%</b>  | 0         | <b>0%</b>  | 3         | <b>6%</b>  |
| Internship                  |           |            |           |            | 1         | <b>2%</b>  |

74% of students took up local employment opportunities within the Highland Council area. The table below shows the employer industry that the students went into.

| Employer Industry   | 18/19     | 19/20     | 20/21     |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Student Responses   | <b>44</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>54</b> |
| A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing                                    | 0         | 7         | 7         |
| E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply                  | 2         | 0         | 1         |
| F: Construction   | 2         | 1         | 2         |
| G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 4         | 4         | 5         |
| H: Transport and storage  | 3         | 1         | 3         |
| I: Accommodation and food service activities                            | 12        | 6         | 17        |
| J: Information and communication  |           |           | 1         |
| K: Financial and insurance activities                                   | 1         | 0         | 0         |
| M: Professional, scientific and technical activities                    | 0         | 2         | 1         |
| N: Administrative and support service activities                        | 1         | 0         | 0         |
| O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security        | 1         | 2         | 2         |
| P: Education  | 0         | 0         | 3         |
| Q: Human health and social work activities                              | 5         | 0         | 4         |
| R: Arts, entertainment and recreation                                   | 8         | 4         | 2         |
| S: Other service activities   | 1         | 0         | 2         |
| Unknown   | 4         | 0         | 4         |

### Students Continuing in Education

| Students Continuing in Education            | 2018/19   |     | 2019/20   |     | 2020/21   |     |
|---|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| West Highland College (UHI) - HE            | 36        | 47% | 29        | 33% | 19        | 36% |
| West Highland College (UHI) - FE            | 28        | 37% | 40        | 45% | 20        | 38% |
| UHI – University of the Highlands & Islands | 4         | 5%  | 4         | 4%  | 6         | 11% |
| Other Universities                          | 8         | 11% | 16        | 18% | 8         | 15% |
|   | <b>76</b> |     | <b>89</b> |     | <b>53</b> |     |



85% of students continuing in education continued to study with us, 74% with UHI WH and 11% with UHI see progression table below for further details

| Students Continuing in Education (WHC Progression) | 19/20     |            | 20/21     |            |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Returners to Education                             | <b>89</b> |            | <b>53</b> |            |
| WHC Progression Degree Course                      | 4         | 4%         | 6         | 11%        |
| WHC Progression HN Course                          | 22        | 25%        | 19        | 36%        |
| WHC another HN Course                              | 3         | 3%         | 1         | 2%         |
| WHC Progression FE course                          | 32        | 36%        | 10        | 19%        |
| WHC another FE Course                              | 8         | 9%         | 9         | 17%        |
| Other College University                           | 20        | 22%        | 8         | 15%        |
| UHI WH Total Progressed to next level of study     | 58        | <b>65%</b> | 35        | <b>66%</b> |
| Overall Total returners to UHI WH                  | 69        | <b>78%</b> | 45        | <b>85%</b> |

## **Conclusion**

The uptake of Employment opportunities by our students has risen by 25% from 2019/22 highlighting the need for this to be recognised as a positive student outcome

85% of students returning to full and part time study stayed with UHI WH a rise of 7% from the previous year, highlighting that we have a positive impact on our students with good progression opportunities on offer.

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

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

More detail on employer industry 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)
- Work Detail
- Employer Industry
- Employer Name
- Employ related
- Training Programme
- Training Vocational Area
- Study Detail
- Destination of Further Study
- Destination Course of Study

### 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 along with lecturer knowledge of their students destination at the end of study.