

# RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGIES

2020-2021 academic year

**The aim of the survey:** to reveal the attitude of first-year students to studies at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences and their motives for choosing studies.

The survey was conducted online from March 16 to April 16, 2021, using the LimeSurvey survey system. The questionnaire was sent to 228 first-year students of the Faculty of Technologies. The obtained data was processed using SPSS 20 for Windows software.

## RESEARCH RESULTS (N=89)

The total number of 89 first-year students of the Faculty of Technologies participated in the survey; almost a third of respondents (28.1%) were employed.

### Motives for choosing studies at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
I was interested in a specific study program offered at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences	63	70,8%
I wanted to gain not only theoretical but also practical knowledge	55	61,8%
I could choose a suitable mode of study (full-time, part-time)	20	22,5%
Recommended by friends or acquaintances studying (having studied) at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences	16	18,0%
Kaunas University of Applied Sciences is one of the leading higher education institutions in Lithuania	14	15,7%
I wanted to study in Kaunas	49	55,1%
I failed to enrol in another university of my choice	11	12,4%

### Motives for choosing a specific study program:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
Drive for self-actualization	34	38,2%
The study programme relates to the subjects that I did well at school	24	27,0%
The study programme is promising	58	65,2%
Clear professional career opportunities	42	47,2%
I will study practical courses that are relevant to my career	39	43,8%
I hope to find a job quickly after completing the chosen study programme	49	55,1%
My job is related to my studies	15	16,9%
I failed to enrol in another desired study programme	4	4,5%
I was offered a state-funded place in this programme only	6	6,7%
The tuition fee was reasonable	1	1,1%
I was advised by people around me	8	9,0%
I chose it randomly, without thinking too much	1	1,1%

### Students' opinion about studies in the first year:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
It is exactly what you expected	33	37,1%
Studying is easier than expected	12	13,5%
Studying is more challenging than expected	23	25,8%
It is too early to form an opinion about the quality of studies	15	16,9%
You are already disappointed with your choice of studies	5	5,6%
Other	1	1,1%

### Students' determination to continue chosen studies at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes, I am firmly determined to continue my studies at KUAS	60	67,4%
I had some doubts, but now I have decided to continue my studies	18	20,2%
I am not sure; I might move to another higher education institution	7	7,9%
I am not sure; I might switch to another study programme at KUAS	4	4,5%
I intend to terminate my studies	0	0,0%

The results of the survey revealed that the majority of students of the Faculty of Technologies chose to study at Kaunas University of Applied Sciences because of a specific study program and their desire to acquire not only theoretical but also practical knowledge (70.8 and 61.8 percent of respondents, respectively). When choosing their studies, the most important criteria for applicants are the promising nature of the study programme and the possibility of finding a job quickly after graduation.

37.1 percent of the survey respondents state that the studies met their expectations and preconceptions. A quarter (25.8 %) of students indicated that they expected easier studies.

The majority (87.6 %) of first-year students are determined to continue their studies under the chosen study program; others are thinking about the possibility to change the study program or a higher education institution, but do not intend to terminate their studies.

First-year students suggest that more attention should be paid to the time allotted for study assignments; ensuring the required number of software licenses; involving students in the teaching-learning process, project activities, and taking more account of the needs of students with jobs. Students' opinions on contact and telework differ.

For more information on the measures implemented in response to students' feedback, see the section *You said, we did*.