



UCD Geary Institute

Irish Universities Study

April 15th 2008

Brief Overview

- **Student Feedback System**
- **Data Management System**
 - ⇒ Anonymity
 - ⇒ Randomisation
 - ⇒ Real-Time Response
- **Student Survey**
 - ⇒ Module 1: Demographics
 - ⇒ Module 2: Student Feedback
 - ⇒ Module 3: Special Issues
- **Researchers Survey**
 - ⇒ 15 Sections

Basic Results from Current Returns

- **65% female, 35% male**
- **89% Full-Time Students**
- **53 per cent of the sample is single, 30 per cent in a relationship, 6 per cent married, 9 per cent cohabiting and 1 per cent divorced or widowed.**
- **30 per cent of the sample had a father with at least a degree level qualification. 25 per cent of the sample had a mother with a degree level qualification**
- **College Characteristics**
- **Personal Characteristics**

Degree Programme of Student

Higher certificate	7	0.32	0.32
Diploma	9	0.41	0.73
Ordinary Degree	55	2.53	3.26
Honours Bachelors Degree	1,273	58.47	61.74
Postgraduate Diploma	76	3.49	65.23
Taught Masters Degree	262	12.03	77.26
MBA	18	0.83	78.09
Research Masters Degree	61	2.80	80.89
Doctoral Degree	291	13.37	94.26
Medical Doctor's Degree	75	3.45	97.70
Professional Qualification	23	1.06	98.76
Other	27	1.24	100.00
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Total	2,177	100.00	

Main Area of Study

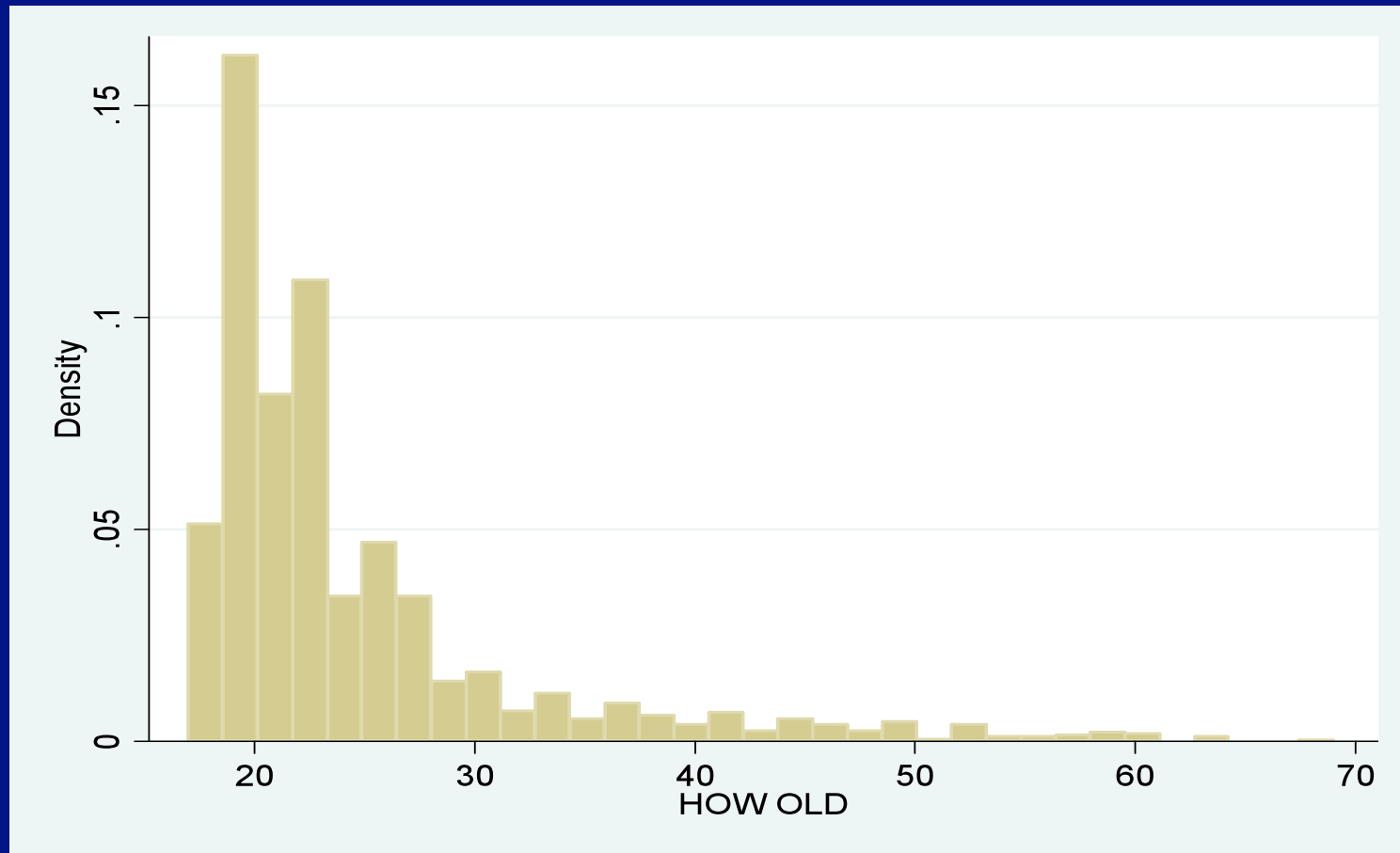
Education	59	2.72	2.72
Humanities and Arts	512	23.63	26.35
Social Science	254	11.72	38.07
Business	205	9.46	47.53
Law	97	4.48	52.01
Science	339	15.64	67.65
Maths	30	1.38	69.04
Computing/Computer Science	80	3.69	72.73
Engineering and Construction	148	6.83	79.56
Agriculture/Veterinary	29	1.34	80.90
Health/Welfare	250	11.54	92.43
Sport	9	0.42	92.85
Hospitality	1	0.05	92.89
Other	154	7.11	100.00

Total	2,167	100.00	

Basic Results – Family Income

INCOME	NET FAMILY		Cum.
	Freq.	Percent	
Up to 10,000	61	3.02	3.02
10,001–20,000	126	6.24	9.26
20,001–30,000	205	10.15	19.41
30,001–40,000	241	11.93	31.34
40,001–51,000	296	14.65	45.99
51,001 – 61,000	306	15.15	61.14
61,001–71,000	269	13.32	74.46
71,001 or more	516	25.54	100.00
Total	2,020	100.00	

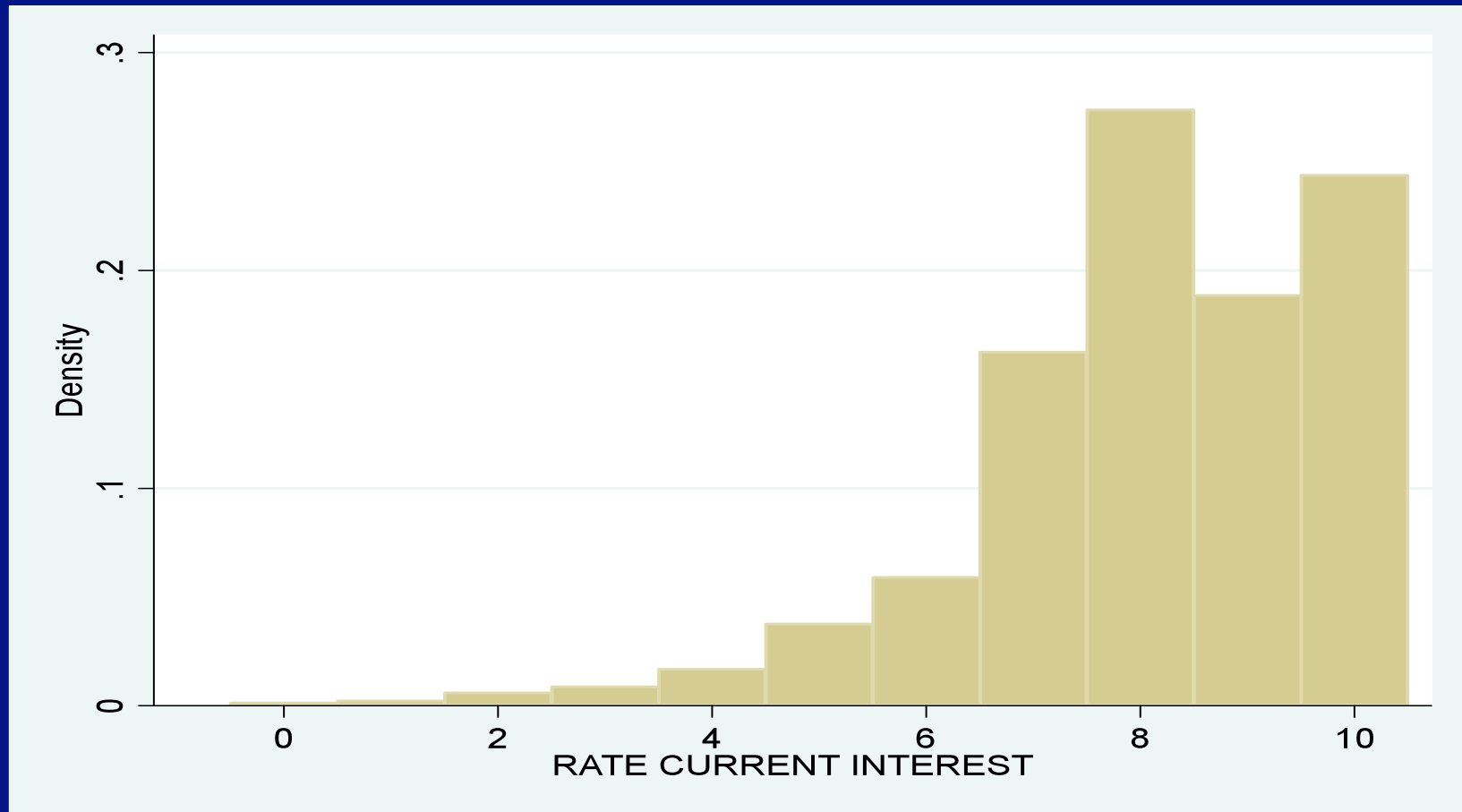
Basic Results – Age Distribution



Basic Results – Leaving Cert Points

POINTS LEAVING CERTIFICATE 	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
100-200	8	0.44	0.44
201 -250	12	0.66	1.11
251 - 300	22	1.22	2.32
301 - 350	73	4.04	6.36
351 - 400	226	12.50	18.86
401 - 450	363	20.08	38.94
451 - 500	392	21.68	60.62
501 - 550	345	19.08	79.70
551 - 600	236	13.05	92.75
Other	131	7.25	100.00
Total	1,808	100.00	

Interest in Studies



Expectations from First Job

Up to 10,000		63	2.95	2.95
10,001-20,000		157	7.34	10.29
20,001-30,000		683	31.95	42.24
30,001-40,000		718	33.58	75.82
40,001-51,000		286	13.38	89.20
51,001 - 61,000		118	5.52	94.71
61,001-71,000		45	2.10	96.82
71,001 or more		68	3.18	100.00
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Total		2,138	100.00	

Financial Difficulties – Run out of Money

Almost every week	115	5.69	5.69
Every couple of weeks	216	10.69	16.38
Almost every month	175	8.66	25.04
Every couple of months	289	14.30	39.34
Once or twice	581	28.75	68.09
Never	645	31.91	100.00
Total	2,021	100.00	

Life Satisfaction

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Accommodation	998	3.990982	1.00994	1	5
Work	997	3.19659	.9587205	1	5
Material	998	3.188377	1.043	1	5
Friendship	998	4.10521	.8544843	1	5
Relationship	998	3.680361	1.252094	1	5
Studies	998	3.54509	.9402783	1	5

Postgraduate Intentions

HIGHEST DEGREE INTEND TO OBTAIN	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Diploma	1	0.08	0.08
Ordinary Degree	2	0.16	0.24
Honours Bachelors Degree	187	14.94	15.18
Postgraduate Diploma	150	11.98	27.16
Taught Masters Degree	271	21.65	48.80
MBA	101	8.07	56.87
Research Masters Degree	97	7.75	64.62
Doctoral Degree	298	23.80	88.42
Medical Doctor's Degree	43	3.43	91.85
Professional Qualification	86	6.87	98.72
Other	16	1.28	100.00
Total	1,252	100.00	

Analysis

- **Determinants of Welfare and Well-Being**
- **Determinants of Time Use**
- **Determinants of Study Abroad**
- **Determinants of Health and Health Behaviour**
- **Determinants of Postgraduate Study Intentions**
- **Determinants of Study Satisfaction**
- **Socio-Economic Differences Among Students**
- **Interpreting Subjective Questions**

Module 2 – Contents

- **Time Use**
- **Career Perspective**
- **Satisfaction with Programmes**
- **Utilisation of College Services**
- **Special Module on Disability**
- **Special Module on Children**

The Geary Institute Plan

- **At Geary, our Higher Education centre will:**

- Provide a strong research base for national education policy.
- Provide statistical support for institutional research in Irish Universities including training in key methods.
- House graduate students researching in the area of higher education outcomes.
- Provide rigorous analysis of interventions designed to improve higher education in Ireland.
- Conduct High Level academic research into education processes and outcomes.
- Coordinate all the existing data on higher education in Ireland.
- Provide a forum for discussion of ideas in research and policy.
- Build strong partnerships with key international research groups.
- Develop partnerships with policy makers designed to incubate key ideas and scale up successful ones.

Our Inspiration....and our quest!

- **The Irish debate, to date, has been conducted in too general a fashion.**
- **The type of research that Professor Ehrenberg and colleagues have pioneered consists of:**
 - ⇒ Framing answerable research questions of key relevance
 - ⇒ Collecting and compiling the necessary data to answer these questions
 - ⇒ Using advanced statistical methods as well as strong theory and deep domain knowledge to interpret the results
 - ⇒ Communicating the findings and the implications of the findings clearly to policy-makers