

Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) 2016

Summary of Results

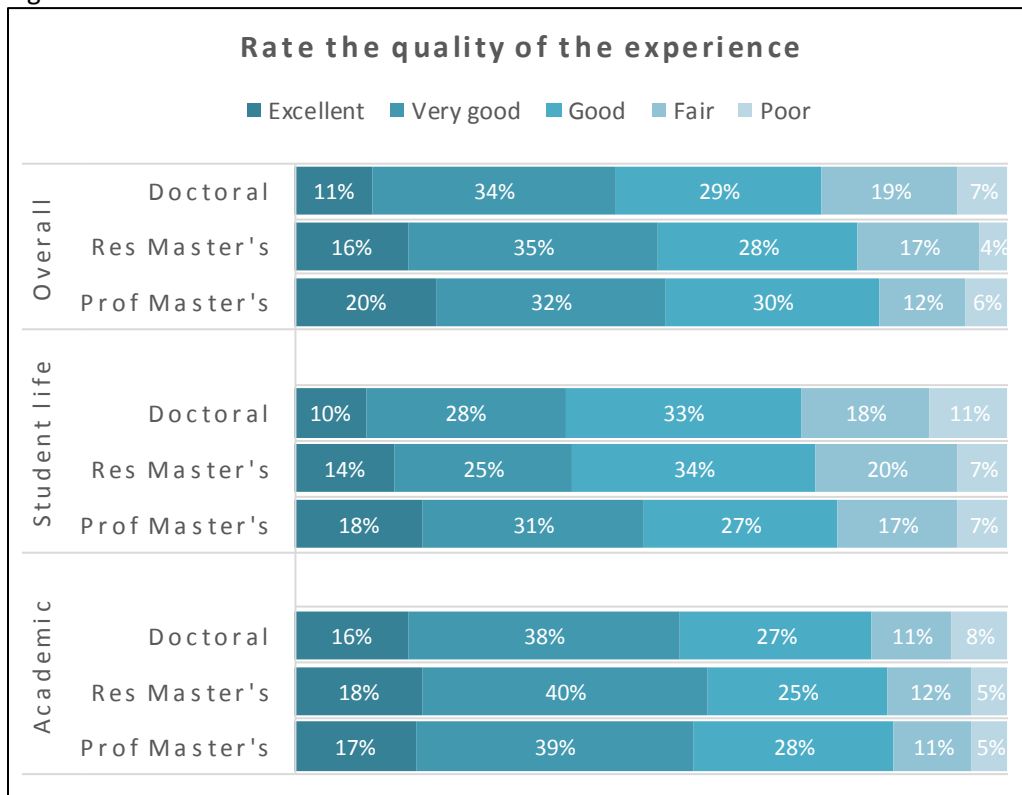
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis

The CGPSS was administered to all graduate students registered in the Winter 2016 semester. In total, 883 students completed the survey including 181 Doctoral students, 282 students in research Master’s programs and 420 in professional Master’s programs. Professional Master’s programs are those that are course-based and include the MBA, MEN, MM, MN, MED (course-based only) and MSW (off campus). The overall response rate for the CGPSS was 32% with a margin of error of +/- 2.7%. This is somewhat less than the 41% response rate in 2013 and 39% rate in 2010.

Overall Satisfaction

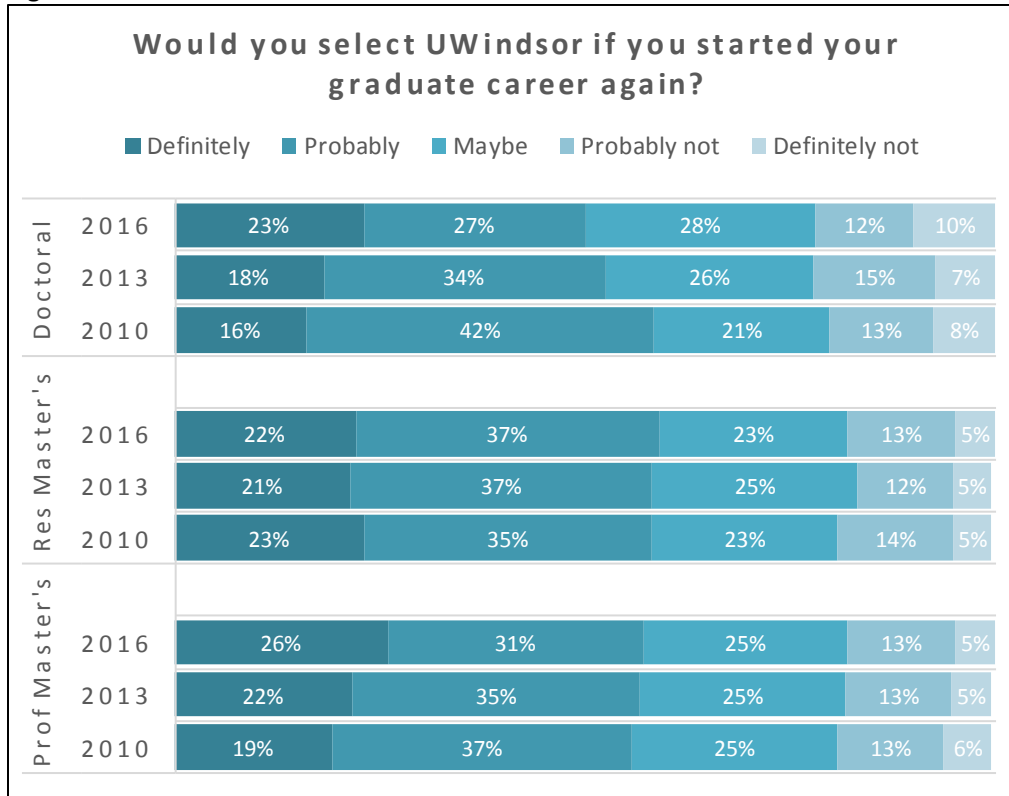
Overall, just over 8 in 10 respondents (83%) rated the quality of their academic experience in graduate studies as excellent, very good or good. Generally, those in the professional Master’s programs gave the most positive ratings for their overall graduate experience, student life experience and academic experience (Figure 1).

Figure 1:



Consistent with the 2013 CGPSS, about 8 in 10 (81%) respondents would choose UWindsor if they were to start their graduate studies again. Figure 2 shows that there has been a gradual increase in the “definitely” response category for those in professional Master’s and doctoral programs.

Figure 2:



Program Satisfaction

Students in the research and professional Master’s programs were most satisfied with their relationship with faculty in their programs while Doctoral students gave the highest satisfaction rating for the quality of instruction (Figure 3). Overall, about 8 in 10 respondents scored their satisfaction as good or better for all aspects of their program with the exception of the quality of academic advising and the availability of required courses.

In terms of program considerations, nearly half (49%) of respondents said the structure of their program or its requirements were an obstacle to their academic progress; a positive shift from 53% in the 2013 survey. The decrease is a result of the response provided by both Doctoral and professional Master’s students where 60% of them reported that program structure was an obstacle in 2013 compared to about half in 2016 (Figure 4).

Figure 3:

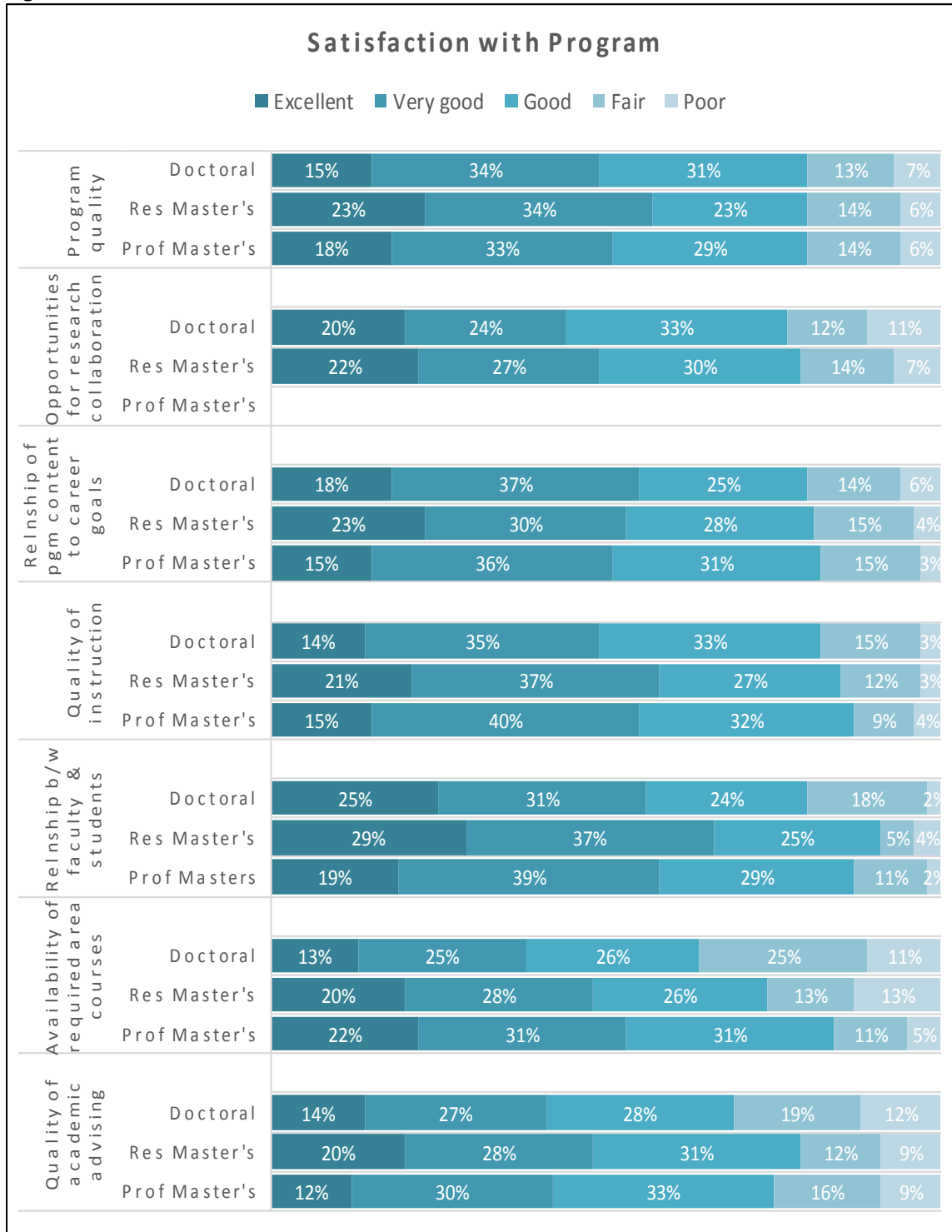
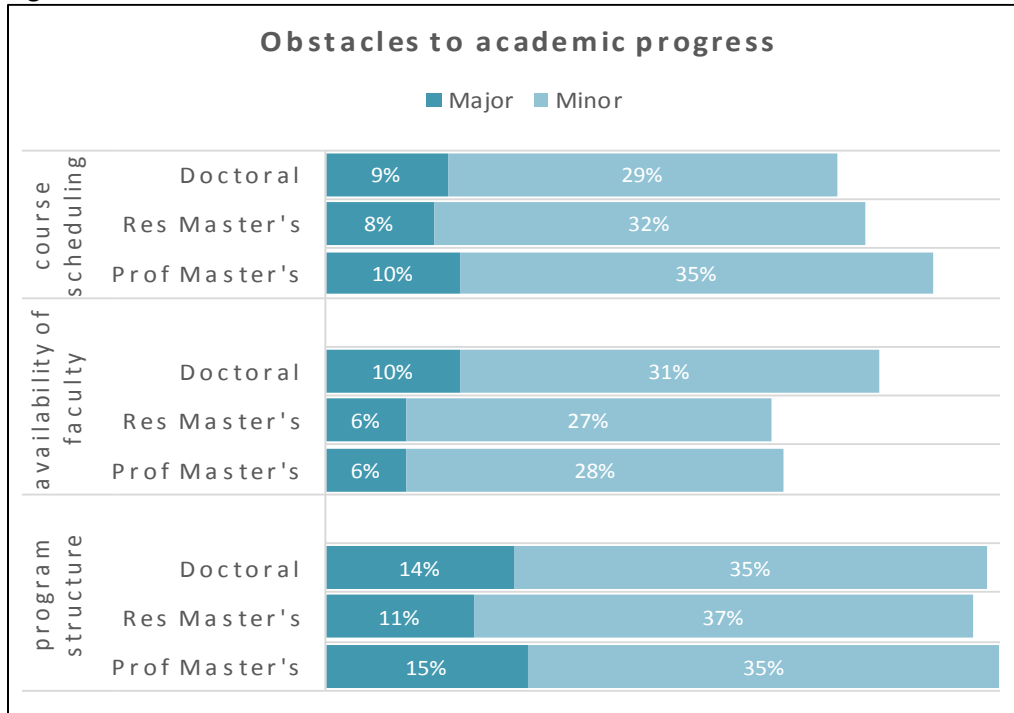
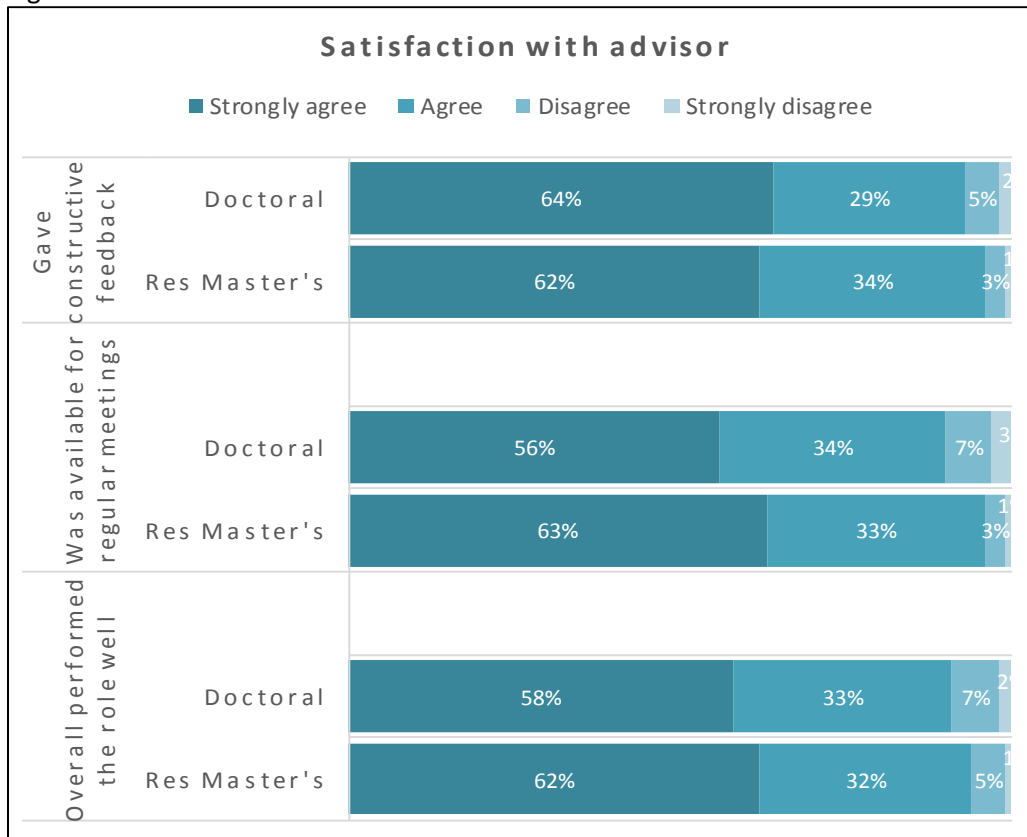


Figure 4:



Satisfaction with advisors remains high with more than 9 in 10 respondents in research Master's and Doctoral programs confirming that their advisors gave useful feedback and performed the role well (Figure 5).

Figure 5:



Financial Support

Regardless of level of study, work and financial commitments continues to be the greatest obstacle to academic progress with slightly more than 3 in 10 respondents declaring it to be a major obstacle (Figure 6).

Figure 6:

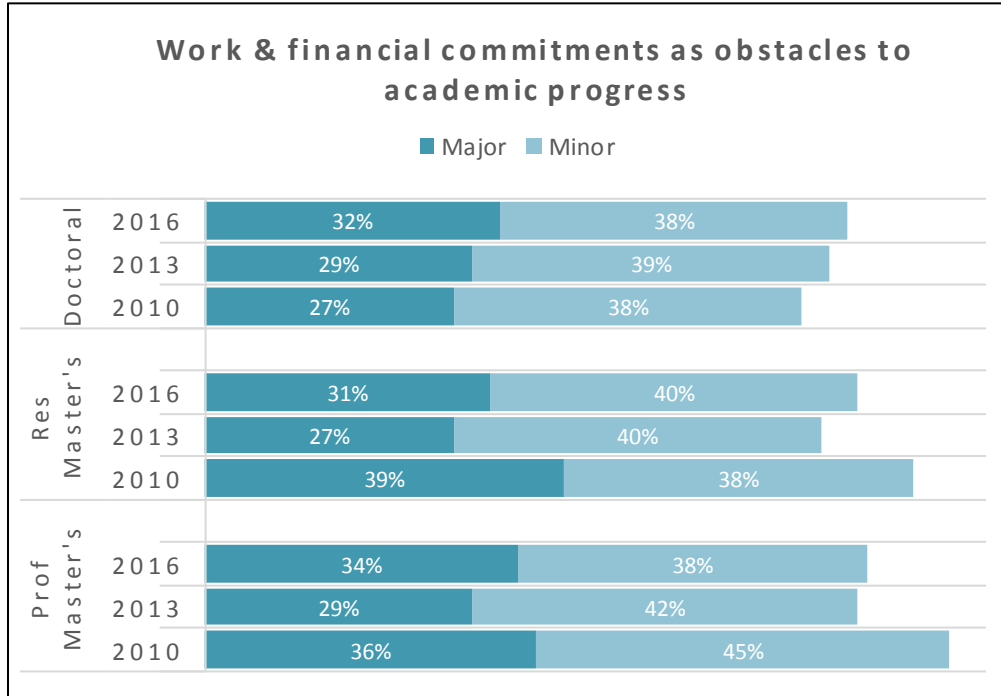
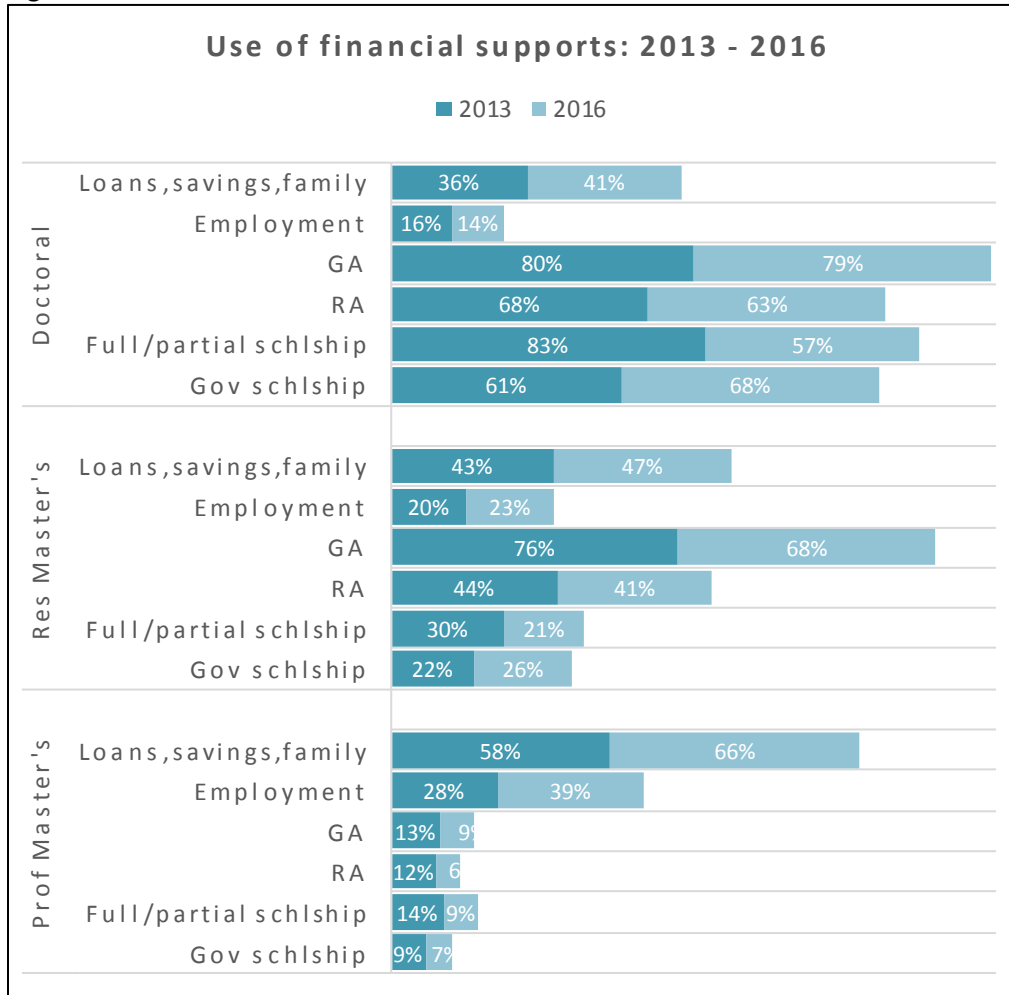


Figure 7 shows that graduate students use a variety of supports to finance their education. Reliance on loans, savings and family assistance has grown somewhat since the 2013 survey with the largest increase of 8% for those in professional Master's programs. As well, professional and research Master's respondents were more likely to be employed off campus and less like to have graduate or research assistantships or scholarships in 2016.

Figure 7:



Satisfaction with University Resources

Figure 8 shows that generally, students in the professional Master's programs responded most favourably when rating their experiences with specific resources they used in 2016. Consistent with the 2013 survey, Doctoral respondents were less satisfied than their counterparts in the research Master's programs with the quality of their research lab facilities.

Figure 8:

