

Abstract

Background: The follow-up Master's programme in Addictology was first opened in the academic year 2010/2011. Applicants from the graduates of the bachelor's programme in addictology as well as graduates of other bachelor's programmes are eligible to apply. Miovsky et al. (2021) give examples of applicants from related fields such as psychology, social work or general nursing. Candidates studying the programme do not gain eligibility to practise as an addictologist; it is an interest-based study. The employability of graduates of the master's degree in addictology alone has not yet been mapped separately. Pavlovska (2018) examined in detail the employability of all graduates of addictology from 2008 to 2016. The study expands on this work by specifically focusing on the employability of master's-only graduates with an original bachelor's degree in another discipline and adds data through January 2023.

Aims: The aim of the research is to map the employability of graduates of a follow-up Master's programme in Addictology with an original Bachelor's degree in another discipline.

Methods: 73 respondents formed the core sample. The respondents were approached by total sampling method, the sample was selected by self-selection. The research sample consisted of 49 respondents, the return rate was 67%. Data collection was done through an online questionnaire survey. The collected data was converted into MS Excel program and analyzed using descriptive and analytical statistics. Ethical principles were followed.

Results: The most common original education of graduates is social work. The most common reason graduates applied to study was their interest in specialisation in addictology. Almost half of the respondents did not know before the study that they would not obtain the qualification of an addictologist by completing it. Currently, 61,2% of graduates are employed in addiction services, with most graduates working in outpatient treatment and as a "therapist". Outside the spectrum of addiction services, 38,8% of graduates are employed, and 68.4% of these graduates have never primarily sought employment in the field. The largest number of graduates work in the health care sector as a 'nurse'. A total of 94,7% of graduates work in fields related to addiction medicine, using their second qualification. The most important reason for working outside the field of addictions is low financial remuneration. 67,3% of graduates actively use a combination of qualifications in their employment, most often by using knowledge from both disciplines in their profession. The majority of graduates do not perceive any limits in the combination of education. The most frequently cited advantages were specialisation in more than one field, use of expertise in more than one field or better understanding of clients.

Conclusions: The research has provided comprehensive results on the employability of master's graduates with an original bachelor's degree in another field. Graduates who are not employed in addiction services are in fields very close to addictology, so they will make good use of the knowledge and skills they have acquired. The thesis is one of the first to focus in detail on a specific target group. The results can serve to improve the form of study. In the future, it would be advisable to also focus on students of Master's degree who have dropped out.

Keywords: addictology, graduate, employability, labour market, helping professions