

2025 Key Findings Graduate Outcomes Survey - Longitudinal (GOS-L)

Higher education domestic graduate outcomes in the short-term (2022) four to six months after course completion and medium-term (2025) three years after course completion.

What is the Graduate Outcomes Survey - Longitudinal (GOS-L)?

The Australian Government Department of Education has commissioned the Social Research Centre to run the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) surveys every year.

Graduates who participated in the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) 4-6 months after course completion ('short-term outcomes') are invited to take part in the Graduate Outcomes Survey - Longitudinal (GOS-L) three years later ('medium-term outcomes').

The 2025 GOS-L National Report presents short- and medium-term outcomes of graduates who responded to the GOS in 2022 and the corresponding GOS-L in 2025. This includes:

-  **Over 48,000 graduates**
-  **127 higher education institutions**
-  **All 43 Australian universities**

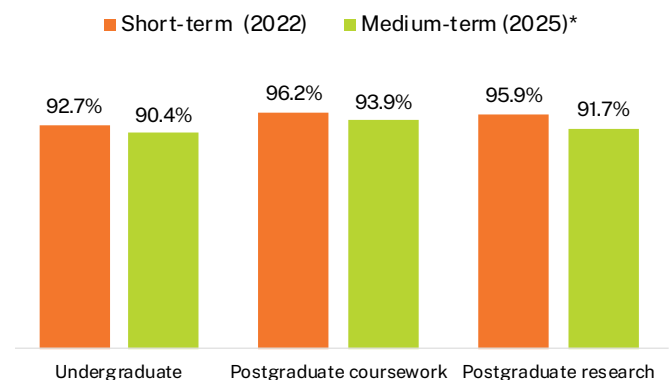
This report captures the results separately for domestic and international graduates across all study levels, whether living in Australia or overseas.

Labour force participation

Accounting for how labour force participation is defined in 2025¹, patterns of labour force participation among domestic graduates in 2025 remained consistent with previous years:

- More than 90% of graduates were participating in the labour force within the first 3 years of completing their study.
- Participation rates for graduates were slightly lower 3 years after graduation when compared to 4-6 months after completing their course, particularly for postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research graduates.

Domestic labour force participation rate by study level

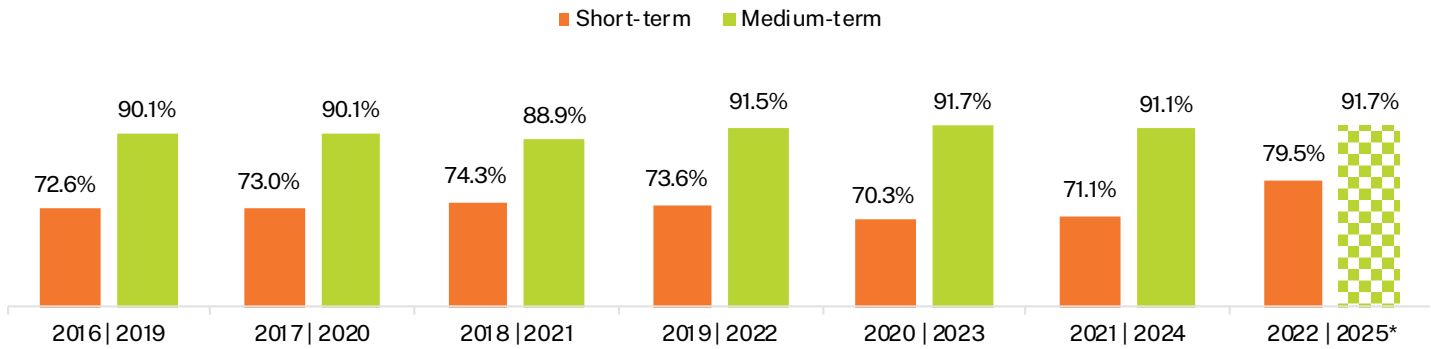


¹ In 2025, refinements to the survey instrument enabled identification of 'passive job seekers', a group excluded from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour force participation metric. To improve alignment of graduate employment outcomes with the ABS, passive job seekers were excluded from the labour force. As a result, the improved alignment with ABS definitions has led to changes to the labour force participation rate, and the full-time and overall employment rates presented in the GOS and GOS-L, which can be attributed to the change in methodology. This change has implications for full-time and overall employment rates presented in the 2025 GOS-L National Report. Medium-term labour force rates from 2025 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years due to a change to how the labour force is defined. Caution should be exercised when interpreting shifts from the short- to medium-term for the 2022-2025 cohort, as they partly reflect the change in methodology.

Full-time employment

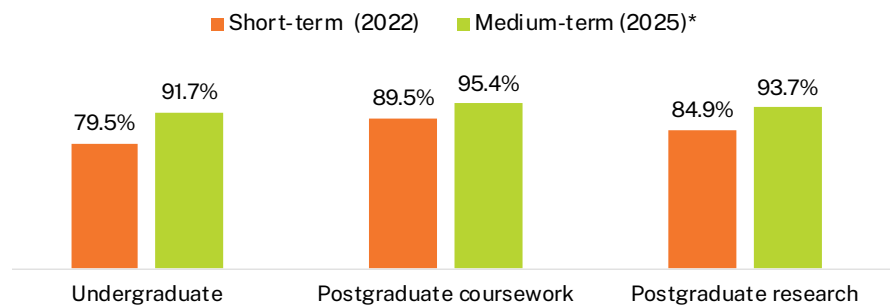
Domestic higher education graduates' medium-term labour market outcomes remained strong for the fourth consecutive year. In general, medium-term outcomes for graduates have been less volatile than short-term outcomes.

Undergraduate full-time employment rate for 2016 to 2022 domestic graduates



Full-time employment rates were lower for undergraduates in the short-term but this gap narrowed over the 3-year period. This indicates that it takes longer for undergraduates to access full-time employment after course completion, likely due to their lack of prior experience in the labour market.

Domestic full-time employment rate by study level



Median annual full-time salary



\$91,000

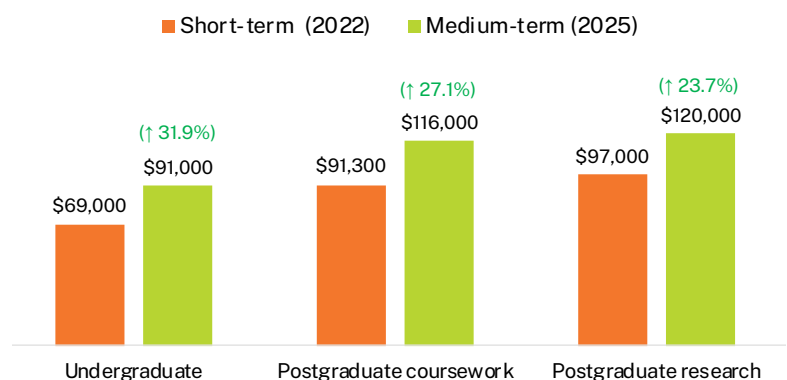
Median annual full-time salary for graduates 3 years after completing an undergraduate degree

Undergraduates were typically earning **31.9% more** 3 years after course completion than they were in the 4-6 months after they completed their course.

Despite increased salary growth across all study levels, the relative differences between study levels remained – indicating that salary growth is being driven by strong demand in the labour market, as opposed to the qualifications themselves.

The 3-year growth in median salaries reported by graduates across all study levels is consistent with national wage growth reported in the ABS Wage Price Index and ABS Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings for full-time adult employees.

Domestic median annual full-time salaries by study level



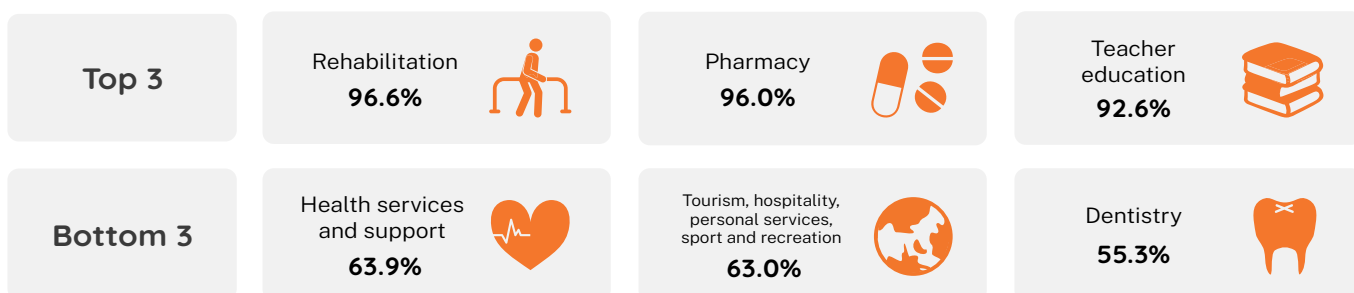
Skills utilisation

(As a proportion of those employed full-time)

Vocational study areas had higher rates of graduates employed in managerial or professional occupations than more generalist study areas.

Study areas considered to be more vocational – with clear career paths directly related to the qualification – tended to have high rates of undergraduates working in managerial or professional occupations shortly after course completion and 3 years later. In comparison, more generalist study areas and study areas with requirements for additional postgraduate study and/or accreditation requirements, tended to have lower rates in the short-term but bigger gains 3 years later.

Study areas with the highest and lowest proportions of domestic undergraduates employed in managerial or professional occupations three years after course completion in 2025



Perceived overqualification



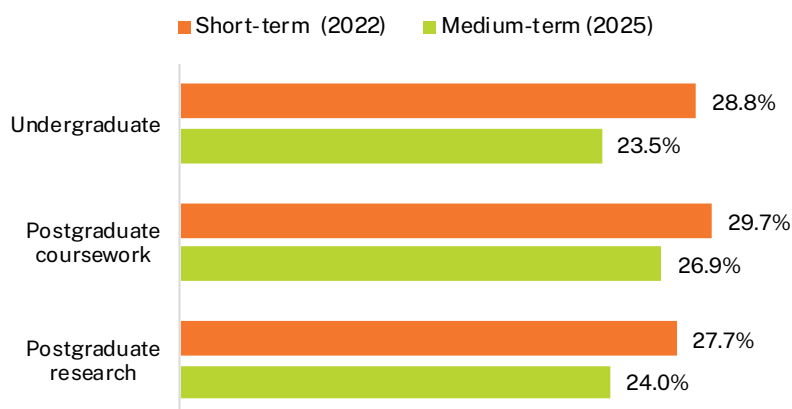
More than **1 in 5 graduates**

felt they felt overqualified for their current job, with their skills and education not being fully utilised three years on from completing their course.

Rates of ‘perceived overqualification’ was consistent across study levels, and this measure of skills underutilisation remained relatively high in the medium-term.

Across all levels of study, graduates were more likely to cite labour market factors in the short-term but 3 years later, personal and labour market factors were reported at both undergraduate and postgraduate research levels. Personal factors were more frequently reported by postgraduate coursework graduates in the medium-term.

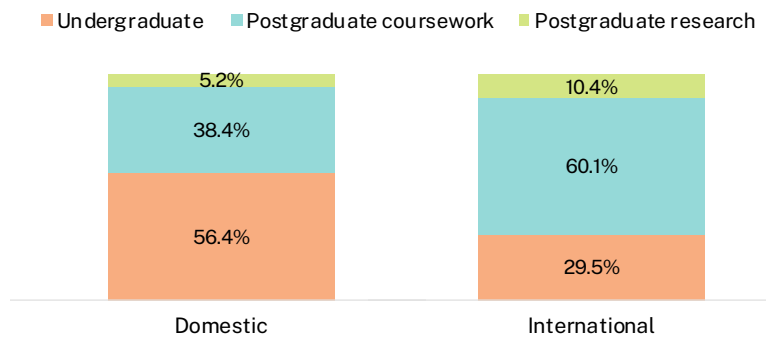
Perceived overqualification by study level (% of those employed full-time)



International graduate results

The international graduate population had higher proportions of graduates across postgraduate levels compared to the domestic graduate population which had a larger proportion of undergraduates. It should be noted that differences in employment and further study outcomes between international and domestic graduates are affected by a range of factors, such as demographic and study area differences.

Domestic and International respondent profile comparison



Full-time employment rates were lower for international graduates in the short-term compared to their domestic counterparts, but this gap narrowed over the 3-year period. The higher further full-time study rate for international graduates may partially explain the lower full-time employment rate.

Similarly, median salaries² for international graduates across all study levels were lower than domestic median salaries. However, differences in median salaries did not diminish over time.

Short- and medium-term labour market outcomes by study level and citizenship status

		Short-term (2022)		Medium-term (2025)	
		Domestic	International	Domestic	International
Undergraduate	Full-time employment rate (%)	79.5	60.5	91.7	84.7
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	69,000	62,000	91,000	80,500
	In further full-time study (%)	17.5	25.4	13.4	17.8
Postgraduate coursework	Full-time employment rate (%)	89.5	61.4	95.4	88.1
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	91,300	62,600	116,000	85,000
	In further full-time study (%)	6.8	10.7	5.0	11.7
Postgraduate research	Full-time employment rate (%)	84.9	75.9	93.7	90.7
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	97,000	89,000	120,000	110,000
	In further full-time study (%)	5.7	10.4	5.1	7.0

Differences in employment and salary outcomes between domestic and international graduates were most pronounced at the postgraduate coursework level. Domestic postgraduate coursework graduates typically being older and often attached to the labour market, which is why their employment and salary outcomes are high immediately following course completion. International graduates are younger, many of whom went straight from undergraduate to postgraduate studies and, therefore, have less prior work experience by the time they do graduate from the higher qualification.

² International graduates' median salary figures only include data for international graduates working in Australia.



For more insights, see the full [Graduate Outcomes Survey - Longitudinal results for 2025 here.](#)