

DLHE FAQs

What you need to know about the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey

What is the survey?

The Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey is a national survey of everybody who has recently finished a course of study at a university or Higher Education college in the UK, and is a requirement for the University to complete. The survey gathers information about the destinations of recent Leavers (work, further study etc.) related to a particular census date so all responses can be accurately compared.

Why do you want to know what I am doing?

This is our opportunity to touch base with you and find out how you are getting on after your course. The information you provide helps us to understand whether graduates have any difficulties in securing employment or further study after University, and if there are any patterns in the destinations. By gathering a large range of destinations information, we can get a better picture of our graduates' chosen career paths to help inform our employability strategy.

Why is the DLHE important?

The information gathered through the survey is analysed and used by the University, the Government and other agencies to support the improvement of Higher Education in the future, and to make decisions about the support required for students and graduates. This information is also useful to allow current and future students to identify the opportunities that may be available to them, helping them to make informed choices about their career options.

The destinations data also forms part of the data used to provide the University League Tables you may have seen (Times Good University Guide, Complete University Guide etc.).

How long will it take me to complete the survey?

It should only take 5-10 minutes to complete your survey. Most of the questions provide multiple choice options, although a few do provide you with a free text field to type your answer.

Will my personal data be available for anybody to see?

Personal information (such as names and student numbers) is only used by the DLHE team at the University of Reading to identify and match your responses to our records. When the survey data is published, all information which could identify an individual Leaver is removed.

Who will see my responses to the survey?

All of the survey responses are processed by the DLHE team at the University of Reading. Once the survey has been completed the information is passed to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the government organisation which co-ordinates DLHE. Any data subsequently published by either HESA or the University is anonymised.

Why do you ask for my address details when starting the online questionnaire?

These details are for University purposes to help us identify our graduates and their destinations. We also use this information to help us identify trends (for example: what proportion of our graduates return home to work). This information is not shared outside of the University, and you do not have to enter your address information in order to complete the survey.

I don't know what I will be doing on 10th January 2018. Should I complete the questionnaire?

If you are completing the questionnaire in advance of the 'census' date (10th January 2018), you may not yet know what you will be doing on that date. If you wish, you can wait until the census date to complete your survey, and then enter your exact activities.

During the period ahead of the census date, we may continue to send you reminders about the survey. If you do not wish to be reminded until after 10th January 2018, let us know at dlhe@reading.ac.uk.

I am still at the University of Reading. Why am I being asked to complete the survey?

If you have continued onto a new course of study at the University (for example, you have progressed from an undergraduate to a postgraduate course), you are being contacted with regards to the course of study you have recently completed.

If you have not yet completed a course at the University of Reading, you should not be contacted by us regarding the DLHE survey. If you do receive an invitation from us, please let us know at dlhe@reading.ac.uk so that we can investigate.

If I am still at the University of Reading, surely you know what I am doing? Why do you need to talk to me?

It is really important for us to find out what you are doing directly from you. Whilst we can see your new course of study, we are unaware of any other activities you may be undertaking (paid work, voluntary experience etc.) or your motivations behind this.

If we cannot get hold of you, we will include the course information we hold on our system. However, we would prefer to talk to you directly wherever possible.

I did not complete my course at the University of Reading. Why have I been contacted?

If we send you an invitation to participate in the DLHE survey, then the qualification that you left the University with (even though this may not have been the full qualification offered by your course) still qualifies you as a Leaver from the University of Reading. All responses to the survey are really important to us.

What happens if I do not complete the survey online?

The DLHE survey is provided in a number of different ways. Initially, we will send you an invitation by email to complete the survey online. We will also send periodic reminders throughout the contact period.

We also follow the email up through a telephone campaign to speak with you directly if we have not received a completed response from you. This is conducted by current students at the University, and they will complete the questionnaire with you over the telephone.

I have already completed the survey. Why am I still being emailed/telephoned?

If you have completed the survey online or over the telephone, you should no longer receive further invitations to participate. However, if you continue to be contacted, please let us know by emailing us at dlhe@reading.ac.uk and we will rectify this.

I do not wish to participate in the DLHE. What do I do?

If you do not wish to provide us with the information requested in the survey, you can opt out. You just need to contact us at dlhe@reading.ac.uk to advise us that you do not wish to participate, or reply to one of our emails. If you receive a telephone call, you can also advise the Caller that you do not wish to participate.

I do not want to complete the survey now. Can I do it later?

You are able to complete the survey online at any point between 8th November 2017 and 5th March 2018. If you would prefer to do later in this contact period, please let us know and we can arrange to contact you at a later date. However, if you decide to delay your response without letting us know, you will still receive the reminder emails as well as the telephone follow up.

What is the follow-up survey?

The 'Longitudinal' survey is conducted 3 years after the standard survey. It is similar in nature to the DLHE survey, but focuses on how your career is progressing. This follow-up survey is carried out by a different organisation.

What if I do not want to be included in the follow-up survey?

There is a question at the end of the DLHE regarding participating in the 'Longitudinal' survey. If you do not wish to be contacted as part of that survey, you just need to tick the box. If you have emailed us to advise that you do not wish to participate in the DLHE, you will be removed from the 'Longitudinal' survey as well.

What can you do to support me now that I have left the University of Reading?

You can still continue to use the services provided by the Careers Centre after you have completed your course. For an overview of the services available to you:

Visit: www.reading.ac.uk/careers/graduate

Call Us: 0118 378 8359

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for completing the DLHE survey, and wish you all the best in your future career.