

The transition from studying to working in Denmark among international graduates

This executive summary shows the percentage of international students graduating between 2003 and 2007 still living in Denmark and having entered the Danish labour market one year after graduation.

The complete analysis (in Danish) can be downloaded here:

[www.iu.dk/filer/markedsoering/Internationale dimittenders efterfoelgende beskaeftigelse i Danmark.pdf](http://www.iu.dk/filer/markedsoering/Internationale_dimittenders_etterfoelgende_beskaeftigelse_i_Danmark.pdf)

About the data used in the analysis

The data used in the analysis have been collected by Statistics Denmark and have been extracted by the Danish University and Property Agency. The definition of international students and the delimitations applied in the analysis are identical to those used in the annual report 'Mobility Statistics for Higher Education', published by the Danish Agency for International Education at www.en.iu.dk/statistics. The definition of international students in the mobility report is in accordance with the definition applied by the OECD. The analysis only includes international students who have graduated at the ISCED levels 5A and 5B.

How many international students continue to live in Denmark after graduating?

This section analyses the migration status of international students graduating between 2003 to 2007 one year after graduation. Figure 1 shows that an increasing share of international graduates continued to live in Denmark one year after graduation. While 45 % of the international graduates from the class of 2003 were still living in Denmark one year after graduation, 54 % of the international graduates from the class of 2007 were doing so in 2008. On average, 50% of the international graduates were still living in Denmark one year after graduation in the five year period.

Of the international graduates who continued to live in Denmark, an increasing share entered the Danish labour market. Of the international graduates from the class of 2003 who stayed in Denmark, 71 % had found employment the following year. In 2008, this percentage had risen to 73 %. On average three of four international graduates who continued to live in Denmark had entered the Danish labour market one year after graduation in the five year period.

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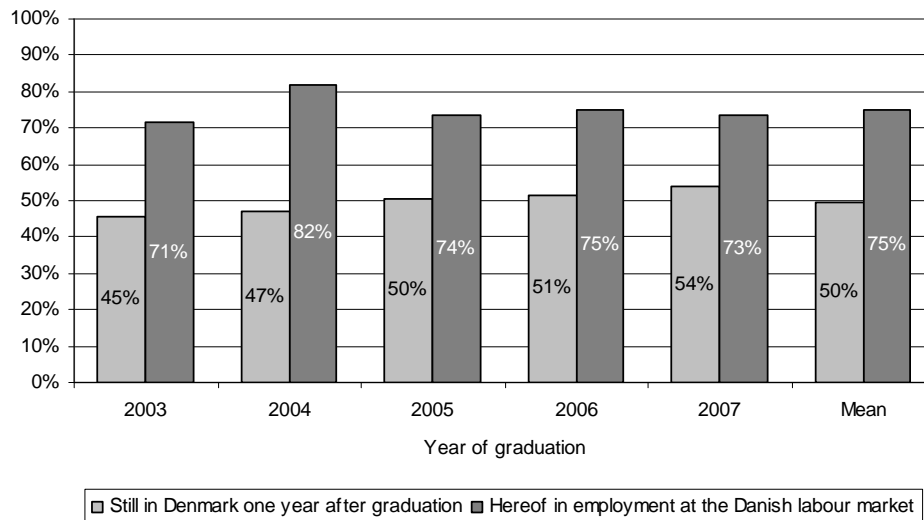
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Figure 1 – The status of international students graduating between 2003 and 2007 one year after graduation.



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Who continues to live in Denmark?

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This section analyses the migration status of the international students graduating between 2003 and 2007 one year after graduation, divided by field of study (Natural sciences, Engineering, Health sciences, Social sciences and the Humanities and arts) and region of origin (Nordic, EU/EEA and Non-EU/EEA).¹

Table 1 shows that graduates in health sciences and the social sciences were the most likely to have left Denmark in the five year period. 43 % of the graduates in health sciences and 46 % of graduates in the social sciences had on average left Denmark the following year. The graduates within the natural sciences were the most likely to continue living in Denmark one year after graduation. On average 59 % of these graduates stayed in the five year period.

The graduates within the health sciences achieved, on the other hand, the highest average employment rate in the five year period. 96 % of the graduates within the health sciences who continued to live in Denmark had entered the Danish labour market. The graduates within the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities and arts all achieved average employment rates between 73 % and 79 %. The graduates within engineering achieved the lowest average employment rate of all groups with 64 % having entered the Danish labour market in the five year period.

¹ Read more on the Danish immigration rules here: www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming_to_dk/work/work.htm.

Table 1 – The status of international students graduating between 2003 and 2007 one year after graduation, divided by field of study. In percentage.

	Year of graduation					Mean
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
The natural sciences: Still in Denmark	57	57	66	58	56	59
<i>The natural sciences: Hereof in employment</i>	69	85	79	78	83	79
Engineering: Still in Denmark	55	39	48	54	61	52
<i>Engineering: Hereof in employment</i>	50	73	61	71	66	64
The health sciences: Still in Denmark	31	55	42	44	44	43
<i>The health sciences: Hereof in employment</i>	93	99	96	95	96	96
The social sciences: Still in Denmark	42	48	45	45	51	46
<i>The social sciences: Hereof in employment</i>	80	78	73	67	68	73
The humanities and arts: Still in Denmark	48	46	60	57	51	52
<i>The humanities and arts: Hereof in employment</i>	81	84	72	77	73	77

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Table 2 shows that in the five year period, the Nordic graduates were more likely to leave Denmark upon graduation compared to their non-Nordic counterparts. On average 38 % of the Nordic graduates were still living in Denmark one year after graduating, compared to around 60 % among the non-Nordic graduates. However, the Nordic graduates who stayed achieved the highest average employment rates of all groups with 88 % having entered the Danish labour market. The EU/ EEA-students achieved the lowest average employment rate at 63 %.

Table 2 – The status of international students graduating between 2003 and 2007 one year after graduation, divided by region of origin. In percentage.

	Year of graduation					Mean
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Nordic: Still in Denmark	37	37	38	38	38	38
<i>Nordic: Hereof in employment</i>	83	93	85	88	89	88
EU/EEA: Still in Denmark	61	54	60	62	64	60
<i>EU/EEA: Hereof in employment</i>	49	79	61	65	62	63
Non-EU/EEA: Still in Denmark	56	60	64	61	66	61
<i>Non-EU/EEA: Hereof in employment</i>	69	72	70	71	68	70