



**Employability in Programme Development:** Establishing a labour market to higher education feedback loop drawing on local labour market intelligence

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## A Contextual and Place-based Perspective of Young Graduates Employability

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### 1. The context of the Catalan labour market

In this section, we provide evidence on the evolution of the Catalan labour market. Specifically, table 1 provides an overview of the distribution by field of study of the population with tertiary education in Catalonia over the period 2005-2020.

Table 1: Population distribution with tertiary education by field of study and level of education in Catalonia

	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020	Δ '20-'05
<b>BACHELOR DEGREE</b>							
Humanities	13.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	11.0	9.0	-4.0
Social Sciences	42.0	44.0	44.0	47.0	43.0	42.0	-0.0
Natural Sciences	9.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	1.0
Health	11.0	11.0	14.0	15.0	17.0	19.0	8.0
Engineering	26.0	24.0	26.0	23.0	22.0	22.0	-4.0
<b>MASTER DEGREE</b>							
Humanities				14.0	12.0	8.0	-6.0*
Social Sciences				43.0	47.0	49.0	6.0*
Natural Sciences				12.0	12.0	11.0	-1.0*
Health				15.0	16.0	17.0	2.0*
Engineering				17.0	13.0	15.0	-2.0*
<b>DOCTORAL DEGREE</b>							
Humanities		14.0	14.0	14.0	11.0	13.0	-1.0**
Social Sciences		14.0	11.0	14.0	17.0	20.0	6.0**
Natural Sciences		33.0	36.0	20.0	22.0	20.0	-13.0**
Health		25.0	21.0	35.0	30.0	30.0	5.0**
Engineering		14.0	18.0	17.0	20.0	16.0	2.0**
Mixed						0.4	0.4**

Source: IL AQU (\* these figure are computed as difference between 2020 and 2014; \*\* these figure are computed as difference between 2020 and 2008)

In the case of bachelor's degree, the larger share is represented by people who graduated in Social Sciences (44% on average), followed by Engineering (24%), Health (15%), Humanities (11%) and Natural Sciences (8%). In the case of master's degrees, the majority of people graduated from Social Sciences (46%), then Natural Science (17%), Health (16%), Engineering (15%) and Humanities (11%). Finally, in the case of the doctoral degree on average the larger share is represented by people graduated from Health (28%), which is immediately followed by Natural Sciences (26%) and then Engineering (17%), Social Sciences (15%) Humanities (13%). Far behind lags instead the share of people with an interdisciplinary doctoral degree (0.4%).

Table 2 shows the evolution of job vacancies in the Catalan provinces. Around 77% of job vacancies are in the province of Barcelona, while far behind lag the provinces of Girona (9.7%), Lleida (6%), and Tarragona (5.9%).

Table 2: Job vacancies by NUTS3 regions in Catalonia

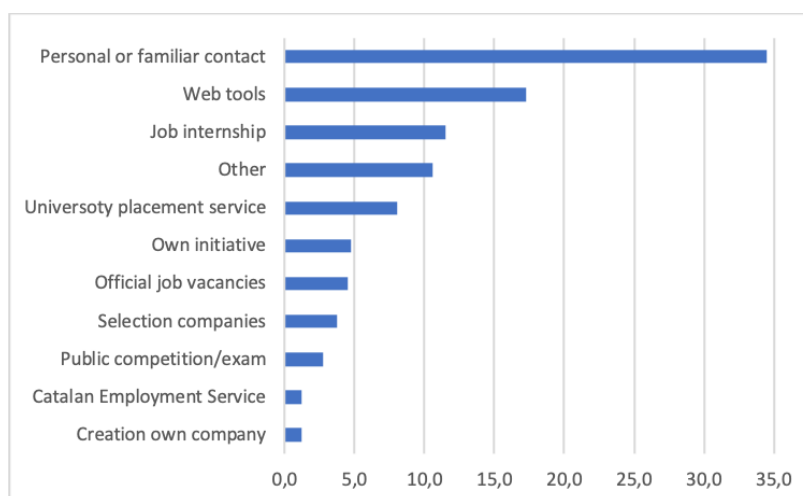
Job vacancies by Catalan provinces		
Province	stock	percentage
Barcelona	220383	77.2
Girona	27779	9.7
Tarragona	16829	5.9
Lleida	20351	7.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>285342</b>	

Note: Data downloaded on Feb 18, 2022. Source: Talent AQU

In terms of the school-to-work transition of the young graduates from Catalan HEIs, figure 1 shows an overview of the main way used by young graduates to obtain their first job position. Interestingly the graph reveals that most people (slightly less than 35%) obtain their first job position by means of personal or familiar contact, around 17% of people

using web tools (such as *LinkedIn*, *Info Jobs* or similar), and 11% as the prosecution of a job internship, and finally, only around 8% use the placement services provided by the HEI where they studied.

Figure 1: Access to first job position (bachelor's degree)



Source: IL AQU

Table 3 below reports the share of employed, unemployed and inactive individuals with a bachelor degree in Catalonia over the period 2005-2020, also distinguishing by field of study. In detail, the average for the period under analysis are 83% for Humanities, 90% for Social Sciences, 85% for Natural Science, 91% for Health and 92% for Engineering. In terms of unemployment, the higher level is that reported for Humanities (11%), immediately followed by Natural Sciences (9%), Social Sciences (6%) and Health and Engineering (5% each).

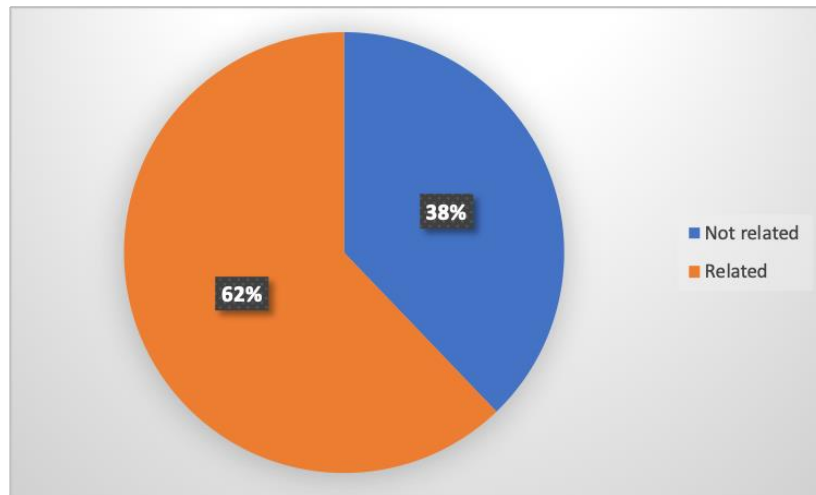
Table 3: Employment rate of Catalan graduates with bachelor degree by field of study

	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020	Δ'20-05
<b>HUMANITIES</b>							
employed	85.0	89.0	81.0	75.0	82.0	82.0	-3.0
unemployed	8.0	6.0	13.0	17.0	12.0	11.0	3.0
inactive	7.0	5.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	0.0
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>							
employed	91.0	91.0	90.0	86.0	90.0	90.0	-1.0
unemployed	4.0	4.0	7.0	11.0	6.0	6.0	2.0
inactive	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
<b>NATURAL SCIENCES</b>							
employed	84.0	90.0	86.0	80.0	85.0	86.0	2.0
unemployed	6.0	3.0	9.0	15.0	9.0	9.0	3.0
Inactive	10.0	7.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	-4.0
<b>HEALTH</b>							
employed	92.0	95.0	91.0	87.0	89.0	92.0	0.0
unemployed	4.0	2.0	6.0	9.0	6.0	4.0	-0.0
inactive	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
<b>ENGINEERING</b>							
employed	92.0	95.0	89.0	87.0	93.0	93.0	1.0
unemployed	4.0	2.0	7.0	9.0	5.0	4.0	0.0
Inactive	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	0.0

Source: IL AQU

To conclude, the following figure provides evidence of the presence of skill mismatch of the young graduates from Catalan HEIs once in the labour market. Specifically, the figure highlights that around 62% of people typically perform a task related to what they previously studied, while around 38% of young graduate perform a task that is not related with their academic background.

Figure 2: Extent of job mismatch for young graduates in Catalonia



Source: ILAQU