



AUIS Undergraduate Alumni Survey Report 2014

Summary

This survey, conducted in August and September 2014 by the Career Services office, aimed to assess the current employment, education, and life statuses of AUIS graduates. The survey had a total of 176 respondents out of a total undergraduate alumni body of 189 (93 percent response rate.) In comparison, the 2013 Alumni Survey had a total of 57 respondents out of a total undergraduate alumni body of 92 (62 percent response rate.)

The main results are the following:

- Only 9 percent of AUIS alumni are unemployed, looking for work, and have received no job offers.
- Respondents' monthly salaries average \$1,589, a 15 percent increase from the average monthly salary in the 2013 Alumni Survey.
- Respondents work for 58 different employers. The companies employing the most alumni are Audi Bank, Western Zagros, Lafarge, AUIS, Qaiwan, and Ernst & Young.
- The industry employing the most alumni is oil and gas, followed by banking and finance, accounting and professional services, and humanitarian and non-profit.
- 90 percent of respondents who are employed said that they were "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with their career path, and 76 percent who are employed said that AUIS prepared them "very well" or "more than adequately" for their career.

Demographics

82 percent of respondents are Kurdish, 14 percent are Arab, and 5 percent are Turkmen. 70 percent of respondents are in Sulaimani, 15 percent are in Erbil, and 3 percent are in Baghdad. 12 percent are in other locations in Iraq such as Rania, Kirkuk, Dohuk, and Chamchamal, as well as in Turkey, the Netherlands, Lebanon, Malaysia, Germany, France, and the US. 67 percent are of respondents male and 33 percent are female.

6 percent of respondents are engaged and 14 percent are married. Of those who are married, 42 percent got married before graduation, and 58 percent got married after graduation.

Employment

60 percent of respondents are currently employed full time, 2 percent are employed part time, and 8 percent are attending graduate school. 4 percent of respondents are unemployed and not looking for work, and 25 percent of respondents are unemployed and looking for work. Alumni who are currently employed received 4 job offers on average. Of those who are unemployed and looking for work, 62 percent have actually received job offers (an average of 3). The number is actually higher for 2014 graduates – 70 percent have received job offers.

The relevant statistic here is that only 9 percent of respondents are unemployed, looking for work, and have received no job offers. 90 percent of respondents are either employed, in graduate school, not looking for work, or have received job offers. 1 percent are unemployed, looking for work, and did not specify whether they received job offers. Our alumni are highly employable, but also have high expectations.

Of those who are unemployed and looking for work, 79 percent graduated in May 2014, with only 6 respondents who graduated in 2012 and 3 respondents who graduated in 2013 looking for work. Of the respondents who graduated in 2014, 63 percent are either employed, in graduate school, or not looking for work, and 37 percent are unemployed and looking for work. Given the state of the economy after the invasion of ISIS, and the fact that the survey was conducted only three months after graduation, this statistic is not very surprising and should not cause concern about the employability of AUIS's alumni.

29 percent of business administration majors are unemployed and looking for work, and 11 percent of business administration majors have not received job offers. 8 percent of IT majors are unemployed and looking for work, and only one IT major has not received a job offer. 34 percent of international studies majors are unemployed and looking for work, and 11 percent of International Studies majors have not received a job offer.

19 percent of male respondents are unemployed and looking for work, as opposed to 35 percent of female respondents.

Salary

Respondents' monthly salaries average \$1,589 , ranging from \$800 to \$4,000. This is a 15 percent increase from the average monthly salary in the 2013 Alumni Survey, which was \$1,380.

The average monthly salary for male respondents is \$1,807. The average monthly salary for female respondents is \$1,169, which is 26 percent less than the average for both genders and 35 percent less than the average for male respondents.

The average salary for International Studies majors is \$1,544. The average salary for IT majors is \$1,410. The average salary for Business Administration majors is \$1,689.

Where Alumni Work

Respondents reported working for 58 different employers. The companies employing the highest numbers of alumni are Audi Bank (6 alumni), Western Zagros, Lafarge, and AUIS (5 alumni), Qaiwan and Ernst & Young (4 alumni), and Bahar Group, Kelkan, and the IOM (3 alumni).

AUIS alumni are employed in a broad range of industries. The industry employing the most alumni is oil and gas (23 percent), followed by banking and finance (13 percent), accounting and professional services (11 percent), humanitarian and non-profit (11 percent), general trading and retail (9 percent), education (7 percent), and IT and telecommunications (7 percent.) Other industries employing alumni include media, advertising, and medical services.

Graduate Studies

14 respondents (8 percent of the total) are currently attending graduate school at institutions including LSE, Lebanese American University, Middle East Technical Institute, Bahcesehir University, Lund University, UKH, Tufts, and the AUIS MBA program. Five are studying in Turkey, two in Germany, one in Lebanon, one in Sweden, one in the US, one in the UK, and two in Iraq. 67 percent of respondents are attending their first choice university.

Job Skills and Satisfaction

90 percent of respondents who are employed said that they were “very satisfied” (30 percent) or “generally satisfied” (60 percent) with their career path. 76 percent of respondents who are employed said that AUIS prepared them “very well” (44 percent) or “more than adequately” (32 percent) for their career.

36 percent of employed respondents said that their work is directly related to their field of study, and 55 percent said that their work is somewhat related to their field of study. Business Administration majors had the most respondents who felt their work was directly related to their field of study (45 percent), with IT majors next (31 percent) and International Studies last (19 percent).

38 percent of respondents participated in an internship as a student at AUIS. In their job search, respondents found the AUIS Career Fair most helpful (49 percent,) then the Career Center job postings and personal connections (37 percent each.) 19 percent of respondents never used the Career Center, 48 percent used it once or twice or several times, and 33 percent used it many times or on a regular basis. The Career Services resource used most was the Career Services website and job board (73 percent,) followed by Initiative Week (39 percent) and individual appointments (36 percent). This is a huge increase from the 2013 survey, which surveyed only 2012 and 2013 graduates, where 60 percent of respondents never used the Career Center, one respondent found job postings helpful, and two respondents found the Career Fair helpful. However, responses from 2012 and 2013 graduates in the 2014 survey do not reflect these statistics, indicating that alumni are very engaged in Career Services even after they graduate.

Of respondents who are employed full time, 54 percent participated in an internship as a student. 16 percent never used the Career Center, 56 percent used it once or twice or several times, and 27 percent used it many times or on a regular basis. The Career Services resource used most was the Career Services website and job board (58 percent,) followed by Initiative Week (48 percent) and individual appointments (3 percent).