

2025 International Key Findings Graduate Outcomes Survey

What is the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS)?

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 are invited to take the GOS approximately 4 to 6 months after completion of their course.

The 2025 GOS International Report presents findings for international graduates who completed the GOS between November 2024 and May 2025. This includes:

 **Over 39,000 graduates**

 **119 higher education institutions**

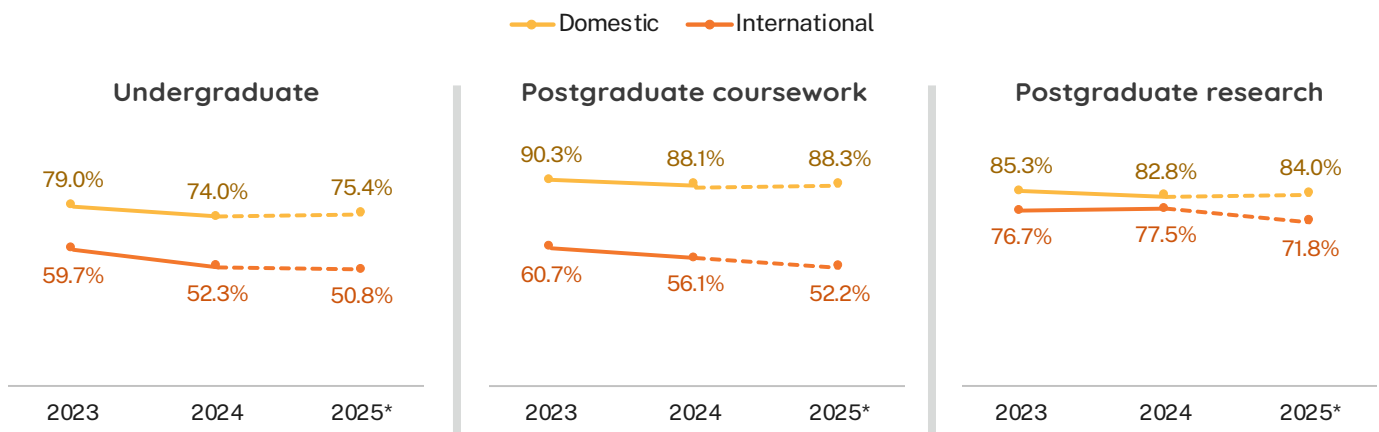
 **All 42 Australian universities**

Full-time employment

Full-time employment rates for international graduates are typically lower than domestic graduates. This can be partly explained by higher rates of further full-time study for international graduates, as well as the age differentials observed between international and domestic graduates, especially at the postgraduate coursework level.

In 2025, the gap between domestic and international graduate full-time employment rates widened though this observation is partly a reflection of the change in methodology* (as domestic full-time employment rates experienced larger upward pressure from this change than international full-time employment rates). International graduates were more likely to be actively, rather than passively, seeking employment compared to domestic graduates.

Full-time employment rate¹ by study level and citizenship status, 2023–25



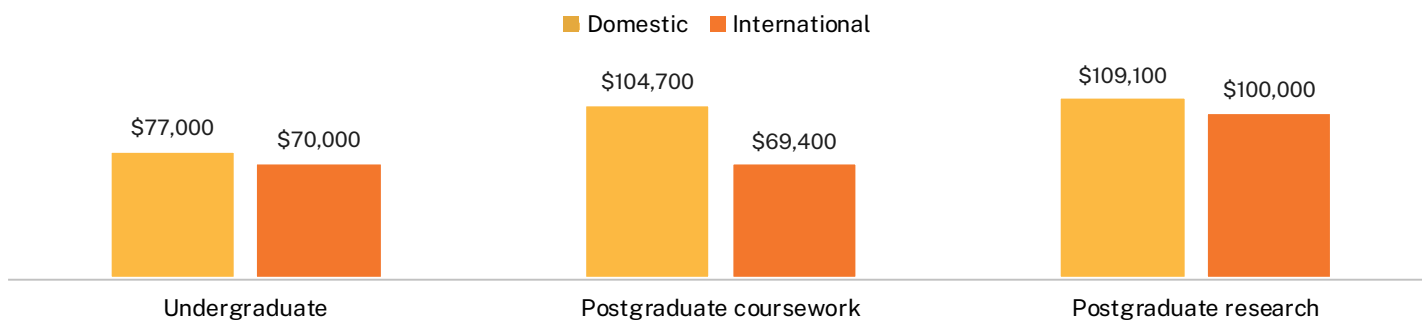
* Full-time employment rates from 2025 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years due to a change to how the labour force is defined. Caution should be exercised when interpreting differences in full-time employment rates between 2025 results and earlier years, as they partly reflect the change in methodology. See the 2025 GOS *International Report* for further information.

¹ The full-time employment rate is defined as graduates who were usually or actually in paid employment for at least 35 hours per week, in the week before the survey as a proportion of those available for full-time work. Graduates are considered available for full-time work if they were employed full-time or looking for full-time employment in the week prior to the survey.

Median annual full-time salary

Median annual full-time salary for international graduates employed in Australia continues to be consistently lower than that of domestic graduates across all study levels, with the largest gap at the postgraduate coursework level. The data follow a historical trend where international coursework postgraduates tend to have comparable salaries to international undergraduates. This trend can in part be explained by the profile of international postgraduate coursework graduates.

Median annual full-time salary² by study level and citizenship status, 2025

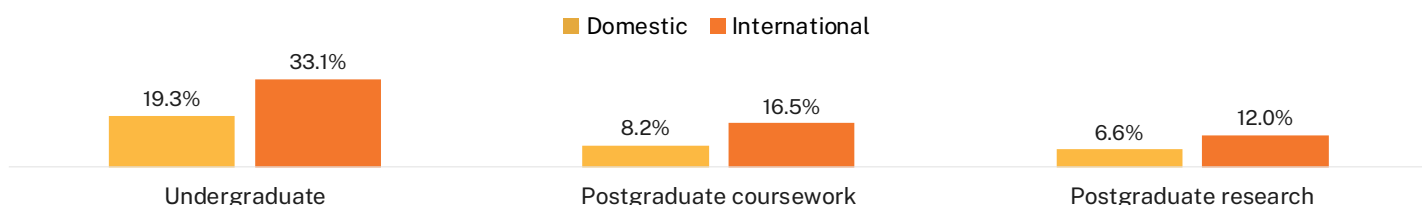


Further full-time study

International graduates continue to be almost twice as likely to pursue further full-time study following course completion compared to their domestic counterparts, suggesting that international graduates prioritise continued education more strongly than domestic graduates.

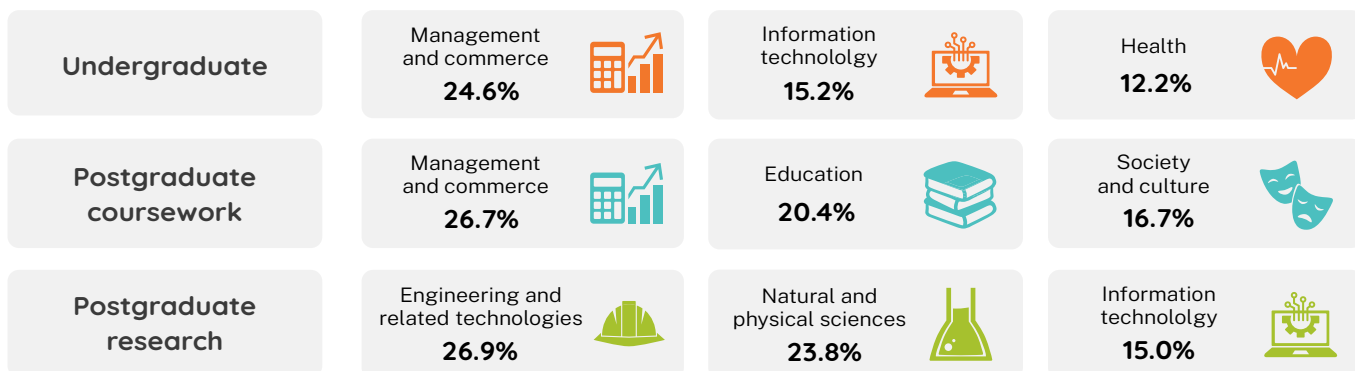
The tendency for international graduates to immediately pursue additional education partly reflects Australia's reputation for high-quality education offerings, visa policy settings, and the varied aspirations of international graduates.³

Proportion of graduates in further full-time study by study level and citizenship status, 2025



Rates of further full-time study varied by field of education⁴ for international graduates. In 2025, Management and commerce was the most common destination field of education for international undergraduate and postgraduate coursework graduates engaged in further full-time study.

Top 3 broad of field education destinations for international graduates, 2025



² Salaries presented in nominal terms. This means the salary amounts reflect the actual values as they existed in the respective year (that is, the values are not adjusted for inflation). Note that only graduates employed full-time in Australia are captured in median salaries reported by the GOS.

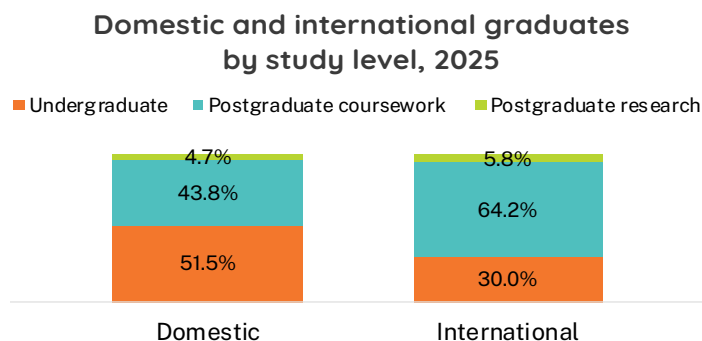
³ [International student pathways and outcomes | Jobs and Skills Australia](#)

⁴ Broad Field of Education (BFOE) from the ABS Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED).

International graduate profile (based on responses to the 2025 GOS⁵)

The profile of international graduates helps contextualise graduate outcomes, especially when compared to domestic results.

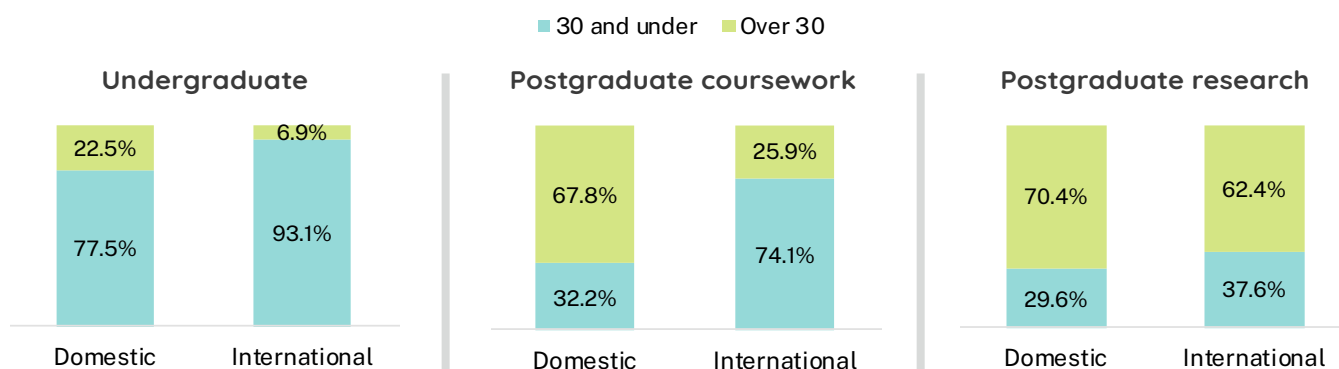
Relative to the profile of domestic graduates which had a larger proportion of undergraduates, the international graduate population had a higher proportion of postgraduates.



Graduate age also provides crucial context for examining graduate employment outcomes. Differences in life stage are often related to the level of labour market experience – younger graduates are less likely to have established themselves in the workforce compared to older graduates, and typically have higher further full-time study rates and lower full-time employment rates compared to older graduates.

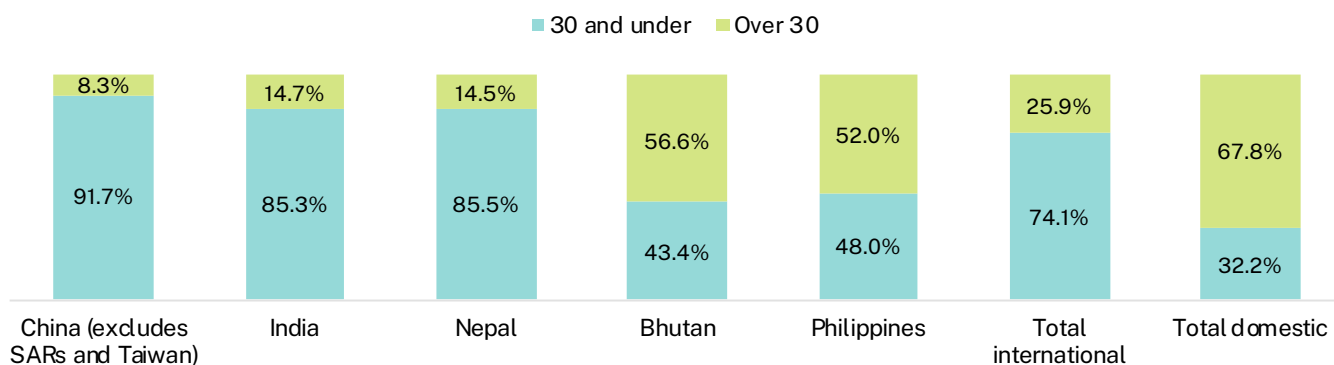
The proportion of international graduates aged 30 and under was higher than domestic respondents across all study levels, most notably at the postgraduate coursework level where the proportion of the international population aged 30 and under was more than double that of the domestic population. This age differential between international and domestic graduates is a key factor in understanding differences in labour market outcomes and further study outcomes.

Graduate age by study level and citizenship status, 2025



Age and source country together provide nuanced insight into labour market outcomes for international graduates. When considering age profile by source country, some had over 85% of their postgraduate coursework graduates aged 30 and under, including China (excludes SARs and Taiwan), India and Nepal.

Age of postgraduate coursework respondents by top 5 source countries, 2025



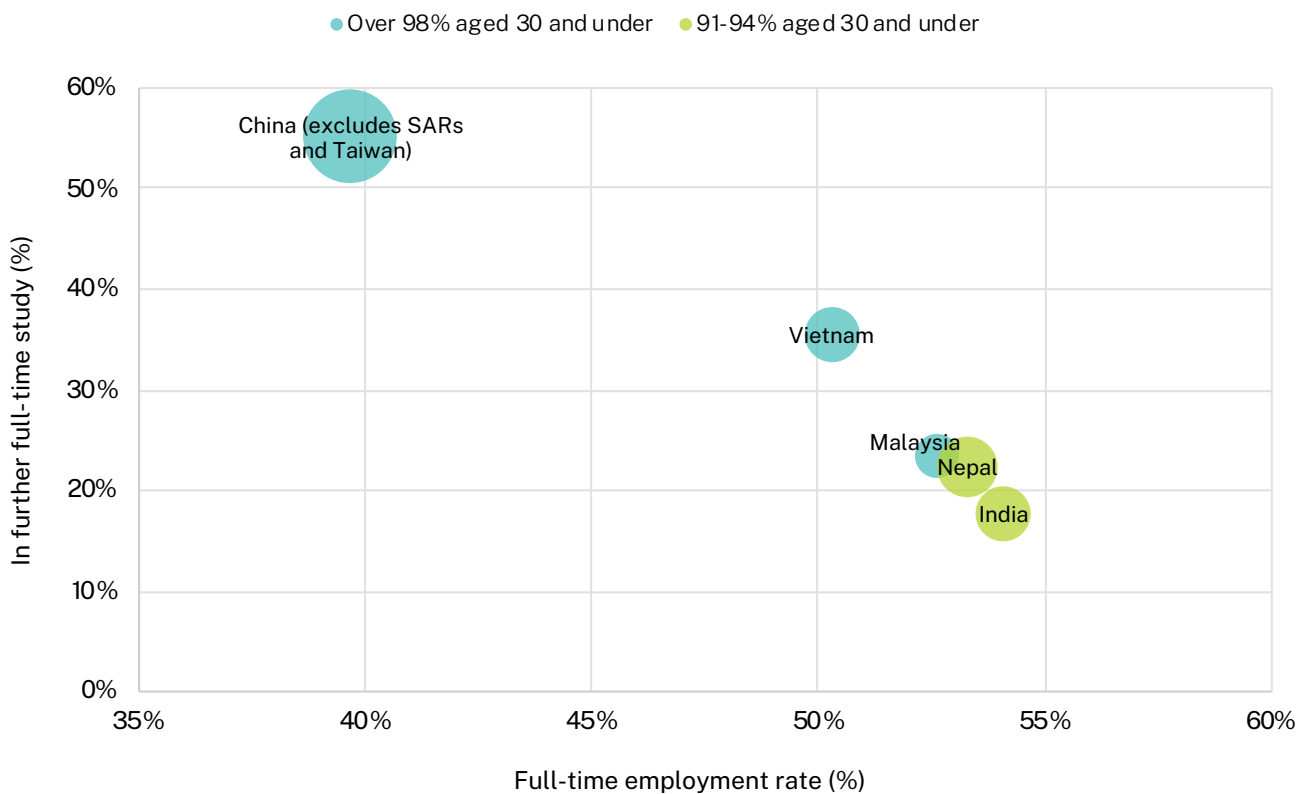
⁵ This report discusses the characteristics of graduates who responded to the survey. Demographic and course characteristics of the responding population closely matched the total population of graduates eligible to take part in the 2025 GOS. Detailed analysis of graduates' propensity to respond to the 2025 GOS are discussed in the 2025 GOS Methodological Report available to download from the [QLT website](#).

Source country

Key findings for international graduates, regardless of their location at the time of the survey, disaggregated by the graduate's source country and study level:

- **Undergraduate:** Graduates from China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) and Vietnam exhibit lower full-time employment, lower labour force participation but much higher further full-time study compared to the international average, potentially due to their younger demographic profile and dominant study areas.
- **Postgraduate coursework:** Amongst the top 5 source countries, there were similarities in popular study areas, with Business and management and Computing and information systems accounting for at least half of graduates' study areas. Despite this, there was considerable variation in the full-time employment rate, ranging from 44.5% to 70.9%.
- **Postgraduate research:** Across the top 5 source countries for postgraduate research graduates, the variation in salary for postgraduate research graduates was narrow, ranging from \$95,000 to \$100,000, suggesting that international postgraduate research graduates appear to be employed in positions that were relatively well compensated regardless of background.

Undergraduate source country outcomes by age, 2025



For more insights, you can access the full [2025 GOS International Report here](#)