



Graduate Destination Survey

2017



Results Graduate Destination Survey

The University of Auckland's first Graduate Destination Survey in 2017 has reflected some meaningful information about its recent graduates. Every 2016/early 2017 graduate was invited to participate in the 2017 Graduate Destination Survey. The survey took place in November 2017 and just over 11,000 graduates were invited to participate. The survey had a response rate of 22.2% with 2,445 respondents. 62% of all respondents were female, and 38% were male.

22.2%
Response rate

♀ 62%
Female respondents

What are our graduates doing?

According to the survey, the majority of our graduates were in full-time or part-time employment, one year after their graduation. A quarter of our recent graduates went on for further studies while a fraction was unemployed and looking for work.

♂ 38%
Male respondents

Employment

Employment rate for our 2017 graduates one year after meeting their requirements was 95.4%. This ranged from 94.4% for our undergraduate students to 97.2% for our doctoral students. The employment rates are in comparison with Australia and the UK, according to graduate destination surveys conducted there in a similar timeframe. Overall employment rate for New Zealand (November 2017) was the same as the overall employment rate found in this survey. The employment rates for Pacific and Pākehā/European graduates are highest at 96.4%, although the differences are not significant between the different ethnic groups.

70%
Full-time/part-time employment

24%
Further study

88% of our recent graduates who left the University after completing their programme to pursue a career are working full-time. The majority (2/3) of our working graduates have got a permanent contract. 3% of our recent graduates were self-employed or working as a freelancer.

3%
Seeking work

Internationally our graduates are doing well. Compared to the UK we found in our survey that the percentage of unemployed graduates is lower. The University of Auckland was rated 59th in the World in the 2020 QS employability ranking and 30th for the Graduate Employment Rate criteria, which is one of four indicators used by QS.

The majority of our local students remains in New Zealand (91.8%), as well as just over two thirds of our overseas students. In total 88.5% of all our recent graduates found a place to work in New Zealand. 84% of those remaining in New Zealand have found work in Auckland.

88.5%
found employment in
New Zealand

The median salary reported by our graduates is between NZD50,000-NZD60,000, irrespective of the level of qualification. There were no significant differences between faculties, although graduates from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences reported a higher median salary than the other faculties.

\$50k-60k
Median salary for
graduates after 1 year

Most local graduates found that their personal network was the best means of finding a job while the international students used various recruitment agencies to secure employment. The Engineering graduates stood out in their approach to applying directly to the employer's website. The majority have indicated that the job they are currently in is exactly the type of work they wanted.

Further study

42% of all graduates continued their study at Masters' level, with a majority choosing a research master's degree. These graduates suggested 'improved career options' and 'enhancement of knowledge' as the two main reasons for their further study. The majority of the students remained with the University of Auckland for their further study and stayed within the same faculty.

42%
continued their
Master-level study

University experience

82% of all respondents expressed satisfaction with their university experience, with over 80% indicating their chosen programme had improved their career prospects. Over 90% agreed their programme gave them a broad overview of their field of study, helped them develop skills in communication, teamwork and contributed to their personal development.

82%
satisfied with the
quality of programme