

2026 Key Findings Graduate Outcomes Survey - Longitudinal (GOS-L)

Higher education domestic graduate outcomes in the short-term (2023) four to six months after course completion and medium-term (2026) 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 2026 GOS-L National Report presents short- and medium-term outcomes of graduates who responded to the GOS in 2023 and the corresponding GOS-L in 2026. This includes:

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

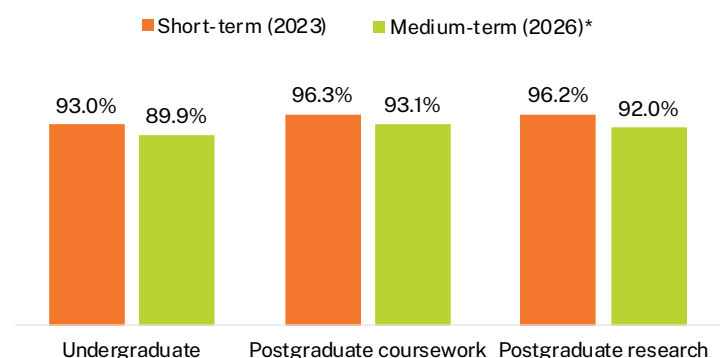
This report captures the results separately for domestic and international graduates across all study levels, whether living in Australia or overseas.

Labour force participation

Accounting for how labour force participation is defined in 2026¹, patterns of labour force participation among domestic graduates in 2026 remained consistent with previous years:

- Around 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.

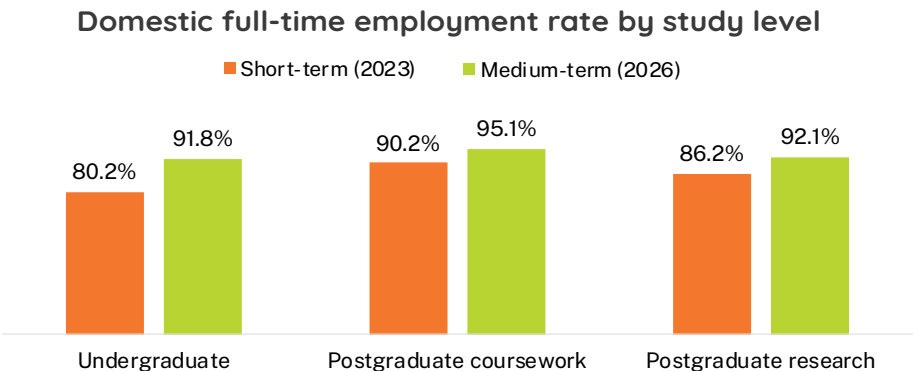
Domestic labour force participation rate by study level



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 have 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 2023-2026 cohort, as they partly reflect the change in methodology.

Full-time employment

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.



Median annual full-time salary



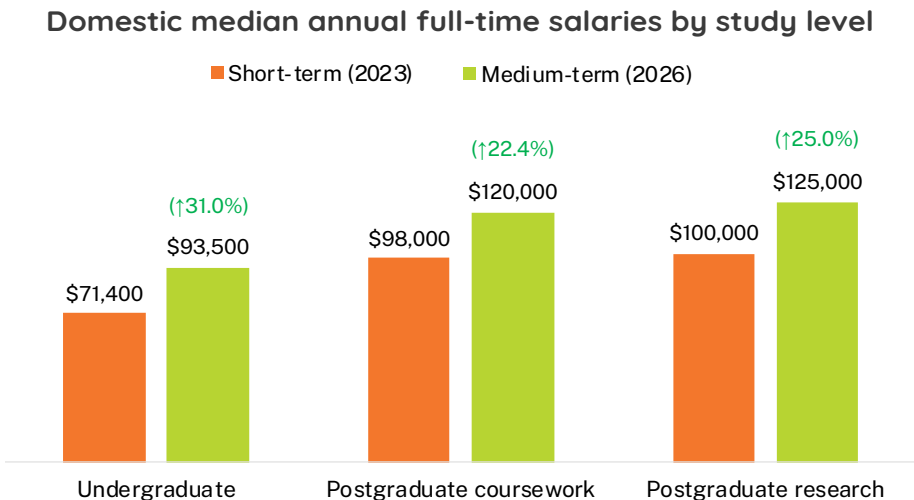
\$93,500

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

Undergraduates were typically earning **31.0% 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, study level remained associated with differences in median earnings three years after graduation.

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.

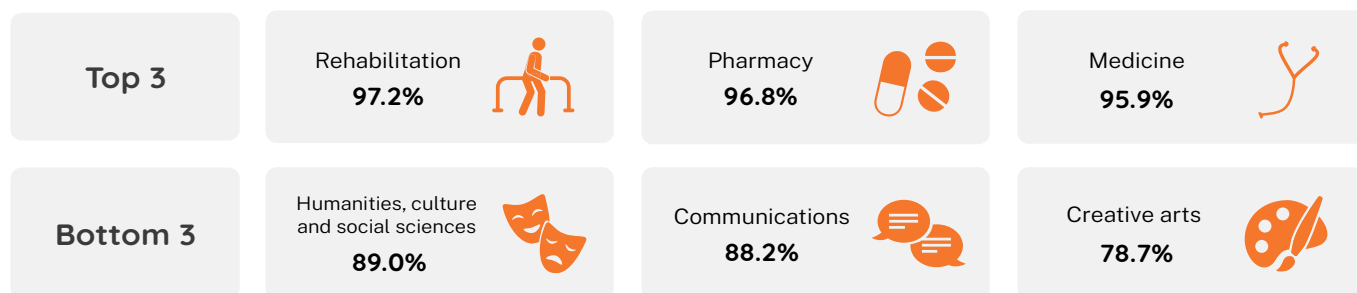


Study area

Vocational study areas had higher full-time employment rates than more generalist study areas.

Study areas considered to be more vocational –with clear career paths directly related to the qualification –tended to have higher rates of full-time employment 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 full-time employment rate three years after course completion in 2026



International graduate results

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. Similarly, median salaries² for international graduates across all study levels were lower than domestic median salaries in the short-term. Notably 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 (%)	80.2	62.5	91.8	84.1
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	71,400	66,000	93,500	85,000
Postgraduate coursework	Full-time employment rate (%)	90.2	67.1	95.1	87.5
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	98,000	67,000	120,000	86,000
Postgraduate research	Full-time employment rate (%)	86.2	78.1	92.1	90.6
	Median annual full-time salary (\$)	100,000	92,900	125,000	112,000

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



For more insights, see the full [2026 Graduate Outcomes Survey – Longitudinal National Report](#)