



UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

Graduate Destination Survey 2024

Life After
Graduation
2024



2024 Graduate Destination Survey Findings

Waipapa Taumata Rau, the University of Auckland's sixth Graduate Destination Survey (GDS) was launched on the 1st of November 2024 and continues to operate annually. Graduates who completed their qualifications between March 2023 and February 2024 were invited to participate in the survey.

An overall response rate of 25% was achieved (2017 - 2023: 22% to 25%).

Table 1: GDS 2024 Response rate by faculty

Faculty	Total Responded	Total Invited	Response Rate (%)
Arts	329	1,279	25.9
Business and Economics	366	1,816	20.2
Creative Arts and Industries	150	636	23.6
Education and Social Work	234	816	28.7
Engineering	323	1,228	26.3
Law	109	439	24.8
Medical and Health Sciences	535	2,261	23.7
Science	633	2,400	26.4
Other	188	461	40.8
Total	2,867	11,327	25.3%

Table 2: GDS 2024 Response rate by programme level

Programme Level	Total Responded	Total Invited	Response Rate (%)
Undergraduate	1,451	6,126	23.7
Postgraduate	1,222	4,722	25.9
Doctorate	194	479	40.5
Total	2,867	11,327	25.3%

Employment

In 2024, the employment rate of GDS respondents declined by 2 percentage points to 94%, (2017 – 2023: 95 to 96%).

The employment rate in GDS 2024 has dropped to 93% for respondents with an undergraduate-level degree (2023: 94%) and has dropped to 95% for respondents with a postgraduate-level degree (2023: 98%).

The median salary reported by the 2024 GDS respondents is identical to those reported between 2021 to 2023 (NZD 60,000 - 69,999 level), compared to that of NZD 50,000 - 60,000 in the 2017 and 2019 surveys.

25%

Response rate

63%

Female respondents

34%

Male respondents

1%

Gender Diverse respondents

94%

Full-/part-time employment rate

Table 3: GDS 2024 Employment rate by faculty and programme level (Doctoral graduates were included since 2021)

Faculty	Programme Level	Employment Rate				
		2024	2023	2022	2021	2019
Arts	Doctorate			94%	100%	
	Postgraduate	95%	98%	92%	94%	95%
	Undergraduate	89%	88%	94%	89%	91%
Arts Total		92%	92%	93%	91%	93%
Bioengineering Institute	Doctorate			100%	100%	
Bioengineering Institute Total				100%	100%	
Business and Economics	Doctorate			90%	94%	
	Postgraduate	98%	95%	100%	99%	94%
	Undergraduate	89%	95%	96%	97%	97%
Business and Economics Total		92%	95%	97%	97%	96%
Creative Arts and Industries	Doctorate	100%		100%	100%	
	Postgraduate	81%	95%	96%	95%	94%
	Undergraduate	87%	92%	94%	97%	97%
Creative Arts and Industries Total		84%	94%	95%	96%	95%
Education and Social Work	Doctorate	100%	100%	95%	97%	
	Postgraduate	98%	98%	99%	99%	99%
	Undergraduate	98%	97%	99%	100%	97%
Education and Social Work Total		98%	98%	99%	99%	98%
Engineering	Doctorate			92%	100%	
	Postgraduate	90%	98%	93%	97%	94%
	Undergraduate	99%	98%	97%	99%	99%
Engineering Total		96%	98%	96%	98%	97%
Law	Doctorate				100%	
	Postgraduate	89%	93%	91%	100%	94%
	Undergraduate	95%	99%	99%	97%	97%
Law Total		94%	98%	98%	98%	97%
Liggins Institute	Doctorate				100%	
Liggins Institute Total					100%	
Medical and Health Sciences	Doctorate	100%	100%	97%	94%	
	Postgraduate	98%	100%	99%	99%	98%
	Undergraduate	98%	100%	99%	99%	98%
Medical and Health Sciences Total		98%	100%	99%	99%	98%
Science	Doctorate	100%	100%	97%	97%	
	Postgraduate	91%	95%	93%	92%	96%
	Undergraduate	88%	90%	94%	93%	89%
Science Total		98%	92%	94%	93%	92%
University Of Auckland	Doctorate	96%	97%			
	Postgraduate			100%	0%	50%
University Of Auckland Total		96%	97%	100%	0%	50%
Grand Total		94%	96%	97%	97%	96%

Further Study

Among the 2024 respondents, 21% were undertaking further study at the time of the survey (2017 - 2023: 20 to 24%). Among these graduates, more than 71% were doing non-doctoral postgraduate courses (2023: 64%) and 13% doctoral degrees (2023: 16%). Furthermore, 70% of respondents who continued to study have re-enrolled with the University of Auckland (2023: 65%). 'To improve my career options' (36%; 2023: 32%) and 'enhance my knowledge in my specialist field' (20%; 2023: 24%) remained the most popular main reasons for taking up further study.

Programme Satisfaction and University Experience

Among our 2024 respondents, the vast majority considered their programmes of study at the University of Auckland had contributed to their personal development (91%; 2023: 92%), gave them a broad overview of their subject area field (90%; 2023: 90%), was worthwhile (88%; 2023: 89%), was making a positive contribution to society (83%; 2023: 83%), and helped them develop skills that are useful in the workplace (78%; 2023: 76%).

Respondents also indicated their programmes helped them develop skills in finding information and using it effectively (93%; 2023: 91%), problem-solving (89%; 2023: 88%), written communication (90%; 2023: 88%), spoken communication (77%; 2023: 76%), and working with others (79%; 2023: 78%).

Across all programme levels 87% of respondents (2023: 85%) said their education at the University of Auckland helped develop skills in research and data analysis (Undergraduate: 83%, Postgraduate: 89%, Doctoral: 96%), and 73% (2023: 74%) were satisfied with the supervision they received (Undergraduate: 64%, Postgraduate: 81%, Doctorate: 89%).

\$60-70k

Median salary

21%

Further study

88%

Rated their programmes worthwhile

78%

Satisfied with programme quality

Doctoral graduates' feedback

Since 2021, the GDS was expanded to include our doctoral graduates with questions specifically designed to understand this cohort. Within one year of completing their doctorate degree, 93% of GDS 2024 respondents were working full-time or part-time (2023: 94%). Among those in the workforce, 75% (2022: 65%) at the time of the survey were already either working in an academic position (36%; 2023: 27%), a post-doctoral fellowship or scholarship (20%; 2023: 21%), or in paid employment related to their doctorate (19%; 2023: 21%).

Table 4: GDS 2024 Doctoral destinations

Description of Position	Doctoral Graduate #	Proportion
Academic career pathway	70	35.9%
Post-doctoral position (fellowship or scholarship)	12	6.2%
Other paid employment related to doctorate	36	18.6%
Other paid employment unrelated to doctorate	28	14.3%
Government Official	12	6.2%
Other	10	5.0%
Total	168	