

Results of the Riga Graduate School of Law Graduate Survey in 2019

In October 2019, Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL) organized a graduate survey to find out how the knowledge, skills and competences acquired at the higher education institution meet the requirements of today's labour market. In total, 60 graduates participated in the survey: half of them graduated from undergraduate programmes and half from graduate programmes. Graduates completed their studies from 2013 to 2019.

More than half of the graduates of RGSL continued their studies at the RGSL, i.e. 16% of the graduates continued their studies at RGSL, 19% at another Latvian higher education institution, and the same number of graduates studied abroad (see Fig. 1). 27% of undergraduate graduates did not continue their Master studies.

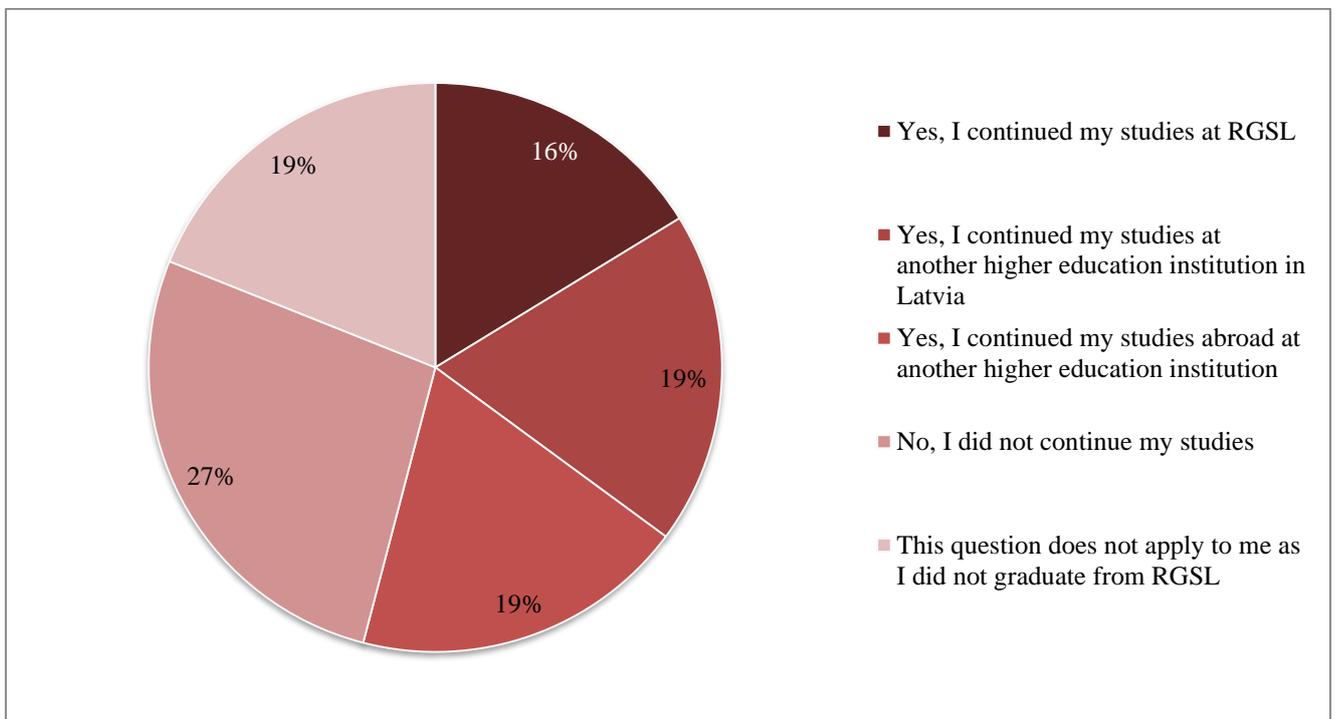


Fig. 1 Answers to the question "If you graduated from RGSL undergraduate programme, did you continue your Masters studies?"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

Graduates were asked if they would recommend the graduate programme to others (see Figure 2). More than half (51%) of undergraduate students and 67% of graduate students would definitely recommend to others RGSL. About a third of undergraduate students and a quarter of graduate students would rather recommend studies at RGSL. Only a few respondents would not recommend RGSL studies - 8% of undergraduate and 5% of graduate students would rather or would definitely not recommend RGSL.

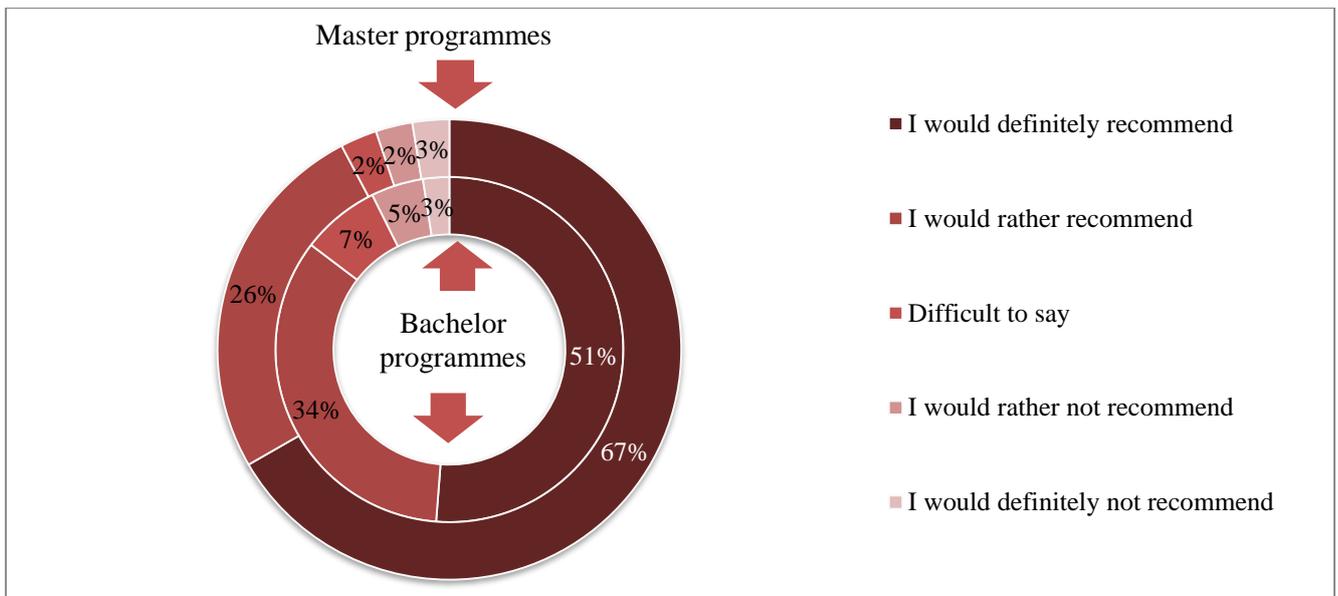


Fig. 2 Answers to the question "Would you recommend a study programme to others?"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

Next, respondents were asked to evaluate the quality of undergraduate study programmes (see Fig. 3). Almost half of graduates and one fifth of undergraduates consider the quality of studies to be very high. None of the graduates of the Bachelor study programme rated the quality of studies as low or very low (6% of the respondents evaluated the Master's programme as low or very low). Graduates of Bachelor study programmes have generally stated in their comments that the quality of studies at RGSL is very high in comparison with other higher education institutions in Latvia - the institution offers high-class, internationally recognized academic staff, international cooperation opportunities. RGSL is capable of providing the knowledge, skills and competences needed to develop an international career. It was suggested that greater consideration should be given to issues of the national legal system.

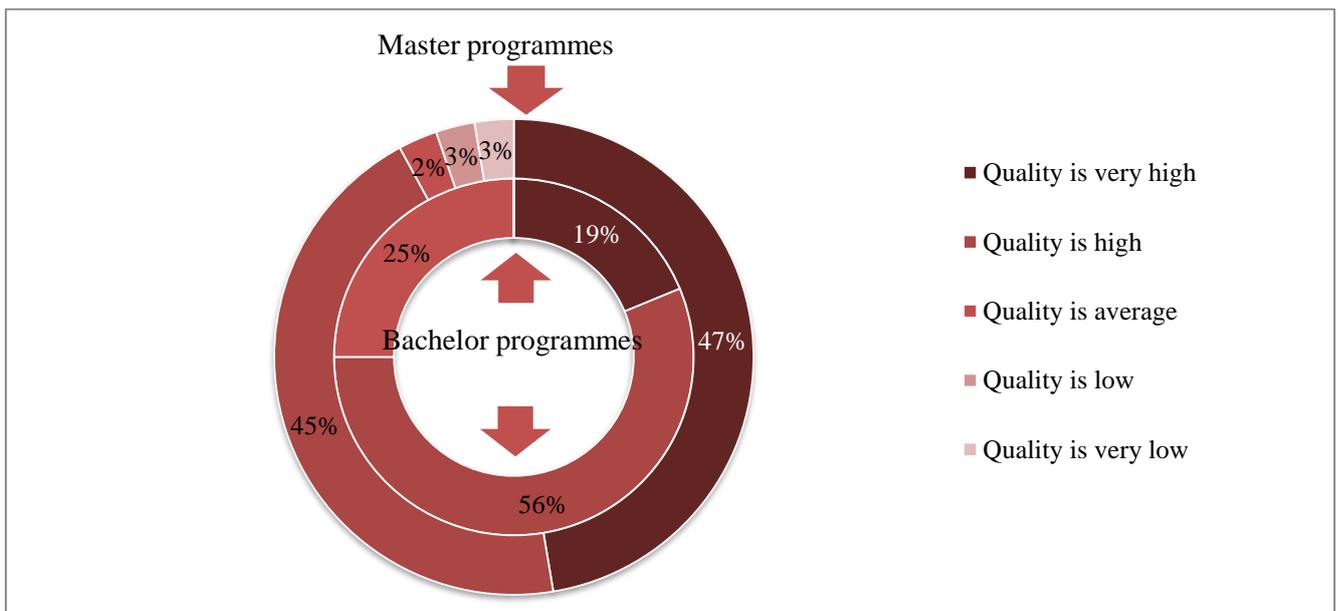


Fig. 3 Answers to the question "Please evaluate the quality of the study programme"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

Next, respondents were asked (see Fig. 4) how long after graduation from RGS� they got a work. Most (58%) stated that they were already working during their studies. More than a fifth became employed within three months, with 7% of graduates saying they had a job in 4-6 months, with some saying it took them more than six months to find a work.

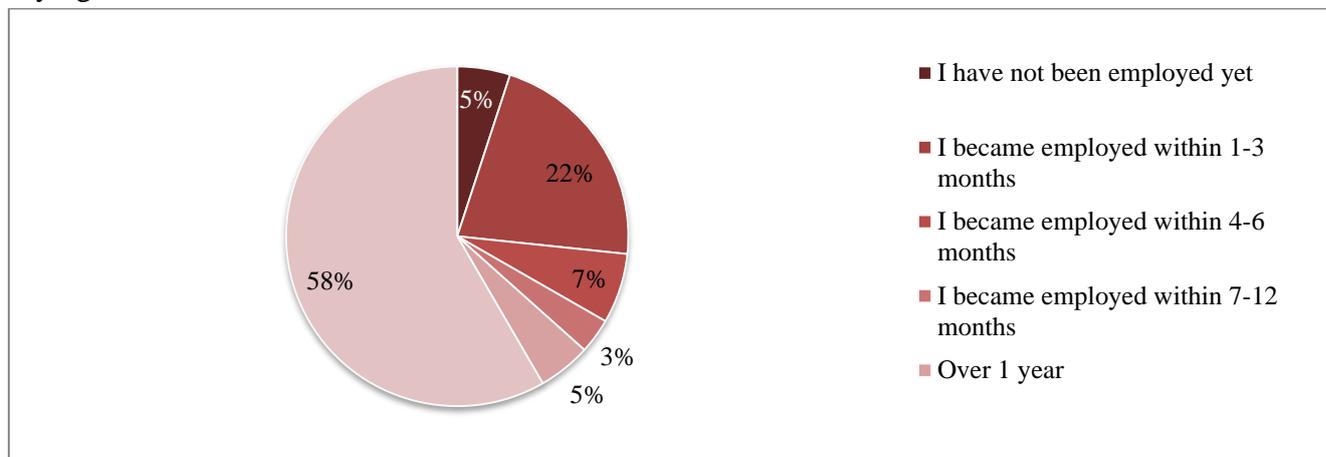


Fig. 4 Answers to the question "How long did you become an employee after graduating from RGS�?"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

The majority of RGS� graduates (74%) indicated that they work full time (see Fig. 5). The next most popular answer (10%) was that graduates work full time and continue their education.

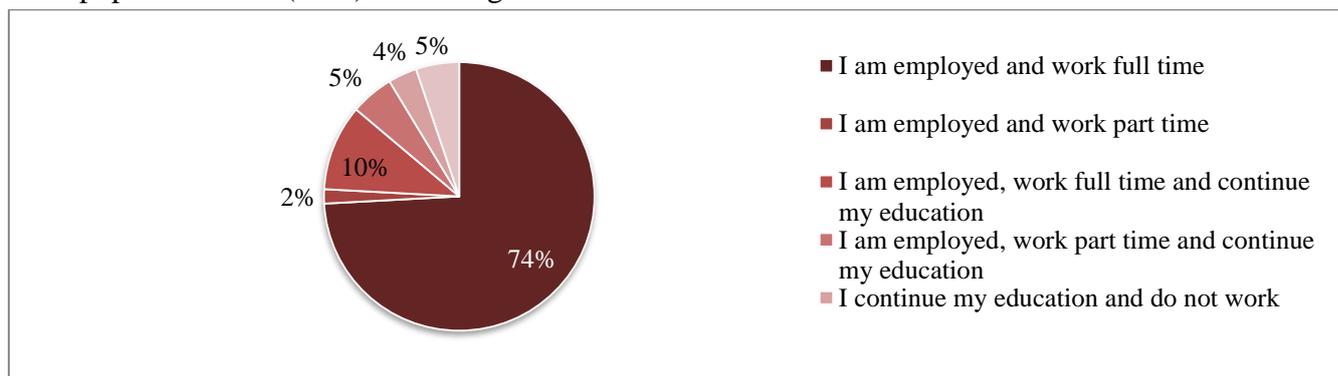


Fig. 5 Answers to the question "Please indicate your employment status"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

Graduates have indicated that they work as lawyers (most), project managers, business analysts, researchers, civil servants, consultants, data protection specialists. Many graduates have indicated that they also hold senior positions such as running their own companies, being heads of departments, and working in international organizations. About a third of graduates are employed in the service sector, a fifth work in public administration, 15% in a research organization, just as much in the ICT sector. Other graduates have referred to another sector of the economy (financial sector, construction, education, etc.). It should be noted that about a fifth of graduates have started their own business, while about 15% are planning to start their own business in the near future.

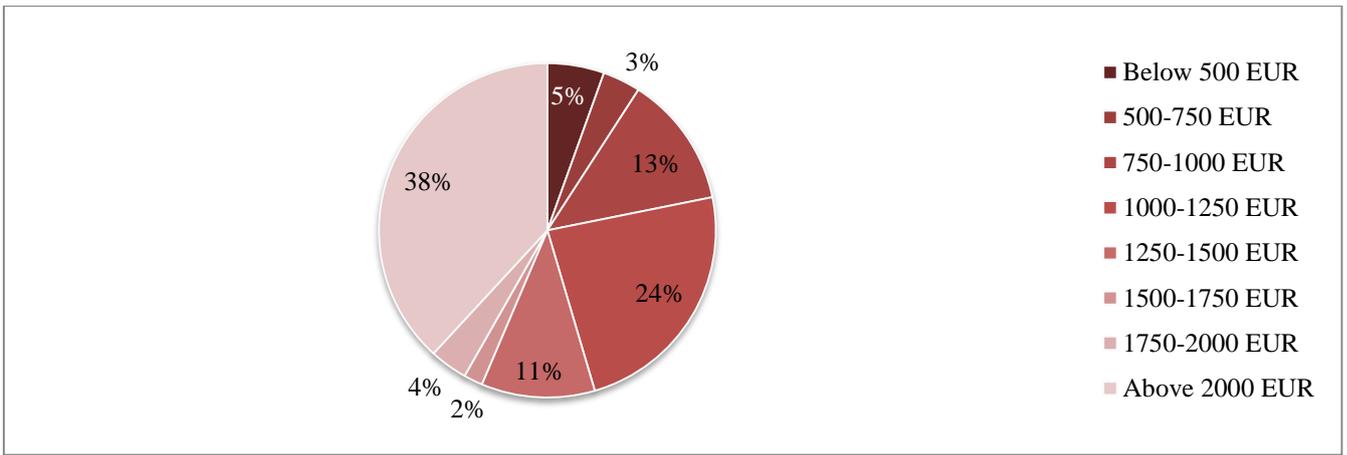


Fig. 6 Answers to the Question "What is your average monthly income after tax?"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

When it comes to graduates' salaries (see Fig. 6), most (38%) receive more than EUR 2,000 a month after taxes. Next most popular income level: 1000-1250 EUR. It should be noted that the survey was conducted by both undergraduate and graduate graduates over the last six years, and thus income levels vary. Those who have graduated from RGSL Master's programmes earn over 2000 EUR per month after taxes.

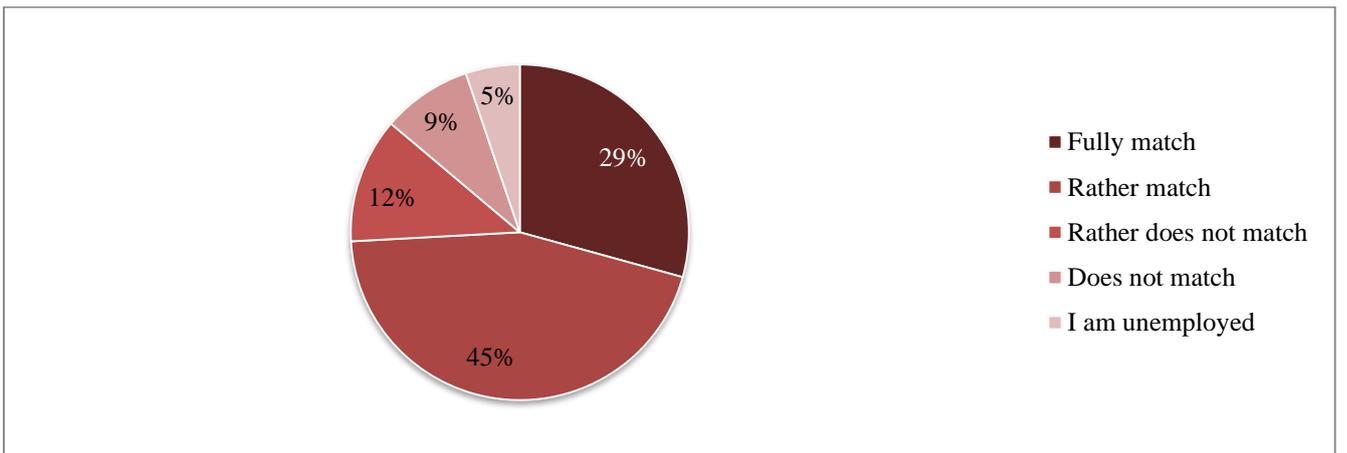


Fig. 7 Answers to the question "Does your current job match your education at RGSL?"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

The graduates were further asked if their current work corresponds to their education (see Fig. 7). 29% of graduates said that their current work is fully in line with their education at RGSL, with about half indicating that their work is more likely to match their education. Some graduates indicated, however, that their work tended not to match (12%) or completely match (9%) their education.

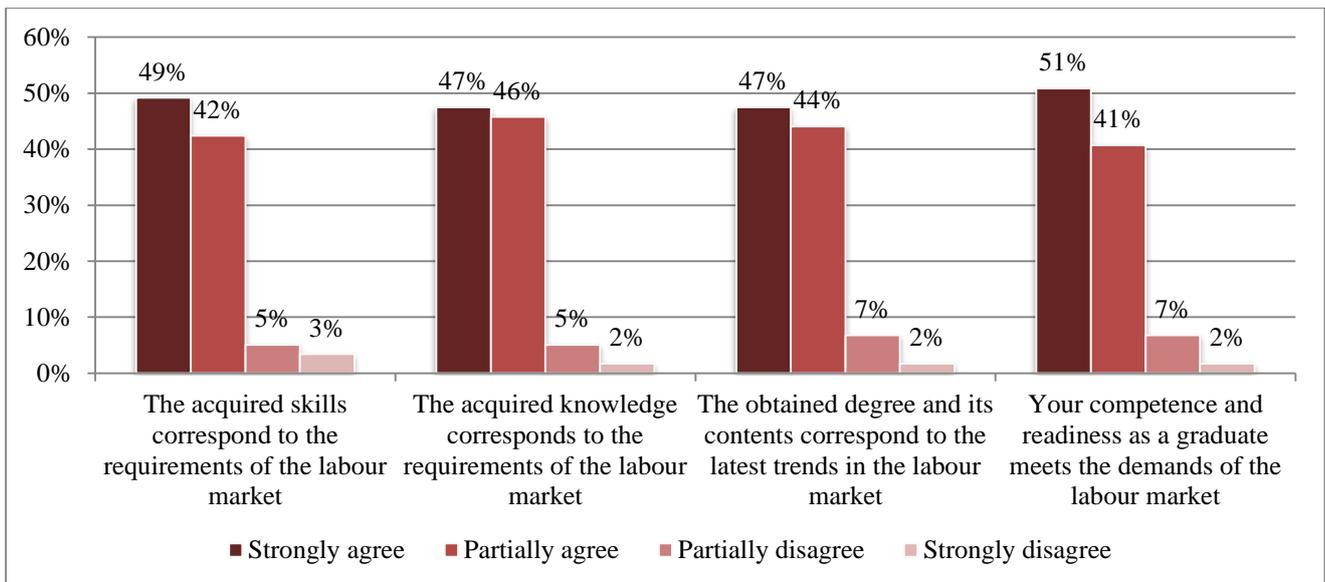


Fig. 8 Answers to the question "Please evaluate the claims about the RGSL education in line with labour market trends"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

RGSL graduates also appreciated the compliance of RGSL education with the requirements of the labour market (see Fig. 8). Almost all graduates stated that the acquired skills, knowledge, competences and degree corresponded to the requirements of the labour market.

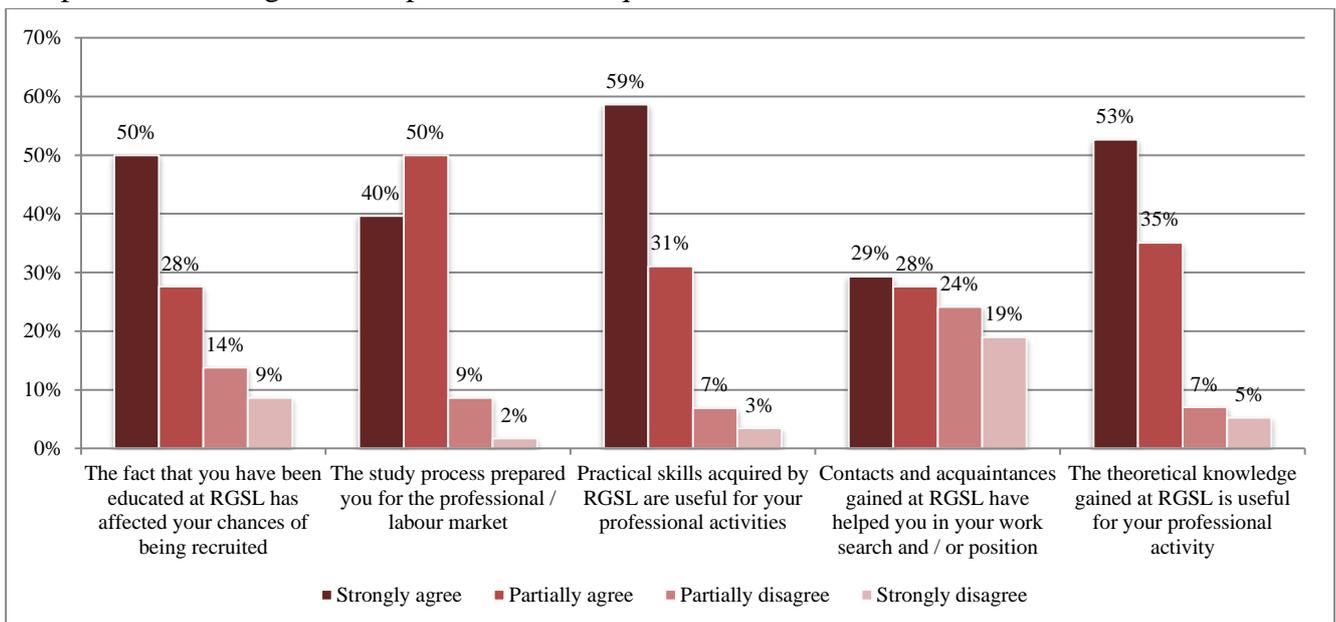


Fig. 9 Answers to the question "Evaluating statements in the context of your most recent position"

Number of respondents: 60, research period: October 2019

The graduates also admitted that the fact that they had been educated at RGSL had an impact on the chances of being recruited for an existing work. The study process has also prepared the graduates for the labour market, providing the necessary practical skills, contacts, as well as theoretical knowledge (see Fig. 9). The graduates suggested that in order to better prepare students for the labour market requirements, RGSL should focus more on improving ICT skills, introduce compulsory practice, involve RGSL graduates in the study process (lectures, seminars, organisation of events), as

well as for a career in Latvia). It was also recommended to include topical issues in the study process in the form of elective courses.