

## First destinations of STFC PhD students

Towards the end of 2016 we collected information on the first destinations of 941 STFC-funded PhD students who had completed their doctorate in the previous four years (2012-2015). The following shows how these were divided between the four main subject areas supported by STFC studentships:

- astronomy: 521 (this includes particle astrophysics and cosmology and solar system science)
- nuclear physics: 73
- particle physics experiment: 186
- particle physics theory: 126

35 were not classified by subject area.

Figure 1 shows the broad categories of first destinations for all the students combined. This shows that:

- 45% went on to a postdoc position (and it is likely that the 3% in unspecified university positions were also postdocs).
- 28% went into the private sector
- the rest went mainly into research institutes, other university jobs, school teaching and other parts of the public or charitable sectors.

**Figure 1: overview of first destinations (n= 941)**

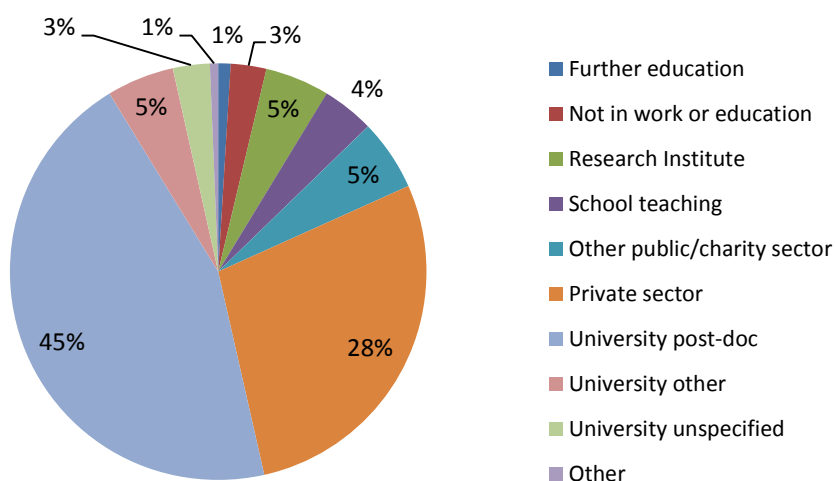


Figure 2 shows these broad categories of first destinations broken down between the main subject areas.

**Figure 2: overview of first destinations by subject area (n=906)**

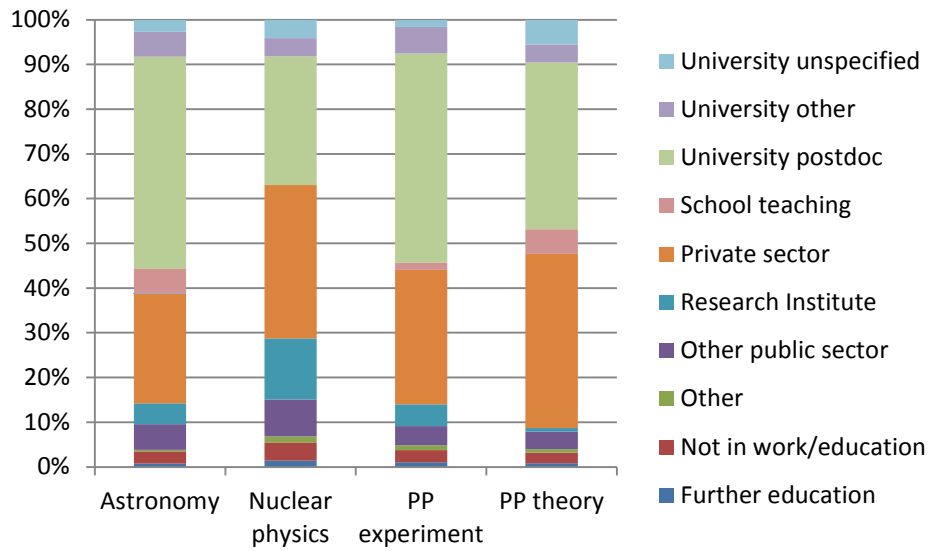


Figure 3 shows the proportions of those going into postdoc positions who remained in the UK or went overseas (where this is known). Just over half remained in the UK.

**Figure 3: destination of students going into postdoc positions (n=401)**

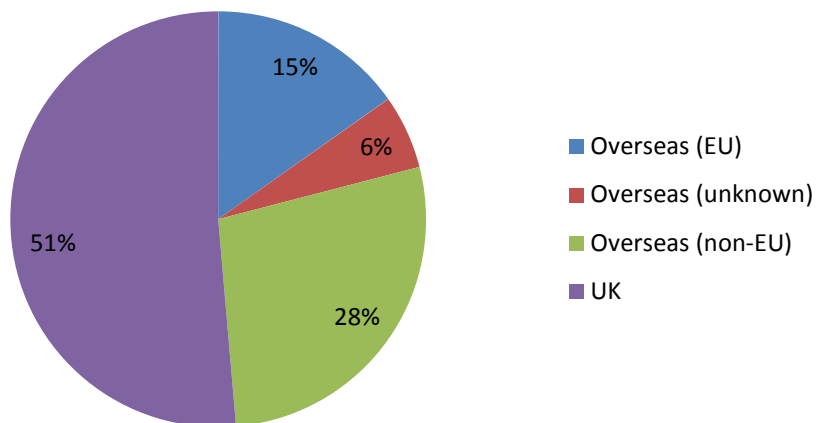


Figure 4 shows how the proportion of those going into postdocs who stayed in the UK or went overseas varies by subject area.

**Figure 4: destination of those going into postdocs by subject area (n=386)**

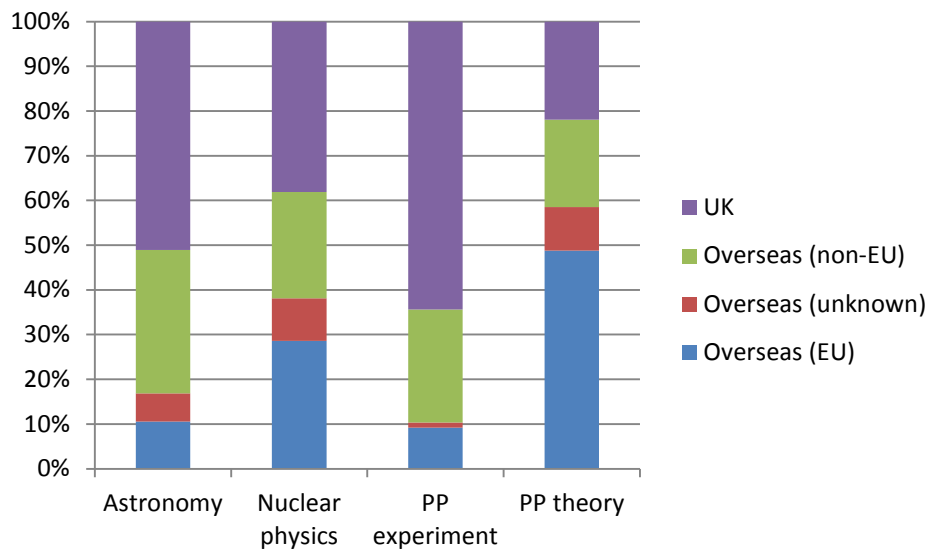


Figure 5 shows the types of role taken up by students who went into the private sector. The dominant roles were in software development, data analysis, engineering and finance (over 70% went into one of these areas).

**Figure 5: type of role undertaken by those entering the private sector (n=171)**

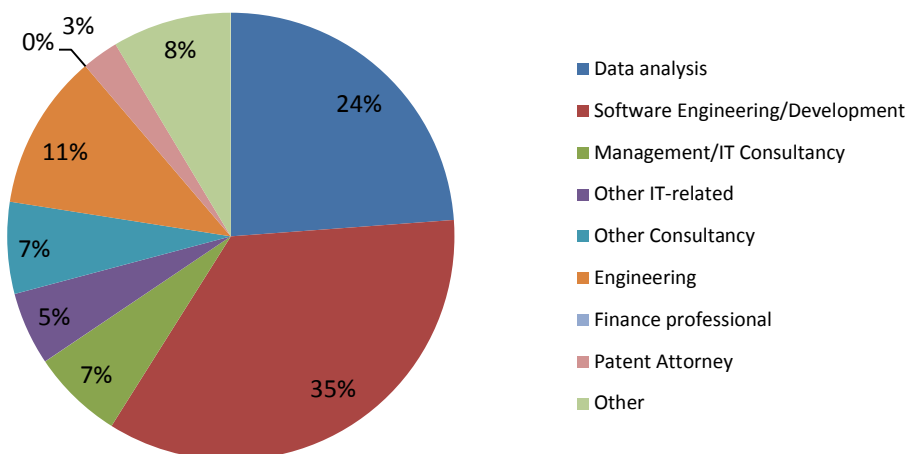


Figure 6 looks at this roles undertaken by students in the private sector, by PhD subject area.

**Figure 6: types of role in the private sector, by subject area (n=167)**

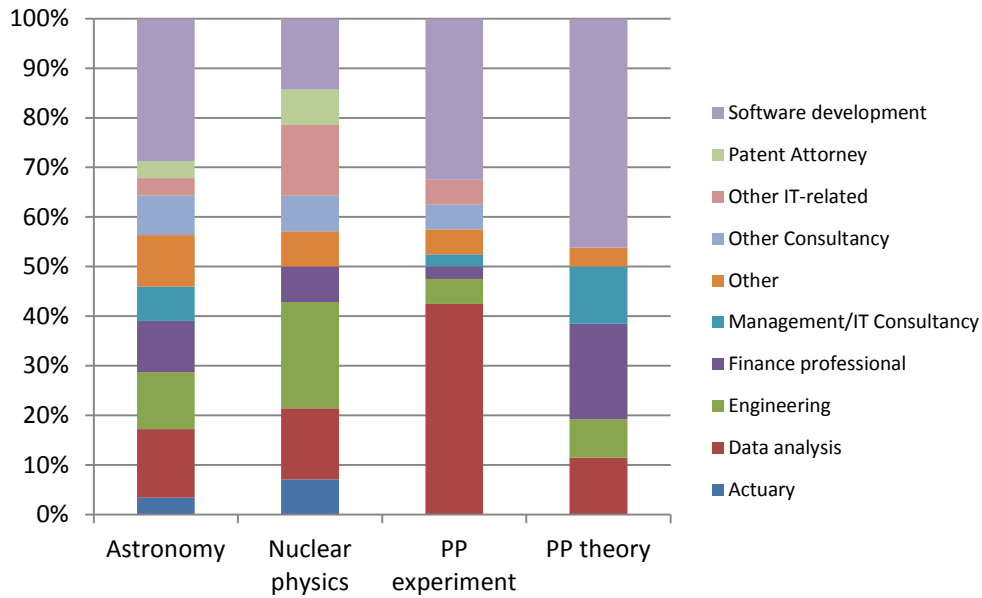


Figure 7 shows the types of company for which those who went into the private sector chose to work. Here there is more of a spread, but almost 60% worked for companies involved in either software production, finance, manufacturing or management/IT consultancy.

**Figure 7: types of company for which students went to work (n=213)**

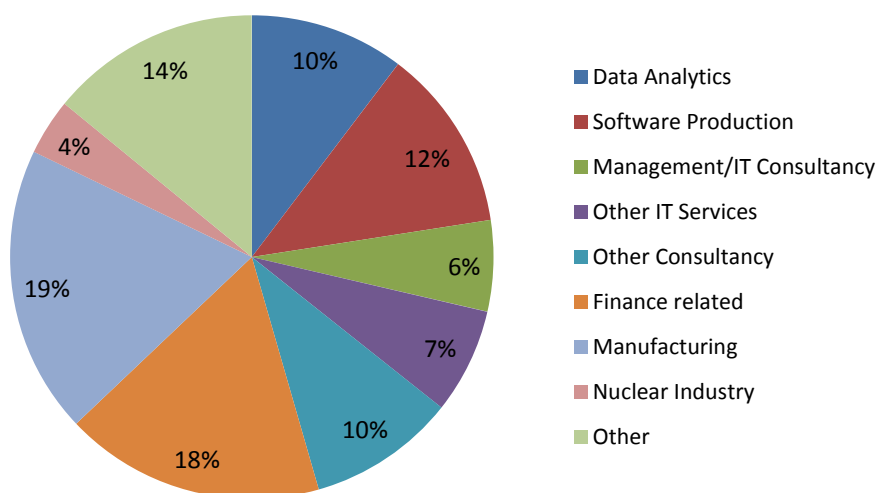


Figure 8 shows the types of company for which students chose to work by PhD subject area.

**Figure 8: types of company for which students went to work, by subject area (n=208)**

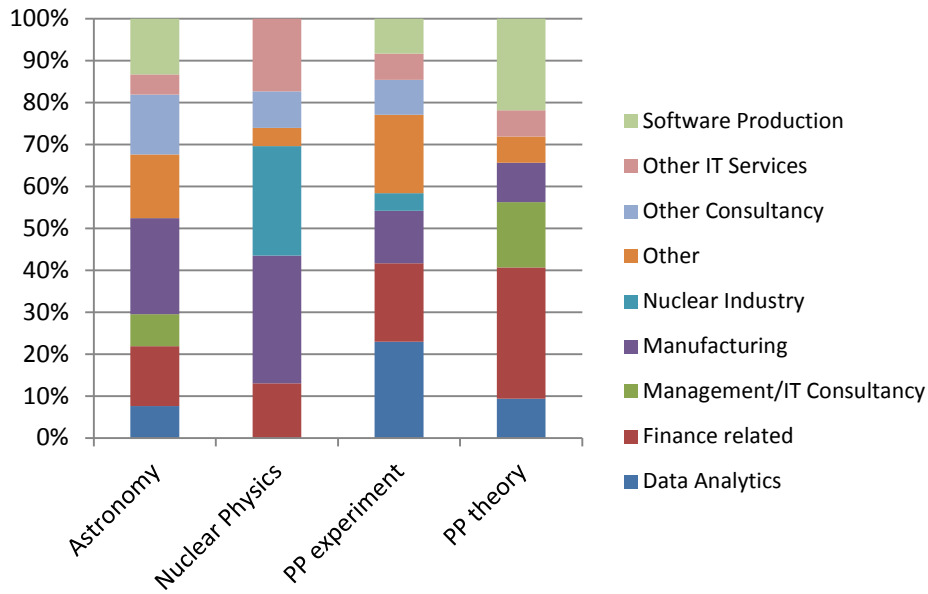


Figure 9 shows the areas of the public and charitable sectors where students went to work. The biggest areas were the civil service and related public bodies and the health sector (mostly NHS).

**Figure 9: areas of the public/charitable sectors employing students (n=52)**

