



# WPC SURVEY OUTCOMES: WE ASKED YOU... HOW TO BOOST OIL & GAS INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA COOPERATION?

YP HIGHLIGHTS

**T**here are many successful examples of synergic cooperation between industry and academia globally, that vary considerably among universities, businesses and countries. Collaborative partnerships with academic institutions contribute to the competitiveness of the Oil & Gas industry through developing qualified graduates profiles and technological innovation in the continuously changing energy landscape.

Continuing the good WPC practice, the WPC Young Professionals Committee have conducted the Survey "From University Campus to Workplace: Boosting Oil & Gas Industry - Academia Cooperation". It aims to get a sense of students who aspire to have a career in the Oil & Gas industry and question Young Professionals as industry insiders. The Survey also focuses on understanding the respondents' perception of the Oil & Gas industry and academia partnerships. This Survey addresses the general



**Tamara Šereš**  
WPC YPC Member from Serbia (alternate),  
Serbian Committee YP Secretary General

awareness of programmes and support mechanisms and the track-record of participation in joint programmes. It also investigates the views on the needs and willingness to contribute to industry-academia initiatives.

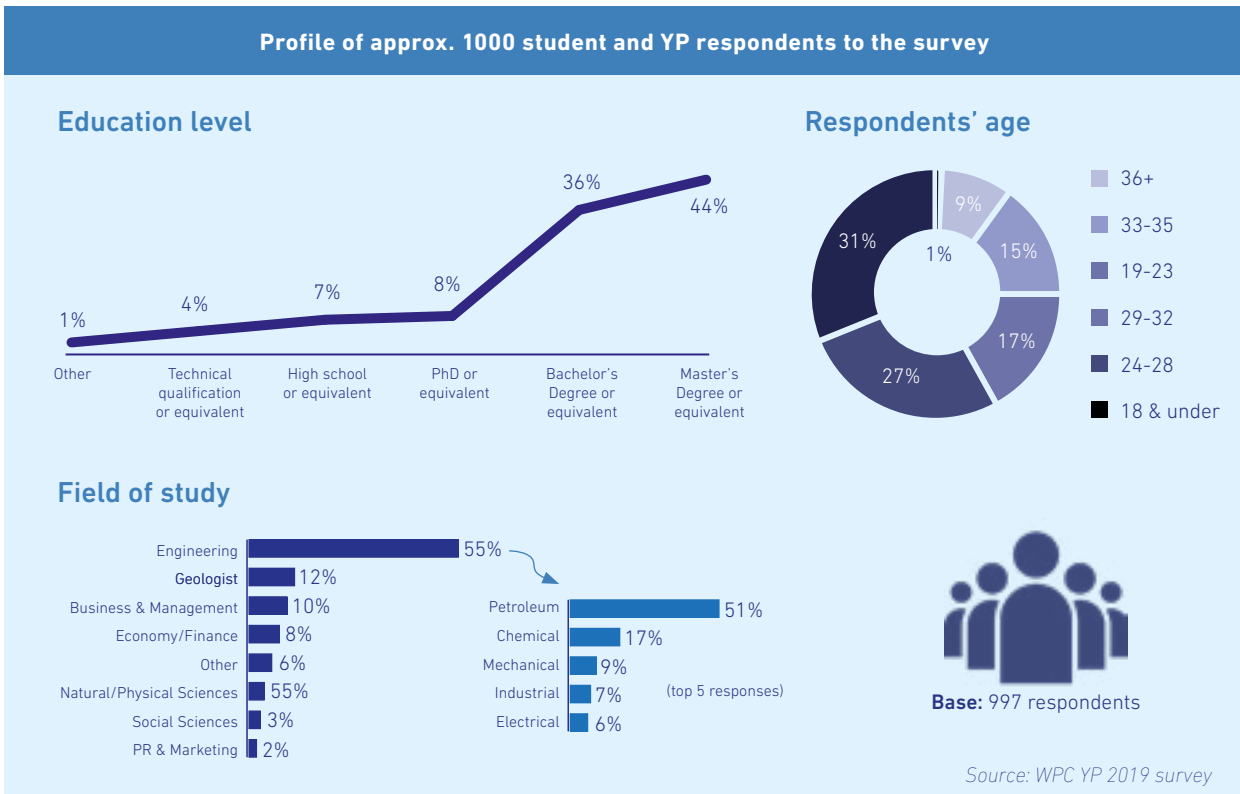
As part of our commitment, this report based on the Survey findings intends to serve as a tool for decision-makers in the WPC network to foster



**Zaid Al Khateeb**  
WPC YPC Member, Kuwait

industry-academia collaboration and give a fresh boost for innovative initiatives that will prepare a talent pool for the Oil & Gas industry of the future.

With the support of Survey Ambassadors in the WPC global network, the online survey reached nearly a thousand respondents, representing 74 countries across six continents. Engineers, half of which are



petroleum engineers, dominate in the respondents' profile. The majority of respondents are young professionals employed in the Oil & Gas industry, while the remaining 30% are students and recent graduates or those who are unemployed and looking for employment in the industry. A significant proportion of respondents (38%) are female, which is encouraging, as the WPC Gender Study "Untapped Reserves" shows currently only 22% female employees in the Oil & Gas industry.

Internationalisation and mobility in higher education are highlighted in the fact that more than a quarter of respondents have completed either their university graduate or post-graduate studies abroad or have combined home-based and international education. Currently, 16% of respondents are based outside their home

countries, most of which in France and Norway. More than half of the respondents are affiliated to (inter)national professional associations.

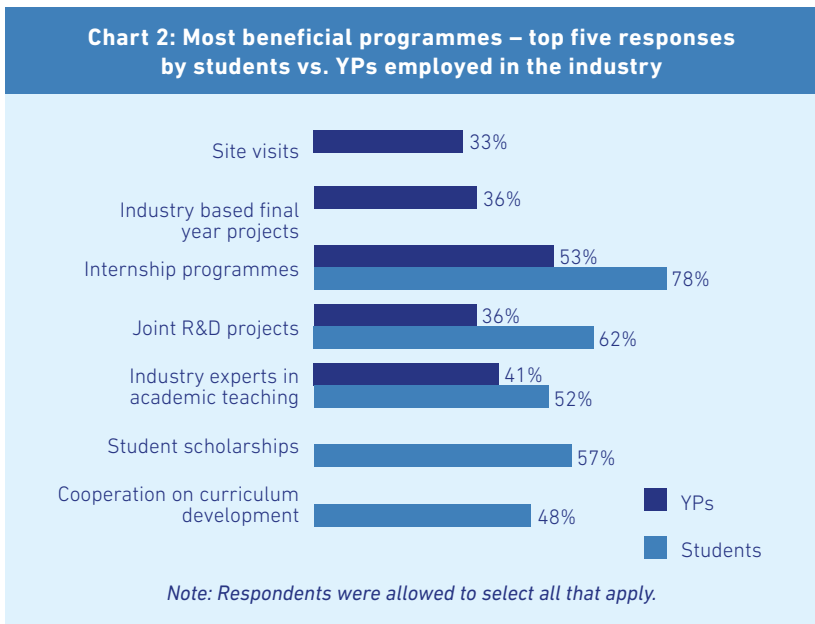
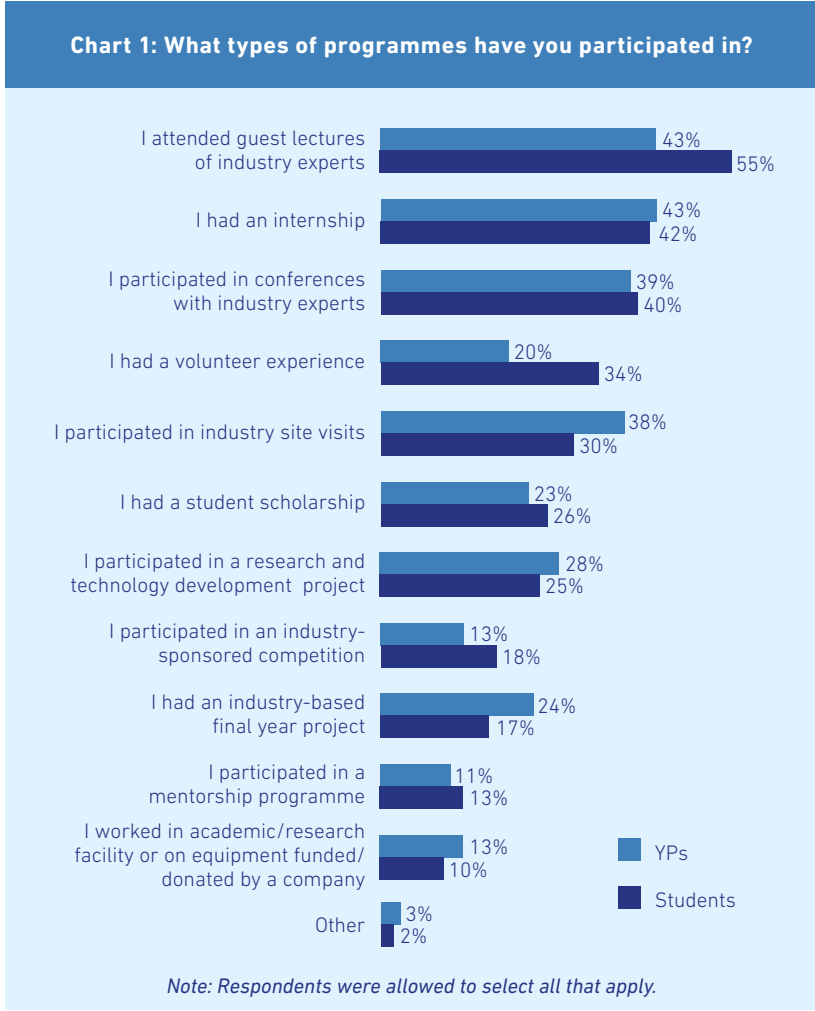
The Survey looked into the overall awareness of cooperation of the Oil & Gas industry and their place of study. The top five models of cooperation that respondents are aware of in their place of study include internship programmes, guest industry lectures, conferences, scholarships and joint R&D projects.

A majority of student respondents and those currently employed confirm they have participated in and benefited from a form of cooperation between the Oil & Gas industry and their university (see Chart 1). It is important to highlight that 60% of employed respondents state that this engagement was decisive

for their subsequent employment in the Oil & Gas industry.

The 34% of current students and 45% of employed respondents that have not benefited from industry presence at their home universities, require special attention. According to respondents, corporate programmes have not reached them due to general lack of awareness or the lack of given opportunity. Social networks, university channels and professional associations are the top communication channels where students learn about corporate presence.

Membership in professional associations increases participation in industry-academia initiatives – 76% of those that have participated in these initiatives are members of professional associations, reaffirming their potential



for enhancing industry-academia cooperation.

Internship programmes lead among the desired list of corporate initiatives - the majority of respondents highlight internships as the most rewarding opportunity they can gain during studies (See Chart 2).

To better understand the concerns and expectations on this topic, the Survey investigated views on students' confidence on finding a job placement in the Oil & Gas industry. While they express general confidence in chances for employment, they simultaneously anticipate the lack of job opportunities and lack of necessary skill-sets as major concerns. More than a half of the student respondents (59%) highlight that work experience during studies will have a major influence on their future employment.

The majority of young professionals (64%) admit they did not have realistic expectations of employment, and encountered hurdles when entering the labour market. Almost half of them point out that internships and volunteering during their studies were key for a career in the Oil & Gas industry.

Respondents demonstrated a high willingness to get involved and contribute to industry-academia programmes. The need to acquire job-related skills, an increased chance for future employment and the willingness to deepen an understanding of the industry are the top three drivers for students to take part in initiatives with Oil & Gas companies. The top three motives young professionals employed

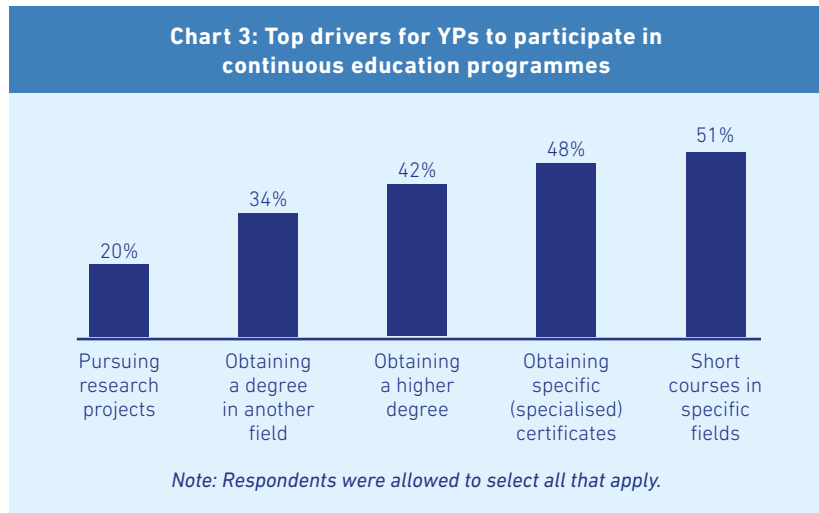


in the Oil & Gas industry have for ties with the academic sector are expansion of professional networks through cross-sectorial networking, acquisition of additional knowledge applicable to their workplace and finding solutions to job-encountered problems.

The survey looked into views on the university curriculum and its alignment with technology developments and the changing Oil & Gas landscape. Compared to 70% of students aspiring for a career in the Oil & Gas industry that are confident that the curriculum they are attending follows industry trends and developments, only a third of employed young professionals share this view on the curriculum they attended.

Investing in R&D to innovate and create new technologies is vital in enabling the industry to meet global energy demand and ensure competitiveness. Around half of respondents confirm they have had the opportunity to take part in R&D projects within the industry. The top needs recognised in relation to enhanced R&D cooperation are combining the skills of industrial practice with academic knowledge, increased understanding between industry practitioners and university research, more support to early stage research and more internship opportunities related to R&D.

A question that deserves special attention in view of talent attraction and retention in the industry is "Given the chance to start over, would you choose to do the same academic studies" – a vast majority of student respondents (73%) and those employed (67%)



would choose to pursue the same educational path again.

The survey shows that young professionals employed in the Oil & Gas industry demonstrate a high interest in life-long learning programmes in cooperation with universities - 95% of employed respondents would be willing to benefit from university-tailored further education courses. However, a significant portion – 38% of respondents – have not had this opportunity after completing their studies (see Chart 3).

In view of notable mobility and internationalisation of education, a significant number of respondents highlighted the need for industry to take into account international students when tailoring corporate programmes.

The overall general sentiment of respondents shows that students are more optimistic in relation to young professionals when asked about the quality of cooperation between their university and the Oil & Gas industry.

When asked about the most important stakeholders and contributors to economic development, respondents believe that the industry has the leading role in economic development in society, indicating trust and reliance on the industry for academic empowerment and on their future at large.

We look forward to further discussing the Survey insights during the 6th WPC Future Leaders Forum in Saint Petersburg! 💧

