

potential recruits before they start a degree course rather than to pick them out part of the way through. The number of students on National Engineering Scholarships (financed jointly by the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Industry) has also been reduced this year, from 300 to around 100. At the same time, educational institutions are trying to increase sponsorship for their students. Some colleges actually specify industrial sponsorship as a requirement for some of their courses, as at London's Imperial College. Students are simply issued with a list of potential sponsors and told to make their own arrangements; the value of the sponsorships on offer varies considerably.

At the moment few small firms sponsor undergraduates, so major employers who run generous schemes can take their pick of the best potential engineers and managers. Less well known firms have to compete against household names in the minds of school sixth-formers who have little knowledge of the industry: Brunel University, whose engineering students are all fully sponsored, is organizing a consortium of several groups of small companies to help overcome this difficulty. The IMS research should receive widespread attention, not least from the students themselves. **Tim Beardsley**

UK graduate employment

No jobs for the boys (or girls)

About 15 per cent of this year's crop of first degree graduates from British universities will still be looking for jobs at the end of the year. This gloomy estimate was made by Mr B.E. Steptoe, chairman of the statistics subcommittee of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services; 11.3 per cent of that year's graduates had not found jobs by the end of December. Among polytechnic graduates, the figure is likely to be even worse.

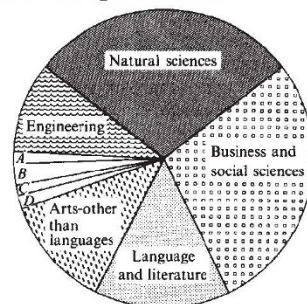
The position of this year's 105,300 new graduates is, of course, made worse by the fact that they are now competing for jobs with those of the 1981 crop still unemployed. As a result, many companies that previously recruited graduates straight from college are now looking for people with some useful work experience. There are also increasing numbers of "under-employed" graduates doing jobs that previously would not have required a degree; some of these will undoubtedly find more suitable employment in time, but a large proportion are likely to remain under-employed.

The trend is described by Mr Brian Putt, director of the Central Services Unit (an advisory body to graduate careers services) as a "disastrous social iceberg". The number of graduates entering the job market will continue to rise by about 2-3 per cent each year at least until 1984, when the effects of last year's cutbacks in higher education places will become apparent.

Unemployment continues to be highest amongst those reading arts subjects, and of the sciences biology clearly has the largest proportion unemployed. However, factors

such as falling oil prices have had an effect on recruitment even in traditionally "safe" subject areas; some university careers offices have reported problems among civil and mechanical engineers, for example. The number of companies that recruit on the "milk-round" of universities has decreased this year (although the decrease

Per cent home first graduates unemployed, shown according to discipline

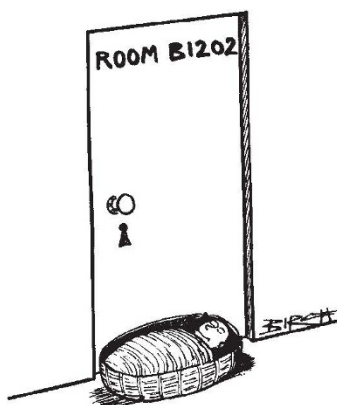


- A Architecture and other professional and vocational studies
- B Agriculture, forestry and veterinary science
- C Medicine, dentistry and health
- D Education

is not large, and there are other indications that the number of advertised vacancies for graduates has fallen over the past two years. The sudden growth in the number of sponsorship schemes since 1979 (see accompanying figure) accounts for a part of this decrease, and it seems that the number of vacancies has probably reached a plateau. It is unlikely to increase significantly for at least 18 months, even if there were to be a major reflation of the economy next year. **Tim Beardsley**

Warnock seeks evidence

The chairman of the British government's inquiry into human fertilization, Mrs Mary Warnock, has asked for all interested bodies and individuals to submit evidence before the deadline of 1 March 1983. The enquiry, due to report in 1984 has a broad brief — covering social, ethical,



legal and medical aspects of developments in human fertilization including *in vitro* fertilization techniques. Evidence should be submitted to: The Secretary, Inquiry into Human Fertilization and Embryology, Room B1202, Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, London SE1.

Home first degree graduates believed unemployed at 31 December

All values are expressed as percentages of the total number of graduates of known destinations. About 10 per cent of graduates did not reply to survey questionnaires. The 1982 figure is an informed estimate.

