

# MASTER'S DEGREE NECESSITY OR CHOICE

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## Abstract

*Education is beneficial for anyone, and multiple gains to society can not be disputed: reducing poverty and unemployment, promoting employability, increased quality of life, personal development. We live in a learning society and education should represent a way of life not only for those studying or working in this field, but also for those who have careers in areas other than education. In Romania education is mandatory until the 10th grade, after that depends on the personal interests of each if you choose get ahead in school or give up their continuation. This study has proposed to figure out what motivates those who completed undergraduate studies to continue them with the master. We would also like to discover what obstacles they have encountered people who have chosen to pass a few years between BA and the Masters.*

**Keywords:** education, students.

**JEL Classification:** I26,

## 1. The research method

For the analysis we used quantitative research we applied a questionnaire. It contains a series of questions with which we have tried to identify the reasons that led the subjects to attend a masters degree program.

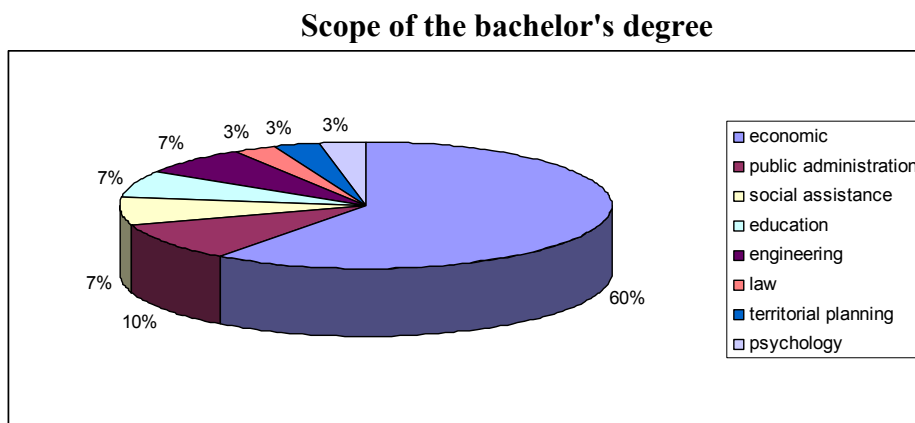
The objectives of the research were:

- Identify the reasons for continuing the studies by subjects by enrolling in the masters degree;
- Identifying the benefits of participating in these courses;
- Identifying the reasons for choosing Constantin Brancoveanu University offer and ways of informing about the courses.

## 2. Results

Participants in our study are students who are following Masters studies in the study program: Management and strategies in human resources. Most of them work, only 10% of respondents said they did not have a job. Their fields of activity are: economic 20%, education 20%, services 20%, public administration 10% and military, industry 20%.

Fig no. 1



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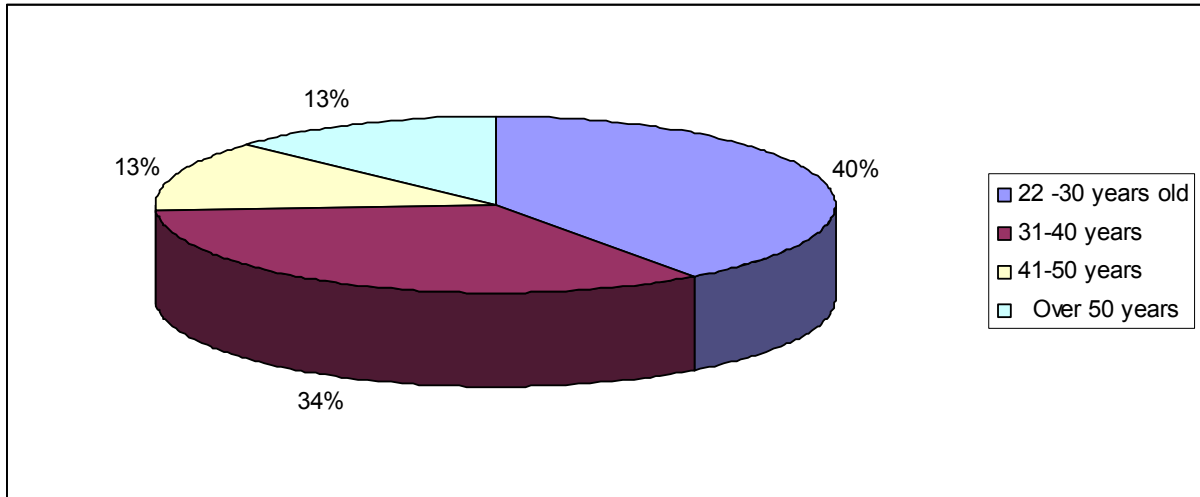
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Because the analyzed program is part of the management field, it is not surprising that more than half of the participants are licensed in the economy. (60%)

With regard to the age of respondents, 40% are between 22-30 years and 34% are between 31-40 years old. It can be noticed that there are participants who are over 50 years old.

**Fig no. 2**

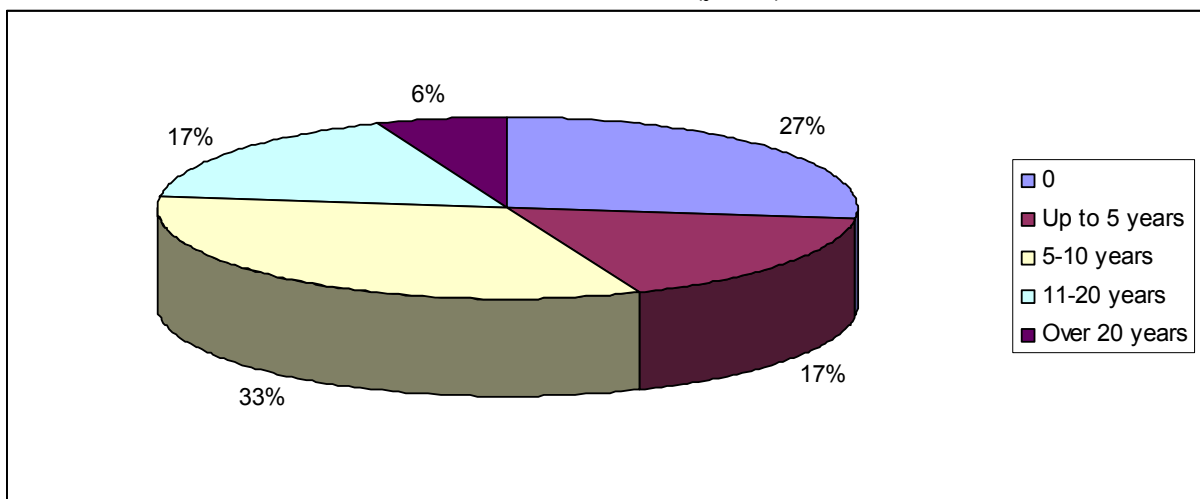
**The age of the students**



Given that only 40% of the respondents are between 22-30 years of age, that is to say they continued their training with the degree studies with the level of the master studies, we were interested in finding out what is the period elapsed between the obtaining of the diploma and the registration to masters courses.

**Fig no. 3**

**The period between the bachelor studies and the enrollment in the masters courses (years)**



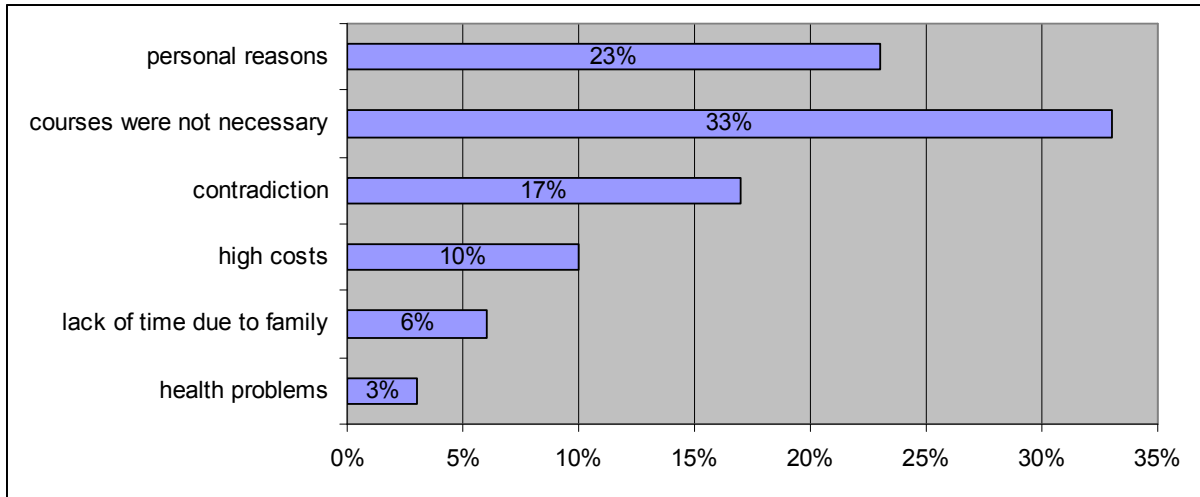
For most graduates, 33% have passed between 5 and 10 years between graduating and enrolling in masters courses, and for some even over 20 years. The reasons for which there is a gap between the two forms of study are varied, most of them saying that masters studies were not necessary at the time of graduation.

Of those who declared that masters studies was not required from a professional point of view after obtaining a degree, 60% graduated from the Bologna system, these are

considered short-term studies. Continuing bachelor studies with participation in master classes is, in these conditions, more than necessary.

**Fig no. 4**

**Reasons that caused a gap between BA and the master**

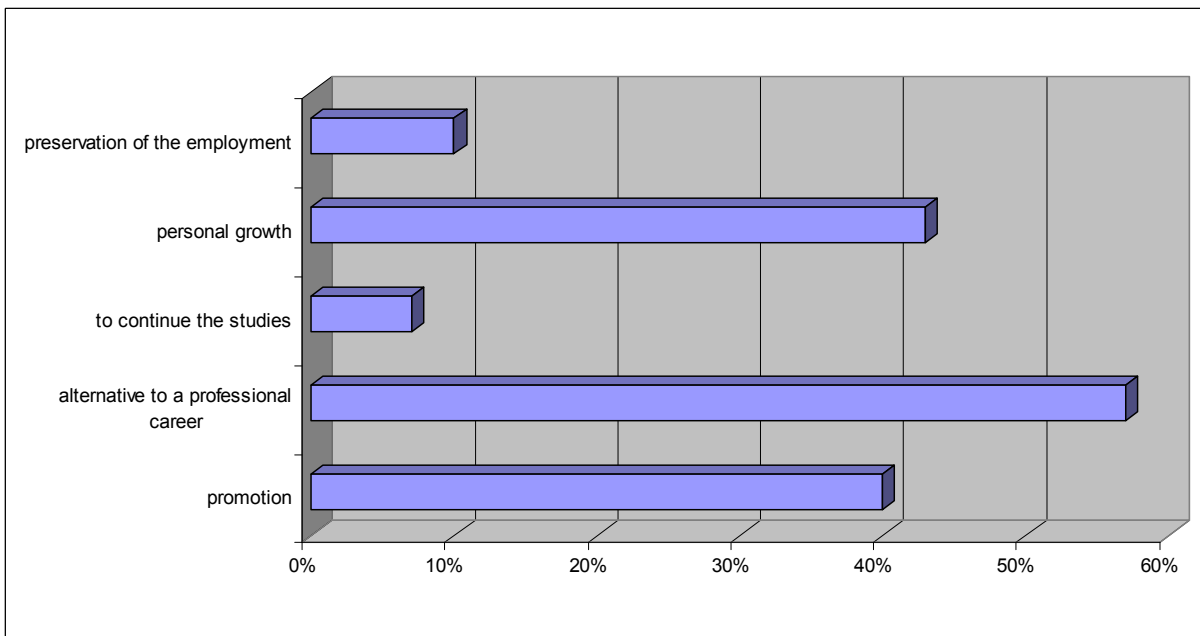


In the case of 77% subjects who did not attend the master's courses immediately after the Bachelor's degree, the training was completed with participation in various courses: human resources inspector, trainer, public procurement expert, project manager, sales. Only 15% of students have personally paid the fee for the courses attended, for 85% they were free (paid by the employer or organizers CEA courses).

We wanted to identify the reasons that prompted the subjects to attend the Masters course, either immediately after graduation or at a certain number of years after.

**Fig no. 5**

**The reasons that led to the master's enrollment**



Of those who stated that the reason for enrolling in the mastership is represented by job retention, 67% did not choose another motivation, although the subjects were not restricted to one answer. For them, masters studies are a necessity.

Those who have enrolled in the Masters Course just after the completion of the Bachelor's degree, consider that following Masters courses is a professional alternative, a source of personal development or an instrument of promotion in the chosen career.

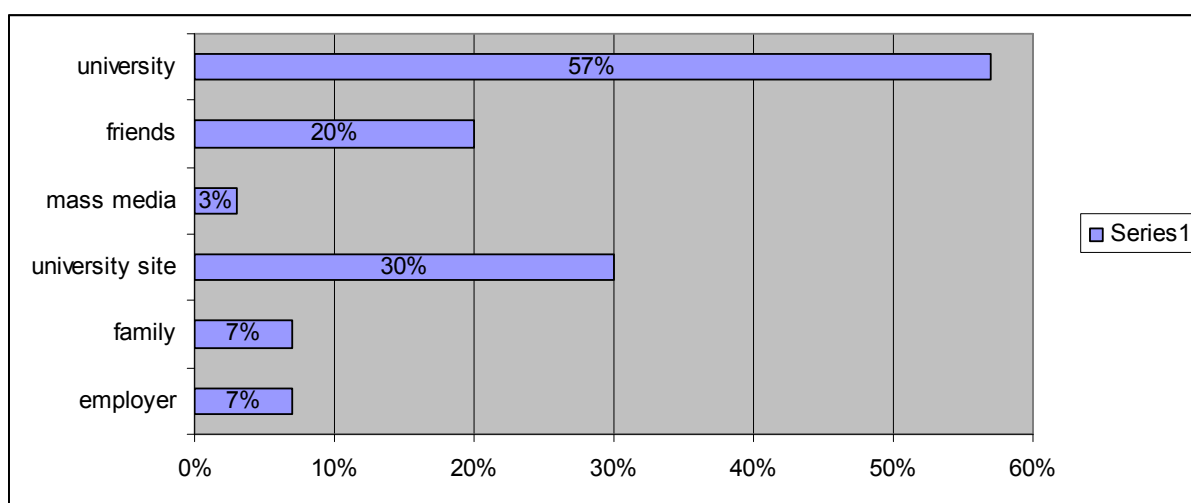
Among the benefits of participating in masters courses, professional development is the first place, followed by personal development and relationship.

### The criteria for choosing the university

We wanted to find out from students what criteria they had in mind when they chose to pursue masters courses within our university. The flexible program is the main benefit for learners, along with financial benefits and teachers. Interviewees also said that they were also influenced by the desire to continue in the same university, the quality of teaching and the proximity to the home.

Fig no. 6

Sources of information about masters courses



Not surprisingly, most of the subjects combined the ways of informing about masters courses. The most used way is to make information *face to face* either through the telephone at the university headquarters.

### 3. Conclusions

- Enrollment in a master's courses after graduation is not a priority for young graduates.
- Enrollment in a master's degree occurs at the time of professional perspective (promotion, professional alternative, job retention).
- Participation in student courses contributes to their personal development, professional development and the creation of links between trainees.
- Choosing an institution to attend courses is mainly based on the financial benefits and the flexible program of courses.
- The interviewed subjects participated in various training and retraining courses between the bachelor's and master's degrees, most of which were free of charge.

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