



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

# Graduate Destination Survey **2021**



## 2021 Graduate Destination Survey Findings

The University of Auckland's third Graduate Destination Survey was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. Graduates (including Ph.D. graduates) who completed their qualifications between March 2019 and February 2021 were invited to participate in the survey. The GDS expanded to include our Ph.D. graduates in 2021 with questions specifically designed to understand our doctoral cohorts. An overall response rate of 24% (2017: 22%, 2019: 25%) was achieved.

Table 1: Response rate by faculty

Faculty	Response rate	Total Invited
Arts	24%	2,356
Business and Economics	20%	3,713
Creative Arts and Industries	22%	1,024
Education and Social Work	27%	1,741
Engineering	25%	2,477
Law	23%	754
Medical and Health Sciences	23%	4,070
Science	24%	3,875
University Of Auckland	31%	863
<b>Total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>20,873</b>

Table 2: Response rate by programme level

Programme Level	Response Rate	Tota Invite
Doctorate	31%	901
Postgraduate	24%	8,833
Undergraduate	23%	11,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>20,873</b>

**24%**  
Response rate

**64%**  
Male respondents

**36%**  
Female respondents

**97%**  
Full-time /part-time  
employment

## Employment

In 2021, over 97% of our 2019-2021 graduate respondents were in employment. This represents a steady improvement over time (2017: 95%; 2019: 96%) and is largely explained by the increase in the employment rate of our graduates with an undergraduate degree, from 94% in 2017 to 96% in 2021. For the overseas undergraduate group, the employment rate has improved noticeably by 3.7% to 92.7% in 2021. For the postgraduate group, the 97% employment rate in 2021 also represents an improvement from 96% in previous survey rounds.

The median salary reported by the 2021 respondents has risen to the NZD \$60,000 - \$69,999 range, compared to that of NZD50,000 – NZD60,000 in the 2019 and 2017 surveys.

Table 3: Employment rate by faculty\* and programme level (Doctoral graduates were included since 2021)

Faculty	Programme Level	Employment Rate		
		2021	2019	2017
Arts	Doctorate	100%		
	Undergraduate	89%	91%	89%
	Postgraduate	94%	95%	96%
<b>Arts Total</b>		<b>91%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Bioengineering Institute</b>	Doctorate	100%		
<b>Bioengineering Institute Total</b>		<b>100%</b>		
Business and Economics	Doctorate	94%		
	Undergraduate	97%	97%	94%
	Postgraduate	99%	94%	99%
<b>Business and Economics Total</b>		<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Creative Arts and Industries	Doctorate	100%		
	Undergraduate	97%	97%	88%
	Postgraduate	95%	94%	95%
<b>Creative Arts and Industries Total</b>		<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>93%</b>
Education and Social Work	Doctorate	97%		
	Undergraduate	100%	97%	96%
	Postgraduate	99%	99%	99%
<b>Education and Social Work Total</b>		<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>
Engineering	Doctorate	100%		
	Undergraduate	99%	99%	98%
	Postgraduate	97%	94%	94%
<b>Engineering Total</b>		<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Law	Doctorate	100%		
	Undergraduate	97%	97%	98%
	Postgraduate	100%	94%	100%
<b>Law Total</b>		<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Liggins Institute</b>	Doctorate	100%		
<b>Liggins Institute Total</b>		<b>100%</b>		
Medical and Health Sciences	Doctorate	94%		
	Undergraduate	99%	98%	98%
	Postgraduate	99%	98%	96%
<b>Medical and Health Sciences Total</b>		<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>
Science	Doctorate	97%		
	Undergraduate	93%	89%	92%
	Postgraduate	92%	96%	92%
<b>Science Total</b>		<b>93%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>University Of Auckland</b>	Postgraduate	0%	50%	
<b>University Of Auckland Total</b>		<b>0%</b>	<b>50%</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>

Note: Faculty = Plan Owing Faculty.

## Further Study

The proportion of graduates currently taking further study slightly reduced to 21% in 2021 (2017: 24%, 2019: 27%). More than 60% of them are doing postgraduate or higher degrees. 'To improve my career options' and 'enhance my knowledge in my specialist field' remained the most popular main reasons for taking up further study. Almost 60% of them mentioned that Covid-19's impact had shifted their study mode to be online delivery.

## Programme Satisfaction and University Experience

Among our 2021 respondents, 78% were satisfied with their programmes. The vast majority (90%) agreed that their programme gave them a broad overview of their subject area field and helped them develop skills in finding information and using it effectively. Respondents also indicated that their programmes helped them develop skills related to problem-solving (86%), written communication (87%), spoken communication (73%), working with others (76%), and skills which are useful in their workplace; as well as 90% indicating their study had contributed to their personal development in general.

## Ph.D. graduates' feedback

The vast majority of our Ph.D. graduates (95%) indicated their doctoral study had improved their research and data analysis skills. Most (77%) of those in the workforce at the time of the survey were working in an academic position (30%), a post-doctoral fellowship (24%), or in a field related to their doctorate (23%).

**\$60k-70k**

Median salary

**21%**

Further study

**78%**

Satisfied with their programme