

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

2021–2022 academic year

The aim of the survey: to reveal the attitude of first-year students to studies at Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution and their motives for choosing studies.

The survey was conducted online from March 22 to April 20, 2022, using the LimeSurvey survey system. The questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions was sent to 201 first-year students of the Faculty of Technologies. The obtained data was processed using SPSS 20 for Windows software.

The total return rate of questionnaires is 23.9 percent. Research error is 12.2 percent.

RESEARCH RESULTS (N=49)

The total number of 49 first-year students of the Faculty of Technologies participated in the survey; over a third of respondents (35.42 %) were employed. 81.3 percent of the students who participated in the survey are full-time students, others are part-time students.

Motives for choosing studies at Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
I was interested in a specific study program offered at Kauno kolegija	33	67.4 %
I wanted to gain not only theoretical but also practical knowledge	26	53.1 %
I could choose a suitable mode of study (full-time, part-time)	17	34.7 %
Recommended by friends or acquaintances studying (having studied) at Kauno kolegija	7	14.3 %
Kauno kolegija is one of the leading higher education institutions in Lithuania	6	12.2 %
I wanted to study in Kaunas	30	61.2 %
I failed to enrol in another university of my choice	12	24.5 %

Motives for choosing a specific study program:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
Drive for self-actualization	20	41.7 %
The study programme relates to the subjects that I did well at school	15	31.3 %
The study programme is promising	32	66.7 %
Clear professional career opportunities	21	43.8 %
I will study practical courses that are relevant to my career	21	43.8 %
I hope to find a job quickly after completing the chosen study programme	26	54.2 %
My job is related to my studies	11	22.9 %
I failed to enrol in another desired study programme	0	0.0 %
I was offered a state-funded place in this programme only	3	6.3 %
The tuition fee was reasonable	3	6.3 %
I was advised by people around me	2	4.2 %
I chose it randomly, without thinking too much	3	6.3 %

Students' opinion about studies in the first year:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
It is exactly what you expected	13	27.1 %
Studying is easier than expected	11	22.9 %
Studying is more challenging than expected	8	16.7 %
It is too early to form an opinion about the quality of studies	8	16.7 %
You are already disappointed with your choice of studies	3	6.3 %
Other	5	10.4 %

Students' determination to continue chosen studies at Kauno kolegija:

Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes, I am firmly determined to continue my studies at KK	28	58.3 %
I had some doubts, but now I have decided to continue my studies	15	31.3 %
I am not sure; I might move to another higher education institution	5	10.4 %
I am not sure; I might switch to another study programme at KK	0	0.0 %
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 Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution because of a specific study program (67.4 %), possibility to study in Kaunas (61.2 %), and their desire to acquire not only theoretical but also practical knowledge (53.1 %). When choosing their studies, the most important criteria for applicants are the promising nature of the study programme (66.7 %) and the possibility of finding a job after graduation (54.2 %).

27.1 percent of the survey respondents state that the studies met their expectations and preconceptions. Less than a quarter (22.9 %) of students indicated that they expected easier studies, while 16.7 % expected more challenging studies.

Pointing out the advantages of the studies, the first-year students who participated in the survey said that the lectures are interesting, the theory is based on practical examples, and the material presented is focused on the needs of the labor market. He noticed that the teachers are qualified, good relations between students. Some students noted that during their studies they discovered other areas of activity where they can realize themselves.

The first-year students of the Faculty of Technologies suggest paying attention to the expected deadlines for tasks, ensuring the required number of software licenses, and providing students with more information about filling out documents for the Erasmus+ exchange program. It was noticed that some teachers, just like students, lack motivation, and some of them need to improve their communication skills. It is proposed to install bicycle racks at all entrances to Kaunas College, to arrange dormitories in a more modern way. Comments were made regarding scheduling and information availability in the study management system.

The majority (89.6 %) of first-year students are determined to continue their studies under the chosen study program.

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