Reports   School of Computer Science

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Who am I? ~ Undergraduate Computer Science Student

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Recommended Citation

Who am I?

~ undergraduate students in the School of Computing, DIT~

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Background

The Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) is one of Ireland's largest third-level institutions. Kevin Street college the home of the DITs School of Computing (SC) was started in 1887 to provide technical education and training in specialist fields. This continues to be the goal of the SC with an emphasis on research and industry links. The DIT college of Science and Health has been offering courses in computing since 1971.

Figure 1. Kevin Street College

As part of a school review process a survey of the students was designed to gain insight into who the students of the school were. The survey was a voluntary anonymous online survey. Students were able to skip questions and select more than one option in some questions. This was to reduce frustration with participation in the survey and ensure that the survey was completed.

Materials and methods

The survey was delivered to the students through their college email account and was administered through the use of surveymonkey.com. The survey was voluntary. To increase response rates it was introduced by the head of school who noted the significance of the survey. The survey was open for three weeks.

Figure 2. Method was voluntary anonymous online survey .

Figure 3. SC Final Year Project Fair

Response Rates

Response rates were high for all groups but the FT fourth years this was due to the timing of the survey alongside the final two weeks of the Final Year Projects.

Table 1. Undergraduate response rates

Programme	Year	Population	Survey Sample	Response rate (%)
DT211	1	46	7	15%
	2	32	13	41%
	3	27	6	27%
	4	12	8	67%
DT228	1	60	33	55%
	2	60	16	27%
	3	56	4	7%
	4	45	4	9%
DT249	1	72	8	11%
	2	44	11	25%
	3	44	7	16%
	4	60	7	12%

Results

UG are predominantly males (92%) from Dublin. 74% of UG students are Irish, 7% Polish and 5% Chinese other 14% are constituted by 14 countries majority of which are European
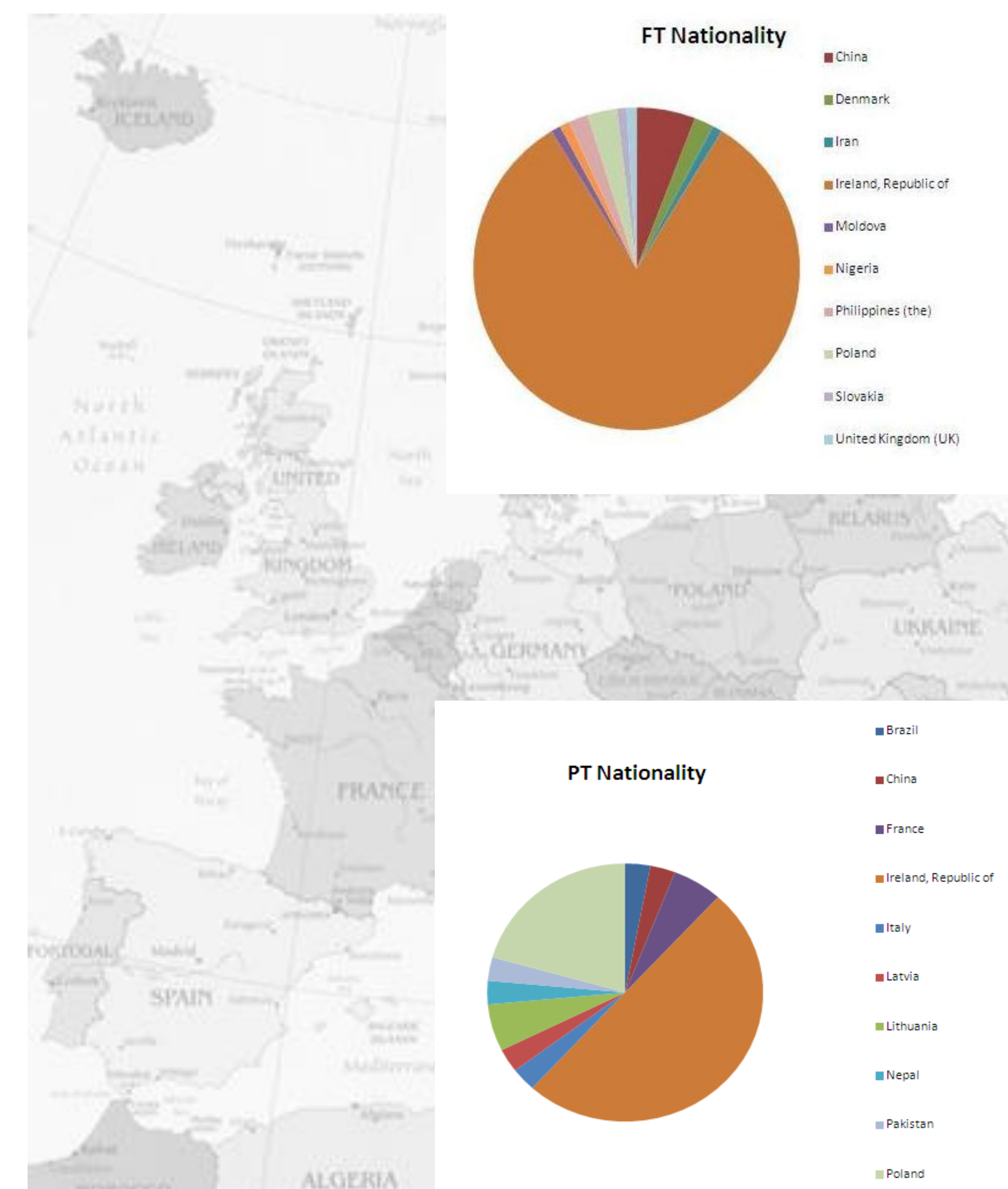
Figure 4. Undergraduate Nationality

The survey found that of the Irish respondents

- 96% of UG and 100% of PG are from Leinster.
- 8% of UG students are travelling further than the

adjacent counties of Dublin such as Kilkenny see fig. 5.
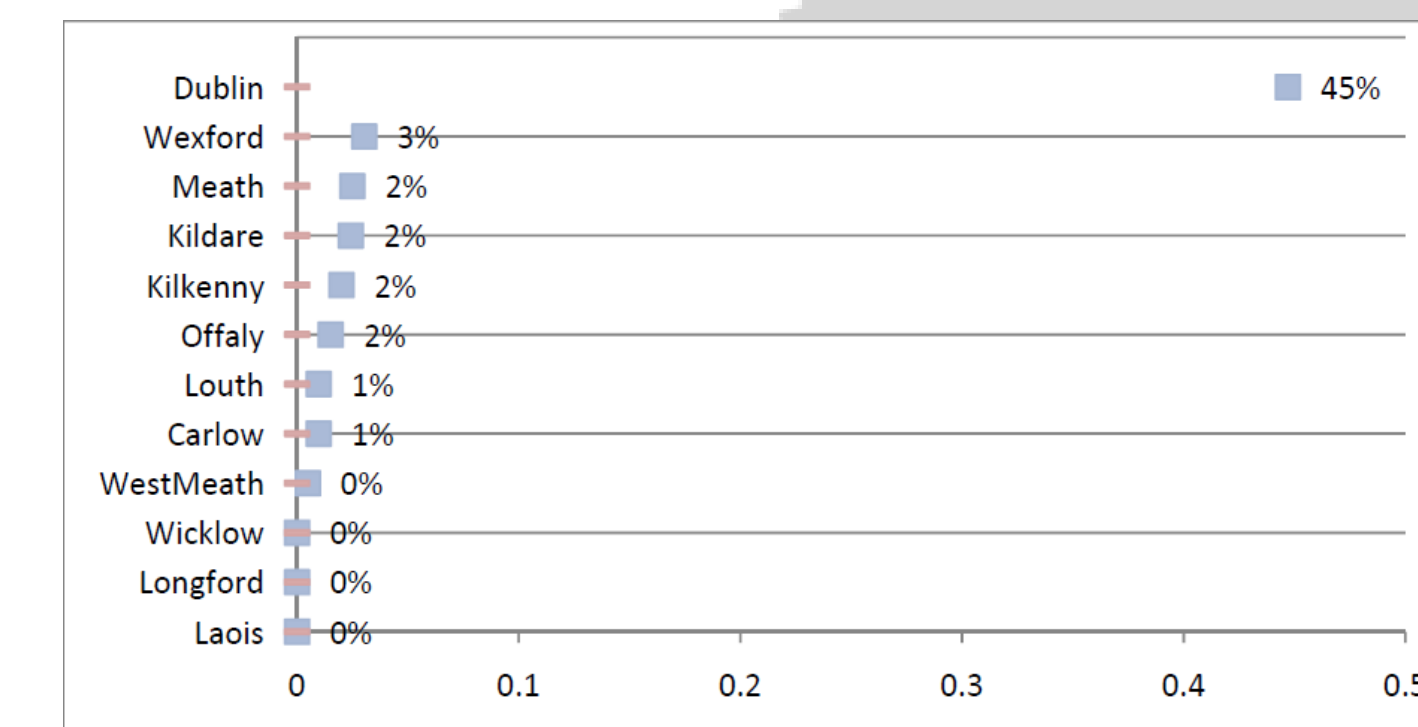- 13% of UG travel >20 Km a day to SC see fig. 6.

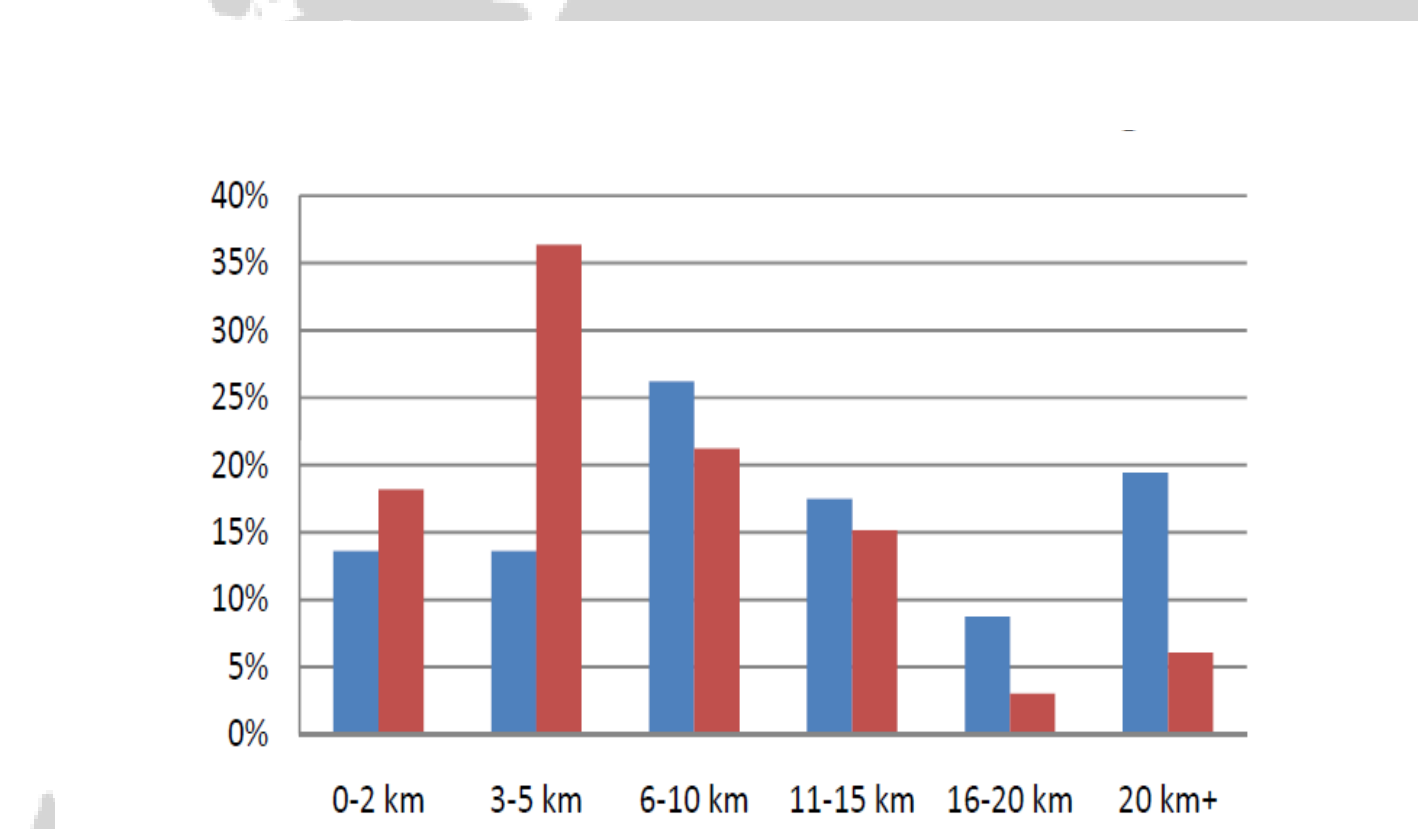**Figure 5. Undergraduate native Counties**

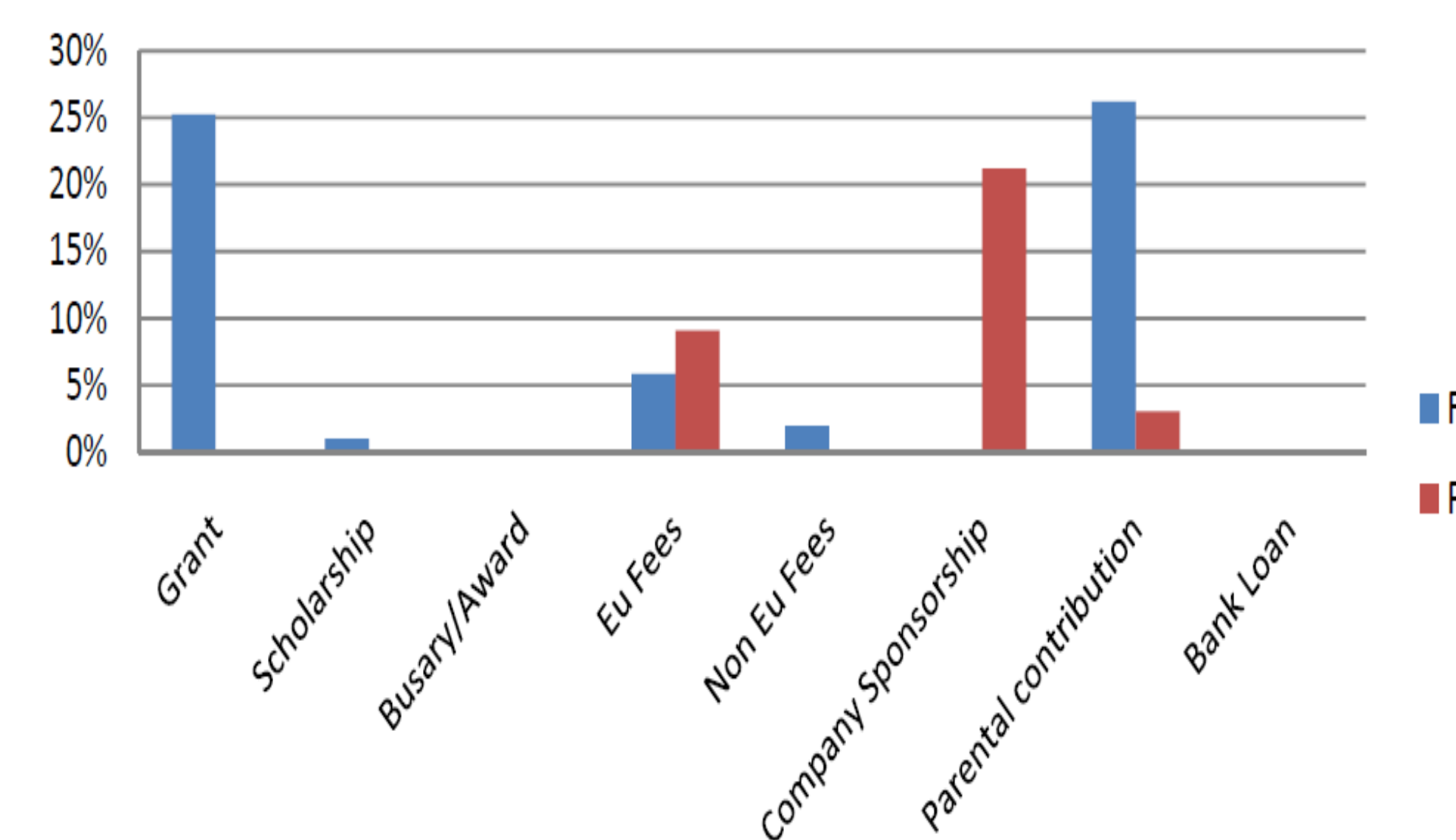**Figure 6. Undergraduate daily distance travelled to SC.**

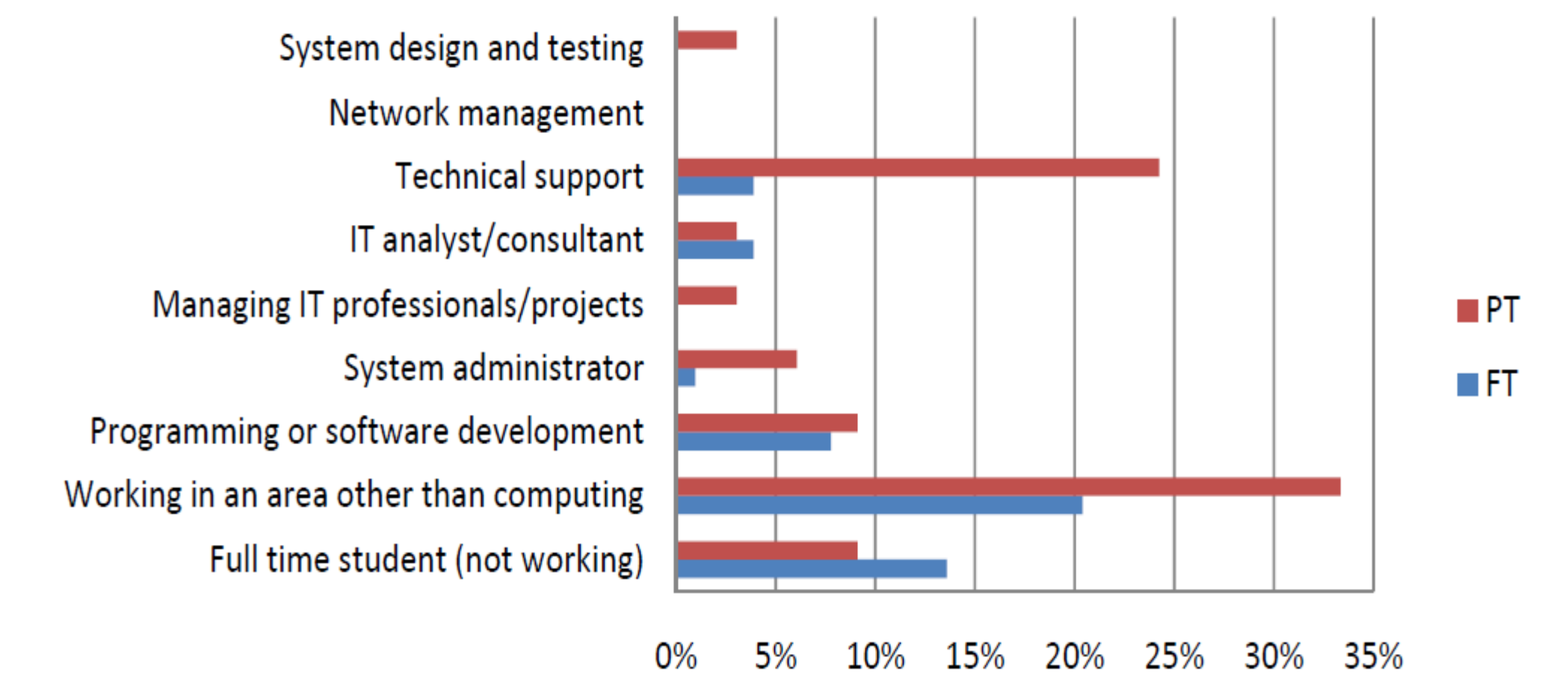**Figure 7. Undergraduate financial support**

Figure 8. Undergraduate current employment

It was expected that the PT cohort would be employed. The survey found that 53% were employed in a related field, 37% were employed in an area other than computing and 10% were unemployed (fig. 7). Those that worked in a computing related field had been working for 1-3 years.
downturn.

Conclusions

- Online survey by college email was ideal
- Response rates were very good with the exception of final year FT UG (13%).
- UG are predominantly males from Dublin.
- 74% of UG students are Irish, 7% Polish and 5% Chinese other 14% are constituted by 14 countries majority of which are European
- Irish students are predominantly from Leinster.
- 13% of undergraduate students are commuting > 20kms to study Computer Science in the DIT.

Literature cited

CSO Report (2006). http://www.cso.ie/en/newsandevents/pressreleases/2006pressreleases/ [Date accessed June 2012]

DIT website (2012). http://www.comp.dit.ie [Date accessed June 2012]

Acknowledgments

For further information

Please contact *jane.ferris@dit*.ie More information on this and related projects can be obtained at *www.arrow.dit.ie*.