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Students' perceptions and attitudes towards agricultural engineering education in the Sultanate of Oman – Part 2: curriculum content and career preferences

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ABSTRACT: In part 1 of this article series, the authors reported on the low appeal of the agricultural and marine science academic programmes among the majority of students enrolled in a bioresource and agricultural engineering major. In the present article (part 2), the authors present students' attitudes towards the overall curriculum content in bioresource and agricultural engineering, their career preferences after graduation, and the skills they considered would enable them to meet the expectations of prospective employers. Students generally expressed apprehension towards basic science courses and core engineering courses, especially when offered by other colleges. Based on the total responses for various career and employment options, 48% of the responses preferred employment in a government ministry/department, 42% preferred employment in the private sector, while a negligible number of students (3%) wanted to start their own business after graduation. The high interest in private sector employment indicates a significant shift among students away from dependence on government ministries for employment. Most students expressed *moderate* to *high* confidence that their current educational programme would enable them to attain the critical skills required for success in their preferred workplace.