

Cohort Description

University numbers

Auckland	2062	66.67%
AUT	906	63.80%
Canterbury	487	68.88%
Lincoln	433	74.27%
Massey	1245	63.65%
Otago	1388	67.41%
Victoria	1245	63.65%
Waikato	674	61.00%
TOTAL	8719	65.35%

Ethnicity

NZ European	5349	61.3%
Māori	624	7.2%
Samoan	153	1.8%
Cook Is Māori	52	0.6%
Tongan	74	0.8%
Niuean	26	0.3%
Chinese	983	11.3%
Indian	460	5.3%
Other	1884	21.6%

Study domain

Agriculture/Horticulture	168	1.9%
Com/Business	1740	20.0%
Education	1070	12.3%
Health Sci	858	9.8%
Humanities/Arts/Social Sciences	2202	25.3%
Law	155	1.8%
Sci/Engineering	1768	20.3%
PhD	416	4.8%
Unclear	342	3.9%

Sex

Male	3281	37.6%
Female	5438	62.4%

Degree type

Bachelors	4081	46.8%
Conjoint bach	156	1.8%
Bachelors+dip	30	0.3%
Cert/dip	8	0.1%
Grad cert/dip	863	9.9%
Honours	671	7.7%
Conjoint hon	4	0.05%
PG cert/dip	1315	15.1%
Masters	1148	13.2%
PhD	416	4.8%
Doctorate other	19	0.2%
Unclear	8	0.1%

Student status

Domestic	7715	88.5%
International	1004	11.5%

Age range

15-19 years	17	0.2%
20-24 years	4657	53.4%
25-29 years	1493	17.1%
30-34 years	756	8.7%
35-39 years	543	6.2%
40-44 years	415	4.8%
45-49 years	340	3.9%
50-54 years	265	3.0%
55-59 years	153	1.8%
60-64 years	55	0.6%
65-69 years	13	0.1%
70+ years	12	0.1%

Method

Extramural	977	11.2%
Intramural	7742	88.8%

Relationship status

Single	40.6%
Relationship + not live together	20.4%
Married/Civil Union	20.2%
De facto	15.8%
Divorced/Separated	2.2%
Widowed/Surviving Civil Union	0.3%
Skipped question	0.5%

Parenting

Yes	21.0%
No	79.0%

Descriptive Findings

University experiences, career choices and aspirations

The three most frequently given reasons for graduates choosing a university were: (1) the relevance of the courses offered to their career (70.1%), (ii) the academic reputation of the university (47.2%), and (iii) location (44.7%).

The three most frequently given reasons for graduates choosing a field of study were: (1) a strong interest in the topic/field (77.1%), (ii) wanting to pursue a career in this topic/field (71.4%), and (iii) to increase earning potential (34.5%).

The next two years...

With regard to the near future (the next two years), three quarters of the graduates expected to pursue their career, with a number of this group also working in jobs to ensure income. Almost half (45.1%) anticipated undertaking further study during this period. Whilst the majority (82.6%) plan to work in New Zealand, a significant proportion (37.2%) also plan to work overseas (which suggests many of you plan to spend some time both in NZ and offshore during the next two years).

Financial circumstances

With regard to their 2011 work status and financial circumstances, 40% of the graduates were not employed, either full- or part-time, when they were studying. Among those employed, the work was related to the course of study about 50% of the time.

The total income received by graduates was relatively low, with median = \$10,001 to \$15,000 per annum; mode = \$5,001 to \$10,000; range = zero (8.2%) to \$150,001+ (0.8%).

Approximately four out of five graduates had taken out a student loan. Among those with student loans, the median loan was \$15,001 to \$20,000; mode = \$15,001 to \$20,000; range = zero (7.0%) to 100,001+ (0.5%).

Community engagement

Local community involvement (in many forms), initiative and altruism were clearly valued and evident among this group of graduates, with a premium placed on multiculturalism and tolerance of different lifestyles.

Approximately 20% of the graduates reported active involvement in national or international community organisations (e.g., Red Cross, Search and Rescue, Greenpeace, Amnesty International, World Vision).

Health and behaviour

In terms of health, 85% described their overall physical health as good or better, with 9.5% of the cohort reporting smoking at least one cigarette for a month or more during the past year. Almost 12% of the graduates drank no alcohol at the time of the survey, 18% drank at least once per week, with 6.5% drinking alcohol at least four times per week.

In terms of emotional wellbeing, the sample scores were normally distributed, and comparable with other student surveys, with (as expected) a minority reporting low levels of wellbeing.

Where to from here?

The 2011 GLSNZ sample appears to reflect the heterogeneity of graduating students from New Zealand Universities. Over time, the GLSNZ should help inform stakeholders seeking to optimise multiple aspects of the tertiary contribution to the national good, that is, the launch-pad (University), the transition into employment and becoming a civic-minded citizen, and career trajectories. This should have significant private and public benefits for those attending, running and funding New Zealand's eight Universities, as well as for New Zealand more generally.

