

Graduate Destinations

Data for 3062 computing/IT graduates who left university in 2003 was examined in a study for the CPHC. The outcomes of this were compared with the analysis of all HESA returns for 2003 graduates which was published in *What Do Graduates Do? (WDGD)*, published by the official graduate careers website for the UK, prospects.ac.uk. **These figures relate to a period identified in the quarterly *Bulletin of e-skills UK* as being characterised by a depression in computing/IT employment, a trend which has now been reversed.**

- The overall level of employment is reported as slightly higher in *WDGD* than in the CPHC study (72% as opposed to 67.4%). However, the CPHC identified a lower unemployment rate than *WDGD* (9.6% as opposed to 12.1%). This was because the CPHC study contained a slightly higher proportion of graduates who had entered further study or training (14.3% as opposed to 9.3%) or were unavailable for work or training (7.5% as opposed to 4.3%).
- **The CPHC study and *WDGD* identify a very similar percentage of working graduates in the ‘IT professional’ occupations listed in *WDGD* (36.6% and 37.5% respectively).** This corresponds to the ‘headline’ figure for computing/IT employment of computing/IT graduates which is frequently quoted in the media.
- However, the CPHC study identified **a total of around 61.1% of all working graduates in IT-related work of all types.** Occupations not included in the *WDGD* list include associate professional and technical roles, IT teachers and trainers, and some R&D and ‘new’ IT roles (e.g. in web design and development or e-business).
- In addition, **the vast majority of computing/IT graduates who enter further study or training take courses in computing or IT** (12.2% of all graduates). The most common non-IT field of further study or training is business or management studies.
- **Around 50% of computing/IT graduates who are in relevant work six months after graduation work in IT-user rather than IT-supply organisations.** The most common IT user employers are financial and educational organisations.
- **Computing/IT graduates have an unusually low rate of entry into ‘non-graduate’ work six months after graduation.** 19.4% of all graduates (28.75% of working graduates) in the CPHC study appeared to be in jobs which did not require a degree. *WDGD* found that 21.9% of working IT graduates were in the three main non-graduate occupations (administrative roles, financial customer services and hospitality or retail positions). This is very similar to the CPHC figure for working graduates in jobs of this sort (20.8%). However, this is below the average for all subjects in *WDGD* (24.7%), and below the figure of between 30% and 40% which is found for most subjects¹ (e.g. Design – 31%, Economics – 31.9%, Business Studies – 32.3%, Biology – 32.6%, Physics – 33.3%, Marketing – 36.3%, English – 37.7%, Media Studies – 39.6%). Research indicates that a disproportionately high number of graduates are in non-graduate work six months after graduation, and that most of these will eventually enter graduate work².
- Only a very small proportion of graduates from non-IT disciplines enter IT work within six months of graduation, according to HESA figures.

¹ Because the cohort of computing/IT students in *WDGD* is so large, their figure lowers the overall average.

² Purcell K, Elias P and Wilton N, 2004. Higher Education, Skills and Employment: careers and jobs in the graduate labour market. Research paper No.3 in the series Researching Graduate Careers Seven Years On. Employment Studies Research Unit, UWE/Warwick Institute for Employment Research