

Student Professional Activity Survey

Warsaw School of Computer Science

November 2016

Introduction

The Warsaw School of Computer Science (WSCS) conducts periodic studies which purpose is: the assessment of position of the university on the labor market and the grade of adjustment of WSCS profile of education to employers demand. The main tool for this evaluation are multifaceted studies of careers of WSCS graduates. The Graduates professional achievements are the main factors determining the assessment of the university by employers and consequently, significantly affect university value on the labor and education markets. An escalating shortage of qualified IT specialists results in a new phenomenon that we are observing in recent years - it is the increasing involvement of students in developing their careers. Therefore, the university's evaluation on labor market is currently being carried out not only on the ground of the graduates careers, but also on the ground of students professional activity during their studies.

Aim & Objectives

The research was aimed at determining the level of students professional activity and the correlation between students educational qualifications and a job type. In the survey, students were asked about their job situation by selecting one of the five possibilities:

1. I work on IT position in IT industry
2. I work on IT position in non-IT related industry
3. I do not work on IT position, however I use my IT skills developed during studies at my work
4. I do not work on IT position and do not use my IT skills developed during studies at my work
5. I am not employed at the moment

Students were also asked about a legal form of employment, size of the company, their salary level and length of time they have spent on job seeking.

Target Groups

Due to different levels and organizational forms of education, the questionnaire was conducted on three different target groups as follows:

- Master Degree students (part-time, 1st and 2nd year). Group size 110 students, survey feedback 46,4%
- Bachelor Degree students (full-time, 1st – 4th year). Group size 205 students, survey feedback 14,6%
- Bachelor Degree students (part-time, 1st – 4th year). Group size 840 students, survey feedback 24,8%

Total respondents: 278 students, represents 24% of all WSCS students

Poll results

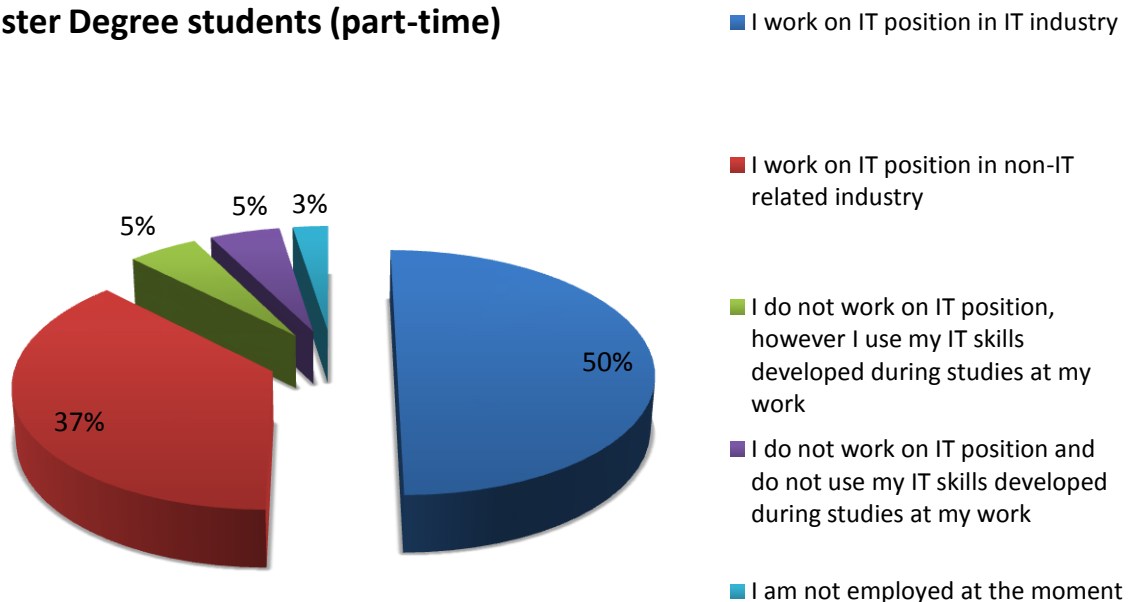
1. Students professional activity

A. Master Degree students (part-time)

From the perspective of WSCS Master Degree students, who have already achieved Bachelors Degree diploma, are dual status : student and graduate. This group has a rich work experience, 97% is employed and for 87% it is a job on IT related position. Only 3% declares not picking up any job at all. Non-IT job has only 10% of students, of which 50% is using their IT skills developed during studies (Chart1.).

Chart. 1

Master Degree students (part-time)



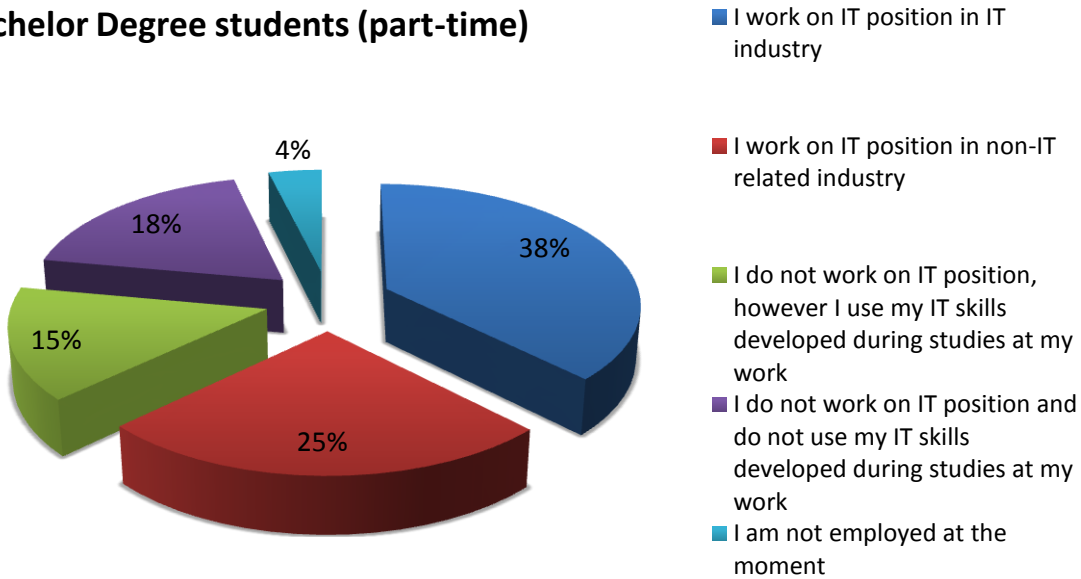
Source: own data

B. Bachelor Degree students (part-time)

Although this group is still in the process of developing IT skills and qualifications, over 63% works on IT positions. Another 15 % uses IT skills on non-IT jobs. 18% of respondents claims that their non-IT job provide them an income they can spend for education (in order to retrain). Unemployment rate in this group is only 4%. It is important to remember that 1st year students, after only two months of education, has not yet developed their professional skills.

Chart. 2

Bachelor Degree students (part-time)



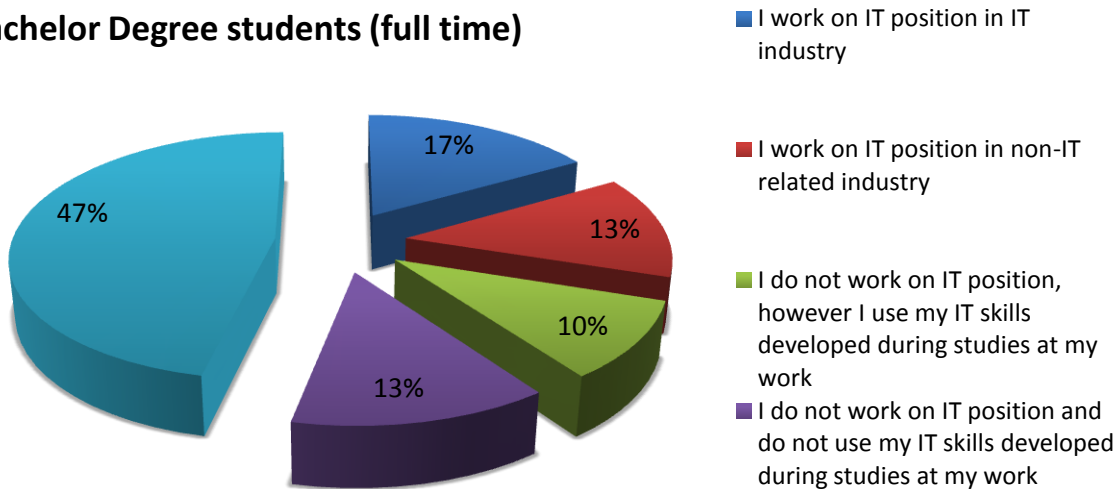
Source: own data

C. Bachelor Degree students (full time)

In this group, 47% of students declares not taking up any job. The majority of them motivates this lack of employment in desire to devote their time to education, so they postpone taking up a job on higher years of study or after graduation. Most of the students stresses that they would be interested in working part time or doing odd jobs. Nevertheless 53% employment rate for full time students (majority on IT related positions) seems to be beyond the average, comparing to full time students in other fields of study.

Chart. 3

Bachelor Degree students (full time)



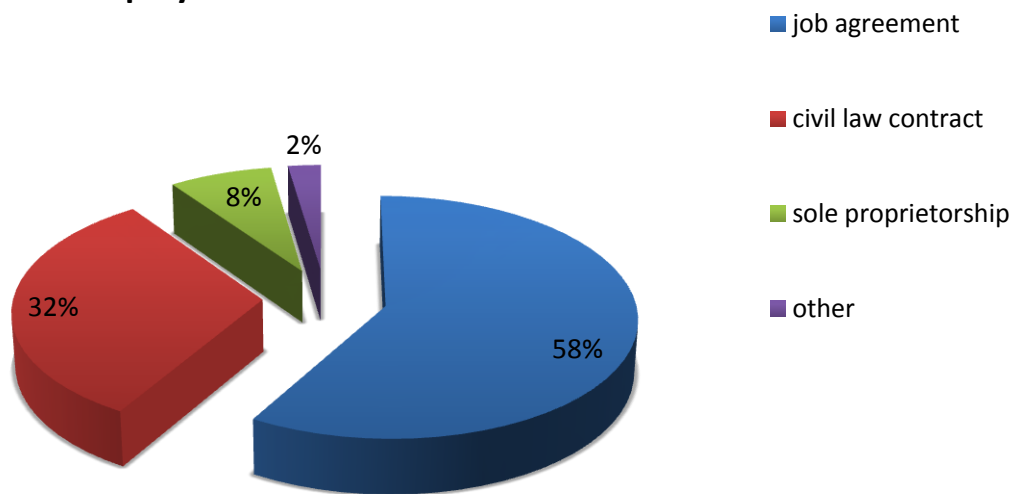
Source: own data

2. Forms of employment

In the questionnaire students were asked about forms of their employment. The possible answers to choose were: a job agreement, civil law contract, sole proprietorship and other. Majority of students (58%) chosen a job agreement and one-third (32%) chosen a civil law contract. Only 8% declared sole proprietorship.

Chart. 4

Forms of employment



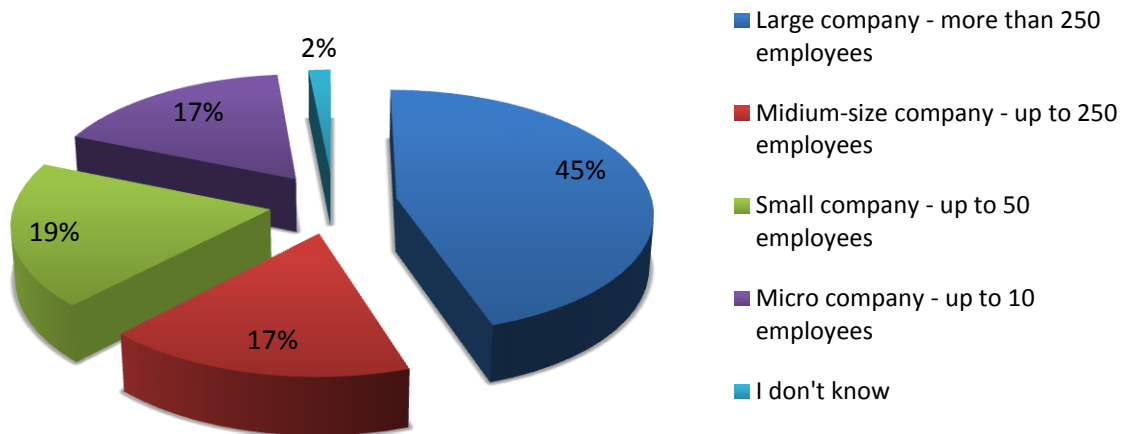
Source: own data

3. Size of company

The majority of questioned students is employed in a large company, hiring more than 250 employees. Up to 19% of students is employed in a small size company (up to 50 employees), and 17% declares they are employed in a medium size or a micro company.

Chart. 5

Size of company

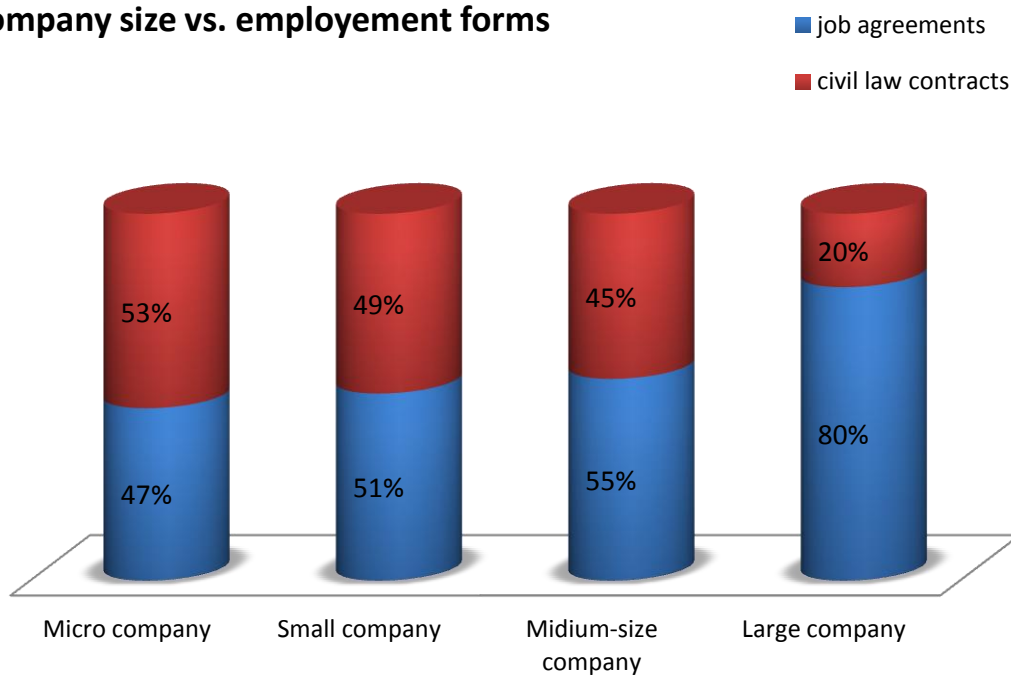


Source: own data

There is a correlation between the form of employment and the company size (chart 6.). The proportion between job agreements and civil contracts change together with company size.

Chart . 6

Company size vs. employment forms



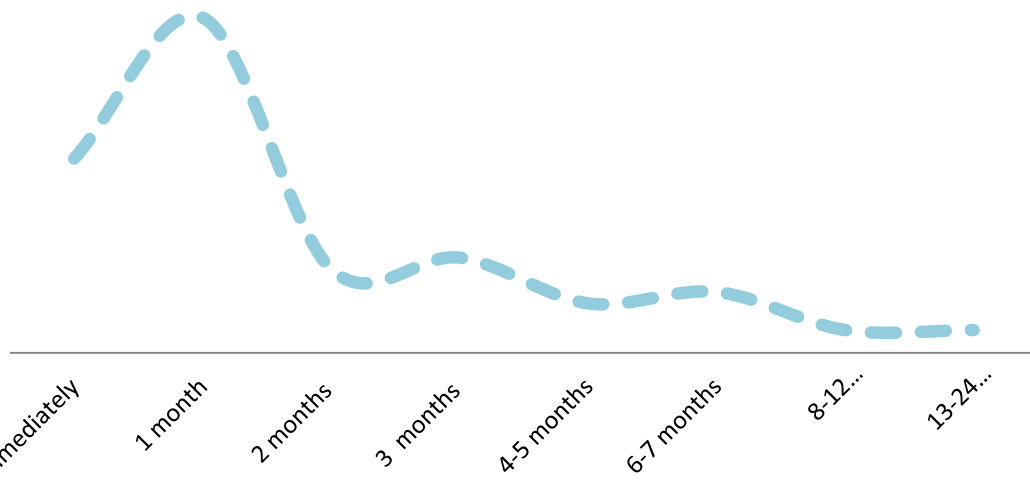
Source: own data

4. Time spend on job searching

Students were asked to estimate how much time they spent on searching for their current job.

Chart.7

Time spend on job searching



Source: own data

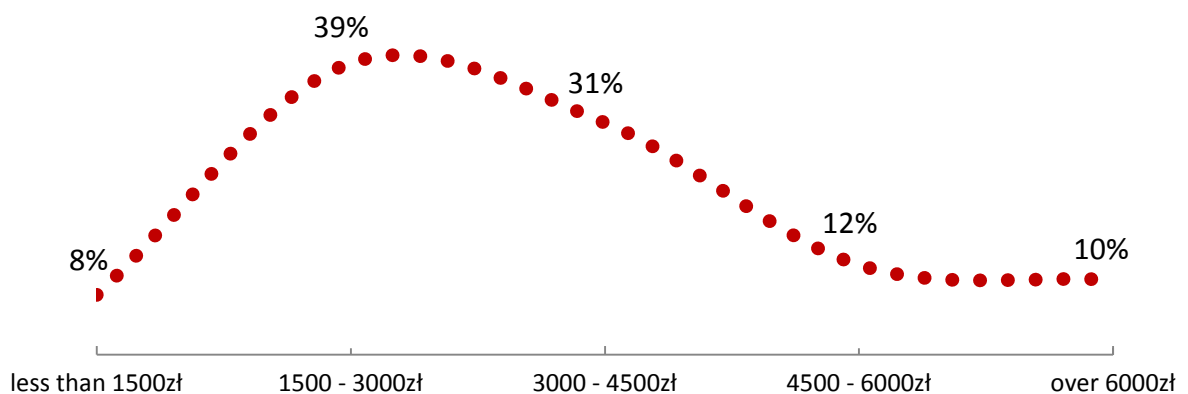
Over 39% of students responded that job hunting took them about one month, and 22% found a job immediately. Only 18% was searching for a job more than 3 months. An average job hunting period was 2,5 months, but the median value was 1 month.

5. Salary

Students were asked to determine their net monthly income.

Rys. 8

Monthly income (net)

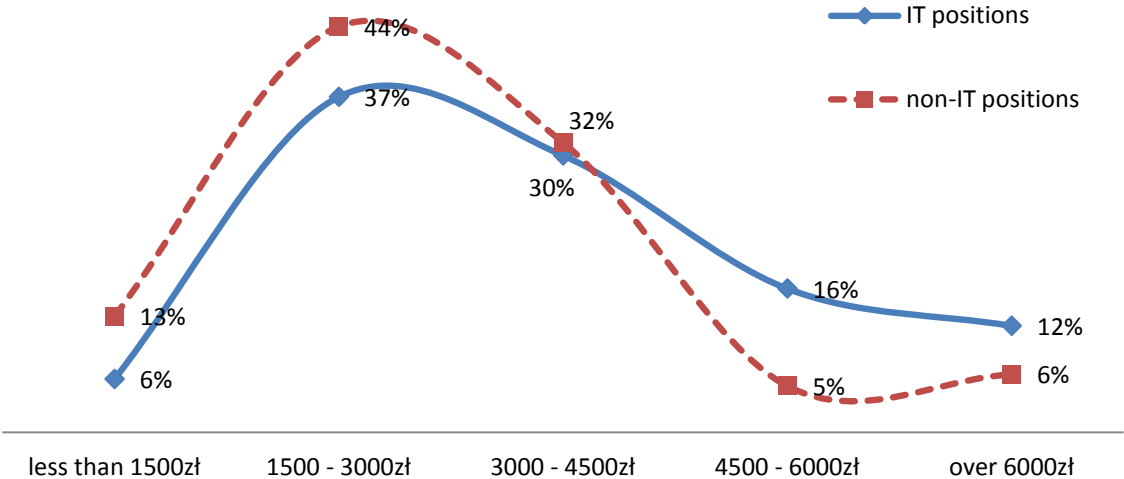


Source: own data

There was a profound disparity observed between salaries on IT and non-IT positions. The median salary for IT position was between 3000 to 4500zł, when the median salary for non-IT positions was between 1500 to 3000zł. Net income over 4500zł was declared by 28% of students on IT positions and only 11% of students on non-IT positions. This disparity illustrates Chart 9.

Chart 9.

Salary: IT vs. non-IT

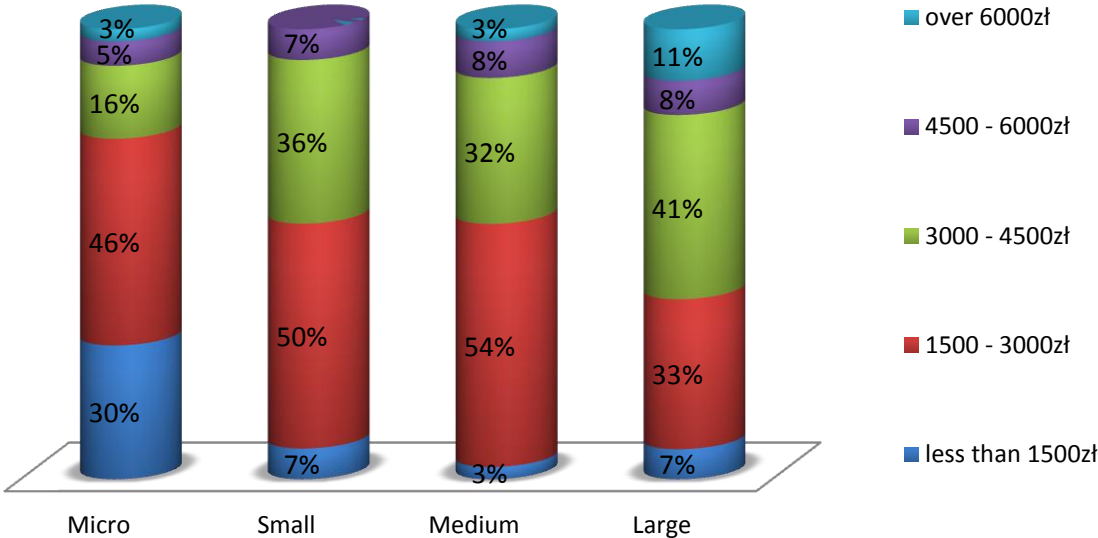


Source: own data

Similar correlation was observed between salary and the company size (Chart 10.). Among micro-companies 76% employees earned less than 3000zł. In large companies the same salary threshold received only 30% of employees.

Chart 10.

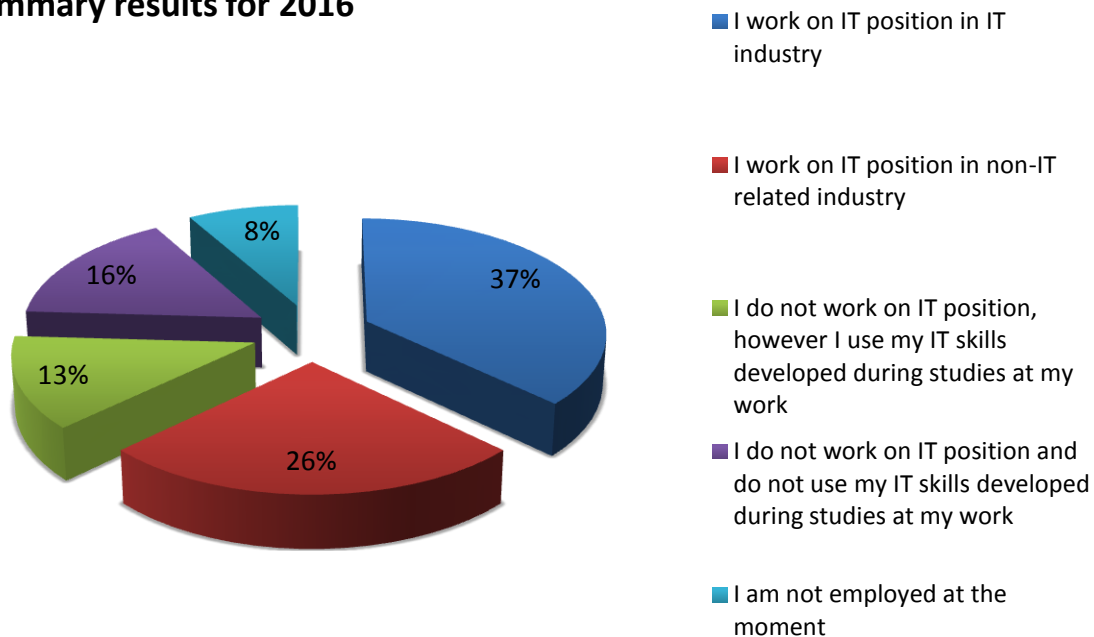
Company size vs. salary



Source: own data

Summary

Summary results for 2016



Source: own data

The survey conducted at the end of 2016 confirms the high level of professional activity among WSCS's students. The majority (92%) combines study with work. More than half (63%) of students is hired on IT positions and a further 13% is using at work computer skills developed during IT studies. We can observe a strong convergence between students employment profile and their education profile (76%).

The declared salary level among IT-employed students can be described as more than satisfactory comparing to other industries. Having in mind short job hunting period (medium result 1 month), WSCS students has no problems changing jobs.

The detailed results show that starting from the second year of studies, combining work with education is common for almost 90% of IT students, regardless mode of education.

In a conclusion:

- Head hunters seeking gifted IT students should concentrate their actions starting from the 1st year students,
- Employers should develop their internship programs not only for final year students, but also for 1st or 2nd year students.

An internship (paid training) can meet students expectations in terms of job profile, salary or flexible work schedule, while the employer is not bounded by a long term employment contract.