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## Summary of Results

Simon Fraser University's Office of Graduate Studies conducted a survey to investigate how alumni felt about their SFU graduate student experience. Participants were asked about their satisfaction at SFU, their experiences, the value of their SFU degree, their employment, and their involvement with SFU since graduating.

The survey was administered to all 763 SFU graduate student alumni whose convocation was held in June 2012 and all 500 SFU graduate student alumni whose convocation was held in October 2012. The survey was administered to each group six months after graduation. In all, 460 students participated in the surveys, yielding an overall response rate of 36.4%. Statistics provided below are estimates based on survey respondents, assuming that the sample is representative proportions calculated on all respondents are accurate within  $\pm 3.7\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

### Highlights

#### *Overall Graduate Experience*

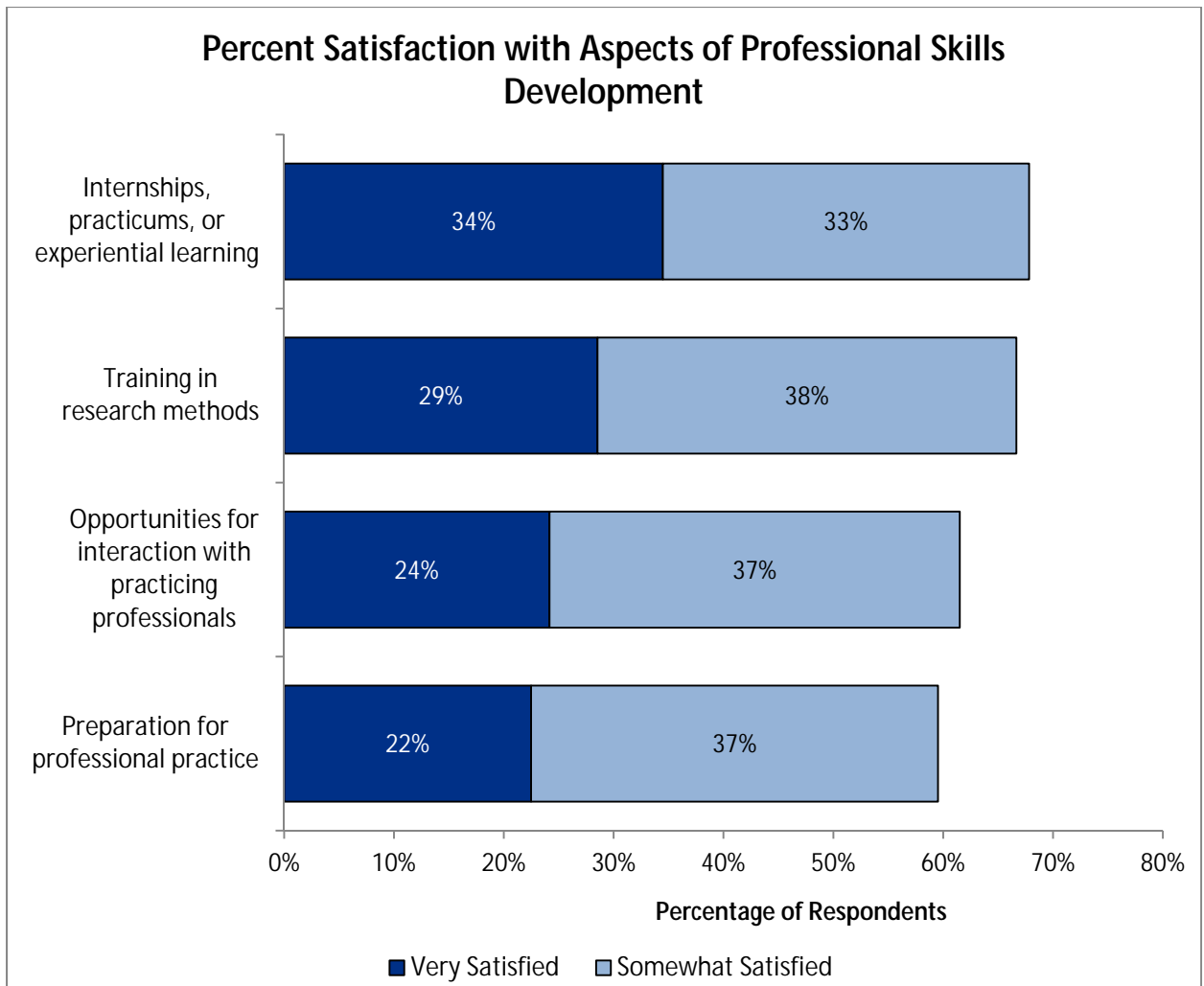
- 91% of respondents are satisfied with the knowledge they acquired in their graduate program.

- Over 70% of respondents would recommend SFU and/or their program.

- 93% of respondents are satisfied that SFU faculty members are knowledgeable; and 86% are satisfied with the quality of instruction they received.
- 82% of respondents are satisfied with their Faculty supervisor.
- 79% of respondents are satisfied with how relevant the content of their program is to their professional goals; while 55% are satisfied with SFU support for professional career development.
- 84-85% of respondents are satisfied with their academic experience and their overall program.

### *Satisfaction with Professional Skills Development*

- 60-68% of respondents are satisfied with various aspects of professional skills development at SFU.



### *Familiarity with University Regulations and Expectations*

- 76-84% of respondents knew and understood SFU's graduate regulations relating to their credential, and their department's and supervisor's expectations for graduate students.



### *Value of SFU Graduate Experience*

Participants were asked to rate (on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is “Not at All” and 7 is “To a Great Extent”) the extent to which they valued various aspects of their SFU graduate experience. The results are as follows:

- 71% of respondents felt their graduate experience was worth the financial investment required (gave a score above the midpoint), while about 17% felt it was not worth it (gave a score below the midpoint).
- 75% of respondents felt their graduate experience was worth the time they invested, while 15% felt it was not worth it.
- 53% of respondents felt the training they received at SFU resulted in them obtaining their current job, while 40% did not feel this way (27% felt that their training did not at all result in them obtaining their current job).
- 65% of respondents felt an SFU graduate degree prepared them well for their future career aspirations, while 22% did not feel this way.
- About 52% of respondents felt they have developed a personal attachment to SFU, while 33% felt they have not.

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Aspect	7 – To a Great Extent	6	5	4	3	2	1 - Not At All
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- Over 70% of respondents felt that Co-op, practicum, or internships, field research, and research with a faculty member were valuable in preparing them for employment.
- 55% of respondents felt that service learning or community based research was valuable in preparing them for employment.
- Among respondents, 21-30% used career services (30%), the Teaching and Learning Centre (21%), and the Dean of

- 20% of respondents are currently pursuing a further academic degree or post-doctorate fellowship. Of these respondents:
  - About 45% are pursuing a doctoral degree,
  - 35% are doing post-doctorate research,
  - 10% are pursuing a master's degree,
  - 5% are pursuing a professional degree, and
  - 6% indicated "Other" including applying for PhD programs and looking for post-doctorate work
- Of the 80% of respondents who are not currently pursuing a further degree or post-doctorate fellowship:
  - 78% are not pursuing a designation, certificate, or qualification,
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- Participants were asked what their top three sources of financial support were during their SFU graduate program. The results are as follows:
  - Top source: 19% of respondents chose "Employment (other than research assistant, teaching assistant, etc.)", 15% chose "Personal savings", and 13% chose "Canadian research grant".
  - Second source: 18% of respondents chose "Personal savings", 16% chose "Teaching assistantship", and 13% chose "Employment (other than research assistant, teaching assistant, etc.)".
  - Third source: 17% of respondents chose "University funded award", 14% chose "Personal savings", and 14% chose "Teaching assistantship".

### *Alumni Engagement*

- 90% of respondents have received SFU newsletters and other information (i.e. SFU has their current contact information.)
- 21% of respondents have attended SFU events, such as SFU Open House or Diwali.
- 18% of respondents indicated that they are a registered user of the online Alumni Directory.