

Graduate Employment Survey 2016 Summary

Key Findings

High Job Security:

- Low unemployment rate = 3.4%
- Average number of job offers = 4.1

Income on the Rise:

- mean = \$13.7k, median = \$12.5k

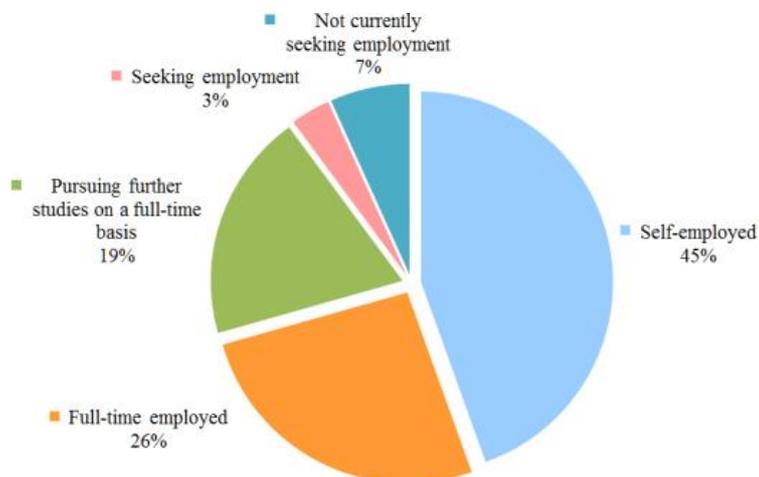
Positive Learning Experience at the HKAPA:

- Cultivation of independent thinking
- Learning to collaborate with others
- Application of knowledge, skills and experience

Current Employment Status

The overall rate of employment (including full time employment, self-employment and full-time further studies) was 90%. All respondents from the School of Drama and the School of Film and Television were 100% working, either self-employed or full-time employed. 26% of all respondents were “full-time employed” while 45% were “self-employed”. Graduates employed part-time were often building portfolio or “multiple career” paths, a common form of employment in the performing arts sector. 19% of the respondents were “pursuing further studies on a full-time basis” whereas 3% were “seeking employment” and 7% were “not seeking employment”.

The main reasons for respondents not seeking employment included a desire to have more time for other commitments and being able to take on a variety of different projects – freelance work being a desirable working style/pattern for performing artists, and often providing a higher income.



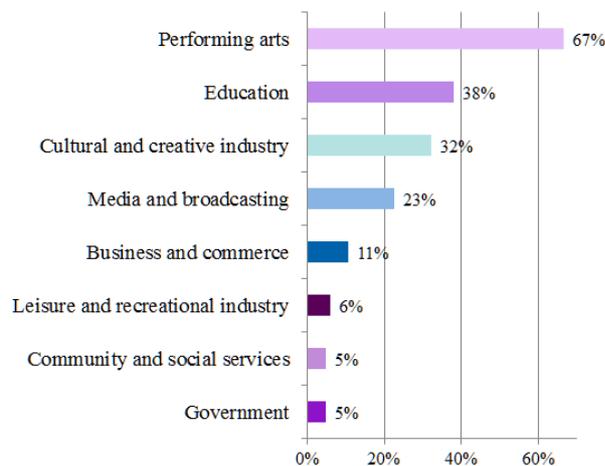
Self-Employment Details

Results showed that 65% of “self-employed” respondents were “project based freelance practitioners”, another 42% were “freelance performance practitioners” and 38% were “freelance teaching practitioners”, 2% owned an arts group and another 4% were running other businesses. Freelance and project-based employment are popular options for performing arts graduates as this employment pattern allows flexibility to engage in various activities and to undertake further study.

Employment Details

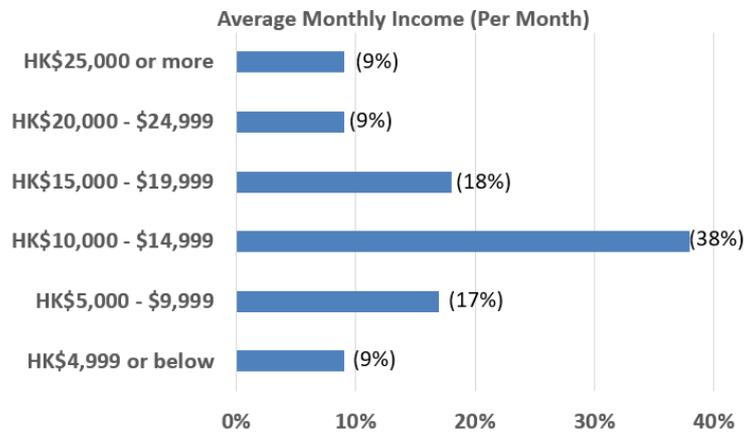
As for the sectors in which graduates employed full-time or self-employed included, “performing arts” topping the list with 67%, 38% in “education”, 32% in “cultural and creative industry”, 23% in “media and broadcasting”, 11% in “business and commerce”, 6% in “leisure and recreational industry”, 5% in “community and social services” and 5% in “the Government”.

Employers of Academy graduates included major performing arts groups including Chung Ying Theatre Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, and Hong Kong Sinfonietta. Prominent employers also included Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Limited, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Ocean Park Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.



Average Monthly Income

When asked for the monthly salary, including commission, bonus, etc., of the employed graduates at the time of the survey, 9% of them reported they earned lower than HK\$5,000 per month, 17% earned HK\$5,000 – HK\$9,999 per month, 38% earned “HK\$10,000 – HK\$14,999” per month, 18% earned “HK\$15,000 – HK\$19,999”, 9% each earned “HK\$20,000 – HK\$24,999” and “HK\$25,000 or more” per month. The average monthly salary earned by these graduates was around \$14,000.



Job-hunting

As to whether they had a job offer secured before their graduation, 56% said “yes” and 44% said “no”. Results revealed that a majority of the employed respondents (78%) had received their first job offer or project contract “within 2 months” after they started seeking employment. 11% of the respondents received an offer “within 3 months”, 4% “within 4 months” and 7% within “5 months or more”.

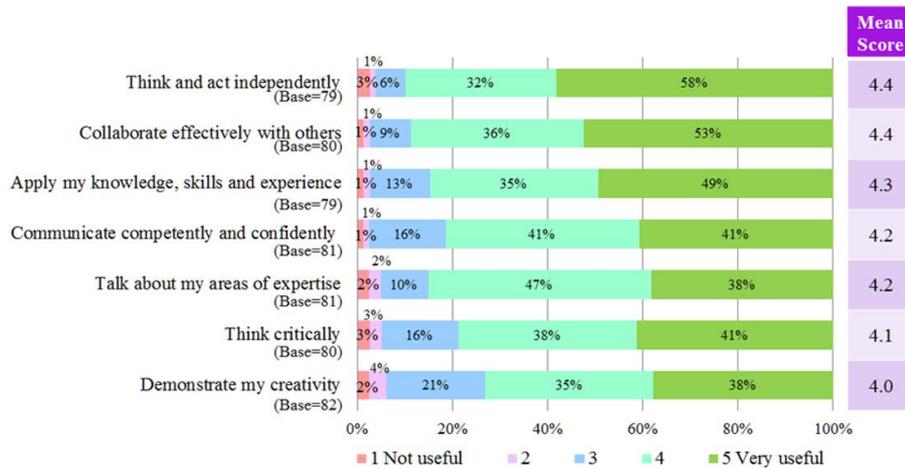
As for the number of job offers or project contracts received, 17% of the respondents had received one offer, 32% had received two offers, 9% had received three offers, 9% had received four offers, 15% had received five offers and 12% had received more than five offers. The respondents had received 4 job offers or project contracts on average.

Overall Learning Experiences

All the employed graduates were required to evaluate the usefulness of various skills they were expected to be able to do in their present jobs. Results showed that 58% found “think and act independently” and 53% found “collaborate effectively with others” were “very useful” to their current jobs.

Less than half of the graduates regarded “apply their knowledge, skills and experience” (49%), “communicate competently and confidently” (41%) and “think critically” (41%) were “very useful” to their current jobs.

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “not useful at all” and 5 means “very useful”, the average ratings of the above mentioned skills fell within a narrow range from 4 to 4.4.



Industry Experiences

The results showed that 66% of the employed respondents had gained industry experience, including internship, work experience, performances, organised by the Academy or referred by the teachers of the Academy. 58% had gained such experience before graduation, while 42% after graduation. Half of the jobs or projects had a duration of one to four weeks, 18% five to 12 weeks, 9% 13 to 25 weeks, 14% 26 to 51 weeks and 9% more than 52 weeks.

A majority, (89%) of these jobs or projects, took place in Hong Kong. Major organisations including Ocean Park, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd and Hong Kong Disneyland offered internship opportunities to Academy students.

85% of the respondents believed that industry experience helped them in securing subsequent job offers or project contracts.

Further Studies

35% of the respondents had enrolled in study leading to further formal academic or professional qualifications, 73% were pursuing further studies in the Academy and others were studying in “non-local institutions”, “other local post-secondary institutions” or “UGC-funded universities”.

48% of graduates undertaking further study were enrolled in “Bachelor’s Degree programmes”, while 29% were enrolled in “Master’s Degree programmes”.

Master’s Programme

Most of the Master’s Degree graduates (85%) affirmed that the Master’s programmes offered by the Academy helped to improve their career prospects. They believed the “reputation of the Academy” (75%), “professional network” (67%) and “extra-curricular learning experience (67%), “alumni and graduate networks” (58%) and “academic learning experience” (58%) would be beneficial to their career development.

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