

**UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**



“THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING COURSES OF SPECIALIZATION AS A SECOND ALTERNATIVE TO THE CURRENT GRADUATION PROCESS FOR OBTAINING THE BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN ENGLISH TEACHING AND THE BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN MODERN LANGUAGES: SPECIALIZATION IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH AT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR”

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DEDICATION

This research paper is dedicated to our families who have always encouraged us to never give up. We dedicate all this effort in special to our parents that have given us the inspiration to face any challenge with enthusiasm and wisdom. They have always guided us to take the best decisions as well as making us believe in ourselves to always work hard to have a successful life. They have been an important part in all this process, without their love and support this work may have not been possible.

Additionally, we want to dedicate this work to all the teachers from the Foreign Language Department that were involved in each stage of our learning process at the university. Their enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge provided helped us to succeed in our professional life that will open doors for new opportunities.

The authors

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INTRODUCTION

“Achieving the goals is a Heroic labor” by Ernie Larsen”. Getting graduated from a university is a dream that every student has, after working hard to approve the graduation process in superior studies to start working as a professional by putting into practice the knowledge learnt. In the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador, there are more than 135 students who graduate every year; however, not all the students that start a major have the opportunity to get graduated due to many facts. There are some of them that have already approved all the subjects that are required in the career, but they have not got the bachelor degree yet since they have not completed the graduation process with the requirements needed.

The most important requirement in the graduation process is to carry on a research paper that is aimed to study a specific problem affecting students from the Foreign Language Department (FLD) or any other topic relate to teaching-learning process of a foreign language in order to provide possible solutions that are supposed to be applied in the academic field. Nevertheless, most of the students think that this research extends the time to graduate because they have to go through a long process to complete this task that most likely in the end, it will not be taken into consideration by the authorities of the University of El Salvador. One of the main reasons why the researchers are proposing to have an update in the graduation process is for the students to be prepared for their labor life in a better way. This goal has been affected due to the lack of updates in the majors’ curricula at the FLD, which is causing to have a weak education in a constantly changing economy since nowadays it is important to be at the forefront of all new labor updates and requirements so that students are better prepared to face the challenges.

Due to all the facts mentioned above this research had as main purpose to propose another option for students to get their bachelor degree in less time by demonstrating the importance of implementing a course of specialization as another option for undergraduate students of the Foreign Language Department; as well as describing the most relevant benefits that students will get by having more options to obtain their bachelor degree.

Throughout the research process they were also found some suggestion regarding the improvement not only of the graduation process but also regarding the improvement and the updates that could be made on the curricula so that students are more prepared for the labor field when completing the major.

This report comprises the following sections:

Chapter I: Statement of the Problem. A brief description is given of the requirement established by the Academic Management Regulations of the University of El Salvador, where students could elaborate a research paper work in which they select a specific topic developing regarding a problem affecting students from FLD and how the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador (UES) continues based on a study plan dating from 1999 in teaching major, and 2002 for modern languages, these have not been updated since then.

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework. It explains in detail about of the research paper work in the UES since began, the process of the specialization courses in private universities of El Salvador, the curricular plan outdated, the current labor situation faced by Salvadorans, the job expectations for the graduates from FLD, and the profile that companies require to hire professionals.

Chapter III: Methodology. It is described the different methodologies used to carry out this research study, the research approach, the participant population, the different instruments and techniques used to collect the data.

Chapter IV: Data Analysis. It is presented the analysis of all the gathered information through the instrument used with the population participating in this on-experimental and qualitative research. This chapter is divided into four parts: surveys addressed to undergraduate students, graduate students from the UES, graduate students from private universities and advisors of the research paper work from the UES.

Chapter V: Finding. It presents the synthesis of the opinions in common among the four study subjects of this on-experimental and quantitative research in order to compare those opinions, and thus obtain a global conclusion for each point of view.

Chapter VI: Conclusions. It summarizes the conclusions reached with this study.

And finally, Chapter VII: Suggestions. This section includes a systematization of the suggestions made by the four subjects of study.

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CHAPTER I
“STATEMENT OF THE
PROBLEM”

I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

During many years there have been many students getting graduated from The Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador, since studying an English major has become more important everyday as time goes by. Almost of students at the FLD is under the opinion that getting the bachelor degree is not that easy due to the amount of requirements needed to graduate.

According to the article 188 of the Academic Management Regulations of the University of El Salvador, students that accomplished the requirements established in the curricula of their major have to elaborate a research paper work in which students select a specific topic regarding a problem affecting students from FLD, in order to provide possible solutions to that specific problem. Since this is a mandatory requirement, students cannot avoid carrying on this research paper unless they have an honorific CUM. It was found that many students are in the pursuit of completing the investigation to graduate and that is what this research is regarding about, since it is known that by making this research paper there may be some benefits for the institutions; nevertheless, there are many disadvantages for students.

There have been cases where students spend even more than two years to be able to graduate due to many situations involved such as the one mentioned before related to getting issues with group, as well as dealing with the teacher consultant because they also need time to check the progress and there are cases where the group has to wait a lot in order to get their feedback from the tutor since they are busy planning and teaching their classes. Besides that, students complain that some teacher consultants do not provide enough feedback in order to

improve the work and they just keep saying that everything is incorrect but they do not provide the necessary ideas to help students to complete the investigation in a better way and shorter period of time. Additionally, the students of the University of El Salvador may be in disadvantage when applying for a job in comparison with students of private universities because they have the opportunity get more knowledge and reinforce a specific area such as translation, didactic, tourism, etc; that are listed in the specialization courses choices.

After all the description on the previous paragraphs, it can be stated that carrying on a research paper as graduation requirement is not accessible at all due to the long process and some disadvantages that students may face when working on it; therefore, it is time to look for alternative options or updates in the graduation process in order to provide more benefits that contribute to prepare students with an innovated professional perspective for them to be capable to face the new challenges from this globalized world.

Taking a course of specialization would bring more advantages to the students because not only they would learn more about something that will help them in their professional life but also because they specialize in something they are interested on or reinforce any subject or skill of their choice. Besides that, the course of specialization would be completed in less time than a research paper and students will assist to the course in a specific schedule so that they arrange their time for working and attendance the course.

1.1 DELIMITATION OF THE PROBLEM

This research was focused on the usefulness of implementing courses of specialization to provide another alternative for undergraduate students to obtain their bachelor degree. Being the research paper work the only option for students who could not get the honorific CUM. It is important to mention that The University of El Salvador is in the process of updating the curricula of the majors as well as they are taking into consideration the implementation of the courses of specialization as a second alternative besides the actual process.

This study took place at the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador, and it addressed to authorities of the School of Arts and Science and the head of the Foreign Language Department, with the purpose of considering the courses of specialization for future undergraduate students as another option to get the bachelor degree.

The population of this study was 87 students of the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador that are working in their research paper and the teachers that are assigned as their tutors in the whole process. Also, students graduated of the English Teaching major and Modern Languages: Specialization in French and English of the University of El Salvador that had to do research paper in order to obtain the bachelor degree; moreover, 11 students from Tecnológica University and Francisco Gavidia University who took courses of specialization.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

GENERAL:

To demonstrate the importance of implementing specialization courses as a second alternative for undergraduate students of the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador.

SPECIFICS:

- To find out whether students at the Foreign Language Department agree to have a second alternative to obtain the bachelor's degree.
- To suggest the kind of specialization courses to be taken in the Foreign Language Department by considering the students' demands.
- To present the most important benefits that the students will have by taking specialization courses by gathering enough information from private universities that have already implemented this type of modality.
- To compare the private universities' graduation processes and requirements with the one of the University of El Salvador.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Why is it necessary to implement courses of specialization as a second alternative to obtain a bachelor's degree from the Foreign Language Department majors?

SUBSIDIARY QUESTIONS

- What are the advantages of implementing specialization courses as a second alternative to get the bachelor's degree besides developing a research paper work?
- What type of specialization courses could students take as a graduation work to get the bachelor's degree at the Foreign Language Department?
- How beneficial would it be to add another option to the current graduation work for students to graduate from the FLD?
- How are specialization courses implemented as a graduation work in private Universities like Tecnológica University and Francisco Gavidia University?
- What are the FLD graduate student's weaknesses toward their labor field?

1.4 JUSTIFICATION

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the importance of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative to obtain the bachelor degree. It's well-known that students of the Foreign Language Department have to do research paper work if they do not get the CUM of 8.0 or higher on their grades, which is mandatory by the Academic Management Regulations of the University of El Salvador. The students who develop this process present some issues while carrying out their project. Some of these problems involve not only students but also their assigned tutors. In the case of students, they spend a lot of time working out in their researches taking into account most of undergraduate students have already got a job by that moment which delays the time for students to obtain the desired bachelor's degree. Moreover, the process is extended when some tutors take much more time to provide feedback about research process advances since the counselling is adapted by the tutor's schedule and they are usually working on preparing or teaching their classes.

Most of these research paper works are based on a problematic situation related to education with the purpose of presenting possible solutions to it; however, the topics have been repeated and the possible solutions have not been applied yet as it were supposed to be. Furthermore, when working in a research paper the students take this work as a requirement to graduate and not as something that helps them to get a job. On the other hand, if they would take specialization courses such as didactic or translation, they will learn more about it and would be able to put that into practice in the future as professionals.

This study was aimed to the authorities from the School of Arts and Sciences and the Foreign Languages Department in order for them to consider the method that is more beneficial for future undergraduate students at the FLD. It was intended to provide enough support about how important it is to be keeping innovated by implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative to get the bachelor's degree as well as emphasizing the importance to be updated with the majors curricula in order to improve the learning process and fulfil students' needs to be prepared in a better way for their labor life.

The research team conducted a survey to the students of the English Teaching major and Modern Languages: Specialization in French and English that are working on their research paper work, also students who have already completed this process at the University of El Salvador; and finally the teachers that are their tutor in the whole process. This was with the purpose of measuring how beneficial they think that would be taken courses of specialization as a second alternative which could be implemented at FLD in order to provide more knowledge to the undergraduate students.

CHAPTER II
“THEORETICAL
FRAMEWORK”

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 What is a Research Paper?

According to the Wiktionary a research paper is “a substantial piece of academic writing, usually done as a requirement for a class, in which the author does independent research into a topic and writes a description of the findings of that research.” When you write a research paper you build upon what you know about the subject and make a deliberate attempt to find out what experts know. A research paper involves surveying a field of knowledge in order to find the best possible information in that field, and that survey can be orderly and focused.

By decree of the constituent assembly of the Government of El Salvador and by the initiative of the President of the Republic at that time, Juan Nepomuceno Fernández Lindo and priest Crisanto Salazar, the Foundation of the first institution of higher education is directed to The University of El Salvador. It is until 1847 that the University of El Salvador begins the designated functions as an educational training institution and the evaluation of higher education. The University of El Salvador begins its function until then, because the first students with a bachelor degree obtained it in 1846, graduates in the Asunción School of San Salvador. In 1851 the first graduates of the University of El Salvador presented themselves to the society: Ireneo Chacón and José Nicolás Aguilar after working and presenting successfully a thesis in "Sagrados Cánones" 2.

According to the author of page 1, Miguel Ángel Durán of the book “Historia de la Universidad de El Salvador “-Edition 28. The thesis as a graduation work was put into practice from the first processes of degree, which quotes Irene Chacón and José Nicolás Aguilar, an

outstanding student and vice chancellor of the school, who presented themselves on August 20th and hold brilliant thesis on Sacred Canons. Currently the thesis as graduate work at the University of El Salvador, it is still the only option that all students have in order to graduate.

2.2 What is a specialization?

According to the Hachette dictionary the word Specialization means "in front of, before" and mark the anteriority and according to the same dictionary the word specialization also refers to the action of specialize (especially in a science or a technique). The University of El Salvador still requires a research paper work in the graduation process; on the other hand, private universities have developed a specialization that seems to be more advantageous and attractive option for students, since during this specialization they carry on a degree process at the same time that they specialize in one specific field of their major that allows them to get better job opportunity.

Specialization has brought a lot of benefits to the students so far. That is why it is very important to demonstrate that the specialization is as effective as the research paper work and it would be a great idea to implement this option as second alternative for undergraduate students from the foreign language majors of the University of El Salvador. Due to the huge demand and competitiveness of professionals to obtain a job in our country in the field of Foreign Languages teaching, it is important to prepare and train competent and qualified professionals with specializations that allow them to overcome any challenge that they face in their work field. In order to provide a better idea about how a specialization works in private universities let us know a little bit more about this option that was implemented in private universities.

Universidad Tecnológica of El Salvador.

According to an article posted on March 28th, 2003 by “El Diario de Hoy” which is a local newspaper in El Salvador, UTEC says goodbye to the research paper works. The Universidad Tecnológica of El Salvador (UTEC) was the first institution of higher education that changed the graduation process for a pre specialization in areas related to each career. One of the greatest challenges that most of the Salvadoran university graduates face at the end of their career is to carry on graduation work which may be a thesis, a tesina, a research work or in some cases a monograph. However, from this year on the graduates from the Universidad Tecnológica of El Salvador will no longer worry about this situation at the end of their carrier, since this institution of higher education has implemented a new modality in regards to the graduation work. Their students will forget about those cumbersome research paper works, instead of that they will take a pre-specialization related to the major they have studied.

In this modality, the graduate student must select a pre specialization option and take six academic modules (for a year) that are taught by different schools of the University. "They have been focused on the most important areas of each major, in order for them to create the pre specialization options which are presented to the graduate students, so that they choose the one that they consider the best option for them" says Eduardo Badía Serra who is an academic auditor of UTEC. The university will hire qualified teachers in the area to be developed who will also have the support of the master teachers. Students will receive their classes three hours per week as well as they will participate in different activities and at the end of the six modules they will have to take a professional degree examination.

This innovating project was born due to the necessity of taking a step forward towards the academic excellence and the existence of modern paradigms within the country's higher education system, which obligates to look for proposals that improve the profile of the graduate students, as well as the improvement of the skills and abilities that they have. It has emerged many doubts throughout the years regarding the previous graduation process effectiveness that has been questioned in many countries. "In most of the cases the presented topics by the graduates were repeated and irrelevant; in addition to that the development of the thematic was a big problem," says engineer Badía. Some other reasons that led to the innovation in the graduation were the reduction of time and expenses for students and their parents.

This modality also follows the new institutional philosophy of this university, which seeks to create a dynamic process with effective results by restructuring the traditional academic processes and change it to an innovating one that brings better results to the society. The fulfillment of the graduation requirements are established in the articles 4, 10 and 16 of the Higher Education Law; however, they are not specified at any time, which grants some freedom to the universities so that they can define and design the system which they consider the most appropriate from a regulatory framework. This new modality (which has been authorized by the Education Ministry) has already been implemented now and there is a total of 568 students that are taking their pre-specialization currently.

UTECH has considered some different alternatives for this process just implemented. This implies that under different circumstances the student may also choose other options besides the pre specialization. Within These options are included the following:

- When one or more students have an important theoretical topic or applied research.
- The realization of a project as long as it is done with the collaboration of a private company or public institution.
- The development of a specific topic related to any issue in the study field.

The options will have to be rigorously considered with great importance by the respective faculty and approved by the administrative academic board. The students will express their desire to develop any of the activities instead of taking the pre specialization.

Francisco Gavidia University

The Francisco Gavidia University of San Salvador is another institution that has adopted the Universidad Tecnológica's idea of implementing the pre-specialization in order to provide more options to the educational community as part of the graduation process. The Francisco Gavidia University offers the next options for the graduation process:

- Professional practices.
- Research project or thesis.
- Specializations.

In regards to the options for professional practices, the work field is designated by the university directly. In this particular case the students have developed the activities as a boarder in a field that is directly related to the major that they have been studying.

Students also have the option to carry on a research paper where they can work in groups up to 3 people as well as in the University of El Salvador (UES). When they complete the research they have to present the results in order to be approved for their graduation. The most

relevant innovation of the university is the specialization where the student that is interested in this option has period of 8 months to study a curriculum and approve the evaluations. The student has options to specialize in the chosen career. In the case of the two language major that are Languages Bachelor with specialization in English of Teaching and Bachelor of Languages with a specialty in Tourism, students have the following options to specialize:

- Translation Simultaneous interpretation in English-Spanish.

From English language

- Linguistic reinforcement of the foreign language (TOEFL).
- Sustainable tourism destinations Management

The objective of specialization is not only to prepare students to succeed in the qualification process for obtaining the university bachelor degree, but also to prepare the students with the necessary skills for the target work field that the student will face in the future, these skills that are hardly gotten while developing a research paper work due to in this students do not acquire new knowledge of theirs majors.

In the 21st century there are demands that people should be updated such as education, globalization and technology. However, the globalization involves the education and the access that every individual has to the technology. The term globalization defines the world as a whole where everything has a connection. It consists in expanding the economic, cultural and political dependence of each world's country which is caused by increasing the international activity and the use of new technological information, especially the internet usage that has allowed English language to become a global communication bridge in the world.

According to David Crystal "the main feature of English which makes it different compared with all other languages is its global spread." It is estimated that non-native speakers currently outnumber native speakers by three to one. At the same time, 1.75 billion people, a quarter of the world's population, speak English either fluently or in an acceptable level to communicate. Moreover, it is considering the international language of aviation and seafaring, the pre-eminent language of scientific research, the most common language online and the major working language of diplomacy and international affairs.

In El Salvador higher education has had some advances such as the Tuning project, which is a meeting between different universities that are part of Higher Education System. The idea of this project is the development and interchange researches about the curricula and the creating of model curricular structures in order to take as a reference and apply them to universities of El Salvador. Nevertheless, the education in El Salvador had an annual budget of 3.47% of Gross Domestic Product (PIB, Producto Interno Bruto PIB for its name in Spanish) in 2015 which is one of the lowest budgets in Central America compared to Costa Rica with 7.36% of PIB in the same year. It indicates that the investment in education should be primary for governors to allow a growth in the country and different areas of human life. Moreover, The University of El Salvador, the only state institution of higher education, its budget was 70 million 544 thousand 270 dollars equivalent to 1.5 % of the General Budget of the Nation in 2017. It showed that this university not only faces economic problems but also curricular plans outdated, labor insertion market, the lack of English didactics and many others more problems.

2.3 Curricula plan outdated

Currently, the “Alma Mater” which is known the University of El Salvador offer 169 majors which are at the four seat of this university. Furthermore, it has had some significant changes due to the needs of society as implementing English language to innovate education. However, this research is focused on presenting the mainly deficiencies that the Foreign Language Department (FLD) of this university deals with, especially English Teaching major and Modern Languages major. Based on Curricular reform of the study plan of bachelor in English teaching and its correspondence to students’ needs, Foreign Language Department, University of El Salvador (2014), a research paper work, one of the issues that the FLD faces is the curricular plans outdated. These majors are still working with curricula reform of 1992 and according to General Law of Higher Education state that universities plan must be updated every five years in order to achieve expectations of a growing society. Updating the curriculum assures that students needs will be satisfied in a way to be good professionals thereby fill in the main requirements by companies.

In 1948 the necessity to acquire that a new language as English was part of complementary subject for other schools enable to The University of El Salvador created a Language Academy. But it was until 1956 that the academy was consolidated as an official department with its first major named “Técnico en Traductor-Interprete”; however, the lack of teachers trained to teach in this major was the cause that it disappeared. Afterwards, in 1973 the majors “Licenciatura en Idioma Inglés” and “Profesorado en Idioma Inglés” was approved by the “Consejo Superior Universitario” (CSU for its name in Spanish). Later in 1996 the new curriculum of “Licenciatura en Idioma Inglés was approved by Ministerio de Educación

(MINED) and then, two years later MINED implemented the new curriculum for the “Profesorado en Idioma Inglés para Tercer ciclo y Bachillerato”. In 2002 was created a new major named “Modern Languages emphasized in French and English. Finally, in 1999 was implemented the last upgrade to the curriculum of “Licenciatura en Idioma Inglés Opción Enseñanza”.

From that time, there has not been any updating in the present curriculum and an obsolete curricular entail many troubles to graduate students when they want to get a job or in their professional area affecting the quality of education of graduate students that provide the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador due to students are not prepared to deal with all updated aspects required by the society. As it mentioned before, The National Law of Higher Education states that the curriculum must be updated every five years in order to be cutting edge with the society requirements; besides that, in the curricular reform number 465 article 47 declares that the higher education must have an academic quality in its degree. So the students’ rights are violating to not having the quality of education expected.

Designing a curriculum is not an easy work and its mission must be accomplished all need of students according to what society demands in the real context, community and individual; a key element in a curriculum design is to provide for continuous adjustments or improvements during the design process and afterwards (Designs for Science Literacy, Oxford University Press, New York Oxford, 2000). It is a fact that a curriculum should include the purpose of it with clear objectives, content sequence, instructional methods, instructional resource, evaluation and approaches. Additionally, it can describe in four words: goals, methods,

materials and assessments with the purpose of creating a successful learning outcome in order to encourage the development of each student's interests and skill to face up to the society needs. Also, all of this involves a curriculum which is under an educational policy that must be evaluated if the curricular program contributes to raise the quality of the education in our country.

Consequently, many universities are making changes in their curricular programs, and the University of El Salvador is not the exception in spite of their curricular is not updated. Nevertheless, some attempts have been made by Foreign Language Department in 2004. They took the task to improve the curriculum 1999 to reinforce student's proficiency having the proposal of implementing more subjects in the curriculum.

Four proposals were suggested in that time. First, the increased numbers of subjects to thirty-nine to strengthen the linguistic and methodological areas, with the idea that students at the end of the major, not only have acquired the English language but also they had the background knowledge required for developing multiple work areas. Second, the implementation of a proficiency test which let measure the level of students' knowledge about English language. Moreover, the certification is valid just for two years, and then the test taker has to do the test again because their score is not valid anymore. There are three different versions of the test, which are described below:

- Paper- Based Test (PBT)
- Computer –Based Test (CBT)
- Internet-Based Test (iBT)

As well adding the TOEFL exam that demands undergraduate students to get a score of 520 in the exam in order to get the diploma. Moreover, in others universities undergraduate students must take that exam in order to get graduate if they do not have at least minimum percent required (550), they have to take the exam again until they get the expected result.

Another proposal was change the name of the major “licenciatura en Idioma Inglés Opción Enseñanza” to “Licenciatura en Ciencias de la Educación Opción Inglés” in that way students would get “Teacher Scale” which nowadays it is an essential requirement of many institutions that are hiring for teaching. (Igmarr Mauricio Blanco et. al. 2013 History of Curricular Changes of The Bachelor in English Teaching, Foreign Language Department, University of El Salvador, from 1972 to 2013 B.A. thesis). Though, before a new curriculum would be implemented there is wait time while it is approved by Ministerio de Educación.

The brief history of the curriculum changes showed that the suggested proposals in 2004 did not have any impact and it has passed thirteen years from that attempt; even students did not know how much longer they would have to wait for it; until now, in 2018, it has been announced by the relevant authorities that after many meetings have studied the topic of the modernization of the curriculum that within the changes included the new students will see the implementation of specialization courses as another alternative to elaborate the degree process getting many benefits to students of UES. To innovate the curriculum would be a fundamental part of the quality in the higher education to take into consideration that The University of El Salvador has a prestige for being one of the best universities in El Salvador. Also, in that way it would implement new ideas to overcome the deficiency that students have showed during the use of the

current curriculum improving the student's abilities and competence in their professional performance.

According to data collected of Curricular reform of the study plan of bachelor in English teaching and its correspondence to students' needs, Foreign Language Department, University of El Salvador (2014), a research paper work concluded the Authorities of Foreign Language Department should take into account student's needs, opinion of experts and currently labor requirements when they update the curricular. Some of students opinions were that adds more subjects to the curriculum, for instance: TOEFL subjects or implement TOEFL preparation courses, Administration of school, technology and subjects to implement the four macro skills. Furthermore, it remarked that there are some subjects need to reinforce their contents such as Literature, Advanced Grammar and Composition; in the same way, teachers of FLD must be in constantly training to be updated with new resources and new methodologies and revise the title of the major in order to automatically obtain the "Teacher Scale". But the important aspect is the curricular plans must be updated every five years to keep the quality of education.

2.4 The labor market

Previous studies related to this topic, the labor market, have not been studied in depth. However, during the revision of the literature about the research project "Factors involved in the labor market insertion process of the 2014–2015 graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages with Specialization in French and English, Study Plan 2002 of the Foreign Languages Department of the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of El Salvador (2016)", was sought relevant information.

This research was elaborated to take a reference of the real employment situation of these graduates since it is shown the different factors that influenced their search for a job that guaranteed their economic and labor stability; furthermore, this presents a new curricular flowchart as an alternative proposal in order to update the curricular of Modern Languages with Specialization in French and English major. (Annex 1)

Likewise, the research project “Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market? (2015)”, showed the profiles that the tourism area, call centers, and the teaching area demand for hiring people to fulfill with the necessities of students to forehead the labor market demands.

“In a weak labor market, people go to these schools to finish their degrees or get more credentials in hopes of eventually re-entering the work force.” Michael Jaffe. In El Salvador the economic situation is not different, according to Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES for its name in Spanish) (2016), only three out of ten employed persons are in formal paid employment even though there many reasons why this happens, one of this is the level of people education. Five out of ten women and more than four out of ten men in a working age have not completed secondary education; young people should complete at least this educational level in order to get a better quality of life; similarly, according to data provided by the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC for its name in Spanish) states that the higher educational levels and averages of the employed population show

only 15.6% out of the total of the Economically Active Population (EAP) has finished their studies at an undergraduate level. This directly affects their monthly income that would be around of \$590.00 if they had had more than thirteen years of study. (chart 4.3)

Chart 4.3 El Salvador: Employed population by gender and average wage according to the approved years of study HMPS-2014			
Approved years of study	Monthly Average Wage (Dollars)		
	Total	Masculine	Feminine
Total	\$296.3	\$320.7	\$271.0
None	\$164.5	\$173.2	\$156.8
1 a 3	\$211.7	\$292.9	\$188.5
4 a 6	\$223.1	\$248.0	\$191.0
7 a 9	\$239.5	\$257.7	\$211.7
10 a12	\$302.9	\$328.5	\$269.5
More than 13	\$590.0	\$636.7	\$542.2
Note: Familiar workers with no salary have been excluded.			

Source: DIGESTY-Year 2014

Furthermore, the United National Development Program (UNDP) in El Salvador (2016) declared that El Salvador presents a slow growth in its economy, and it is a big challenge by governors to generate more formal jobs for its citizens. Regarding to Economically Active Population, seven out of every hundred people are unemployed and forty-four are underemployed (with income below the minimum wage in the economic sector in which they work); only the fifth part of the workforce has a decent job and only the twenty-eight percent of the EAP is a contributor to receive a pension. Everyone must be awarded of this reality to pressurize the entities responsible for guaranteeing the best job training for professionals in order to face what the labor market demands. On the other hand, the Ministry of labor and Social Welfare (MTPS for its name in Spanish) coordinates with all municipalities of El Salvador Youth Employment Fair where offer job opportunities in many areas such as services in restaurants, customer services, call centers and others; likewise, the MTPS, in this website, promotes other job positions as drivers, receptionist and sales persons with wage from \$251.70 to

\$300.00 (MTPS, 2010-2014). Governors of El Salvador through out of the MTPS seek lower the statistics of unemployment to motivate youth people to insert in the labor market in that way to prepare in the work experience and provide a quality education focus on improving the life quality.

The University of El Salvador in order to contribute to the economic and social change offers highly competitive professionals majors in many areas such as School of Economics Sciences, Engineering and Architecture, Medicine, Agronomy, Dentistry, Jurisprudence and Social Sciences, Chemistry and Pharmacy, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and School of Arts and Sciences. This last school has the Foreign Language Department which has a mission committed to the professional development. “To train professionals with a critical and proactive conception who are able to contribute to the social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological development process as well as to help in the solutions of socio-political problems of the country from a humanistic perspective in the field of learning and teaching of foreign languages.” (University of El Salvador, 2011).”

Also, in this department the major the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Language with Specialization in French and English graduated in the years 2014 and 2015, 89 professional graduated from this career: 67 were women and 22 men according to the Registrar’s Office of the School of Arts and Sciences of the UES. These professional graduated fall into the “provision of service” category to insert in the labor market. Some of the workplaces are: School, Colleges, and Academies dedicated to the teaching of Foreign Language; Call Centers; Hotels and Tourism. Jobs of Provision of service is probably the broadest category, since in here there are

educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities, and academies), financial companies (banks, credit unions, etc), food (restaurants), hotels and tourism (hotels, touristic centers), call centers, and others. Some of the workplaces are: School, Colleges, and Academies dedicated to the teaching of Foreign Language; Call Centers; Hotels and Tourism.

School, Colleges, and Academies dedicated to the teaching of Foreign Language:

The teaching option is the most relevant job in which students apply. The labor markets in El Salvador, there are more opportunities of job in this area due to growth of learning foreign languages. In this case the MINED requires that teacher might have the teaching license, teacher scale, in order to guarantee the quality level of the foreign language to work in the public sector. Based on the Law of Teaching Career of El Salvador (March 2006) the teaching license allows teachers to ascend every five years in relation to their active service.

Likewise, teachers who want to teach French in educational entities can find work places like Lycée Français of San Salvador, the French Alliance, the European Academy, and others. Along the same line, the MINED, through the Department of Human Development, year after year publishes nationwide vacancies of teachers for preschool, primary, secondary in all specialties (kindergarten, basic subjects, English, sports, music and arts, computer education, others). For the 2017, the MINED published 144 vacancies for English Teachers.

Illustration N° 1: List of Department with vacancies for English Teachers, year 2017, extracted from the Official List Chart of the MINED

Department	Vacancies available for English Teachers
Ahuachapán	9
Santa Ana	16
Sonsonate	15
Chalatenango	10
La Libertad	9
San Salvador	10
Cuscatlán	8
La Paz	11
Cabañas	5
San Vicente	7
Usulután	6
San Miguel	29
Morazán	1
La Unión	8
TOTAL	144

Source: Based on data extracted from the Vacancies for Teachers Official List of MINED, year 2017.

According to the research project “Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market? (2015)”, the professional’s profile in the teaching is:

2.4.1 Public Institutions

- The certificate of the Ministry of Education
- Teaching experience
- The information below is the procedure that people must follow for getting a job in a public school.

ADMISSION TO TEACHING PROCEDURES:

Art.18-Educators enrolled in the hierarchical scale will be able to choose and to recover educational charges, in accordance with the following procedures:

1) Applicants for a vacant position will present to the President of Local School Board or the second in charge, the respective application and documentation that accredits him/her as teacher duly registered;

2) If there is only one person applying for the vacancy, after five working days of its publication, the School Site Council may directly assign the vacancy if the applicant fulfills the legal requirements, and informing the Selection Board and human Resources Unit of the Ministry of Education.

3) After finishing the period provided in the preceding paragraph, and if there are more than one person applying for the vacancy, the School Board shall submit, the list of applicants, the relevant documentation and request that the selection procedure is carried out in this law, all this should happen within three working days, to the Selection Board; and,

4) According to the previous paragraph, in the case of vacancies and new DEPARTURE, the Human Resources Unit will inform the education sector and the School Board that there are vacancies; this will be published in a national newspaper and other means that will consider suitable, all of this will happen in the first quarter of every year.

When the vacancies are ancient, the unit of human resources will do the corresponding notice at the time that will be necessary. Throughout the selection process, the Selection Board shall consider first the right to transfer people, the antiquity in the graduation, the reentry, the specialty, the place of residence and the tests of selection when there will be equality of conditions; Salvadoran educators will have priority on other Central Americans applicants and these on other foreigners.

In addition, they should take into account the applicant's religious affinity, when they apply for religious public institutions.

2.4.2 Private Institutions

French Alliance

- Graduated or student of the fifth year
- B2 Certificate of the DELF system or a certificate of the DALF system
- Motivational people

- Friendly
- Flexible
- Independent
- Good communication
- Cooperation' spirit

The Diplôme d'études en langue française¹ (English: Diploma in French Studies), or DELF for short, is a certification of French-language abilities for non-native speakers of French during the Exam sections the DELF examinations, the listening, reading and writing "Epreuves Collectives" are sat back-to-back in the afternoon, and the Oral Examination is taken separately. It is composed of two independent diplomas corresponding to the top two levels, C1 & C2, of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Level C2 is the highest level attainable according to this framework, denoting mastery and proficiency in the French language. The "basic" and "independent" divisions of language proficiency are certified by the DELF levels A1 to B2.

In CENIUES the teacher's profile is the following:

Language Skills:

- Listening: ability to use a foreign language to understand an oral conversation.
- Oral Skills: ability to use a foreign language to communicate fluently

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dipl%C3%B4me_d%27%C3%A9tudes_en_langue_fran%C3%A7aise

- Reading Comprehension: ability to use a foreign language to understand written extensive texts.
- Written Skills: ability to use a foreign language for writing notes, letters and other written extensive texts.

Other skills:

- ❖ Updated with new technologies or ICT.

The results obtained in this research project² presented that students from Modern Languages are ready to work in the teaching area, especially English. The majority of surveyed consider that meets the requirements ask for Academies in order to be hired; nevertheless, the professional teacher profile for both majors, English Teaching and Modern Language, for private companies neither for the public schools need the certificate from the Education Ministry being an obstacle that students face. On the same line, in French, the French Alliance said that applicate must have the B1 or B2 certificate of the DELF or DALF system. Additionally, students should have experience as Spanish teacher's in French for having more opportunities to be hired. They expressed that students who have traveled to French as Spanish-French teacher have a good level of this language, and also students who have been teacher's assistant in the university, have more experience in English area; without regard to that the 95% of the students who were interviewed, they have not traveled to France as Spanish teacher's assistant, so this is another obstacle for them to get a job in the French teaching area.

²Undergraduate research "Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market?(2015)"

2.4.3 Call Centers

This in demand form of employment in foreign languages has raised its hiring rates due to ensure stability wage above the minimum to the EAP, applicants should have linguistic abilities developed in the language that are applied. These employees are mostly Spanish–English Speakers who offer services in sales, technical support, and customer service, everything over the phone; however, there are also call centers like “Telus” that requires French speakers. Both graduates from these minors, teaching and public relations can apply to a job position in these enterprises. It is important to highlight that call centers have always existed in El Salvador; however, they were national in scope. For instance, call centers to order home-delivery food, to consult for health services, electricity and water services, and others.

The professional’s profile in call centers must be:

- 85% of English and French level
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer skills
- Patient, dynamic, proactive and fast learner
- Goal oriented
- Great customer service skills.

In the Call Center area this research³ the results obtained showed that students from the FLD fulfill the requirement demanded due to that students are able to communicate fluently in English even though students do not have experience working in that area.

³ Undergraduate research “Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market? (2015)”

2.4.4 Hotels and Tourism

This type of employment fits quite well graduates from both minors as they have command of both languages. Within this category there are hotels, resorts, travel agencies, and others.

In the tourism area, the professional's profile must be the following.

For executive in touristic sales:

- Dynamic, proactive, with initiative
- Studies in tourism or administration of touristic enterprises
- Knowledge of the main touristic places in El Salvador
- Advance or intermediate English.
- Labor experience in administration
- Bilingual 70%
- Computer systems management
- Vocational service
- Creativity
- Precision
- Decision
- Self-confidence
- Initiative
- Punctuality
- Excellent interpersonal relationships
- and Ability to work under pressure

According to the scope of this research⁴ students are not prepared for this area, tourism. A few students have applied and a little percent of this is ready to work in type of job, while the majority is not prepared and it is the last choice where students would like to apply.

Conforming with this another research⁵ concluded that graduates of the FLD count with all the necessary linguistic tools to opt for a job which guarantees labor stability; the same way, some professors of the FLD manifested that the average percentage of the language level reached by them is 70%. Notwithstanding, something that affect graduates in the labor market insertion is the lack of experience being this the main cause to find a job. The lack of preparation in the labor market influences at the moment of graduates be hired, they have little or no experience in most cases and the institutions incur in time to train the new personnel. Furthermore, they summed up that the professional profile reached by the 2014–2015 graduates of the BA in Modern Languages is acceptable to assure they will be hired even though it is not the professional profile demanded by the labor market.

⁴Undergraduate research “Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market?”(2015)

⁵Undergraduate research “Factors involved in the labor market insertion process of the 2014–2015 graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages with Specialization in French and English, Study Plan 2002 of the Foreign Languages Department of the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of El Salvador” (2016)

CHAPTER III
“METHODOLOGY”

III. METHODOLOGY

Gathering information is one of the most important parts on a research; therefore, it is necessary to follow the correct methodology in order to assure that the objectives will be achieved by getting the expected results. In this study was observed and interpreted the most important benefits that students have by taking specialization courses besides the research paper work.

3.1 Research approach

This research was carried out as a non-experimental and quantitative research since the main characteristic of this type of study is that researchers are not allowed to control, manipulate or alter any of the variables or subjects in the study field.

3.2 Type of study

This study was an exploratory research as quantitative data was collected in order to gather the necessary information to complete the study.

3.3 Research design

In order to carry out this study the researchers took into consideration the following elements:

3.3.1 Setting

This research took place at the Foreign Language Department in the University of El Salvador, Tecnológica University and Francisco Gavidia University.

3.3.2 Participants

The participants were 87 students of the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador that are working in their research paper and the teachers that are assigned as their tutors in the whole process. Also, students graduated of the English Teaching and Modern Languages: major of the University of El Salvador that had to do research paper in order to obtain the bachelor's degree. Moreover, 11 students from Tecnológica University and from Francisco Gavidia University who took courses of specialization.

3.4 Instruments and techniques:

3.4.1. Survey

A survey with fourteen items was delivered to 38 students of the English Teaching and Modern Languages: Specialization in French and English majors who are working on their research paper work at the University of El Salvador and a survey with ten items to the teachers that were assigned as their tutor in the whole process; also, to 37 students graduated of the English Teaching and Modern Languages majors of the University of El Salvador that had to do research paper in order to obtain the bachelor degree. And a survey with ten items to eleven graduate students from private universities that had taken courses of specialization to obtain their bachelor's degree. The surveys helped the researchers to measure how beneficial the students and their tutors think is to take specialization courses in something they like in comparison with a research paper work.

3.4.2. Procedure

The research team was interested in finding out the importance of implementing specialization courses as second alternative to obtain the bachelor's degree. The researchers passed a survey in order to consider the population's opinion and provide a valid support that the

implementation of specialization courses is more beneficial for undergraduate students. The surveys were online with ten up to fourteen questions addressed to students from both majors in the FLD who were working on their research paper as well as the teachers who were assigned as their tutors of this field; besides that, another survey was addressed to the students already graduated from the FLD that had to do research paper to obtain the bachelor's degree in order to have knowledge of the whole process that both students and teachers went through. As well as, another survey was passed to the students from private universities that took specialization courses to obtain their bachelor's degree.

3.5. Data Analysis

The results of the survey that was delivered to the students of English Teaching and Modern Languages: Specialization in French and English that were working on their research paper work at the University of El Salvador, the teachers assigned as their tutors, the students graduated of both majors of the University of El Salvador that had to do research paper in order to obtain the bachelor's degree and the students from private universities that took courses of specialization to obtain their bachelor's degree were presented in graphics.

3.6. EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end of this study, the researcher's expectations were the following:

1. To analyze the student's opinion in relation to develop courses of specialization and the importance they give to this proposal.
2. The researchers expected to identify the students' preferences about what kind of courses they need for increasing their knowledge in a specialization.
3. The head of the School of Arts and Sciences take into consideration the courses of specialization as another option for undergraduate students to get the bachelor's degree.

CHAPTER IV
“DATA ANALYSIS
AND
INTERPRETATION”

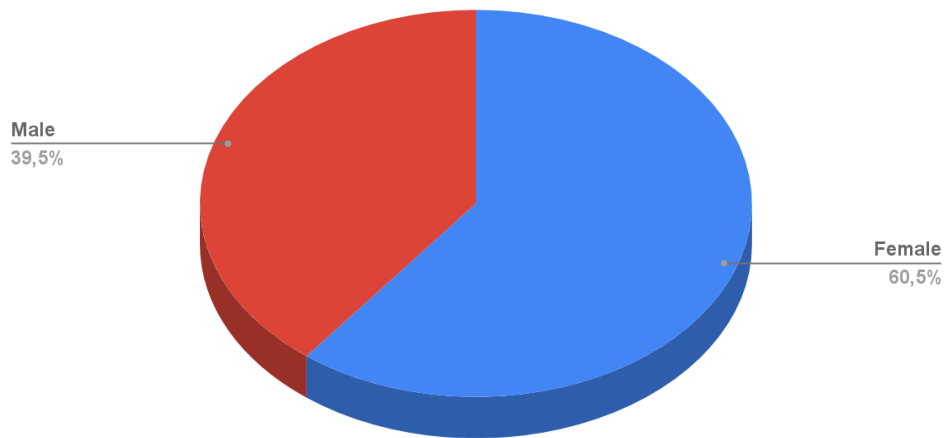
IV. ANALYSIS

In the following section the researchers show the results from the surveys administered to undergraduate students and their advisors, graduate students from UES and graduate students from private universities.

4.1 Survey for Undergraduate Students

Graphic 1

Gender



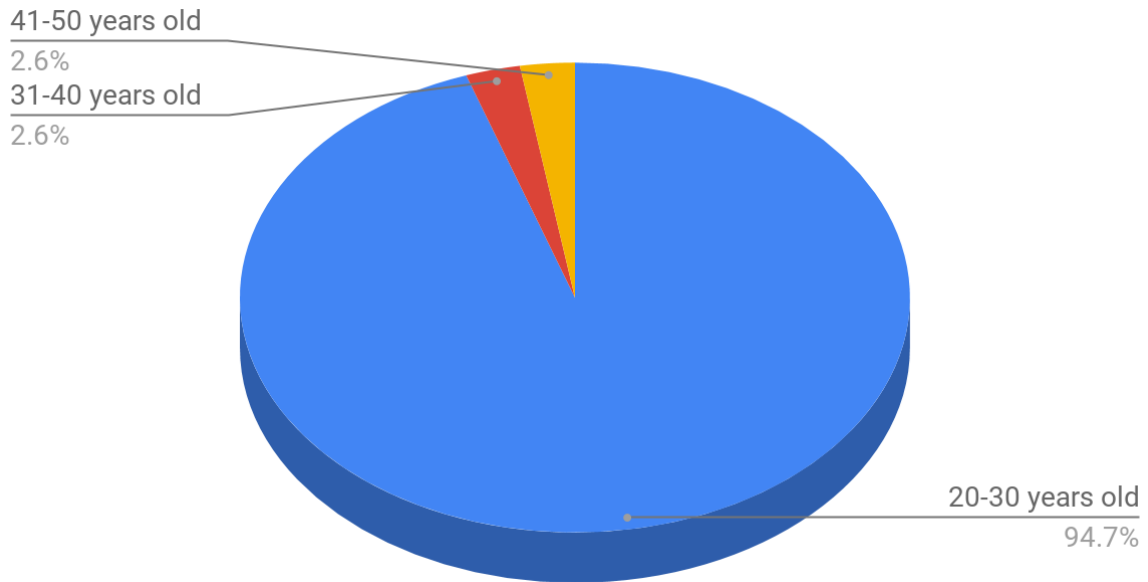
Gender	Frequency
Female	23
Male	15
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

In this questionnaire for undergraduate students of the University of El Salvador were surveyed a 60.5% female and 39.5% male with a total of 38 students. The female gender had more participation in this survey.

Graphic 2

Age



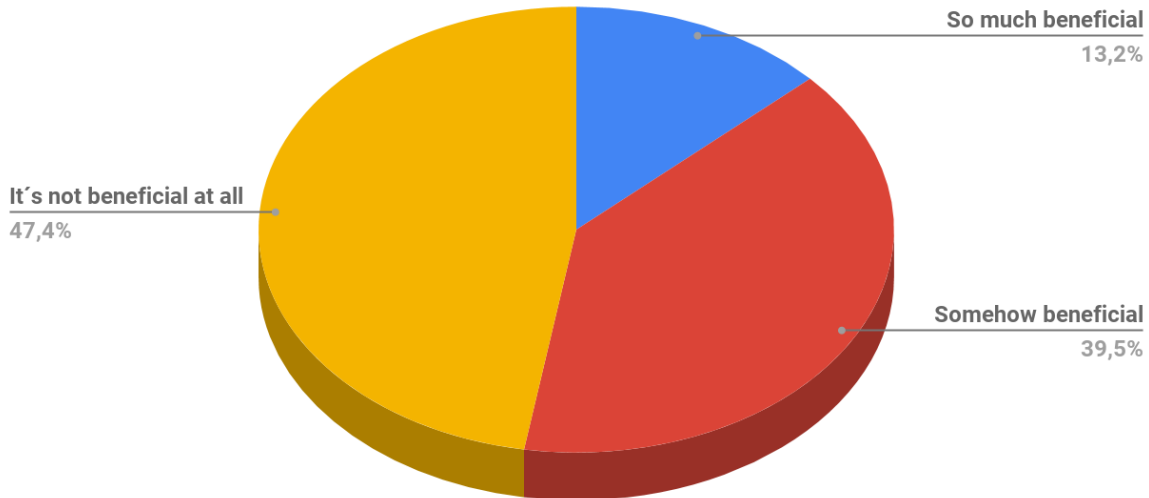
Age	Frequency
20-30 years old	36
31-40 years old	1
41-50 years old	1
More than 50 years old	0
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The 94.7% surveyed are in the range age between 20 to 30 years old. It can see that the majority are young while a 2.6% belong to 31 to 40 years old, and the other 2.6% are 41 to 50 years old, in contrast to a 0% of more than 50 years old.

Graphic 3

1. How beneficial is it to carry on a research paper to get the bachelor degree, since that is the only option available currently at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?



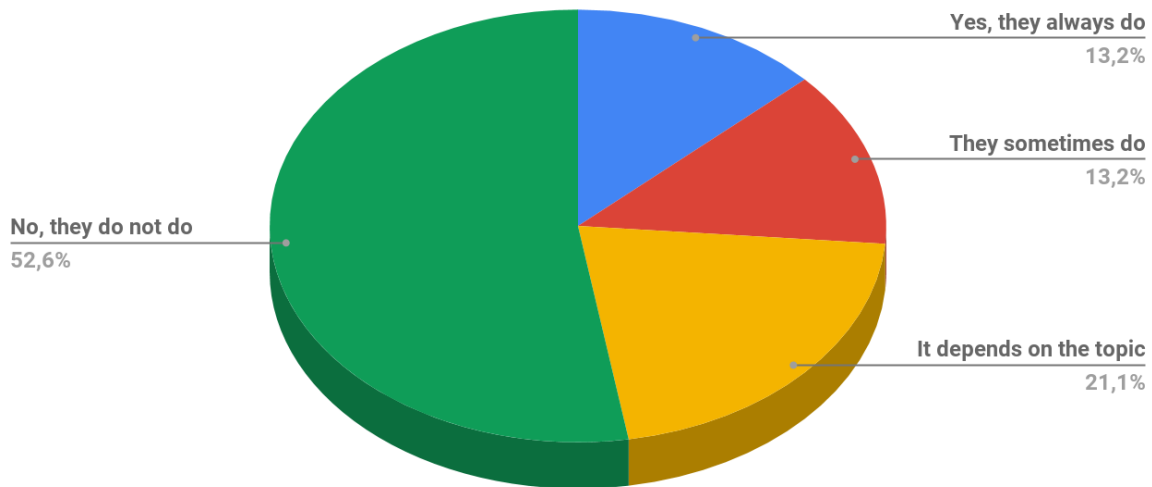
	Frequency
So much beneficial	5
Somehow beneficial	15
It is not beneficial at all	18
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results, 47.4% of students considered that the research paper work is not beneficial at all since the only option that the Foreign Language Department offer to undergraduate students conforming to establish by Academic Management Regulations of the University of El Salvador; on the other hand, the 39.5% think it somehow beneficial, and 13.2% so much beneficial.

Graphic 4

2. Do you consider that the authorities take into consideration the results obtained in the research paper carried on by undergraduate students?



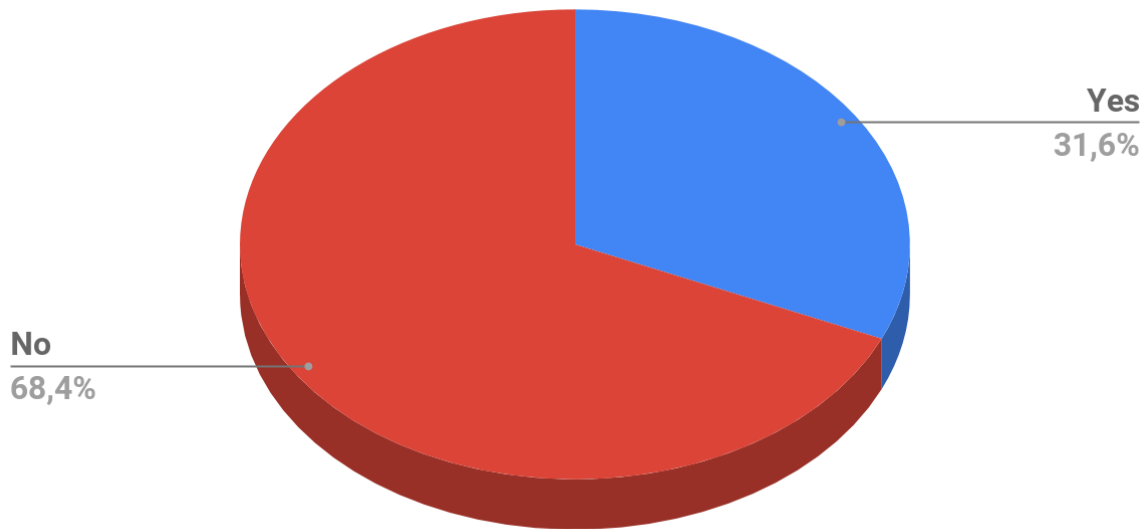
	Frequency
Yes, they always do	5
They sometimes do	5
It depends on the topic	8
No, they do not do	20
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The results obtained showed that 52.6% of students consider that the authorities of the UES do not take into account the results obtained on the research paper for futures research or project make in the Schools even though the majority of this type of paperwork are based on the problematic situation that school or department is facing up. The 26.4% says the authorities always do or something do to take in consideration this type of work, and only the 21.1% think that is depended of the topic.

Graphic 5

3. Do you consider that carrying on a research paper provides you with any specific knowledge that will help you to get more job opportunities? Why?



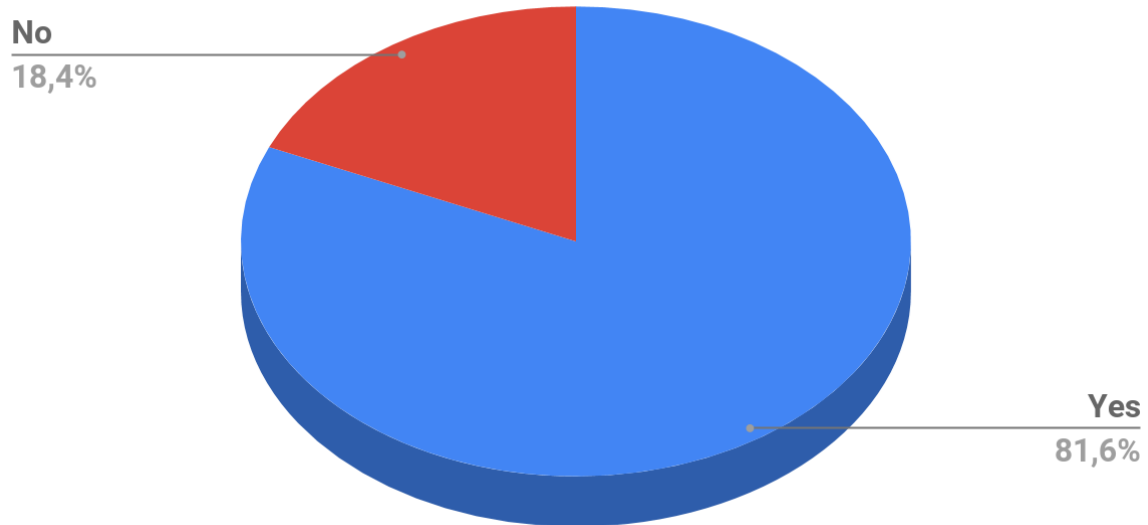
	Frequency
Yes	12
No	26
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

According to results obtained the surveyed show that 68,4 % consider that carry on a research paper do not provide the enough knowledge to get a job due to students are not get any certification like a specialization courses. Also, the most of the topics are not related to jobs difficulties and students watch this has a requirement to graduate. And the 31.6% answered yes, this carrying on provide a specific object that can be used to get a job.

Graphic 6

4. Have you ever heard about the specialization courses implemented in private universities?



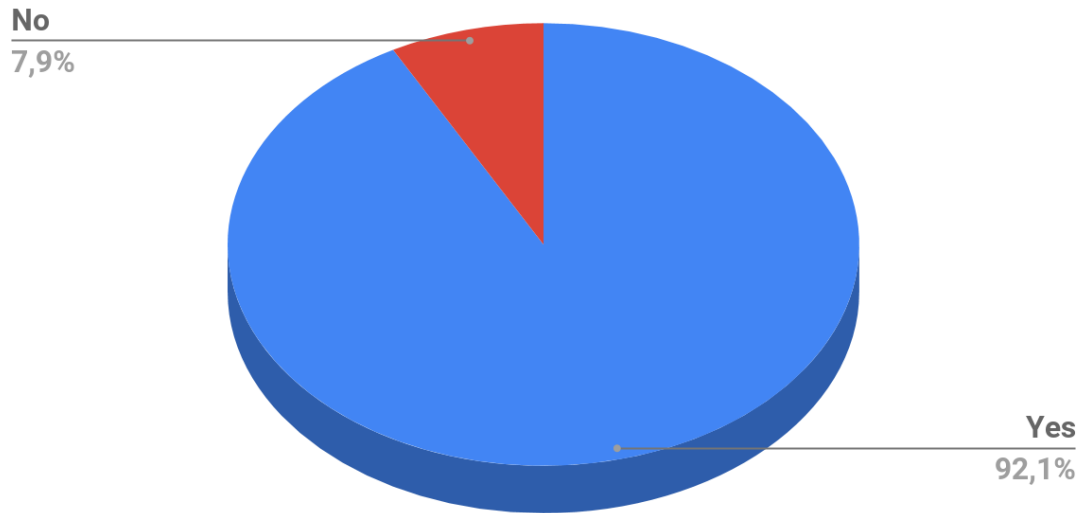
	Frequency
Yes	31
No	7
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The 81,6% of surveyed have heard about specialization process in private universities being this more attractive to study in these universities. And only 18,4% haven't heard about it.

Graphic 7

5. Would you agree with the idea of the authorities at the University of El Salvador offered a second alternative besides the current graduation work at the FLD?



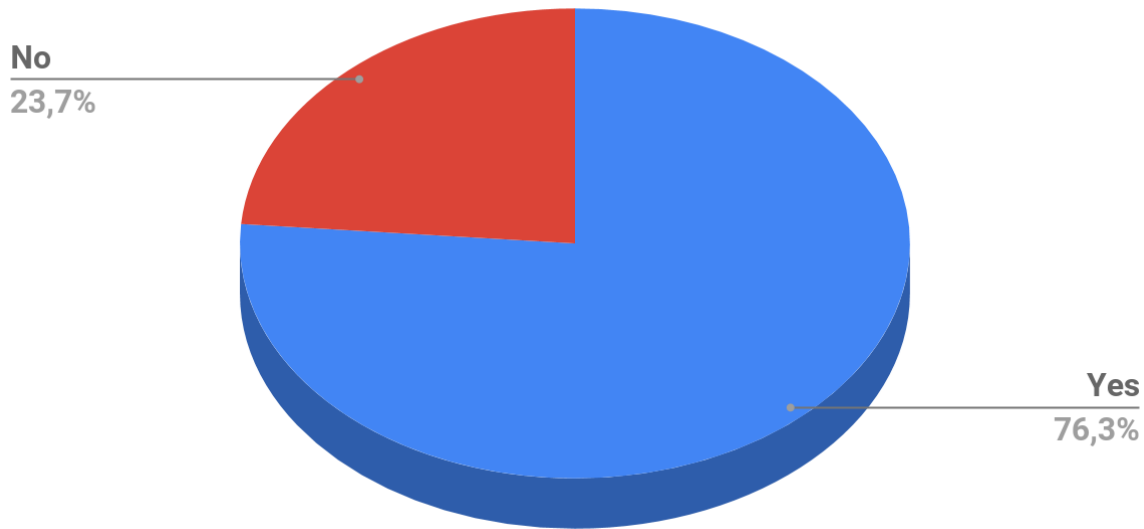
	Frequency
Yes	35
No	3
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results obtained the 92.1% of students consider that should be add the specialization courses as a second alternative to graduate at the FLD because in this way students get more job opportunities, prepare students for be more capable to do specific job performance, get more experience, and it a plus in the CV. Nevertheless, only 7,9% are in disagree that have another alternative for graduate work.

Graphic 8

6. Do you think that the graduation work to obtain the bachelor degree at the FLD should be updated as the one in private universities?



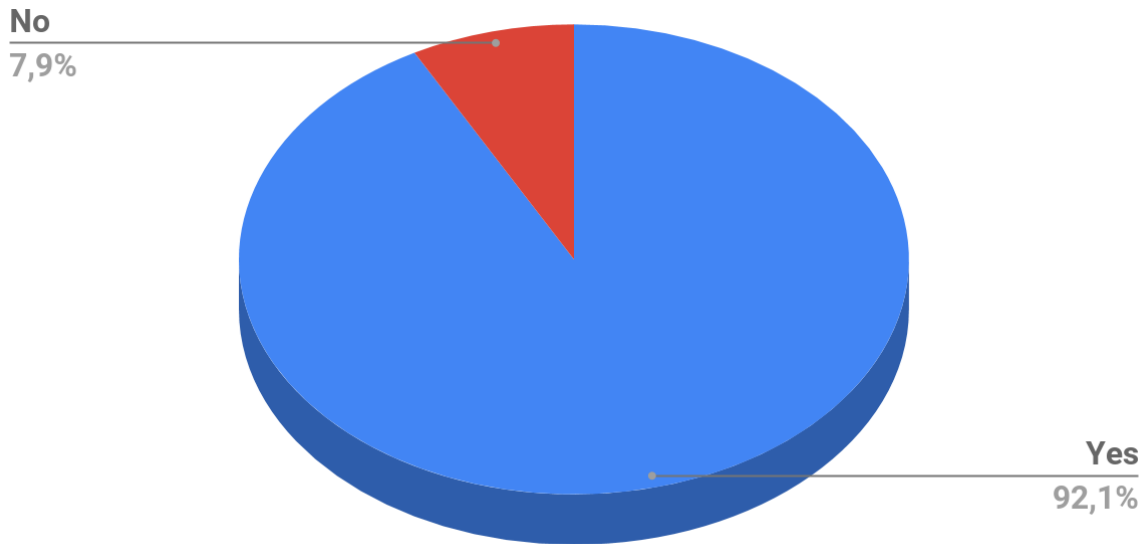
	Frequency
Yes	29
No	9
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The 76,3% consider that the University of El Salvador should be updated the graduation work in order to provide the opportunity for students decide what would be better for them; moreover, surveyed says that not only update the graduation work but also the curricular of both major. Also, these researches are not taken into account for improvements in the UES. On the other hand, the 23,7% students say that is not a good idea to update like a private university.

Graphic 9

7. Do you consider that taking specialization courses is more useful for undergraduate students?



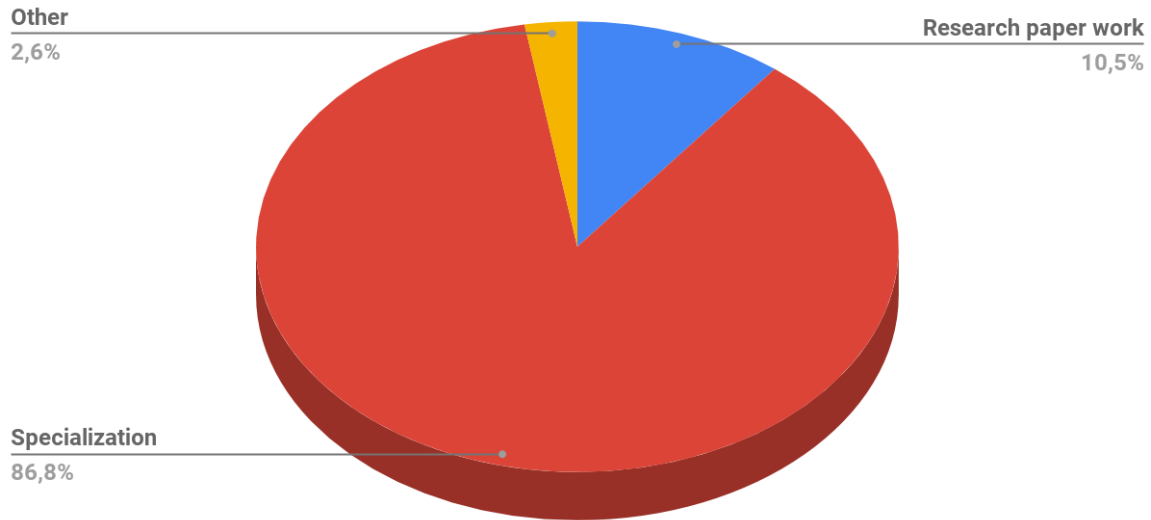
	Frequency
Yes	35
No	3
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The results obtained in this survey show that 92,1% consider that specialization courses would be more useful for undergraduate students due to in these courses have a deeply specialization to be more skillfully in certain areas or reinforce the subjects that students have already passed. However, the 7,9% think research paper work is better than specialization courses.

Graphic 10

8. If you had the chance to decide an option for graduation process, what would it be?



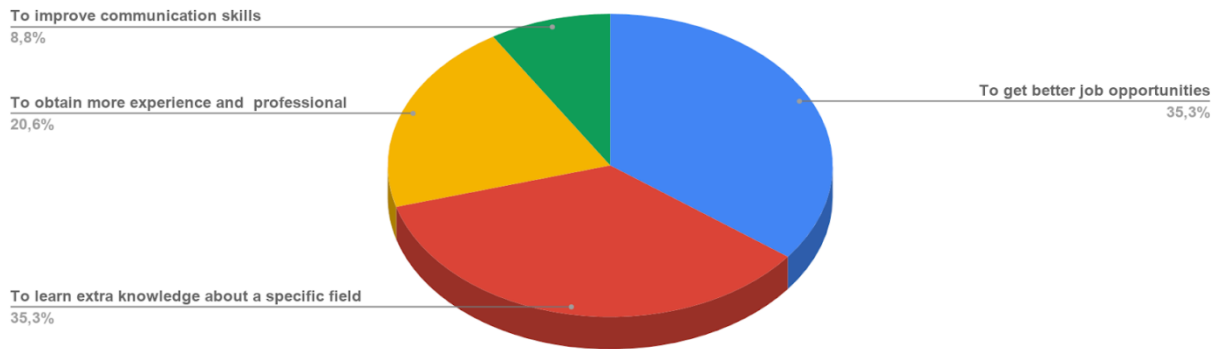
	Frequency
Research paper work	4
Specialization courses	33
Other	1
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

The 86,8% of undergraduate students express that if they had the chance to decide an option for graduation work would be the specialization courses due to all the advantages that this type of method provide them. The 10,5% says research paper and the rest others.

Graphic 11

9. In your opinion, what can be the contributions of the specialization courses to students in their labor life?



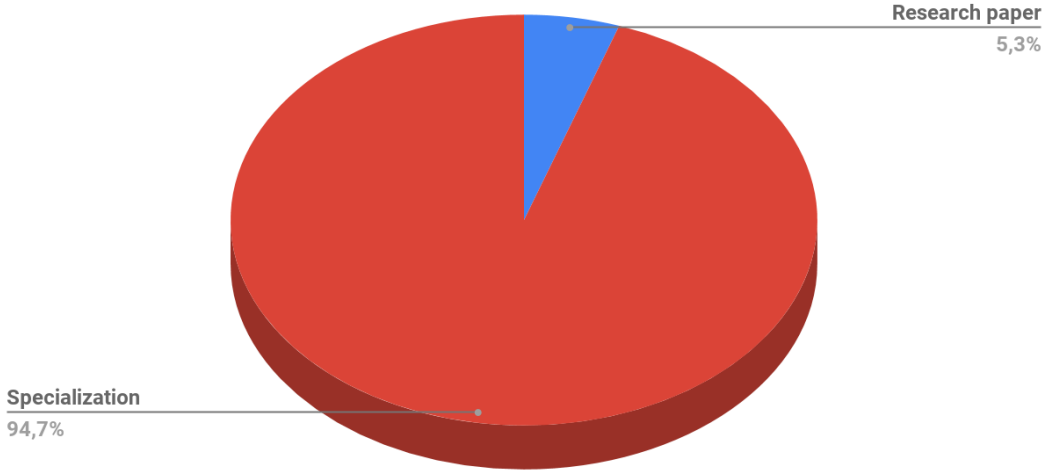
	Frequency
To get better job opportunities	35.3%
To learn extra knowledge about a specific field	35.3%
To obtain more experience and professional qualifications	20.6%
To improve communication skills	8.8%

INTERPRETATION:

According to the graphic, the students consider that some of the contributions of the specializations courses to the students in their labor life are: better job opportunities with a 35.3%, as well as extra knowledge about a specific field with another 35.3%. On the other hand, the 20.6% says that with the specialization courses the students will have more experience and professional qualifications, and the 8.8% says the students will improve their communication skills.

Graphic 12

10. From these options, please mark which one do you think will be more useful for your future professional life?



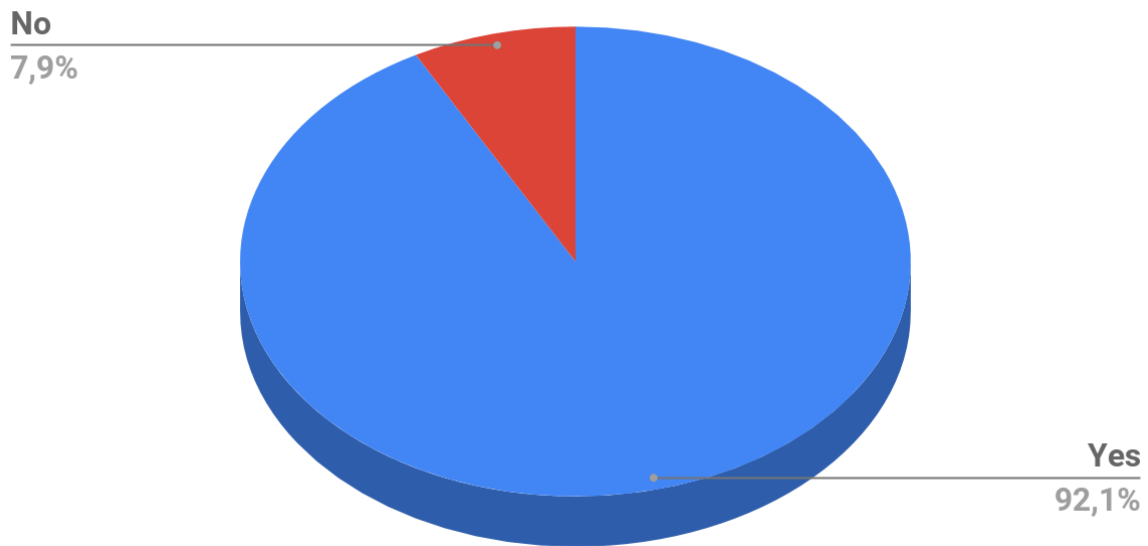
	Frequency
Research paper	2
Specialization courses	36
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

Based on the data collected the 94,7% of surveyed consider that the specialization courses would be more useful in their future professional life by reason of this prepare more future graduate for fulfill the demands of the labor market. In contrast the 5,3% think that research paper would be better.

Graphic 13

11. Would you encourage the FLD authorities to modify the academic regulations so that students can choose another option for their graduation process?



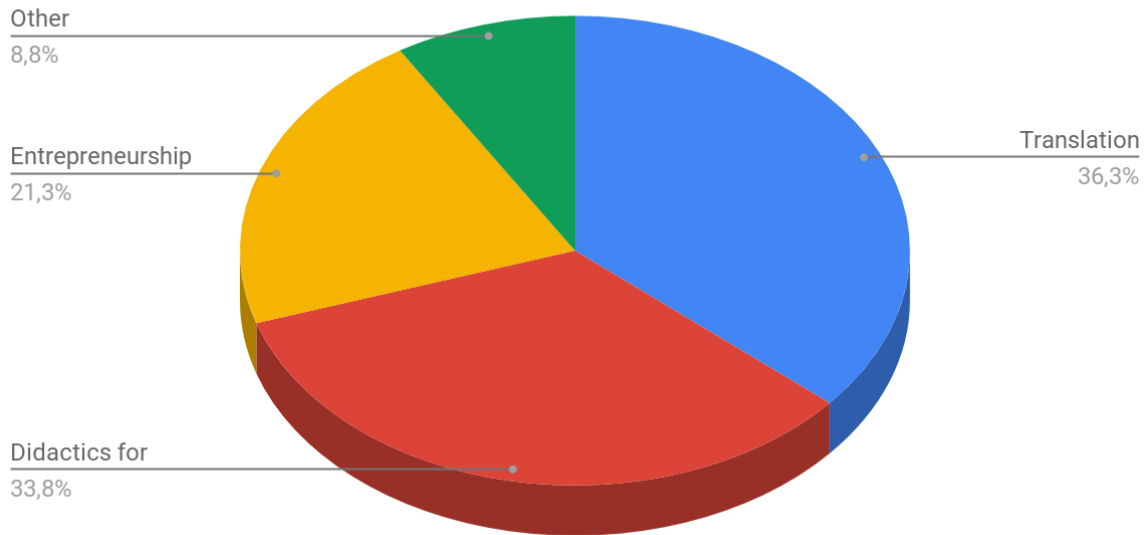
	Frequency
Yes	35
No	3
Total	38

INTERPRETATION:

According to results obtained the 92,1% consider that they encourage the FLD authorities to modify the Academic Regulation in order to get another alternative for graduation work owing to the more specialized some is in a certain fuel, the more feasibilities students have to succeed in work areas; similarly, students increase the level of competences for they can achieve. Yet, the 7,9% think that it is not necessary to have another alternative.

Graphic 14

12. Please mark the areas in which you consider the students from FLD need reinforcement? (More than one option can be selected)



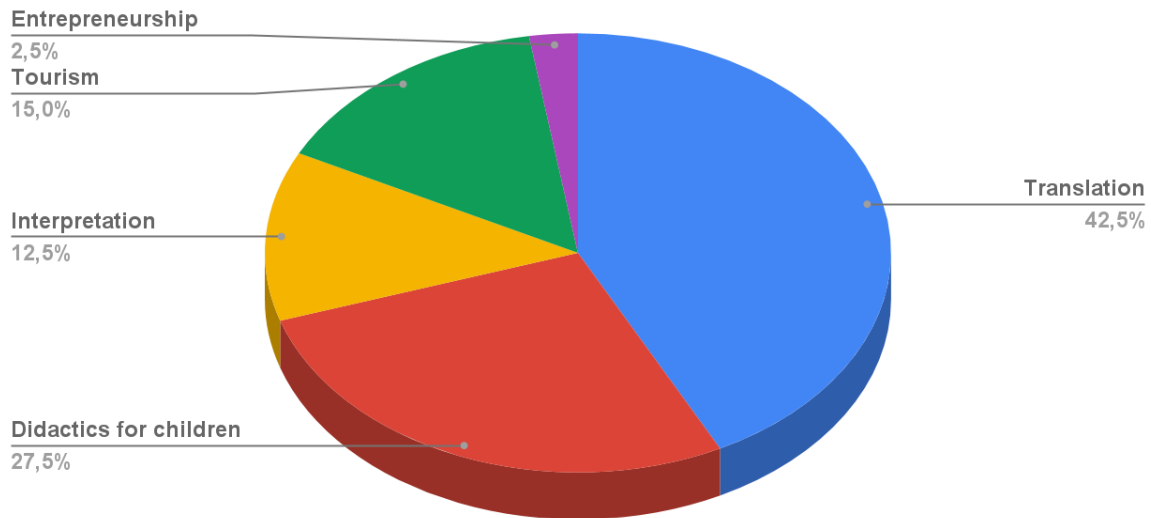
	Frequency
Translation	29
Didactics for children	27
Entrepreneurship	17
Other	7

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results the 36,3% consider that students from FLD need to reinforce in translation subject, followed by didactics for children with 33,8% and the 21,3% of entrepreneurship. There are many subjects that FLD need improve; nevertheless, these subjects mentioned before could be taken into account to make specialization courses in these areas.

Graphic 15

13. If specialization courses were implemented at the FLD, what kind of courses would you like to take?



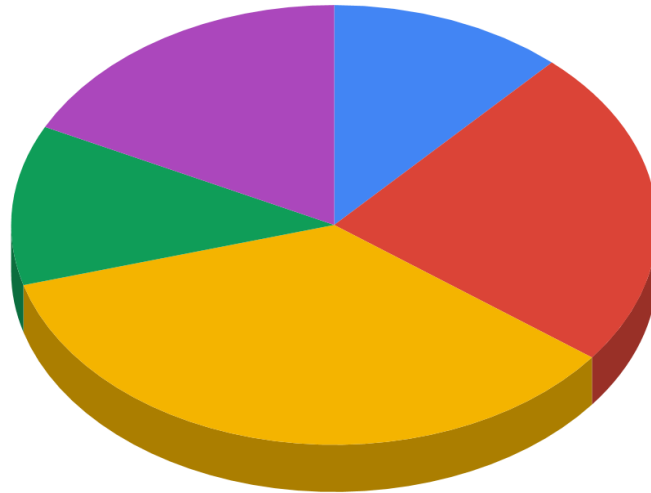
	Frequency
Translation	42.5%
Didactics for children	27.5%
Interpretation	12.5%
Tourism	15%
Entrepreneurship	2.5%

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results in this graphic the 42.5% of the students would like to take courses about translation, the 27.5% would like to take courses to learn didactics for children, the 15% would like to learn something related to tourism, the 12.5% would like to learn about interpretation and the 2.5% would like to learn about entrepreneurship.

Graphic 16

14. Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work at the FLD?



- To improve the academic plan
- To Implement the specialization courses
- To provide more options for the graduation process
- To make the graduation process faster
- To take into consideration the research paper work

To improve the academic plan	11.8%
To implement the specialization courses	23.5%
To provide more options for the graduation process	35.3%
To make the graduation process faster	11.8%
To take into consideration the research paper works	17.6%

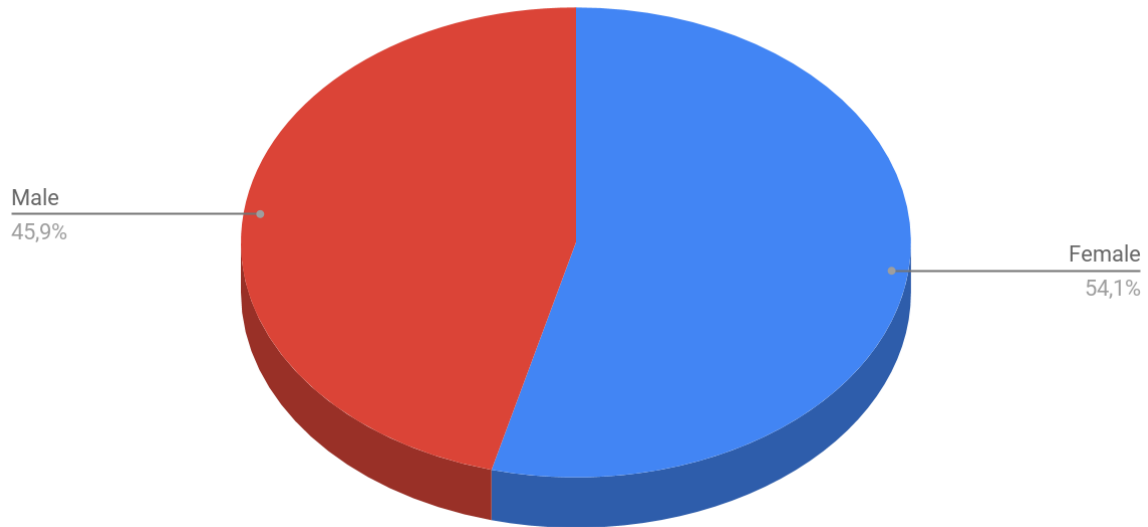
INTERPRETATION:

This graphic shows that the majority of the students surveyed with a 35.3% would like to have more options beside the actual graduation process. The 23.5% says that the specialization courses should be implemented, 17.6% of the students consider that the authorities should take into consideration the research paper works of the students. Besides that, 11.8% says that the graduation process should be faster and another 11.8% says that the academic plan should be improved as well.

4.2 Survey for Graduate Students

Graphic 1

Gender



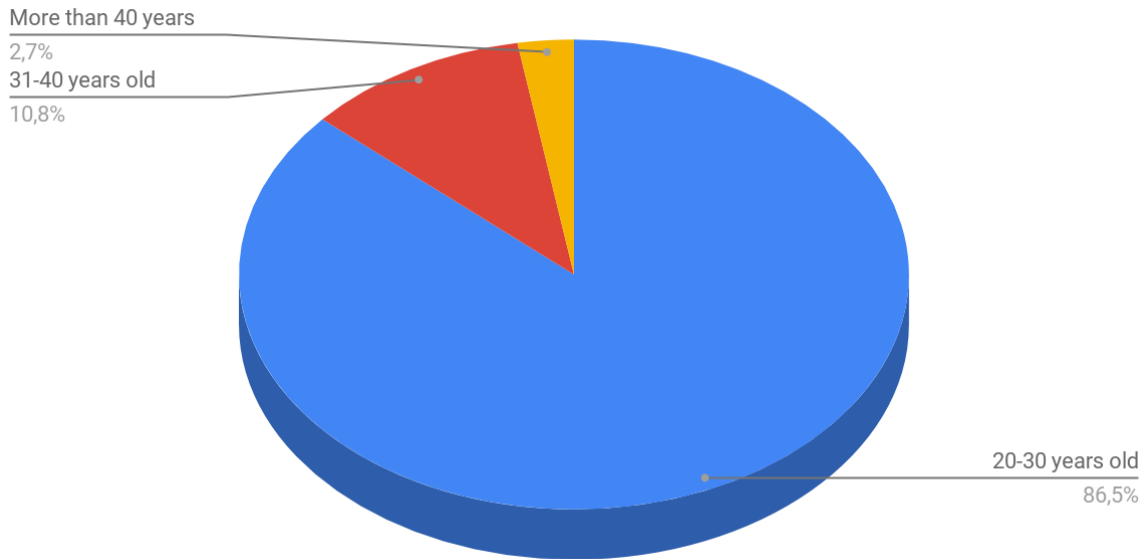
Gender	Frequency
Female	20
Male	17
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

This graphic is showing that there were a total of 37 people surveyed. The majority part of the population was gender female making a 54%. On the other hand, the second part of the population is gender male making a 45.9%.

Graphic 2

Age:



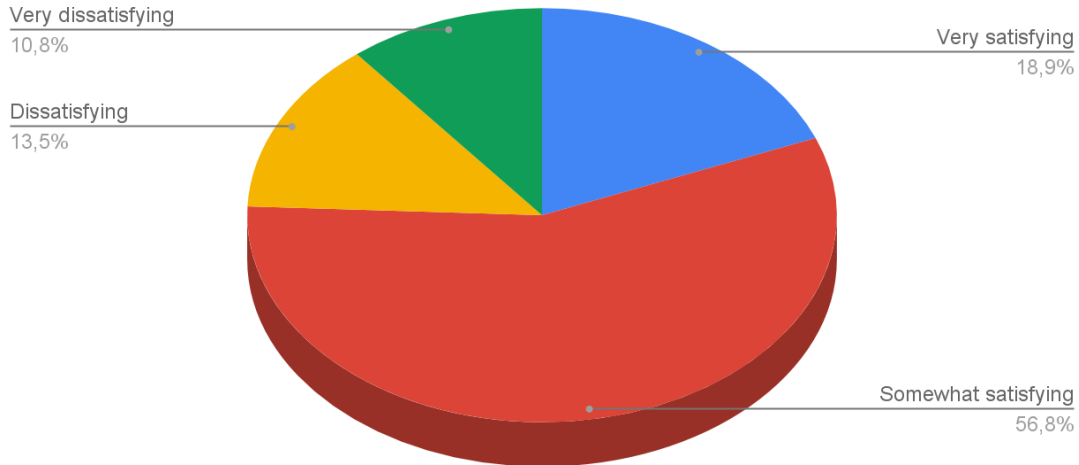
Age	Frequency
20-30 years old	32
31-40 years old	4
More than 40 years old	1
Total	37

INTERPRETATION

The graphic above shows the population with three type of ages. The first group is represented by 32 people from 20 to 30 years old that is the biggest group within the three of them, so it can be said the majority of our surveyed people may have just graduated from the University and they have a fresh remembrance about the topic. It is also presented a second group of four people with ages from 31 to 40 years old that are giving a valuable opinion as well as the third group where there is one person that is more than 40 years old.

Graphic 3

1. How was your experience during the process of elaborating your research paper work?



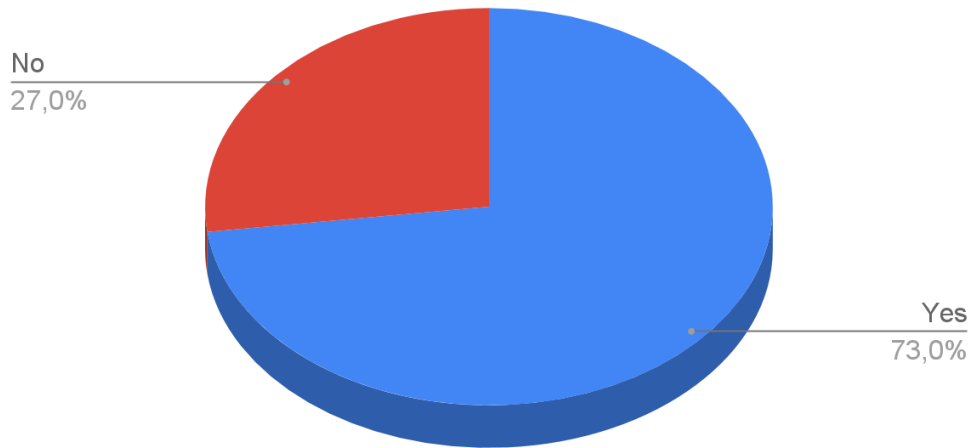
	Frequency
Very satisfying	7
Somewhat satisfying	21
Dissatisfying	5
Very dissatisfying	4
Total	37

INTERPRETATION

With this question it is demonstrated that only the 18.9% of the population consider that they had a very satisfying experience by carry on the research paper; nevertheless, just a few percentage of the population consider very satisfying experience with the 10% plus the 13.5% that said only dissatisfying. Being that said it is concluded that more than half of the surveyed people with 56.8% consider as somewhat satisfying their experience when carry on the research paper work.

Graphic 4

2. Do you think that the process of elaborating your research paper work provided with new knowledge related to your major?



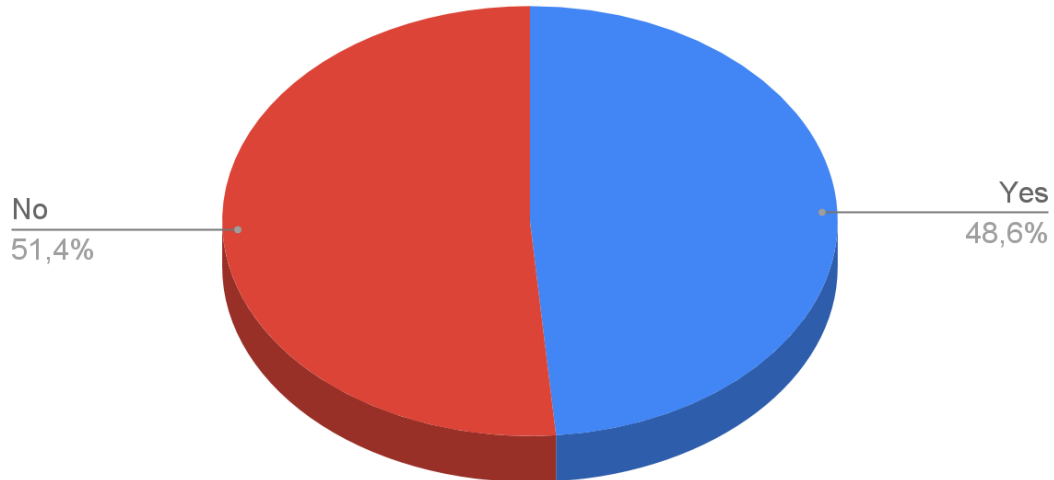
	Frequency
Yes	27
No	10
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

The results presented in this questions shows that at the end of the research most of the students that in this case represent the 73%, said that they learnt new knowledge such as new vocabulary, new ways to organize the information, new research techniques, made new discoveries etc. It is also presented the 27% of the population that it was not helpful at all due to many facts such as the topic was not related to the career, it is irrelevant, they do not put that much interest, etc.

Graphic 5

3. Do you consider that the topic investigated of your research paper work was the most suitable way to demonstrate the skills learnt in the major?



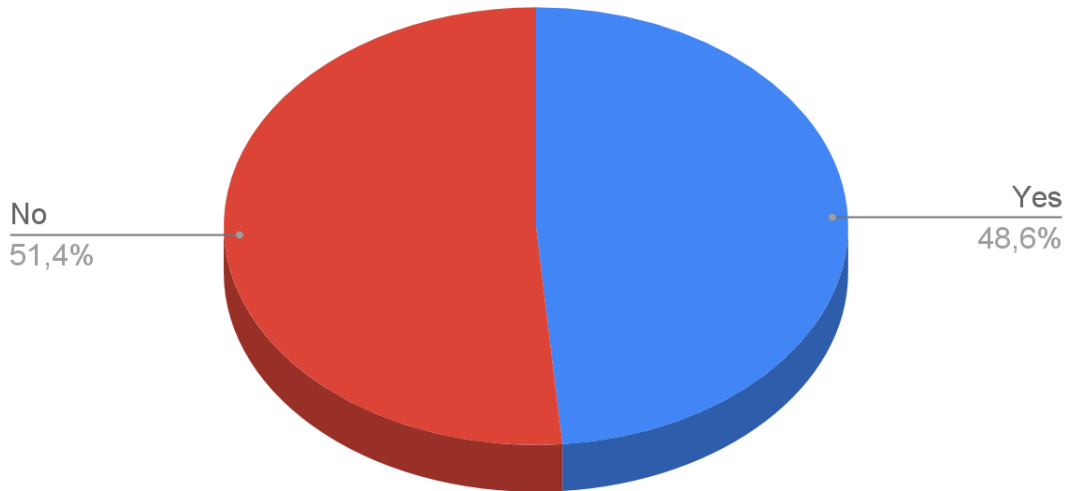
	Frequency
Yes	18
No	19
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

This is one of the questions where people's opinion is divided in almost half for each part. The 51.4% said that the research paper is not the best way to demonstrate their knowledge since they do not feel an especial motivation for making the research or there should be more options for their graduation process where they can demonstrate in a better way their skills; on the other hand, the 48.6% of the population said that the topic was perfect to demonstrate their skill and it brought many benefits to them as well as the FLD.

Graphic 6

4. Do you consider that the research paper work has helped you in your labor life?



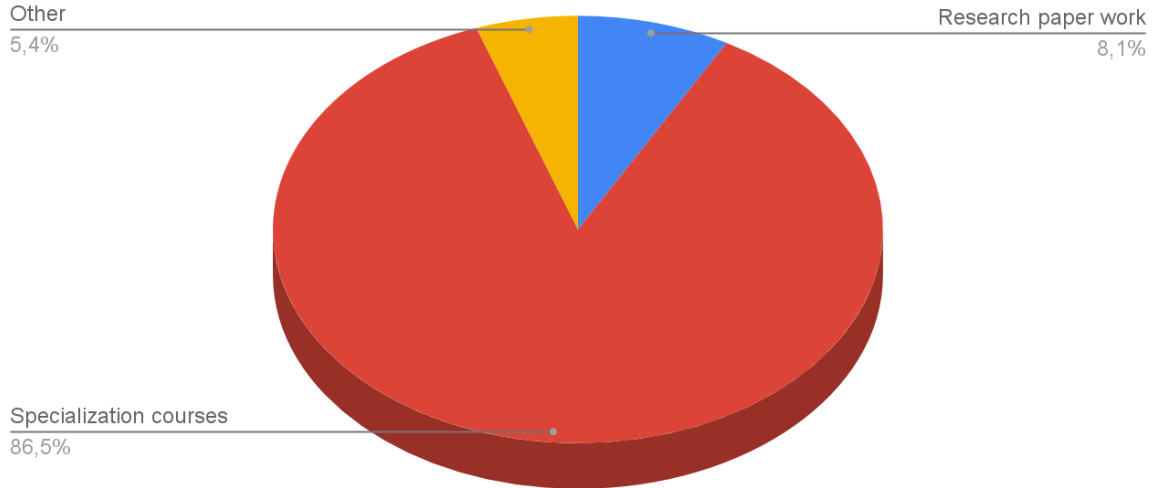
	Frequency
Yes	18
No	19
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results the 48% of the population said that the knowledge acquired helped them in their current job. It is important to emphasize that most of them are currently working as teachers and they are applying that knowledge. The other portion of the population meaning the 51% said that the knowledge on their research paper was not that relevant for their current job since they are working on something else (call centers) due to lack of opportunities. They also said that the research paper was not necessary since they already got the knowledge throughout the career.

Graphic 7

5. If you had the chance to choose an option for graduation work, what would it be?



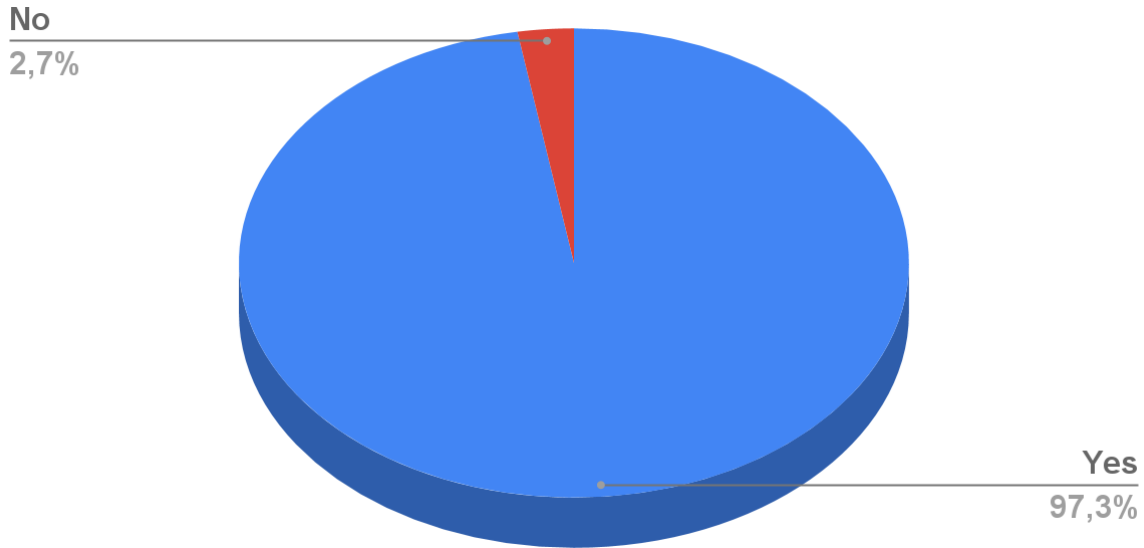
	Frequency
Research paper work	3
Specialization courses	32
Other	2
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

According to the population's opinion the best choice for their graduation process is to take specialization courses. It is observed that the 86.5% approved that a specialization would be more helpful since it would bring benefits such less consuming time, reinforcement in their skills, the acquirement of new knowledge, etc. There is also an 8.1% that consider that it should be kept the current graduation since it is part of the requirements. The last part of the population that is represented by only 5.4% of the population that expressed that they prefer a different option. All of them agreed that there should be the option of making more practices to put into practice their knowledge in the real life.

Graphic 8

6. Do you consider that have taken specialization courses would have been more beneficial for your major?



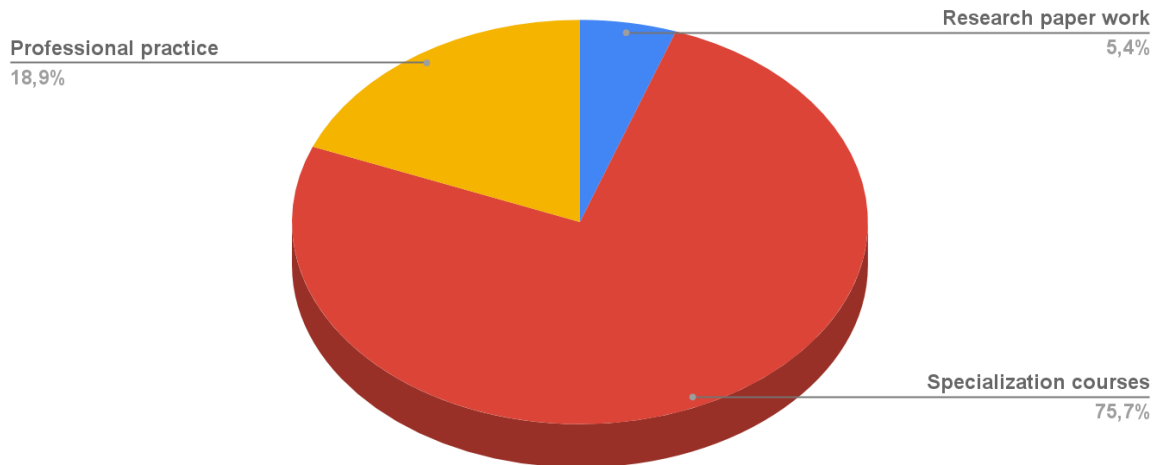
	Frequency
Yes	36
No	1
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above shows that 97.3% of the population agrees that taking a specialization course would have been more beneficial. Within responses they said that they would have acquire more knowledge, they would have reinforced the knowledge that they had in the career, it would have opened doors to better job opportunities; besides that they said that in most of the cases the results from the research paper work is not taken into consideration by the authorities. It is also important to mention that only the 2.7% of the population said they a specialization would not be more beneficial.

Graphic 9

7. In your opinion, what would be the most useful graduation work for future undergraduate students to obtain the bachelor degree?



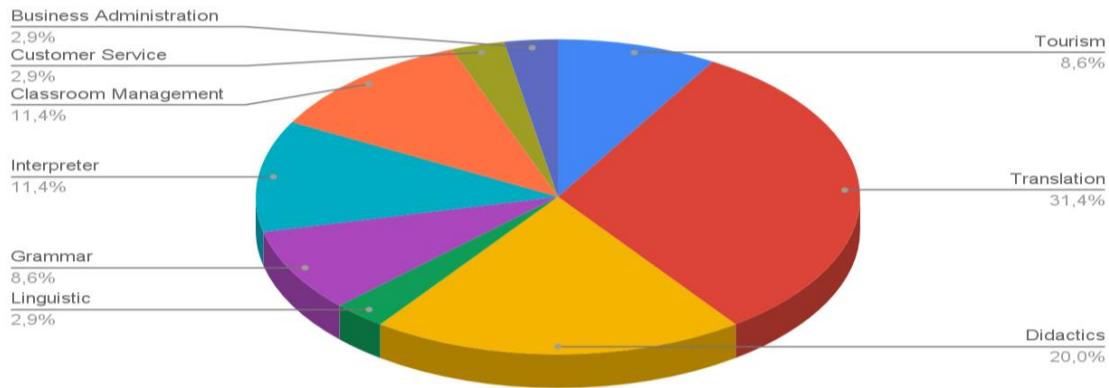
	Frequency
Research paper work	2
Specialization courses	28
Professional practice	7
Project	0
Other	0
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

In this question there were 5 types of responses; however, the people surveyed chose only three type of responses. The graphic above is showing that the 75% of the population agree that taking a specialization would be the best choice for future students' graduation process. It is also presented that the 18.9% suggest that the best option for future generation would be to make more professional practice as graduation process for them to apply their knowledge. The third option of the population says that the graduation process should remain the same by carry on a research paper.

Graphic 10

8. In your opinion, what kind of specialization courses should be taken into consideration to implement as a second alternative to obtain the bachelor degree at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?



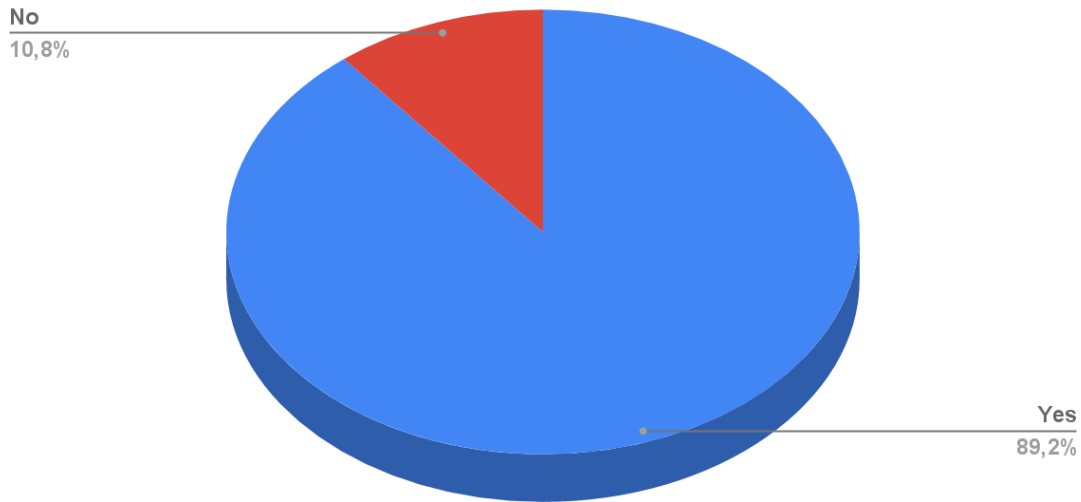
	Frequency
Tourism	3
Translation	11
Didactics	7
Linguistic	1
Grammar	3
Interpreter	4
Classroom Management	4
Customer Service	1
Business Administration	1
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

According to the results in this graphic the 31.4% of the students would like to take courses about translation, the 20.0% would like to take courses about didactics, the 11.4% would like to learn something related to classroom management and another 11.4% would like to learn about interpretation, the 8.6% would like to learn about tourism and another 8.6% of the students would like to learn more about grammar rules, the other 8.7% would like to learn something related to customer service, business administration or linguistic.

Graphic 11

9. Do you think that the graduation work should be updated as the one in private universities?



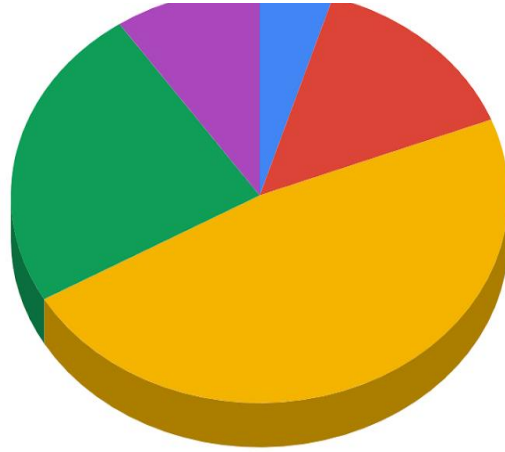
	Frequency
Yes	33
No	4
Total	37

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above demonstrates that the biggest part of the population being this the 89.2% thinks that the graduation processed should be updated in the UES. Within the most common opinions are that the research paper is old fashion and the UES should be innovating by time to time, they also mention the current process is too much time consuming and the authorities does not take into consideration the results, besides that they said that a specialization would bring more job opportunities for them. The other 10.8% says that the current process should be kept since we have a better design.

Graphic 12

10. Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work at the FLD?



● To improve the pensum ● To have more sessions with the advisor ● To implement the Specialization courses
● To implementation of new projects ● To make the graduation process faster

To improve the pensum	4.8%
To have more sessions with the advisor	14.3%
To implement the Specialization courses	47.6%
To implement new projects	23.8%
To make the graduation process faster	9.5%

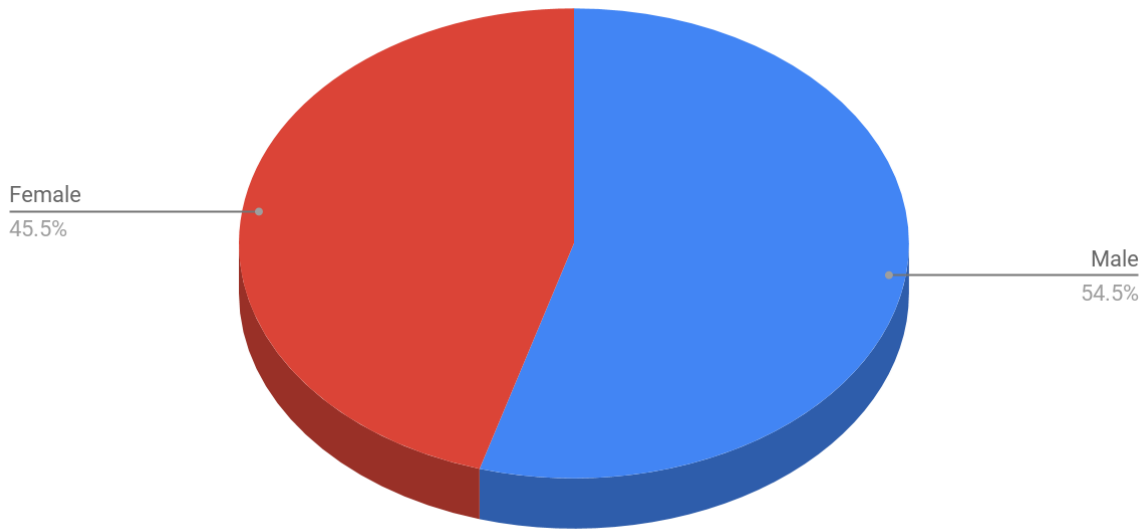
INTERPRETATION:

This graphic shows that the majority of the students surveyed with a 47.6% says that the specialization courses would a good option for improving the graduation work. The 23.8% says that new projects should be implemented. 14.3% of the students consider that would be good to have more sessions with the advisor. Besides that, 9.5% says that the graduation process should be faster and another 4.8% says that the academic plan (pensum) should be improved.

4.3 Survey for graduation work advisors

Graphic 1

Gender:



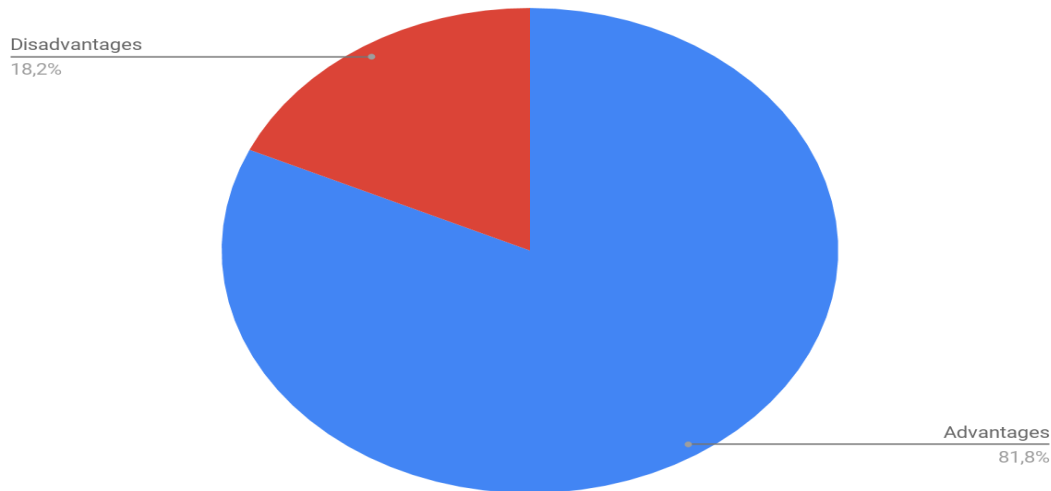
	Frequency
Female	5
Male	6
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic there were a total of 11 advisors surveyed. The majority were gender male making a 54.5%. And the second part were gender female making a 45.5%.

Graphic 2

1. Based on your experience, what are the advantages and disadvantages for students to elaborate research papers as a graduation work?



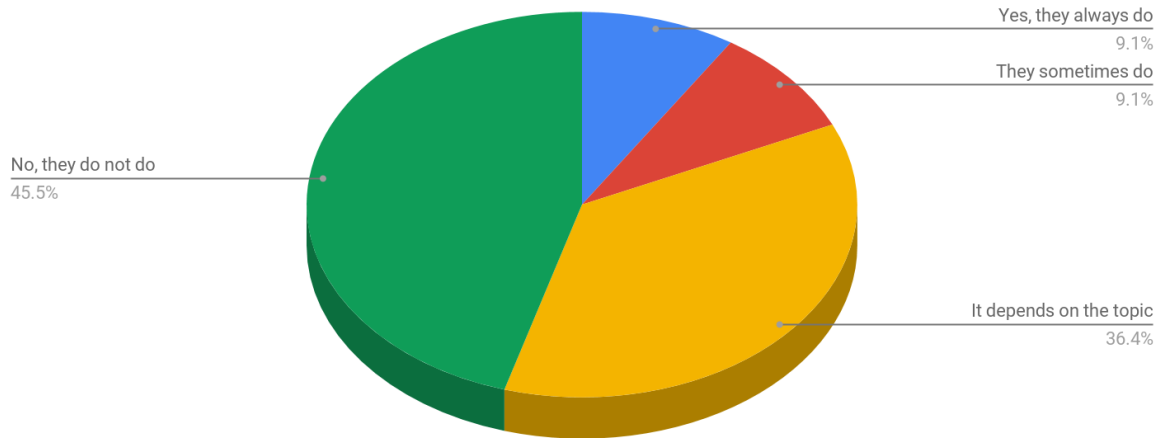
	Frequency
Advantages	9
Disadvantages	2
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

Base on the advisor opinion, some of the advantages that they mention were that the students have the opportunity to write a research work in which they use the language to describe a real process. Also, they have the opportunity to improve their research skills and their writing and vocabulary because they are able to design and carry out a research which is formal writing. Another advantage would be that the students work cooperatively and that it helps them to think critically, organize their ideas and speak in public. On the other hand, they mention that not students and teachers are prepared enough to work on this field. Also, in most of the cases the students spend too much time working on it to complete it. Additionally, there is a work and study schedule interference.

Graphic 3

2. Do you consider that the authorities take into consideration the research paper carried on by undergraduate students?



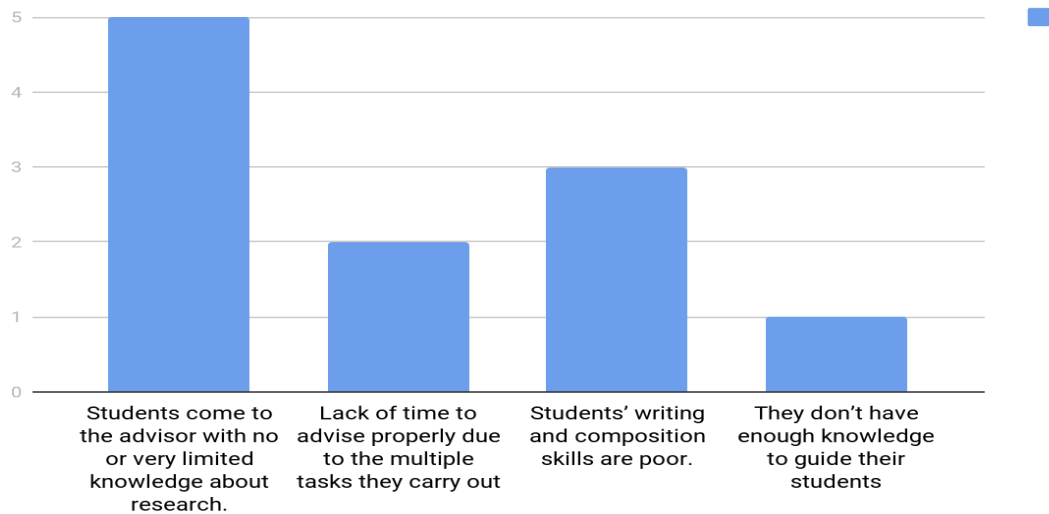
	Frequency
Yes, they always do	1
They sometimes do	1
It depends on the topic	4
No, they do not do	5
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

According to the graphic, the 45.5% of the tutors surveyed consider that the authorities do not take into consideration the research paper carried on by the undergraduate students, the 36.4% consider that it depends on the topic and 18.2% consider they do considerate the research papers.

Graphic 4

3. Could you mention some difficulties that you usually face as an advisor of a graduation work?



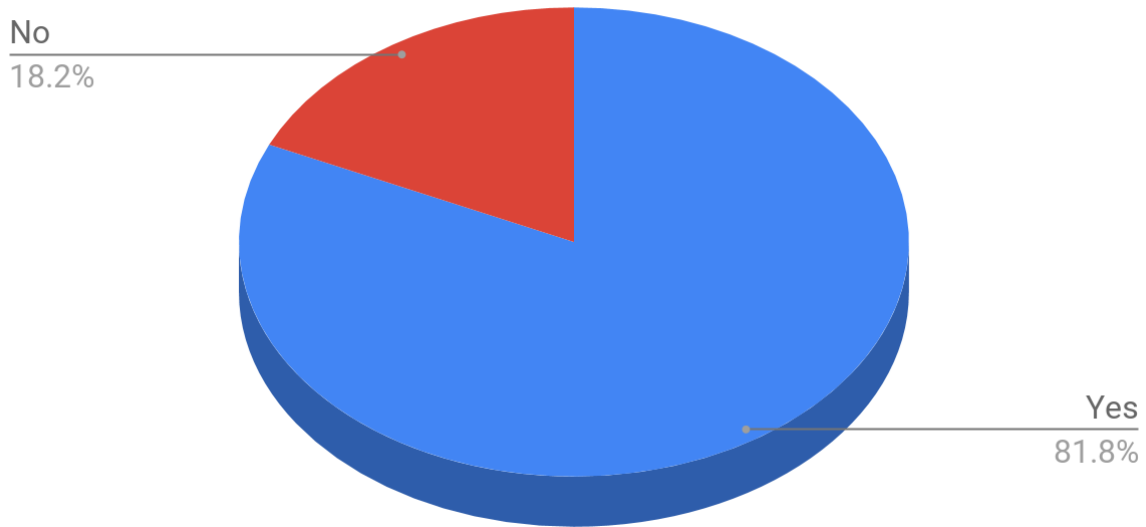
	Frequency
Students come to the advisor with no or very limited knowledge about research.	5
Lack of time to advise properly due to the multiple tasks they carry out	2
Students' writing and composition skills are poor.	3
They do not have enough knowledge to guide their students	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic some of the difficulties that the advisors face are not just related with the students but also with themselves. One of the difficulties is that the students come to them with no or very limited knowledge about the research. They consider that the students do not know or remember how to do research so they have a lack of training in the field. Also, the students' writing and composition skills are poor, as they have redaction problems so their proficiency level is low. On the other hand, another difficulty is the lack of time to advise properly due to the multiple tasks the carry out and so there is schedule interference between students and advisor. As well, some of them consider they do not have enough knowledge to guide their students because they are not very competent in the field so they usually ask their colleagues.

Graphic 5

4. Would you agree with the idea of offering a second option for obtaining the bachelor degree besides the current graduation work at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?



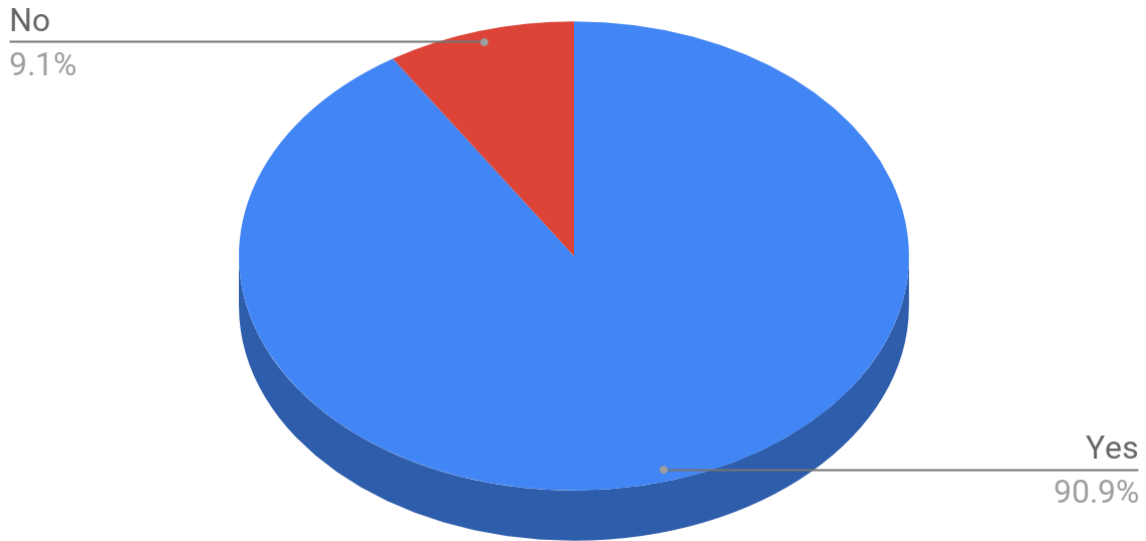
	Frequency
Yes	9
No	2
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic the majority of the tutors surveyed with a 81.8% agreed with the idea of offering a second option for obtaining the bachelor degree besides the current graduation work at the FLD because in most cases, not many people read what the students have written, also because it is of better use for students and in a shorter time process. On the other hand, just the 18.2% surveyed did not agree.

Graphic 6

5. Have you ever heard about the courses of specialization implemented in private universities?



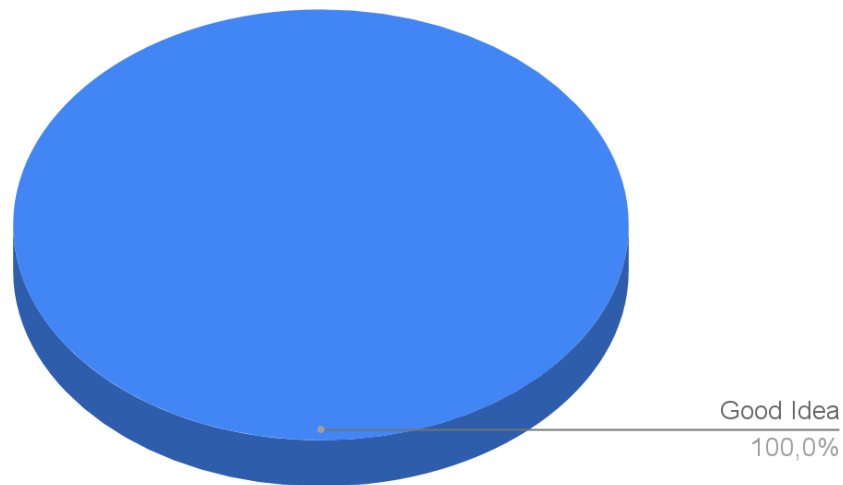
	Frequency
Yes	10
No	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

The 90.9% of the tutors surveyed have heard about specialization process in private universities; however, they suggest that we do not have to follow private universities. And only 9.1% have not heard about it.

Graphic 7

6. What is your opinion about the implementation of specialization courses as a graduation work at the FLD?

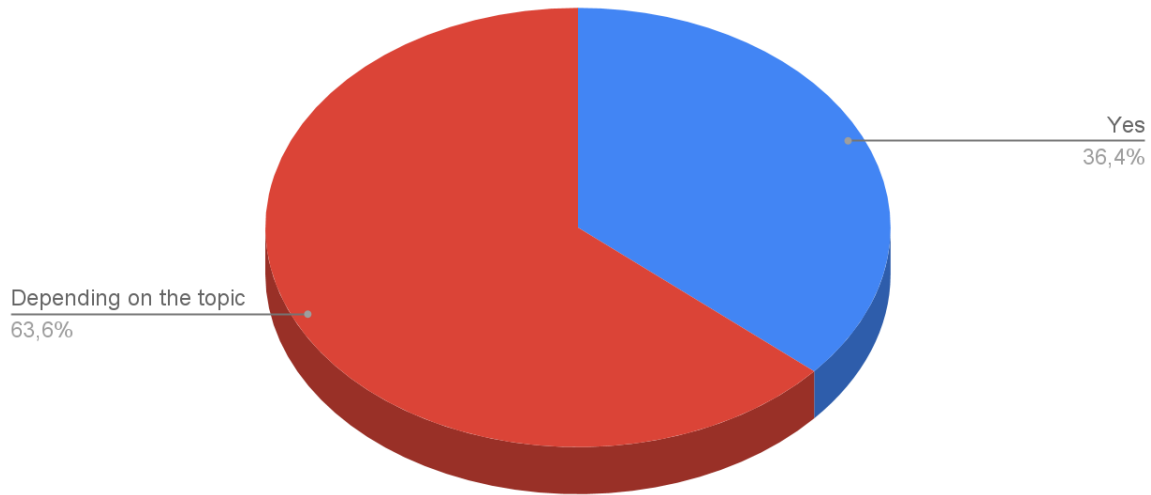


INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic all the tutors surveyed consider that the implementation of specialization courses as a graduation work at the FLD would be a very good idea because that would help the students to improve their professional skills in order to be more prepared for the labor market. However, they said that it is not needed to follow private universities. Additionally, some others consider that it would be helpful not only for the students but also the teachers.

Graphic 8

7. Do you consider that specialization courses may prepare undergraduate students for their working field?



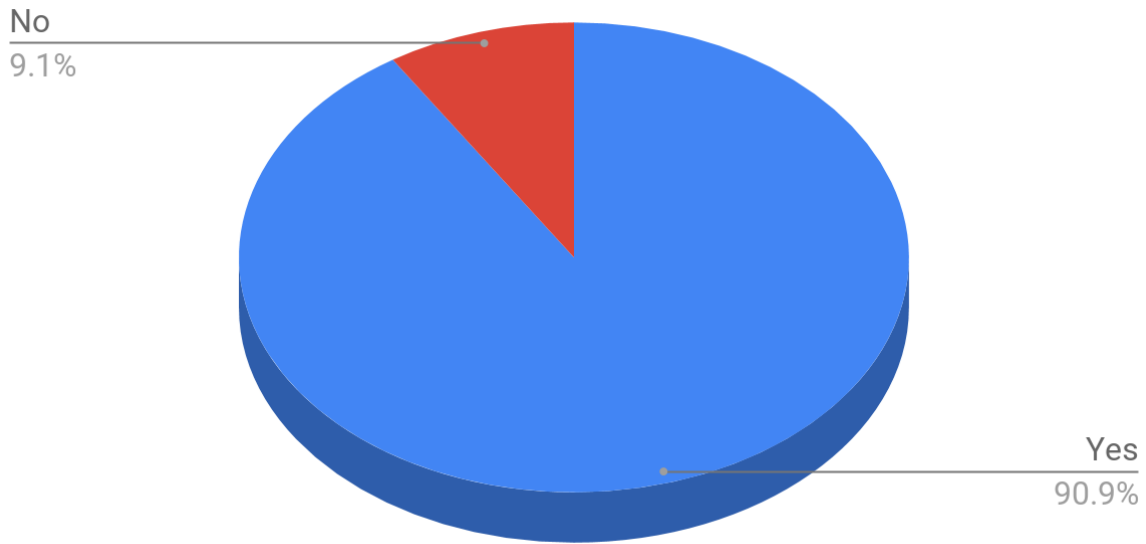
	Frequency
Yes	4
No	0
Depending on the topic	7
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

According to the graphic the 36.4% of the surveyed consider that the specialization courses may prepare undergraduate students for their working field. The 63.6% said that it would depend on its design and implementation and also if they are oriented to what the labor market demands from undergraduate students now. None of them said they won't help.

Graphic 9

8. Would you encourage the corresponding authorities to modify the academic regulations so that students can choose another option for their graduation process?



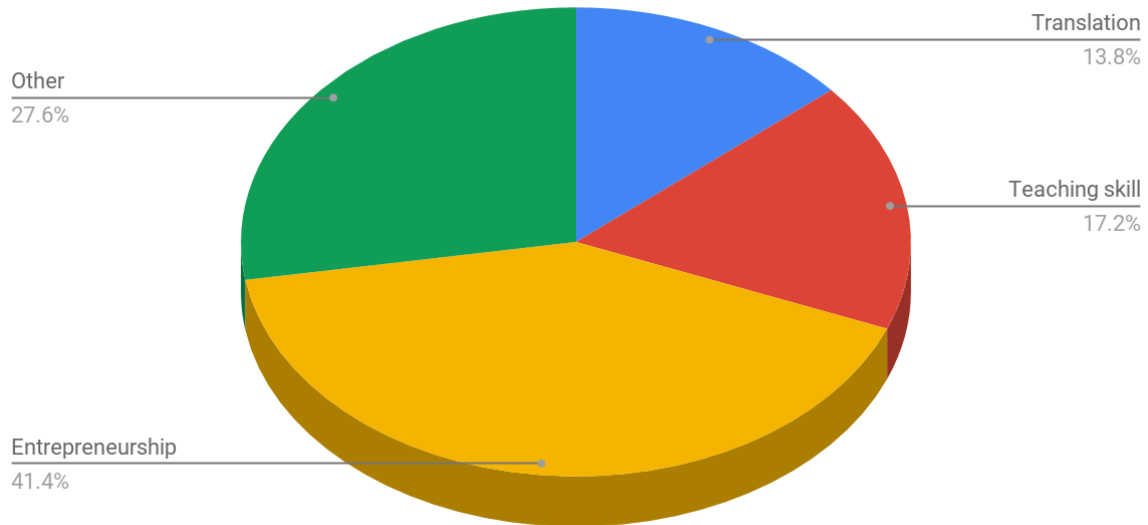
	Frequency
Yes	10
No	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic the majority of the advisors with a 90.9% said that they would encourage the corresponding authorities to modify the academic regulations so that students can choose another option for their graduation process. Just one of the advisors being 9.1% of the population surveyed said that wouldn't do it.

Graphic 10

9. Please mark the areas in which you consider the students from FLD need reinforcement?



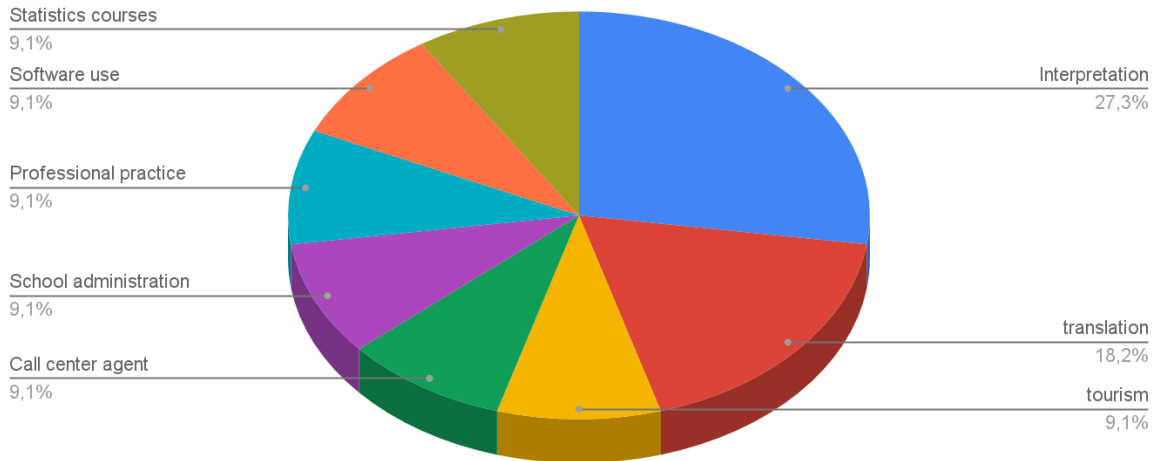
	Frequency
Translation	4
Teaching skill	5
Entrepreneurship	12
Other	8
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

According to the graphic above the 41.4% of the population surveyed consider that the students from FLD need reinforcement in entrepreneurship, 27.6% consider the students need reinforcement in other subjects like evaluation, research skills or the development of their abilities. The 17.2% consider that they need reinforcement in teaching skills and the 13.8% consider it should be on translation.

Graphic 11

10. If specialization courses were implemented at the FLD, what kind of courses would you suggest for undergraduate students (similar or other apart from the ones aforementioned)?



	Frequency
Interpretation	3
translation	2
Tourism	1
Call center agent	1
School administration	1
Professional practice	1
Software use	1
Statistics courses	1
Total	10

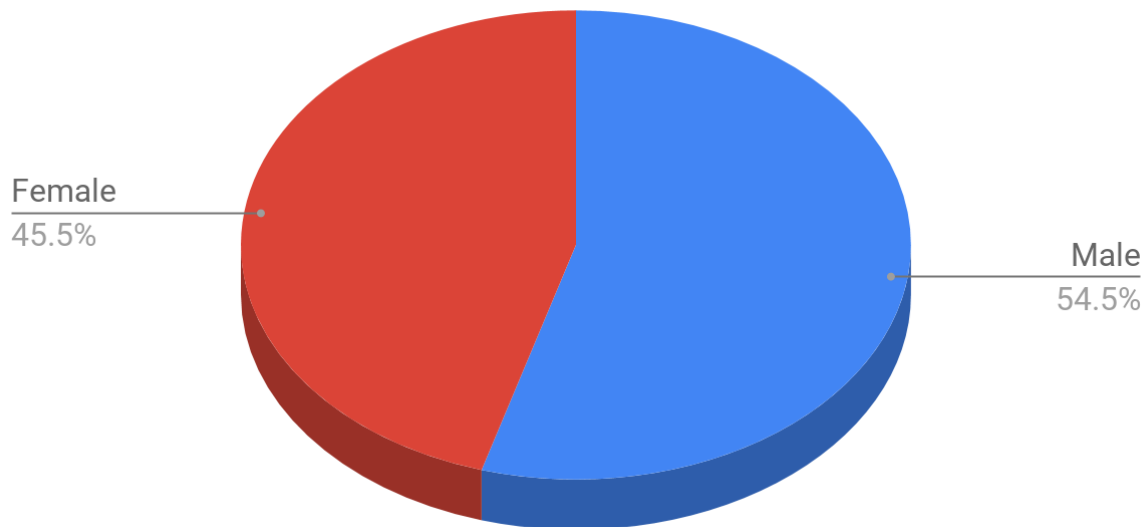
INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic the advisors provided many suggestions about the courses that can be taken if the specialization courses were implemented. The 27.3% of the population surveyed said Interpretation, the 18.2% said translation and the other 50.5% was divided into tourism, call center agent, school administration, professional practice, software use and statistics courses.

4.4 Survey for Graduate Students from Private Universities

Graphic 1

Gender:



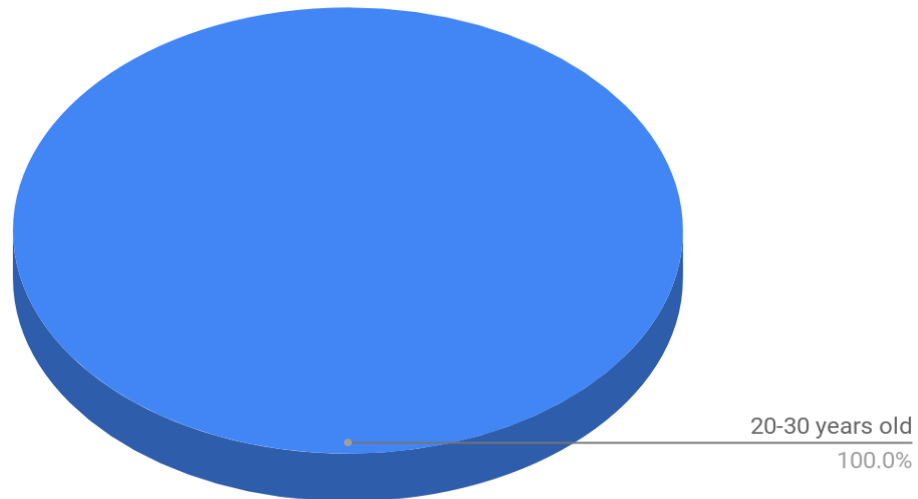
Gender	Frequency
Female	5
Male	6
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

This graphic is showing that there were a total of 11 people surveyed. The majority part of the population was male with a 54.5%; in contrast with the second part of the population female gender with a 45.9%.

Graphic 2

Age:



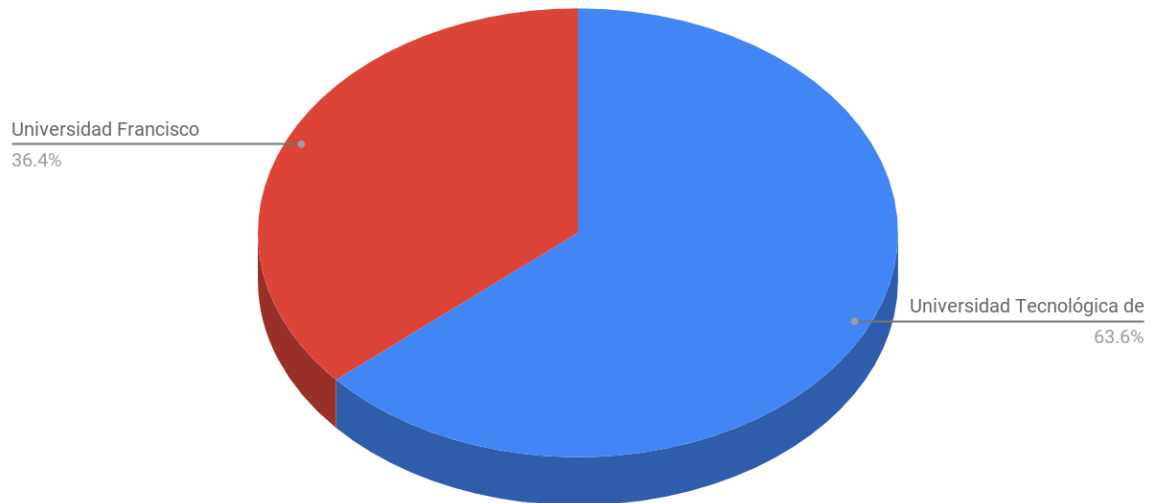
Age	Frequency
20-30 years old	11
31-40 years old	0
More than 40 years old	0
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic all the surveyed were in the age from 20 to 30 years old. It can see that the young people are preparing to be professional in order to get a better quality of life. Also, nowadays companies are requiring young people to insert to labor market.

Graphic 3

University that you belong to:



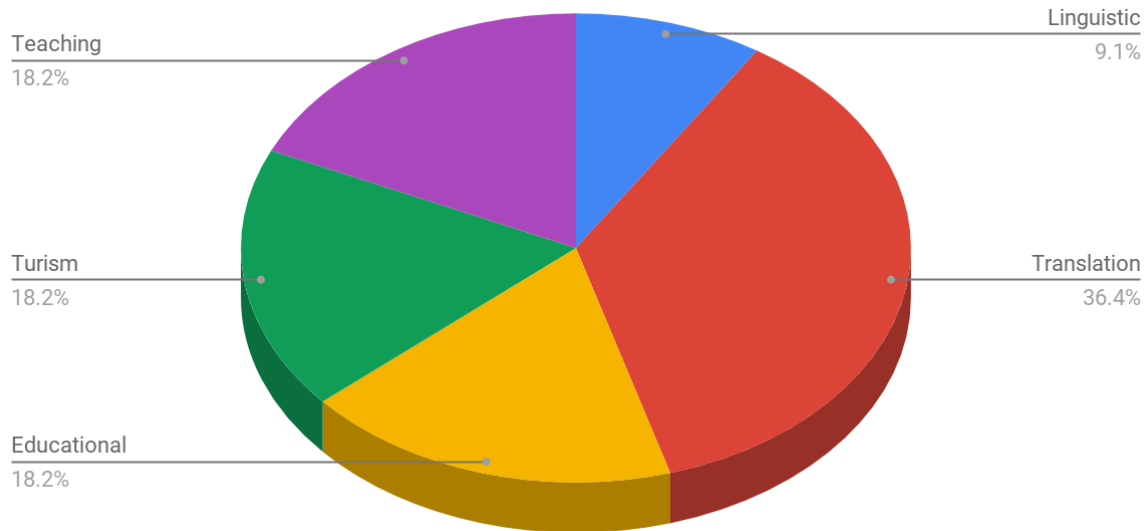
Universities	Frequency
Tecnológica de El Salvador	7
Francisco Gavidia	4
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above showed that the majority of the people surveyed were from the Tecnológica University of El Salvador making a 63.6%; on the other hand, Francisco Gavidia University was 36.4% with a total of 11 people surveyed.

Graphic 4

1. What was your specialization course about?



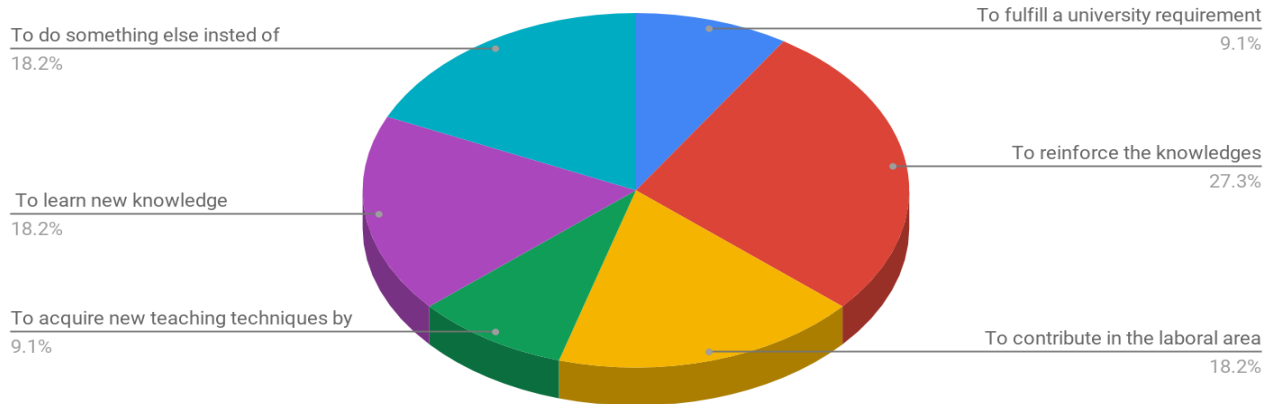
Areas	Frequency
Linguistic reinforcement of the English as a foreign language (TOEFL)	1
Translation	4
Educational technology	2
Turism	2
Teaching	2
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

According to graphic the translation courses was one of the most voted to take as a specialization courses making a 36.4% of surveyed; the next ones were educational technology, turism and teaching with a rage of 18.2%; however, only 9.1% decided by linguistic reinforcement of the English as a foreign language (TOEFL).

Graphic 5

2. Why did you choose to take specialization courses as a graduation work?



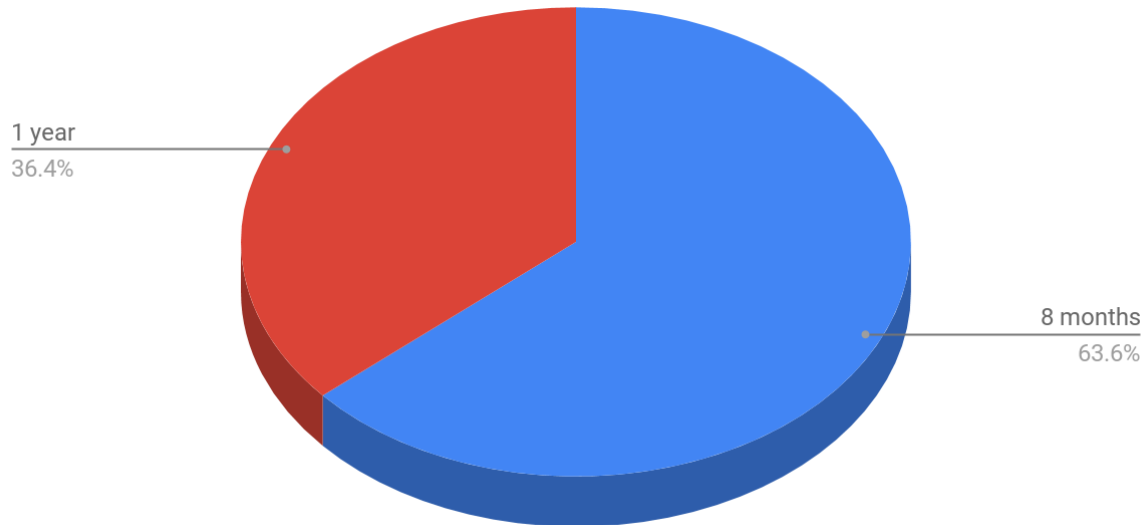
	Frequency
To full a university requirement	1
To reinforce the knowledges	3
To contribute in the labor area	2
Teaching techniques using the technology	1
To learn new knowledge	2
To do something else instead of the investigation project	2
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

Based on the graphic above showed that a 27.3% of surveyed chose to take specialization courses as a reinforcement of acquired knowledge during the major; moreover, a 18.2% considered that it will contribute in the labor area, in the same way another 18.2% thought in these courses learnt new knowledge and the other group of 18.2% chose it instead of the research paper work. And only two groups of 9.1% said that it was due to a university requirement and for using technology in the teaching techniques.

Graphic 6

3. How long are the specialization courses in your university?



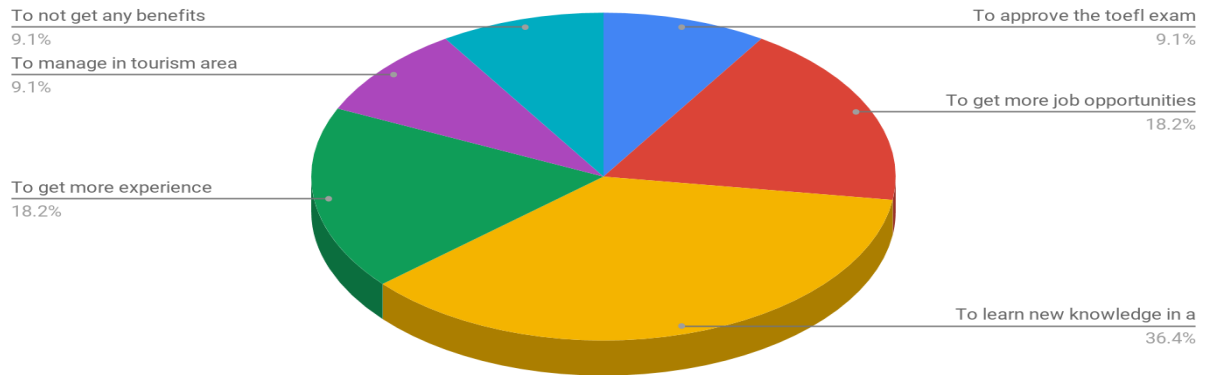
Time	Frequency
8 months	7
1 year	4
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

Based on the graphic presented a 63.6% surveyed took for 8 months to finish the specialization course; on the other hand, a 36.4% took around one year.

Graphic 7

4. What were the benefits that specialization courses provide you in the labor area?



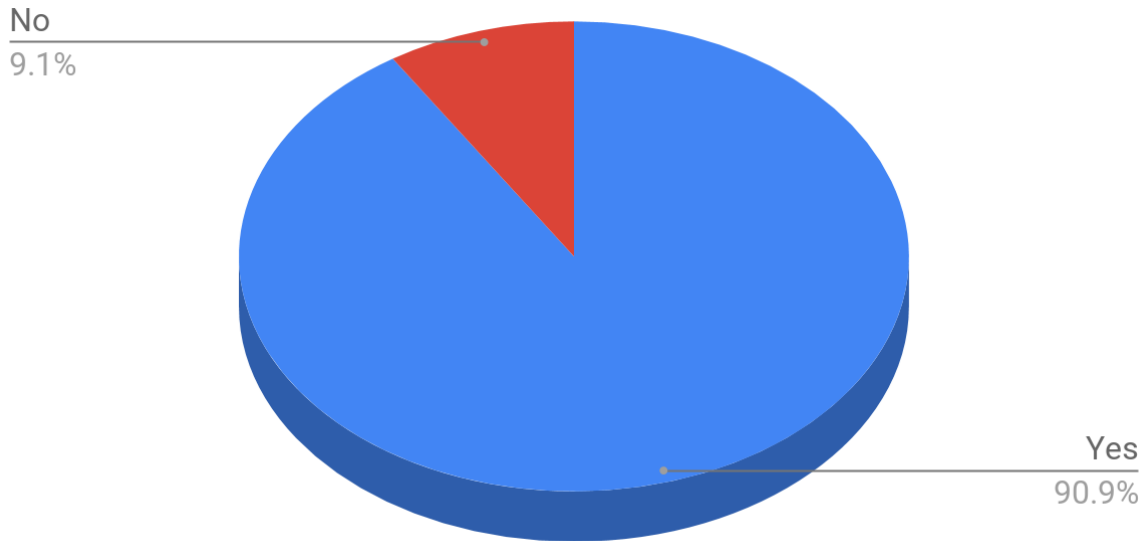
	Frequency
To approve the toefl exam	1
To get more job opportunities	2
To learn new knowledge in a specific field	4
To get more experience	2
To manage in tourism area	1
To not get any benefits	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic the students consider there are many benefits about taking the specialization courses. The 36.4% said that they acquired new knowledge in a specific field. The 18.2% said that they get more experience; another 18.2% said that it may give more opportunities to get a job.

Graphic 8

5. Do you consider that having taken specialization courses opened up more employment opportunities?



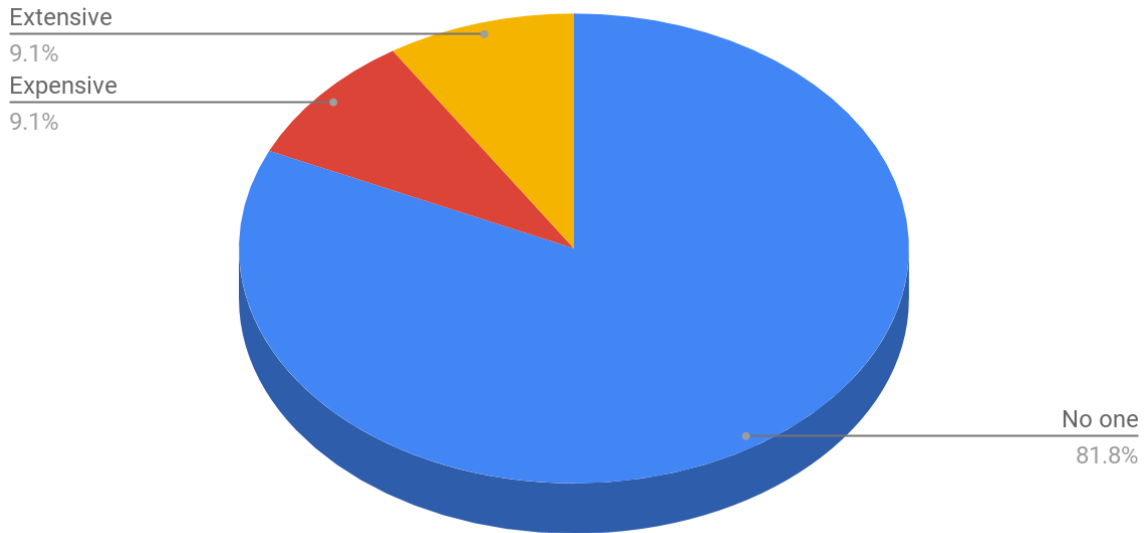
	Frequency
Yes	10
No	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

As is shown in the graphic the 90.9% of the population consider that having taken specialization courses opened up more employment opportunities and only the 9.1% said that it did not help them reinforcing their knowledge.

Graphic 9

6. In your opinion, could you mention some complications faced in attending of the specialization courses?



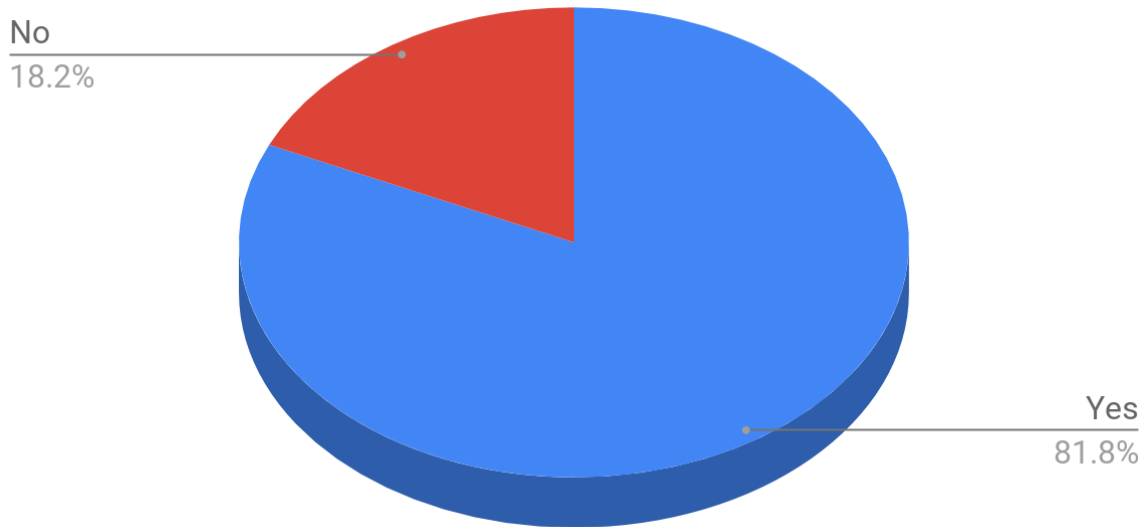
	Frequency
No one	9
Expensive	1
Extensive	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above shows that 81.8% of people answered that they did not have any complication when attending the specialization course. Only 9.1% person said that it was too expensive and the other 9.1% people answered that the course was very extensive.

Graphic 10

7. Do you consider that specialization courses would be the best alternative to obtain the bachelor degree?



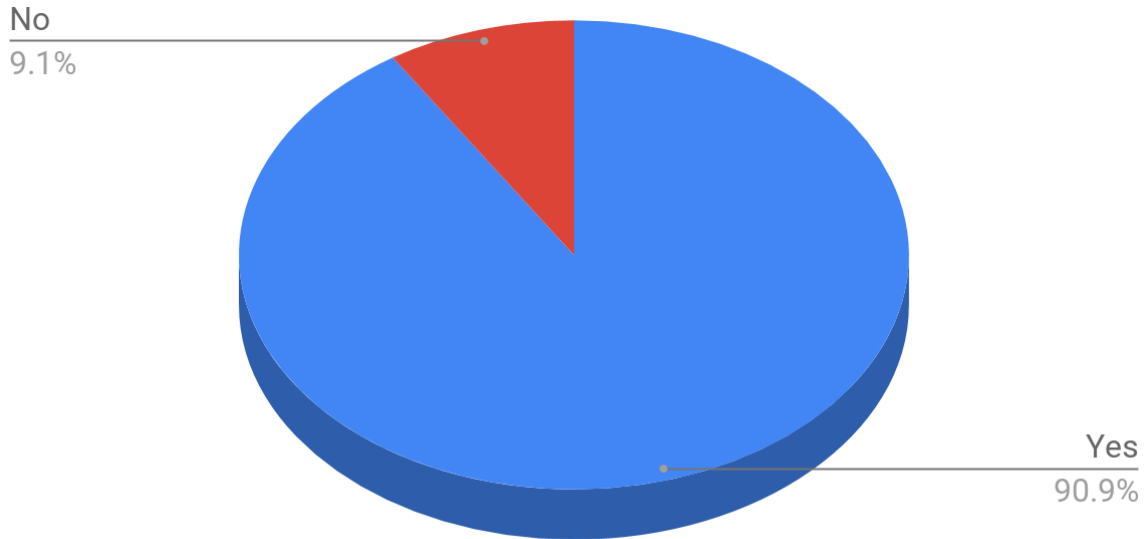
	Frequency
Yes	9
No	2
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

According to the graphic above the 81.8% that represents the biggest part of the population considered that specialization courses is the most suitable option as graduation process. On the other hand, there is an 18.20 % of the population that consider that the specialization is not the best option.

Graphic 11

8. Do you think that specialization courses have reinforced the knowledge you obtained in the major you graduated from?



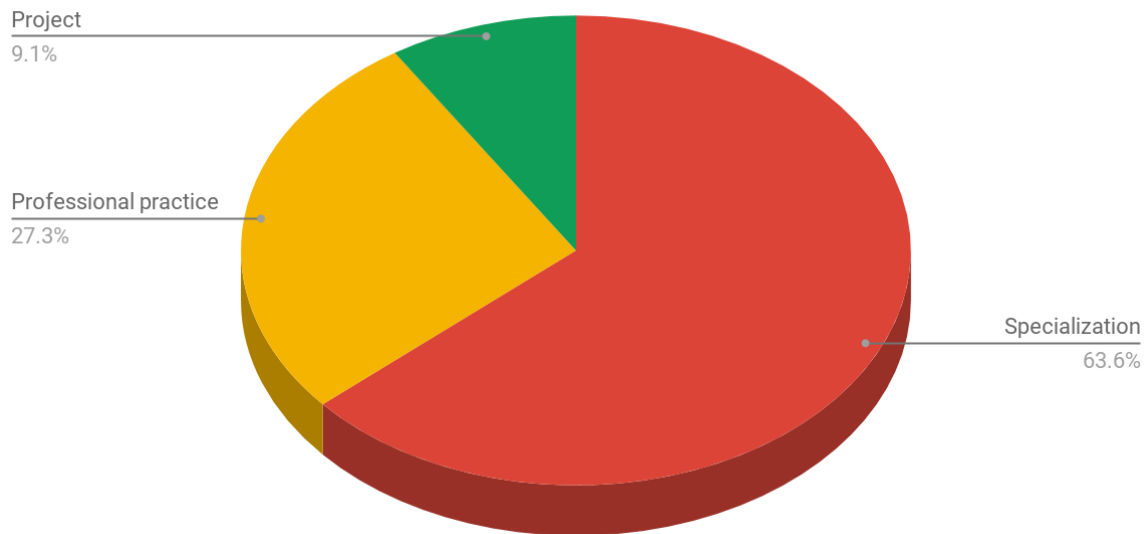
	Frequency
Yes	10
No	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above represents a really interesting question in regards to the topic investigated. As a result, the 90.9% of the population consider that the specialization taken reinforced their knowledge obtained throughout the major and only the 9.1% said that it did not help them reinforcing their knowledge.

Graphic 12

9. In your opinion, what would be the most useful graduation work for future undergraduate students to obtain the bachelor degree?



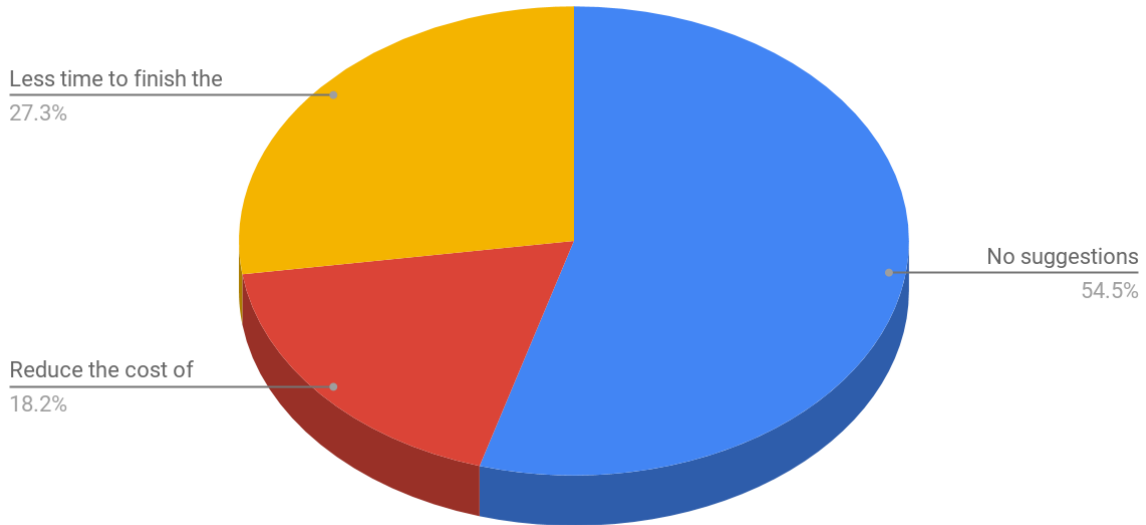
Graduation work	Frequency
Research paper work	0
Specialization courses	7
Professional practice	3
Project	1
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

In this graphic it is presented four type of responses about the most suitable graduation process. None of the students suggest the research paper work as graduation work, instead the major part of the population with a 63.6% think that a specialization course would be the best option. It is also presented a 27.3% of the population that considered the professional practice as the best option and only the 9.1% said that it would be better to perform a project.

Graphic 13

10. Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work in your university?



	Frequency
No suggestions	6
Reduce the cost of these courses	2
Less time to finish	3
Total	11

INTERPRETATION:

The graphic above shows that the 27.3% of the population suggest that all this process should be completed in less time. There is another portion with the 18.2% that suggest that would be a good idea to reduce the cost of the courses. Besides that the 54.5% of the population does not specify any other type of suggestion in the graduation process.

V. FINDINGS

Based on the data obtained during the questionnaire administered to undergraduate and graduate students from UES, graduate students from private universities and professors from the Foreign Language Department. The answers to the research questions are the following:

Why is it necessary to implement courses of specialization as a second alternative to obtain a bachelor degree to the Foreign Language Department majors?

Carrying out a research is not an easy process since students face many types of challenges. Based on this, it would be beneficial to implement a second alternative to the current graduation process work. The courses of specialization seem to be a great option as a second alternative to obtain a bachelor's degree to the Foreign Language Department majors since they are beneficial for the students than the research paper work. Furthermore, undergraduate students, graduated students and their advisors consider that the implementation of the specialization courses would be useful for future undergraduate students, so that they would encourage the FLD authorities to modify the academic regulations; in that way students can choose another option for their graduation process.

With the courses of specialization, the students will be able to acquire more knowledge on a specific field, as well as they would have more experience and professional qualifications. In addition, the courses of specializations can be developed in not longer than a one-year period and the students would be able to select the schedule that best suits with their own.

What are the advantages of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative to get the bachelor degree besides developing a research paper work?

The courses of specialization are as effective as the research paper work. That is why it is really important to implement them as alternatives to get the bachelor's degree. Based on the investigation, there are more advantages taking courses of specialization than making a research paper work. The students surveyed considered that by taking a course of specialization they can acquire new knowledge on a specific field, as well as reinforce what they have learned during the major. Moreover, it can be developed in not longer than a year and there would be specific schedules for the students to be able to select the one that suits better with their availability. In addition, another advantage would be to have better job opportunities because they would have more experience and professional qualifications. Besides that, they will be able to select the specialization course based with their interest.

On the other hand, the research paper work helps students to improve their research skills and their writing and vocabulary because they are able to design and carry out a research which is formal writing. However, based on the tutors surveyed, they mentioned that some students and teachers are not prepared enough to work on this field because the students' writing and composition skills are poor and the teachers do not have enough knowledge to guide their students. Also, in some cases the students spend too much time working on it and spend more than a year to complete it. Additionally, in most of the cases the authorities do not take into consideration the research paper carried on by the undergraduate students.

What type of courses of specialization could students take as a graduation work to get the bachelor's degree at the Foreign Languages Department?

The specialization courses would be an excellent tool for students to face up the requirements of the labor market, which can observe in the results obtained of the surveys addressed to student's population from the University of El Salvador (UES), surveyed agrees to implement this type of modality due to the advantages that it provides. Additionally, respondents were asked what type of courses would like to implement in the FLD.

In the survey addressed to undergraduate students from UES, graphic 10, they expressed that if they had had the chance to decide an option for graduation process, it would be a specialization course because it would be more useful in their future professional life by taking courses like Translation, English Didactics for Children, Interpretation, Tourism and Entrepreneurship; likewise, graduate students from UES exposed in the graphic 10, these courses mentioned before should be taken into consideration, but also Linguistics, Grammar, Classroom Management, Customer Service and Business Administration. Furthermore, the advisors of this graduation process declared in the graphic 10, students could take these courses to reinforce some knowledge of the major like Translation, Teaching skill, Entrepreneurship, Evaluation, Research skill. Also, they mentioned in the graphic 11, other courses to complement what students have learned as School Administration, Call center Agent, Professional practice, Software use and Statistics courses. Advisors considered these courses provide better abilities to apply a job expanding the options to choose the best opportunity job. On the other hand, in the graphic 4 of private universities, have offered different alternative to do the graduation work within them the specialization courses, being the most demanded. Some of those courses are

Linguistic reinforcement of the English as a foreign language for example the TOEFL test, Translation, Educational Technology, Tourism, Teaching and others. The majority of graduates decided to take these courses to allow for reinforcing the knowledge in a specific area; besides that, having specialization courses open up more employment opportunities opined.

In order to know what kind of courses should be implemented by the FLD, it is necessary to be aware of what the students need and be updated about the requirements of the labor market including the new technologies to guarantee professionalism of the Alma Mater's students. Implementing these courses in the FLD not only provide new knowledge to students but also, innovate the process being in the same rage with national and international universities.

How beneficial would it be to add another option to the current graduation work for students to graduate from the FLD?

This study looks for taking into consideration to add another alternative as a graduation work due to the current method, a research paper work, does not reach the expectation of the students' population. According to the results obtained in the different surveys answered for the students from UES considered that the University of El Salvador should update the graduation work and the curricular of both majors in order to guarantee to the future generations a high quality of Education being at the forefront with alternatives in which students decide would be better for their competences.

Some of the benefits of implementing courses of specialization are that they are a deep specialization so the students will be more skillful in certain areas or reinforce the subjects that

students have already approved; likewise, students get more experience and professional qualifications. Another benefit is focused on the labor area where students get knowledge in a specific field having better job opportunities since it is oriented to what the labor market demands. The majority of the surveyed declared that decide to take a specialization courses as a graduation work is more useful for future professional life.

With this research it was considered to encourage the FLD authorities to modify the Academic Regulation in order to get another alternative for graduation work owing to more specialized some is in a certain fuel, the more feasibility students have to succeed in work area. Also, it was intended to provide enough support about how important it is to kept innovated by implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative to get the bachelor degree as well as emphasizing the importance to be updated with the majors' curricula in order to improve the learning process and fulfil the students' needs to be prepared in a better way for their labor life.

How specialization courses are implemented as a graduation work in private universities like Tecnológica University and Francisco Gavidia University?

In this research it was found that specialization courses have become more popular in private universities throughout the time being the first option to take as graduation process in Universities such as Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador, Francisco Gavidia University and some others. This option was implemented due to the necessity of improving the profile of the graduate students in regards of their knowledge, abilities and skills required by the demanding labor field.

Throughout the research it was found deeper information about the way that specializations work in Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador (UTEC) and Francisco Gavidia University. In the UTEC the graduate student must select a pre specialization option and take six academic modules (for a year) that are taught by different schools of the University. They have been focused on the most important areas of each major, in order for them to create the pre specialization options which are presented to the graduate students; so that they choose the one that they consider the best option. The university will hire qualified teachers in the area to be developed who will also have the support of the master teachers. Students will receive their classes three hours per week as well as they will participate in different activities and at the end of the six modules they will have to take a professional degree examination.

At the Francisco Gavidia University the most relevant innovation is the specialization that has period of 8 months to study a curriculum and approve the evaluations. The student has options to specialize in the chosen career. In the case of the two languages major that are Languages Bachelor with specialization in English of Teaching and Bachelor of Languages with a specialty in Tourism, students have the following options to specialize:

- Translation Simultaneous interpretation in English-Spanish.

From English language

- Linguistic reinforcement of the foreign language (TOEFL).
- Sustainable tourism destinations Management

The specialization purpose is not only to prepare students to succeed in the qualification process for obtaining the university bachelor degree, but also to prepare the students with the necessary skills for the target work field that the student will face in the future.

What are the FLD graduate students' weaknesses toward their labor field?

Throughout the research it was found out that companies ask some requirements when people are looking for a job those students from FLD may lack. Something that affects graduates in the labor market insertion is the lack of experience being this the main cause of not being able to find a job. The lack of preparation in the labor market influences at the moment of hiring people, they have little or no experience in most cases and the institutions incur in time to train the new personnel.

It was also found that it is important to have students updated in the learning process. An obsolete curricular entail many troubles to graduate students when they want to get a job or in their professional area affecting the quality of education of graduate students that provide the Foreign Language Department of the University of El Salvador due to students are not prepared to deal with all updated aspects required by the society. The National Law of Higher Education states that the curriculum must be updated every five years in order for that to be cutting edge with the society requirements. There are some subjects need to reinforce their contents such as Literature, Advanced Grammar and Composition that the FLD may consider updating.

It is also important to take into consideration the students' opinions, so according to the students' response in the survey that was delivered in this research they consider that there are some areas that they lack and should be reinforced such as more communication skills, entrepreneurship and management, Didactics for children and Translation. They are important part of their professional development to get more job opportunities.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

With this research the team looked for gathering valuable information that will contribute to improve the current graduation process in order to offer more and better options for students. Based on the information found in the theoretical framework as well as the data collected with the surveys and data analysis the team is stating the following conclusions:

- Even though the implementation of specialization courses has been proposed in this research, the team wants to emphasize that the investigating habit on students should never be left out. The specialization courses benefits are that they will reinforce and get new knowledge while they perform their investigation, since according to the specialization models in private universities, students should present an investigation project at the end of the course in order to assure the students learning. Therefore, investigation processes should still be fomented on students' academic development with specialization courses since it is an important skill that every professional must have.
- There is a necessity in the FLD of implementing a second option in the graduation process besides the research paper work. Most of the surveyed people such as undergraduate students, graduated students and advisors consider that it would be extremely beneficial for students and authorities to implement these options for the future generations as well as being updated toward the new globalizations requirements in regards to the labor field for FLD graduated students.

- Based on the investigation results there are more advantages by taking courses of specialization than making a research paper work. The students surveyed considered that by taking a course of specialization they can acquire new knowledge on a specific field, as well as reinforce what they have learned during the major. Moreover, it can be developed in not longer than a year period and there would be specific schedules to the students to be able to select the one that better suits with their availability as well as they will be able to select the specialization course based with their interest. Another advantage would be to have better job opportunities since they would have more experience and professional qualification.
- The team also concludes the research by providing some suggestions about specialization courses that could be implemented at FLD according to the students' needs by taking into consideration their opinion. As it can be observed in the graphic number 15 on survey from undergraduate students the most recommended options are English Didactics for Children, Interpretation, Tourism and Entrepreneurship, Linguistic, Grammar, Classroom Management, Customer Service and Business Administration. Furthermore, According to graphic 11 on survey for the advisors, they declared that students could take these kinds of courses to reinforce their knowledge: Translation, Teaching skill, Entrepreneurship, Evaluation, Research skill. Also, they mentioned others courses to complement what students have learned as School Administration, Call center Agent, Professional practice, Software use and Statistics courses. Advisors and students considered these courses provide better abilities to apply a job expanding the options to choose the best one.

- It was discovered that specialization courses have been working properly in private Universities. In order to get to this conclusion, some graduated students from private universities were surveyed to know their opinion about how successful these courses are, so according to graphic number 5 of that survey their responses were that they preferred the specialization because they reinforce their previous knowledge as well as they acquire new ones. Also, there is already a stipulated schedule that they attend the course as well as they are aware of the course length that usually takes within 8 to 10 months depending on each university (according to graphic number 6 from that survey) and this helps students to better organize their time. The university hires qualified teachers on the area and all of the courses are focused on preparing students for their professional life in a better way.
- The last conclusion given by the team is the that teachers from FLD are working hard to deliver updated contents in their classes as well as using all possible resources and appropriate material that are aligned to the current students' needs; However it is important to mention that the Academic curricula has not been updated for a long period of time which causes that students still have some weakness toward the labor field when applying for a job since they may not accomplish the company's requirements. Due to this situation the team suggests that the specialization courses implementation which is being currently worked is a good solution for this issue since the university would give the opportunity to students to reinforce their knowledge in a specific area of their election. Furthermore, the suggested specialization courses in this research would also provide the opportunity for students to specialize in management positions or even to

have their own company such as an English academy, school, bilingual kindergarten, etc.
And being capable to manage it. If the authorities approved this type of courses, then
students would have access to all these benefits.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

After completing the research and taking into consideration the results, the team wants to provide some recommendations that are expected to be taken into consideration by the authorities from school of arts and sciences, teachers and students from the FLD in order improve the graduation process for future generations.

Recommendations for the authorities of the School of Arts and Sciences:

- They should consider updating the graduation process by implementing specialization courses in order to provide more options to students; besides, the research paper work. According to this research results taking a specialization work would be more beneficial for their professional life.
- The authorities should train and certificate teachers in specific areas so that they become prepared and highly qualified to teach specialization courses to the future undergraduate students once it is implemented. Because according to some of the advisors surveyed they consider they do not have enough knowledge to guide their students in the research paper work.
- They should speed up the curricula update process in order to comply with the required timeframe by The National Law of Higher Education which states that the curriculum must be updated every five years in order to be cutting edge with the society requirement. This would help not only the students but also the teachers to be up to date in the teaching techniques.

CHAPTER VIII
“REFERENCES”

VIII. REFERENCES

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- “Estudio comparativo del proceso de graduación de la Licenciatura en Lenguas Modernas Especialidad en Francés e Inglés de la Universidad de El Salvador contra el proceso de graduación de las universidades privadas en el año 2016.”
- “Factors involved in the labor market insertion process of the 2014–2015 graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages with Specialization in French and English, Study Plan 2002 of the Foreign Languages Department of the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of El Salvador (2016)”
- Undergraduate research “Are students of the fifth year, registered in 2014 in Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages specialty in French and English of the Foreign Languages Department of the University of El Salvador, ready for the labor insertion on the current labor market? (2015)”
- Undergraduate research “Factors involved in the labor market insertion process of the 2014–2015 graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages with Specialization

in French and English, Study Plan 2002 of the Foreign Languages Department of the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of El Salvador” (2016)

WEB REFERENCES

- Cursos de Especialización para Egresados 2017 recuperado
<http://registro.ufg.edu.sv/InformacionEgresados/Especializacion.aspx>
- Periódico El Salvador 2003, recuperado
<http://archivo.elsalvador.com/noticias/2003/03/28/vida/>

**“ANEXES AND
APPENDIXES”**

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Carrera: Licenciatura en Lenguas Extranjeras
Especialidades: Docencia / Turismo y Comercio / Traducción e Interpretación / Gestión Empresarial
Duración: 5 años (172UV)
Título: Licenciado(a) en Lenguas Extranjeras: Especialidad en _____

Ciclo I	Ciclo II	Ciclo III	Ciclo IV	Ciclo V
Inglés Intensivo Básico (8UV)	Inglés Intensivo Intermedio I (8UV)	Inglés Intensivo Intermedio II (8UV)	Inglés intensivo avanzado (8UV)	Expresión Oral en Inglés (4UV)
Francés Nivel A1 (8UV)	Francés Nivel A2 (8UV)	Francés Nivel B1 (8UV)	Francés Nivel B2 (8UV)	Expresión Oral en francés (4UV)
Lingüística y Morfología Inglesa (4UV)	Gramática Inglesa I (4UV)	Gramática Inglesa II (4UV)	Composición Inglesa (4UV)	Literatura Inglesa (4UV)
Pronunciación en Francés (4UV)	Gramática Francesa I (4UV)	Gramática Francesa II (4UV)	Ortografía y Estilística Francesa (4UV)	Literatura Francesa (4UV)

EXÁMENES DE CONOCIMIENTO: TOEFL – DELF (Nivel B2)

Especialidad: Docencia (80UV)	Trabajo de Grado
Especialidad: Turismo y Comercio (80UV)	Trabajo de Grado
Especialidad: Traducción e Interpretación (80UV)	Trabajo de Grado
Especialidad: Gestión Empresarial (80UV)	Trabajo de Grado

Especialidad: Docencia (80UV)				
Ciclo VI	Ciclo VII	Ciclo VIII	Ciclo IX	Ciclo X
Psicopedagogía I (4UV)	Psicopedagogía II (4UV)	Educación Inclusiva (4UV)	Seminario I (4UV)	Seminario II (4UV)
Didáctica General I (4UV)	Didáctica General II (4UV)	Teorías de Desarrollo del Aprendizaje (4UV)	Didáctica para la Enseñanza de la Lengua Extranjera I (4UV)	Didáctica para la Enseñanza de la Lengua Extranjera II (4UV)
Ética Profesional (4UV)	Evaluación del Aprendizaje (4UV)	Diseño y Aplicación del Currículo (4UV)	Métodos de Enseñanza-Aprendizaje para Niños (4UV)	Métodos de Enseñanza-Aprendizaje para Adultos (4UV)
Educación y Sociedad (4UV)	Tecnología Educativa (4UV)	Práctica Docente I (Observación Institucional) (4UV)	Práctica Docente II (con Niños) (4UV)	Práctica Docente III (con Jóvenes y Adultos) (4UV)

Especialidad: Turismo y Comercio (80UV)				
Ciclo VI	Ciclo VII	Ciclo VIII	Ciclo IX	Ciclo X
Introducción al Comercio (4UV)	El Comercio en El Salvador y Centroamérica (4UV)	Comercio Internacional (4UV)	Práctica Turística I (4UV)	Práctica Turística II (4UV)
Introducción al Turismo (4UV)	Mercadeo y el Turismo (4UV)	Diseño de Empresas Turísticas (4UV)	Relaciones Públicas (4UV)	Campañas Publicitarias (4UV)
Historia y Patrimonio Cultural de El Salvador y Centroamérica (4UV)	Tipos de Turismo en El Salvador (4UV)	Rutas Turísticas y Gastronomía de El Salvador (4UV)	Turismo Internacional (4UV)	Mercado Turístico Nacional e Internacional (4UV)
Técnicas de Expresión y Presentación (4UV)	Etiqueta y Protocolo (4UV)	Ética Profesional (4UV)	Seminario I (4UV)	Seminario II (4UV)

Especialidad: Traducción e Interpretación (80UV)				
Ciclo VI	Ciclo VII	Ciclo VIII	Ciclo IX	Ciclo X
Introducción a la Traducción (Fundamentos Teóricos) (4UV)	Tipos y Estilos de Traducción (4UV)	Técnicas y Tipos de Interpretación (4UV)	Seminario I (4UV)	Seminario II (4UV)
Interpretación General (4UV)	Técnicas y Estilos de Redacción Inglesa (4UV)	Traducción de Textos (Inglés-Español / Español-Inglés) (4UV)	Interpretación en Inglés-Español y Español-Inglés (4UV)	Práctica Profesional enfocada a la Interpretación (Inglés-Español / Español-Inglés) (4UV)
Introducción a la Lengua Española (4UV)	Técnicas y Estilos de Redacción Francesa (4UV)	Traducción de Textos (Francés-Español / Español-Francés) (4UV)	Interpretación en Francés-Español y Español-Francés (4UV)	Práctica Profesional enfocada a la Interpretación (Francés-Español / Español-Francés) (4UV)
Uso y Manejo de las Tecnologías para la Traducción e Interpretación (4UV)	Gramática Española (4UV)	Técnicas y Estilos de Redacción Española (4UV)	Práctica Profesional enfocada a la Traducción (Inglés-Español / Español-Inglés) (4UV)	Práctica Profesional enfocada a la Traducción (Francés-Español / Español-Francés) (4UV)

Especialidad: Gestión Empresarial (80UV)				
Ciclo VI	Ciclo VII	Ciclo VIII	Ciclo IX	Ciclo X
Introducción a la Teoría Administrativa (4UV)	Gestión Ambiental Empresarial (4UV)	Administración de Empresas (4UV)	Evaluación Ambiental de Proyectos (4UV)	Organización y Métodos para el Establecimiento de una Empresa (4UV)
Introducción a la Economía (4UV)	Introducción al Entorno Económico de los Negocios (4UV)	Investigación Comercial (4UV)	Introducción a la Auditoría (4UV)	Gestión de Recursos Humanos (4UV)
Contabilidad Financiera (4UV)	Fundamentos de Análisis Financieros (4UV)	Gestión Financiera a Corto Plazo (4UV)	Derecho Mercantil (4UV)	Legislación Laboral (4UV)
Ética y Desarrollo Profesional (4UV)	Motivación y Liderazgo (4UV)	Emprendedurismo y Creatividad (4UV)	Seminario I (4UV)	Seminario II (4UV)

ANEXES

Annex 1 Survey for Undergraduate Students

SURVEY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**University of El Salvador
School of Art and Sciences
Foreign Language Department**



Gender: Male ___ **Female** ___

Age: _____

Objective: To gather information related to the importance of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative for undergraduate students from English Teaching major and Modern Language major of the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador.

Instructions: Please complete the following questions to reflect your opinions as accurately as possible. The survey should take less than 10 minutes, and your responses are completely confidential. Thank you for your willingness to assist with this project.

1)-How beneficial is it to carry on a research paper to get the bachelor degree, since that is the only option available currently at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?

So much beneficial _____

Somehow beneficial _____

It's not beneficial at all _____

2)-Do you consider that the authorities take into consideration the results obtained in the research paper carried on by undergraduate students?

Yes, they always do _____

It depends on the topic _____

They sometimes do _____

No, they do not do _____

3)-Do you consider that carrying on a research paper provides you with any specific knowledge that will help you to get more job opportunities?

Yes_____ No_____ Why?

4)-Have you ever heard about the specialization courses implemented in private universities?

Yes_____ No_____

5)-Would you agree with the idea of the authorities at the University of El Salvador offered a second alternative besides the current graduation work at the FLD? Yes_____

No_____ Why?

6)-Do you think that the graduation work to obtain the bachelor degree at the FLD should be updated as the one in private universities?

Yes_____ No _____ Why?

7)-Do you consider that taking specialization courses is more useful for undergraduate students?

Yes____ No _____ Why?

8)-If you had the chance to decide an option for graduation process, what would it be? Why?

Research paper work Specialization courses other _____

9)-In your opinion, what can be the contributions of the specialization courses to students in their labor life?

10)- From these options, please mark which one do you think will be more useful for your future professional life?

Research paper _____ Specialization _____ Other _____

11)-Would you encourage the FLD authorities to modify the academic regulations so that students can choose another option for their graduation process?

Yes _____ No _____ Why?

12)- Please mark the areas in which you consider the students from FLD need reinforcement?

Translation _____

Didactics for children _____

Entrepreneurship _____

Other: _____

13)-If specialization courses were implemented at the FLD, what kind of courses would you like to take?

14) Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work at the FLD?

SURVEY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

University of El Salvador

School of Art and Sciences

Foreign Language Department



Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Age: _____

Objective: To gather information related to the importance of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative for undergraduate students from English Teaching major and Modern Language major of the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador.

Instructions: Please complete the following questions to reflect your opinions as accurately as possible. The survey should take less than 10 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. Thank you for your willingness to assist with this project.

1) How was your experience during the process of elaborating your research paper work?

Very satisfying _____

Somewhat satisfying _____

Dissatisfying _____

Very dissatisfying _____

2) Do you think that the process of elaborating your research paper work provided with new knowledge related to your major?

Yes _____ No _____ Why?

3) Do you consider that the topic investigated of your research paper work was the most suitable way to demonstrate the skills learnt in the major? Yes_____ No_____ Why?

4) Do you consider that the research paper work has helped you in your labor life?
Yes_____ No_____ Why?

5) If you had the chance to choose an option for graduation work, what would it be?

Research paper work_____ Specialization courses_____ other _____

Why?_____

6) Do you consider that have taken courses of specialization would have been more beneficial for your major? Yes_____ No _____ Why?

7) In your opinion, what would be the most useful graduation work for future undergraduate students to obtain the bachelor degree?

Research paper work_____ Specialization courses_____

Professional practice _____ Project _____

others_____

8) In your opinion, what kind of specialization courses should be taken into consideration to implement as a second alternative to obtain the bachelor degree at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?

9) Do you think that the graduation work should be updated as the one in private universities?

Yes_____ No _____ Why?

10) Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work at the FLD?

SURVEY FOR ADVISORS

University of El Salvador
School of Art and Sciences
Foreign Language Department



Gender: Male ___ Female ___ **Major:** English Teaching _____ **Modern Languages** _____

Objective: To gather information related to the importance of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative for advisor's teachers of the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador.

Instructions: Please complete the following questions to reflect your opinions as accurately as possible. The survey should take less than 10 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. Thank you for your willingness to assist with this project.

1) Based on your experience, what is your opinion about elaborating research paper work as a graduation work?

2) Do you consider that the authorities take into consideration the research paper carried on by undergraduate students?

Yes, they always do _____

They sometimes do _____

It depends on the topic _____

No, they do not do _____

3) Could you mention some difficulties that you usually face as an advisor of a graduation work?

4) Would you agree with the idea of offering a second option for obtaining the bachelor degree besides the current graduation work at the Foreign Language Department (FLD)?

Yes_____ No_____ Why?

5) Have you ever heard about the courses of specialization implemented in private universities?

Yes_____ No_____

6-) What is your opinion about the implementation of specialization courses as a graduation work at FLD?

7) Do you consider that specialization courses may prepare undergraduate students for their labor life?

8) Would you encourage the FLD authorities to modify the academic regulations so that students can choose another option for their graduation process?

Yes_____ No_____ Why?

9) Please mark the areas in which you consider the students from FLD need reinforcement?

Translation _____

Teaching skills _____

Entrepreneurship _____

Other: _____

10) If specialization courses were implemented at the FLD, what kind of courses would you suggest for undergraduate students?

SURVEY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

**University of El Salvador
School of Art and Sciences
Foreign Language Department**



Objective: To gather information related to the importance of implementing courses of specialization as a second alternative for undergraduate students from English Teaching major and Modern Language major of the Foreign Language Department at the University of El Salvador.

Instructions: Please complete the following questions to reflect your opinions as accurately as possible. The survey should take less than 10 minutes, and your responses are completely confidential. Thank you for your willingness to assist with this project.

Gender: Male___ Female ___ **Age:** _____

University that you belong to: Tecnológica University____ Francisco Gavidia
University_____

1) What was your specialization course about?

2) Why did you choose to take specialization courses as a graduation work?

3) How long are the specialization courses in your university?

4) What were the benefits that specialization courses provided you in the labor area?

5) Do you consider that having taken specialization courses opened up more employment opportunities?

Yes_____ No _____ Why?

6) In your opinion, could you mention some complications faced in attending of specialization courses?

7) Do you consider that specialization courses would be the best alternative to obtain the bachelor degree? Yes_____ No_____ Why?

8) Do you think that specialization courses have reinforced the knowledge you obtained in the major you graduated from?

9) In your opinion, what would be the most useful graduation work for future undergraduate students to obtain the bachelor degree?

Research paper work _____ Specialization courses _____

Professional practice _____ Project _____

Others _____

10) Do you have any suggestion for improving the graduation work in your university?
