



GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Information for students

What do I need to know?

WHY IS THERE A GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY?

The government requires statistical data on students in order to provide comprehensive and nuanced insights into the higher education sector and the graduate labour market. These ‘insights’ inform parliamentary decisions on current and future educational needs and enact change where necessary. The Graduate Outcomes survey was one such change as a new ‘fit for purpose’ survey was required to look at student outcomes following life after University.



WHAT IS THE GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY?

Graduate Outcomes is the biggest UK annual social survey and captures the perspectives and current status of recent graduates.

All graduates who completed a higher education course at UWL after August 2017 will be asked to take part in the survey 15 months after they finish their studies. The survey aims to help our current and future students gain an insight into career destinations and development.

We want to understand the graduate perspective and what success looks like for you following your time at UWL. Your valuable responses will help us to evaluate and promote our courses.

WHY SHOULD I COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

As the biggest UK annual social survey, the collective graduate voice is powerful and will directly impact the future of education for prospective students. Join your fellow graduates and be part of the picture of education today.

You'll also be helping us to understand the choices you've made since graduation and how this reflects the skills you developed whilst at UWL. Your responses to this survey will be crucial and will ensure that we're promoting our courses accurately to prospective students.



WHAT WILL I BE ASKED ABOUT?

The survey asks you about what you're doing 15 months after completing your course at UWL. It also asks some subjective questions about how you feel about your current situation and general wellbeing. The survey includes a set of core questions and your response won't be used if you don't answer all of these questions.

WHEN WILL I BE SURVEYED?

Graduates will be grouped across the year into four cohorts, and you will receive your survey invitation around 15 months after you've finished your course.

The table below shows when the surveys take place. Your survey period depends when you completed your course:

COHORTS	COURSE COMPLETION PERIOD	SURVEY PERIOD (15 MONTHS LATER)
Cohort A	August – October	December – February
Cohort B	November – January	March – May
Cohort C	February – April	June – August
Cohort D	May – July	September – November

WHO WILL CONTACT ME ABOUT THE SURVEY?

The Graduate Outcomes survey is undertaken by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and they will contact you via three formats:

- **Email:** The survey will be emailed to you – the email will come from Graduate Outcomes with the University of West London in the email address. These emails will contain a link to the online survey. As an example, you will receive an email from: theuniversityofwestlondon@graduateoutcomes.ac.uk
- **Text messages:** You will receive text reminders from 'GradOutcomes'. These texts will contain a link to the online survey.
- **Phone:** If you receive a phone call regarding the survey, it will be from IFF Research who HESA have appointed to capture survey responses by phone. They will introduce themselves as calling on behalf of the University of West London.

HOW WILL I BE SURVEYED?

You will receive an email from Graduate Outcomes with the University of West London in the email address inviting you to complete the survey online (see opposite page). This is the quickest and easiest way to take part. You can take the survey on most devices so you can complete it on the morning commute, on your lunch break over a sarnie or when you get a spare few minutes in your day.

You can save your place in the survey and come straight back to where you left off – just don't forget to complete it in full. If you start the survey but don't complete it, you'll receive a reminder. If you don't want to finish the survey, your answers will be kept if you completed the core questions or everything will be deleted if you didn't get that far. You may also be contacted by telephone.

HESA is delivering the survey but IFF Research will be calling graduates to encourage survey participation over the phone. They will identify themselves as calling on behalf of the University of West London.

If you are not contactable by email, text or phone, we may seek the answers to the survey from a third party – such as a family member (e.g. a parent or sibling) using a number that you provided to the University (e.g. a home or next of kin number) – if they have a good understanding of what you are doing.

If someone else completes the survey on your behalf and you would rather provide your own answers, you can still complete the survey yourself and over-write the third-party answers. Please contact info@graduateoutcomes.ac.uk if you want to complete your own survey in place of a third-party response.

It's really important to ensure your details are up-to-date so that HESA and IFF Research can get in touch with you:

- Current students can update their details on **MyRegistry** (via the Student Portal)
- Alumni can update their details on the **Alumni website**

HOW WILL MY RESPONSE BE USED?

Please be assured that all responses will be anonymised and HESA have provided detailed information about how your data will be processed, who will receive it, and what they will use it for via the following website:

www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk/privacy-info

The University of West London will use your anonymised cohort responses to provide statistical summaries for academics and for current and prospective students of the

University, who may be interested in what our students do after leaving University. Information may also be used in University publications, such as the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectus, publicity materials produced by the University or on official University web page (s), again this will be anonymised. For example, you would have previously seen the strapline '98% of our graduates were in employment or further studies within 6 months of graduating' used in online and print marketing materials.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO BE SURVEYED?

We understand not everyone wants to take part in surveys. However, think about why you chose UWL. Most individuals make a choice in part, because they have seen some form of statistical data to inform their decision making.

If you want to opt-out of the Graduate Outcomes survey, that is fine, but unfortunately you can only do this through contact with HESA/Graduate Outcomes directly, you cannot opt-out by contacting UWL.

It is not compulsory to complete the survey but we hope you **understand the benefit** that your input will have for the future of education. To opt-out please email info@graduateoutcomes.ac.uk with this instruction, or let IFF Research know when they call you.



WHERE CAN I FIND OUT FURTHER INFORMATION?

To try and give you as much information and overview of this important survey we have produced an information video on Graduate Outcomes:



uw1.ac.uk/gradoutcomes

We will provide you with further information about the survey shortly before you are invited to complete it. You can also learn more via the official www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk website.

If we can answer any of your questions about Graduate Outcomes, then please email graduate.outcomes@uw1.ac.uk.

If you have any other questions about HESA and data protection, please see the data protection section of the HESA website (www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection) or contact HESA's Data Protection Officer:



data.protection@hesa.ac.uk



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ARE THERE ANY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR GRADUATE OUTCOMES?

Yes! Please follow our Twitter and Facebook accounts, just search for [@UWLGradOutcomes](https://twitter.com/UWLGradOutcomes) on both platforms.

We'd love to hear your views on education and life after leaving UWL.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST LONDON
The Career University



Please keep your details updated
alumni@uwl.ac.uk



Find out more at
uwl.ac.uk/gradoutcomes