



Alumni Survey 2022

Introduction

The Institutional Effectiveness Office (IEO) conducted the Alumni Survey 2022 to capture graduate perspectives about their university experience and employment outcomes. The results of the survey help AUIS meet its commitment to providing students with high-quality education and enhancing graduate employability. It is important to mention that respondents graduating in 2020 and 2021 took classes online during the pandemic. Graduates of the class of 2021 spent little or no time on campus during their final year. Therefore, graduates' responses in this survey were most likely influenced by the pandemic's challenges and concerns.

The 2022 survey invited **630** graduates from 2019, 2020, and 2021. Altogether, **140** graduating students participated in the survey representing a **response rate of 21.5%**. The following table breaks down the response rate by gender and departments.

		Respondents (Count)	Response rate
Gender	Female	47	20.7%
	Male	92	22.1%
Department	Business Administration	40	16.9%
	IT	33	25.2%
	Engineering	52	211.0%
	IS	5	14.3%
	English	4	50.0%
Total Responses		140	21.5%

The following table shows the participants profile by gender, department, and other demographics.

Survey Demographics					
Gender	Female	34%	First Generation	Yes	22%
	Male	66%		21-25	42%
Ethnicity	Kurd	86%	Age Group	26-30	55%
	Arab	12%		31 and older	3%
	Other	2%		Department	Engineering
Governorate	Sulaimani	79%	Business Administration		27%
	Erbil	11%	Information Technology		2%
	Kirkuk	2%	International Studies		4%
	Baghdad	2%	English		3%
	Other	6%			



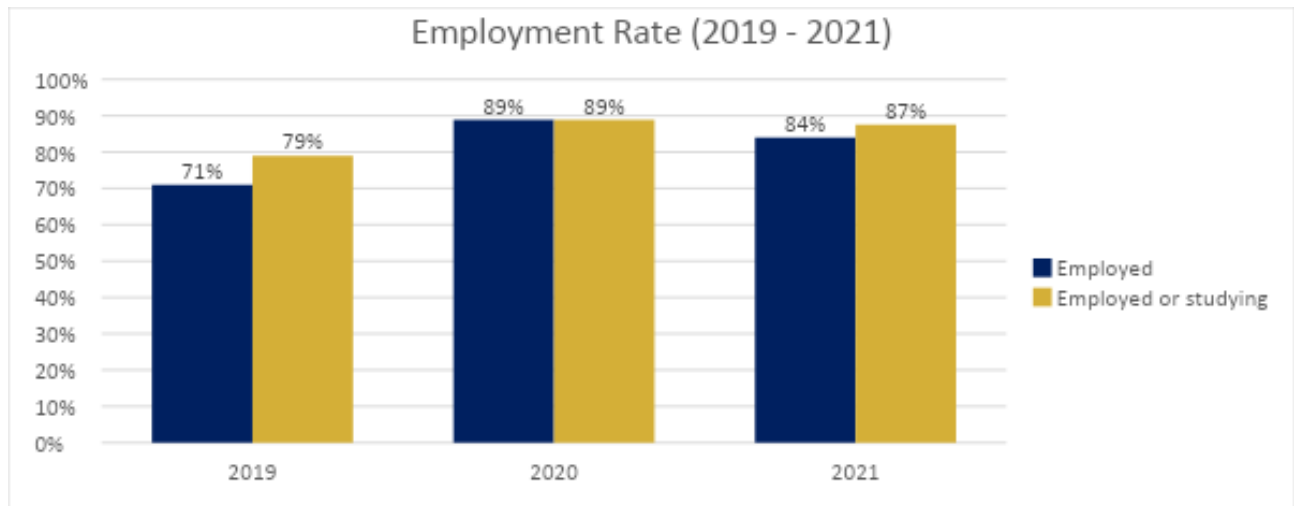
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The distribution of the survey demographics is proximately reflecting the AUIS student population, which indicates the representativeness of the sample that increases the data reliability. Nevertheless, due to the small response rate, the results should be interpreted with extra caution.

Key findings

Employment Rate

The survey asked graduates about their employment status 6-months after graduation. The survey also asked graduates whether they are currently pursuing further education. The following chart shows the employment rate for the last three graduating classes.

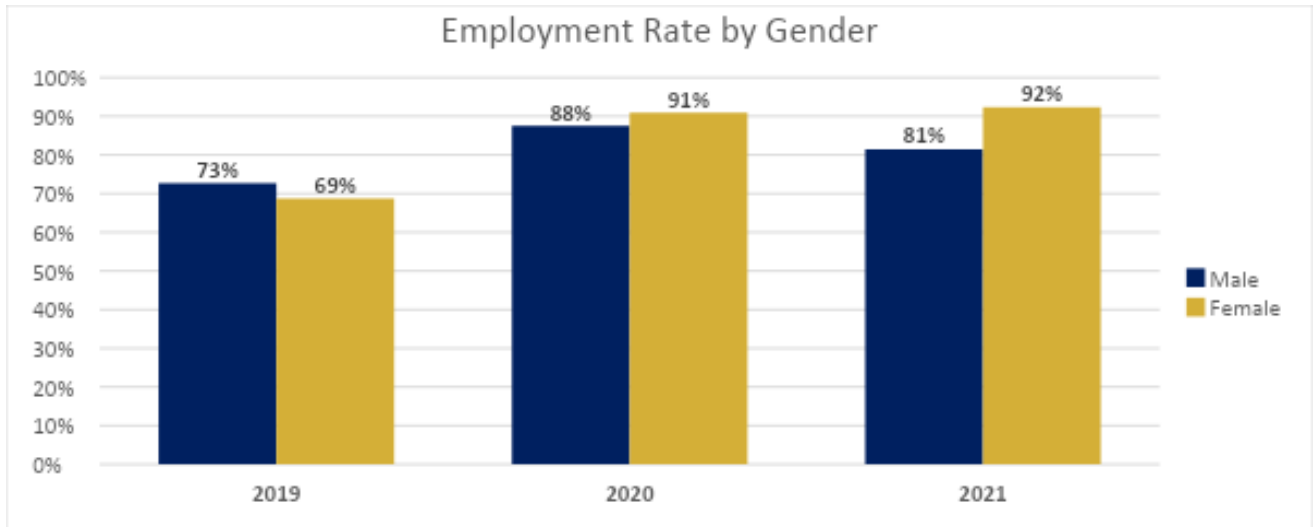


Employment rates by Gender

As shown in the following chart, Female graduates tend to have a higher employment rate compared to their male counterparts, particularly in the graduating class of 2020 and 2021.

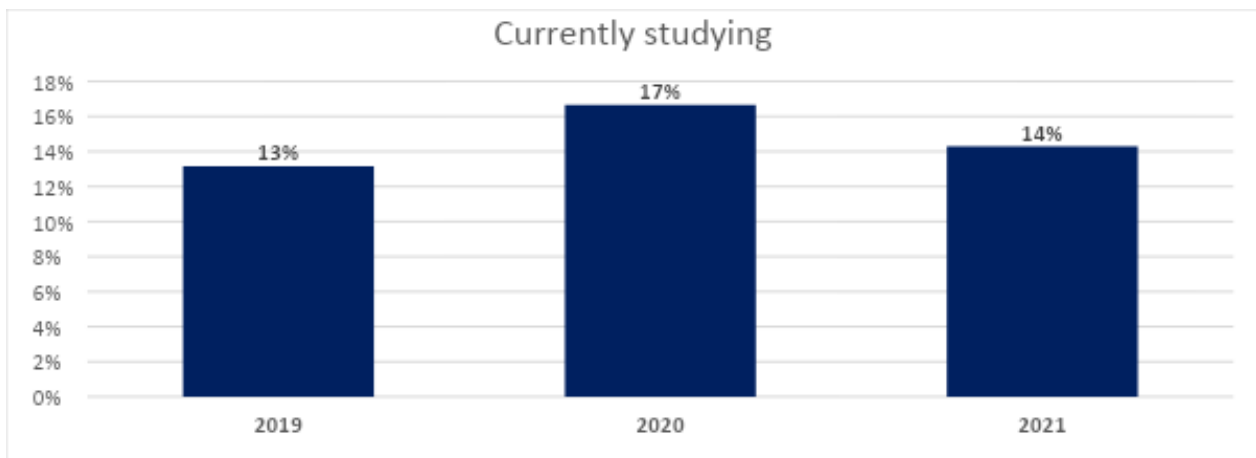


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Further Education

In 2021, about 14% of graduates were pursuing their further education either full- or part-time, 3% less compared to 2020. Those who are continuing their education study at the graduate level, bachelor's level and various professional development courses.

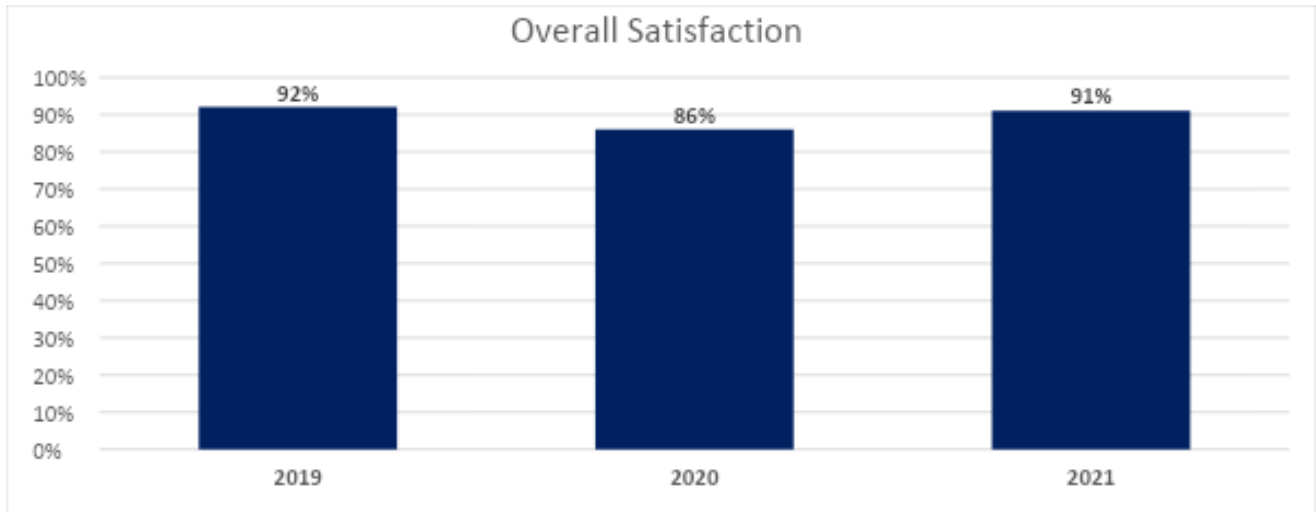


Overall Satisfaction

The majority (91%) of AUIS graduates are satisfied or very satisfied with their education at AUIS. In 2021, graduates' satisfaction rate was 91%, 5% higher than in 2020.



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Some of the positive comments that reflect graduates' satisfaction with AUIS:

"It is the best liberal arts university in the country and this is what we need and Iraqi youth to seek professions in the private sector and achieve a sustainable and good career path". (Business Administration)

"AUIS is the place that opens your eyes and mind to the world and to best plan your future career and life." (Information Technology)

"AUIS is not just a university when students come to take courses and graduate. It is about self-transformation into more independent, self-confident, intelligent, educated, civilized, social person. AUIS makes students learn more about their weakness and strengths and improve them for the better. ... It prepares the students for their academic and career lives and always look for what makes them different and unique. When you graduate from AUIS, you will gain all these things that I have mentioned and makes you more ready to start a new chapter with no fears." (English Department)

Graduates' University Experience - Employability Skills

Graduates were asked, "To what extent do you agree with the following comments?" The positive responses (agree and strongly agree) are summarized in the following table. The table shows that many graduates have accumulated various employability skills, particularly learning new ideas, critical thinking and problem solving, social responsibility, and self-awareness. By comparison, the aspects with the least agreement were the needed skills to start a new career, the clarity about future career goals, and making personal and professional connections at AUIS.



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Agree and Strongly Agree	2019	2020	2021	Grand total
My study at AUIS helped me to learn a lot about myself that will help me in my career.	76%	81%	84%	81%
I feel more clear about my career goals after completing my program at AUIS.	68%	72%	70%	70%
My ability to think critically in order to solve problems improved while I was at AUIS.	97%	89%	86%	90%
My experience at AUIS has made me more open to learning new ideas and skills.	97%	94%	84%	91%
My experience at AUIS made me aware that I can contribute to make difference in society.	89%	72%	82%	82%
My experience at AUIS gave me the skills I need to make contribution in society.	82%	81%	82%	82%
I made personal and professional connections at AUIS that I will value throughout my life.	84%	67%	77%	76%

Key drivers for graduates' satisfaction

Graduates' overall satisfaction was significantly correlated with how AUIS helped them to:

- Learn about themselves.
- Have clear career goals after graduation.
- Gain the right skills needed to start their career.
- Be aware that they can contribute to make a difference in society.
- Be prepared for the job market.

Career Services

Graduates were asked about their awareness and usage of various career resources and services available to them at AUIS. The outcomes are presented in the following table.

Usage (who were aware)	Awareness	No use	low use	high use
Job posting	90%	12%	46%	42%
Workshops, career events and job fairs	89%	19%	53%	28%
Career planning	53%	27%	47%	26%
Individual appointment	29%	28%	38%	35%

Graduates reported that the main reason for not using AUIS career resources was using social networking instead such as family, friends, professors, or staff (42.8%). Nearly one-third of respondents stated that they did not know how to access career services. Furthermore, a few participants reported that the timing of some career-related workshops did not suit their schedule.



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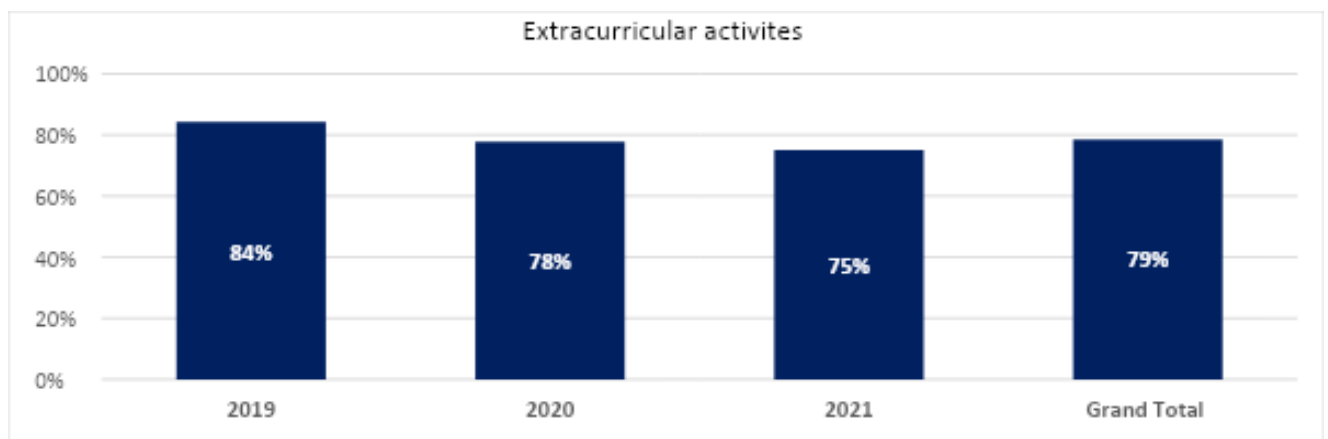
Expected job search activities to receive from AUIS

AUIS Alumni identified more support with job search activities that might be helpful, such as job application, updating their resume, preparing for a job interview, and other activities as shown in the following table.

Rank	What other job search are you expecting?	
First choice	Job application, updating your resume	34%
Second choice	Interview help	31%
Third choice	Job search strategies	32%
Fourth choice	Job fairs, employer leads	25%
Fifth choice	English communication skills	26%
Sixth choice	Confidence and hope in finding a job	30%

Extracurricular activities

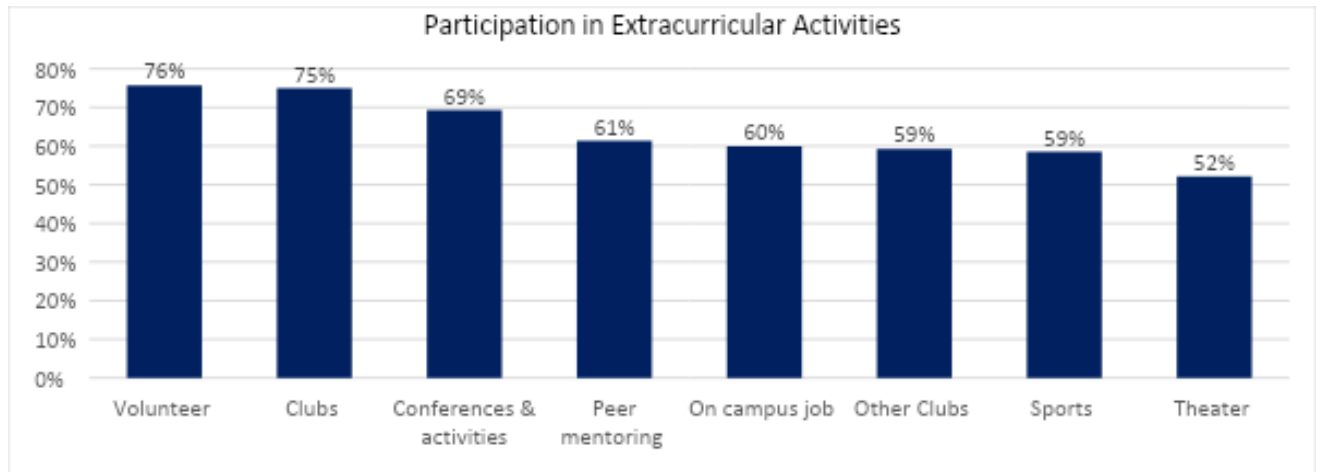
A large number of graduated students stated that they had been engaged in extracurricular activities outside of their classroom studies. As shown in the following chart, engagement in extracurricular activities declined by almost 10% in 2021, compared to 2019, most likely due to the pandemic.



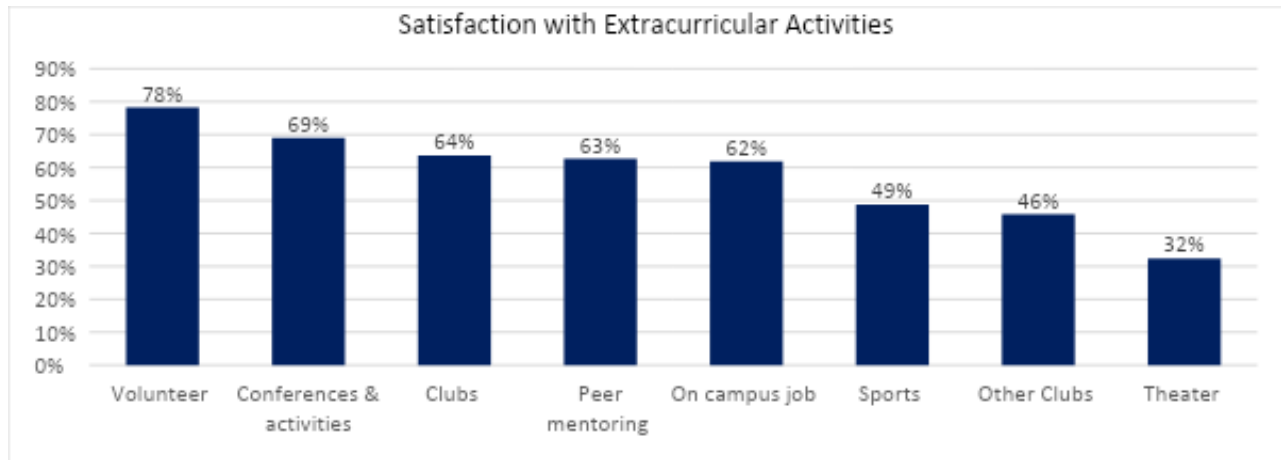


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Participation in Extracurricular activities



Graduates' satisfaction with extracurricular activities



Job search methods

Graduates used various methods to find their job. Among those who were employed, nearly one-third (32%) reported that they found their job through their social connection such as family, friends, or professors. Many graduates (21%) also found their jobs through LinkedIn or other social media job ads or answering job advertisements (11%). In terms of AUIS-related methods, 3% of employed graduates obtained their jobs through AUIS's career services (6%), and another 3% did so through the internship.



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What was the main method you used to find your current job?	%
Referred by family, friends, or professor	32%
Through LinkedIn or other social media	21%
Answered job advertisement (Internet or newspaper)	11%
Contacted employer directly	11%
Networking , job fair	9%
Used AUIS' career service	6%
Internship	3%

Qualitative Analysis

Graduates were asked “what else could we have done to make your learning experience at AUIS a really great one?” The primary themes emerging from the qualitative analysis are depicted in the following chart.





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Most graduates reported that the types of support that would be most beneficial to them were: help with **career services** such as interviewing help, resume and cover letter guidance, and job search strategies. Furthermore, they like to see more visits from employers in which they could benefit from experience about real-life challenges and how to excel in the work environment.

Graduates are expected to be job ready and want an education that provides more hands-on experiences, whether through effective learning in Labs, more internship and study-work opportunities, or volunteering. Furthermore, graduates suggested expanding the study abroad opportunities to all students.

Referring to the curriculum, many graduates stated they expect a more up-to-date curriculum that reflects job-related skills, contains recent development in major-related industries, promotes hands-on experience, and includes more courses related to their major.

Finally, graduating students suggested having clear and transparent communications, genuinely listening to their feedback, and responding quickly to their emails and concerns.