

# RELOCATING TO STUDY

## FACT SHEET

July 2010

From the 2009 survey

Since 1999, respondents to the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes Survey have been asked if they relocated from their home community to attend their program of study. Every year, 18 to 22 percent of respondents say they moved to study.

### Reasons for relocating

In the 2009 survey, 18 percent (n=2,860) of respondents reported that they had relocated to study. Of those who relocated, 82 percent said they moved more than 80 kilometres. When they were asked why they moved, almost half said the program they wanted was not available locally.

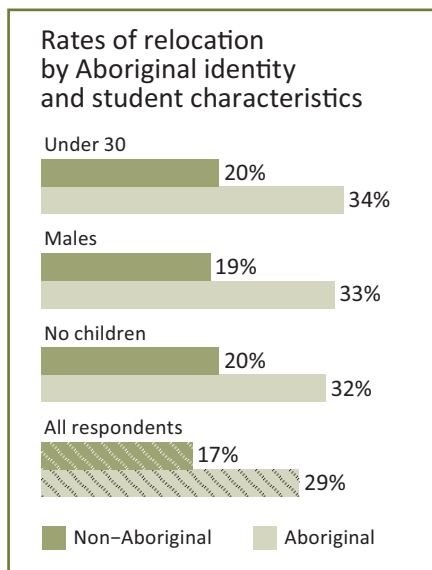
My program was not available locally/ too far to drive	49%
I preferred to attend [Institution]	25%
Favourable living arrangement if I relocated	16%
Personal reasons/needed a change/to leave home	2%
Wanted to live in that area/city/province	2%
International student/wanted to learn English/study abroad	2%
There was no waiting list/ I was able to get in sooner	2%
Other	2%
Work opportunities/ apprenticeship	1%

Note: Percentages are based on respondents who relocated.

### Rates of relocation

Not surprisingly, younger respondents were more likely to relocate than older;

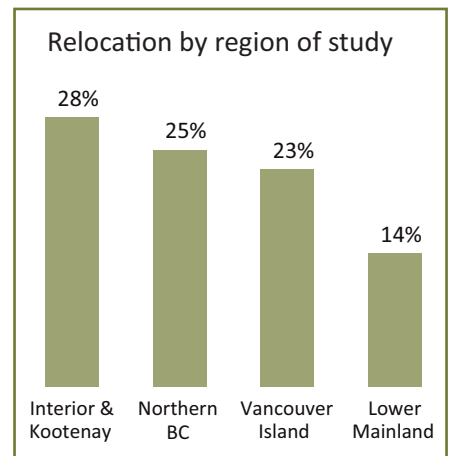
males more likely than females; and those without children were more likely to move than parents. Aboriginal respondents relocated at a much higher rate (29 percent) than all other former students—despite having characteristics associated with lower rates of relocation: i.e., they were more likely to be female, older than 30, and parents. (Overall, 5 percent of respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal.)



The high rate of relocation for Aboriginal students may be a reflection of limited access to post-secondary education from their original locales; they were much more likely to say they moved because the program they wanted was not available locally. Of former students who relocated to study, 60 percent of Aboriginal respondents, versus 48 percent of non-Aboriginal respondents, said they moved because their program was not available locally.

### Relocation by region

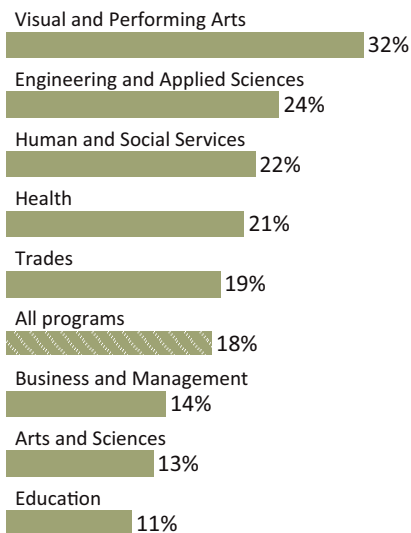
Post-secondary institutions in the Interior and Kootenay region had the highest percentage of students who moved from their home communities. Institutions in Northern BC and on Vancouver Island also had higher than average percentages of relocated students. Respondents who studied in the Lower Mainland were the least likely to have relocated. (Overall, 63 percent of respondents studied in the Lower Mainland.)



### Relocation by program

Some programs had high rates of relocation; in particular, almost one-third of respondents who studied Visual and Performing Arts moved from their home communities. On the other hand, respondents who studied Education, Arts and Sciences, or Business and Management programs had low rates of relocation. Generally, programs in Arts, Sciences, and Business are large and widely available across the province.

### Rates of relocation by program area



Note: The above program areas—the BC CIP Clusters—were developed to group all programs across the B.C. post-secondary system.

## Relocation and borrowing

The respondents who moved to study were more likely than other former students to have borrowed to finance their recent studies; they were also more likely to have debt from previous education. Further, the amounts borrowed by relocators—from government loan programs and other sources—tended to be higher.

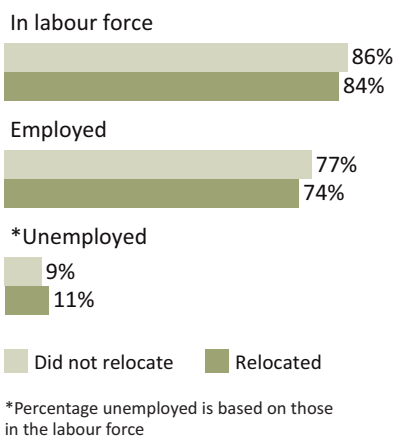
When respondents were asked if they had taken their studies part time for fi-

nancial reasons, the relocators were less likely to have done so: 10 percent said yes, versus 14 percent of those who did not move.

## Outcomes of relocators

Relocators were somewhat less likely to be in the labour force or employed at the time of the survey, and their rate of unemployment was slightly higher.

### Labour force participation at the time of the survey

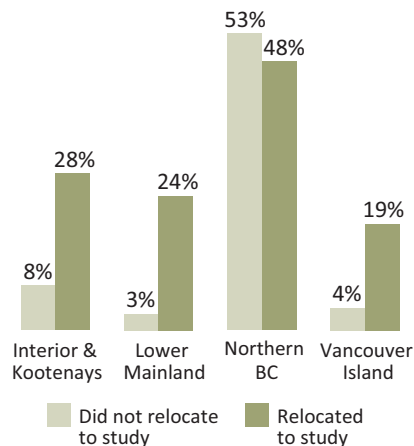


Those who had moved from their home communities to study were a little less likely to be studying again at the time of the survey: 34 percent of relocators were taking further education, compared with 37 percent of those who had not moved.

## Moved from study region

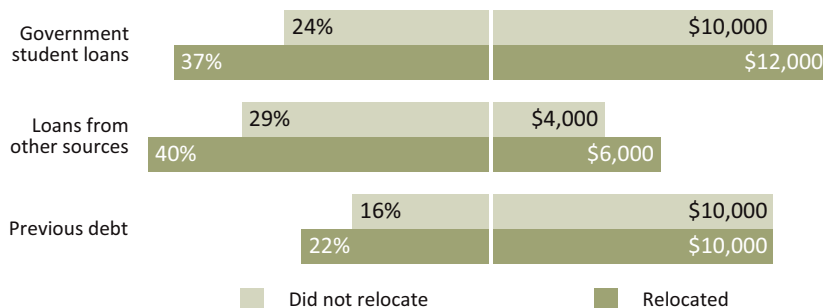
By the time they were surveyed, 11 percent of respondents had left the region where they had studied to move to another region. Those who had relocated to study were more likely to move again when they completed their studies: 27 percent of relocators moved to another region. Those who attended a post-secondary institution in Northern BC, whether or not they had relocated to study there, were the most likely to move to another region after their studies.

### Moved out of study region after leaving program by region of study



Note: Region shown is region of study. Location at the time of the survey was based on regions derived from respondents' postal codes.

### Rates of borrowing | Amounts borrowed



Note: Dollar amounts shown are medians.

For more information on student outcomes and the 2009 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes Survey, please see <http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx>.



Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

