

always give any graduates an advantage over other candidates in any interview. Recruiters can assess how candidates work by their appearance and attire. Many graduates when coming to the interview for work don't pay attention to their clothes with the result that they look untidy and less attractive in the eyes of recruiters and they may be seen as incautious about their jobs. In my opinion, graduates should improve their communicative skills and appearance in order to persuade recruiters at the first glance.

- Working experience: Working experience mentioned here is not necessarily of the stock trading business, it may be in other related fields. For example, when recruiting employees for listing management department we will pay attention to candidates who have some experience of auditing because main tasks of the department are about analyses of financial statement. Experience of auditing can help them fulfill their jobs better and save us from giving extra training courses to them. However, it is only an advantage, not a requirement, for them.

3. Some measures

The following are some suggested measures to link the theoretical knowledge supplied by universities with specific jobs:

(1) Universities had better cooperate with the HSE and stock brokerage firms to provide students with chance to practice their skills, and work out a specific plan for this cooperation. At the beginning of the school year, universities can make a survey of need for practice among students and send results of the survey to the HSE and stock firms. Practicing can help students accumulate practical experience and demonstrate their ability to potential recruiters because we are continuously looking for competent laborers and ready to offer jobs to good students.

(2) Universities can cooperate with the HSE and its affiliates to train the students in practical skills by inviting our experts to give lectures to students in classes of stock exchange. To carry out this plan, universities must cooperate more closely to work out a timetable for these experts with a view of avoiding bad effects on their regular jobs.

(3) Universities can encourage students to take part in virtual stock exchanges and securities studies clubs. At present, the Faculty of Banking (HCMC National University) has opened a virtual stock exchange and attracted a lot of students. Universities can also organize contest of knowledge of Vietnamese and foreign stock exchanges in order to provide them with more practical knowledge needed for their future jobs. ■

Ability to get Employed of Graduates from the University of Economics – HCMC

by PHẠM THỊ DIỄM

Assessment of the quality of education service has been considered in Vietnam in recent years as an important tool of improving performance of universities. The University of Economics – HCMC, like other universities and colleges, is trying to implement the assessment of its service quality and work out criteria and processes for this task. The UEH is carrying out the assessing process suggested by the Ministry of Education and Training with a view to meet the need for educational reform by learners and recruiters of organizations. This is also a precondition for integrating into the international and regional markets for education services.

To gather full and timely information about employment of UEH graduates during first years after their graduation, the UEH conducted surveys of graduates in the years 2002-2006. Information gathered and experience gained by graduates in their first years in the labor market, the UEH can accumulate a source and valuable information about graduates' ability to get employed. Moreover, analyses of data from the surveys can help the UEH assess suitability of curricula for the market demand, practical knowledge of students, percentage of graduates getting employed in one year after their graduation, percentage of graduates whose jobs are appropriate to their training, and percentage of graduates who get jobs in their home province, etc. These facts help the UEH revise, adjust and enhance contents of the curricula, make plan to increase hours for practice, adopt new teaching methods, and link theoretical and practical knowledge in order to produce graduates with high ability to adapt to changing requirements in the labor market and develop relations between the UEH and recruiters.

The UEH conducted surveys of 50% of graduates in the years 2002-2005 according to guidelines of the Higher Education Project. The survey aimed at gathering personal information of graduates; their financial situation in the years before graduation; extra training courses after graduation; their financial situation after their graduation; features of their first jobs and their current jobs; and usefulness of the UEH training program to their current jobs, etc.

The survey comprises four stages of close relations and equal importance:

- Stage 1: Preparations for the survey
- Stage 2: implementation of the survey.
- Stage 3: Data processing.
- Stage 4: Analyzing data and making reports.

contents, teaching methods, testing and assessing processes, has been improved continuously with the result that over 99% of graduates got employed within six months after their graduation. This is a promising sign for the UEH, the education service, and the whole society as well.

Table 1: Employment of graduates

Indicator	Year of graduation			
	2003	2004	2005	2006
Getting employed right after graduation	55.10	53.75	56.49	64.91
Getting employed in 12 months after graduation	94.40	91.89	90.53	93.87
Getting employed in 6 months after graduation	83.20	92.10	94.70	99.40
Getting suitable jobs in 12 months after graduation	99.20	98.80	97.80	99.70
Getting unsuitable jobs	1.80	2.20	3.20	1.30

Source: Subcommittee for Higher Education Project (up to June 2006)

In 2002, 3,430 out of students graduated, or 72.56%, from the UEH. These figures were 2,858 (62.78%) in 2003; 1,671 (42.98%) in 2004; and 2,996 (71.95%) in 2005. The UEH admits from 4,500 to 5,000 students every year. The decreasing number of graduates shows that the quality of graduates has been controlled and assessed more strictly. The survey also shows that a high percentage of graduates have found employment and they have been appreciated by recruiters. In 2002, 55.3% of graduates could get employed within one month after their graduation. In 2006, the situation looked more encouraging when 64.91% of graduates got employed right after the graduation because the market demand rose high. In a year after graduation, most graduates (93.87%) find their jobs. This means that their ability to get job was well improved. In addition, the quality of training program in terms of

The poll of the quality of UEH training program conducted among graduates shows that 88% of them though they were provided with necessary knowledge and practical skills for their suitable jobs, and 12% said they gained part of these skills and knowledge (source: UEH Examination and

Quality Test Department, 2006). In 2005, 30.91% of graduates found jobs in the public sector; 43.17% in the private sector; 16.15% in the foreign sector; 2.23% in cooperatives and the rest in family or personal businesses.

The survey of employment prospects among graduates brings about reliable, useful and specific information that helps improve the quality of UEH training program. The survey is also a channel for feedback from graduates on the training program, necessary knowledge and practical skills to be added to the program, fields to be expanded and their willingness to cooperate with the UEH in give practical courses to younger students. Minute analyses of data provided through 33 questions given by the survey will provide a basis for a plan to set annual target for the UEH, adjust structure of faculties and their training targets, improve the service quality, and standardize the training program with a view to keeping abreast with universities in the region.

In the age of information technology and knowledge-based economy, the service quality of a university is not limited to the number of graduates, facilities for teaching and studying, the teaching staff and training activities. The quality also reflects itself in the graduates' ability to adapt to requirements of the labor market and succeed in their career, percentage of graduates who get employed, their knowledge and practical skills, their positions in their workplace. In short, result of the training process reflects in the graduates' career, therefore cooperative relation and information exchange between universities and recruiters are of great importance. This relation must be beefed up regularly in order to enhance the service quality and making graduates able to meet increasingly high requirements of the labor market. ■

