

2024 Domestic Graduate Key Findings Graduate Outcomes Survey – Longitudinal

Higher education domestic graduate outcomes in the short-term (2021) four to six months after course completion and medium-term (2024) three years after course completion.

126 Participating higher education institutions, including 42 universities

42,399
Valid online survey responses

48.0% Response rate achieved

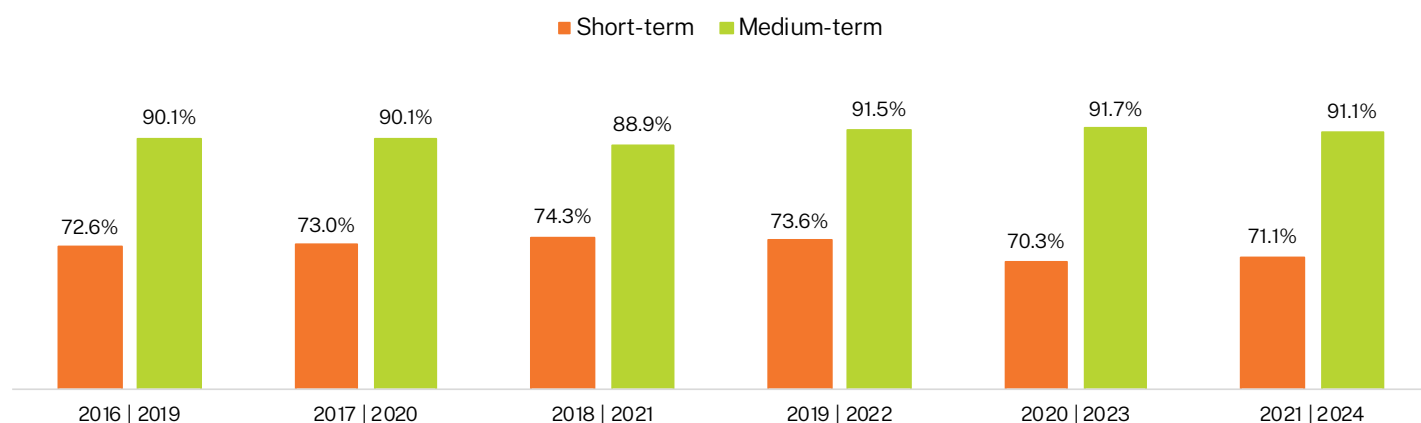
Full-time employment

Graduates who completed the 2024 GOS-L completed the 2021 GOS during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, where many states experienced various outbreaks and lockdowns. In general, medium-term outcomes for graduates have been less volatile than short-term outcomes.

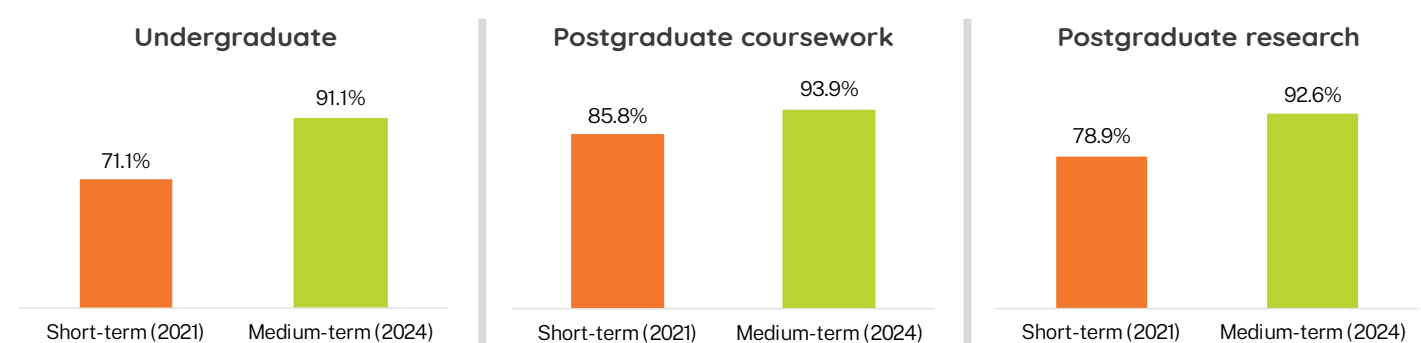
The 2024 GOS-L shows that domestic higher education graduates' medium-term labour market outcomes remained strong for the third consecutive year.

Full-time employment rates were lower for undergraduates in the short-term but this gap narrowed over time, suggesting it takes longer for undergraduates to access full-time employment after course completion.

Full-time employment rate for domestic undergraduates over time*



Proportion of graduates employed full-time by study level*

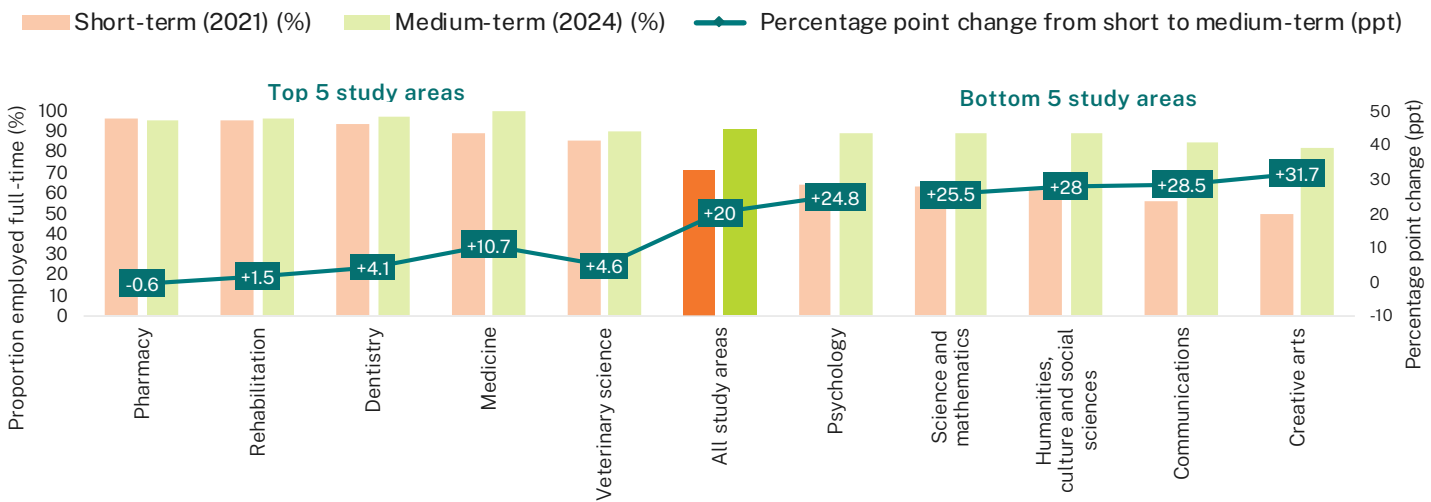


* The full-time employment rate is defined as the proportion of graduates actually working, or usually working, at least 35 hours per week

Full-time employment by study area

Full-time employment rates varied greatly by study area in the short-term. Vocational study areas tended to have higher short-term employment outcomes than more generalist study areas but this gap narrowed substantially over-time.

Undergraduate full-time employment in the short-term and medium-term by study area*

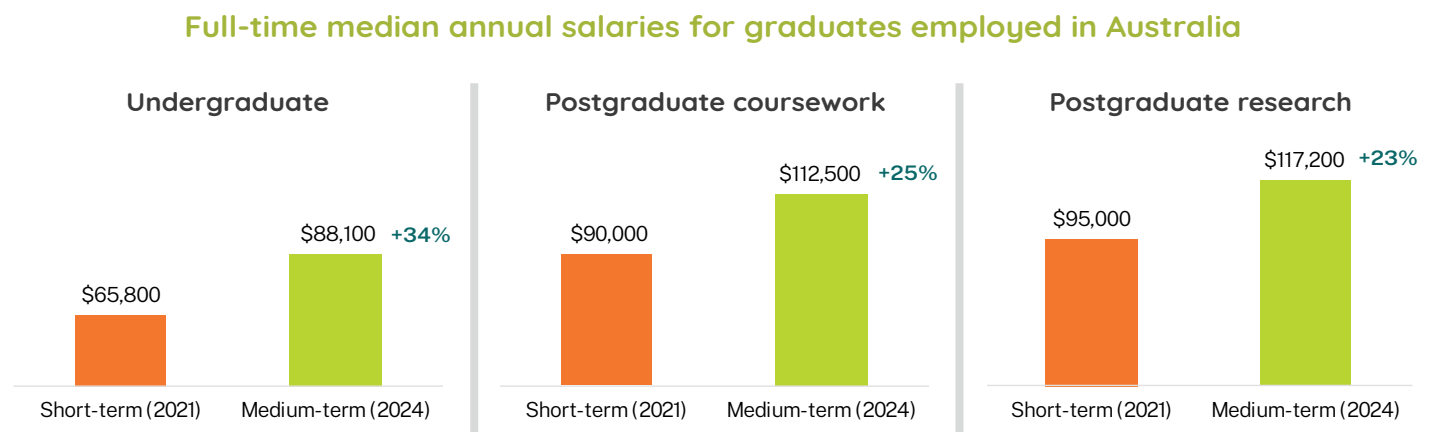


* Only the top 5 and bottom 5 study areas ranked on largest to smallest full-time employment rate in the short-term are included in this chart. Refer to the 2024 GOS-L National Tables on the QILT website for data on all 21 study areas.

Full-time median annual salary

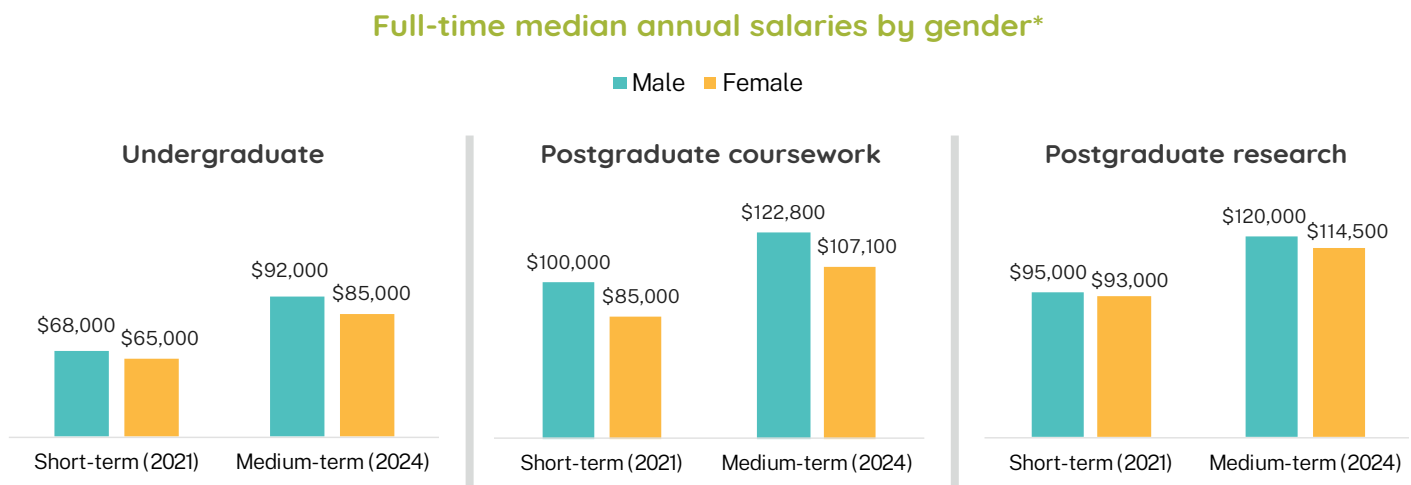
In 2021, the full-time median annual salary of an undergraduate was \$65,800. Three years later in 2024, this had risen to \$88,100 (a 34 per cent increase). The median annual salary of graduates with postgraduate qualifications was more than \$100,000 three years after course completion.

While the salary gap between study levels did narrow somewhat over time, there was still a relatively large difference in earnings between undergraduates and graduates with postgraduate qualifications.



Gender pay gap

While full-time employment rates were broadly similar, the pay gap between females and males widened over time, with male undergraduates earning \$3,000 more than females in the short-term, widening to \$7,000 3 years later. This gap was even larger for postgraduate coursework graduates where the difference was \$15,000 in the short-term and remained large at \$15,700 3 years later.

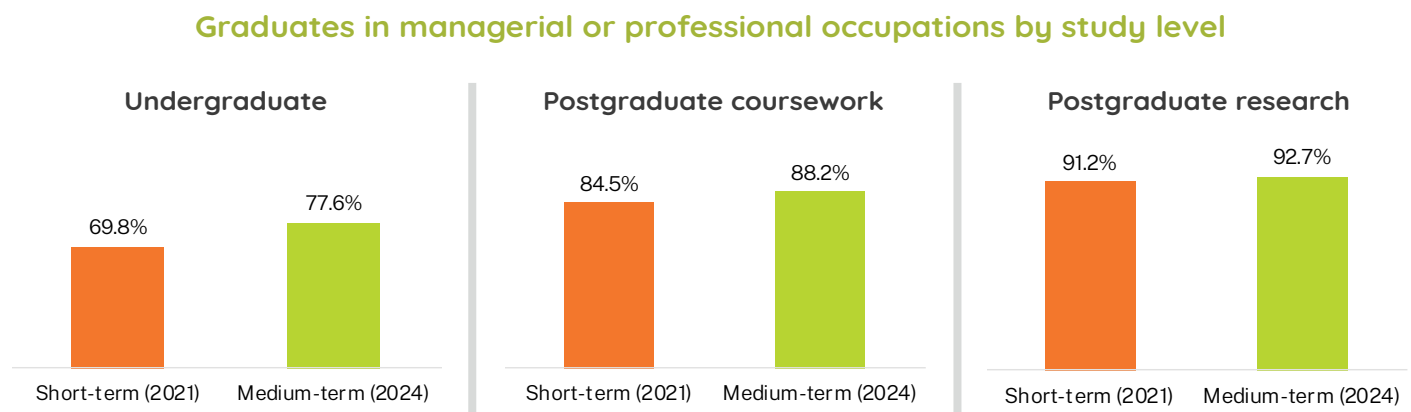


* Full-time median annual salaries are for graduates employed in Australia only.

Skills utilisation

(As a proportion of those employed full-time)

Postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research graduates are much more likely to be working in managerial or professional occupations immediately following course completion than undergraduates. Despite the increase in the proportion of undergraduates in these occupations three years post-course completion, a gap remains. Vocational study areas had higher rates of graduates employed in managerial or professional occupations than more generalist study areas.



Study areas with the highest and lowest proportions of undergraduates employed in managerial or professional occupations three years after course completion in 2024

Top 3

Medicine
99.3%

Dentistry
97.2%

Rehabilitation
96.5%

Bottom 3

Tourism, hospitality, personal services, sport and recreation
84.4%

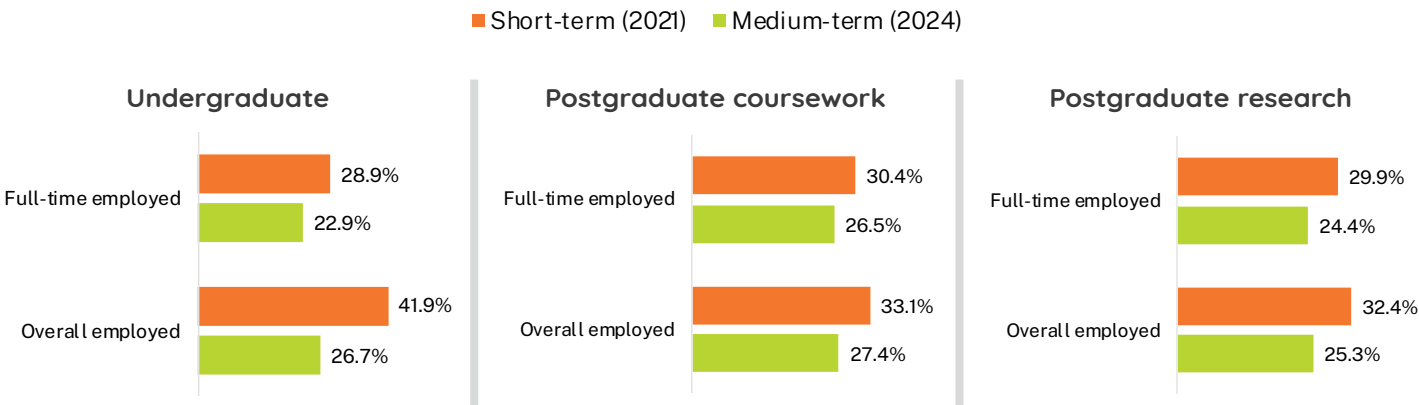
Communications
84.4%

Creative arts
81.3%

Perceived overqualification

In the short-term, a relatively high number of graduates employed full-time across all study levels reported that their skills and qualifications were not fully utilised in their job. This does drop in the medium-term but still equates to at least a fifth of graduates from each level of study. The top reason cited by graduates in the medium-term for not fully utilising their skills or qualifications was because they were satisfied with their current job.

Proportion employed full-time who reported their skills and qualifications were not fully utilised in the their job

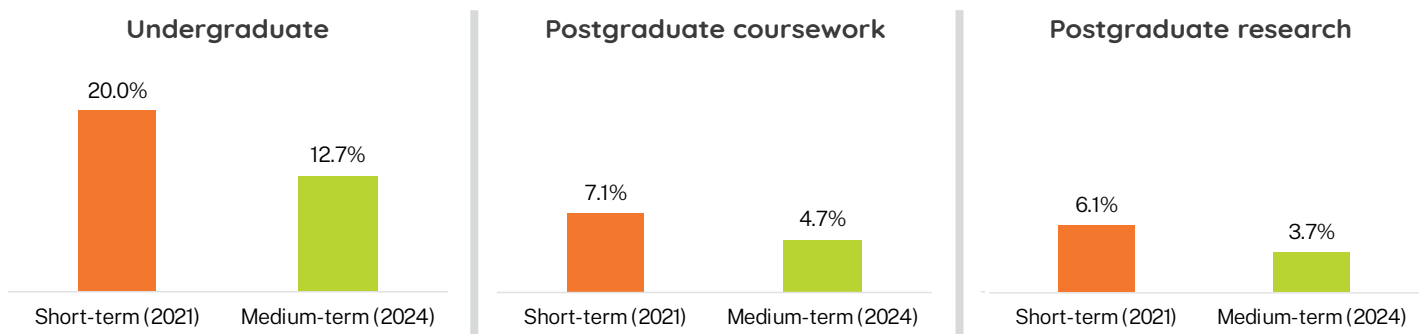


Further full-time study

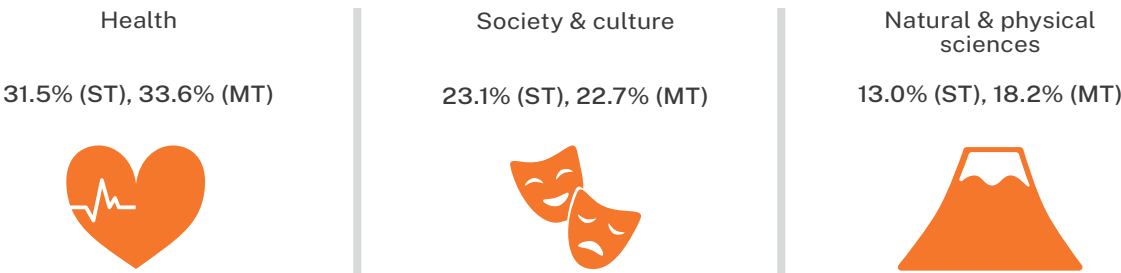
(As a proportion of all responses)

One-fifth of undergraduates were engaged in further full-time study 4 to 6 months after completing their initial qualification. After 3 years, this figure had dropped to 12.7 per cent. The majority of these graduates moved into further study in the Health, Society and culture, and Natural and physical studies fields of education. Rates of further full-time were much lower at the postgraduate level.

Proportion of graduates engaged in further full-time study



Top 3 study destinations for undergraduates in both the short-term and medium-term were:



(ST = short-term, MT = medium-term)