Recent Geoscience Graduate Employment during the Pandemic, August 2020

As of August 2020, 94% of geoscience graduates who earned their degree between 2014-2018 were employed, while 77% of graduates from 2019 and 44% of graduates from 2020 reported the same. For geoscience graduates who earned their degree this year, 16% of bachelor’s, 57% of master’s, and 91% of doctorates have secured employment.

Recent geoscience doctorates were employed as academic faculty, post-doctoral fellows or non-academic geoscientists, and the majority of master’s and bachelor’s graduates were employed as non-academic geoscientists. Only 1% of employed recent geoscience graduates lost their job since February 2020.
Recent geoscience graduates who were employed in non-academic geoscience occupations were predominantly employed as geoscientists, geoscience managers, geoscience technicians, or geoscience engineers. Other non-academic occupations reported by geoscientists included computer software and support, industrial engineering, educational and library operations, policy analyst positions, administrative support, agriculture, and construction occupations.

![Non-academic occupations of recent geoscience graduates](Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey)

**Unemployed recent graduates**

While 56% of geoscience graduates who earned their degree in 2020 reported being unemployed, only 21% of graduates who earned their degree in 2019 and 6% of graduates who earned their degree between 2014 and 2018 reported the same (see Figure 2). By degree level, a higher percentage of bachelor’s graduates (40%) reported being unemployed than those with master's degrees (14%) or doctorates (2%).

Unemployed recent graduates are predominantly seeking employment in the geosciences (77%), and just over half are also seeking employment outside of the geosciences. The most common reasons for seeking employment outside of the geosciences included a lack of job opportunities within the geosciences and not having adequate training or skills for available geoscience jobs. Other reasons mentioned included not having the educational prerequisites for available geoscience jobs, better opportunities in another field, an inability to change location to take a geoscience job, and a loss of interest in working within the geosciences.

![Job seeking activity of unemployed recent geoscience graduates](Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey)

We will continue to provide current snapshots on the impacts of COVID-19 on the geoscience enterprise throughout the year. For more information, and to participate in the study, please visit: [www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/covid19](http://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/covid19)

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