

Higher Education Destinations: Graduate Migration in Greater Manchester 2016-17

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As an intern in the Skills and Employment team within the Research department at Greater Manchester Combined Authority, my aims and objectives for research centred around education

and the development of productive citizens within Greater Manchester.

Objectives

The aim of this project was to understand trends in the graduate migration patterns of the five Greater Manchester Higher Education Institutions (GM HEIs): The University of Bolton (UoB), Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), The University of Manchester (UoM), Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), and The University of Salford (UoS). The reason for this report was to understand levels of employment for graduates in GM, and which HEIs are producing graduates that remain in the area.

Method

The data used to analyse graduate destinations came from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey – a self-reported survey carried out by universities and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). HESA require that universities fill a quota of 80% response rate, to ensure that data is as reliable as possible, but since the data is self-reported, and takes place just six months after graduation, it is possible that the figures may change. I used Microsoft Excel to perform my analysis, and Microsoft PowerPoint to present my findings.

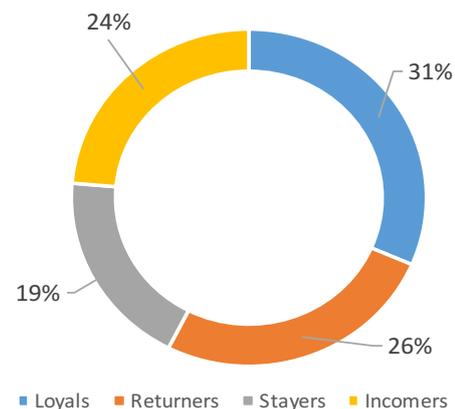
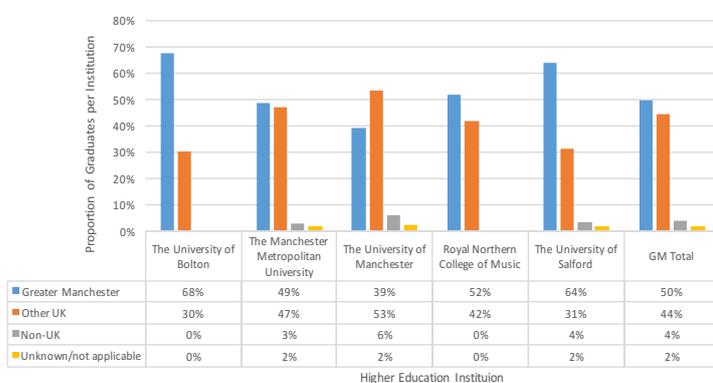
Results and Conclusions

Of the 18,200 students who graduated from a higher education institution in Greater Manchester in 2017, 13,300 (73%) were in employment (either full time or part time) six months after graduation. 6600 were in employment in Greater Manchester, 6000 elsewhere in the UK, and 500 were in employment outside of the UK. The location of 200 graduates was unknown. UoM had the highest proportion of graduates in full-time employment in GM six months after graduation in 2016-17. UoB has repeatedly had the highest proportion of graduates in employment in GM, whilst UoM has had the lowest. Of the students who studied at a HEI in GM, and were in employment in Greater Manchester six months after graduating, the largest proportion of students, just under a fifth, studied a subject allied to medicine. This would indicate that the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and other NHS centres, are a big pull for students to remain in Greater Manchester after graduation. Pure retention data must be taken with a pinch of salt, and it is important to take into account the previous domicile marker of graduates, that is, where they lived prior to university.

Charlie Ball of the Higher Education Careers Service Unit groups employed graduates into four categories:

- Regional Loyals: graduates who were originally domiciled in GM, attended a HE institution in GM, and found employment in GM following graduation.
- Regional Returners: graduates originally domiciled in GM, but who moved away for university, and then returned to the area to work
- Regional stayers: individuals not from GM but who attended a GM university and remained in the area to work
- Regional Incomers: graduates not domiciled in GM, and who attended university elsewhere, but came to GM to work

Proportionate Location of Greater Manchester Graduates by HE Institution



The chart above demonstrates the spread of graduates employed in GM who were Regional Loyals, Returners, Stayers, and Incomers

Of the 13000 graduates from universities around the UK employed in Greater Manchester six months after graduation, just under a third were Regional Loyals; Regional Returners constituted just over a quarter (26%); 2400 (19%) graduates were Regional Stayers; 3000 (24%) were Regional Incomers. These numbers indicate that GM has a good retention rates of students originally domiciled in GM, however, students who come from elsewhere to study do not seem to be remaining after university to work. Applying these numbers to the information about retention rates of institutions, we can assume that around half of retained students were originally domiciled in GM.

The table above shows the proportion of graduates from each HEI in GM that remained in Greater Manchester, moved to elsewhere in the UK, moved outside of the UK, and the unknown totals.