

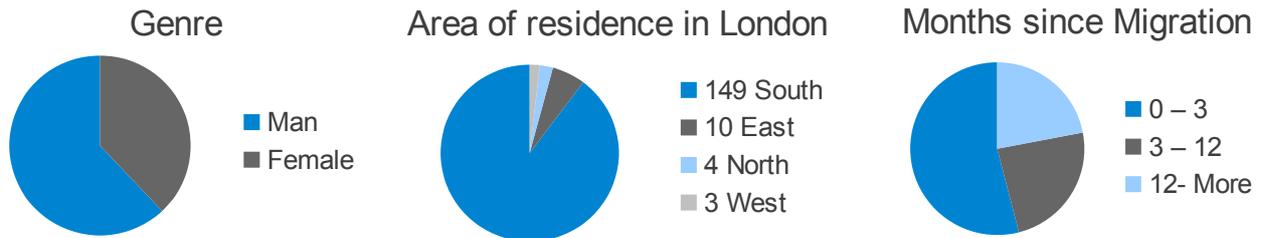
# English for Work Project

## Students' Profile

Lucila Granada



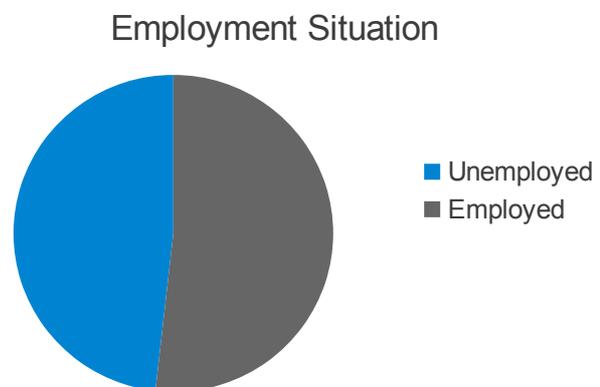
The following data is based on 166 surveys filled out during the period October 2010 – October 2011 by people interested in taking English classes through the project English for Work. All respondents are over 16 years old and most people reside in the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.



It derives from the results of the English level tests that the people interested in taking these language classes had an elementary or initial level of English. In line with these results, most of the people speak only Spanish at home (93.37%), with very few people speaking English or Portuguese. The majority of the people interested in this project were men (62%) and almost all of the students (90%) reside in South London, which is one of the areas with larger concentration of Latin Americans.

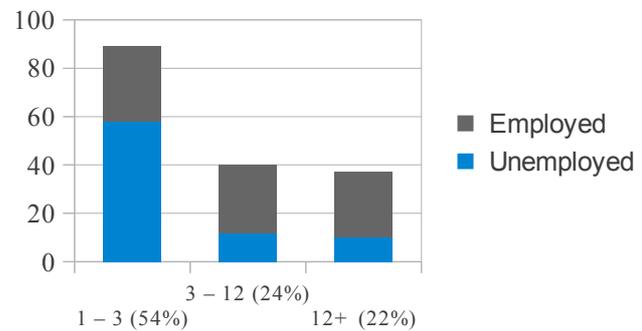
On the other hand, most people migrated very recently. In fact, three quarters had arrived within less than 1 year (78%) and over half within 3 months (54%). Only 22% of the people that approached the organisation interested in taking English classes had more than 1 year of residence in the UK (37 people).

In terms of their employment situation, the surveys evidence that the vast majority of the people interested in the project were either in situation of unemployment or experiencing great levels of instability at work. In fact, half of the people that registered for these classes were unemployed, while among the other half only 18 people were employed full time. Most of the people employed were either working part-time (45) or contracted on a causal basis, with some having multiple employers (23 in total).



When taking into account the time since migration, there is a sharp difference between the employment status of those who arrived within 3 months and those who arrived after, as most of the unemployed had less than 3 months of stay, making up over half of this group: 65% of the people that had less than 3 months in the UK were unemployed. The unemployed sector for those that had over 3 months of residence represented almost a quarter of each group. Whereas this reflects that Latin Americans place themselves in work very fast and despite their sub-optimal level of English, the availability of these jobs also reflect the poor conditions that they offer.

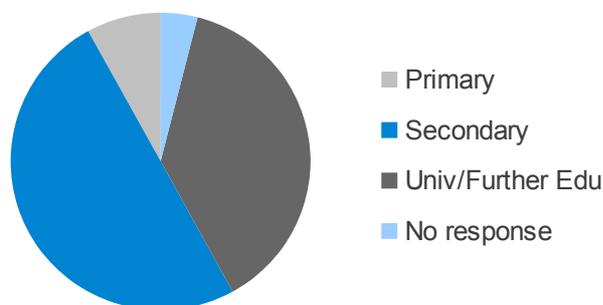
Employment situation by time since migration



Having multiple employers bring additional difficulties for people, particularly those working in the lowest sectors of the labour market, as they are usually contracted by each employer to work very few weekly hours. In addition, many of the people that were in full time employment had a split schedule, working early in the morning for a few hours and then very late in the evening. Working in low-paid, unregulated areas of work and in such unstable conditions, make people find it very difficult to attend a full programme of English classes. In this sense, having found severe attendance problems during the initial period of provision of this service, and in order to dis-encourage absences, the project incorporated a deposit scheme that required every student to pay a 20-pound deposit that would be recovered at the end of the programme when having more than 80% of attendance. Overall, most of the people that were benefited from this project were either

unemployed or underemployed, encompassing 89% of the total survey. This confirmed that the project succeeded at reaching the targeted group.

Education



In terms of their educational background, most people had finished secondary school (50%), over a third had attended university (37.8%) and a minority

had only reached primary school level (7.83%). This results show that those interested in learning English had not been able to transfer their knowledge and skills into London's labour market and were in great need of English language provision.