



UNIVERSITY OF  
AUCKLAND  
Waipapa Taumata Rau  
NEW ZEALAND

# Graduate Destination Survey 2023

Life After  
Graduation  
2023



## 2023 Graduate Destination Survey Findings

Waipapa Taumata Rau, the University of Auckland's fifth Graduate Destination Survey (GDS) was launched on the 3rd of November 2023, and continues to operate annually. Graduates who completed their qualifications between March 2022 and February 2023 were invited to participate in the survey. An overall response rate of 24% (2022: 22%, 2021: 24%, 2019: 25%, 2017: 22%) was achieved.

Table 1: GDS 2023 Response rate by faculty

Faculty	Total Responded	Total Invited	Response Rate
Arts	311	1,193	26.1%
Business and Economics	336	1,765	19.0%
Creative Arts and Industries	136	567	24.0%
Education and Social Work	257	926	27.8%
Engineering	276	1,067	25.9%
Law	93	428	21.7%
Medical and Health Sciences	468	2,219	21.1%
Science	635	2,465	25.8%
Other	198	506	39.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>11,136</b>	<b>24.3%</b>

Table 2: GDS 2023 Response rate by programme level

Programme Level	Total Responded	Total Invited	Response Rate
Undergraduate	1,396	6,007	23.2%
Postgraduate	1,111	4,601	24.1%
Doctorate	203	528	38.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>11,136</b>	<b>24.3%</b>

## Employment

In 2023, the employment rate of GDS respondents remained high and in line with previous year's 96% (2022: 97%, 2021: 97%, 2019: 96%, 2017: 95%).

The employment rate in GDS 2023 has dropped to 94% for respondents with an undergraduate-level degree (2022: 96%), whereas the employment rate for respondents with a postgraduate-level degree increases to 98% (2022: 97%).

The median salary reported by the 2023 GDS respondents is identical to those reported in 2022 & 2021 (NZD 60,000 - 69,999 level), compared to that of NZD 50,000 - 60,000 in the 2019 and 2017 surveys.

24%

Response rate

64%

Female respondents

35%

Male respondents

1%

Gender Diverse respondents

96%

Full-/part-time employment rate

Table 3: GDS 2023 Employment rate by faculty and programme level (Doctoral graduates were included since 2021)

Faculty	Programme Level	Employment Rate				
		2023	2022	2021	2019	2017
<b>Arts</b>	Doctorate		94%	100%		
	Postgraduate	98%	92%	94%	95%	96%
	Undergraduate	88%	94%	89%	91%	89%
<b>Arts Total</b>		<b>92%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Bioengineering Institute</b>	Doctorate		100%	100%		
<b>Bioengineering Institute Total</b>			<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		
<b>Business and Economics</b>	Doctorate		90%	94%		
	Postgraduate	95%	100%	99%	94%	99%
	Undergraduate	95%	96%	97%	97%	94%
<b>Business and Economics Total</b>		<b>95%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Creative Arts and Industries</b>	Doctorate		100%	100%		
	Postgraduate	95%	96%	95%	94%	95%
	Undergraduate	92%	94%	97%	97%	88%
<b>Creative Arts and Industries Total</b>		<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Education and Social Work</b>	Doctorate	100%	95%	97%		
	Postgraduate	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%
	Undergraduate	97%	99%	100%	97%	96%
<b>Education and Social Work Total</b>		<b>98%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	Doctorate		92%	100%		
	Postgraduate	98%	93%	97%	94%	94%
	Undergraduate	98%	97%	99%	99%	98%
<b>Engineering Total</b>		<b>98%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Law</b>	Doctorate			100%		
	Postgraduate	93%	91%	100%	94%	100%
	Undergraduate	99%	99%	97%	97%	98%
<b>Law Total</b>		<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Liggins Institute</b>	Doctorate			100%		
<b>Liggins Institute Total</b>				<b>100%</b>		
<b>Medical and Health Sciences</b>	Doctorate	100%	97%	94%		
	Postgraduate	100%	99%	99%	98%	96%
	Undergraduate	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%
<b>Medical and Health Sciences Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Science</b>	Doctorate	100%	97%	97%		
	Postgraduate	95%	93%	92%	96%	92%
	Undergraduate	90%	94%	93%	89%	92%
<b>Science Total</b>		<b>92%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>University Of Auckland</b>	Doctorate	97%				
	Postgraduate		100%	0%	50%	
<b>University Of Auckland Total</b>		<b>97%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>50%</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>

## Further Study

Among the 2023 respondents, 20% were undertaking further study at the time of the survey (2022: 21%, 2021: 21%, 2019: 24%, 2017: 24%). Among these graduates, more than 64% were doing non-doctoral postgraduate courses (2022: 65%) and 16% doctoral degrees (2022: 19%). Furthermore, 65% of respondents who continued to study have re-enrolled with the University of Auckland (2022: 72%). 'To improve my career options' (32%; 2022: 38%) and 'enhance my knowledge in my specialist field' (24%; 2022: 24%) remained the most popular main reasons for taking up further study.

## Programme Satisfaction and University Experience

Among our 2023 respondents, the vast majority considered their programmes of study at the University of Auckland had contributed to their personal development (92%; 2022: 92%), gave them a broad overview of their subject area field (90%; 2022: 90%), was worthwhile (89%; 2022: 89%), was making a positive contribution to society (83%; 2022: 83%), and helped them develop skills that are useful in the workplace (76%; 2022: 77%).

Respondents also indicated their programmes helped them develop skills in finding information and using it effectively (91%; 2022: 89%), problem-solving (88%; 2022: 86%), written communication (88%; 2022: 89%), spoken communication (76%; 2022: 76%), and working with others (78%; 2022: 77%).

Across all programme levels 85% of respondents (2022: 90%) said their education at the University of Auckland helped develop skills in research and data analysis (Undergraduate: 82%, Postgraduate: 86%, Doctoral: 98%), and 74% (2022: 78%) were satisfied with the supervision they received (Undergraduate: 65%, Postgraduate: 81%, Doctorate: 88%).

**\$60-70k**

Median salary

**20%**

Further study

**89%**

Rated their programmes worthwhile

**77%**

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 2023 respondents were working full-time or part-time (2022: 90%). Among those in the workforce, 70% (2022: 65%) at the time of the survey were already either working in an academic position (27%; 2022: 21%), a post-doctoral fellowship or scholarship (21%; 2022: 22%), or in paid employment related to their doctorate (21%; 2022: 22%).

Table 4: GDS 2023 Doctoral destinations

Description of Position	Doctoral Graduate #	Proportion
Academic career pathway	66	27%
Post-doctoral position (fellowship or scholarship)	52	21%
Other paid employment related to doctorate	51	21%
Other paid employment unrelated to doctorate	40	17%
Government Official	21	9%
Other	12	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	