



Alumni Survey

for the Master's Degree in Human Biology 1996-2010
at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen

– a questionnaire-based survey in spring 2011 of the employment status, labour market experience, qualifications and skills of graduates from the last 15 years

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1. Introduction and background to the survey

1.1. Characteristics of the Master's Degree in Human Biology:

The Master's Degree in Human Biology is a 2-year interdisciplinary programme offering advanced theoretical and experimental training within the fields of biomedical and natural sciences. To be eligible for the programme, students are required to have obtained a bachelor of science degree in another biologically-oriented field of study. The first student intake started in August 1989 and they obtained their degree in the autumn of 1991.

During the first year, students receive teaching in biomedical subjects, medical ancillary subjects and ancillary disciplines within the natural sciences. The core subjects studied throughout the programme are cell biology and molecular biology, human pathophysiology and pharmacology. Teaching is also provided in course blocks comprising, for example, anatomy and physiology, immunology, experimental animal science, isotope techniques, etc. The study programme includes two internships: at a clinical and at a paraclinical laboratory/hospital department. The thesis studies in the second and final year of the degree programme are experimentally based, are undertaken individually under supervision and are concluded with a written report (thesis).

This research oriented degree programme comprises fields in experimental biology of importance for understanding the functioning of the human organism in health and disease. The teaching is concentrated and intensive and requires a major academic commitment on the part of the students. Since 2007, all teaching has been in English. The programme has been revised continuously, and problem based teaching combined with independent assignments are key components of the curriculum.

Graduates of the programme typically get employed within private or public sector enterprises engaged in research and development contracts for the pharmaceutical industry, environmental sector, biotechnology, food technology sector, at research centres at institutions of higher education, and at hospitals. Traditionally, graduates of the programme enjoy a high level of employment.

Purpose of the survey

- To find out to which extent the graduates from the last 15 years consider the programme to be a solid foundation for their subsequent professional lives
- To continuously assure the quality and the focus on skills and qualifications in the degree programme
- To boost the faculty's recruitment strategy
- To strengthen the dialogue with prospective employers

1.2. Introduction to the graduate survey for human biology

Since the first intake of students in August 1989, the Master's Degree in Human Biology has been continuously developed and realigned with the qualification requirements of the biomedical labour market. The degree programme has been evaluated twice in the past: five years after it was established, in 1993, the programme was evaluated by the Ministry of Education. In 2003, the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) presented an analysis of the employment prospects for graduates of the programme, in terms of supply and demand, in the report: "Humanbiologers tilknytning til arbejdsmarkedet".²

The report from 1993 shows that the majority of graduates are employed in research and the analysis from 2003 reveals that the main employers are the universities, hospitals and pharmaceutical industry. Both reports show that the employment rate is very high for human biologists.

The present survey is an expansion of these previous evaluations and its objective is to find out to which extent the graduates from the last 15 years consider the programme to be a solid foundation for their subsequent professional lives. Furthermore, the objective is to provide a solid body of data for continued quality assurance and development of the degree programme, and in so doing to give impetus to the programme's recruitment drive, qualification focus and dialogue with prospective employers.

Figure 1 – Annual number of graduates obtaining the Master’s Degree in Human Biology, 1996 - 2010

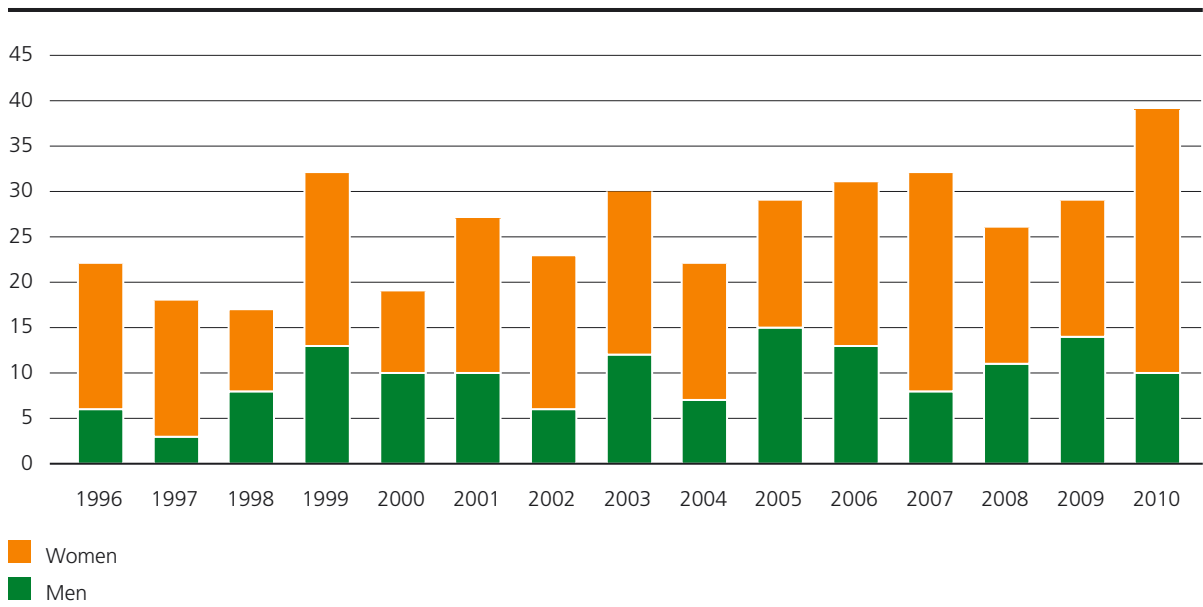


Figure 2 – Response rates for the Graduate Survey for the Master’s Degree in Human Biology of graduates for the period 1996-2010

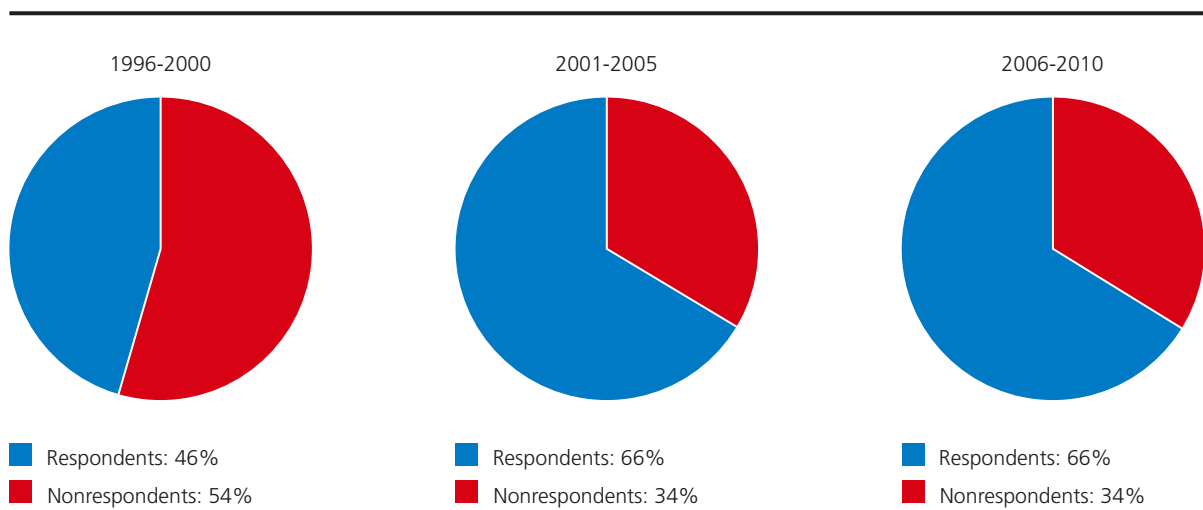


Table 1 – Number of respondents and response rate by 5-year graduation periods

	Invited	Respondents	%
1996-2000	103	47	46%
2001-2005	128	85	66%
2006-2010	154	102	66%
Total	385	234	61%

Note: 11 returned letters has been deducted from the number of survey invitees.

The survey was based on electronic questionnaires and was conducted among graduates who completed the Master's Degree in Human Biology during the period of 1991-2010. Graduate data from the first 5 years of the programme's existence are not, however, included in the conclusions drawn from the survey, as it was not possible to make contact with a sufficiently large number of respondents.

Data collection took place in April 2011. In order to obtain a sufficiently large body of data for analysis, data in the report from the period 1996-2010 are summarised in 3 consecutive 5-year time intervals. (For details of survey design, please see the final pages of the report.)

1.3. Number of graduates, respondents and response rate

Starting from the year 2010, 40 students have been admitted annually to the Master's Degree in Human Biology, whereas in earlier years intake was approximately 25-30. Over the last 15 years (1996-2010), a total of 396 students have graduated with a MSc in Human Biology

from the University of Copenhagen (Fig. 1) – 250 of whom were women (63%) and 146 were men (37%). In the interests of internationalising the degree programme, since 2007, the programme has been taught exclusively in English. The proportion of students with foreign citizenship, who graduated from the program during the last 4 years, was 0% (2007), 0% (2008), 3.4% (2009) and 20.5% (2010), respectively.

Of these 396 individuals, all of whom were invited to participate in this survey, 381 had Danish addresses and 15 had foreign addresses at the time of data collection. Of the letters of invitation sent out, 11 were returned with "addressee unknown", resulting in a total survey population of 385 individuals. Of these, 234 responded to the electronic questionnaire, yielding an average response rate of 61% for the entire period 1996-2010. The response rate for the 3 consecutive 5-year time periods was considerably lower for graduates from 1996-2000 compared to the 2 later periods and is shown in figure 2 and table 1.

The results of 234 completed questionnaires are presented in the next five chapters, and details concerning the design of the survey in the last chapter.

We hope you will enjoy reading the report

Thorkil Ploug
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2. Key results of the survey

Low unemployment

There was almost full employment among all the human biologists who graduated within the last 15 years. The current average rate of unemployment for all graduates of the period 1996-2010 is 5.6% (13 out of 234 respondents). During these 15 years, approx. 70% of graduates got their first job immediately after graduation and more than 90% within the next 12 months.

Many graduates proceed to a PhD degree

Out of a total of 234 respondents, 128 had obtained a PhD degree (55%). Of these 128 PhDs, 84% obtained their PhD degree from the University of Copenhagen and 78% from the University's Faculty of Health Sciences. In addition, 57 alumni are currently enrolled in a PhD programme. Thus, 185 alumni out of 234 respondents can be expected to have earned a PhD degree within the next couple of years, which amounts to ~79% of all alumni who graduated during the period 1996-2010.

A wide range of job functions within public and private sectors

Human biologists, who graduated within the last 15-years, are employed in a diverse segment of the biomedical sector. The majority of the earlier graduates work in the private-sector business and industry, while the majority of the later graduates are employed in the public sector. The latter presumably reflects the fact that more than half of the most recent graduates are currently employed as PhD students. Of those employed in the private sector, by far the majority work in the pharmaceutical industry and in the field of biotechnology. Graduates employed in the public sector work primarily at universities and hospitals, including those currently enrolled in a PhD programme.

Labour market preparedness

On a 4-step scale, 85% of graduates from the last 15 years indicated that their master degree in Human Biology has to a high or very high degree prepared them well for subsequent working life, while fewer than 5% of graduates state that they are less well prepared and 10% rate themselves as prepared to some extent.

Student collaboration with businesses/institutions

During their study period, approximately half of the graduates had academically relevant collaboration with an external partner such as a public or private sector enterprise, institution or organization. As might be expected, this collaboration seems to have directly influenced their postgraduate employment to a substantial extent, since around 50% to 70% of those who collaborated with an external partner subsequently got employed by that partner.

Acquired versus in-demand qualifications and skills

The graduates, both those recently qualified and more experienced ones, state that the qualifications and skills they acquired from the degree programme to a great extent match those in demand on the labour market. Qualifications and skills acquired in connection with thesis-writing are held to be of particularly high relevance. There is also a very great satisfaction with "core-type" courses in the human biology degree programme: for example, cell biology, human pathophysiology and pharmacology. Courses rated as less relevant are those of the "ancillary-subject type".

3. Current job situation

3.1. Employment

There was almost full employment among all the human biologists, who graduated within the last 15 years. At the time the survey was conducted, the average rate of unemployment among respondents was 5.6% (13 out of 234 respondents). Of those who graduated during the period 1996-2000, none were unemployed. Generally, the graduates from the latest 10-year period are also characterised by very low unemployment: 0-1 individuals per year-group with the exception of year-group 2008 in which 2 were unemployed (2 out of 24 respondents). However, in the year-group of human biologists who graduated in 2010, some are unemployed (4 out of 13 respondents, corresponding to approx. 31%), which is probably related to some waiting time from graduation until the first job is obtained.

As shown in Fig. 3, many of the human biologists who graduated within the last 5 years are currently employed as PhD students (approx. 50%). This topic will be addressed separately later on in this report.

Contrary to what might be expected, self-employment as a human biologist is uncommon. Only one of the graduates who participated in the survey was self-employed.

3.2. Membership of a labour union

The rate of labour union membership among human biology graduates is approx. 60% (Fig. 4), which is somewhat lower than the general membership rate among academics, which is 81.2%, based on data from 2008³. Whether this reflects greater self-confidence and optimism among human biologists, than among academics in general is not known. Half of the graduates are members of the professional association PharmaDanmark. The remaining graduates are members of DM – the Danish Association of Masters and PhDs (3.9%) or another professional association (6.9%).

Figure 3 – Current employment status

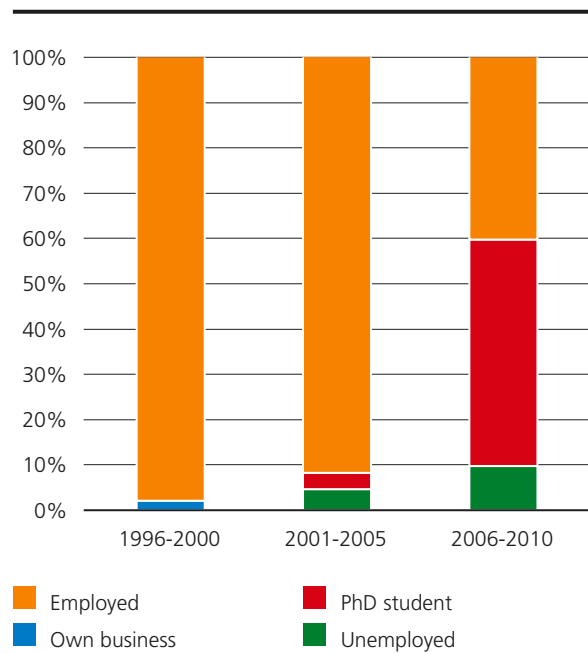
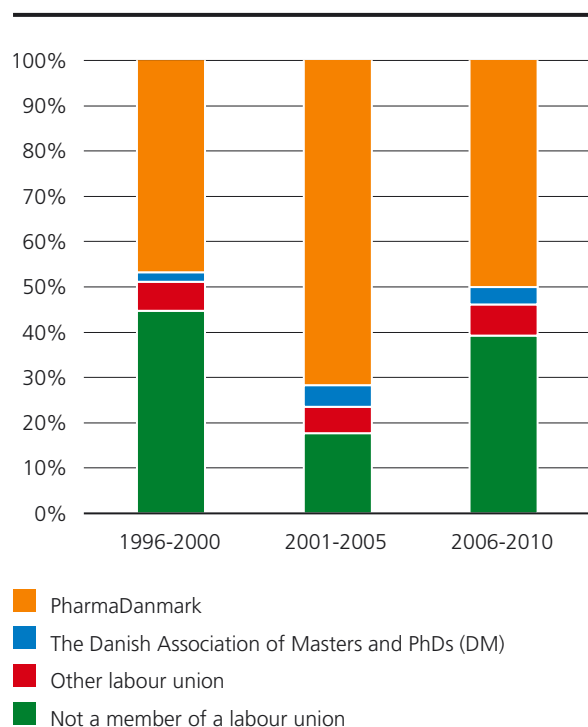


Figure 4 – Degree of labour union membership



3.3. Sectors – where do the graduates find employment?

Looking at the geographical distribution of places of employment we find one distinct trend: by far the majority of the graduates (approx. 80%) are employed a short distance away from where they obtained their degree, that is, in the Greater Copenhagen area or elsewhere on Zealand (Fig. 5), and this has been the prevailing trend for the last 15 years. Of the remainder, 8% (18 out of 234 respondents) are employed abroad. Of these, just over half are in North America – USA and Canada – and just under 25% are in other Scandinavian countries (Fig. 6).

Figure 5 – Geographical location of the graduates’ current place of employment

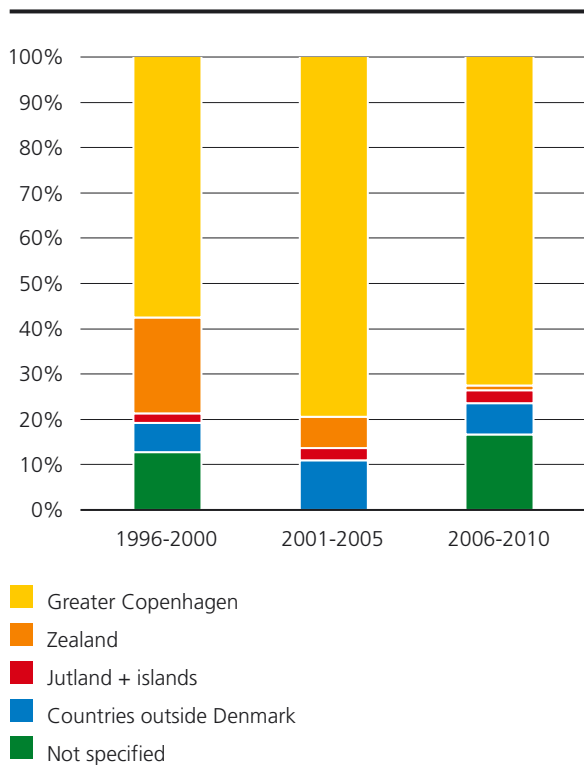


Figure 6 – International distribution of the 8% of respondents not employed in Denmark

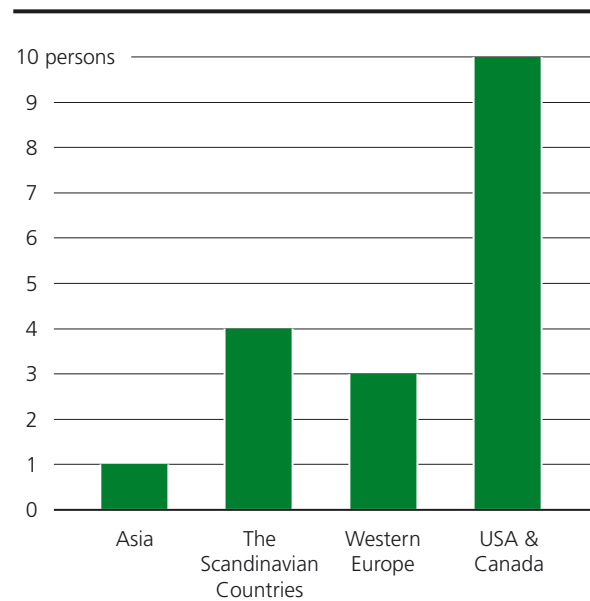
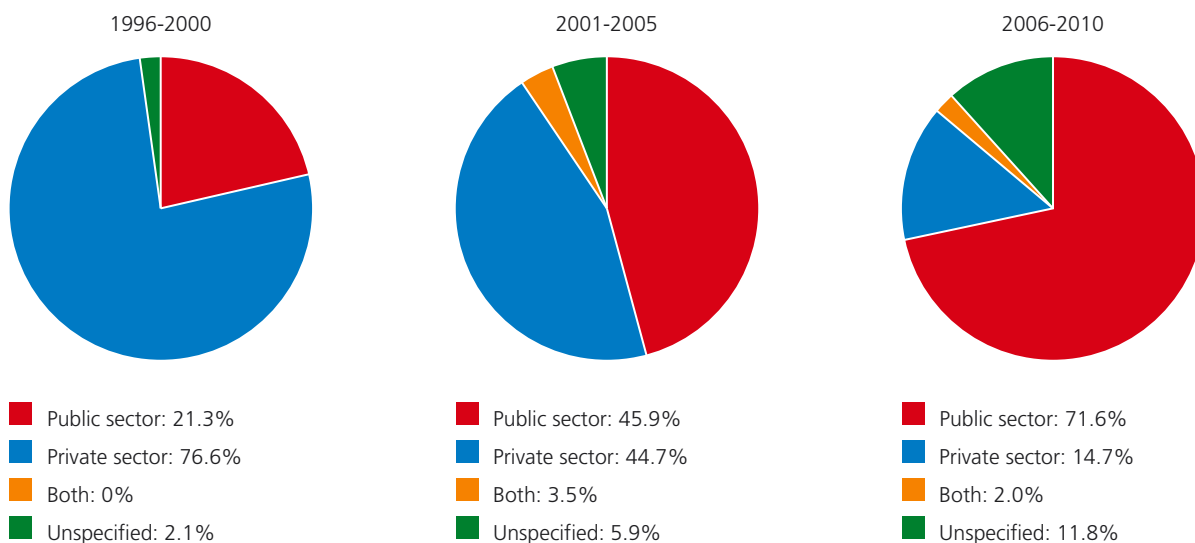


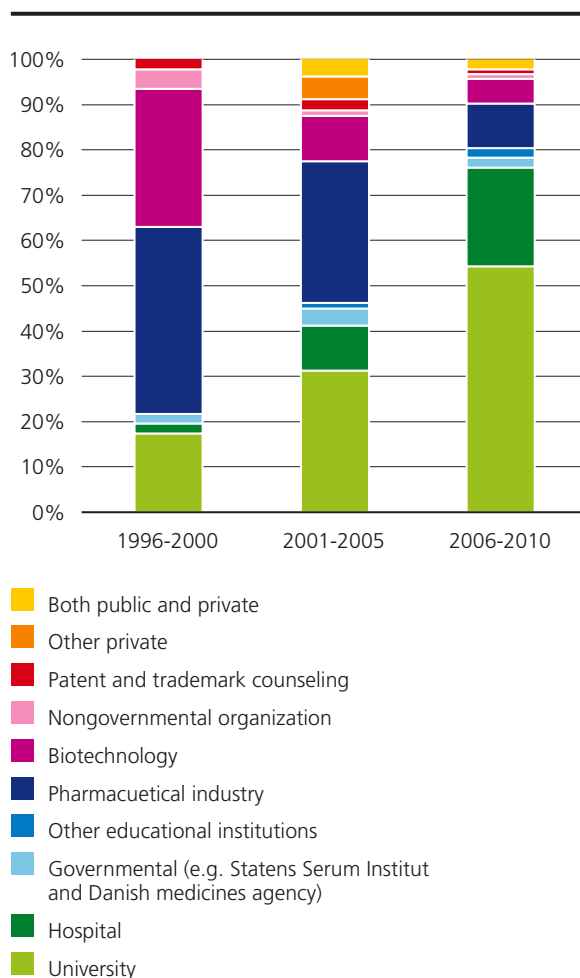
Figure 7 – Are graduates currently employed in private-sector business and industry or in the public sector?



The majority of the earlier graduates work in private-sector business and industry, while the majority of the more recent graduates are employed in the public sector (Fig. 7). The latter presumably reflects the fact that more than half of the graduates from within the last 5 years are currently employed as PhD students (see section below), but may also be an indication of the general “recession” in the biomedical industry over the last decade or so.

Figure 8 shows within which sectors the graduates are employed. Thus, the vast majority of graduates work in the pharmaceutical industry and the biotechnology sector. Of those graduates who are employed in the public sector, the majority work at universities and hospitals, including those currently enrolled in a PhD programme.

Figure 8 – Sectors in which graduates are currently employed



3.4. Monthly income

Gross income is taken to mean income including supplements as well as employer's and employee pension contributions. The respondents' gross monthly income reveal a natural chronological progression: the older the year of graduation, the higher the income. Furthermore, it looks like the Human Biologists starting income is above average for Master of Science graduates. Thus, 75% of graduates from the University of Copenhagen's Faculty of Science "Graduate Survey 2010" have a monthly gross income in their first job of less than DKK 30,000⁴. For comparison, fewer than 45% of human biology graduates from within the last 5 years have the same income.

3.5. Management responsibilities

The responses illustrated by figure 10 and 11 indicate that it takes a relatively long time before human biology graduates progress to a managerial role, and even more than 10 years after graduation approx. half of the graduates state that they have no managerial responsibility. Looking more closely at the data generated by the question "How many people are you responsible for" (Fig. 11), we see that even in the long term, graduates tend only to be assigned managerial responsibility for relatively few people, generally fewer than 5.

Figure 9 – Size of monthly gross income

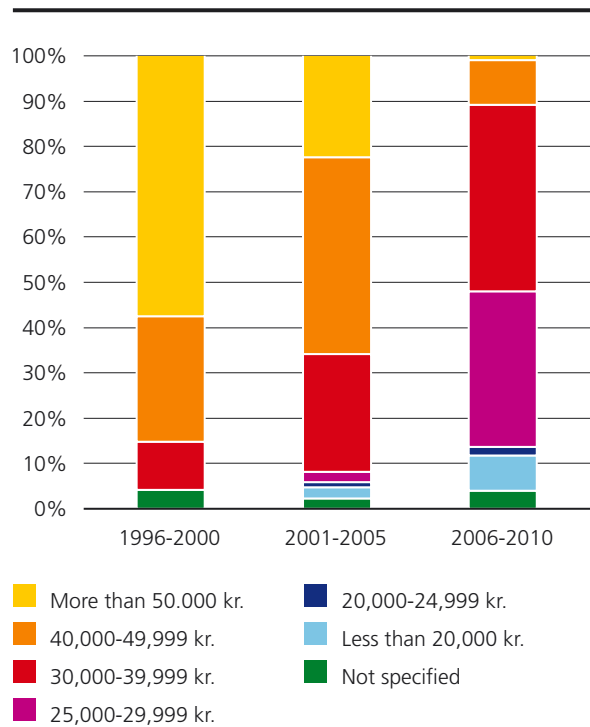
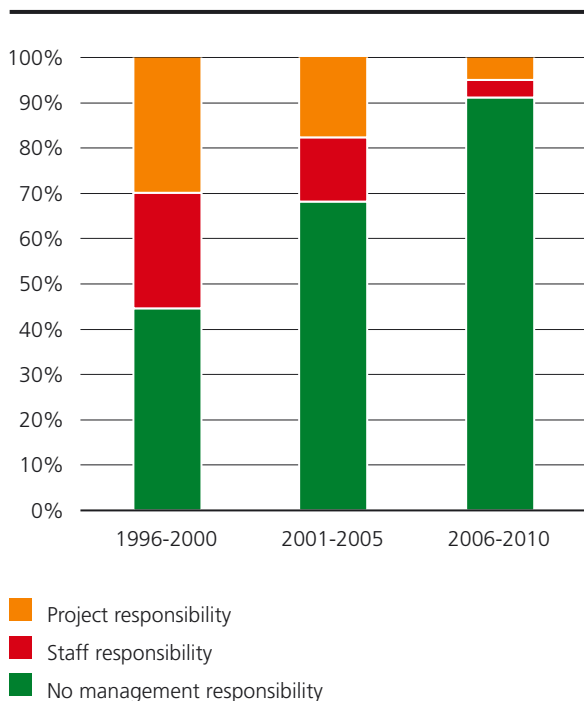
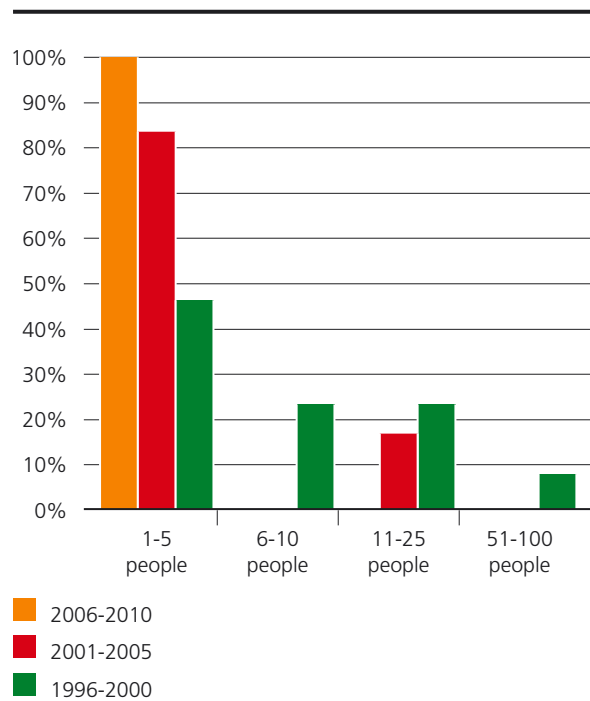


Figure 10 – Proportion of graduates who have management responsibilities in their current employment



Note: based only on respondents who indicated that they have staff responsibility.

Figure 11 – Number of people managed by those with staff responsibilities



Note: Figure includes both graduates who are employed and unemployed.

4. Employment and career history

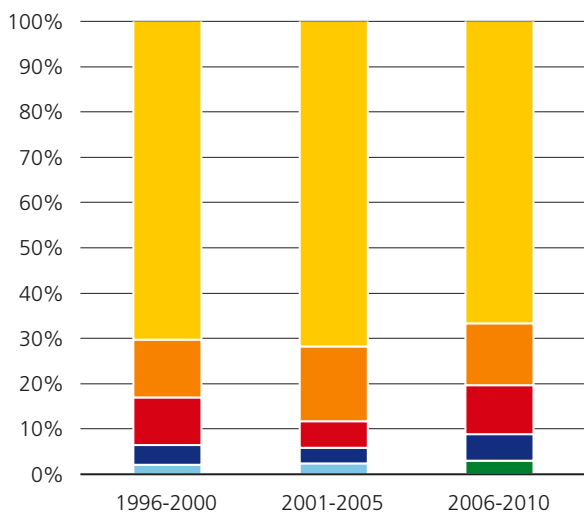
4.1 From studies to employment

Over the last 15 years, approximately 70% of graduates got their first job immediately after graduation and more than 90% within the next 12 months.

Approximately 42% of graduates held their first job for less than 12 months. This suggests that it is not uncommon for a career in human biology to start out with

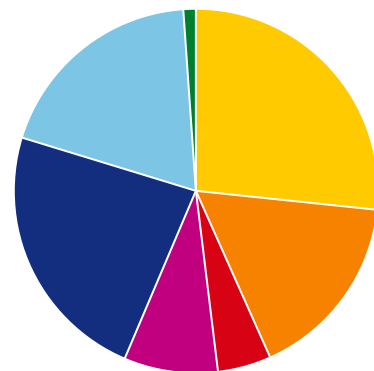
a relatively short-term position. However, this is also characteristic of future PhD students, who are typically employed on a fixed-term basis until their employment under the research training programme falls into place. Furthermore, just under 27% held their first position of employment for more than 3 years. This equates to the average length of a PhD programme plus a bit extra to finalise and compile the data of the PhD programme.

Figure 12 – Length of time period to first job after graduation



- Immediately
- Within 3 months
- Within 4-6 months
- Within 7-12 months
- Within 1-2 years
- Still unemployed

Figure 13 – Duration of first employment



- More than 3 years: 26.7%
- 2-3 years: 16.5%
- 1½-2 years: 4.9%
- 1-1½ year: 8.2%
- ½-1 year: 23.5%
- Less than 6 months: 18.9%
- Still unemployed: 1.2%

Note: these data are presented as an average for respondents for all year-groups, since data for the 3 consecutive time periods are essentially similar.

4.2. Career progression

Figure 14 indicates, as might be expected, that as the time since graduation increases so does the number of jobs held. Thus, recent graduates (from the period 2006-2010) have on average held 2 positions, while graduates from 10 years earlier have had different 3-4 jobs during their career. However, a full 66% of graduates (29 out of 44 respondents) from the same period (1996-2000) had held as much as 4-5 different positions.

Figure 15 shows in which sector graduates held their first and second positions of employment. If we compare year-group 1996-2000 with the two subsequent year-groups, it would appear that earlier graduates, more so than later ones, got their first jobs in private-sector business and industry.

Figure 14 – Number of employments since graduation

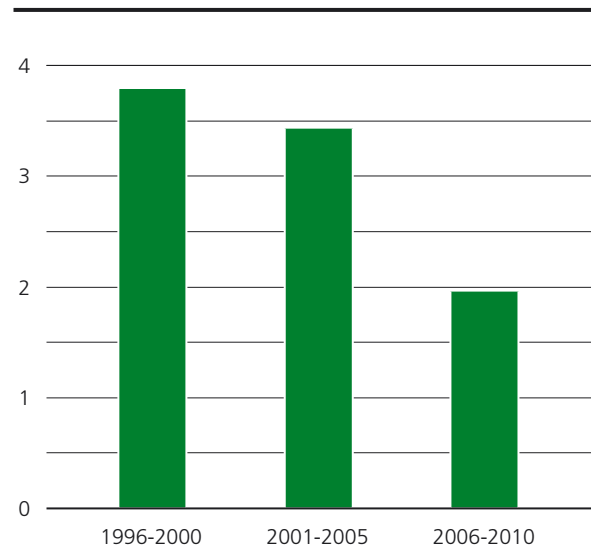
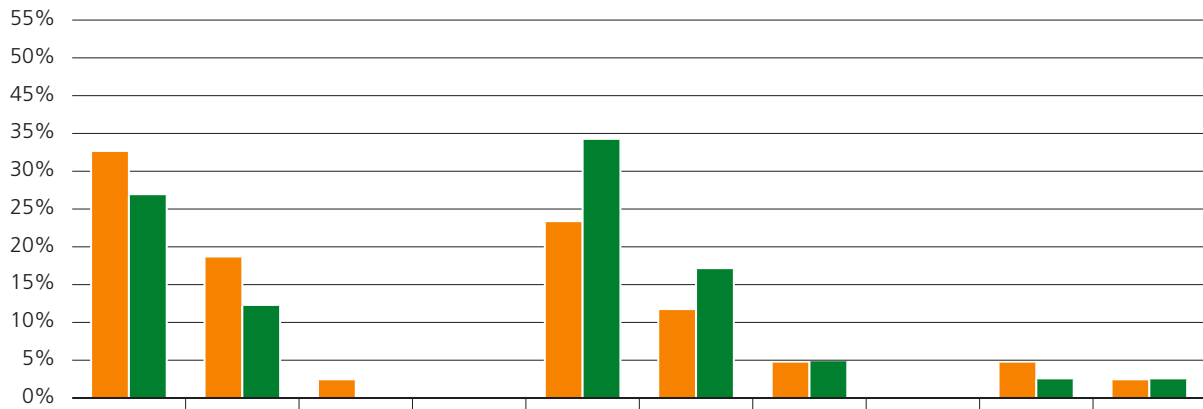
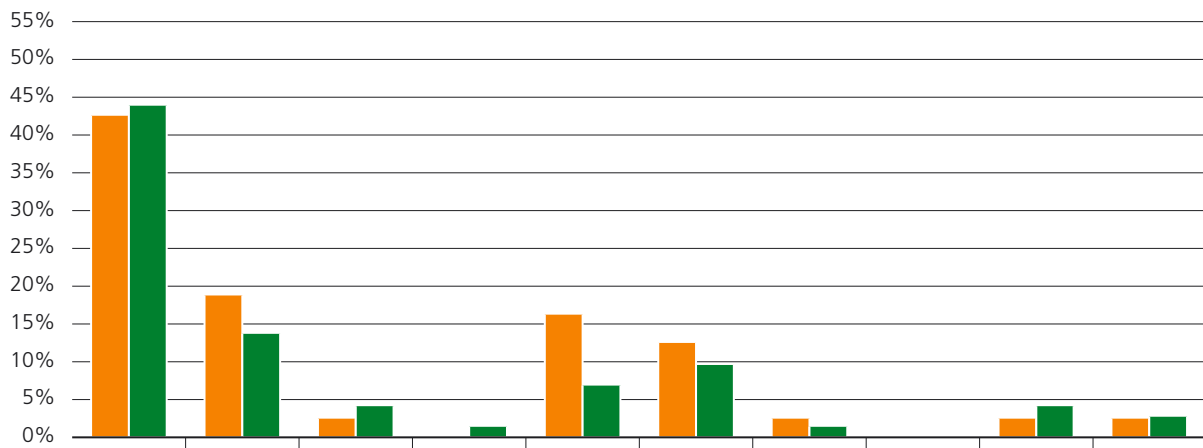


Figure 15 – Sector of first and second employment

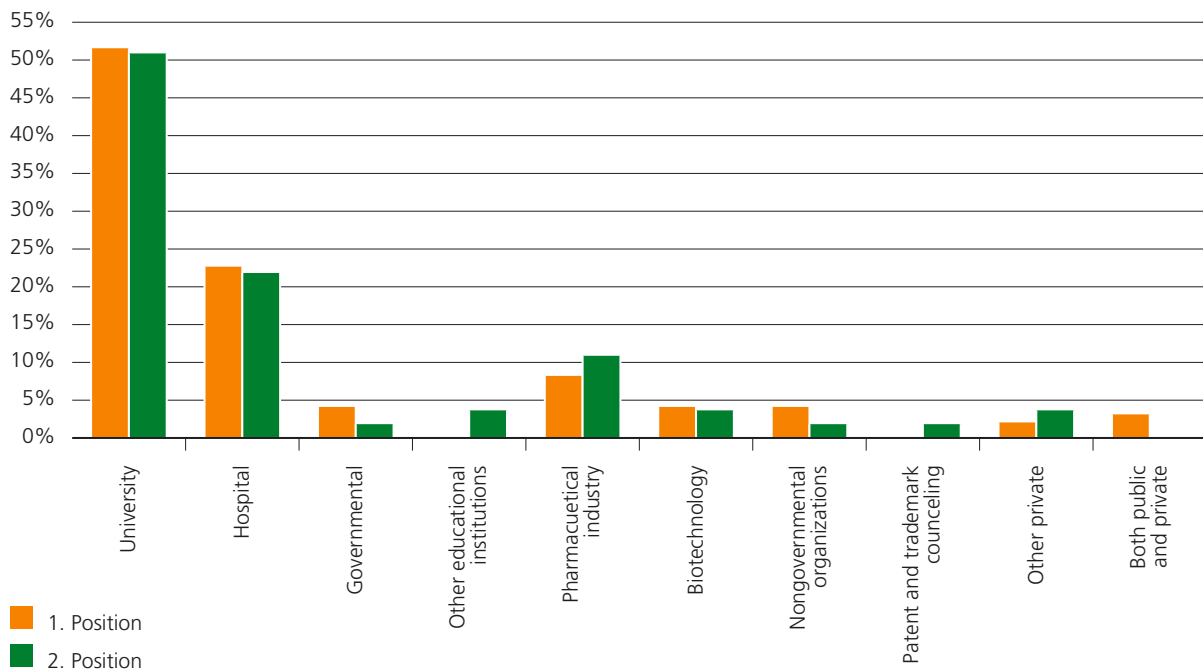
1996-2000



2000-2005



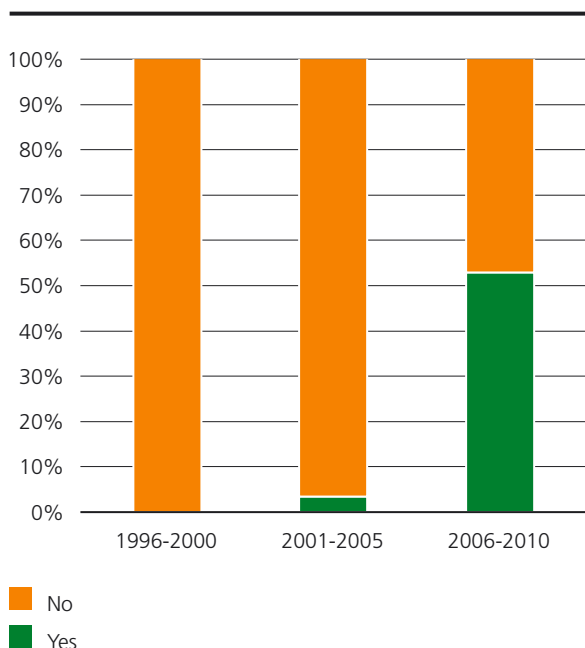
2006-2010



■ 1. Position
■ 2. Position

5. PhD and other postgraduate training

Figure 16 – Proportion of graduates currently on a PhD programme



5.1. PhD training

The Master of Science in Human Biology is a research-oriented degree. This made it interesting to determine how many graduates proceed to a PhD programme and also how many completed any other type of further training.

Out of a total of 234 respondents, 128 have obtained a PhD degree (55%) (See table 2). Of these 128 PhDs, 84% got their PhD degree from the University of Copenhagen and 78% from the University's Faculty of Health Sciences. In addition, 57 alumni are currently enrolled in a PhD programme. Thus, 185 alumni out of 234 respondents can be expected to have obtained a PhD degree within the next couple of years, which amounts to ~79% of all alumni who graduated during the period of 1996-2010.

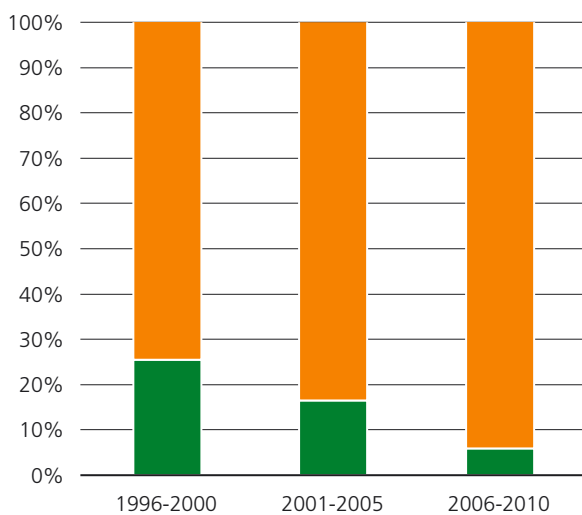
Table 2 – Number of graduates who obtained a PhD degree, and their place of employment

Universitet	Fakultet	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	Total
University of Copenhagen	Health sciences	31	53	16	100
	Natural sciences	0	3	1	4
	Agricultural sciences	1	0	0	1
	Farmaceutical science	0	1	2	3
Aarhus University	Health sciences	2	1	1	4
	Natural sciences	1	1	0	2
University of Southern Denmark	Health sciences	0	1	0	1
	Natural sciences	1	1	0	2
Technical University of Denmark	Engineering and technology	0	1	0	1
Other institutions	Health sciences	1	2	4	7
	Natural sciences	0	3	0	3

5.2. Other postgraduate training

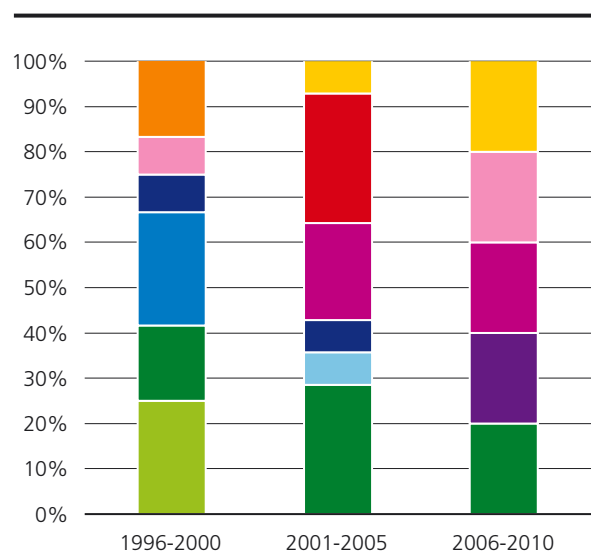
83 alumni out of 234 have completed further training (excluding a PhD degree) following their master's degree – this amounts to 35% of all alumni graduating during the period 1996-2010 (for each period see figure 17). Further training is either specific to a given field of investigation or in the form of education in patents law, or in management (project management, diploma-level courses or actual qualifying courses or training programmes) (Fig. 18).

Figure 17 – Extent to which alumni have obtained any other degree or pursued any other form of education (excluding PhD)



■ No
■ Yes

Figure 18 – Type of further education



■ Teacher training
■ MIND + Product innovation
■ Project management training
■ Journalistic training
■ Business economics diploma
■ Master's-level training in scientific field
■ Courses in management
■ Management diploma or master's
■ Course in facilitation and coaching
■ Certified patents training
■ Other

Note: does not include graduates who indicated PhD training as their further training.

6. Integration between academic studies and the labour market

6.1. Significance of collaboration during the study

The Master's Degree in Human Biology is founded on a keen focus on business and industry and postgraduate employment opportunities, and promoting this is an important part of the programme. It is therefore of interest in this survey to determine whether there is any correlation between the degree of student collaboration with business and industry and research institutions and postgraduate employment, especially in connection with the final-year thesis.

During their study period, approximately half of the graduates had academically relevant collaboration with an external partner such as a public or private sector enterprise, institution or organization (Fig 19). As might be expected, this collaboration seems to have directly influenced their postgraduate employment to a substantial extent, since around 50% to 70% of those who collaborated with an external partner subsequently got employed by that partner (Fig. 20).

Figure 19 – While doing your human biology master's did you collaborate on a project (including thesis) with a business/institution and if so, for how long?

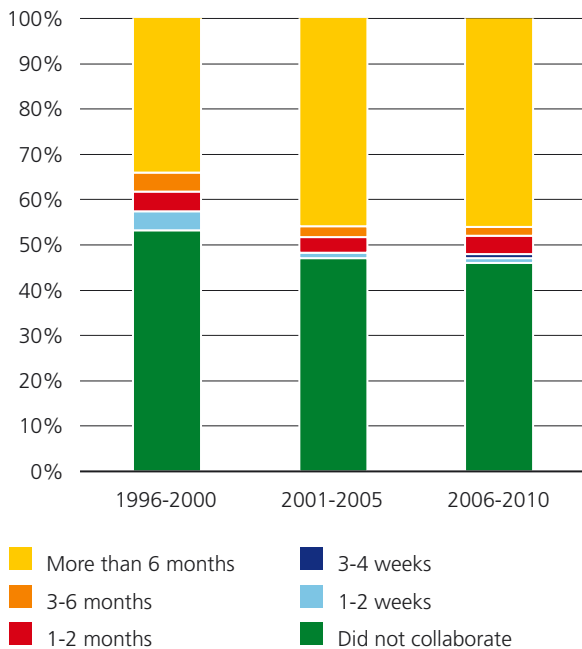
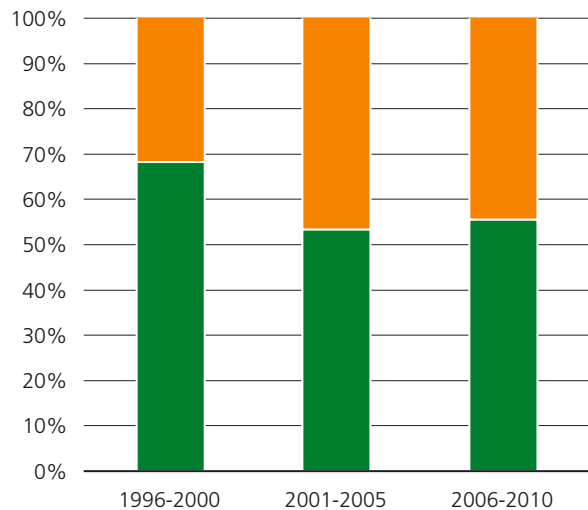


Figure 20 – Did you after graduation get employed by the same business/institution?



6.2. Significance of student jobs

Many master students held employment concurrently with their studies. The student job may have been more or less relevant to their studies, but in certain fields of study the work may have been significant for their postgraduate employment prospects.

Figure 21 shows that, on average, around 40% of human biology students had a student job. No distinction has been made as to whether their employment was academically relevant or not. For approximately 90% of students, the student job entailed a maximum of 10 hours of work per week (Fig. 22). However, in contrast to the case of academically relevant collaboration with an external partner during their studies, having a student job while studying does not appear to be of any material significance for their postgraduate employment prospects (Fig. 23).

Figure 21: While attending the human biology programme, did you have a student job?

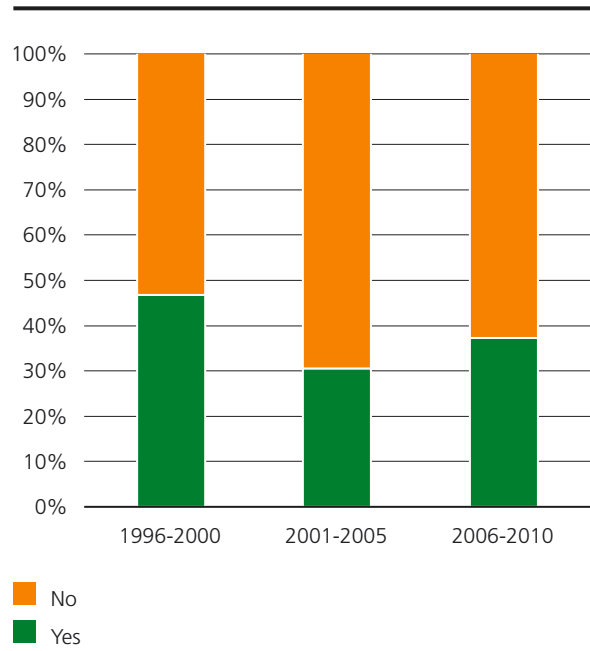


Figure 22 – How many hours per week did you work?

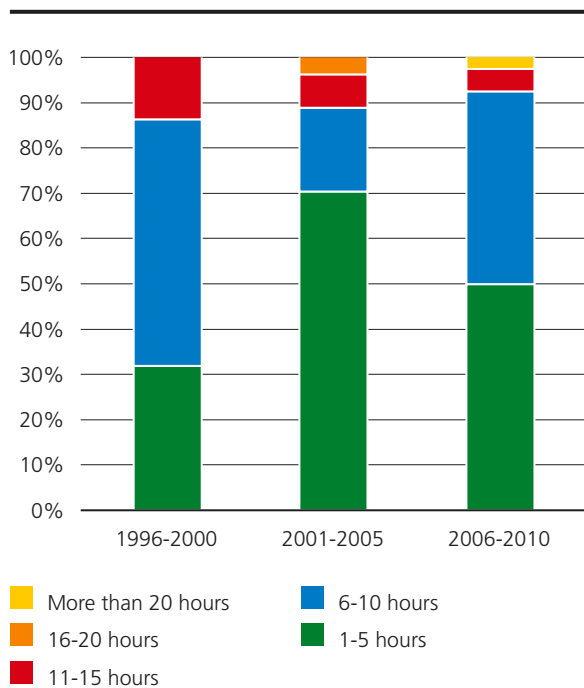
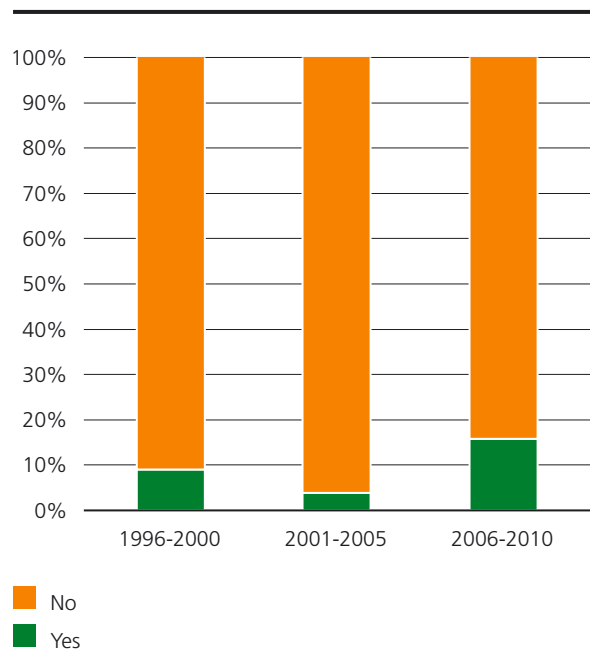


Figure 23 – Following graduation, were you offered employment by the same business/institution?



Note: Only respondents who answered that yes, they had a student job are represented in Fig. 22

7. Skills profile of the Master's Degree in Human Biology

Over the years, the Master's Degree in Human Biology has been adjusted on a rolling basis. Since 2003, four curriculum revisions have been carried out. It is therefore of great interest to look at how the programme's current academic profile matches the skills employers are looking for, and the trend over time.

Figure 24 indicates that the skills which the graduates, both those recently qualified and more experienced ones, find that they have acquired from the degree programme to a great extent match those in demand on the labour market. Areas in which the graduates find that they are lacking skills include general management, project management, finance, etc. This might explain why the choice of further training (see Section 5.2), besides academic courses, is primarily in favour of diplomas in business economics, management diplomas and the like.

The above-mentioned competencies entail a considerable degree of flexibility, curiosity and interest in interpersonal relations, and a stay abroad as part of the study programme may thus be presumed to be conducive to this. However, more than 90% of the survey's respondents have not been abroad as part of their studies, since only 18 out of 234 respondents found this either attractive or feasible (Fig. 25). It should be noted, however, that the teaching burden in the first year of the programme is so large (approx. 865 hours of classroom instruction) that it is very difficult from just a practical point of view to fit in a stay abroad, which can thus realistically only be done in the thesis-writing period of the second year of study.

Figure 25 – Geographical areas of stays abroad during the study programme

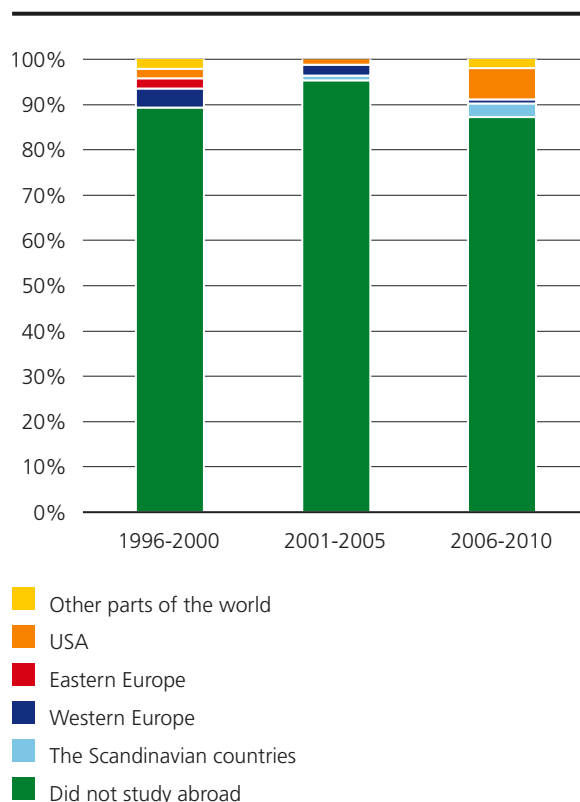
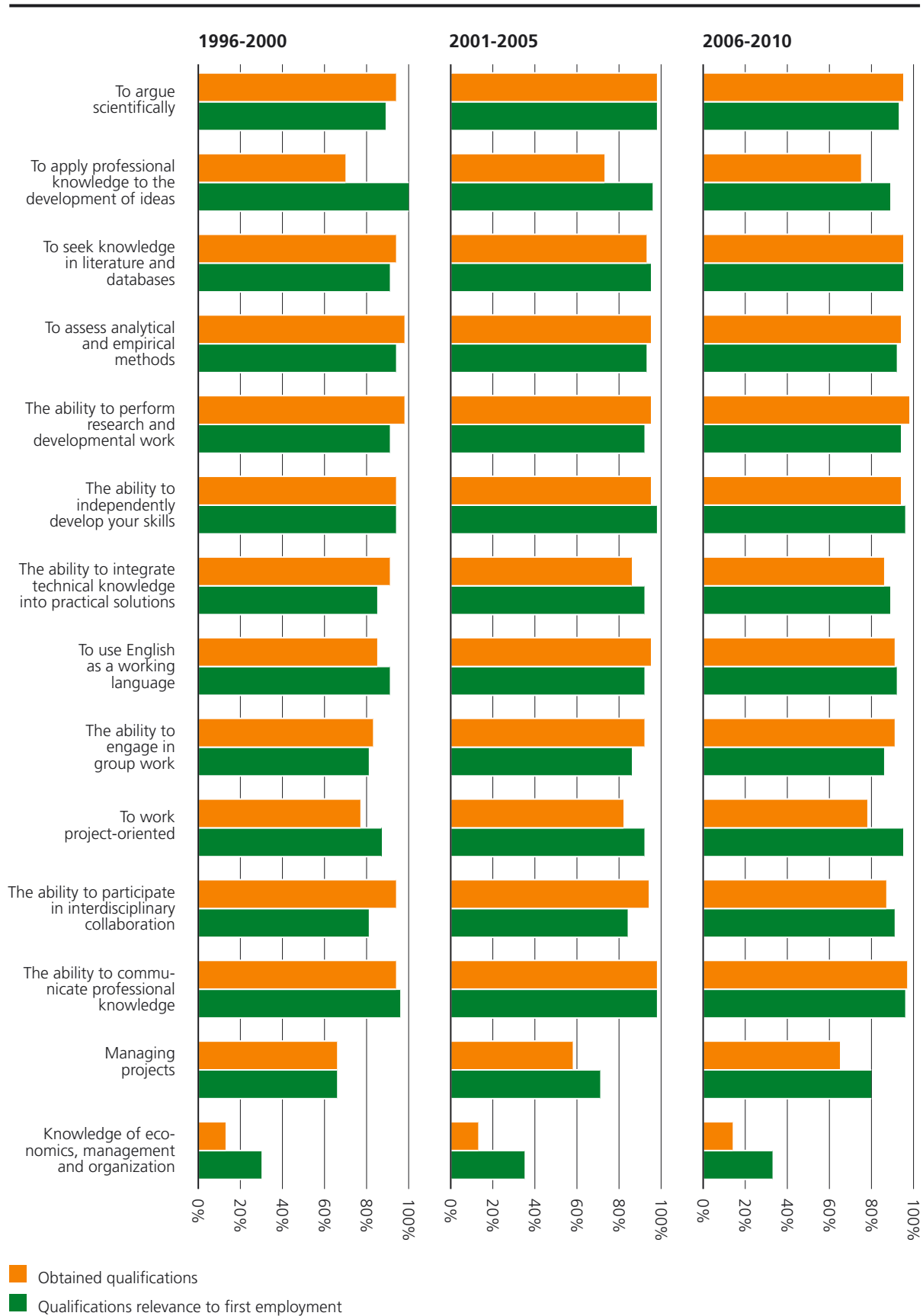


Figure 24 – Degree of match between acquired and in-demand qualifications for graduates during the period 1996-2010



Note: The proportions correspond to those who have responded "to some extent", "to a high degree" and "to a very high degree". The remaining scale: "not at all", "to a lesser extent" and "don't know"

Figure 26 – Please state to what degree you – in your subsequent career – have benefited from the following courses taught during your education in Human Biology (if you have participated in these courses)

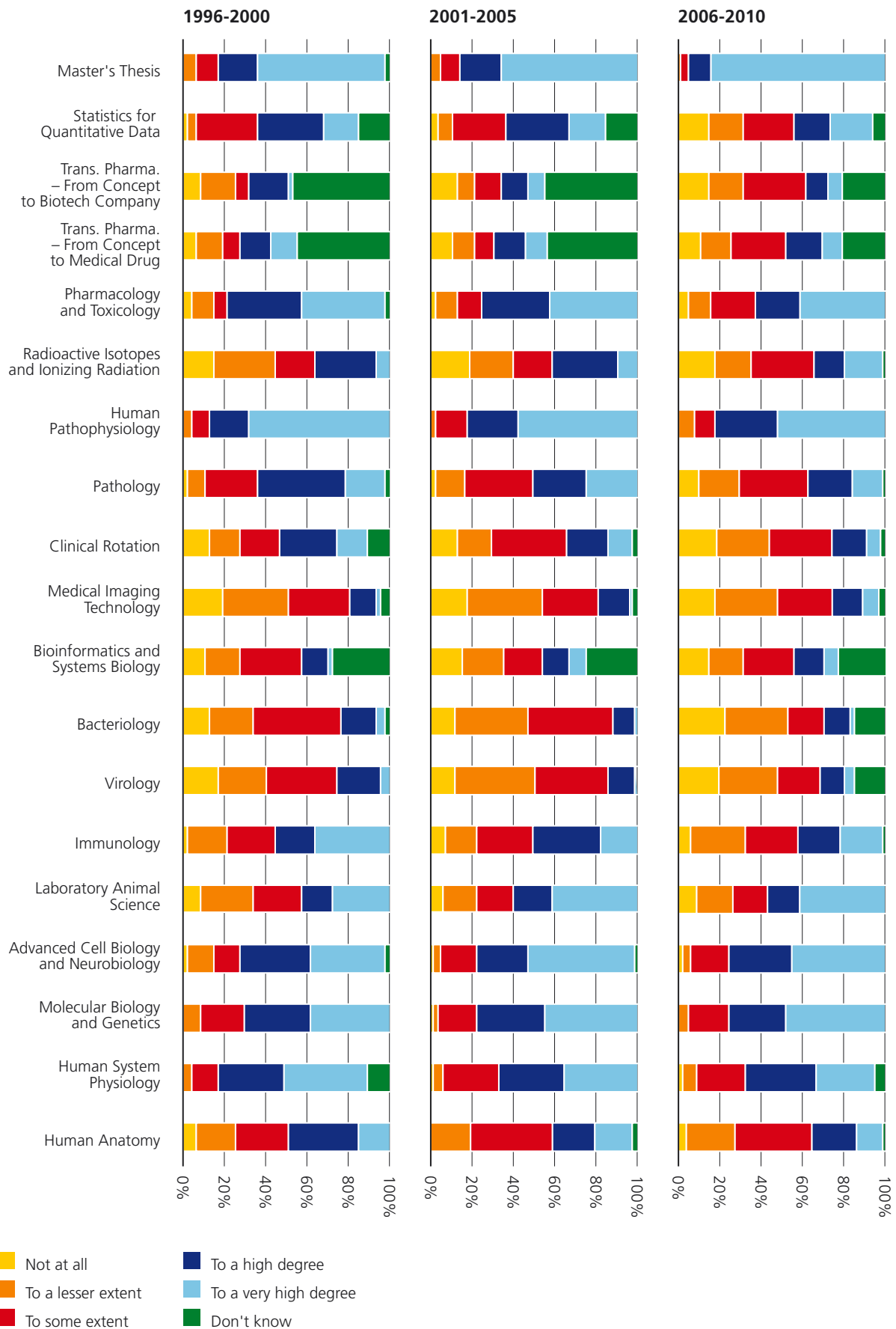


Figure 27 – Relevance of holding a legally valid licence to make independent use of radioactive isotopes for research purposes

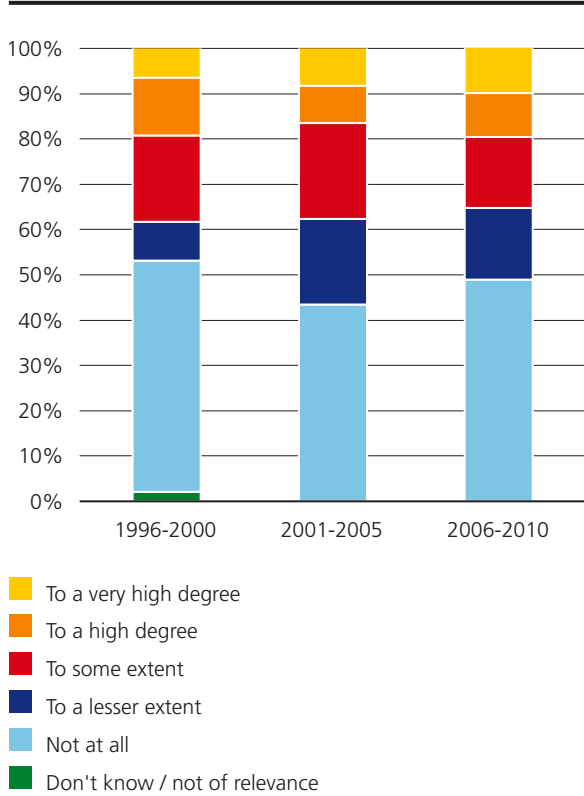


Figure 28 – Relevance of a legally valid licence for conducting laboratory animal experiments

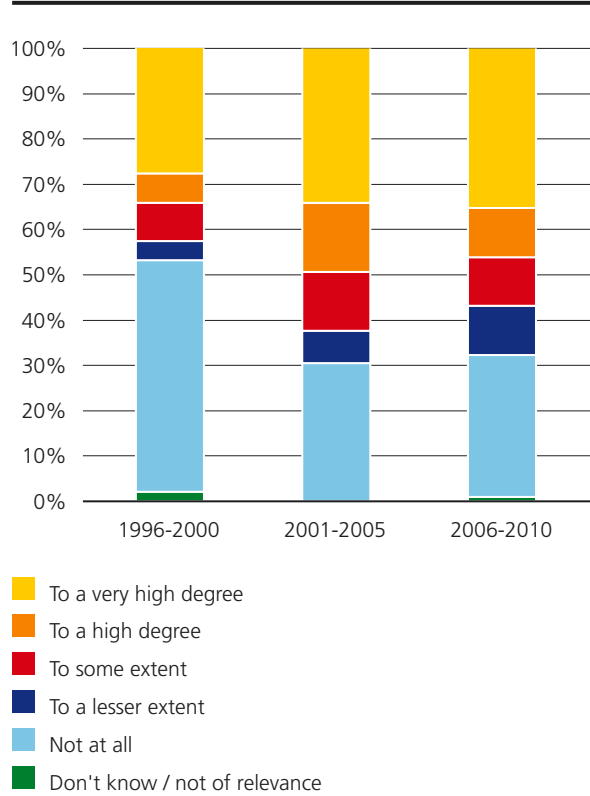


Figure 26 indicates that graduates find that the qualifications obtained by writing their thesis are highly relevant. There is also a very large degree of contentment with “core-type” courses in the human biology programme, e.g. cell biology, human pathophysiology and pharmacology. Courses rated as less relevant are those of the “ancillary-subject type”. The general conclusion would be that there is a positive progression through the 2-year programme in terms of subsequent career benefit from the teaching provided, culminating in a high degree of contentment with the final-year thesis component.

The Master’s Degree in Human Biology has a keen focus on preparing graduates for an independent research career in the field of experimental biomedicine. More than 60% of the graduates find the course in laboratory animal skills to be particularly relevant (Fig. 27), while approximately half of the graduates did not find it relevant to hold a licence for independent research work using radioactive isotopes (Fig. 28).

Figure 29 shows that by far the majority of the human biologists (approx. 85%) find that they have the necessary qualifications from their master’s degree to meet the challenges of their first job on the labour market. Of those who would like to have additional skills, these reflect qualifications specific to their field of study.

Figure 29 – Were there any qualifications for your first job that you did not meet?

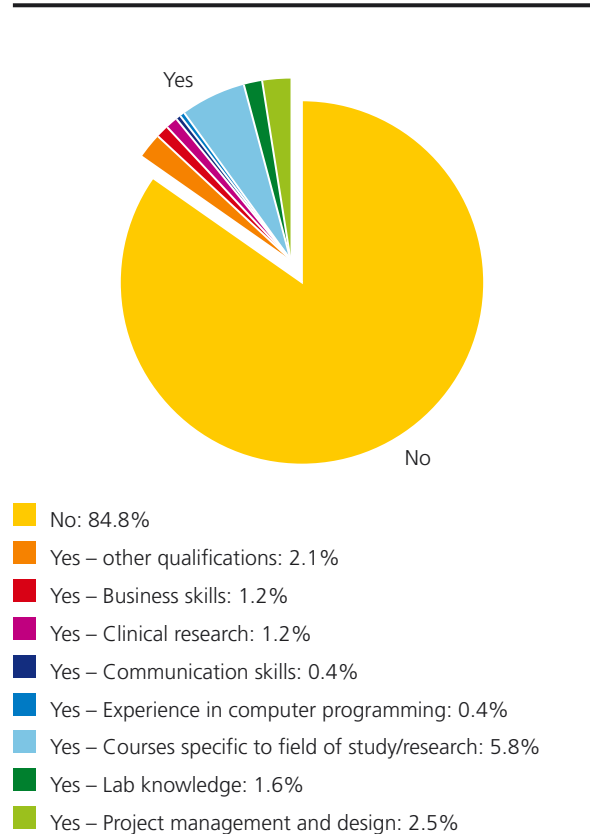
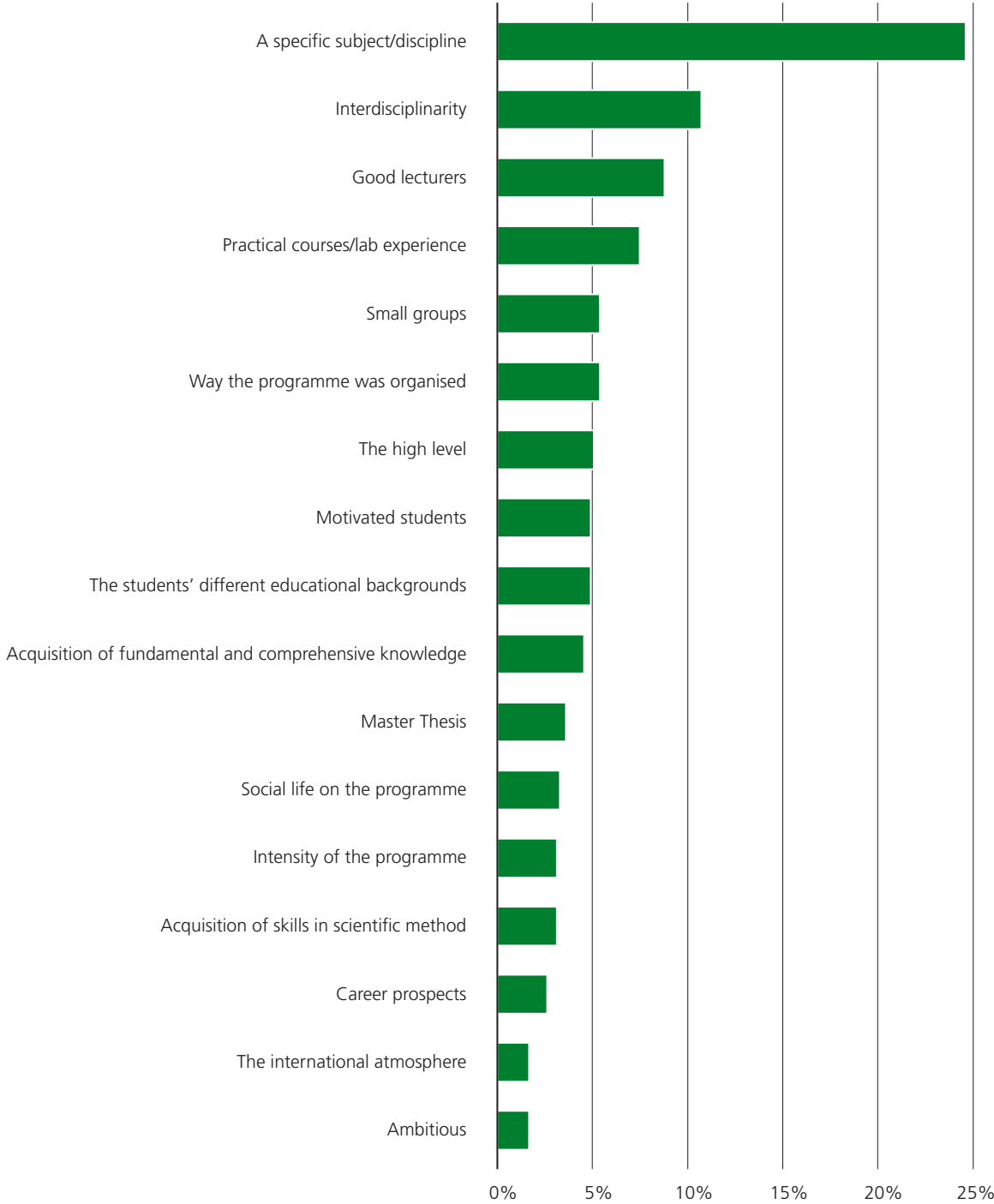
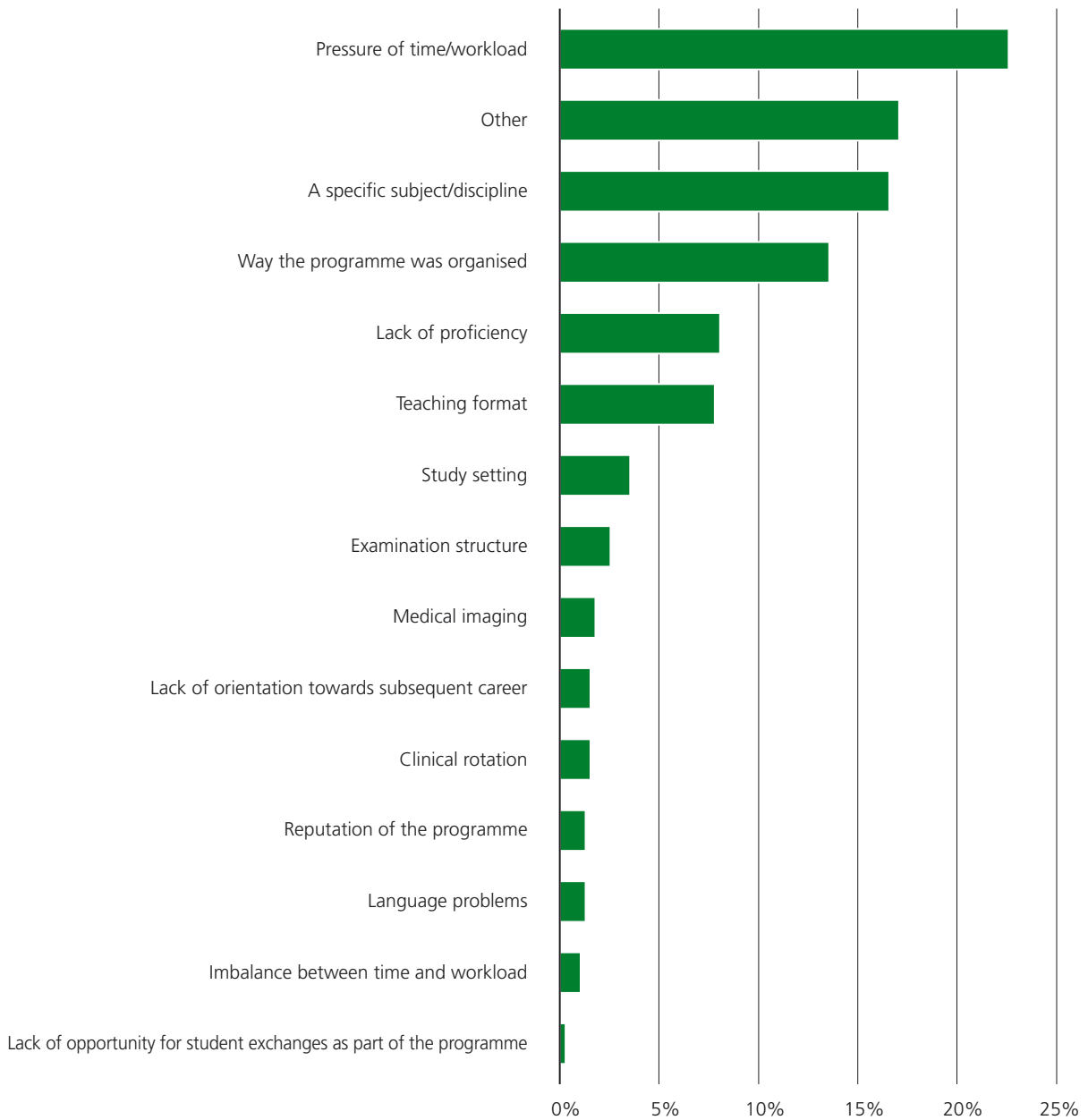


Figure 30 – List the 3 best things in the Human Biology study programme



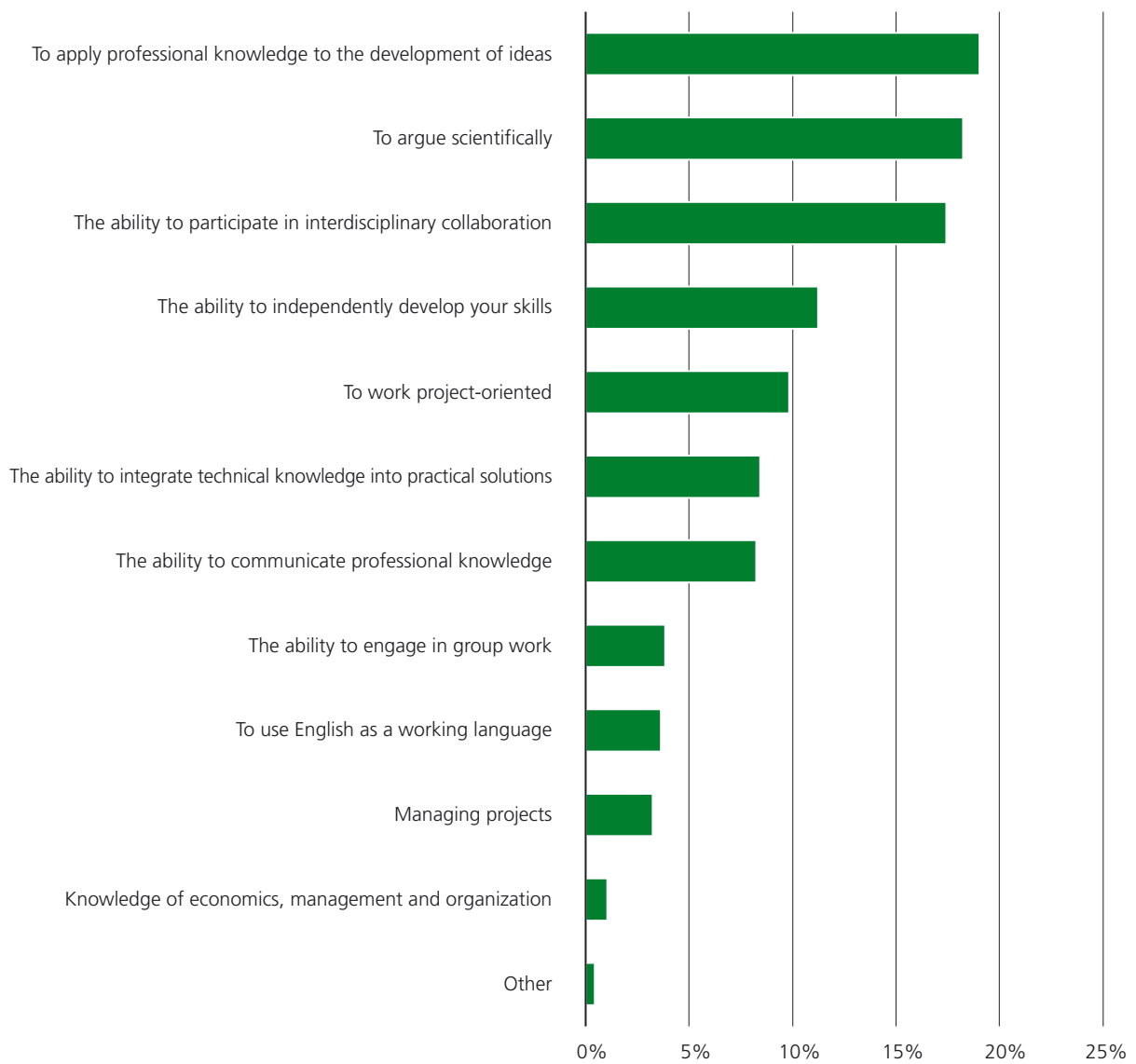
Note: the data consist of an average for respondents from all year-groups

Figure 31 – List the 3 worst things in the Human Biology study programme



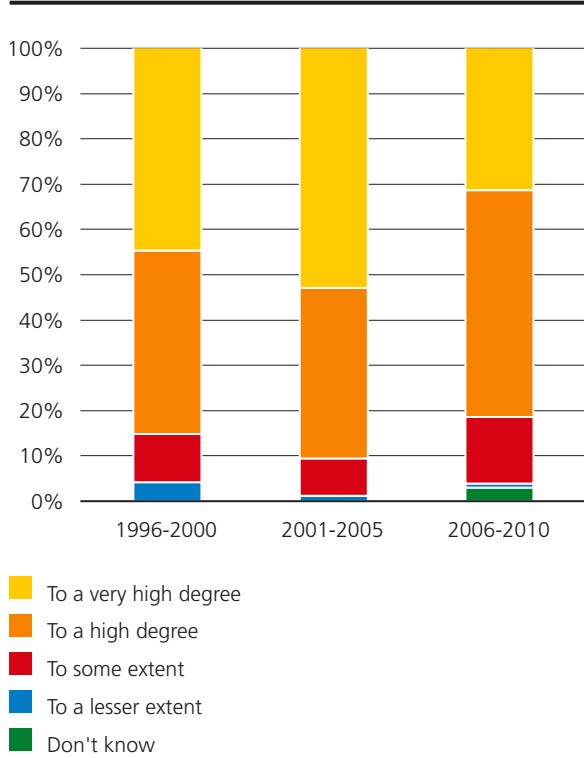
Note: the data consist of an average for respondents from all year-groups

Figure 32 – Which skills do you consider the most important for a recent human biology graduate in today's labour market (please mark three boxes)?



Note: the data consist of an average for respondents from all year-groups

Figur 33 – Do you think that your education in Human Biology have prepared you well for your work life in general?



Around 85% of the graduates over the last 15 years find that their education to a high or very high degree has prepared them well for subsequent working life (Fig. 33) The degree programme's combination of subjects is regarded as being of great relevance (Fig. 30) and the skills profile on which the degree programme is based appears to a great extent to match the skills the graduates believe are the most important for a recently graduated human biologist (Fig 32). We may therefore conclude that this degree programme is very successful and of relevance to society, but it is necessary to maintain focus on further improving the programme and that this should be done in a constructive dialogue with prospective employers.

8. Details concerning the design of the survey

The Evaluation Unit at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Copenhagen has collaborated with the Human Biology Study programme on the design and conduction of the survey. Head of studies Thorkil Ploug and senior consultant Pia Lassen have been responsible for the systematization and interpretation of data. The Evaluation Unit has contributed with the methodological expertise and the head of studies has contributed with academic expertise relevant for the study programme.

In addition, the following persons have participated in a steering committee:

- Head of the Study Board, professor Mette Marie Rosenkilde
- Associate professor Jørgen Gomme
- Professor Jens Bülow

The Employer's Panel has been involved in the preparation of the survey in order to ensure that the purpose of the survey supports the collaboration and communication with the prospective employers of the graduates.

The graduate survey was conducted in the spring of 2011 and all graduates from the period 1991-2010 were invited to participate. Address data was obtained through the Danish Central Office of Civil Registration. Data on graduates from the first 5 years of the degree programme (1991-1995) are not included in the survey's conclusions, as it was not possible to make contact with a sufficient body of respondents compared to the number of individuals who graduated during this period.

396 invitations were sent out to alumni who graduated during the period of 1996-2010 and of these 11 letters were returned due to "addressee unknown". Five out of eleven of the returned letters were addressed to graduates living abroad.

A total of 385 individuals are thus assumed to have received an invitation to participate in the survey. Of these, 234 responded to the electronic questionnaire. This corresponds to a response rate of 61%.

The letters were sent out with a link to an electronic questionnaire and survey data were then sent electronically to the evaluation unit. Two reminders were sent out at fortnightly intervals, and the survey was also advertised through the University of Copenhagen's human biologists' group on Facebook. The survey is primarily quantitative, but respondents were given the opportunity to enter comments and free text at various points in the questionnaire.

Design of the questionnaire and writing of the report was done by the evaluation unit and was inspired by other Danish university graduate surveys in order to permit comparison with graduates of other universities and disciplines⁵. The questionnaire consists of 30 questions with the option to respond within specific intervals and finally a number of free text fields in which to provide additional comments.

Caveats in interpretation of the results

It was not possible to obtain information about the representativity of the respondents in relation to the sum total of all graduates.

No significance testing was performed, and differences over time and differences between groups should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Questions concerning:

- Employment after graduation
- Current employment, including responsibilities and previous jobs
- Current annual income
- How many master's graduates proceed to a PhD programme
- Use of qualifications from the programme in relation to employment
- Information about membership of labour unions

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Alumni Survey for the Master's Degree in Human Biology 1996-2010 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen

– a questionnaire-based survey in spring 2011 of the employment status, labour market experience, qualifications and skills of graduates from the last 15 years

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Alumni Survey

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at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen

– a questionnaire-based survey in spring 2011 of the employment status, labour market experience, qualifications and skills of graduates from the last 15 years

Human Biology at the University of Copenhagen is an ambitious programme of study that provides advanced theoretical and experimental training within the field of biomedicine and the natural sciences. The aim of the degree programme is to provide the student with the necessary skills and qualifications to start an independent research career.

But where are graduates employed 5, 10 and 15 years after graduation? What are their employment rates, average pay and their career level? And not least, when looking back, to what extent do graduates find, that the degree programme prepared them well for work life?

This report presents the results of the largest survey among Human Biology graduates from the last 15 years and provides the answers to these and other questions concerning graduate's employment situation, labor market experiences and skills.

The results constitute a solid foundation for continued assurance of the quality and the focus on development of skills and qualifications in the degree programme and a basis for a constructive dialogue with prospective employers.

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