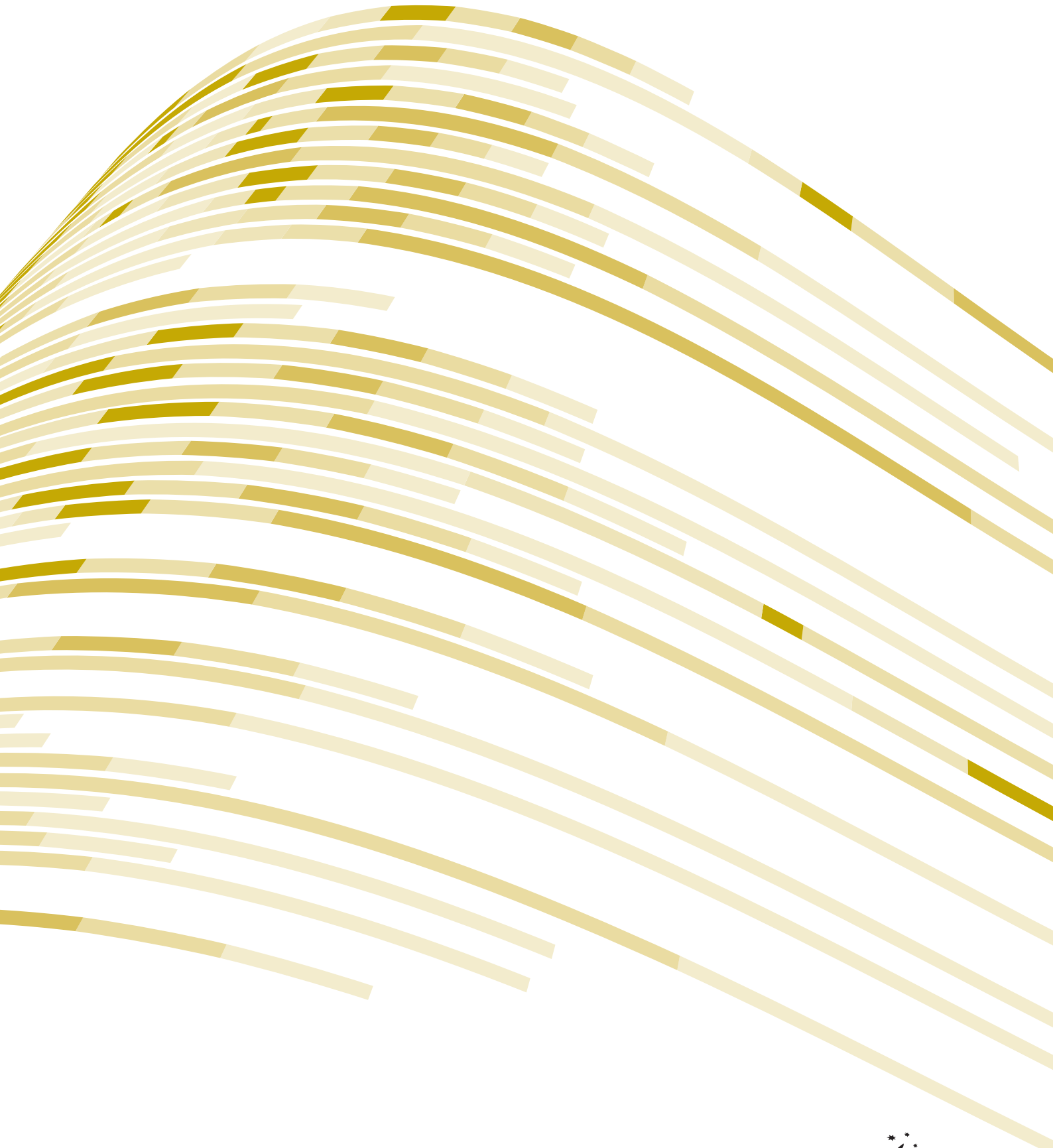


**POSTGRADUATE DESTINATIONS 2010**  
A report on the work and study outcomes of postgraduates





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## Postgraduate Destinations 2010

A REPORT ON THE WORK AND STUDY OUTCOMES OF POSTGRADUATES



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Graeme Bryant (Senior Research Associate, Graduate Careers Australia) was the principal author of this report. Dr Noel Edge (Executive Director, Graduate Careers Australia) is the project director of the Australian Graduate Survey.

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Postgraduate Destinations 2010*, the 18th edition of the annual report published by Graduate Careers Australia (GCA). This series of reports (in a new condensed format for 2010) examines the work and study activities of Australian citizens and permanent residents who have fulfilled the requirements for a postgraduate award from an Australian institution of higher education. The information presented complements the data and discussion in the GCA publication, *Graduate Destinations 2010* (GCA 2011a) which reports on the activities of recent bachelor degree graduates from Australian institutions of higher education.

Throughout this report, the five main postgraduate award levels for which data are collected in the Graduate Destination Survey (GDS - postgraduate diploma, graduate certificate, coursework masters, research masters and PhD) have been aggregated into the following three levels of qualification/award:

- Postgraduate diplomas and graduate certificates
- Coursework masters degrees
- Research masters degrees and PhDs.

Previous experience suggests that graduates from these three groupings of postgraduate levels have differing and distinct employment histories before, during and after completion of their award which makes aggregated comparisons of their post-graduation activities useful. For the purposes of further comparison, a fourth level of award (bachelor degree) is included in some tables. This group has been formed by aggregating the GDS responses from individuals who have completed honours bachelor degrees, graduate entry bachelor degrees, pass bachelor degrees and three-year undergraduate diplomas.

Our new condensed format is less text-heavy and retains only the most popular and relevant tables and figures from the original. The full gamut of tables and figures from previous editions of the Postgraduate

Destinations reports for 2010 are available for download in Microsoft Excel format from the Graduate Careers Australia website at [www.graduatecareers.com.au/Research/ResearchReports/PostgraduateDestinations](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/Research/ResearchReports/PostgraduateDestinations). A number of these tables and figures are discussed but not presented in this report. These supplementary tables and figures have been labelled accordingly within this report, and contain hyperlinks to the corresponding web page containing these tables and figures. A supplementary report to Postgraduate Destinations 2010 is also available from [www.graduatecareers.com.au/Research/ResearchReports/PostgraduateDestinations](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/Research/ResearchReports/PostgraduateDestinations) and this will include methodological information and a description of the AGS survey population, response rates and data.

Reporting data by the three postgraduate award levels used in this report can sometimes generate results based on a small number of cases, particularly when examining outcomes for separate fields of education. In general, small numbers have been retained in tables in this report as these may be the only figures of this kind available for particular fields. However, it is important to treat such figures with caution and to avoid drawing rigid conclusions from, or making inappropriate comparisons between, figures which are based on very few cases (GCA 2010). This report does not discuss aggregated data where the number of respondents within an aggregation is fewer than 10. Furthermore, no data on salaries have been provided in tables where there were fewer than 10 valid responses for a particular salary figure.

## 1.0

POSTGRADUATE OUTCOMES  
BY LEVEL OF AWARD

While considerable variation can be found between the post-graduation outcomes of bachelor graduates and postgraduates, variations also exist within the levels of postgraduate award.

Coursework masters graduates were the most likely group to be available<sup>1</sup> for full-time employment (80.7 per cent, marginally down from 81.0 per cent in 2009) (GCA 2010a), followed by research masters/PhD graduates (75.4 per cent, up from 74.2 per cent in 2009) and postgraduate diploma/certificate

graduates (70.8 per cent, down from 72.4 in 2009) (see Table 1).

At the research masters level only 55.4 per cent of graduates were available for full-time employment while 13.5 per cent of the group continued in full-time study. It is in contrast to the pattern for PhD graduates, where 79.1 per cent of graduates were available for full-time employment, with only 2.0 per cent continuing with further study. This is consistent with figures shown in previous years.

“... variations ... exist within the levels of postgraduate award.”

**t1: Activities (broad) of graduates by detailed level of award, 2010 (% , n)<sup>†</sup>**

	Available for full-time employment (see Table 2)	In full-time study	In part-time or casual employment, not seeking full-time employment	Not working, seeking part-time or casual employment	Unavailable for full-time study or full-time employment	Total <sup>‡</sup>	Total (n)
<b>Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate</b>							
Postgraduate Diploma	68.8	7.3	16.3	1.1	6.5	100	8,503
Graduate Certificate	73.2	6.5	14.9	0.6	4.8	100	6,983
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15,486</b>
<b>Coursework Masters</b>							
Coursework Masters	80.7	3.3	9.6	0.7	5.6	100	14,933
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,933</b>
<b>Research Masters/PhD</b>							
PhD	79.1	2.0	12.5	0.6	5.7	100	2,875
Research Masters	55.4	13.5	18.8	1.7	10.7	100	542
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,417</b>
<b>Postgraduate Award Totals</b>							
Total	75.6	5.0	12.8	0.8	5.8	100	
Total (n)	25,592	1,699	4,328	267	1,950		33,836
<b>Bachelor Degree Totals</b>							
Total	64.7	19.0	10.1	0.6	5.6	100	
Total (n)	42,081	12,360	6,555	407	3,642		65,045

<sup>†</sup> Graduates from associate diploma and certificate level awards are not included in this table

<sup>‡</sup> Percentages might not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

<sup>1</sup> That is, in or wanting to be in full-time employment.

In 2010, as in previous years, postgraduates were more likely to be available for full-time employment (75.6 per cent in total) than bachelor degree graduates (64.7 per cent). This appears to be, in part, attributable to a higher proportion of bachelor degree graduates pursuing further full-time study (19.0 per cent) than postgraduate (5.0 per cent) as demonstrated in Table 1.

Overall, bachelor degree graduates were almost four times more likely than postgraduates to continue in full-time study, but this gap is not surprising. It is likely that a sizeable proportion of bachelor degree graduates continued in further full-time study after graduation in order to enhance their prospects of employment or to gain necessary professional accreditation.

Of postgraduates available for full-time employment, a large majority within each level of award were working full-time at the time of the survey (see Table 2). For postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates, this figure was 88.3 per cent (0.8 of a percentage point down from 89.1 per cent in the 2009 report - GCA 2010a), 84.7 per cent of coursework masters graduates (86.1 per cent in 2009) and 84.9 per cent of research masters/PhD graduates (down from 85.5 per cent in 2009).

In 2010, coursework masters (whether unemployed or working part time) were most likely to have been seeking full-time work (15.3 per cent) followed by research masters/PhD graduates (15.1 per cent) and postgraduate diploma/certificate respondents (11.7 per cent).

Of postgraduates available for full-time employment, 86.3 per cent had found full-time work at the time of the GDS (see Table 2). This figure was 87.4 per cent in 2009 (GCA 2010a) and 76.2 per cent for bachelor degree graduates.

The figures for both bachelor degree graduates and postgraduates are lower than the same figures reported in 2009 (GCA 2010a) but have fallen more for bachelors than for postgraduates.

Overall, only 13.7 per cent of postgraduates available for full-time work were still seeking a full-time position, compared with 23.8 per cent of bachelor degree graduates.

Of graduates available for full-time work, smaller proportions of postgraduates than

**t2: Activities of graduates available for full-time employment, by detailed level of award, 2010 (% , n)<sup>†</sup>**

	In full-time employment	Not working, seeking full-time employment	Working part-time or casual, seeking full-time employment	Total seeking full-time employment	Total available for full-time employment <sup>†</sup>	Total available for full-time employment (n)
<b>Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate</b>						
Postgraduate Diploma	83.6	5.3	11.1	16.4	100	5,849
Graduate Certificate	93.8	3.0	3.2	6.2	100	5,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,960</b>
<b>Coursework Masters</b>						
Coursework Masters	84.7	7.4	7.8	15.3	100	12,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,057</b>
<b>Research Masters/PhD</b>						
PhD	85.6	5.3	9.1	14.4	100	2,275
Research Masters	79.7	10.7	9.7	20.3	100	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,575</b>
<b>Postgraduate Award Totals</b>						
Total %	86.3	5.9	7.8	13.7	100	
Total Number	22,083	1,515	1,994	3,509		25,592
<b>Bachelor Degree Totals</b>						
Total %	76.2	8.6	15.1	23.8	100	
Total Number	32,084	3,627	6,370	9,997		42,081

<sup>†</sup> Graduates from associate diploma and certificate level awards are not included in this table

<sup>‡</sup> Percentages might not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding



bachelor degree graduates were either not working and seeking full-time work (5.9 per cent compared with 8.6 per cent) or were working in a part-time or casual position and seeking full-time work (7.8 per cent compared with 15.1 per cent).

Postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates were most likely to be in full-time study (6.9 per cent), followed by research masters/PhD graduates with 3.8 per cent and coursework masters at 3.3 per cent). The research masters/PhD figure is skewed however by the far smaller continuing study figure for PhD graduates (2.0 per cent) as opposed to 13.5 per cent for research masters graduates (see Table 1).

Of this small group of PhD graduates who continued to study full time, 23.5 per cent

commenced a bachelor degree while 39.2 per cent commenced another PhD or higher doctorate (see Table 3). In terms of research masters graduates, 76.4 per cent of those who continued in full-time study started a PhD (as did 30.7 per cent of coursework masters graduates). An additional 32.0 per cent of coursework masters graduates started another coursework masters degree.

The proportion of females available for full-time employment in 2010 was notably less than the corresponding proportion for males at all postgraduate levels. The differences ranged between 15.8 percentage points (postgraduate diploma/certificate level) and 11.6 percentage points (coursework masters level (see supplementary Table D1 in *Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and*

*Figures*). This disparity was mirrored in the considerably higher proportion of females compared to males working part-time and not looking for full-time work, as well as higher proportions of females either not available for full-time work or study, or not working and seeking only part-time or casual employment.

In 2010:

- The proportion of males postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates available for, and in full-time employment, was almost three percentage points higher than the equivalent figure for females (90.1 per cent compared with 87.3 per cent, (see *supplementary Table D2 in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).
- For coursework masters graduates the difference was slightly lower at 2.0

**t3: Level of further study, if in full-time study, by detailed level of award, 2010 (% , n)**

Level of Postgraduate Award	Level of further full-time study							Total‡	Total (n) <sup>†</sup>
	Bachelor Degree	Undergraduate, other	Graduate Certificate	Postgraduate Diploma	Coursework Masters	Research Masters	PhD		
Graduate Certificate	13.2	2.9	3.1	19.0	40.5	3.6	17.7	100	447
Postgraduate Diploma	16.6	2.7	1.2	17.3	48.3	6.6	7.3	100	602
Coursework Masters	11.1	4.7	2.8	10.7	32.0	8.1	30.7	100	469
Research Masters	6.9	0.0	0.0	4.2	6.9	5.6	76.4	100	72
PhD	23.5	5.9	3.9	9.8	13.7	3.9	39.2	100	51
<b>Postgraduate Total</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,641</b>

<sup>†</sup> The total number of graduates in this table may not match those in other areas of this report due to non-response to particular questions on the AGS

<sup>‡</sup> Percentages might not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

percentage points between males (85.8 per cent) and females (83.8 per cent).

- With research masters/PhD graduates this trend was reversed with the proportion of female graduates in full-time employment marginally higher than that for males (85.0 per cent compared with 84.7 per cent).

Table 4, exploring employment characteristics by level of award and sex, shows that postgraduates, as well as being

more likely than bachelor degree graduates to be in full-time employment at the time of the GDS, were more likely to be in permanent or long-term employment (84.8 per cent compared with 69.6 per cent for bachelor degree graduates).

A substantial but unsurprising difference between postgraduate and bachelor degree graduates in the proportion working in their first full-time position was also revealed. More than one-fifth of postgraduates

employed full time were in their first full-time position (22.5 per cent) compared with 59.3 per cent of bachelor degree graduates.

This is indicative of the different ages and employment histories of the two groups of respondents. (Typically, bachelor degree graduates also tend to be younger and less likely to have had previous full-time employment – see *supplementary Table M in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).

**t4: Employment characteristics of graduates in full-time employment, by level of award and sex, 2010**

	If available for full-time employment: % in full-time employment at time of GDS	If working full-time: % in first full-time employment	If working full-time: % in permanent or long-term employment*	If working full-time: % employed overseas
<b>Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate</b>				
Males	90.1	17.6	88.2	2.3
Females	87.3	22.8	80.9	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Coursework Masters</b>				
Males	85.8	20.2	90.8	4.6
Females	83.8	24.3	84.3	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Research Masters/PhD</b>				
Males	84.7	32.5	81.4	11.1
Females	85.0	28.7	73.5	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Postgraduate Total</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Bachelor Total</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\* Includes permanent or open-ended contracts and fixed-term contracts longer than 12 months.

## 2.0

### POSTGRADUATE OUTCOMES OVER TIME

When the broad activities for all postgraduate award levels are considered together over the past ten years (2001-10, refer to *Supplementary Table E1 in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*), it can be observed that:

- The proportion of postgraduates available for full-time employment over the past decade has been generally stable in the range 75-79 per cent.
- For the period covered, the proportion of postgraduates continuing in full-time study reached a high point of 8.0 per cent in 2003 and has shown a gradual decline since then, reaching 5.0 in 2010.

- The proportion of postgraduates in part-time or casual employment and not seeking full-time employment has averaged 10.9 per cent over the period, but has been above that average since 2006, reaching a high point of 12.8 per cent in 2010.
- The proportion of postgraduates not working and seeking part-time work has been comparatively steady, ranging only from 0.6 per cent to 1.0 per cent.
- In 2010, the proportion of postgraduates unavailable for full-time study or any employment was 5.8 per cent, 1.3 of a percentage point higher than the average for the period.

Looking further at the postgraduates available for full-time employment over the past 10 years (see *supplementary Table E1a in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*):

- The proportion in full-time employment ranged from a high of 91.1 per cent in

“The proportion [of postgraduates] in full-time employment ranged from a high of 91.1 per cent in 2001 to a low of 86.3 per cent in 2010.”

2001 to a low of 86.3 per cent in 2010.

- The proportion of postgraduates seeking full-time employment ranged from 8.9 per cent in 2001 to 13.7 per cent in 2010.

“Postgraduates who attended their course on a part-time basis were generally more likely to be in full-time employment at the time of the GDS ...”

## 3.0

### POSTGRADUATE OUTCOMES BY FIELD OF EDUCATION

The following section looks in more detail at respondents' broad work and study activities by level of award and by aggregated field of education<sup>1</sup>.

#### POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE GRADUATES

Overall, 70.8 per cent of postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates were available for full-time employment in 2010 (see Table 5).

Availability for full-time employment varied across fields of education. While around half of the respondents from psychology, visual/performing arts and languages were available for full-time employment, they were also amongst the fields most likely to have undertaken further full-time study.

Graduates from fields in the civil engineering and mechanical engineering, and building areas were the most likely (90 per cent or more) to have been available for full-time employment.

Consistent with their low availability for full-time employment, the fields (with ten or more respondents) with the highest proportions of students continuing with full-time study were visual and performing arts, psychology, chemical engineering and chemistry (all at or above 20 per cent).

At the time of the GDS, 88.3 per cent of postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates available for full-time employment were employed in full-time positions, with 11.7 per cent still seeking full-time employment (see Table 5a).

Of all postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates available for full-time employment (with ten or more respondents), more than 95 per cent of graduates from civil engineering, electrical engineering, mining engineering, 'other engineering', dentistry, health – other, nursing – post, pharmacy and medicine were in full-time employment.

At the other end of the scale, those from the field of visual/performing arts were notably more likely to be seeking full-time employment (with 33.3 per cent) compared with the next closest, electronic / computing engineering (27.3 per cent), social science (22.2 per cent), and languages (21.7 per cent - see Table 5).

#### COURSEWORK MASTERS GRADUATES

Looking at the broad work and study activities of coursework masters degree graduates (see Table 6), 80.7 per cent of graduates were available for full-time employment. Fields with the highest percentages available for full-time employment included mining engineering (100.0 per cent), mechanical engineering, aeronautical engineering and electrical engineering (all over 90 per cent). Fewer than two-thirds of visual/performing arts, languages, nursing – post and mathematics were available for full-time employment.

<sup>1</sup> Within Tables 5, 5a, 6, 6a, 7 and 7a, there are several fields of education included with fewer than ten respondents (those shaded). In such cases, caution must be exercised when interpreting the associated figures. These data are retained here as they are the only data of their kind available. However, for the reasons outlined in the introductory section of this

report, the discussion that follows does not include small fields such as these. It also avoids year to year comparisons where the number of cases in a particular field was fewer than ten in the previous year.

Looking at the proportions of coursework masters degree graduates continuing with further full-time study, responses ranged from that for mining, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, nursing-post and physical sciences where no respondents reported undertaking further studies to mathematics and veterinary science where at least ten per cent of graduates were continuing their studies on a full-time basis.

Table 6a shows that, overall, 15.3 per cent of coursework masters graduates available for full-time employment were still seeking full-time employment at the time of the GDS. This overall total comprises 7.4 per cent not working and roughly the same proportion (7.8 per cent) in part-time or casual work while seeking a full-time position.

Over 30 per cent of coursework masters graduates from accounting and electronic / computing engineering were still seeking full-time employment at the time of the survey, as were over 20 per cent of graduates from architecture, languages, visual and performing arts, aeronautical engineering, mathematics, and geology.

Over 95 per cent of coursework masters graduates from nursing – basic, pharmacy and physical sciences were in full-time employment.

#### RESEARCH MASTERS AND PHD GRADUATES

At the research masters degree and PhD graduate level, 75.4 per cent of research masters/PhD graduates were available for full-time employment at the time of the

survey. This included over 90 per cent for the fields of accounting, mechanical engineering, mathematics and physical sciences (see Table 7).

Overall, 3.8 per cent of graduates from research masters/PhD courses were continuing in further full-time study. As noted previously, a higher proportion of research masters graduates continued with further full-time study compared to PhD graduates (13.5 per cent and 2.0 per cent respectively – see Table 1). This can have the tendency to influence the combined figures shown in Table 7.

On a broad level, 84.9 per cent of research masters/PhD graduates available for full-time employment were in a full-time position at the time of the GDS. All graduates from veterinary science and dentistry were in full-time employment, with 95 per cent and over of respondents from social work, education – post, and rehabilitation also in full-time employment (see Table 7a).

Over 25 per cent of graduates from the fields of humanities, visual and performing arts, social science, and pharmacy were seeking full-time employment at the time of the survey.

#### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Postgraduates who attended their course on a part-time basis were generally more likely to be in full-time employment at the time of the GDS than postgraduates who had attended their course on a full-time basis, across all levels of award (see

*supplementary Table F in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).

This has been the case in every year since this table was first included in 2003, suggesting that this figure is influenced by part-time students already engaged in full-time employment throughout the course of their studies, many of whom would have continued with this employment after graduation.

It should be noted that while the difference in the rate of full-time employment for part-time and full-time attendees was clear at the overall award level, there was considerable variation in the figures at an aggregated field of education level. This variation should be treated with caution as some of the breakdowns contain relatively small numbers of respondents and consequently are subject to fluctuation. This is particularly the case for engineering specialisations, where the circumstances of a handful of graduates may have a substantial impact on the figures for that field from year to year. The figures at the total award levels however, are relatively stable and have been similar every year since this table was first included in *Postgraduate Destinations*, in 2003.

**t5: Activities (broad) of postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)**

	Available for full-time employment (see Table 5a)	In full-time study	In part-time or casual employment, not seeking full-time employment	Not working, seeking part-time or casual employment	Unavailable for full-time study or full-time employment	Total †	Total (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>							
Agriculture	76.2	3.0	16.8	0.0	4.0	100	101
<b>Architecture</b>							
Architecture	72.7	4.5	13.6	0.0	9.1	100	22
Building	90.9	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	33
Urban/Regional Planning	78.1	6.2	9.6	0.7	5.5	100	146
<b>Humanities, Social Sciences</b>							
Humanities	64.5	7.8	15.9	1.7	10.0	100	1,161
Languages	50.8	15.3	20.3	0.8	12.7	100	118
Visual/Performing Arts	49.7	20.6	20.1	2.0	7.5	100	199
Social Science	55.4	12.3	10.8	3.1	18.5	100	65
Psychology	49.4	23.6	16.8	1.0	9.3	100	721
Social Work	64.8	3.7	24.1	1.8	5.7	100	457
<b>Business Studies</b>							
Business Studies	81.9	9.1	4.7	0.3	4.0	100	2,199
Accounting	81.7	4.3	7.1	0.6	6.2	100	322
Economics	77.1	14.3	0.0	0.0	8.6	100	35
<b>Education</b>							
Education - initial	70.0	4.6	18.0	1.4	6.0	100	3,771
Education - post/other	65.5	5.0	22.1	1.1	6.3	100	542
<b>Engineering</b>							
Aeronautical	83.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	100	6
Chemical	80.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	10
Civil	91.2	7.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	100	57
Electrical	83.3	10.0	3.3	0.0	3.3	100	30
Electronic/Computing	78.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	100	14
Mechanical	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	12
Mining	89.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	7.1	100	28
Other Engineering	88.2	5.6	1.9	0.0	4.3	100	161
Surveying	68.2	13.6	2.3	0.0	15.9	100	44
<b>Health</b>							
Dentistry	64.1	2.6	15.4	0.0	17.9	100	39
Health - other	78.2	5.3	12.2	0.3	4.0	100	1,193
Nursing - basic	65.5	3.8	27.5	0.0	3.2	100	316
Nursing - post	56.9	2.8	37.0	0.5	2.8	100	1,305
Pharmacy	65.5	17.2	10.3	0.0	6.9	100	58
Medicine	75.9	2.4	19.9	0.6	1.2	100	166
Rehabilitation	69.0	8.3	20.0	0.0	2.8	100	145
<b>Law</b>							
Law	79.0	5.5	5.7	0.3	9.5	100	348
Law - other	83.1	4.9	6.5	0.8	4.8	100	775
<b>Science</b>							
Computer Science	82.8	4.7	7.4	0.8	4.3	100	256
Life Sciences	65.1	10.3	18.1	0.7	5.8	100	447
Mathematics	69.8	10.5	15.1	0.0	4.7	100	86
Chemistry	66.7	20.0	13.3	0.0	0.0	100	15
Physical Sciences	83.3	2.8	5.6	2.8	5.6	100	36
Geology	84.2	7.9	5.3	0.0	2.6	100	38
Veterinary Science	55.6	22.2	11.1	0.0	11.1	100	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>10,960</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>886</b>		<b>15,486</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

† Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

t5a: Activities of postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates available for full-time employment, by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)

	In full-time employment	Not working, seeking full-time employment	Working part-time or casual, seeking full-time employment	Total seeking full-time employment	Total available for full-time employment <sup>†</sup>	Total available for full-time employment (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>						
Agriculture	88.3	2.6	9.1	11.7	100	77
<b>Architecture</b>						
Architecture	87.5	0.0	12.5	12.5	100	16
Building	93.3	6.7	0.0	6.7	100	30
Urban/Regional Planning	93.0	5.3	1.8	7.0	100	114
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</b>						
Humanities	83.3	6.4	10.3	16.7	100	749
Languages	78.3	5.0	16.7	21.7	100	60
Visual/Performing Arts	66.7	12.1	21.2	33.3	100	99
Social Science	77.8	11.1	11.1	22.2	100	36
Psychology	81.7	4.8	13.5	18.3	100	356
Social Work	87.8	5.1	7.1	12.2	100	296
<b>Business Studies</b>						
Business Studies	94.1	3.1	2.8	5.9	100	1,800
Accounting	89.4	6.8	3.8	10.6	100	263
Economics	85.2	11.1	3.7	14.8	100	27
<b>Education</b>						
Education - initial	80.0	5.4	14.6	20.0	100	2,641
Education - post	87.9	3.7	8.5	12.1	100	355
<b>Engineering</b>						
Aeronautical	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	5
Chemical	75.0	12.5	12.5	25.0	100	8
Civil	96.2	1.9	1.9	3.8	100	52
Electrical	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	25
Electronic/Computing	72.7	18.2	9.1	27.3	100	11
Mechanical	83.3	8.3	8.3	16.7	100	12
Mining	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	25
Other Engineering	97.9	1.4	0.7	2.1	100	142
Surveying	93.3	3.3	3.3	6.7	100	30
<b>Health</b>						
Dentistry	96.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	100	25
Health - other	95.7	1.6	2.7	4.3	100	933
Nursing - basic	94.7	1.4	3.9	5.3	100	207
Nursing - post	97.8	0.3	1.9	2.2	100	743
Pharmacy	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	38
Medicine	95.2	2.4	2.4	4.8	100	126
Rehabilitation	91.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	100	100
<b>Law</b>						
Law	89.5	5.5	5.1	10.5	100	275
Law - other	91.0	4.7	4.3	9.0	100	644
<b>Science</b>						
Computer Science	89.6	5.7	4.7	10.4	100	212
Life Sciences	85.6	4.8	9.6	14.4	100	291
Mathematics	88.3	8.3	3.3	11.7	100	60
Chemistry	80.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	100	10
Physical Sciences	90.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	100	30
Geology	84.4	9.4	6.3	15.6	100	32
Veterinary Science	60.0	40.0	0.0	40.0	100	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>9,683</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>1,277</b>		<b>10,960</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

<sup>†</sup> Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

**t6: Activities (broad) of coursework masters graduates by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)**

	Available for full-time employment (see Table 6a)	In full-time study	In part-time or casual employment, not seeking full-time employment	Not working, seeking part-time or casual employment	Unavailable for full-time study or full-time employment	Total †	Total (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>							
Agriculture	80.3	5.3	7.6	1.5	5.3	100	132
<b>Architecture</b>							
Architecture	87.3	2.0	5.0	0.7	5.0	100	457
Building	82.0	2.0	6.0	0.0	10.0	100	50
Urban/Regional Planning	87.7	0.7	7.5	0.0	4.1	100	146
<b>Humanities, Social Sciences</b>							
Humanities	72.6	6.8	11.5	1.1	8.0	100	1,198
Languages	63.0	7.6	20.2	0.8	8.4	100	119
Visual/Performing Arts	56.1	5.8	24.1	2.2	11.9	100	278
Social Science	73.9	5.8	8.7	0.0	11.6	100	69
Psychology	72.9	3.7	17.7	0.7	4.9	100	406
Social Work	70.4	2.0	22.6	0.6	4.3	100	345
<b>Business Studies</b>							
Business Studies	89.0	1.9	3.8	0.4	4.9	100	3,804
Accounting	84.1	3.0	5.4	0.3	7.2	100	1,120
Economics	85.1	5.3	2.1	1.1	6.4	100	94
<b>Education</b>							
Education - initial	74.8	2.8	14.3	1.7	6.4	100	1,976
Education - post	74.4	3.2	15.5	0.7	6.2	100	406
<b>Engineering</b>							
Aeronautical	94.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	100	18
Chemical	60.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	100	5
Civil	89.8	1.6	2.3	0.0	6.3	100	128
Electrical	91.2	3.5	0.0	0.0	5.3	100	57
Electronic/Computing	82.9	5.7	5.7	0.0	5.7	100	70
Mechanical	97.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	100	35
Mining	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	19
Other Engineering	87.0	5.3	1.4	1.0	5.3	100	207
Surveying							
<b>Health</b>							
Dentistry	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	2
Health - other	77.7	3.9	13.0	0.8	4.6	100	930
Nursing - basic	76.0	1.8	19.1	1.1	2.1	100	283
Nursing - post	65.8	0.0	31.2	0.7	2.2	100	269
Pharmacy	89.7	2.3	6.9	0.0	1.1	100	87
Medicine	78.8	4.7	11.8	1.2	3.5	100	85
Rehabilitation	79.7	2.4	13.5	0.2	4.2	100	498
<b>Law</b>							
Law	87.0	2.7	5.6	0.2	4.4	100	409
Law - other	84.4	6.8	5.3	0.0	3.4	100	263
<b>Science</b>							
Computer Science	84.8	4.9	4.0	0.5	5.8	100	553
Life Sciences	77.1	6.6	9.4	0.0	6.9	100	288
Mathematics	65.8	13.2	13.2	0.0	7.9	100	38
Chemistry	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	4
Physical Sciences	80.0	0.0	13.3	0.0	6.7	100	30
Geology	78.6	7.1	3.6	3.6	7.1	100	28
Veterinary Science	81.3	12.5	0.0	0.0	6.3	100	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>12,057</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>841</b>		<b>14,933</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

† Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding.



**t6a: Activities of coursework masters graduates available for full-time employment, by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)**

	In full-time employment	Not working, seeking full-time employment	Working part-time or casual, seeking full-time employment	Total seeking full-time employment	Total available for full-time employment <sup>†</sup>	Total available for full-time employment (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>						
Agriculture	82.1	7.5	10.4	17.9	100	106
<b>Architecture</b>						
Architecture	76.7	11.0	12.3	23.3	100	399
Building	80.5	12.2	7.3	19.5	100	41
Urban/Regional Planning	85.9	8.6	5.5	14.1	100	128
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</b>						
Humanities	84.0	8.2	7.8	16.0	100	870
Languages	70.7	13.3	16.0	29.3	100	75
Visual/Performing Arts	75.0	9.6	15.4	25.0	100	156
Social Science	82.4	5.9	11.8	17.6	100	51
Psychology	85.1	5.7	9.1	14.9	100	296
Social Work	88.5	2.5	9.1	11.5	100	243
<b>Business Studies</b>						
Business Studies	88.5	7.4	4.1	11.5	100	3,386
Accounting	68.8	16.1	15.1	31.2	100	942
Economics	85.0	11.3	3.8	15.0	100	80
<b>Education</b>						
Education - initial	80.7	3.6	15.7	19.3	100	1,479
Education - post	89.4	4.0	6.6	10.6	100	302
<b>Engineering</b>						
Aeronautical	76.5	5.9	17.6	23.5	100	17
Chemical	33.3	33.3	33.3	66.7	100	3
Civil	91.3	7.8	0.9	8.7	100	115
Electrical	84.6	11.5	3.8	15.4	100	52
Electronic/Computing	67.2	19.0	13.8	32.8	100	58
Mechanical	88.2	5.9	5.9	11.8	100	34
Mining	89.5	5.3	5.3	10.5	100	19
Other Engineering	85.0	11.7	3.3	15.0	100	180
Surveying	90.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	100	10
<b>Health</b>						
Dentistry	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	1
Health - other	89.3	4.3	6.4	10.7	100	723
Nursing - basic	95.8	1.4	2.8	4.2	100	215
Nursing - post	94.9	0.0	5.1	5.1	100	177
Pharmacy	97.4	2.6	0.0	2.6	100	78
Medicine	92.5	1.5	6.0	7.5	100	67
Rehabilitation	87.4	5.3	7.3	12.6	100	397
<b>Law</b>						
Law	93.0	5.1	2.0	7.0	100	356
Law - other	91.4	5.0	3.6	8.6	100	222
<b>Science</b>						
Computer Science	81.4	11.9	6.6	18.6	100	469
Life Sciences	83.3	10.8	5.9	16.7	100	222
Mathematics	72.0	28.0	0.0	28.0	100	25
Chemistry	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	4
Physical Sciences	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	24
Geology	72.7	13.6	13.6	27.3	100	22
Veterinary Science	84.6	15.4	0.0	15.4	100	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>10,214</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1,843</b>		<b>12,057</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

<sup>†</sup> Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding.

**t7: Activities (broad) of research masters/PhD graduates by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)**

	Available for full-time employment (see Table 7a)	In full-time study	In part-time or casual employment, not seeking full-time employment	Not working, seeking part-time or casual employment	Unavailable for full-time study or full-time employment	Total †	Total (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>							
Agriculture	76.8	3.0	10.1	1.0	9.1	100	99
<b>Architecture</b>							
Architecture	72.4	3.4	10.3	3.4	10.3	100	29
Building	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	1
Urban/Regional Planning	71.4	0.0	14.3	0.0	14.3	100	7
<b>Humanities, Social Sciences</b>							
Humanities	60.8	5.5	19.9	1.5	12.4	100	477
Languages	73.8	7.7	16.9	0.0	1.5	100	65
Visual/Performing Arts	49.2	6.9	26.5	5.3	12.2	100	189
Social Science	73.7	5.3	10.5	1.8	8.8	100	57
Psychology	69.3	3.1	23.1	0.0	4.4	100	225
Social Work	65.6	0.0	31.3	0.0	3.1	100	32
<b>Business Studies</b>							
Business Studies	87.0	3.4	7.9	0.0	1.7	100	177
Accounting	92.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	100	25
Economics	74.1	7.4	3.7	3.7	11.1	100	27
<b>Education</b>							
Education - initial	77.6	3.1	12.8	0.0	6.6	100	196
Education - post	84.1	2.3	9.1	0.0	4.5	100	44
<b>Engineering</b>							
Aeronautical	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	100	9
Chemical	81.4	7.0	9.3	0.0	2.3	100	43
Civil	77.1	12.5	2.1	0.0	8.3	100	48
Electrical	89.4	2.1	4.3	0.0	4.3	100	47
Electronic/Computing	81.5	5.6	0.0	3.7	9.3	100	54
Mechanical	92.6	0.0	3.7	0.0	3.7	100	27
Mining	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	7
Other Engineering	85.3	4.0	1.3	1.3	8.0	100	75
Surveying	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	9
<b>Health</b>							
Dentistry	75.9	6.9	13.8	0.0	3.4	100	29
Health - other	78.5	2.3	14.7	0.0	4.5	100	177
Nursing - basic	73.2	2.4	22.0	0.0	2.4	100	41
Nursing - post	72.2	0.0	16.7	0.0	11.1	100	18
Pharmacy	78.9	5.3	10.5	0.0	5.3	100	19
Medicine	79.1	5.6	10.7	0.0	4.6	100	196
Rehabilitation	66.7	1.7	26.7	0.0	5.0	100	60
<b>Law</b>							
Law	69.0	6.9	20.7	0.0	3.4	100	29
Law - other	70.6	5.9	23.5	0.0	0.0	100	17
<b>Science</b>							
Computer Science	85.7	0.0	6.7	1.0	6.7	100	105
Life Sciences	81.1	2.6	11.2	0.4	4.7	100	493
Mathematics	90.4	0.0	7.7	0.0	1.9	100	52
Chemistry	87.0	4.3	4.3	0.0	4.3	100	69
Physical Sciences	90.1	2.5	2.5	0.0	4.9	100	81
Geology	86.5	0.0	8.1	0.0	5.4	100	37
Veterinary Science	72.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	12.0	100	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>223</b>		<b>3,417</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

† Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

t7a: Activities of research masters/PhD graduates available for full-time employment, by aggregated field of education, 2010 (% , n)

	In full-time employment	Not working, seeking full-time employment	Working part-time or casual, seeking full-time employment	Total seeking full-time employment	Total available for full-time employment <sup>†</sup>	Total available for full-time employment (n)
<b>Agriculture</b>						
Agriculture	81.6	9.2	9.2	18.4	100	76
<b>Architecture</b>						
Architecture	81.0	4.8	14.3	19.0	100	21
Building	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Urban/Regional Planning	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	5
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</b>						
Humanities	69.3	10.7	20.0	30.7	100	290
Languages	83.3	0.0	16.7	16.7	100	48
Visual/Performing Arts	66.7	10.8	22.6	33.3	100	93
Social Science	59.5	16.7	23.8	40.5	100	42
Psychology	90.4	4.5	5.1	9.6	100	156
Social Work	95.2	0.0	4.8	4.8	100	21
<b>Business Studies</b>						
Business Studies	91.6	2.6	5.8	8.4	100	154
Accounting	91.3	8.7	0.0	8.7	100	23
Economics	80.0	5.0	15.0	20.0	100	20
<b>Education</b>						
Education - initial	88.8	2.0	9.2	11.2	100	152
Education - post	97.3	2.7	0.0	2.7	100	37
<b>Engineering</b>						
Aeronautical	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	8
Chemical	85.7	5.7	8.6	14.3	100	35
Civil	83.8	5.4	10.8	16.2	100	37
Electrical	78.6	11.9	9.5	21.4	100	42
Electronic/Computing	81.8	18.2	0.0	18.2	100	44
Mechanical	92.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	100	25
Mining	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	7
Other Engineering	89.1	4.7	6.3	10.9	100	64
Surveying	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	9
<b>Health</b>						
Dentistry	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	22
Health - other	94.2	2.9	2.9	5.8	100	139
Nursing - basic	93.3	6.7	0.0	6.7	100	30
Nursing - post	92.3	7.7	0.0	7.7	100	13
Pharmacy	73.3	20.0	6.7	26.7	100	15
Medicine	86.5	6.5	7.1	13.5	100	155
Rehabilitation	95.0	2.5	2.5	5.0	100	40
<b>Law</b>						
Law	80.0	5.0	15.0	20.0	100	20
Law - other	83.3	0.0	16.7	16.7	100	12
<b>Science</b>						
Computer Science	84.4	5.6	10.0	15.6	100	90
Life Sciences	87.5	4.8	7.8	12.5	100	400
Mathematics	76.6	8.5	14.9	23.4	100	47
Chemistry	86.7	3.3	10.0	13.3	100	60
Physical Sciences	93.2	6.8	0.0	6.8	100	73
Geology	87.5	3.1	9.4	12.5	100	32
Veterinary Science	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>2,575</b>

Note: Figures in shaded fields should be interpreted with caution as they are based on a group of fewer than 10 respondents.

<sup>†</sup> Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

## 4.0

POSTGRADUATE OUTCOMES  
BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR  
AND OCCUPATION

... the majority of graduates  
... are employed in a  
professional occupation ...

Looking at the proportion of postgraduates employed in the various employment sectors, we can see that over one-third of postgraduates (38.4 per cent) were employed in the private sector, with:

- just over one-quarter working in the education sector (25.8 per cent – see *Table 8*)
- 13.9 per cent were employed in the health sector
- 13.3 per cent were employed in government positions.

In contrast, 50.8 per cent of bachelor degree graduates were employed in the private sector and only 14.2 per cent were employed in the education sector.

The proportions of postgraduates employed in each sector varied substantially by award level (by up to 32.4 percentage points within the higher education sector). Postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates were most likely to be employed in the private sector

(32.4 per cent) followed closely by the education sector (28.4 per cent).

The private sector was clearly the major source of full-time employment for coursework masters graduates, accounting for 46.8 per cent of respondents in full-time employment. In contrast, the education sector was the major source of full-time employment for research masters and PhD graduates (46.1 per cent) with higher education employing 36.0 per cent and ‘other education’, 10.2 per cent.

Looking at the broad occupational categories<sup>1</sup> amongst those working full time, we see that the majority of graduates at each level of award, including bachelor degree graduates, are employed in a professional occupation (68.3 per cent) followed by managers (11.5 per cent) and clerical and administrative workers (9.2 per cent – see *supplementary Table K in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).

**t8: Employment sector of graduates, if working full time, by level of award, 2010 (% , n)**

	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate	Coursework Masters	Research Masters/PhD	Postgraduate TOTAL %	Bachelor Degree
<b>Government</b>	13.8	14.0	8.1	13.3	8.4
<b>Education ~</b>					
Higher education	4.6	3.6	36.0	7.2	1.6
Other education	23.8	15.5	10.2	18.6	12.6
Total education	28.4	19.1	46.1	25.8	14.2
<b>Health</b>	17.4	11.5	9.1	13.9	19.2
<b>Private</b>					
Private practice	7.4	11.0	4.6	8.8	12.8
Other business/ industry	25.0	35.8	21.2	29.6	38.1
<b>Total private</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>50.8</b>
<b>Other N.E.I.<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Total <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>9,683</b>	<b>10,214</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>22,083</b>	<b>32,084</b>

~ Includes government and private sector education

<sup>2</sup> Not elsewhere indicated

<sup>3</sup> Percentages may not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding

<sup>5</sup> The total number of graduates in this table may not match those in other areas of this report due to non response to particular questions on the AGS

<sup>1</sup> Occupational categories are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classifications of Occupations (ANZSCO - ABS 2006).

# 5.0

## POSTGRADUATE OUTCOMES BY STATE OR TERRITORY

While postgraduates were relatively successful in finding full-time employment, there was considerable variation in employment figures between the States and Territories where respondents had studied. Table 9 shows the proportions of postgraduates in full-time employment as a percentage of those available for full-time employment by the State or Territory in which they studied (and not necessarily the State or Territory in which they were working at the time of the survey).

South Australia had the highest proportion of postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates in full-time employment for 2010 (92.6 per cent), with Queensland showing the lowest (85.4 per cent). For coursework masters graduates in 2010, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of graduates in full-time employment (95.8 per cent) while Tasmania had the lowest (79.2 per cent). Queensland had the highest proportion of research masters/PhD graduates in full-time employment (88.9 per cent) while Tasmania had the lowest (77.2 per cent).

Across all but one level of award, both nationally and within States or Territories in 2010, higher proportions of postgraduates were in full-time employment than bachelor degree. The exception to this was research masters/PhD graduates in the Northern Territory.

Looking at the proportion of graduates employed in the same State or Territory they studied in by employment history, we see that postgraduates from the Northern Territory were the most likely of all postgraduates to be employed in the State in which they studied. This was followed by Western Australia (85.8 per cent) and Victoria (83.6 per cent). Postgraduates from the ACT were least likely to be working in their State or Territory of study (73.4 per cent) followed by graduates from Tasmania (79.7 per cent) (see *supplementary Table L in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).

“... there was considerable variation in employment figures between the States and Territories where respondents had studied.”

t9: Graduates in full-time employment as a percentage of those available for full-time work, by State or Territory of study institution and level of award, 2000–10 (%), n, [continued opposite]

	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate	Coursework Masters	Research Masters/PhD	Bachelor Degree	
Australian Capital Territory	2000	89.3	93.2	84.0	82.5
	2001	90.8	94.7	90.0	84.2
	2002	85.8	95.1	89.2	80.6
	2003	88.2	89.3	90.8	81.9
	2004	90.8	91.5	88.4	84.0
	2005	91.8	88.9	87.8	82.7
	2006	93.5	93.1	86.3	84.7
	2007	89.6	91.3	90.4	84.4
	2008	96.0	91.3	88.5	87.6
	2009	93.9	93.7	86.1	83.9
	2010	91.8	92.6	86.6	79.6
New South Wales	2000	89.0	92.1	90.0	85.8
	2001	89.8	93.0	88.4	84.5
	2002	90.3	90.4	88.0	85.0
	2003	89.3	87.9	89.1	83.0
	2004	89.8	88.1	89.3	79.2
	2005	89.1	90.3	86.8	81.3
	2006	90.4	91.3	88.3	82.3
	2007	89.7	90.5	88.9	83.7
	2008	90.3	88.2	85.9	84.0
	2009	88.5	85.7	83.8	77.4
	2010	88.9	84.5	82.0	75.4
Northern Territory	2000	91.7	100	100	84.2
	2001	87.8	95.8	87.5	84.8
	2002	94.5	93.8	75.0	86.0
	2003	92.3	87.9	80.0	84.3
	2004	78.3	88.6	93.8	83.0
	2005	82.8	87.5	100	79.3
	2006	84.4	96.0	90.0	85.1
	2007	92.1	81.0	93.8	83.7
	2008	87.1	87.1	93.3	87.1
	2009	98.0	92.5	83.3	89.0
	2010	91.3	95.8	83.3	87.1
Queensland	2000	93.8	91.4	90.2	84.4
	2001	93.9	92.1	95.1	84.0
	2002	91.5	88.8	86.9	79.7
	2003	89.8	89.7	89.4	79.1
	2004	91.1	88.0	91.3	82.4
	2005	91.6	87.9	88.4	81.9
	2006	93.1	84.7	87.1	84.2
	2007	91.0	87.7	86.7	85.7
	2008	91.9	88.6	91.2	86.4
	2009	89.1	86.4	90.7	81.0
	2010	85.4	85.3	88.9	78.0
South Australia	2000	92.3	91.2	87.7	74.1
	2001	89.9	89.1	93.1	75.2
	2002	89.3	90.4	85.2	76.4
	2003	93.4	88.5	83.6	75.6
	2004	91.5	86.2	89.1	75.1
	2005	93.5	88.4	90.5	77.6
	2006	91.6	88.6	83.6	77.8
	2007	91.6	85.8	89.4	81.6
	2008	93.6	87.3	88.4	83.0
	2009	90.9	84.7	86.7	77.9
	2010	92.6	83.0	83.1	75.9

t9: Graduates in full-time employment as a percentage of those available for full-time work, by State or Territory of study institution and level of award, 2000–10 (%), n, [continued]

	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate	Coursework Masters	Research Masters/PhD	Bachelor Degree	
Tasmania	2000	100	90.9	90.7	83.2
	2001	88.3	98.1	84.8	82.3
	2002	94.6	91.9	83.3	79.0
	2003	85.7	89.8	79.5	77.3
	2004	84.4	85.7	87.5	79.0
	2005	92.7	88.2	85.5	80.0
	2006	89.7	87.8	90.8	79.6
	2007	89.2	89.2	83.6	79.2
	2008	91.9	83.3	85.7	81.0
	2009	89.9	83.1	75.4	76.2
	2010	91.6	79.2	77.2	74.2
Victoria	2000	89.9	92.1	88.5	84.7
	2001	91.4	90.7	88.0	83.1
	2002	88.6	87.7	87.5	79.7
	2003	89.3	85.5	86.4	80.4
	2004	89.0	83.9	88.6	80.3
	2005	88.0	86.4	85.2	80.7
	2006	90.5	88.3	87.0	82.5
	2007	90.3	86.7	88.2	84.6
	2008	91.3	89.3	87.1	85.7
	2009	87.8	85.3	83.6	79.5
	2010	88.2	84.4	83.6	79.5
Western Australia	2000	85.0	92.4	90.8	80.0
	2001	84.7	89.1	87.0	81.2
	2002	88.9	87.9	88.8	77.7
	2003	86.0	85.2	87.9	74.4
	2004	82.2	84.6	86.0	76.3
	2005	88.7	88.2	87.1	80.0
	2006	90.3	92.5	91.2	81.7
	2007	93.4	89.1	86.3	87.5
	2008	93.7	91.2	87.9	87.2
	2009	90.5	87.9	86.5	79.8
	2010	87.4	83.3	83.8	74.6
National %	2000	90.1	92.0	89.5	83.6
	2001	90.6	92.1	89.5	83.0
	2002	89.6	89.5	87.4	81.2
	2003	89.3	87.5	87.6	80.1
	2004	89.0	86.7	89.0	79.7
	2005	89.5	88.5	87.0	80.9
	2006	90.9	89.4	87.6	82.4
	2007	90.7	88.7	88.1	84.5
	2008	91.7	88.7	87.8	85.2
	2009	89.1	86.1	85.5	79.2
	2010	88.3	84.7	84.9	76.2
No. in full-time employment	2000	8,119	6,098	1,628	31,056
	2001	7,679	6,230	1,468	32,208
	2002	7,114	5,652	1,707	31,010
	2003	8,028	6,606	1,853	34,999
	2004	8,793	7,605	2,329	34,360
	2005	8,735	8,204	2,098	35,858
	2006	8,756	8,889	2,107	36,470
	2007	8,638	9,074	2,243	36,805
	2008	9,236	9,807	2,261	36,481
	2009	9,864	9,873	2,307	33,164
	2010	9,683	10,214	2,186	32,084

# 6.0

## POSTGRADUATE SALARIES

“ ... males were paid more than similarly qualified females in all employment sectors for each level of award with the one exception ... ”

Due to the small proportion of postgraduates in their first full-time employment, it is not appropriate to limit the discussion of salaries data to ‘starting’ salaries (salaries of graduates entering the full-time workforce for the first time). Accordingly, this section focuses on median salaries for all postgraduates in full-time employment, regardless of age or whether this was their first full-time position.

In 2010, the median salary for postgraduates in full-time employment was \$70,000 (up from \$68,600 in 2009 and \$65,000 in 2008) (GCA 2010a)). At each of the three award levels, the median salary rose in 2010, albeit marginally (see Table 10).

In the breakdown by broad employment sectors illustrated in Table 10, postgraduate salaries are shown to be higher than the equivalent salaries for bachelor degree graduates in every employment sector. The highest overall median salary for all postgraduates by sector was \$79,400, recorded for the government sector.

Coursework masters graduates received the highest median salary in every employment sector except ‘other’ and health (where research masters/PhD graduates earned the same, and more, respectively). The highest median salary figures, at any award level and for any sector, were received by coursework masters graduates in the government sector (\$82,000) and research masters/PhD graduates in the health sector (\$78,000). At the other end of the scale, the lowest median salary figure for any sector and award level was \$57,200 for postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates in the education sector.

In terms of the male/female salary differential, males were paid more than similarly qualified females in all employment sectors for each level of award with the one exception where male and female research masters/PhD graduates in the education sector earned the same median salary of \$70,000.

**t10: Median salaries for graduates in full-time employment by level of award, sex and employment sector (broad), 2010 (\$,000) <sup>§</sup>**

	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate			Coursework Masters			Research Masters/PhD			All Postgraduates			Bachelor Degree		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Government	80.0	69.0	74.0	90.0	78.0	82.0	80.0	73.0	75.0	85.0	72.2	79.4	55.6	53.0	54.0
Private	85.0	63.0	73.0	87.0	65.0	75.9	75.0	69.5	70.0	85.0	65.0	75.0	50.0	45.0	48.0
Education	58.0	57.0	57.2	78.0	70.0	71.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	69.0	63.0	65.0	53.0	53.0	53.0
Health	75.0	65.0	68.0	82.4	70.0	74.0	82.5	76.0	78.0	80.0	68.0	70.0	52.3	50.0	50.0
Other	69.2	60.0	62.6	75.0	62.3	66.0	70.0	65.0	66.0	71.0	62.1	65.0	50.0	47.2	48.0
<b>Total (2010)</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>
<b>Total (2009)</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

Note: Salaries for bachelor degree graduates differ from those reported in the Graduate Starting Salaries series since the data reported here are not limited to graduates in their first full-time employment

<sup>§</sup> The salary figures in this table may not match those in other areas of this report to non-response to particular questions on the AGS



As noted earlier (see *Table 4*), of postgraduates in full-time employment, only 22.5 per cent were in their first full-time position, leaving 77.5 per cent who had previously been employed.

The figures in *Table 11* indicate that postgraduates in their first full-time employment received salaries equal to or lower than those salaries shown for all postgraduates.

At all award levels, the overall median salaries of female postgraduates in full-time employment at the time of the GDS were lower than the equivalent salaries for male postgraduates. Male median salaries were \$13,000 higher than female median salaries at the postgraduate diploma/certificate level, \$15,000 higher overall at coursework masters level and \$2,000 higher overall at the research masters/PhD level (see *supplementary Table Q in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*).

It is not possible to account for the differences between male and female postgraduate salaries in simple terms. Postgraduates can have very different employment experiences both before and during their courses of study. Each field of education offers a range of course options and different courses may have different enrolment profiles for males and females which may themselves lead to different employment outcomes. Unfortunately, while the GDS brings this salary disparity to light, it does not produce sufficient information to provide adequate explanation.

Postgraduate diploma/certificate graduates in full-time employment in the ACT recorded the highest median salary (\$75,000) for that level of award across all states, while Victorian graduates recorded the lowest (\$60,000) (see *supplementary Table R in Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*). Coursework masters

graduates from the ACT recorded the highest median salary for that level of award and for all levels for any State or Territory (\$90,000), while Victorian coursework masters graduates also recorded the lowest for that award level (\$70,000).

For research masters/PhD graduates in 2010, graduates in full-time employment in the Northern Territory earned the highest median salary (\$77,300) while the lowest salary was recorded for South Australian graduates (\$68,000).

**t11: Median salaries for graduates in full-time employment and graduates in first full-time employment, by level of award and detailed occupation, 2010 (\$,000, n)<sup>§</sup>**

	Postgraduates in any full-time employment						Postgraduates in first full-time employment					
	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate		Coursework Masters		Research Masters/PhD		Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate		Coursework Masters		Research Masters/PhD	
	\$,000	n	\$,000	n	\$,000	n	\$,000	n	\$,000	n	\$,000	n
Managers	90.0	1,172	100.0	1,918	85.0	181	90.0	104	90.0	219	64.9	36
Arts/Media Professionals	52.0	75	56.5	62	60.0	24	45.0	17	49.0	16	*	*
Business/HR/Marketing Professionals	68.0	925	72.0	1,376	72.0	137	59.8	147	55.8	300	64.2	36
Design/Eng./Sci./Transport Professionals	75.0	433	70.0	744	66.3	435	62.0	89	56.3	214	65.0	181
Education Professionals	55.7	1,937	70.0	1,060	75.0	420	54.0	533	60.0	257	70.0	96
Health Professionals	70.0	1,493	67.3	1,028	85.0	125	65.0	310	54.0	309	70.0	35
ICT Professionals	80.0	159	80.0	343	71.0	53	71.0	25	60.0	74	65.0	24
Legal/Social/Welfare Professionals	60.0	551	70.0	489	70.0	138	57.0	136	62.0	114	68.4	32
Technicians & Trade Workers	66.5	190	50.0	180	65.0	63	56.5	40	45.0	59	63.5	30
Community & Personal Service Workers	63.5	318	67.0	169	65.0	21	57.0	73	56.0	37	*	*
Clerical and Administrative Workers	60.0	580	60.0	586	64.6	88	51.4	108	47.5	141	58.8	23
Sales Workers	55.0	57	45.0	99	*	*	*	*	40.0	36	*	*
Machinery Operators, Drivers & Labourers	42.5	32	36.8	22	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Total<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>7,922</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>8,077</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>508</b>

\* Fewer than 10 valid responses in these cells

<sup>†</sup> Totals may be greater than the sum of the columns because they include cells in which there were less than 10 respondents<sup>§</sup> The salary figures in this table may not match those in other areas of this report to non-response to particular questions on the AGS.

# 7.0

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

60.2 per cent of all postgraduates indicated that their qualification was either a formal requirement or 'important'.

The GDS attempts to broadly gauge graduates' perceptions regarding the importance of their qualifications, the major fields of education they studied and 'other skills and knowledge acquired during their course', in relation to their main employment. For each of these three aspects of educational attainment, graduates were asked to indicate their response by selecting one of the following;

- Formal requirement
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know

As noted in the previous sections, in order to avoid generalisations based on very small numbers of graduates, the tables and discussion in this section do not include percentages where the number of relevant responses for a particular figure was fewer than ten. All data in the tables and discussion that follow only concern graduates who were in full-time employment.

The summary of results on the relationship between qualification, field of education, 'other skills and knowledge acquired during a course' and full-time employment for all postgraduates are provided in Table 12. Overall, 60.2 per cent of all postgraduates indicated that their qualification was either a formal requirement or 'important', while 69.2 per cent said their major field of education was either a formal requirement or 'important' and 67.1 per cent said other skills and knowledge were either a formal requirement or 'important' for their work.

Supplementary Tables U, V and W (see *Postgraduate Destinations 2010 Tables and Figures*) analyse the relationship between qualification, field of education and 'other skills and knowledge' in the workplace. These results highlight the differences found at the field of education level. At the broadest level however they show that at the research masters/PhD level, qualifications were most likely to be a formal requirement (40.0 per cent), while the other two aspects

**t12:** Relationship between qualification, field of education, 'other skills and knowledge acquired during a course' and full-time employment of all postgraduates, 2010

	Formal requirement	Important	Formal requirement + important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total <sup>†</sup>
Qualification	26.2	34.0	60.2	24.0	15.9	100
Major Field of education	24.0	45.3	69.2	19.9	10.9	100
Other skills and knowledge acquired	11.6	55.5	67.1	24.3	8.6	100

<sup>†</sup> Figures might not add exactly to 100.0 due to rounding.

in the question (i.e. field of education and ‘other skills and knowledge acquired during a course’) were most likely to be viewed as ‘important’.

At the coursework masters level, qualifications were less likely to be a formal requirement, but viewed as ‘important’. The same is also true for ‘field of education’ and ‘other skills and knowledge acquired during a course’, where these were more commonly viewed as ‘important’ as opposed to a formal requirement by this cohort.

At the postgraduate diploma/certificate level, qualifications could either be viewed as a formal requirement (29.6 per cent) or as ‘important’ (32.0 per cent), while (and as for the other award levels), the field of education and ‘other skills and knowledge acquired during a course’ were most likely to be viewed as ‘important’.

Across all levels of award, the proportions of graduates who indicated that their qualification, field of education and other skills and knowledge acquired during a course were ‘not important’ were all smallest at the research masters/PhD level.



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