

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACADEMIC ASPECTS, LABOUR SITUATION AND SATISFACTION WITH POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

CASE OF COSTA RICA

Diana Arce : dafarce@yahoo.com

Lorena Kikut: lorena.kikut@ucr.ac.cr

Costa Rican's Context of the Study

- Costa Rican universities have been developing relevant initiatives focused on self evaluation and accreditation processes in order to strengthen quality assurance.
- Aim of tracer studies has been to support these processes by investigating graduate's opinions regarding: university, academic aspects of their study program, and labour situation at different times.

General Objective

To value the academic aspects, labour situation and satisfaction with the postgraduate program of graduates from four Costa Rican public universities

Methodology

Population

- People who graduated between 2003 and 2010 from the ten graduate programs included in the study

Sampling Frame

- 432 people → Census

Technique

- Survey with an online questionnaire →
Contact: email & phone calls

Field Work

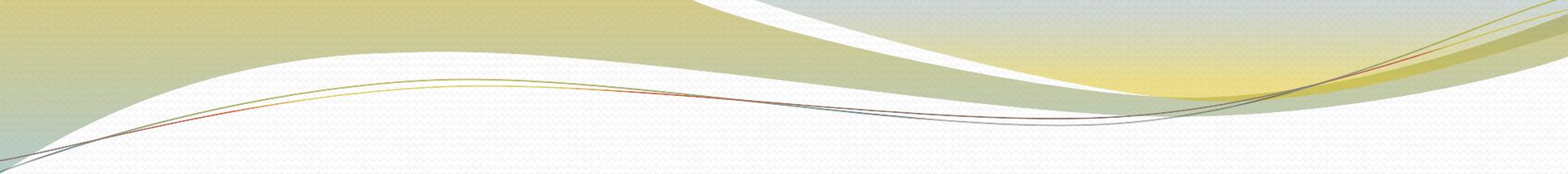
- September 13 to December 12, 2011

Response Rate

- 87.5% (378 answers)

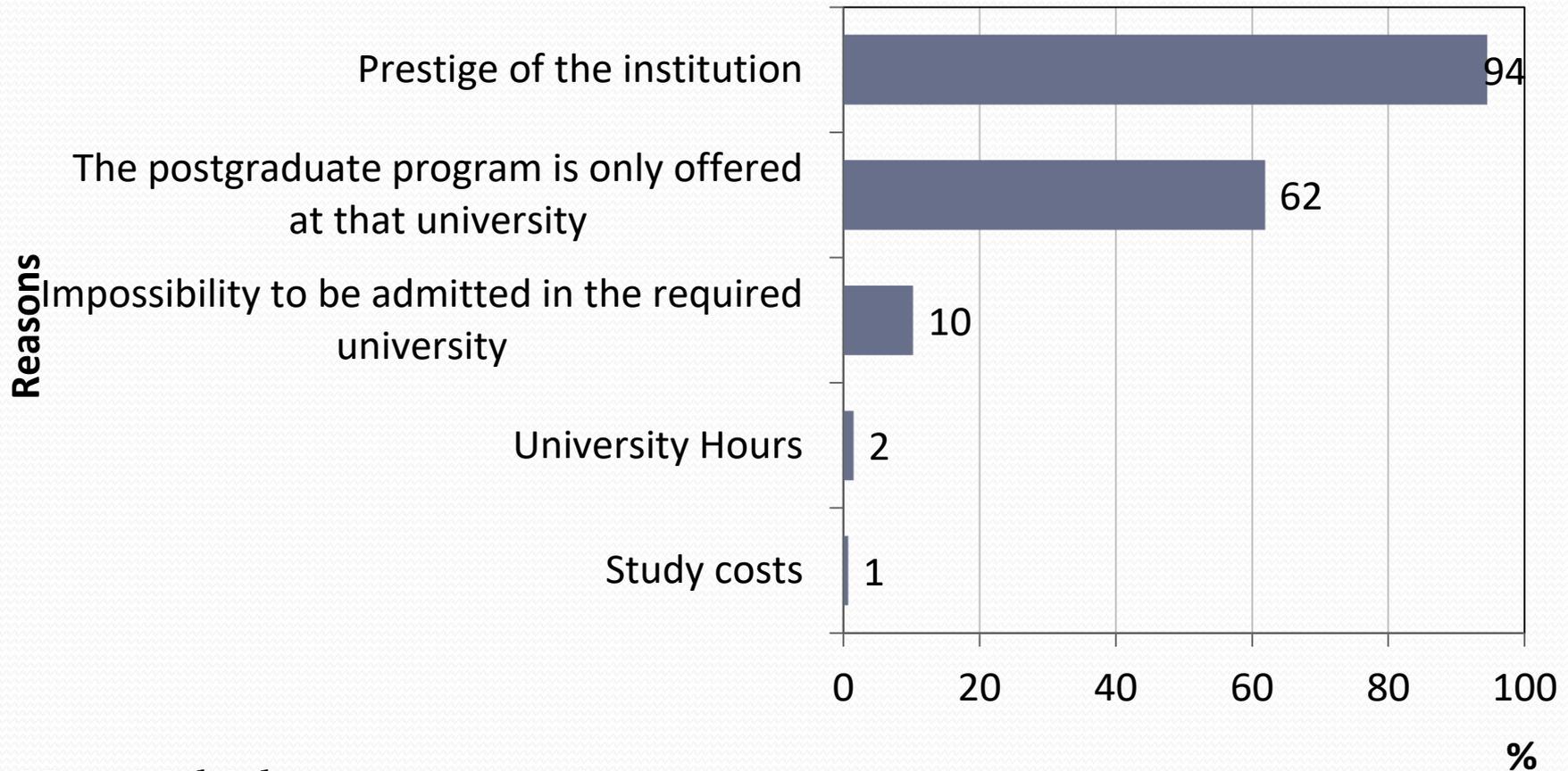
Response rate per program

Postgraduate Program	Email sent	Received answers	Response rate
Total	432	378	87.5
University of Costa Rica	97	90	92.8
University Administration	24	18	75.0
Gerontology	55	55	100.0
Government and Public Policies	18	17	94.4
Distance-Learning University	204	184	90.2
Criminology	45	42	93.3
Constitutional Law	71	64	90.1
Economic Law	19	16	84.2
Human Rights	69	62	89.9
National University	131	104	79.4
Pedagogy	79	65	82.3
Economic Policy	38	31	81.6
Sustainable Animal Production	14	8	57.1



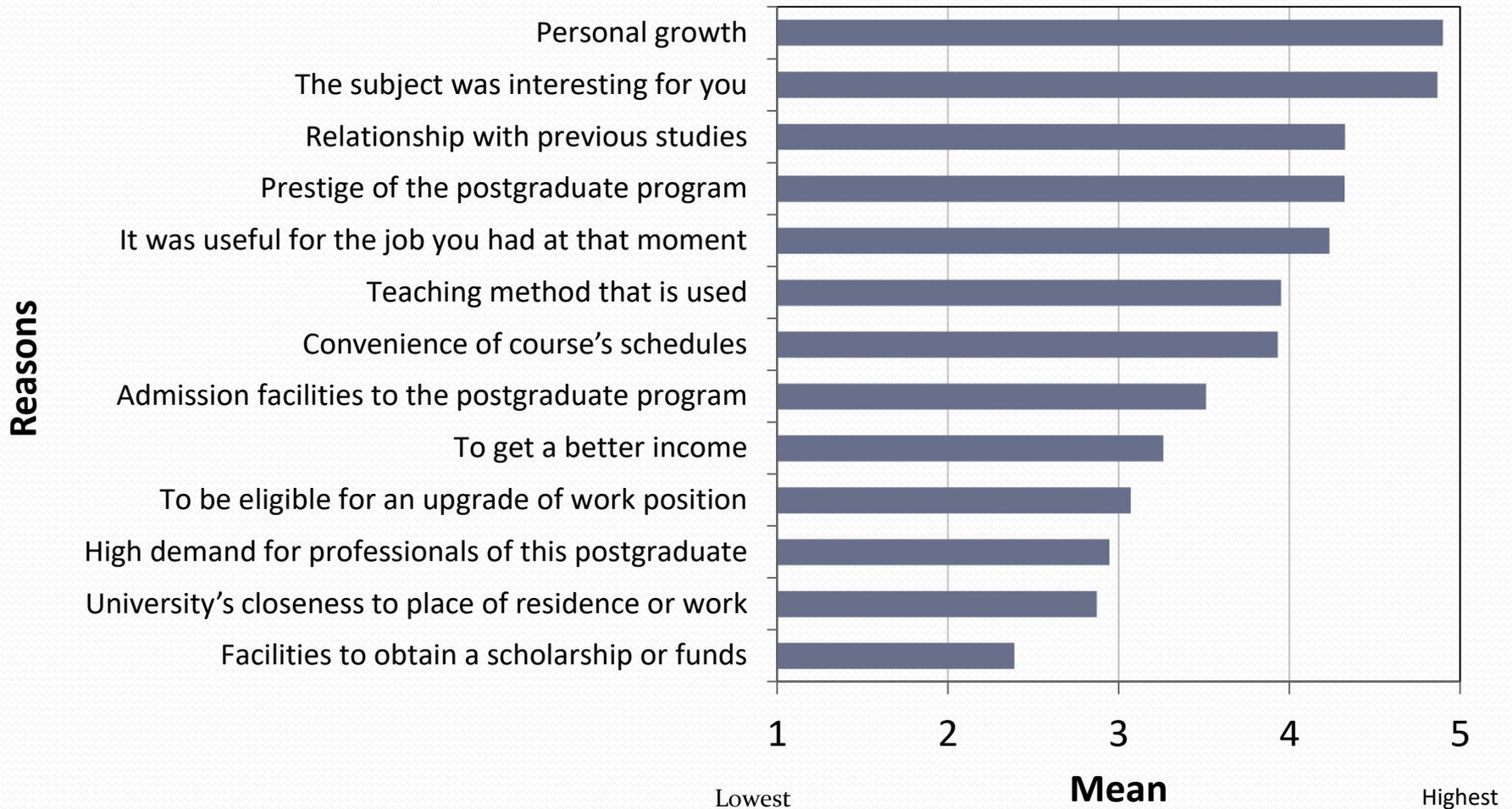
Basic results

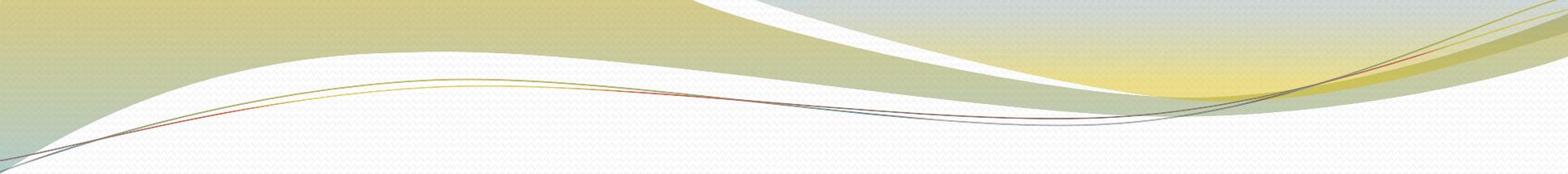
Reasons for selecting the university where they studied the program, 2011



Note: Multiple response question.

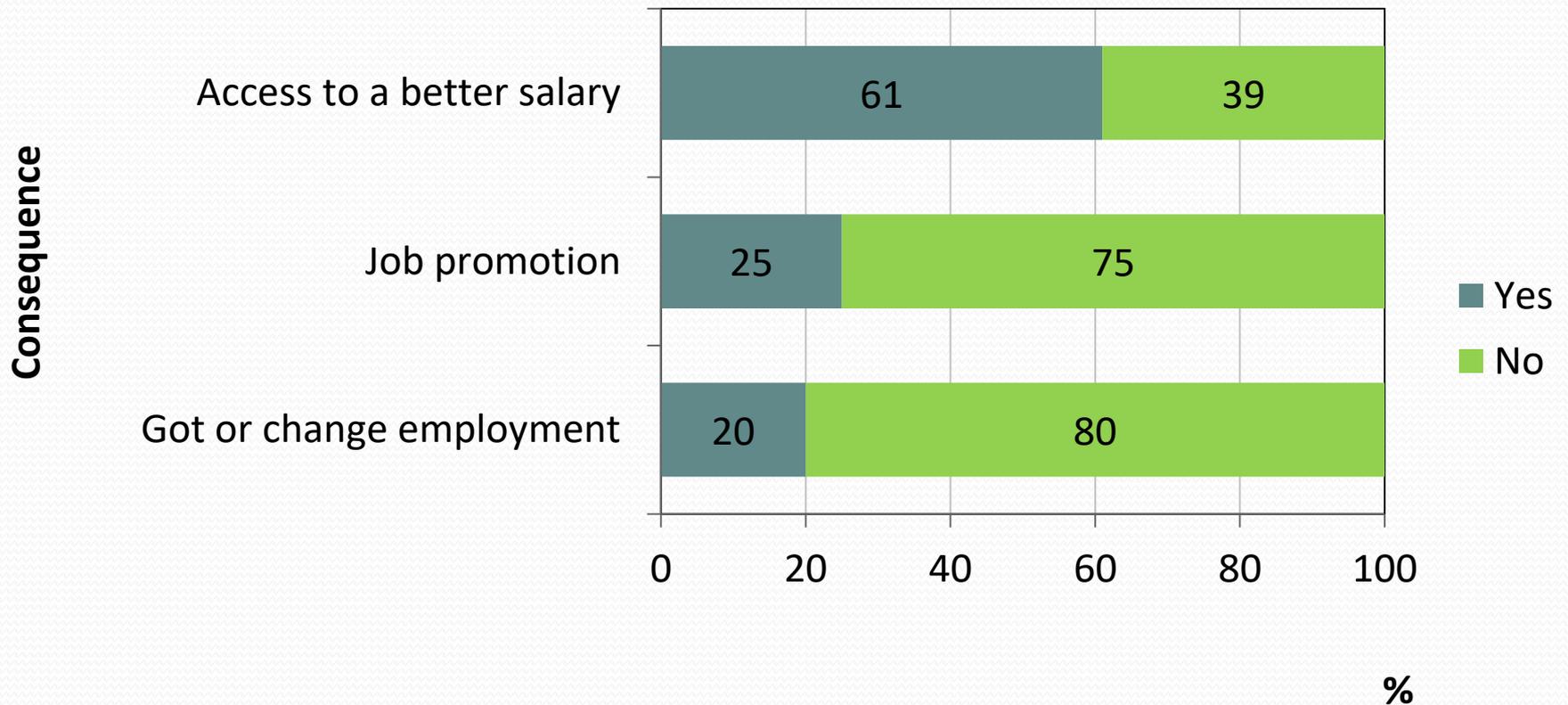
Average importance of reasons for studying the program, 2011



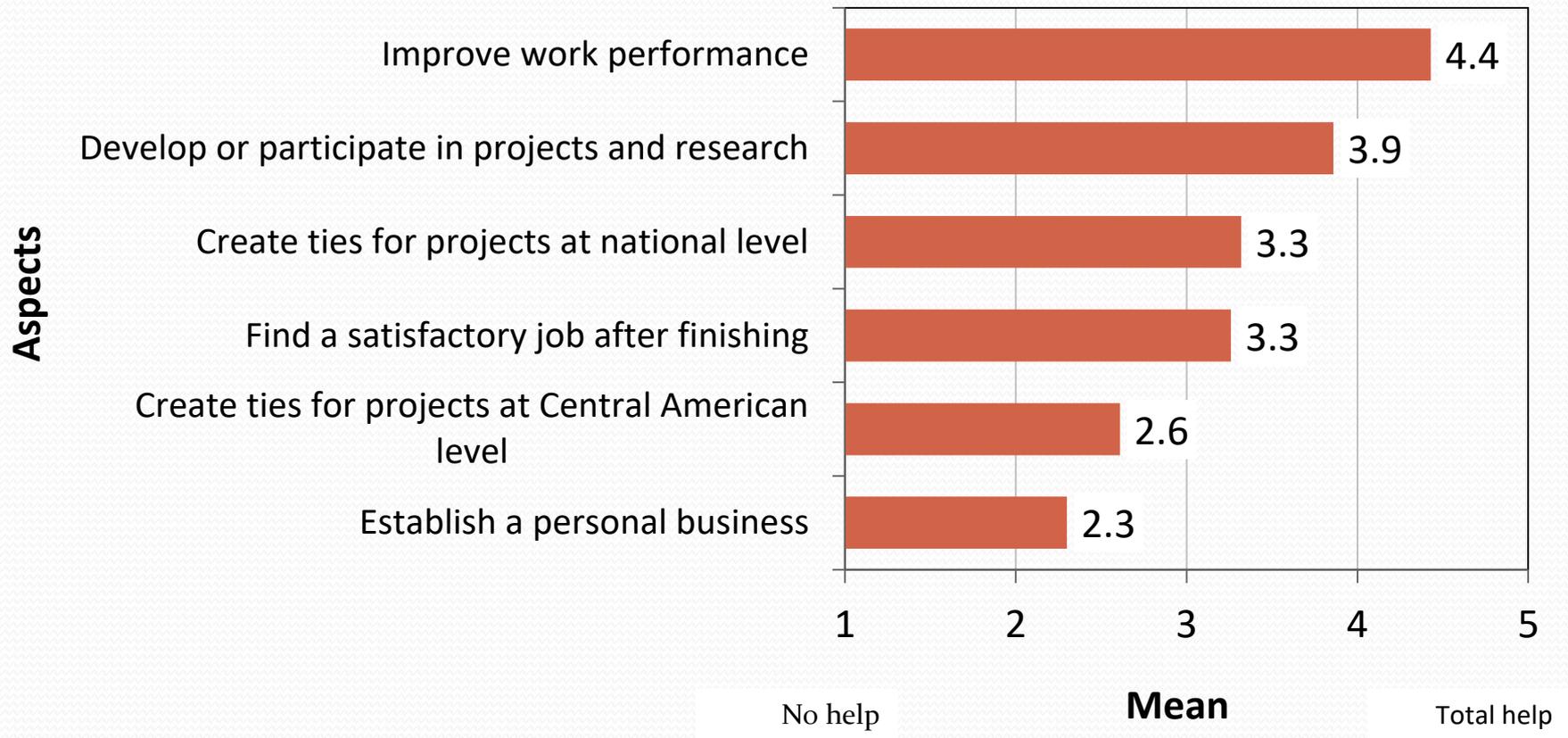


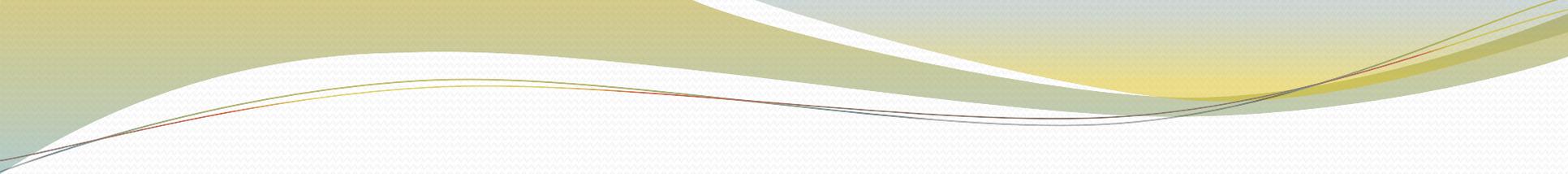
Graduation benefits

Professional consequences of postgraduate title



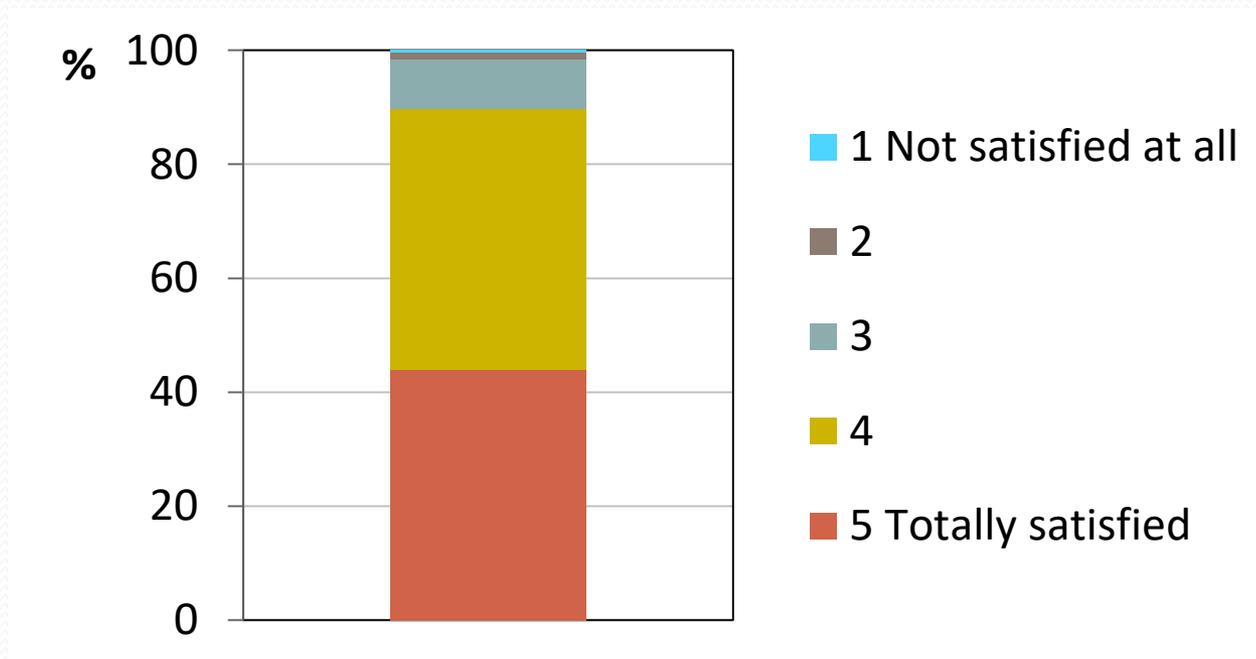
To what extent the graduation from the program helped you to reach the following aspects?





Evaluation of Academic Aspects and Satisfaction with Program

Satisfaction with Postgraduate Program



Average Satisfaction with Program

- In this Study (Postgraduate) = 4.3
- In Costa Rica (Undergraduate) = 4.5

Evaluation of some academic aspects and their correlation with program satisfaction

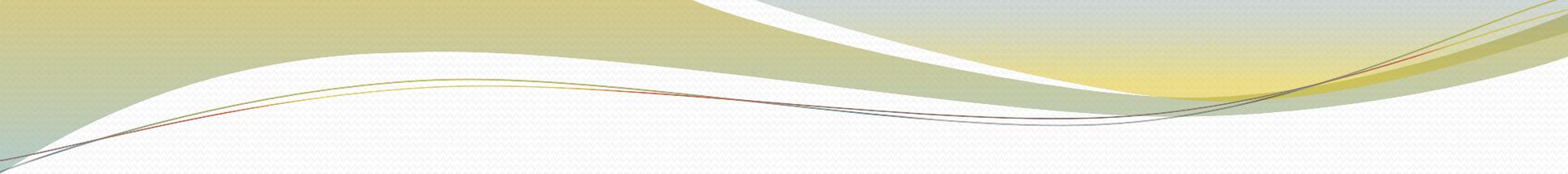
Aspect	Mean (Scale 1 to 5, where 5 is the highest value)	Correlation with programan satisfaction
Respect for diversity (religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and others)	4.61	+
Academic background of the teaching staff	4.52	+
Research experience of the teaching staff	4.35	+
Protection and respect for the environment	4.34	+
Performance of the teaching staff	4.27	++
The ethical formation received	4.26	+
Support received for the development of the thesis	4.23	+
Evaluation of academic activities	4.20	++
Literature used in courses	4.11	+
Amount of bibliographic resources available in the library	3.98	+
Access to equipment and updated technology	3.68	+
Readings in languages other than Spanish	3.26	o

Note: o=Very low correlation ($r < 0.30$), + Low correlation ($r \geq 0.30$ but $r < 0.50$), ++ Medium correlation ($r \geq 0.50$)

Competences promoted by program and relationship with program satisfaction

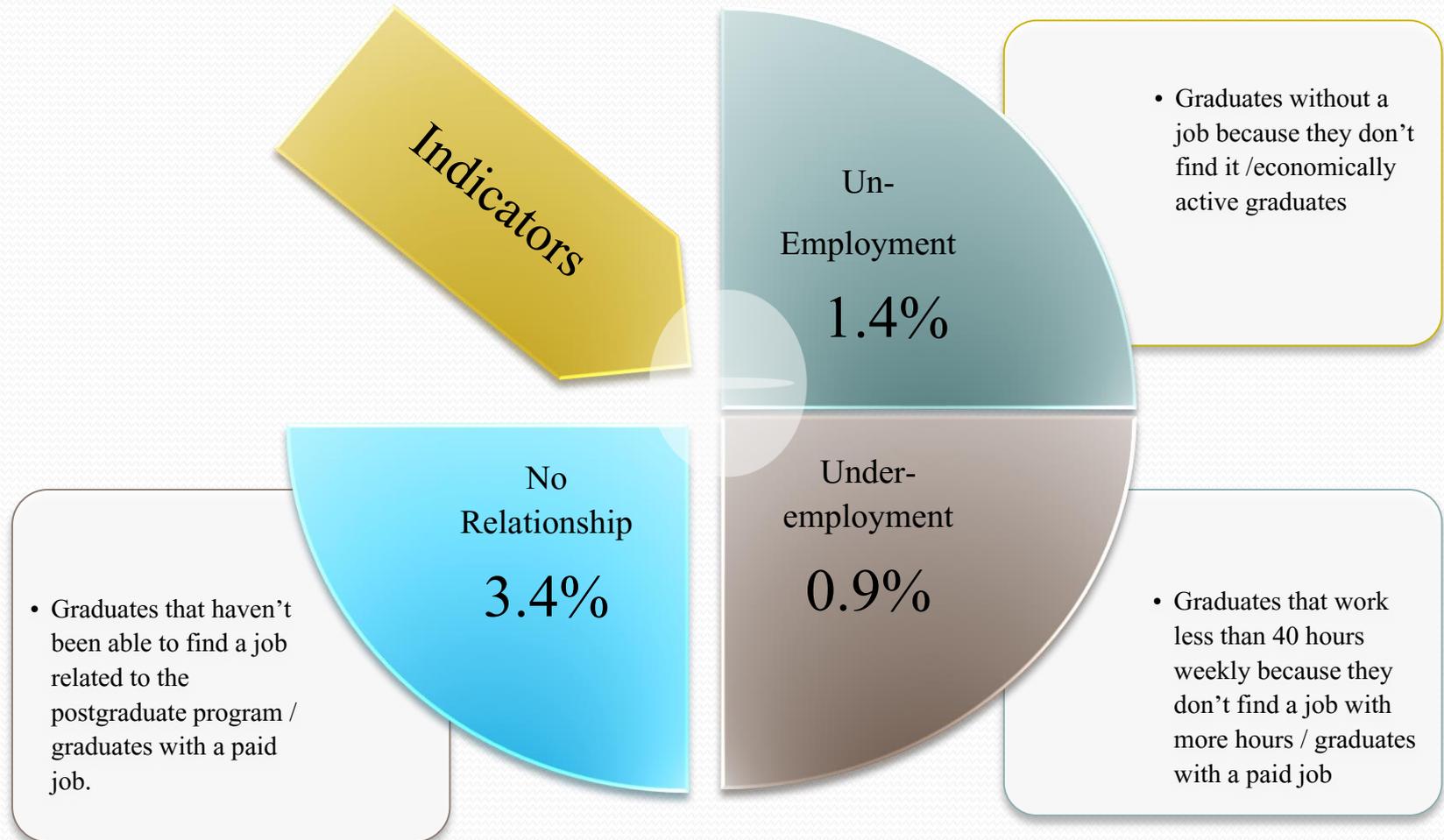
Type	Communication and Research	Leadership and Efficiency	Theoretical and practical knowledge	Language and computing
Description	Capability for communication, synthesis and problem solving	Guidance in activities, effective use of time	Applies theoretical and practical knowledge on a daily basis	Manage of a second language and computer skills
Related variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search information - Oral and written communication - Logical capability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team work - Personal motivation - Promote initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of main theoretical and practical approaches of the discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handling one or more languages - Handling of computing tools
Mean and correlation	4.1 (++)	4.0 (++)	4.3 (++)	3.1 (+)

Note: + Low correlation ($r \geq 0.30$ but $r < 0.50$), ++ Medium correlation ($r \geq 0.50$)



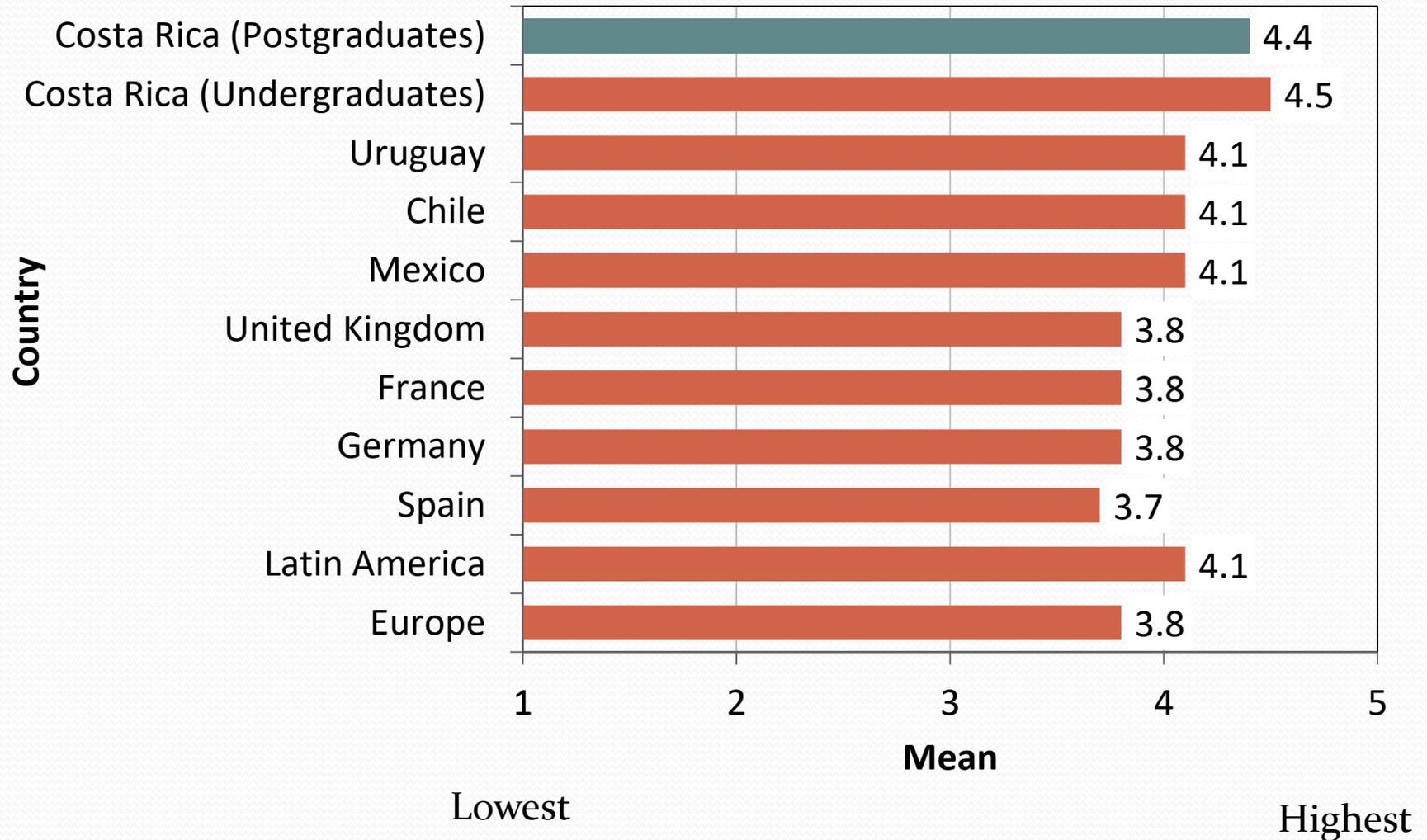
Labour Situation And Job Satisfaction

Labor indicators



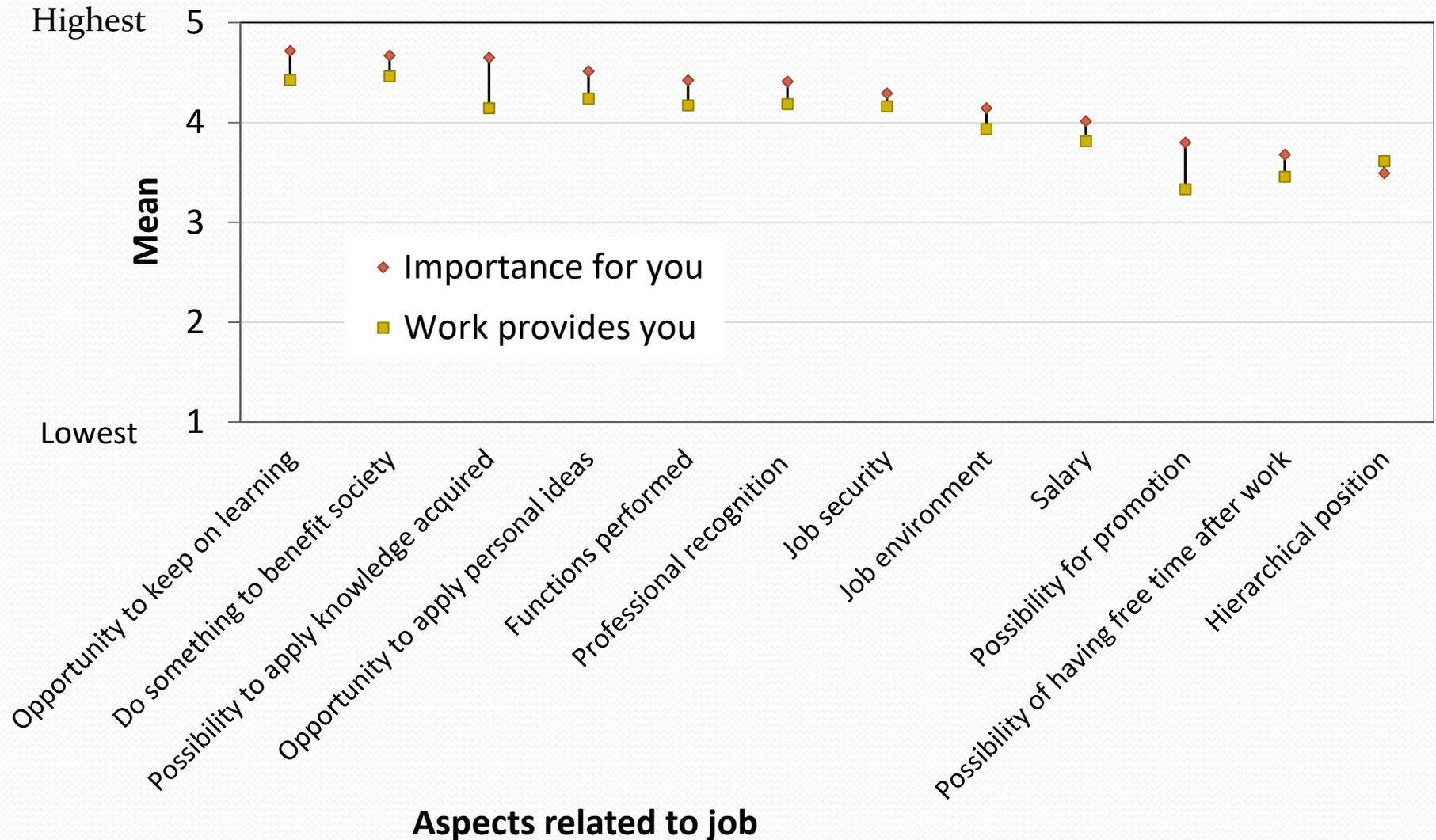
CR undergraduate unemployment: 2.0, underemployment 1.3, no relationship 2.5

Job satisfaction

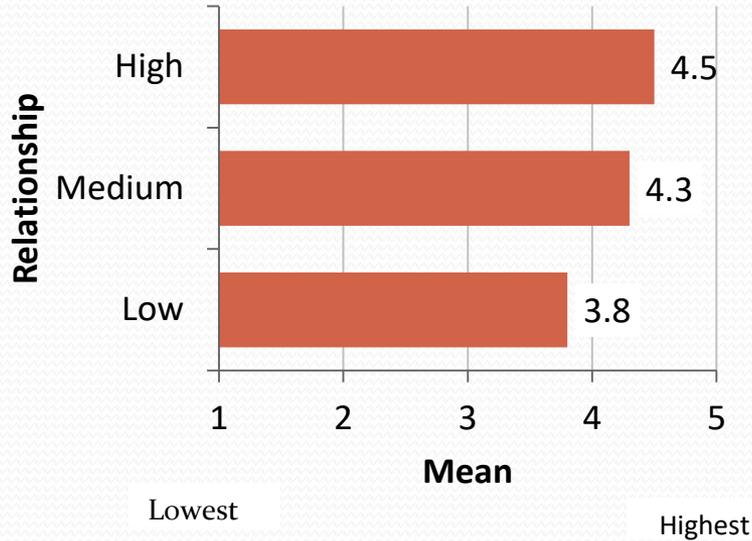


Source: Proflex Undergraduate Study 2010, except for Costa Rica

Gap between various job aspects and the extent to which the job provides them, 2011

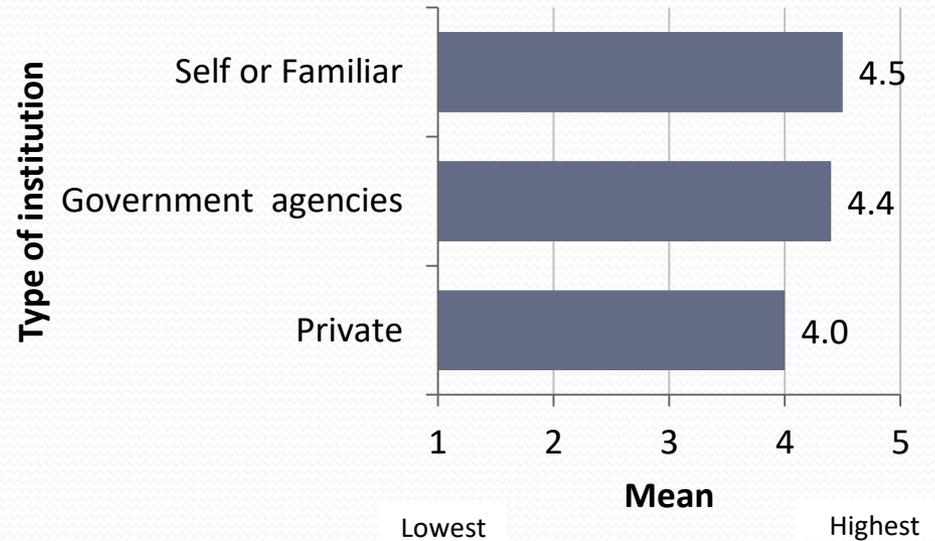


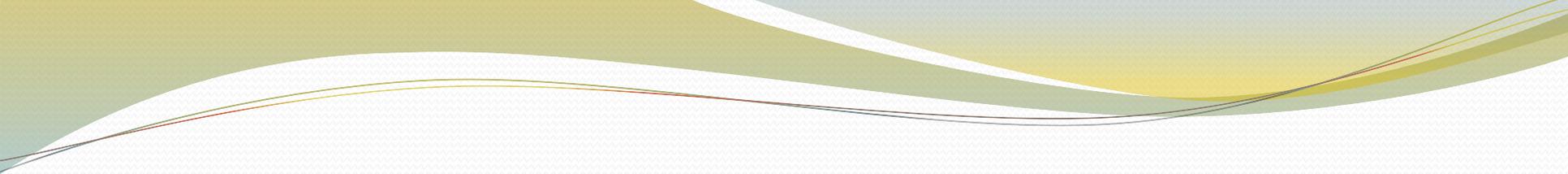
Satisfaction with job by...



Relationship between job and program

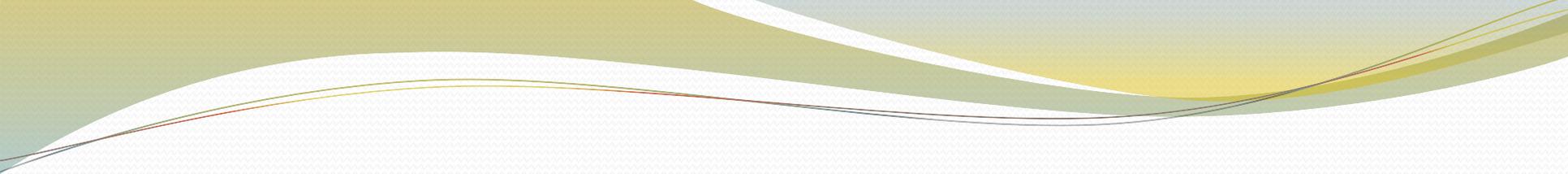
Type of institution where graduates work





Conclusions

- Tracer studies importance is reflected in their contribution to programs in determining which academic aspects need to be improved and reinforced.
- In general, programs' learning experiences helped graduates to improve personal and professional abilities.
- High level of employment helps the university to have an idea of which programs they should promote.
- Graduates seem to be very satisfied with their jobs, because work provides them relevant aspects.



Thank you!