



# Graduate Questionnaire

## Introduction:

Before the actual interview starts, the interviewer should always introduce him/herself and explain the objectives and the purpose of the interview to the respondent. He/She should further clarify that the participation in the survey is voluntary but highly appreciated because a high participation rate in the survey is crucial for the quality of the survey and for the future development and improvement of the VET programme under investigation. Finally, the participant should be informed about the total duration of the interview (about 30 to 45 minutes), the further use of the gathered data and be ensured that all the information will be treated confidentially.

Student Code/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Cohort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## A Training/Studies

**A 1 In which field/trade did you receive training?** Please choose only **one** answer.

<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

**A 2 Where do you currently live?**

The interviewer has to categorise the given answer into one of the three options below.

- Rural area                       Semi-urban/urban area                       Abroad

**A 3 What did you do before you started your studies/training at the (name of training institution)?**

Please choose only **one** answer. In case the graduate had several different occupations, choose the most important category.

- Wage employed/working  
 Self-employed (also in agriculture)  
 In education or professional training  
 Without employment (including household work, raising children, unable to work, illness, etc.)

**A 4 How important were the following reasons for your decision to study at the (name of training institution)?** The scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not at all important; 2 = not important; 3 = moderately important; 4 = important; 5 = very important.

Please read scale of answers out loud. For this type of question, a print out of the answer scale can be used as an auxiliary tool. If one of the reasons listed below does not apply to the respondent, please check "not at all important".

not at all important

1

2

3

4

5

very important

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Training centre is close to home of parents or other relatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Low/no tuition fee   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve my chances to find (self-)employment                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve my trade know-how                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve my income  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reputation of the school/training institution                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friends, relatives studying at the same training institution   |

Other important reason, please specify  \_\_\_\_\_

### A 5a Did you face any difficulties in going to the (name of training institution)?

 Give some examples from A 5b.

- Yes  No

### A 5b If yes, which was the most important difficulty? Please choose only **one** answer.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuition costs were high   | <input type="checkbox"/> Total training was too long                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family commitments  | <input type="checkbox"/> The training centre was far away/not easy to access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social pressure/traditional customs (gender, ethnicity, etc.)   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify  _____ |  |

### A 6 How did you get to know about this training/education programme?

 Please choose only **one** answer.

- Through friends/family members or acquaintances
- Through radio news/TV, newspaper, posters/leaflets
- Through internet
- Through former graduates
- Through trainers/teachers of the training institution
- Other

## B Retrospective evaluation of quality and relevance of studies and apprenticeship

### B 1 Retrospective evaluation of studies/training

 **Interviewer reads:** What do you think about your school/training centre?

**B 1.1 Were you satisfied with your training/studies?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not satisfied at all; 2 = not satisfied; 3 = moderately satisfied; 4 = satisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

 Please read scale of answers out loud.

not satisfied at all

☹

1

2

☺

3

4

very satisfied

☺

5

- Level of satisfaction

In case you were not/moderately satisfied (scales 1, 2 and 3), please specify why:

 \_\_\_\_\_



## B 2 Retrospective evaluation of apprenticeship

 **Interviewer reads:** *What do you think about your apprenticeship?*

**B 2.1 Were you satisfied with your apprenticeship?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not satisfied at all; 2 = not satisfied; 3 = moderately satisfied; 4 = satisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

 *Please read scale of answers out loud.*

not satisfied at all				very satisfied
☹		😊		😊
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Level of satisfaction

In case you were not/moderately satisfied (scales 1, 2 and 3) please specify why:



**B 2.2 The total duration of the apprenticeship was....**  *Please choose only one answer.*

<input type="checkbox"/> too long	<input type="checkbox"/> too short	<input type="checkbox"/> ideal
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If you found it too long or too short, please specify why:



**B 2.3 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = undecided; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree.

 *Please read scale of answers out loud.*

strongly disagree				strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>				

My work during the apprenticeship was interesting & diversified

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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My instructors were committed and competent in their field

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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I could take part in decision making about what I had to work on

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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I received support and supervision by the training institution

**B 2.4 How would you rate the working conditions you experienced during your apprenticeship?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = fair; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

 *Please read scale of answers out loud.*

very poor				very good
☹		😊		😊
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Working conditions (noise, dust, temperature, safety at work, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Tools, material & equipment

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Hygiene and sanitation facilities

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Number of working hours/day

<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Accommodation/food

**B 2.5 How long was the total duration of your apprenticeship?**

\_\_\_\_ No. of months

## B 3 Strengths and weaknesses/suggested improvements

### B 3.1 What did you like about your training/studies and what did you dislike?

Strengths (what I liked):

1. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_
2. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_
3. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_

Weaknesses  
(what I disliked):

1. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_
2. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_
3. ✎ \_\_\_\_\_

### B 3.2 Which key improvements or changes do you suggest?

Suggested improvements or changes e.g. to training methods, courses offered, apprenticeship, etc.:

✎ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## C Transition to employment

### C 1a Please indicate your employment situation in the period following graduation.

☞ Please check only **one** appropriate category for each three-month period after graduation of the respondent. If the respondent's employment situation changed during a three-month period or if the respondent was involved in different activities (e.g. studying and working), please check the most important category only. If the completion of the interviewed graduate's course of studies took place more than two years ago, please ignore the remaining months.

### C 1b Did you migrate abroad during the first two years after graduation?

☞ Please check the box if the graduate migrated abroad during the period indicated in the left column.

C 1a	Period after graduation	In (wage) employment	In self-employment	In training	Unemployed	C 1b	Migrated abroad
	1 <sup>st</sup> year						
	1-3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	4-6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	7-9 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	10-12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> year						
	1-3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	4-6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	7-9 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	10-12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

**C 2 How did you try to find the first job after graduation?** Please choose only **one** answer.

- I applied directly to an employer
- I was approached by an employer
- The school/training institution gave me assistance with finding a job
- I used personal connections/contacts (family/friends, acquaintances)
- I started or continued working in my own/parents' business or farm
- Other

**C 3 How long did it take for you to find your first employment/start your own business after completion of your training/studies?**

Please take also weeks into consideration, but write e.g. 0.25 month, 1.5 months, etc. Please check whether this answer corresponds to the answer given in C 1a.

\_\_\_\_\_ Duration of seeking (self-)employment (in months)

**C 4 In case you went to school/did a further training after graduation, what kind of training did you do and where did you study/do your training?**

This question only needs to be answered if graduate answered that he/she was 'in training' in question C 1a.

Type of training/studies \_\_\_\_\_

Name and place of training institution \_\_\_\_\_

**D Current activity**

**D 0 How do you characterize your current employment situation or activity? Are you...**

Please choose only **one** answer. In case the graduate has several different occupations, choose the most important category.

- wage employed? Please go to Section **D 1**
- self-employed (including working on own/family farm)? Please go to Section **D 3**
- in further professional training or academic studies? Please go to Section **D 3**
- without employment? Please go to Section **D 4**

**D 1 Wage employment & self-employment**

**D 1.1 Are you satisfied with your current occupation?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not satisfied at all; 2 = not satisfied; 3 = moderately satisfied; 4 = satisfied; 5 = very satisfied.

Please read scale of answers out loud.

not satisfied at all very satisfied  
    
1 2 3 4 5

Level of satisfaction

In case you are not/moderately satisfied (scales 1, 2 and 3) please specify why:

\_\_\_\_\_

### D 1.2 In which one of the following vocational fields are you currently employed/working?

 Please choose only **one** answer.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and forestry/fishery   | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, banking  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and construction trade  | <input type="checkbox"/> Health system and social work                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport  | <input type="checkbox"/> Textile & leather (knitting, weaving, tailoring, shoe making) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mining   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism (guide, agency, hotel, etc.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical trades (house wiring, motor rewinding)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade (wholesale and retail trade)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing (incl. handicraft, artwork)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair cutting, beautician                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical trades (metal work)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public and business administration   | <input type="checkbox"/> Non Governmental Organisation/Civil Society Organisation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance services (refrigeration repair, sewing machine repair, computer repair, village maintenance, etc.) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |  |

### D 1.3 Do you work full time?

- Yes, I am working full-time       No, I am working part-time

### D 1.4 Do you have any further part-time wage or self-employment?

- Yes       No

### D 1.5 How many hours per week are you working on average?

 Ask for the average working hours per day and then ask how many days per week the graduate is working.

(Working hours per week = No. of working hours per day \* No. of working days per week)

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of working hours per week for my primary occupation

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of working hours per week for my secondary occupation (second occupation, side jobs, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total working hours/week** (incl. self-employment)

### D 1.6 If you live abroad, do you send any money home?

 Please only ask if graduate currently lives abroad.

- Yes       No

 Continue with section **E** if graduate is in wage-employment

 Continue with section **D 2** if graduate is self-employed or works on his/her own or family farm

## D 2 Specific questions to self-employed graduates

 This section is only for graduates who are in self-employment or work on their own or family farm.

### D 2.1 How many people do you employ in your business/farm besides yourself?

\_\_\_\_\_ No. employees

### D 2.2a Did you start your business/farm independently or with a partner/your family?

- Independently       With a partner/my family

**D 2.2b Did you receive credit to start your business and if yes, how much credit did you receive?**

 Please indicate the amount that the graduate received. In case he/she did not get credit write 0.

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit (currency of the survey)

**D 2.3 Did you encounter any difficulties when starting your own business, farm and if yes, what was the main difficulty you encountered?**

 Please choose the most appropriate answer (only **one** answer allowed).

- No difficulties encountered
- Lack of educational background (including technical skills)
- Difficulty to get funding
- Lack of entrepreneurial skills
- Inadequate market conditions (high competition, low demand)
- Location of business not ideal
- Other

 Continue with section E.

**D 3 Further education**

**D 3.1 What are the (major) subject area(s) of your current studies/training?**

 \_\_\_\_\_

**D 3.2 Name and place of training institution/college/university**

 \_\_\_\_\_

**D 3.3 For what kind of degree are you currently studying?**  Please choose only **one** answer.

- Secondary school degree
- Vocational training degree
- University/college degree
- Other, please specify  \_\_\_\_\_

**D 3.4 What do you plan on doing after completion of your studies/training?**

 Please choose only **one** answer.

- Find a job in my home country
- Start my own business/farm in my home country
- Work for my parents' or relatives' farm/business
- Migrate abroad to find work
- Continue with my current job
- Family/household care
- Other

 Continue with section E.

## D 4 Unemployment

### D 4.1 What are the reasons for your current unemployment?

 Please select a **maximum of two** answers which are most appropriate.

- Job scarcity
- Lack of connectedness/contacts
- Lack of experience, qualifications, skills
- Lack of resources (e.g. financial input capital, tools) for self-employment
- Lack of confidence
- Political problems
- Engaged in child rearing or family/household care
- Social pressure/traditional customs
- Other

 Continue with section **E**.

## E Income from primary and secondary activities

### E 0 How high was your average monthly income before you started your training?

 If a pre-tracer study has been conducted, this question can be omitted and the answer can be taken from the pre-tracer study questionnaire.

 \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly net income (in currency of the survey)

### E 1 How much is your current monthly income? Please take into account the income from your main occupation and your secondary occupation (if any) and, if necessary, average the value from the last six months.

 If the graduate is wage-employed, he/she can tell or write down his/her net income to the interviewer. If the graduate is self-employed, the net income needs to be verified (a description how to verify the net income can be found in the instruction manual).

 Do not ask this question if graduate is currently unemployed, but write 0 into the box below.

 \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly net income (in currency of the survey)

### E 2 Do you get any additional payments in kind?

- Yes  No

### E 3 Do you receive any additional benefits? E.g. accommodation, food, health care, education for children, etc.

- Yes  No

### E 4a Have your living conditions improved, worsened or remained equal after completion of your studies/training?

 Please choose only **one** answer. The interviewer should give examples to the graduate about how his/her living conditions may have been improved. For example, ask whether they have purchased a motorcycle, bicycle, land, animals, radio, television, jewellery, etc.

- Improved  Worsened  No difference

**E 4b If your living conditions improved, did you acquire any of the following items?**

*Multiple response possible, maximum 6 answers.*

- Motorcycle/bicycle
- Land
- Animals
- Television/computer
- Tools and machinery
- Improvement of your house (tin roof, furniture, household appliances, etc.)
- Education for children
- Clothing, jewellery

**E 5a Who is the current main contributor to your household income?**

*Please choose only one answer.*

- Myself
- My spouse
- Other male household member
- Other female household member

**E 5b Who was the main contributor to your household income before your studies/training?**

*Please choose only one answer.*

- Myself
- My spouse
- Other male household member
- Other female household member

*For those respondents who are self-employed or wage employed, please continue with Section F.*

*For those respondents who are in further training or unemployed, please continue with Section G.*

**F Relationship between study/training and work**

*This section applies to both, employed and self-employed (including graduates working on their own, family farm).*

**F 1 Is your present job related to your training/studies at the (name of training institution)?**

- Yes
- No

**F 2a How important are the qualifications and skills you acquired during your training course/studies for your present job?** Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not at all important; 2 = not important; 3 = somewhat important; 4 = important; 5 = very important.

*Please read scale of answers out loud.*

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                   |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| not important<br>at all  |                          |                          |                          |                          | very<br>important |  |
| 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |                   | Practical vocational skills acquired during the training                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |                   | Theoretical vocational skills acquired during the training                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |                   | Entrepreneurial skills (how to run a business and to treat customers, marketing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |                   | Calculation/mathematics/accounting   |

**F 2b** When you look at your current professional tasks as a whole, to what extent do you use the qualifications and skills acquired during your course of studies? Scale of answers ranges between: 1 = not at all; 2 = barely; 3 = to some extent; 4 = to a high extent; 5 = to a very high extent.

*Please read scale of answers out loud.*

not at all					to a very high extent
1	2	3	4	5	
<input type="checkbox"/>					

**F 3** Have you passed on the knowledge and skills gained during your training/study course to family members, friends or other villagers?

Yes  No

**G Biographical data**

**G 1** What was your age at your last birthday?

*In case the interviewee has difficulties in answering this question, ask for the year of birth.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Age at last birthday

**G 2** What is your (permanent) contact address?

Street	_____	Number	_____
City/Town	_____	Zip Code	_____
District	_____		
Country	_____		
Phone/Email	_____		

**G 3** Where did you live before you started your training/studies?

*The interviewer has to categorise the given answer into one of the three options below.*

Rural area  Semi-urban/urban area  Abroad

**G 4** Gender *Do not ask!*

Male  Female

**G 5** What ethnic background do you have? *Please choose only one answer.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**G 6** What is the highest level of education you attained prior to your studies/training?

*Please choose only one answer.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Never been to school	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete secondary education
<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete primary education	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete secondary education
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete primary education	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational school or other higher education

**G 7 What is the highest level of education attained by your father?**

*Please choose only one answer.*

- Never been to school
- Incomplete primary education
- Complete primary education
- Incomplete secondary education
- Complete secondary education
- Vocational school or other higher education

**G 8 What is the highest level of education attained by your mother?**

*Please choose only one answer.*

- Never been to school
- Incomplete primary education
- Complete primary education
- Incomplete secondary education
- Complete secondary education
- Vocational school or other higher education

**G 9 What is the main occupation of your father?** *Please choose only one answer.*

- Farmer
- Employed private sector
- Employed public sector
- Self-employed (excluding farmers)
- Unemployed
- Other

**G 10 Would you like to receive a summary report of the results gained through this tracer study?**

- Yes
- No

**Thank you!**

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

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**References**

Schomburg, H., 2003. Handbook for Graduate Tracer Studies. Kassel, Germany. (Available at: [http://www.uni-kassel.de/wz1/proj/edwork/mat/handbook\\_v2.pdf](http://www.uni-kassel.de/wz1/proj/edwork/mat/handbook_v2.pdf))

Al-Samarrai, S. & Bennell, P., 2003. Where has all the education gone in Africa? Employment outcomes among secondary school and university leavers. Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK.

Questionnaires developed in the following Helvetas VET projects: SKILL Nepal; F-Skill Nepal and AVEP Kyrgyzstan.