

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GRADUATION?

Interviews and survey responses from the 2015 alumni
of the Professional Degree Programs



UMEÅ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
AND ECONOMICS

UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

The Dean has the floor



What happens after you graduate from Umeå School of Business and Economics (USBE)? The vast majority of students graduating can expect to have an exciting career and nearly half of them have a job lined up prior to graduation.

The USBE programs are four-year professional degree programs that helps you develop your vision and the skills to achieve a specialization in accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, marketing or management from the Business Administration and Economics Program. The International Business Program offers the same opportunities with the only difference that all courses within the program is in English. Additionally, the Service Management Program and the Retail and Supply Chain Management Program have the breadth of the Business Administration and Economics Program focused at management and leadership in the service sector or at trade and logistics, respectively.

The grads from USBE are prepared to be responsible leaders with a sustainability orientation for a local and global society. Regardless the choice of specialization our grads face a welcoming and promising job market.

We welcome newly grads to our alumni association. The USBE alumni association is our association of graduates that help our former students to maintain connections to us and fellow graduates and vice versa. Examples of collaboration is events, to meet our students as a guest lecturer, hosting of traineeships and students writing their thesis in collaboration with the business community. The USBE alumni association is an extension of the networks with industrial contacts and your fellow students built during the time at USBE.

Graduating from USBE and entering the job market is an exciting time. Here, alumni interviews offer advice for students read, learn and get inspired!

Sofia Lundberg
Dean, Umeå School of Business and Economics

Program Portfolio at Umeå School of Business and Economics (USBE)

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Statistics Program 180 credits

Programs conducted in Swedish

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

(Integrated Undergraduate and Master level programs)

Business Administration and Economics Program* 240 credits

Service Management Program 240 credits

Retail and Supply Chain Management Program 240 credits

Programs conducted in English

The International Business program* 240 credits

** In these programs it is possible to choose to specialize in either the fields of business administration or in economics.*

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Master's Program in Accounting 120 credits

Master's Program in Business Development and Internationalization, 120 credits

Master's Program in Economics 120 credits

Master's Program in Finance 120 credits

Master's Program in Management 120 credits

Master's Program in Marketing 120 credits

Master's Program in Statistical Sciences (starting autumn 2018) 120 credits

SINGLE SUBJECT COURSES

USBE offers a wide variety of courses in business administration, economics and statistics, both in Swedish and English. A small number of courses are offered as online courses.

PHD STUDIES

USBE offers PhD programs in the subjects business administration, economics, econometrics and statistics. The PhD programs consists of four years of full-time study and are composed of a course component and a thesis component. Admission to the PhD program occurs in accordance with the places available within each discipline.

Karin Sandahl



Program
Retail and Supply Chain Management Program (HLP)

Specialization
Business Development och Supply Chain Management

Title
Global Sales Coordinator

Current Employer
J.Lindeberg, Stockholm

– Around the time of my graduation I got a job as a Management Trainee at Jetpak, where I worked for a year and a half. After a year as a trainee, I was offered a position as Project Coordinator, which I accepted.

– I started out working at Jetpak because I thought it was an industry of which I had prior knowledge and experience, both through my education and from previous jobs. What attracted me most was the opportunity to start my career as a trainee for the CEO and management team, from which I really learned a lot.

– After some time at Jetpak, I felt I wanted to try something new and shifted my focus toward an industry in which I am really interested, within a field in which I can see myself continuing to grow. Therefore, I applied for the position of Global Sales Coordinator at J. Lindeberg.

CURRENT WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

– My daily responsibilities include coordinating between our sellers, who are scattered around the world, and other functions.

I make sure that the sellers have all the tools that they need to do their jobs. This can include developing various reports, price lists, estimates, etc. I also participate in the planning of sales conferences and business reviews.

What made you choose the Retail and Supply Chain Management Program?

– I wanted to study for a Professional Degree, but since I am not so interested in the accounting and financial side of things, I thought that studying retail and logistics was a good way to go.

– I had also worked in retail before I began my studies, and was interested in logistics.

– I chose business development and supply chain management as my area of specialization. Having an insight into and knowledge of business development is important in all organizations, regardless of one’s role within that organization.

– Studying supply chain at advanced helped to give my education a sense of cohesiveness and continuity.

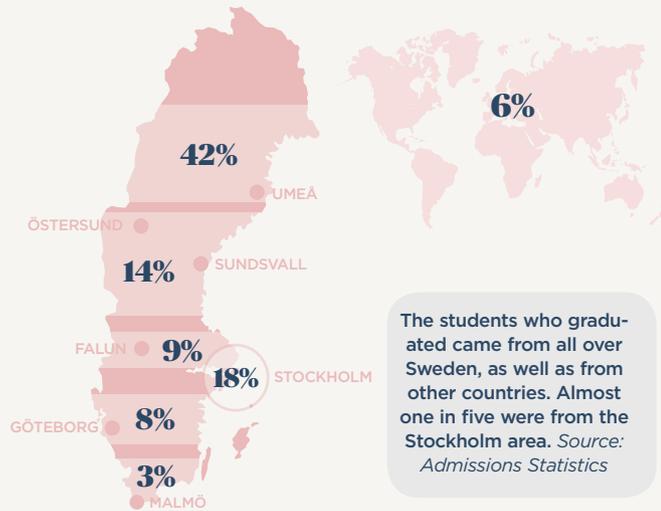
” *Get involved! I was a member of the coordinating team for the Uniaden career day event, which was both educational and fun. You don’t just gain an extra “plus” on your CV – you also grow as a person and get to know lots of talented and fun people.*

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

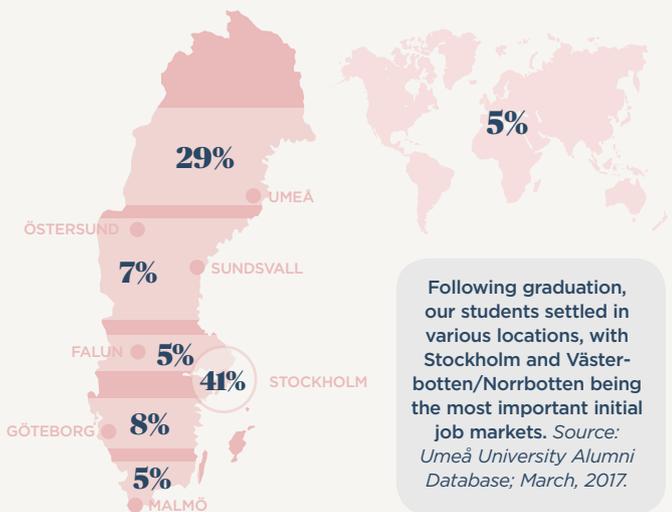
- Seek out the opportunities that are available to you. The university offers lots of different courses, study abroad programs, internships, etc. And you don’t have to study exactly the same things as everyone else in your class. Put yourself first and plan your education according to what you want.
- Be prepared to struggle a bit when you first enter the job market.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GRADUATION?¹

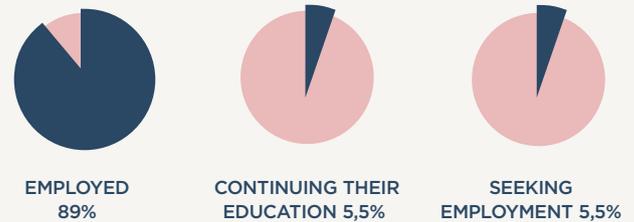
PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION TO THE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS



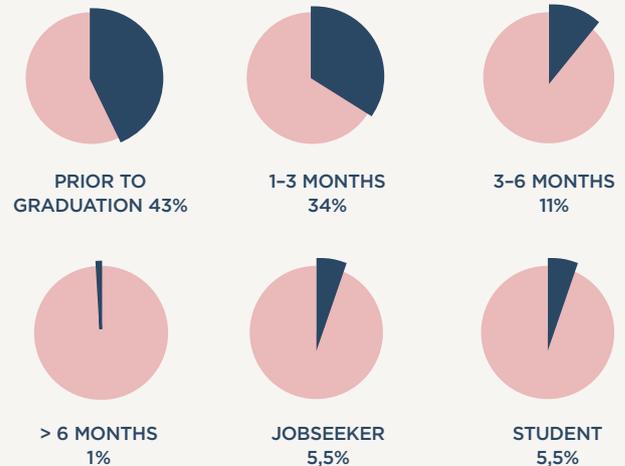
PLACE OF RESIDENCE



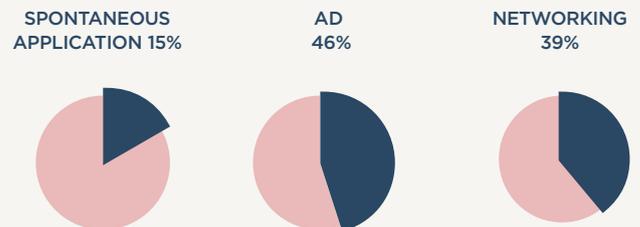
EMPLOYMENT NINE MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION²



TIME ELAPSED BEFORE TO FINDING THEIR FIRST JOB³



THE FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING WAS FOUND VIA



¹ Unless otherwise stated, the source of the information presented is a survey of graduated students who wrote their theses within the professional degree programs in the Spring 2015. Number of replies 74. (36 women and 38 men). Date of the survey: March, 2016. Response Rate: 40%.)

² Does not include summer jobs. ³ 89% find a job within 6 months after graduation, a figure that is consistent with the pattern illustrated in the regular report by Civilekonomerna, "Three Years After Graduation".

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GRADUATION?

HOW WE FOUND OUR FIRST JOBS AFTER GRADUATION

"Ads in magazines, websites, Linked-In"



"I got a job through a Talent Program"



"I got my job about 14 months before I started my position, thanks to the network I built during the time that I was studying."



JOB MARKET OUTLOOK FOR GRADUATES FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS ⁴

The Outlook Prospects report concludes that despite the large number of Professional Degree students that graduate each year in Sweden, it has been relatively easy for these graduates to find work, a trend that appears to be more or less independent of the state of the economy.



The job market for recent graduates from Professional Degree programs is expected to remain stable, and is predicted to remain so in the year 2021. According to the report, demand will "be very high when it comes to financial accountants and graduates specialized in organization/management".

For experienced Business Graduates, there is more limited competition in the labor market.

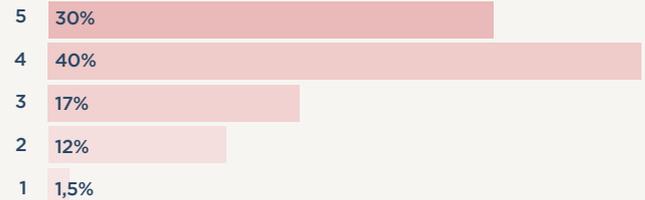
EXAMPLES OF JOB TITLES

Account Manager	Financial Advisor	Production Planner
Business Developer	Group Manager	Project Manager
Bank Officer	Buyer	Recruiter
Business Controller	Key Account Manager	Auditor
Bank CSO	Credit Officer	Auditor's Assistant
Business Development	Consultant	Tax Consultant
Coordinator	Management Trainee	Strategy Consultant
District Manager	Management Consultant	Supply Planner
CFO	Market Analyst	Seller
Financial Assistant	Order Manager	Team Leader
Real Estate Controller	Product Manager	Trainee, CEO

⁴ Karlsson, P. (editor). (2016) Prospects for the future. The job market for academics in the year 2021. SACO; the quote is from page 37. <http://www.saco.se/vara-fragor/rapporter/framtidsutsikter>

EXPERIENCES OF HOW THE EDUCATION AND CURRENT JOBS MATCH UP

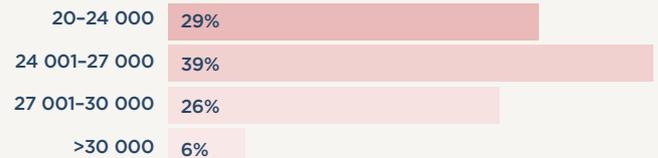
SCALE 1-5



3= OK MATCH, 5 = PERFECT MATCH

INITIAL SALARY ⁵

SALARY RANGE



ALUMNI COMMENTS ABOUT ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET



"If I could go back and do it all over, I would have tried to be more involved in voluntary organizations etc. When you apply for jobs where many candidates have similar qualifications, it'll help you stand out from the crowd."

"It's important to remember that your first job is rarely your dream job; the most important thing is to get a foot in the door, and then take it from there."

"As expected, a lot of responsibility but really fun, and I'm learning a lot!"

⁵ In 2015, the average monthly salary (median) for newly graduated students ranged from SEK 26,000 to SEK 27,000, depending on whether the position was within the public sector or private sector. Saco (2015). Civilekonom/ekonom. Website. <http://www.saco.se/studieval--karriar/studieval/yrken-a-o/civilekonomekonom/>. Based on information retrieved from the site on 03/16/2017.

Erik Ylander



Program
International Business
Program (IBP)

Specialization
Finance

Title
Associate Consultant

Current Employer
Business Sweden, Oslo

– I kept in constant contact with the company after graduation, and shortly thereafter, I was offered a post in the Norwegian market. The company fits me and my background perfectly!

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

– Through internationalization projects, we help companies to establish themselves in a new market so that they, in turn, can increase their revenues and Swedish exports. We carry out market analyses, mapping of actors, the compilation of legal information, recruiting, sales support, etc. It's great fun to meet with and help Swedish entrepreneurs who are in the first stages of an international journey.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE IBP?

– I wanted to work internationally, and the IBP provides the necessary perspective to succeed in an increasingly international market.

– I'm incredibly interested in the numbers behind a successful company, so I chose finance as my area of specialization and it was also the area that I thought best complemented my four years of study.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

- Dare to make difficult decisions and to choose a challenging path; it is absolutely the best way to develop your skills!

Ebba Eriksson



Program
Service Management Program
(SMP)

Specialization
Service Management

Title
Strategy Consultant

Current Employer
Trendie, Gothenburg

– A year before graduation, I started to focus my job hunt on Gothenburg. Through my network, I was tipped off about a strategy agency named Trendie, so I got in touch with them. That led to a job as a strategy consultant, where I work with intelligence analysis, trend spotting and business development.

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

– We carry out both statistical analyses and in-depth interviews, where we interview industry experts, customers and politicians, to name a few. We then provide recommendations on how our customers can best meet future challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE SMP?

– Service Management is an area of study that is becoming increasingly important, because the services offered by firms can often give them a crucial competitive advantage. The SMP offers students a good mix of classic business subjects and “softer” subjects, such as service design and behavioral science.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

- Precise choices when it comes to your courses are not necessarily the most important factor; what you do outside of school is equally important.

Erik Sjöberg



Program
Business Administration and Economics Program (CEP)

Specialization
Accounting

Title
Junior Controller

Current Employer
Dynasafe International AB, Stockholm

– After graduation, I started out working as an accountant at Ernst & Young. I had an incredibly instructive year as an accountant there, which gave me the opportunity to get my next job, here at Dynasafe.

– At Dynasafe, I was given more responsibility and asked to perform more demanding tasks, which gave me even more challenges. I take care of the reporting from the parent company as well as everything associated with that, from keeping our accounting up-to-date to financial statements. I analyze and consolidate reporting for the group.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ACCOUNTING?

– I chose accounting at the Bachelor level because I found it engaging when I studied it in the undergraduate business course. I had heard very good things about the quality of the courses from former students.

– I continued with accounting at the advanced level because I felt that I wanted to work with that type of business administration.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

- Choose the area of study that feels best to you. The most important thing is that you are motivated and want to do it.

More interviews: www.usbe.umu.se/samverkan/alumn

INTERNSHIPS

One recurrent piece of advice given by alumni to new students is to do an internship, and many talk about the role their internships played in helping them to find work after graduation. USBE offers students the opportunity to carry out an internship (15 credits) as an elective course within the program.

EXAMPLES OF INTERNSHIPS

AMF, Stockholm
BMS Group Limited, United Kingdom
Deloitte, Sundsvall
Domsjö Fiber, Örnsköldsvik
Embassy of Sweden, Washington, USA
Engelschion Manuell Hauge, Oslo
Hafnafjörður, Island
International Paint
Akzo Nobel, Singapore
J. de Beer bv, Amersfoort
Komatsu Forest, Umeå

"Always do an internship, and while you're there, aim high!"



Länsförsäkringar, Umeå
MQ Retail
Nordea, Varberg
Norrmejerier, Umeå

ADVICE FROM ALUMNI TO CURRENT STUDENTS

"Network and make contacts. Consider your choices when it comes to your education, and study hard."



"Try out as many things as possible, take advantage of the opportunity to do an internship, study abroad, write your thesis on commission from a company etc."



"What counts the most in interviews is how engaged you were while you were at the university. My time studying abroad carried a lot of weight. Things that confirm that you have an outgoing, dedicated and curious personality greatly increases the chances of getting the job."

"Learn Excel! A lot of employers ask for that."



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