



The third year experience in the Faculty of Science

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What prompted the work?

- Personal and anecdotal evidence
 - Students unprepared for transition from 2nd to 3rd year
 - Students not making the connections between modules
- Lecturers expectations
 - Based on own experiences of higher education
 - Based on own experiences of secondary education
 - 'Built-in' part of the job



Our response

- Quick questionnaire
- Prior to end of Semester 1

- 10 questions
- 1 double sided A4
- Many 'Yes' or 'No' responses
- Quick to complete (limited interference with taught module)



What did we ask?

- The 3rd year
 - As expected?
 - How prepared were they for the 3rd year?
 - How could the transition be made easier?
- Their view of the modular degree system
- Their future career goals
 - CV/transferable skills?
- Part time work and hours?
- Part-time study

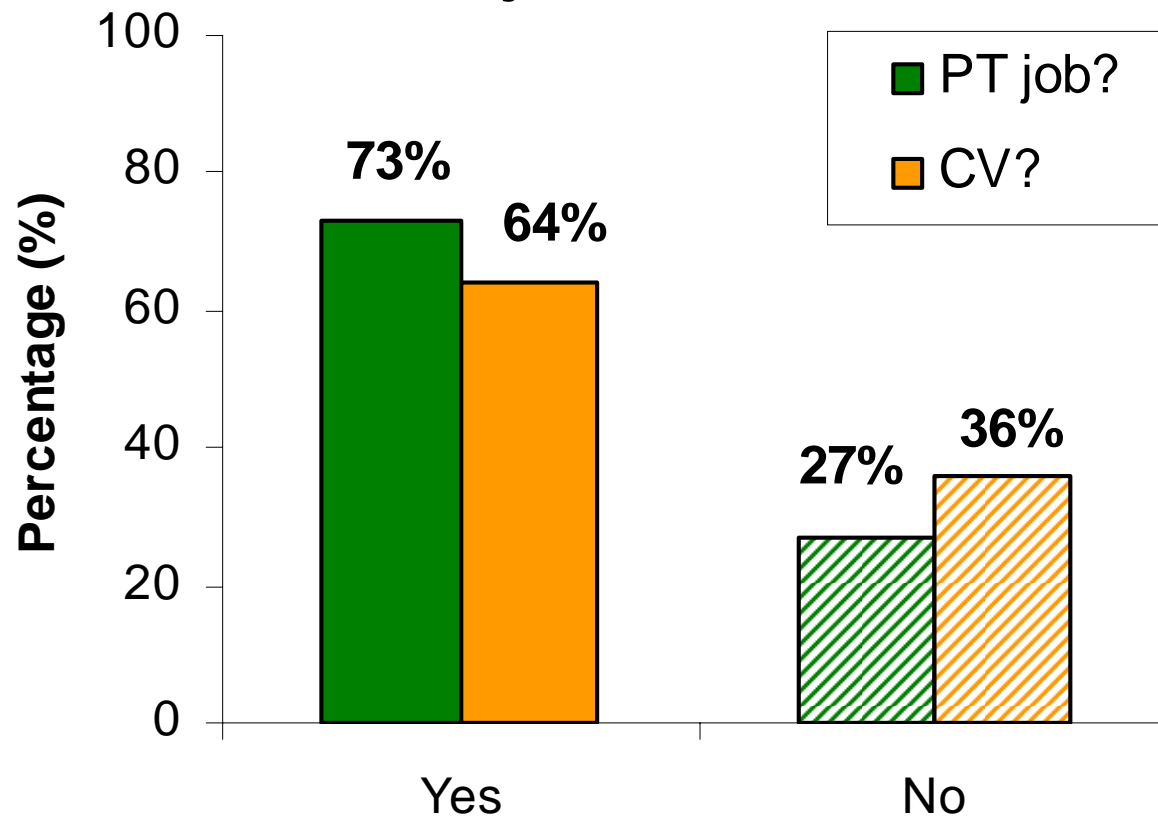


To Whom?

- 4 cohorts
 - 94 Life Science students (mainly Biomedical Scientists)
 - 12 Pharmacologists
 - 14 Sport Scientists
 - 50 Chemists
- Total of 170 students out of 207 responded (2 Schools within the Faculty)
- Penultimate week Semester 1
- Inducements!

Major findings and implications 1

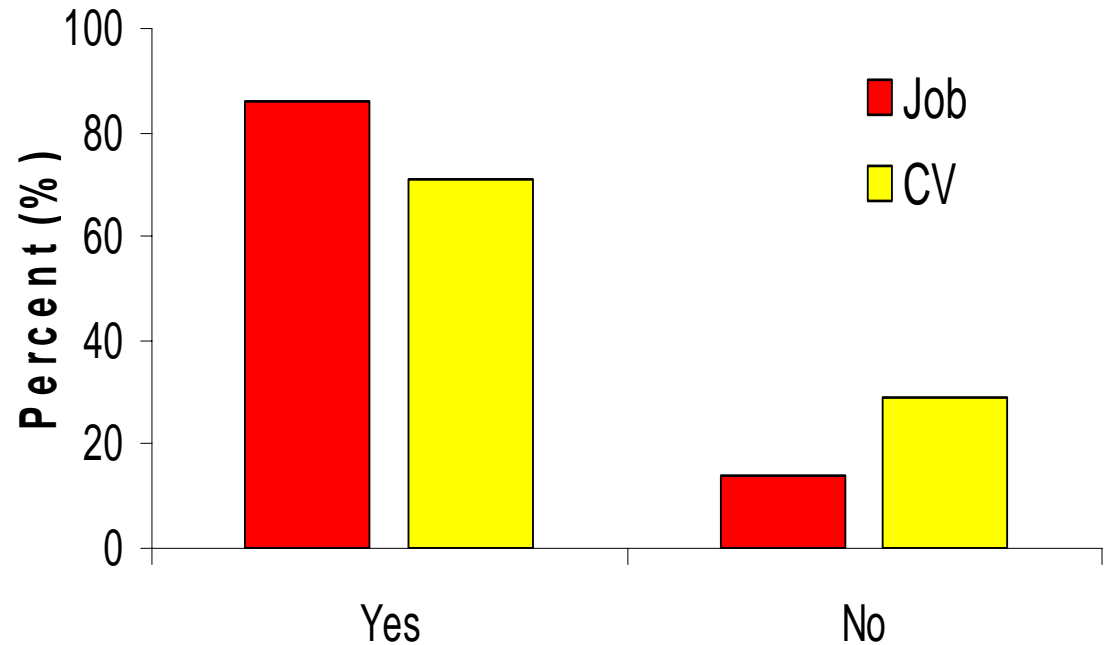
Life Scientists with part time job/CV?



Major findings and implications 2

Sports Science

- 14 / 45 completed the questionnaire
- 86% working
- 71% with CV





Two remaining groups

- Good level of students with CV prepared (70%+)
- Pharmacologists (12)
 - 16% Pharmacologists work
- Chemists (50)
 - 69% of Chemistry undergrads work



Transferable skills and University

- Did they know what these were?
- Did they have any/expect to gain any through studies?
 - BS - 94% said YES
 - SS – 84% said YES
- If so – what were they?
 - Lab skills
 - Time management
 - **Communication – no specifics**
 - Organisation
 - Team work
 - Scientific writing
 - Subject knowledge



“Back to the Future”

- Degree class attained will be mapped against hours worked.
 - Assess the impact of jobs on undergraduate performance or progression
- Presentation skills, especially oral presentations, introduced earlier in the degree programmes?
 - Pharmacologists