

Media Release: Graduates Three Years After

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Good outcomes for early career graduates

Recent graduates who are still searching for a full-time position can take heart from new research published by Graduate Careers Australia (GCA), which reveals that employment rates for bachelor degree graduates improve notably in the first few years after graduation.

According to the 2012 Beyond Graduation Survey (BGS), which contacted individuals three years after they had completed a course of study at an Australian higher education institution in 2009, the full-time employment rate for Australian bachelor degree graduates had increased from 79.3 per cent to 92.2 per cent. The pool of graduates available for the full-time labour force also increased from 74.0 per cent to 78.3 per cent over this same period.

GCA Executive Director and CEO, Dr Noel Edge, said that this finding shows that a tertiary education typically pays off. "Some new graduates may take a little longer than others to find a job, but these data clearly show that most graduates have successfully done so within a fairly short time after completing their studies," Dr Edge said.

The survey also found that around a third of respondents had completed another qualification since finishing their bachelor degree. Society and culture graduates were the most likely to have done so (43.8 per cent), followed by natural and physical sciences graduates (38.8 per cent). "Undertaking further study is a good way to enhance your knowledge and skills, and can signal to employers your commitment to ongoing career development," Dr Edge said.

The results of the research also indicate that Australian bachelor degree graduates in full-time work enjoyed strong salary growth over the period under study. Graduates earned a median salary of \$50,000 shortly after finishing their studies in 2009, which had increased by 32.0 per cent to \$66,000 by 2012. Engineering graduates were the highest earners amongst bachelor degree completers, with a median full-time salary of \$80,000 in 2012.

More than 12,800 graduates representing 39 institutions responded to the 2012 BGS. A report of the key findings is available for free download from www.graduatecareers.com.au.

Further information and comment

Copies of the recently released report, *Beyond Graduation 2012*, can be downloaded from [http://graduatecareers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Beyond Graduation 2012.pdf](http://graduatecareers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Beyond-Graduation-2012.pdf)

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