

Graduate Employment Plans and Regional Attachment in Opole

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This paper presents the part of a survey of full-time students, conducted by the Maestros de la Economia student research circle at Opole University of Technology, that dealt with plans after graduation. It sets out where students intend to work, what pay they expect in Opole compared with other regions, and what they say would persuade them to stay. The last of these was asked as an open question, so that no answer was suggested to respondents. The most common answer concerned proximity to home and family rather than professional prospects. The paper treats this as an economic finding rather than a sentimental one. If attachment to place is what keeps graduates in the region, then the regional identity of Opole Silesia and the history of settlement that shaped it have a value on the local labour market, and one that employers in the region do not appear to account for.

