

## SURVEY OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### Influences on Career Choice

- Do you know what career path you would like to take up after your current programme of education?  
Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐
- Which of the following options, if any, are you considering when you finish your current educational programme?  
Please ✓ one option below as appropriate.

Post Graduate Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Professional Training <input type="checkbox"/>	Employment <input type="checkbox"/>	Apprenticeship <input type="checkbox"/>	Other, Please Specify_____	Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/>
--	--	-------------------------------------	---	----------------------------	-------------------------------------

- At what age did you first obtain detailed information about possible career choices? \_\_\_\_\_
- How important are the following in influencing your career choice?

Sources of Influence on Your Career Choices and Decision making				
	Very Important Influence	Important Influence	Minor Influence	No Influence
Parent(s)/carer(s) or other relatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends/Other Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Previous Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidance Counsellors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College Lecturers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visits to or from Employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Career Guidance Online Tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit to or from Colleges / Universities / FET organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Websites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Career Self-Assessment Tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio / Television Programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Career Fairs / Exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- How confident are you about securing your IDEAL JOB when you finish education, if you have made a decision on your ideal job?

Very Confident	Confident	Uncertain	Very Uncertain	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- How confident are you about securing ANY JOB when you finish education?

Very Confident	Confident	Uncertain	Very Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Do you have any worries about your career?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

8. If yes, please rank any worries you may have when it comes to thinking about securing a career when you leave education? (1 – worries you a lot; 5 – worries you a little)

	<div> Worries Me A Lot <div> ← → </div> Worries Me a Little </div>				
	1	2	3	4	5
I am not sure what career would suit me best	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not enough jobs of any type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficult to get jobs in chosen career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I won't have enough experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I won't earn enough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't know the right contacts/people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't have the right skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. At what stage did you first start thinking about what to do when you leave education? (Please select one box only below)

In Primary School	<input type="checkbox"/>
In Junior Cycle – First, Second or Third Years	<input type="checkbox"/>
During Transition Year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Final Year in School	<input type="checkbox"/>
During College	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Sources and Quality of Career Information

9. Please outline your views on how satisfied or not you are with the quality of careers information available to you:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Information on the full range of higher education courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on further education and training options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on apprenticeships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on nature of careers options	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on likely job opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on requirements for success in different careers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on employment trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on self-employment/entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on how to apply for jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on how to apply for courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Are there any **obvious gaps** that need to be addressed to improve the range and quality of careers information? Please tell us more:

---



---

11. Have you used any of the following services?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apprenticeship Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FETCH Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Education Guidance Association of Ireland (AEGAI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizens Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other services, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What is your assessment of the availability and quality of the following sources of career information? Please select one box for each option below:

	Not Available	Available and Very Good	Available and Good	Available but Neither Good nor Poor	Available but Poor	Available but Very Poor
Access to one-to-one career guidance and information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to career guidance groupwork sessions in classes/workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to online sources of careers information and how to use them effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to online career assessment tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to an up-to-date career library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to visits from or to employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to opportunities for relevant experiences of the world of work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to telephone for personalised careers conversations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Are any of the following services provided by your college?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Career guidance and information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College website has a published careers policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interactions with external employers / employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Have you had a one to one conversation about your career options with a guidance counsellor or career guidance practitioner / careers officer in the last year?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

15. If you have had a one-to-one session about career options, approximately how long were the meetings and how many interviews have you had in the last year?

Approximate length of time for a one-to-one careers guidance and information	
Approximate number of one-to-one career guidance sessions you have had in the last year?	

16. If your college has career guidance groupwork sessions, approximately how long are the sessions and how many have you attended in the last year?

Average Length of Time Allocated for Groupwork Sessions	
No. of Groupwork Sessions Attended in the last 12 months?	

17. Were you provided with information about labour market/employment developments to help with your career decisions?  
Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

18. Does your college provide any online or distance career guidance support? Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

19. If online or distance career guidance support is available, please indicate whether you have used such supports and whether you have found them helpful:

Have Not Used <input type="checkbox"/>	Used but Not Helpful <input type="checkbox"/>	Used and Helpful <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---	---	-------------------------------------

20. Have you used any of the following career guidance websites/tools?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Apprenticeship.ie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123tests.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CAO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Careers News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Careers Portal (including Reach+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CASCAID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fast Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FETCH Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grad Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Onestepup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prospects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualifax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UCAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unibrowse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unicas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unifrog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Websites of specific schools, colleges or universities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Do you think online career websites/tools can help you make informed choices about your future career?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know ☐

22. Does your college provide students with the opportunity to interact with employers and/or employees working in different careers? Yes ☐ No ☐

23. If yes, how many times on average have you had the opportunity to meet with employers and/or employees in the last year?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Recommendation(s) for Change

24. What changes, if any, would you like to see to improve careers guidance and information,

---



---



---

### Background Details for Statistical Analysis Use Only

Finally, please select the relevant boxes

25. What age are you?

17--24	25-34	35-44	45-54	Other – Please Indicate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

26. Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐

27. Country of Birth: Ireland ☐ Other ☐, Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Please indicate whether your parent(s)/main carer(s) obtained university or other higher education qualifications:

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Thank you very much for your assistance with the above which will be an important input to national policy in this area. Please send your completed response for the attention of Dr Greg Swinand at Indecon International Consultants, by e-mail to [gswinand@indecon.ie](mailto:gswinand@indecon.ie), or by post to Dr Greg Swinand, Indecon House, 4 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Please note all individual information will be treated as strictly confidential and will be aggregated with other responses. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.**