

2025 National Key Findings Student Experience Survey

What is the Student Experience Survey (SES)?

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.

The SES provides a national framework for collecting data on key aspects of the higher education student experience.

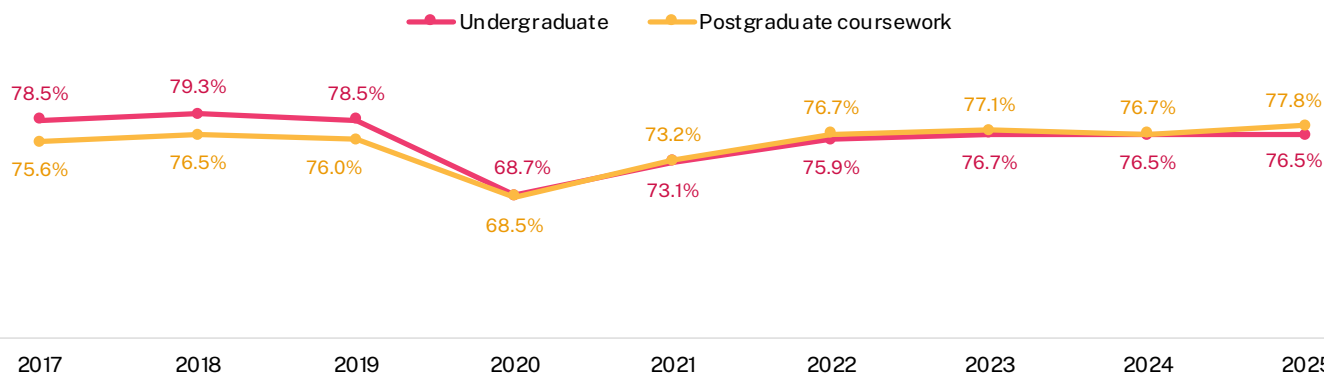
The 2025 SES National Report presents findings for all students who responded to the SES between August and September 2025. This includes:

-  **Over 324,000 graduates**
-  **153 higher education institutions**
-  **All 43 Australian universities**

The educational experience

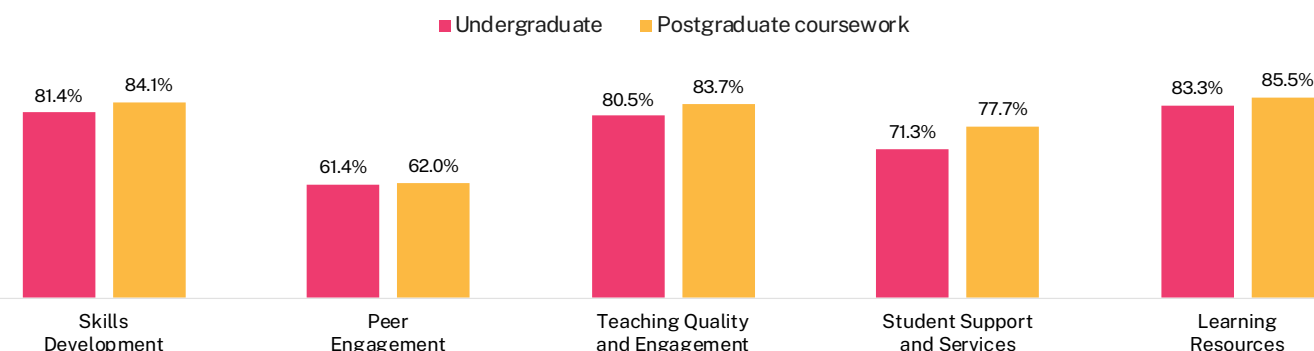
In 2025, undergraduate student ratings of Overall Educational Experience remained stable for the third consecutive year and have not returned to the levels seen prior to the pandemic. In contrast, postgraduate coursework ratings rose slightly, continuing to exceed pre-pandemic levels and ratings at the undergraduate level.

Overall Educational Experience by course level, 2017–25 (% positive rating)



This trend was relatively consistent across the 5 focus areas in SES. Undergraduate student ratings for the focus areas were broadly stable with small increases to Learning Resources and Peer Engagement, while postgraduate coursework student ratings increased for all focus areas except Peer Engagement.

Focus area scores by course level, 2025 (% positive rating)



On-campus participation plays a key role in the student experience for internal students

In the post-pandemic period, many institutions have retained hybrid delivery modes, combining online and on-campus classes and giving students greater flexibility in how they participate in their higher education.

For students enrolled in an internal course—that is, a course where they were expected to undertake at least some of their studies on-campus, around half of undergraduate students indicated that they participated in their studies all-on campus.

Across the 5 focus areas, these students were more likely to provide a positive rating compared to those who participated in a hybrid or online capacity.

Undergraduate student experience by class participation, enrolled internally/multi-mode, 2025 (% positive rating)

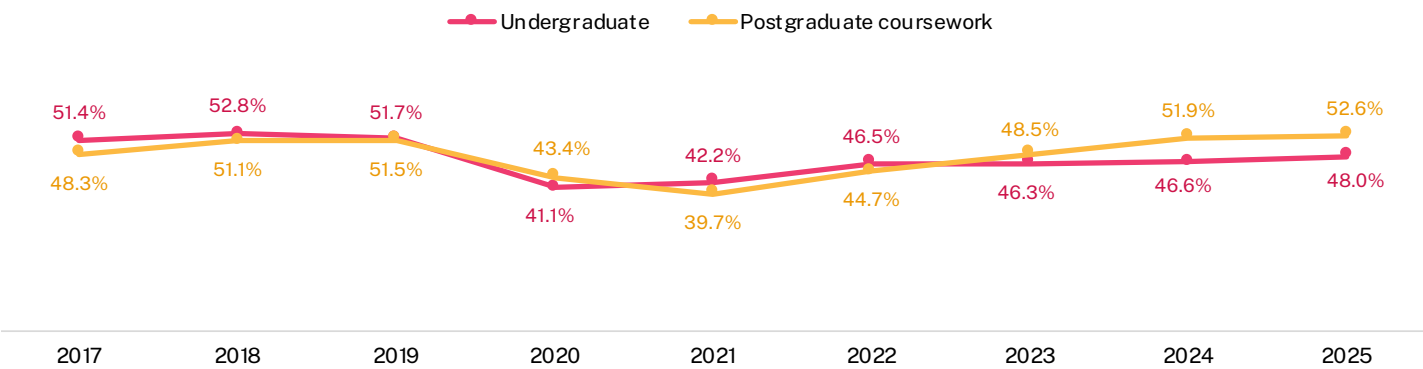


For more insights, you can access the full [2025 SES National Report here.](#)

Sense of belonging

Students have historically rated their sense of belonging to their institution relatively low at both the undergraduate and postgraduate coursework levels. Despite an increase in ratings in 2025 to 48.0 per cent positive, undergraduate ratings have not returned to the pre-2020 average of 52.0 per cent. For postgraduate coursework students, ratings have improved since 2021, reaching 52.6 per cent in 2025 and surpassing the pre-2020 average of 50.3 per cent positive.

Sense of belonging to institution by course level, 2017-25 (% positive rating*)

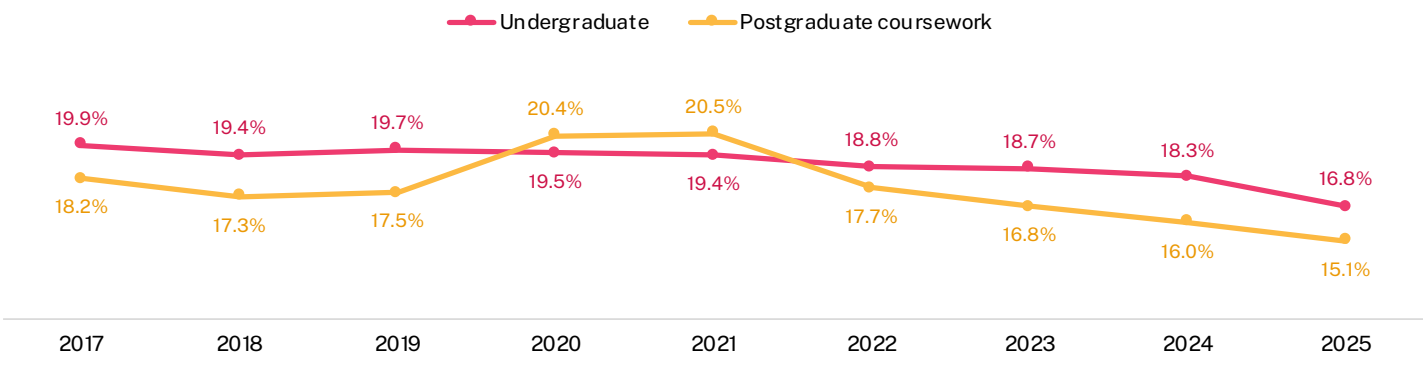


* The percent positive rating for sense of belonging represents the proportion of respondents who selected 'Quite a bit' or 'Very much' when asked 'At your institution during <survey year>, to what extent have you had a sense of belonging to <institution name>?'

Students less likely to consider leaving

The proportion of students who considered leaving their institution continued to fall in 2025 and is at an all-time low for both undergraduate and postgraduate coursework levels. At both coursework levels, stress levels were the most cited reason students considered leaving their institution.

Likelihood to consider leaving by course level, 2017-25 (%)



Financial circumstances negatively affect studies for a quarter of students

The proportion of students who cited financial circumstances as negatively affected their studies decreased slightly compared to previous years, however around one quarter of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students still reported that financial circumstances negatively impacted their studies, and one third of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students reported that paid work negatively impacted their studies in 2025.

Negative effects on study by course level, 2025 (% negatively affected)

