

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: press@hanker.dating Website: hanker.dating (<https://hanker.dating>)

More Education, Shorter Relationships: Postgraduates Return to the Dating Market 45% Faster Than Non-Degree Members, Hanker Dating Study Shows

The most linear finding in a five-year study of 120,000+ relationships — each additional level of education corresponds to a measurably shorter relationship duration

May 2026, London — [Hanker Dating](https://hanker.dating) (<https://hanker.dating>), the elite invite-only matchmaking platform, today published findings from a [five-year internal study](https://hanker.dating/study) (<https://hanker.dating/study>) of member relationship outcomes. Among four significant findings, the education result stands out for the precision of its gradient: at every level of educational attainment studied, higher qualification corresponded to a shorter relationship duration — producing one of the most consistently linear relationships in the entire dataset.

The Finding

Members who listed a high school diploma as their highest educational qualification had a median return time to the platform of **28.4 months**. Members with an undergraduate degree returned after a median of **23.1 months**. Members with a postgraduate degree returned after **19.6 months** — a gap of 8.8 months, or approximately 45%, between the lowest and highest education groups studied.

The education gradient did not flatten at any point: each additional level of qualification corresponded to a shorter median relationship duration across the full range of the data. The finding was statistically significant at $p < 0.001$ and, critically, remained robust after controlling for income level. This means education predicts relationship return time independently of what a member earns — the two variables, while correlated with each other in the dataset, each carry separate predictive weight.

The effect held across every country and age group studied. When the analysis was run separately by gender, the pattern was present and significant in both male and female member cohorts.

"This was the most linear finding in the study," said a spokesperson for Hanker Dating. "It didn't require grouping or averaging to see — the pattern runs cleanly from one end of the education spectrum to the other. Whether it reflects differences in expectations, social optionality, or something else entirely, we genuinely don't know. But the signal is clear."

Methodology

Hanker Dating's study is based on a proprietary proxy metric: because over 80% of the platform's members are repeat customers, the length of time a member takes to return to the platform following a match serves as an indicator of relationship duration and presumed satisfaction. Educational qualifications are based on member self-reporting at the time of profile creation. The company acknowledges its dataset reflects a self-selected, elite user base, and the study has not been peer-reviewed.

Additional Findings

The education finding is one of four published in Hanker Dating's five-year study. The largest effect size overall was found in dietary preference: members who identified as meat eaters returned to the platform 40% later than vegan and vegetarian members, a result significant at $p < 0.001$ that held across all demographic controls and was described by the research team as the most robust finding in the dataset. The study also found that Android device users had a median return time 18% longer than iOS users, significant at $p < 0.01$ and consistent across all major markets studied. A fourth finding on income showed that lower-income members stayed in relationships 45% longer than high-income members at the median — an effect independent of the education finding and significant at $p < 0.001$.

Full Study

Read full study at <https://hanker.dating/study> (<https://hanker.dating/study>).

About Hanker Dating

Hanker Dating is a private, invite-only matchmaking platform connecting established, successful men with ambitious, high-value women. With a curated and verified global member base spanning 500+ cities and over five years of relationship outcome data, Hanker offers a matchmaking experience built on discretion, quality, and results.

This study is based on internal platform analytics from 2021–2026. It has not been peer-reviewed and is not intended as scientific research. Correlation is not causation. Education figures are self-reported. All findings should be interpreted with appropriate caution.