



Transition from University

Monica McLean, Nottingham



Research jointly supported by the ESRC and FDO

Context: persistently high youth unemployment

First quarter of 2020:

- 20.4 million young people aged 15–34 years= 63.3 % of the total number of unemployed persons. The unemployment rate within this group = 43.2% and in 15–24 year olds = 59.0%
- Among graduates up to 34 years old, the unemployment rate was 33.1% (compared to 24.6% in the 4th quarter of 2019 – an increase of 8,5 percentage points)

<http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=13379>

2020:graduate status six years after registration

Complete with transcript	38
Complete withheld for debt	5
Not yet completed	13
Dropped out	2
Total	58

2021: work/further study

Employed	14
Continuing undergraduate study	13
Further study	8
Internship, training, community service	7
Unemployed	16 (includes 2 who dropped out)
Total	58

Intersecting conversion factors for moving on

- *Educational*: degree; field of study; university
- *Material*: money; access to technology
- *Social*: information and support
- *Environmental*: location of university
- *Personal*: attitudes and values

Conclusion

- ‘For students from disadvantaged backgrounds, access to university, challenging as it is, is perceived as an immediate panacea out of poverty and towards social mobility. [However] they struggle through universities and graduate at a point of disadvantage even before getting into the labour market.’ (Walker and Fongwa,2017: 106)