



The market failure of postgraduate  
education: Financial and funding  
related issues

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Structure

- Objectives
- Methodology
- Results
  - Motivations
  - Impact of funding
  - Reasons for not pursuing postgraduate study

# Objectives

1. Determine the intentions of potential postgraduates:
  - Whether intend to conduct PG study
  - Motivations for doing so
  - By what mode (FT or PT)
  - Where they intend to study
  - Why they intend to study at a particular HEI

# Objectives cont...

2. Investigate the impact of funding related issues on decisions related to PG study
3. Explore the main obstacles to overcome in decisions related to PG study
4. Understand the reasons for not wishing to pursue postgraduate study
5. To highlight any variations by socio economic groups

# Methodology

- Online survey designed in close conjunction with the NPC
- Hyperlink hosted on the NPC and Graduate Prospects home pages
- Inviting participation from current students (PG and UG) and those with a potential interest in postgraduate study

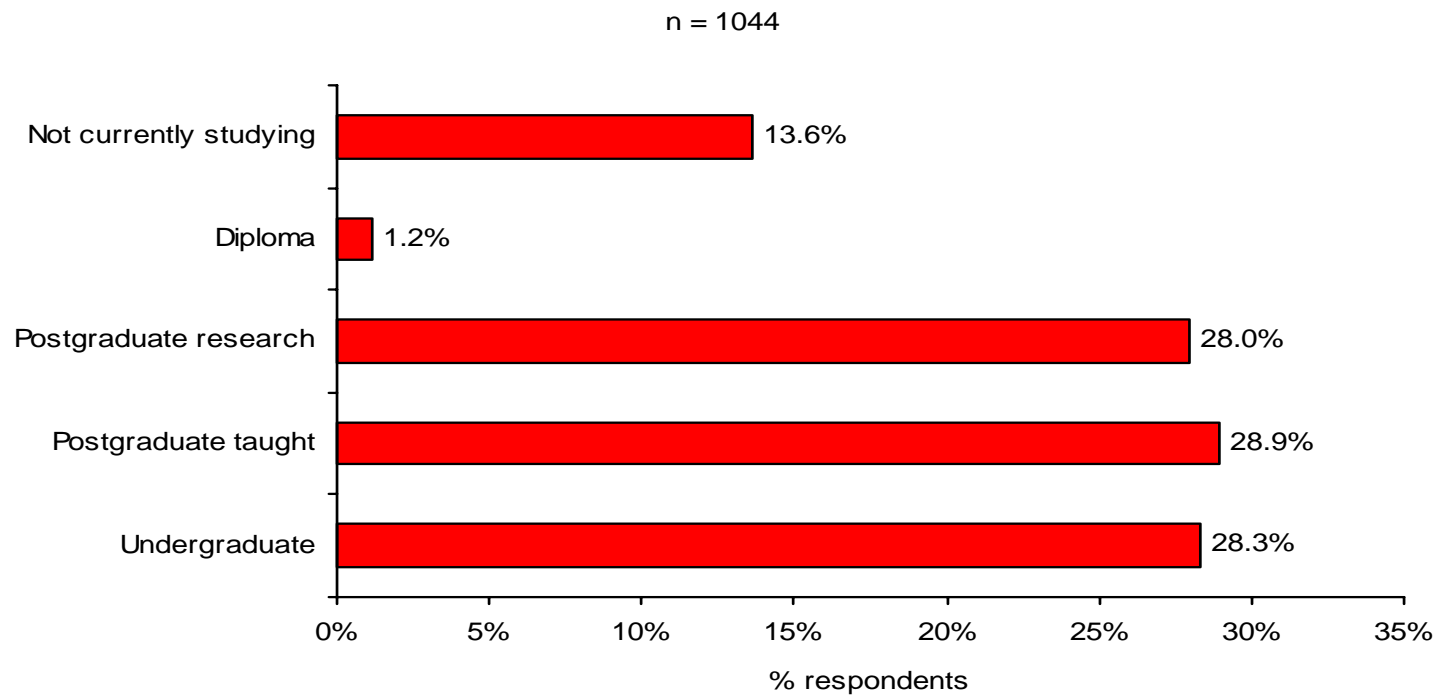
# Sample profile

- A total of 1,046 responses
- Larger proportion of female responses (62%)
- Socio economic (SE) groups:
  - Category A (Professionals, senior) = 9.5%
  - Category B (Middle management) = 39%
  - Category C1 (Junior management) = 33%
  - Category C2 (Skilled manual) = 11%
  - Category D (Semi / unskilled manual) = 2%
  - Category E (State dependent) = 5%

Source: MRS Occupation Groupings Dictionary

# Sample structure

Fig 1: Current status of sample



# Intentions

- 67% intend to conduct PG study immediately after graduation or within two years of graduating
- Just 9% indicated that they did not intend to conduct PG study



# Motivations

- 70% indicated that career enhancement was the biggest driving factor
- 61% were motivated by personal development
- 57% were motivated by professional development

# Mode of study

- 63% intended to conduct PG study on a full time basis
- 67% of those from the higher SE group (A) intended to study full time
- 31% of those from the lower SE group (E) intended to study part time

# Choice of institution

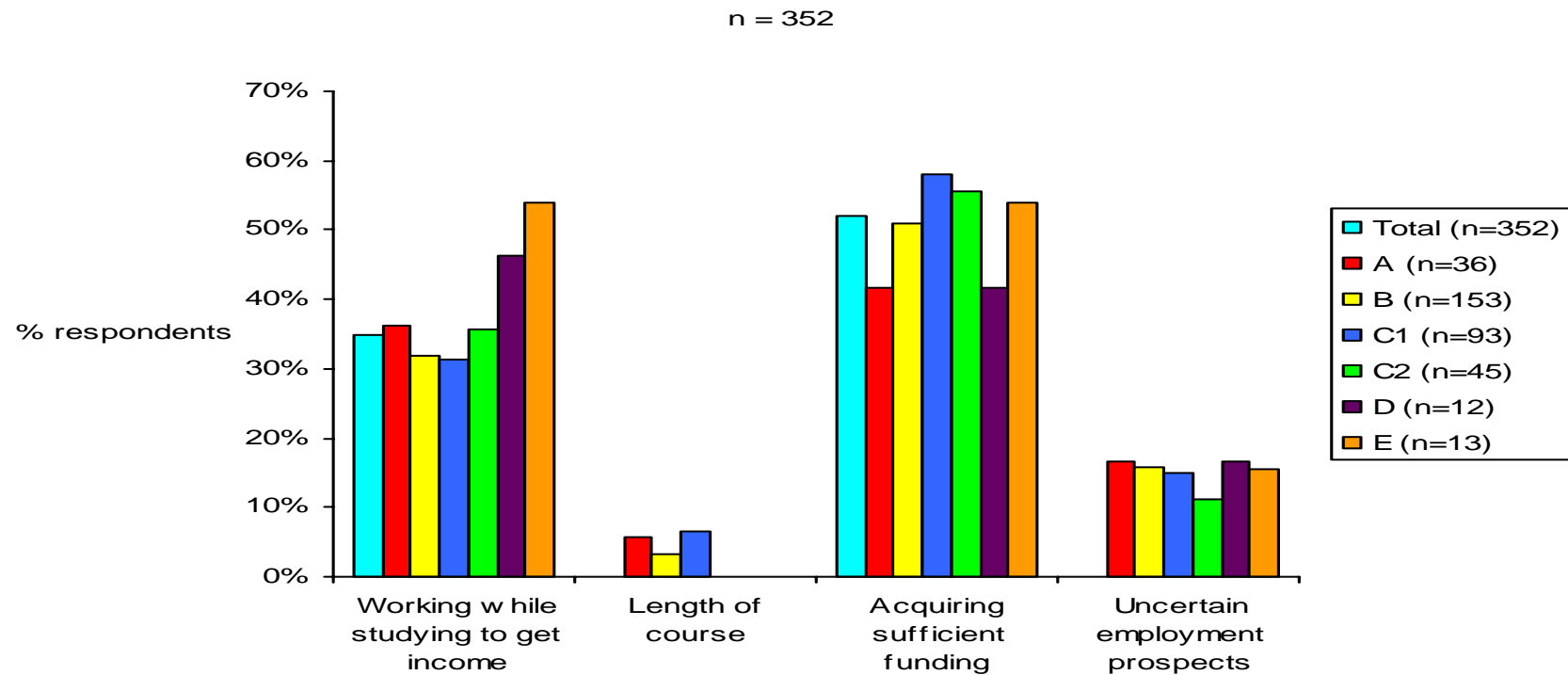
- Factors under consideration when choosing an institution to study at PG level:
  - Lower SE group (E) respondents twice as likely to consider ability to live at home than higher SE group (A)
  - Lower SE group (E) respondents twice as likely to state cost considerations as influential than higher SE group (B)

# Financial impact

- Costs had strong or very strong influence in decision to study full time or part time (64%)
- 77% of Lower SE group (D) respondents stated costs had very strong influence on mode decision, compared to just 33% of higher SE group (A)

# Obstacles

Fig 2: Main obstacles to PG study by social class category



# Funding sources

- Employment most common means of funding postgraduate study (50%)
- Over 50% of lower SE group (E) respondents intended to obtain postgraduate award, compared to approx 33% of remaining categories
- Career development loan: lower SE group (E) (46%), and (D) (31%), compared to higher SE group (B) (5%) and (A) (9%)

# Why not?

- 58% unable to afford PG study / too expensive
- 74% rated tuition fees as having strong or very strong influence on decision
- 68% lack of funding opportunities
- 63% debt from previous study

# Conclusion

- Large majority stated their intentions to conduct PG study, either immediately or within two years of graduating
- Those in lower SE groups (D and E) were twice as likely to intend to study part time than those in higher SE group (A)
- Those in lower SE group (E) were twice as likely to take 'living at home' into consideration when choosing institution than higher SE group (A)



# Conclusion cont...

- Lower SE group (E) were twice as likely to rate cost as influential in choice of institution than higher SE group (B)
- Lower SE group (D) were substantially more likely to rate cost as influential in choice of study mode than higher SE group (A)
- Working while studying to get income was viewed as an obstacle by 50% of those in lower SE groups (D and E)

Any questions?