

QAA Scotland commissioned work

Student Views on graduate skills

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QAA Focus On: Graduate Skills – Student Views

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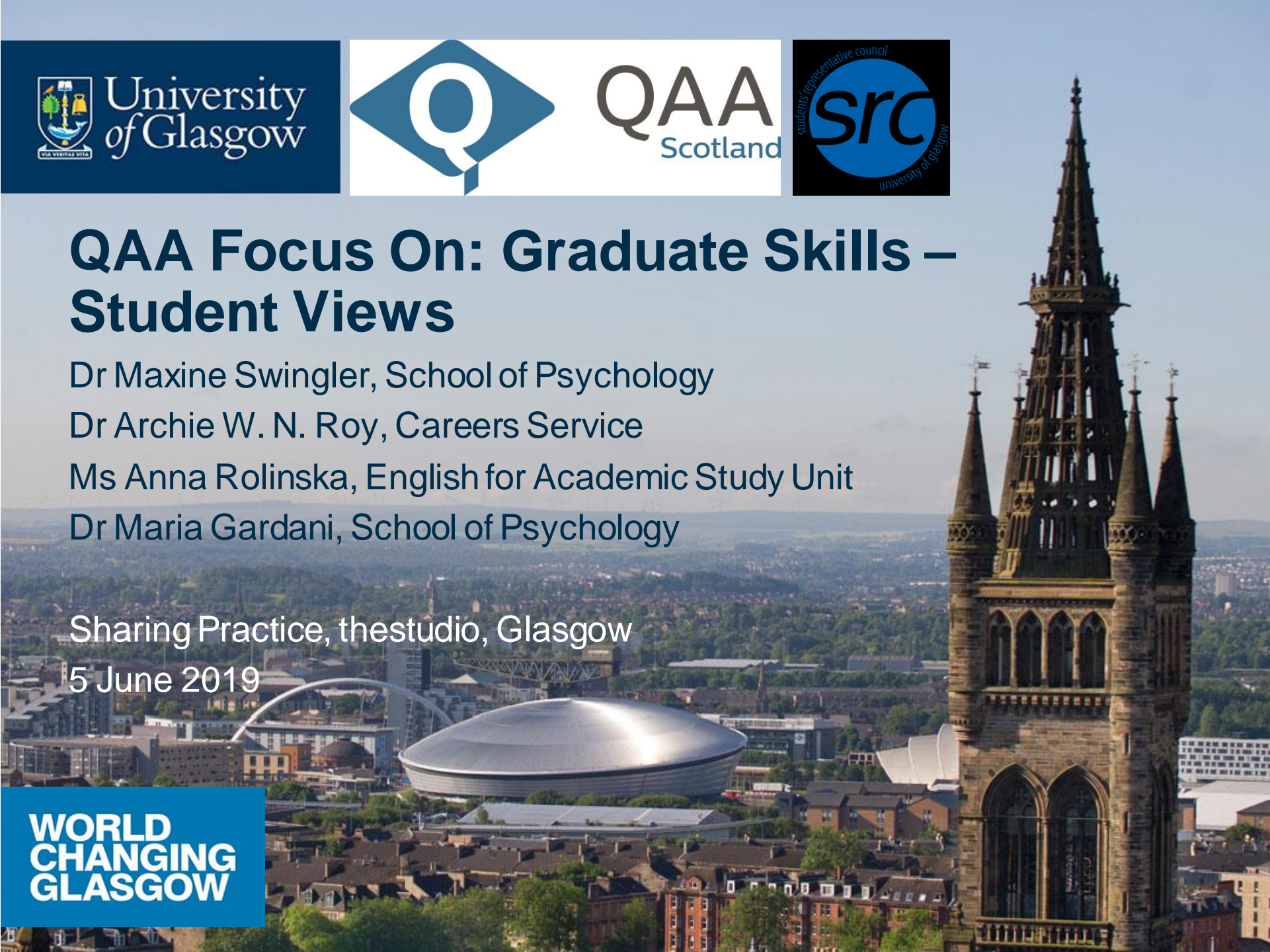
Ms Anna Rolinska, English for Academic Study Unit

Dr Maria Gardani, School of Psychology

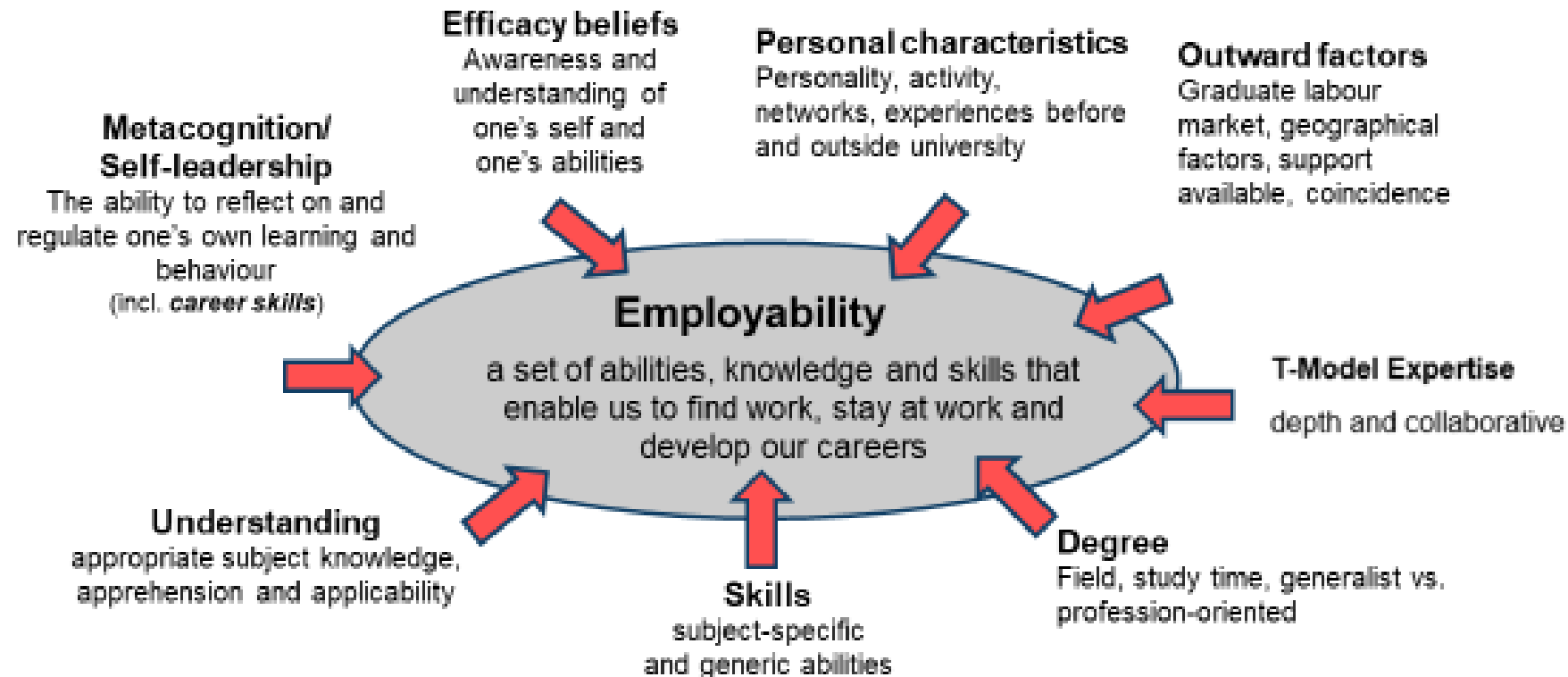
Sharing Practice, thestudio, Glasgow

5 June 2019

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FOCUS ON: GRADUATE SKILLS 2018-19



THE USEM account of employability

Mantz Yorke & Peter T. Knight: Embedding employability into the curriculum. The Higher Education Academy, April 2006

FOCUS ON: GRADUATE SKILLS 2018-19

- **Readiness for Employment:** how can we most effectively embed skills inside and outside the curriculum, including digital skills, for graduates from all disciplines?
- **Equality and Diversity:** how can we support students from all backgrounds and characteristics to develop skills that will help them to secure and sustain success in the workplace?
- **Global Perspective:** how do we ensure that all Scottish graduates are enabled to live and work in a global society, and that the Scottish sector is informed by global developments?



FOCUS ON: GRADUATE SKILLS 2018-19

Survey N=319

Graduate Skills

Global Citizenship

Digital Skills

Academic & Extra
Curricular Activities

Readiness for
Employment

E & D

Open text response

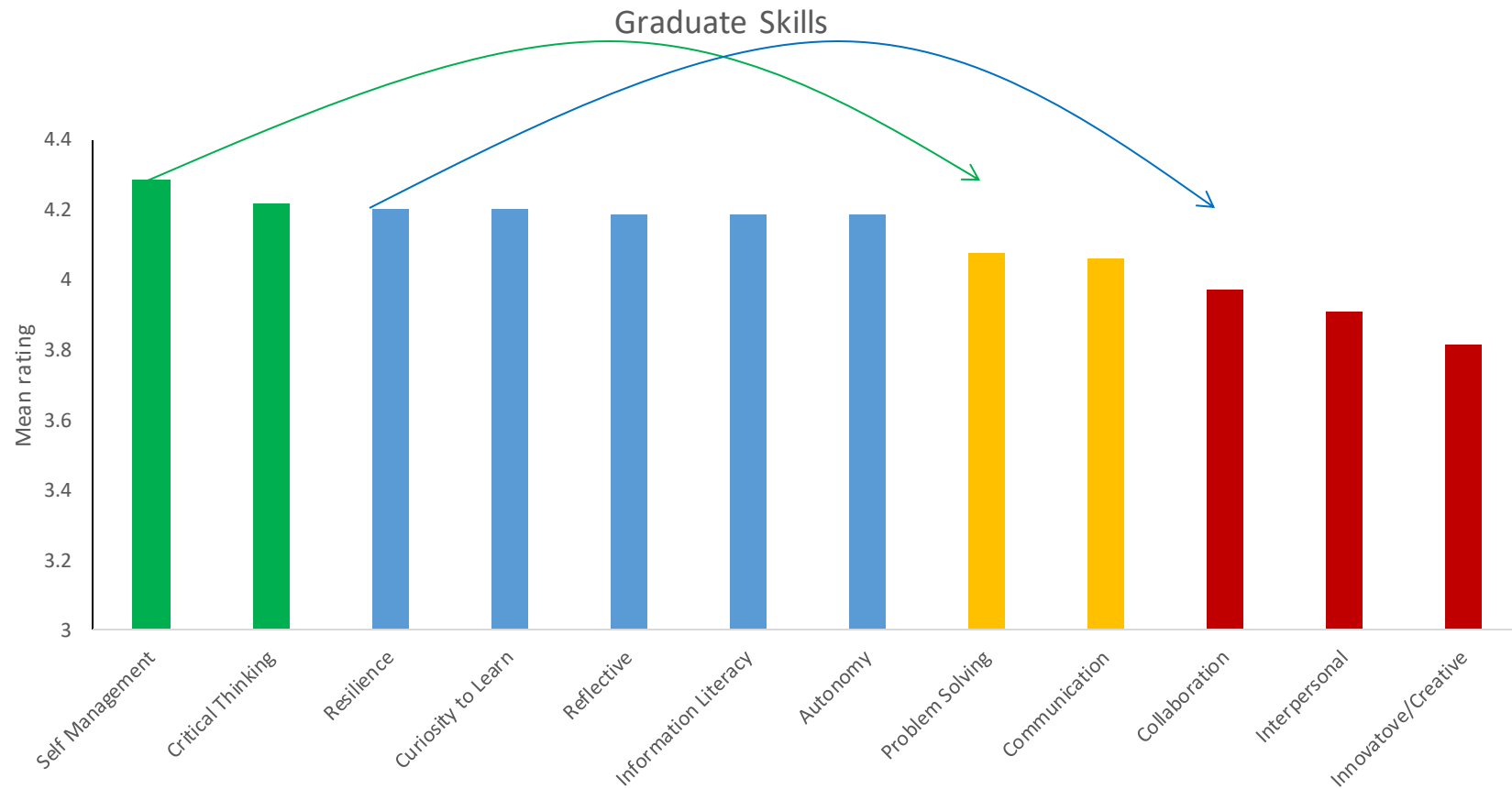
University
experience

Room for
improvement
Support

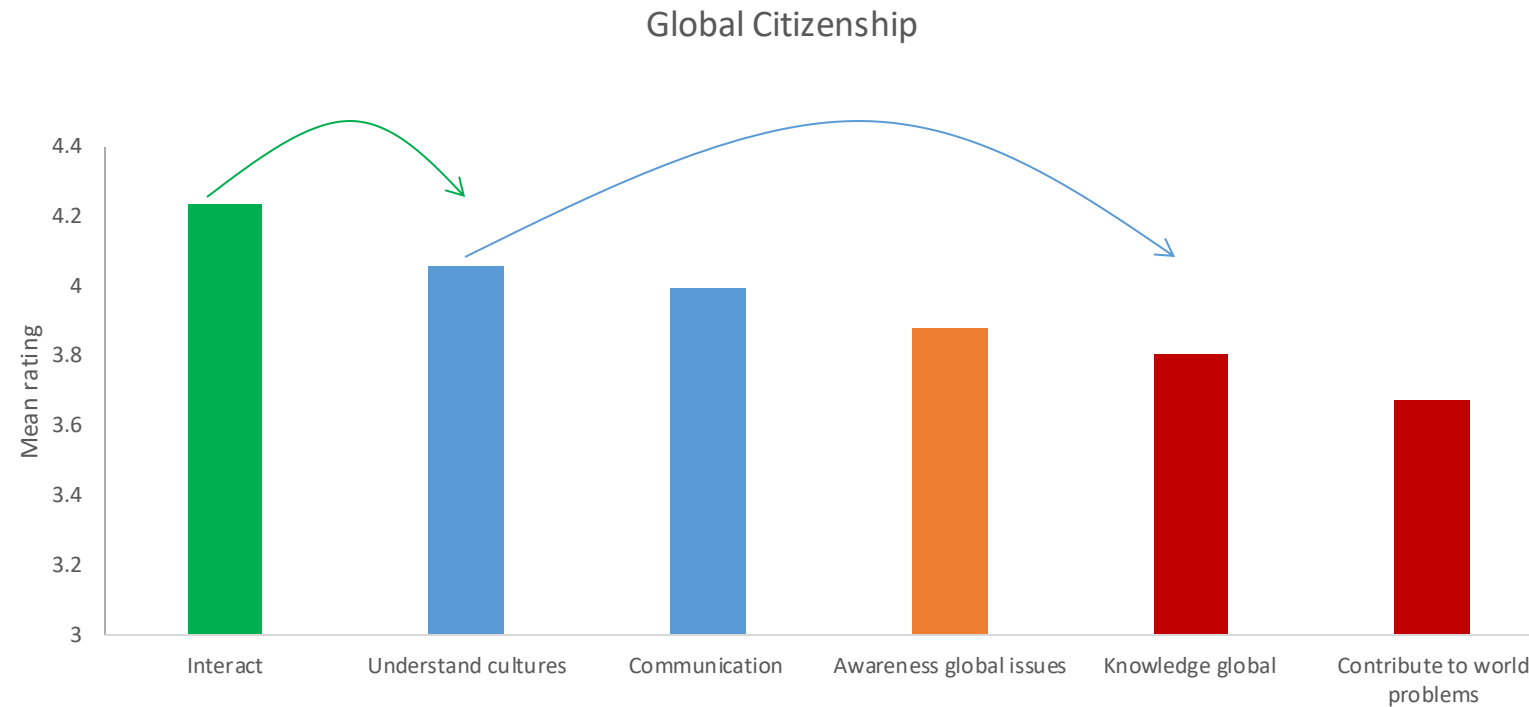
Focus Groups N= 8

Reflecting on
Graduate Skills
Opportunities
Challenges

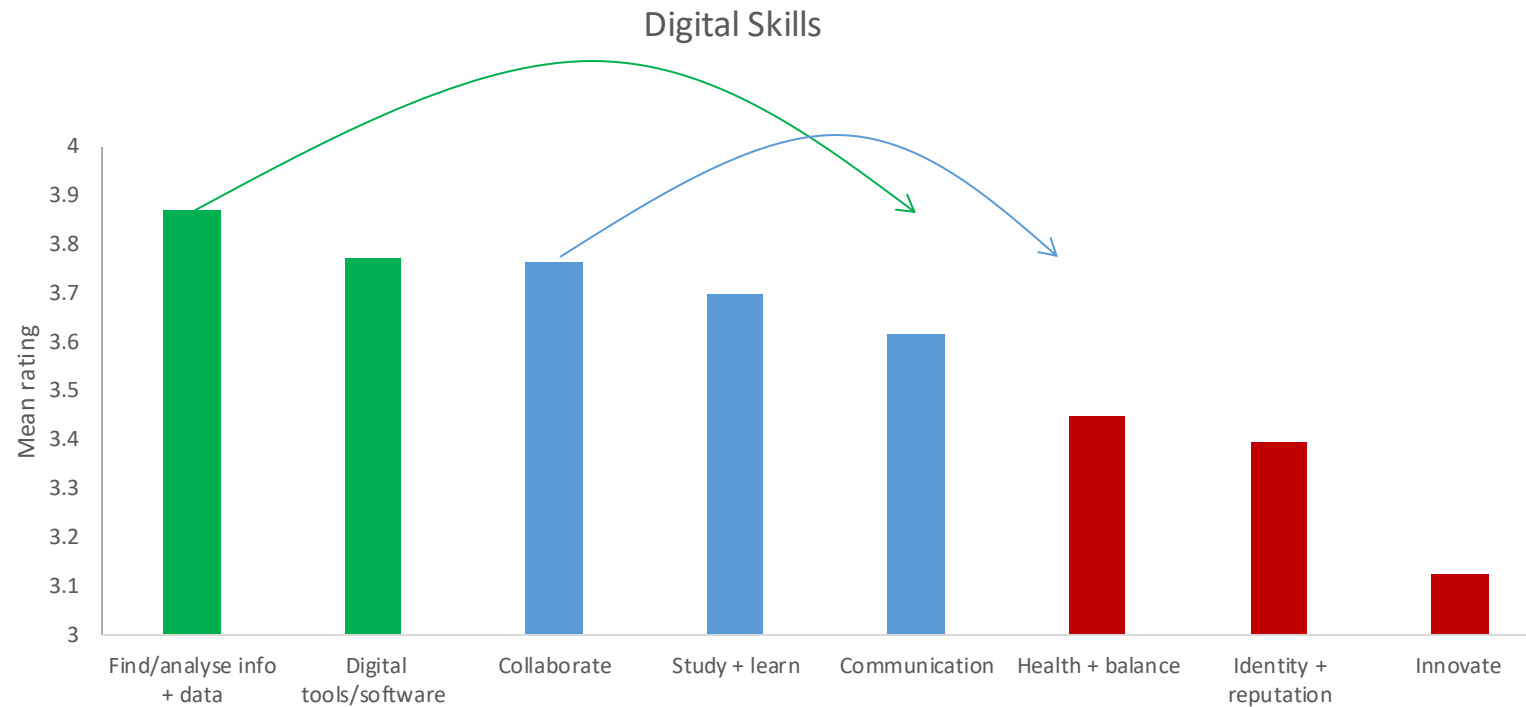
How well does university experience equip students with graduate skills?



How well does university experience equip students with global citizenship?

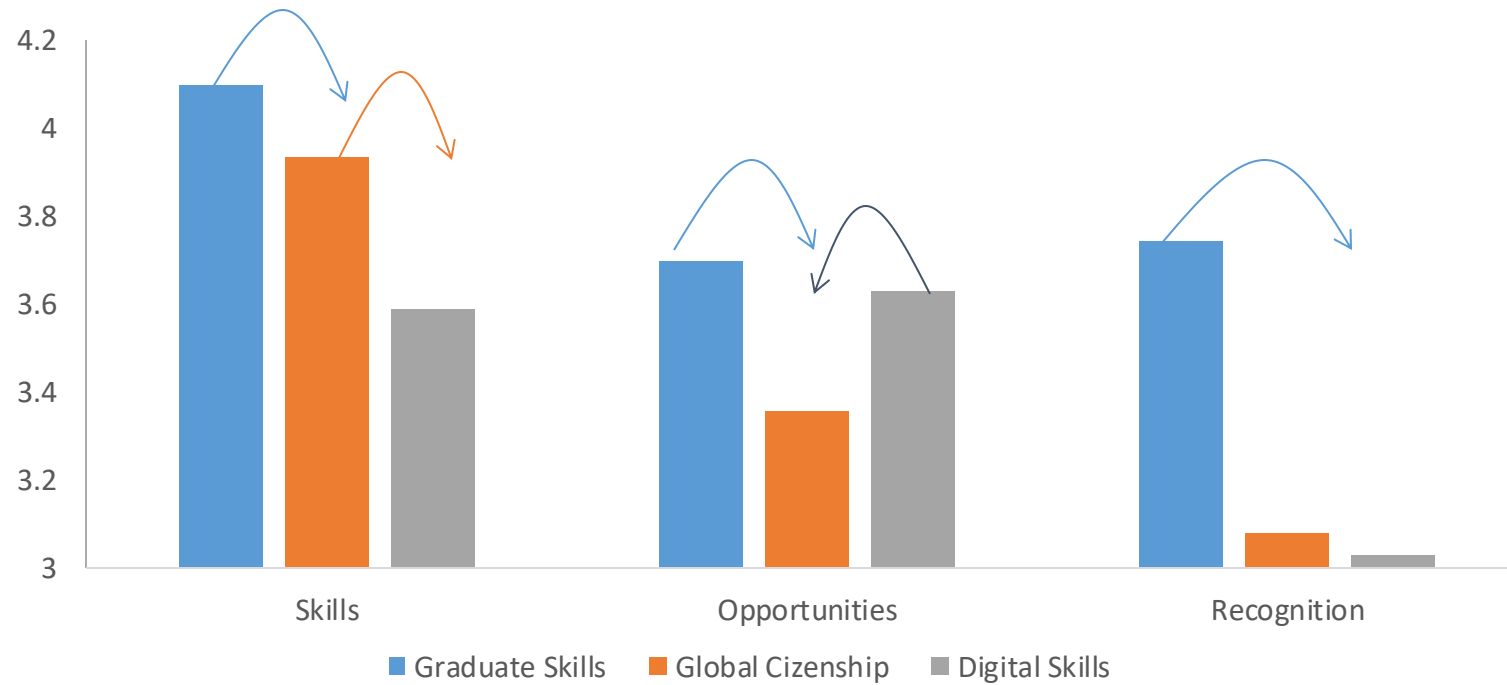


How well does university experience equip students with digital skills?

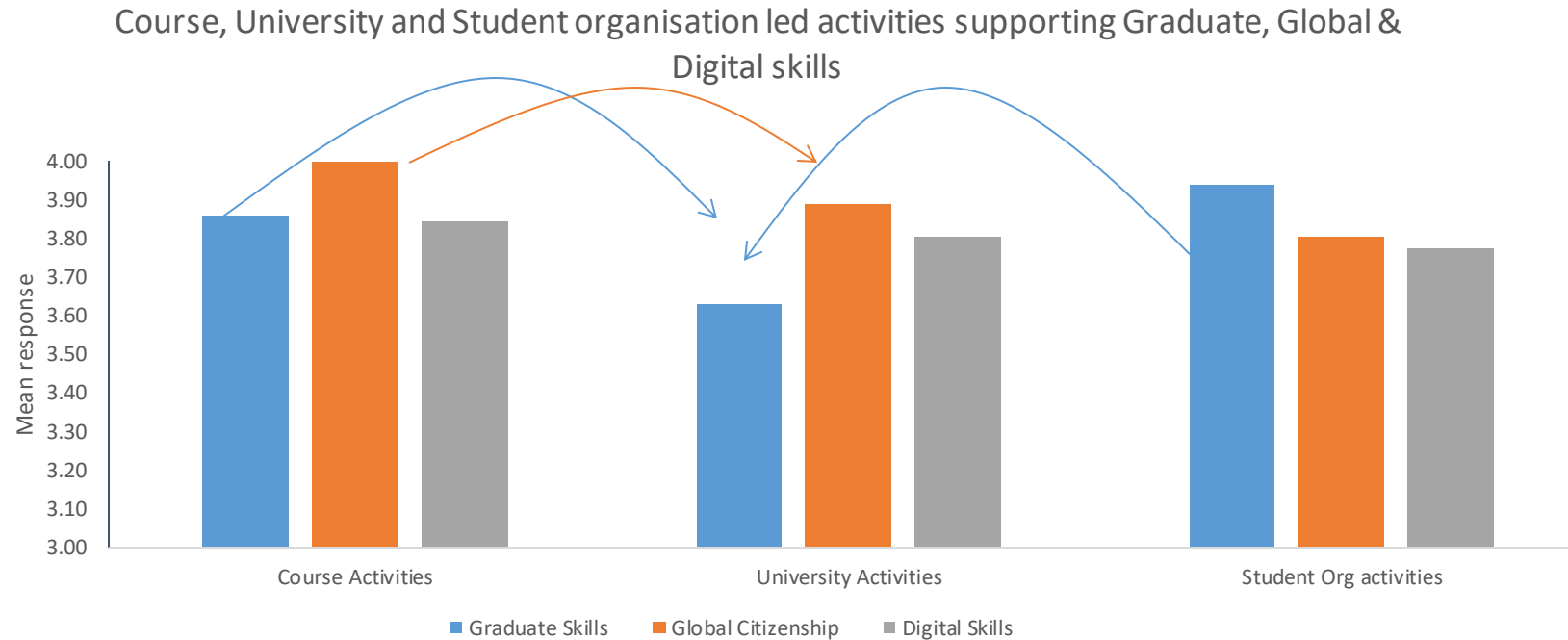


Comparison across skill sets

Comparison across skill sets & opportunities to develop and be recognised



What is the perceived contribution of academic and extra-curricular activities to development of graduate skills, global citizenship and digital skills?



	Course (N)	Uni (N)	Student Org (N)
Grad Skills	319	286	253
Global	292	243	174
Digital	313	314	258

Perceptions and experiences of graduate skills, global citizenship and digital skills



These skills have been developed and honed through extracurricular activities, such as leading committees and working abroad..

At the end of the day I guess it's up to the student's own initiative to actually seek out that kind of help and be guided



It's [digital skills] becoming super important in every single aspect, not just employment, but everyday life

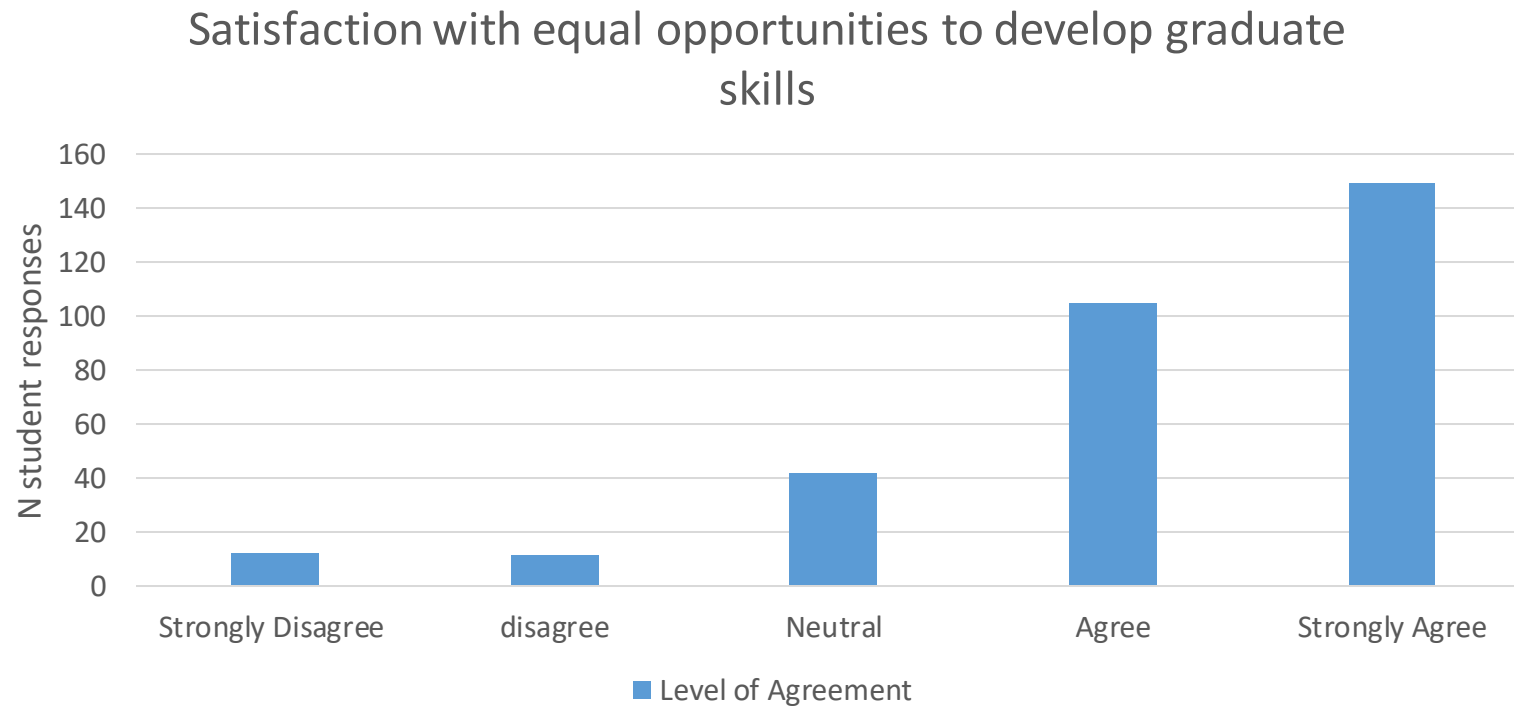
I feel that everything nowadays revolves around being able to be proficient digitally



...if I worked in a different country it shouldn't be so difficult to work with people from other nations.

...it's definitely important so you can accept people from different backgrounds. But I don't feel like it's a graduate skill at all.

Is skills development accessible to all?



Have there been any barriers preventing you from taking advantage of opportunities to develop skills?

Response	%
YES	20
NO	80

Is skills development accessible to all?

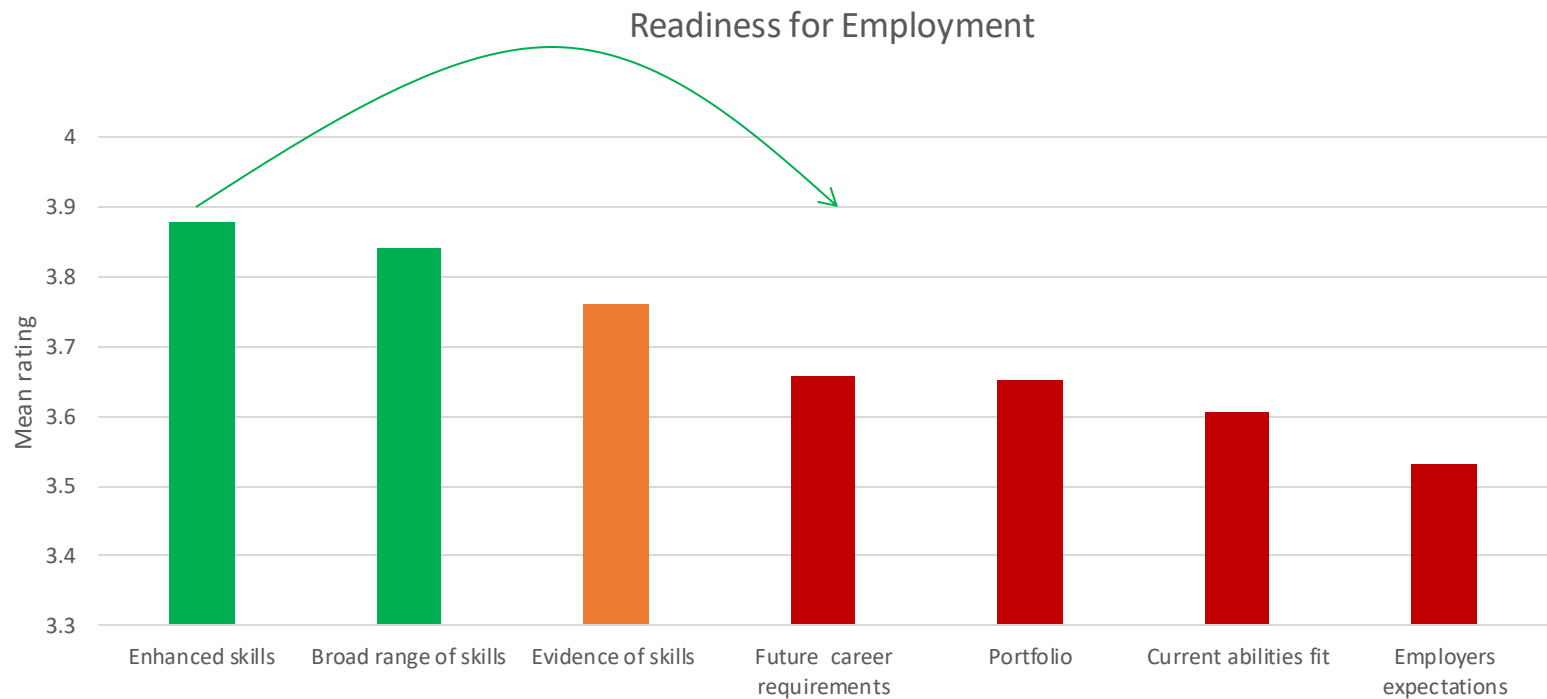
[careers services]...at uni is really bad...the focus is entirely on young students

I haven't seen a lot of older people, but I know they are studying

looking after elderly parents, ill spouse, my own mental health issues and being a commuting student have all been factors [hindering GS development]



How do students perceive their university experience as a preparation for the graduate workplace?



Are you aware of graduate skills being built into learning and teaching on your courses?	Response	%
	YES	66
	NO	34

How do students perceive their university experience as a preparation for the graduate workplace?

Skills Development

my degree programme and all of the extra-curricular activities also offered by the uni have provided me with numerous transferable skills,

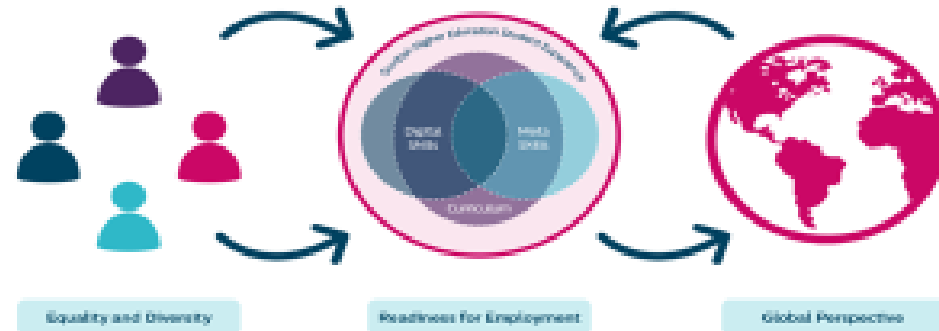
these are aspects of the course ...that can be directly applied to many jobs from teaching to finance to law...

Work-based Learning

I know the skills that look good on paper - but the reality of a real workplace (long overdue hours, difficult customers/clients) cannot be learned on a university campus

Teach us skills that we need. Teach us to actually be able to do something.

FOCUS ON: GRADUATE SKILLS 2018-19



Readiness for Employment: Well equipped with graduate skills, less equipped with digital skills & knowledge of employer expectations. Importance of academic activities.

Equality & Diversity: Barriers include age, balancing work & study, carers, mental & physical health.

Global Perspective: Well equipped to work with different cultures, less equipped to apply this to the graduate global workplace.



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Thank you

- QAA Scotland
- Student Interns: Aikaterini Manoli, Grigorios Kokkinidis & Anoushka Kapoor
- Scott Kirby: SRC
- Students from Scottish HEIS

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