

# MSc Logic Alumni Survey 2013

This document reports on a survey amongst graduates of the MSc Logic programme offered by the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC) at the University of Amsterdam. In February 2013, 135 MSc Logic graduates from the years 2005 to 2012 (all those graduates for which the programme management still had a working email address) were invited to fill in an online questionnaire. After three weeks, 73 alumni had completed the survey (that is, the response rate was 54%).

This survey was carried out and its findings were summarised by Guusje Smit, on behalf of the Education Service Centre at the University of Amsterdam's Faculty of Science.

## 1 Summary of Results

### 1.1 Rating of the Programme

Alumni rate the programme as high. The programme scores an average of 8.7 (on a scale from 1 to 10). Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with certain statements concerning the programme. The respondents fully agreed most with the statement *“The scientific content of the programme was adequate”*. Also the statements *“The level of exposure to research was adequate”* and *“The programme had an adequate level of flexibility and choice”* the respondents mostly fully agreed with. On the statements *“The programme had an adequate level of internal cohesion”*, *“There were sufficient opportunities to practice working in a team with fellow students”*, and *“The programme offered adequate levels of feedback, guidance and supervision”* graduates responded mainly positively. And on the statement *“There was sufficient focus on the development of personal and professional skills”* the response is more negative than for the other statements, but the average is still positive.

50 respondents answered the questions *“If you were the programme director, what would you change?”* and *“what would you keep?”* This is 68% of the total respondents. The suggestions for change were mainly about topics such as lowering the workload for students, improving cohesion between different parts of the programme, adding courses in specific areas (particularly mathematical logic, philosophy, and computer science), and providing additional training for soft skills, including preparation for the academic and the non-academic job market. And the things they would keep: the freedom and flexibility within the programme, the interdisciplinary character of the programme, the excellent teaching staff, the projects and the connection with research, and the MoL Room.

### 1.2 Employment Opportunities

Alumni rate the employment opportunities after graduation as high. The average score is 7.8. It did not take them long to get a job after graduation. More than half of the respondents got a job in less than a month. The most popular first job is a PhD position. The main fields of PhD's are Computer Science, Logic, and Philosophy. If people changed jobs, then they often chose a career in Science as well. Other jobs that were mentioned are: consultant, (highschool) teacher, and positions in the ICT industry.

The relevance of skills and knowledge gained during the MSc Logic is rated as 7.4 on average. As an explanation people point out the following reasons. A lot of the respondents who rated the relevance of skills and knowledge above average started a PhD in the area of their Master's thesis. The respondents who rated the relevance of skills and knowledge as average

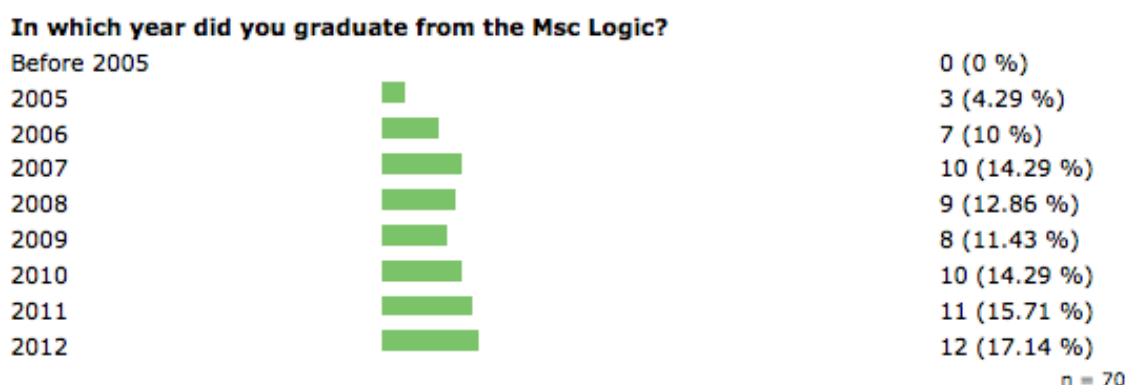
say that they used some of the skills, mostly analytical and theoretical skills, in their first job. Some people also pointed out that they still had to gain additional knowledge after graduation. When the relevance of skills and knowledge was rated below average it mainly had to do with the fact that the first job was not research-oriented, e.g., consultant or computer programmer.

### 1.3 Other Remarks

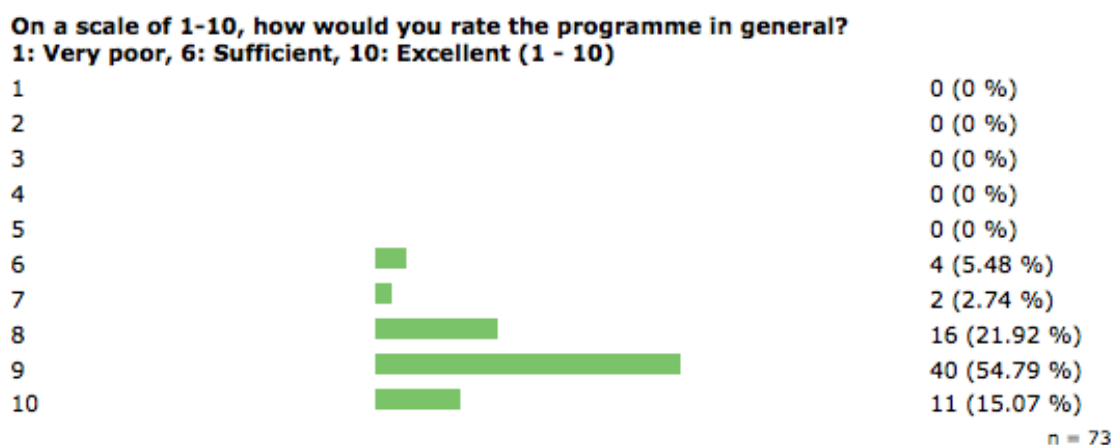
Most of the respondents stated that they stay in contact with fellow students (81%) as well as former teachers or supervisors (67%). In the commentary section the respondents mainly left very positive remarks about the programme.

## 2 Quantitative Results

### 2.1 Respondents



### 2.2 Rating of the Programme



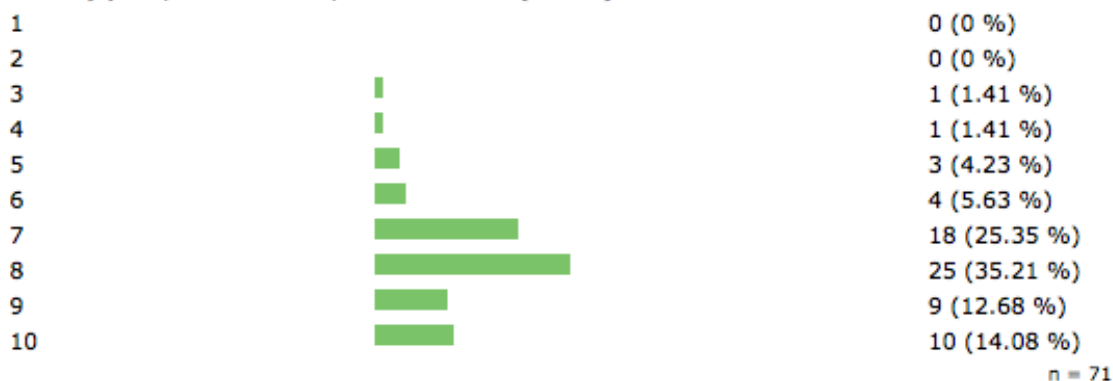
For each of the following statements, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree.

<i>n</i> = 73	fully disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	fully agree
The scientific content of the programme was adequate.	0	0	1	21	51
The level of exposure to research was adequate.	0	1	2	21	50
The programme had an adequate level of internal cohesion.	2	6	13	38	14
The programme had an adequate level of flexibility and choice.	0	1	5	22	45
There were sufficient opportunities to practice working in a team.	2	2	9	25	35
There was sufficient focus on the development of personal and professional skills.	3	9	18	28	15
The programme offered adequate levels of feedback, guidance and supervision.	0	5	13	26	29

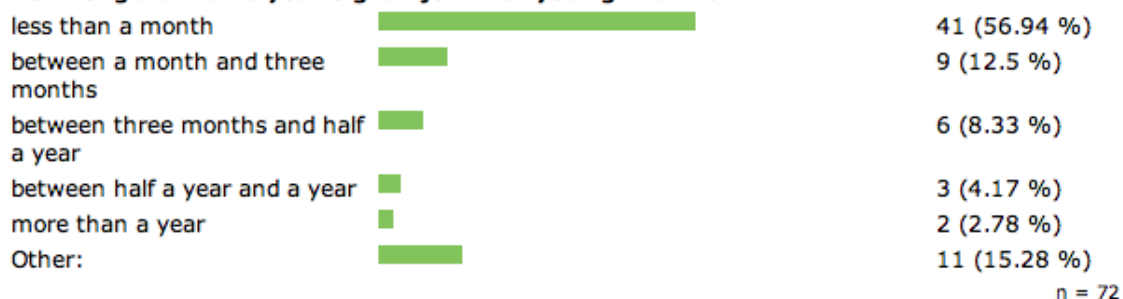
## 2.3 Employment Opportunities

**On a scale of 1-10, how do you rate the employment opportunities after grad...**

**1: Very poor, 6: Sufficient, 10: Excellent (1 - 10)**



**How long did it take you to get a job after your graduation?**



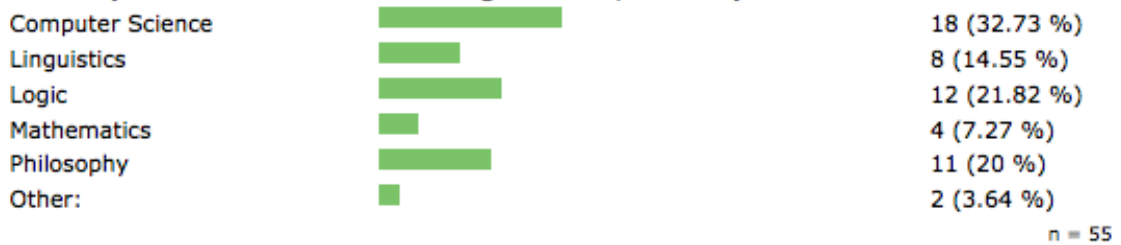
**What was your first job after graduation?**



Observe that the figures in the previous table add up to 76 (rather than 73), i.e., some respondents selected more than one category when answering.

As is clear from the next question about the main field of specialisation that alumni have started a PhD in, for some respondents the PhD was only the second job. Overall, 55 out of 73 respondents answered the next question, i.e., the overall proportion of alumni who started a PhD in this sample is 75%.

**In case you have started a PhD since graduation, what is your main field of...**



The two respondents who chose category *Other* stated their area of specialisation as Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science, respectively.

The final question under the heading of employment opportunities asks about the extent to which graduates have been able to use the knowledge and skills gained during their time in the MSc Logic in their professional life.

**How much did you use the knowledge and skills you gained during your time i...  
1: Very little, 6: Enough, 10: Very much (1 - 10)**

