

# Student mobility; Selectivity and labour market prospects

Jannecke Wiers-Jenssen,  
NIFU STEP - Norwegian Institute for Studies in  
Innovation, Research and Education

# Topics

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- The Nordic Graduate Survey 2007
- Graduates' background
- The transition from higher education to work
- International jobs

## Data: Nordic Graduate Survey 2007

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- Survey among graduates focusing on transition from higher education to work
- Comparing mobile and non-mobile students
- Data collected in four countries/autonomous regions:
  - Finland
  - Norway
  - Iceland
  - Faroe Islands
- Initiated the public student support funds in the respective countries

# The Norwegian data set

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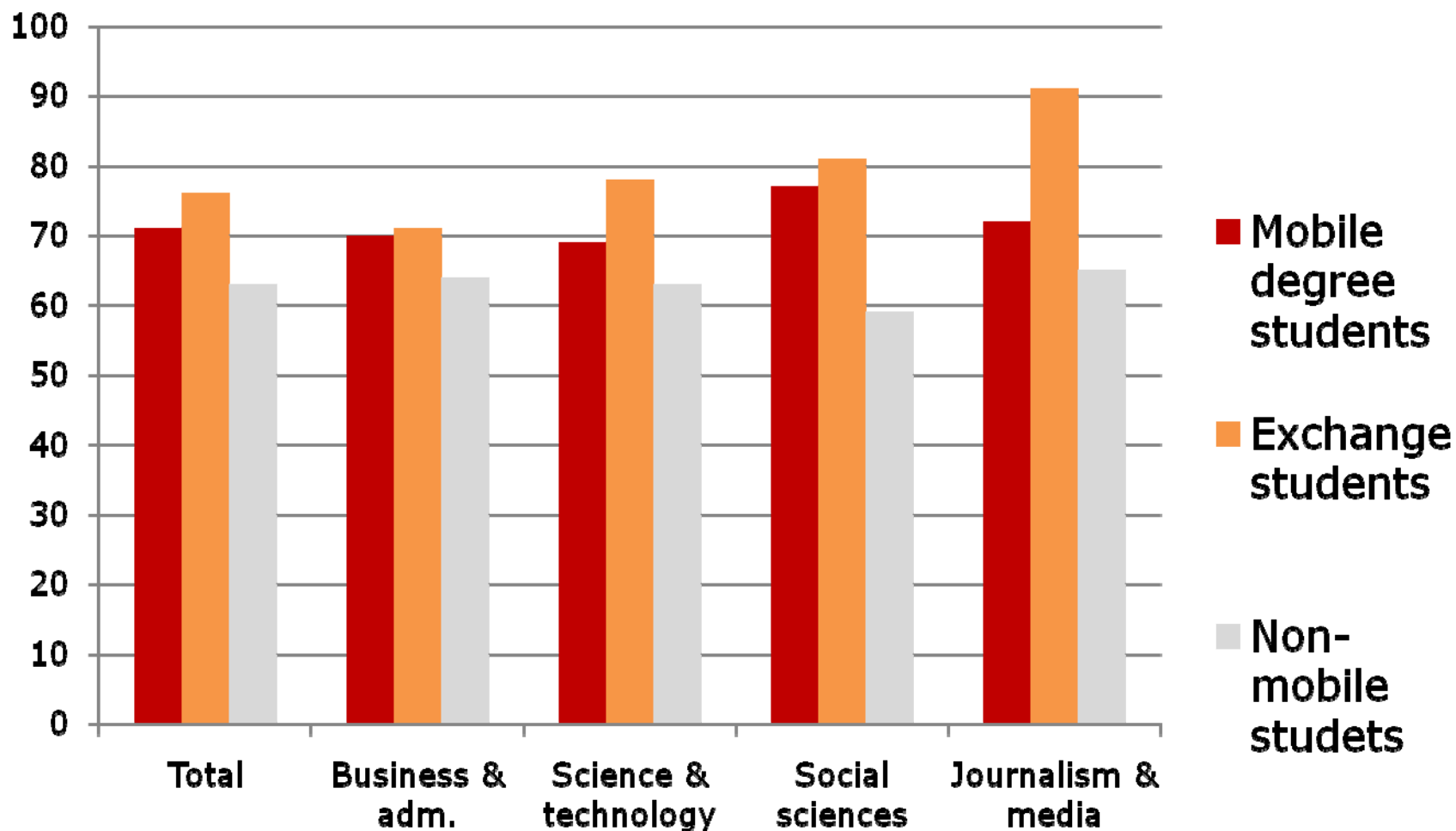
- 1111 Mobile students with diploma from abroad  
**MOBILE DEGREE STUDENTS**
- 517 mobile students with diplomas from Norway  
**EXCHANGE STUDENTS**
- 643 Students with the entire degree from Norway  
**NON-MOBILE STUDENTS**
- Four educational groups:
  - Business and administration
  - Technology and science
  - Social sciences
  - Journalism/media

# Graduates' background & selectivity

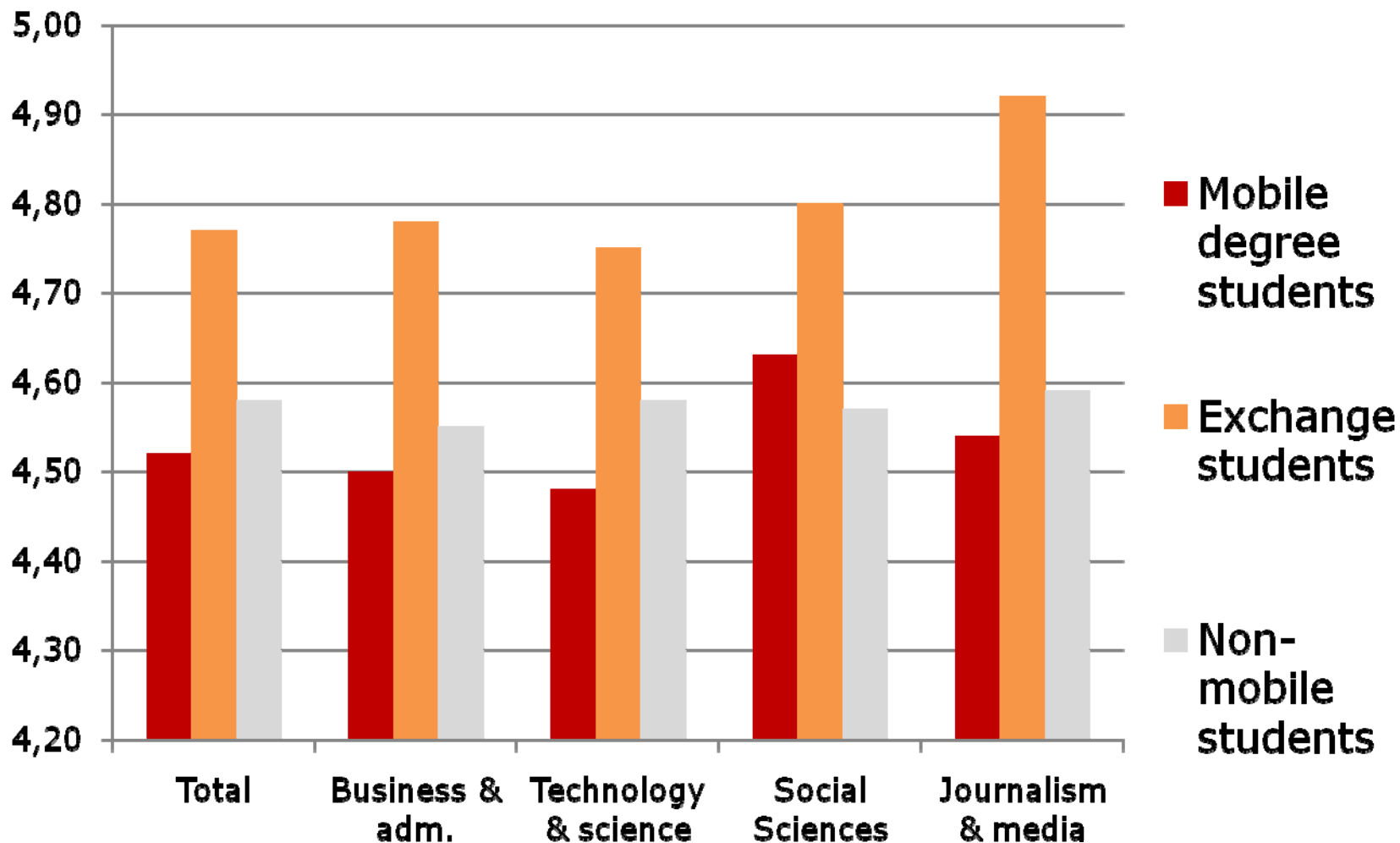
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- **SOCIAL ORIGIN:** Higher among mobile than non-mobile students
- **PAST PERFORMANCE:** Exchange students have better school performance (upper secondary school) than other groups
- **MOBILITY CAPITAL:** More mobile than non-mobile students have:
  - Prior experience with living abroad
  - Parents who have lived abroad

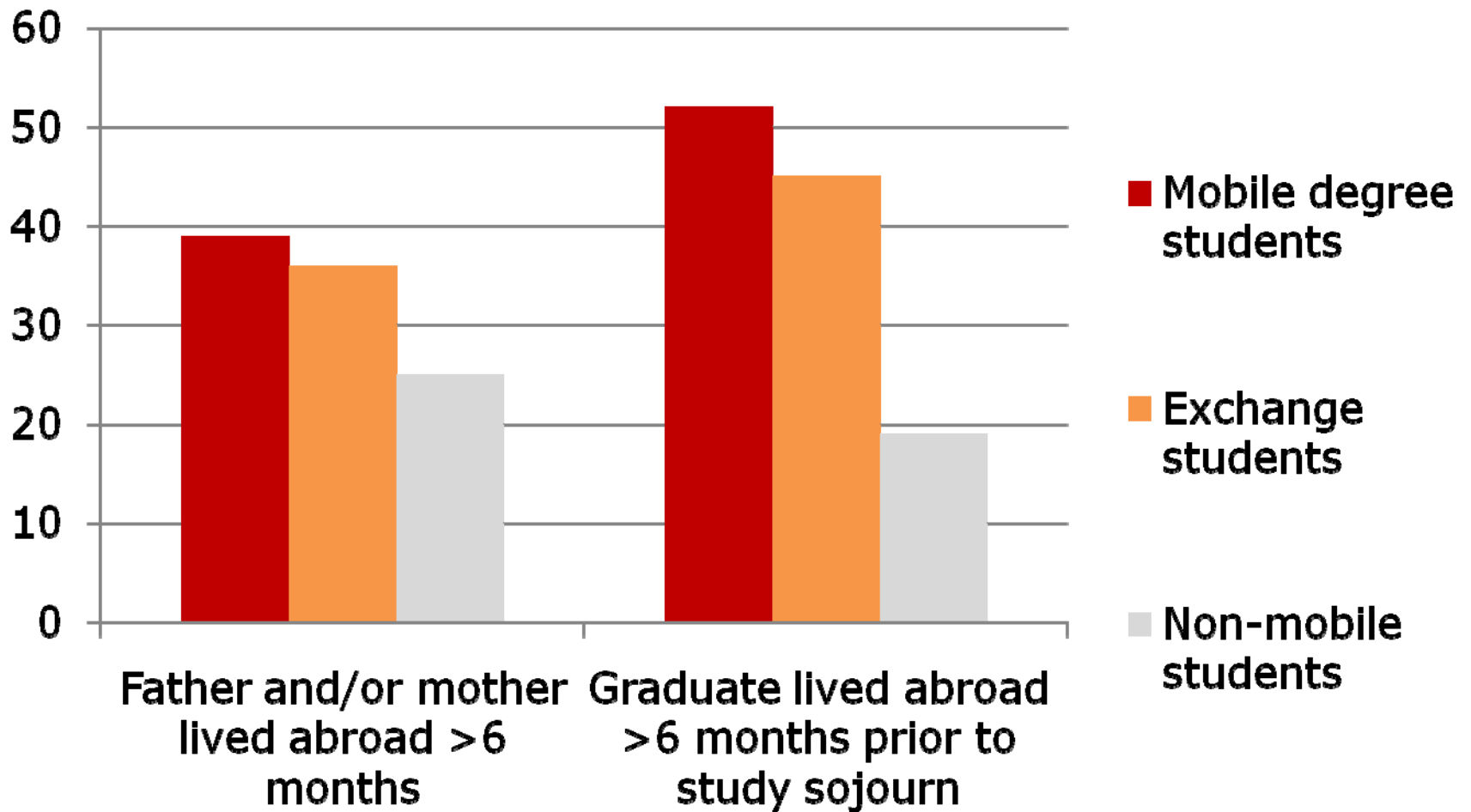
# Proportion with one or both parents with HE



# Average grades from upper secondary education (0-6)



# Mobility capital - aspects





# Transition from higher education to work

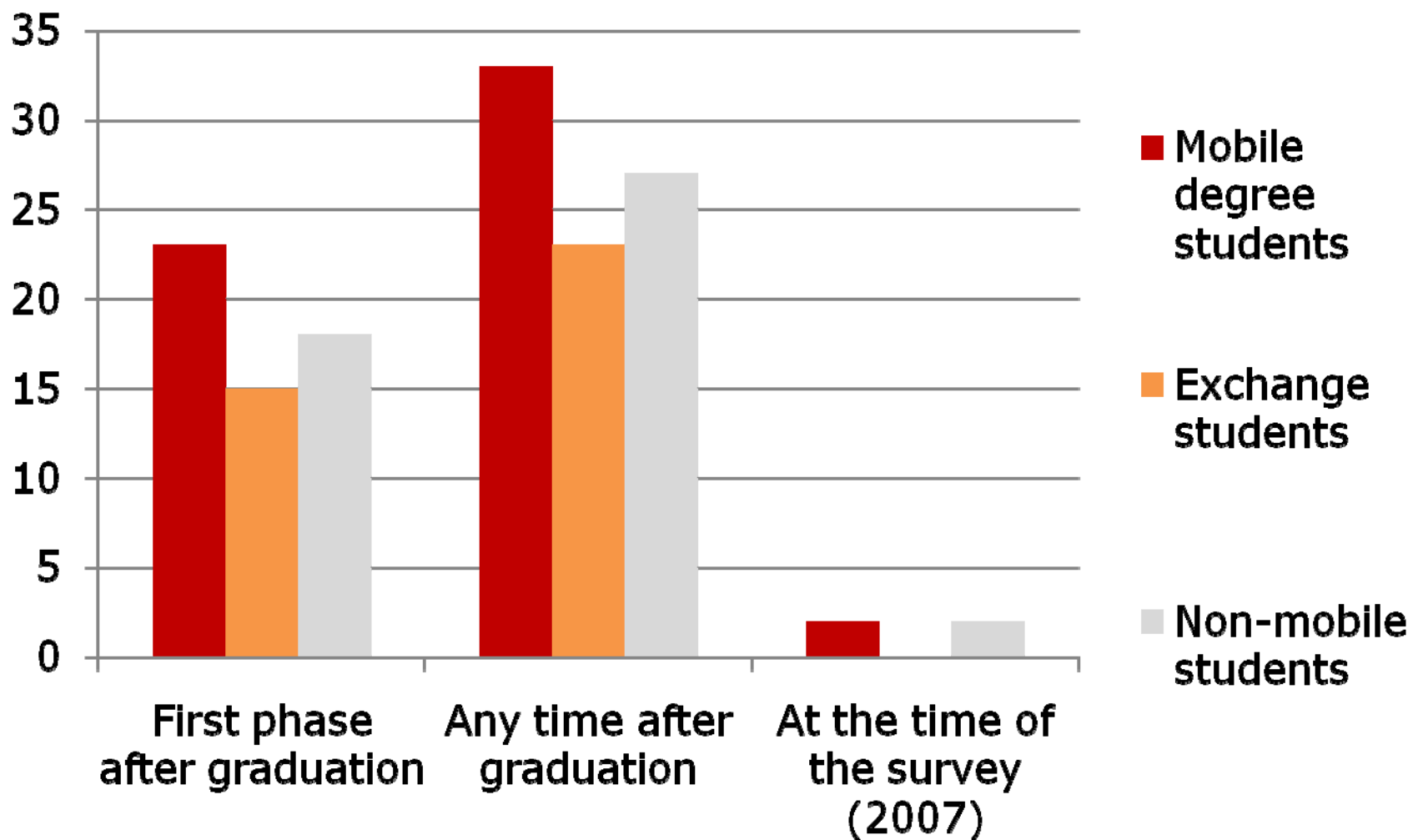
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- Mobile degree students struggle more to get access to the labour market
- Exchange students do not encounter more problems than non-mobile students

## MOBILE DEGREE STUDENTS...

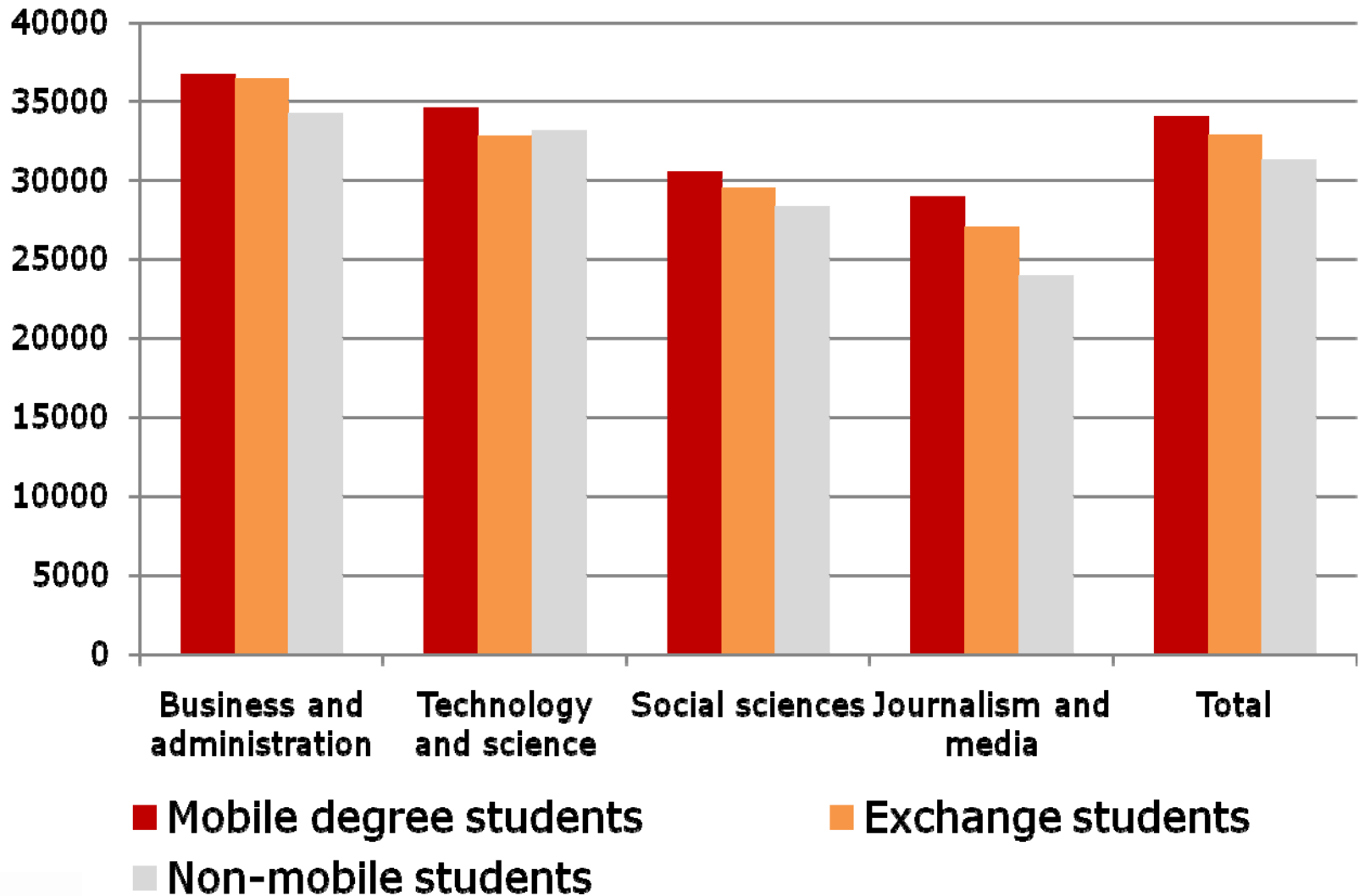
- send more applications in order to obtain their first job
- use a wider range of channels to obtain a job
- make less use of professional contacts, and more use of personal contacts to get a job
- are more likely to be unemployed in the first months after graduation

# Unemployment at different stages

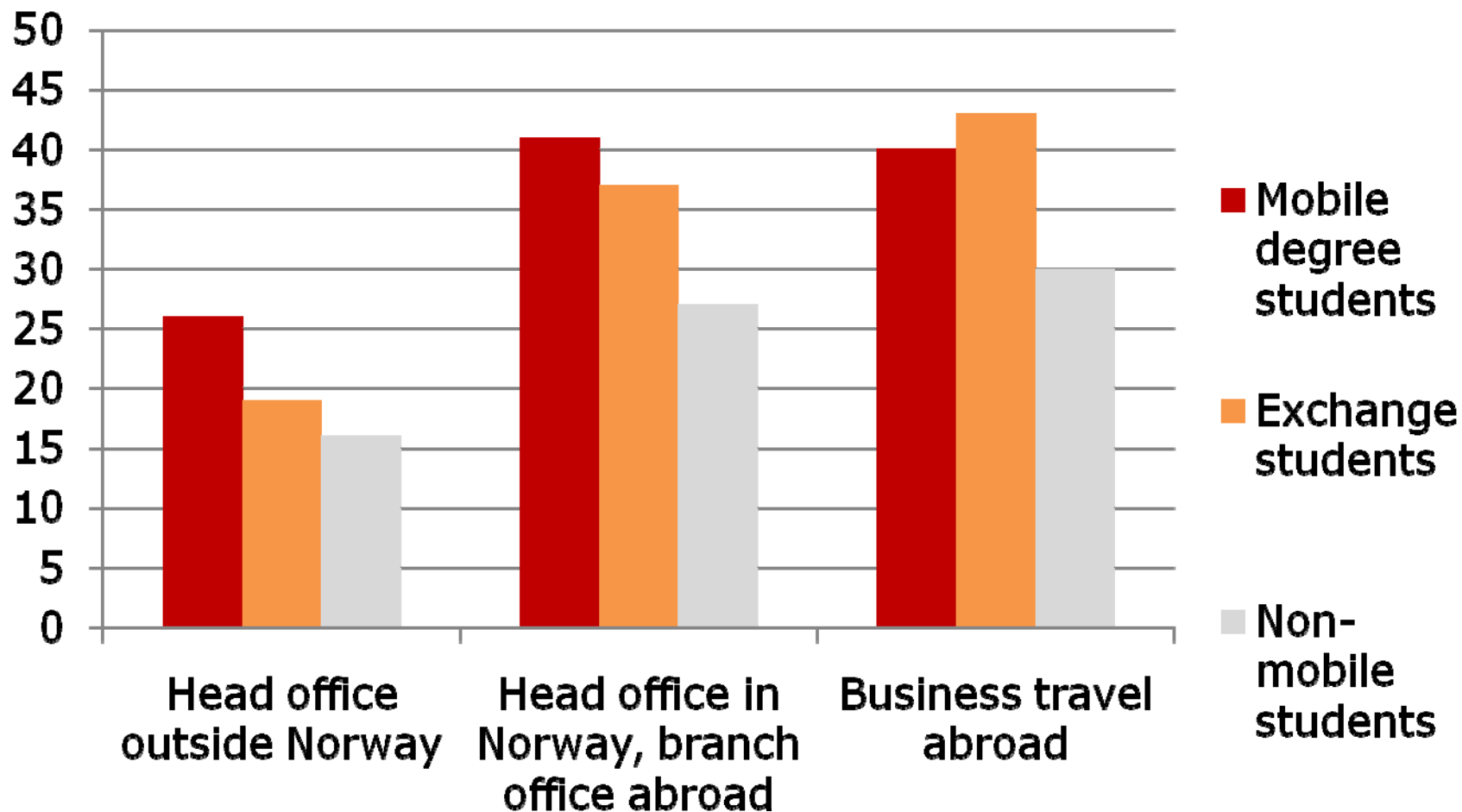


# Average monthly wages Nov 2007. NOK

Full time employment, working in Norway

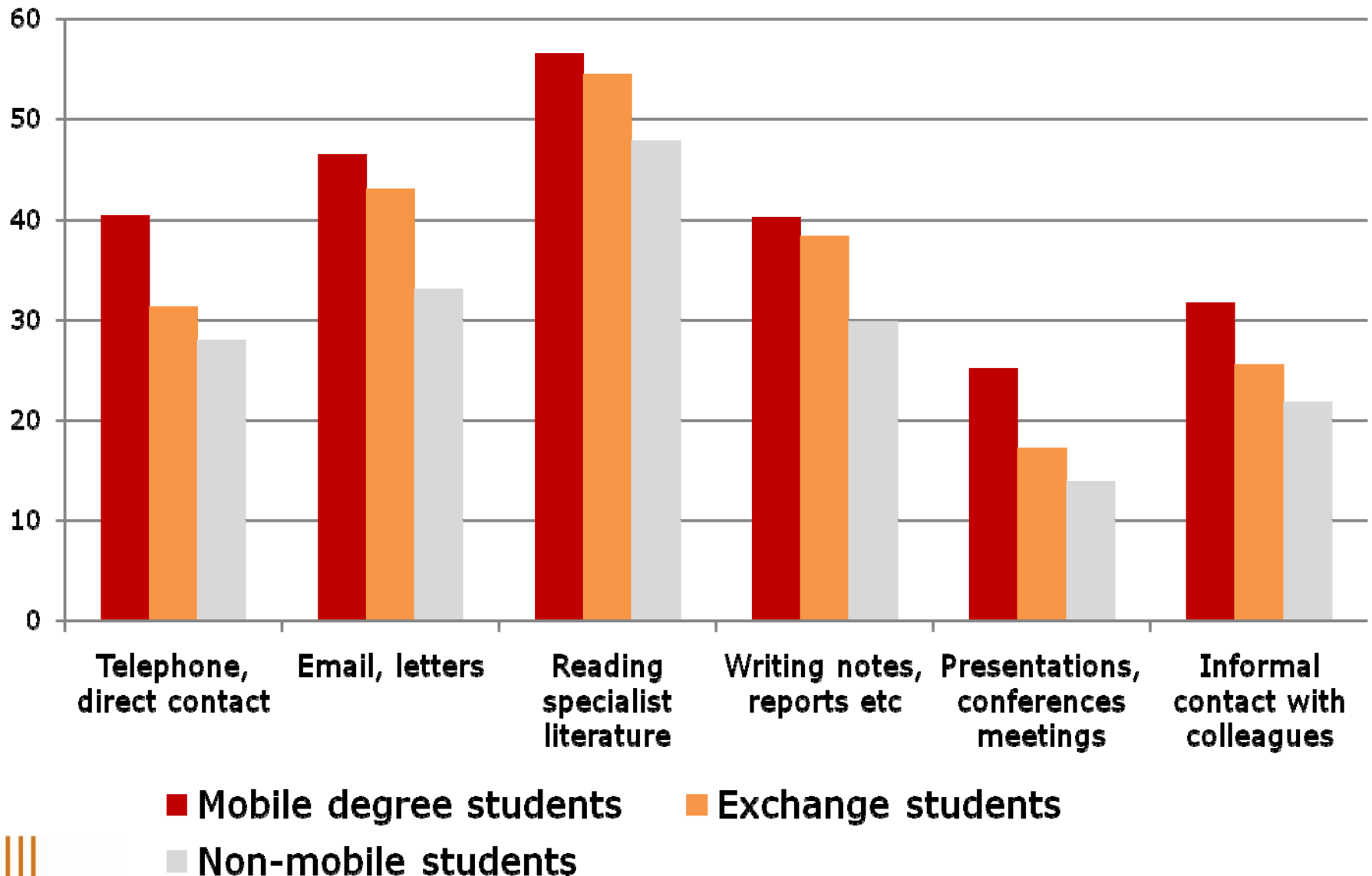


# International firm and business travel

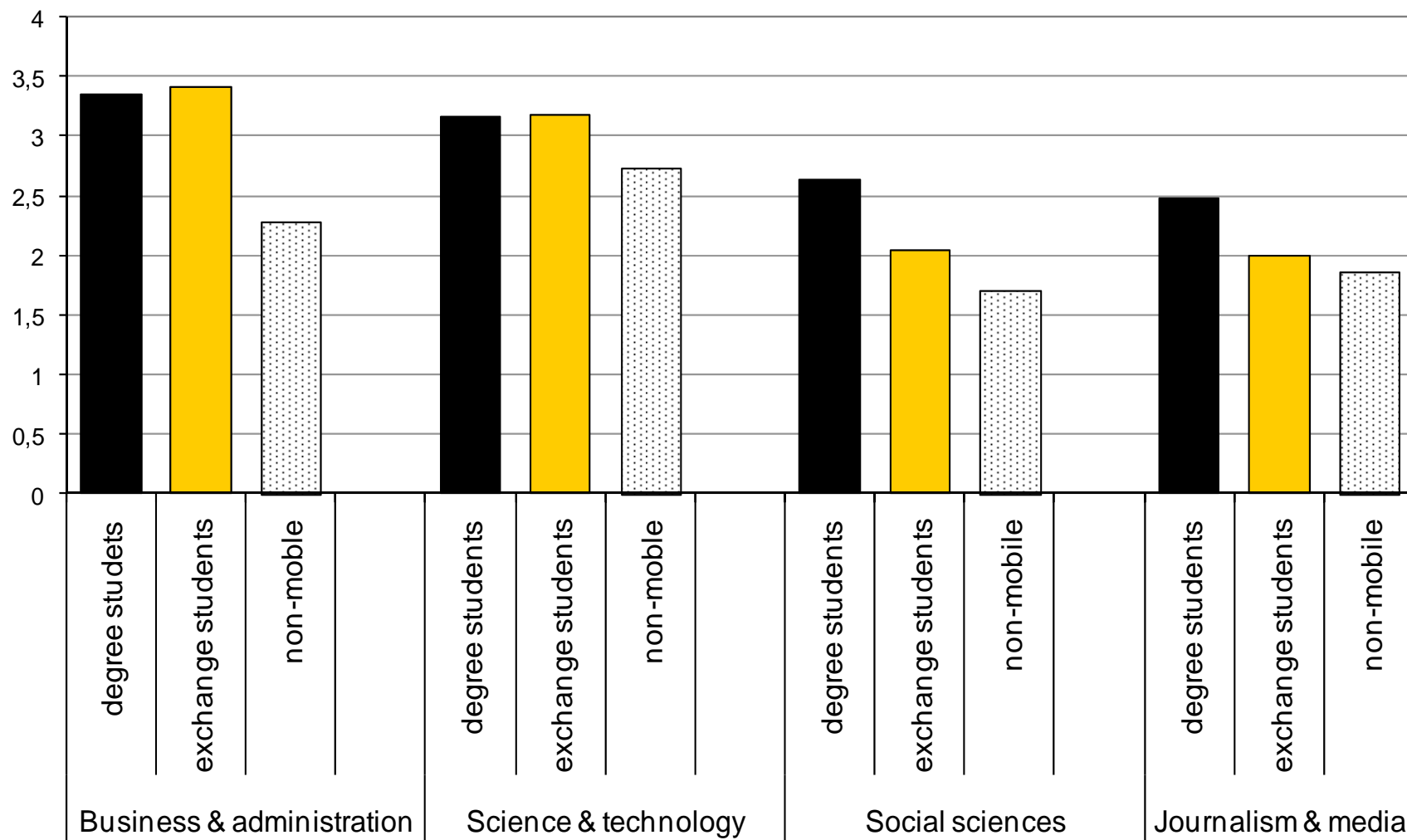


# Use of foreign languages for professional purposes

On a weekly basis



# International job – index, mean score



# Some explanations of the results

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## POSITIVE EFFECTS

- Country-specific and transnational human capital
- Selectivity: Mobile students may constitute a selected group regarding more indicators than measured here

## NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- Employer skepticism (homosocial reproduction)
- Weaker professional networks
- Absence of relevant country-specific human capital

# Conclusions

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- Mobile students constitute a selected group regarding social origin, performance and mobility capital
- Mobile degree students encounter some difficulties entering the labour market, but receive higher economic returns
- Exchange students do not seem to face more barriers than non-mobile students
- Both groups of mobile students have more international jobs than non-mobile students
- Mobile students may be successful because they are a selected group, and not necessarily because they have studied abroad