

The Australian National University

Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) Frequently Asked Questions

What is this survey for?

- The Australian Graduate Survey is a national survey coordinated by Graduate Careers Australia (GCA) together with participating higher education institutions.
- It is designed to collect information about the experience of each student during their program and the type of work or further study being undertaken after completing a program.

Who sees this information?

- The ANU Evaluations Team in Planning and Statistical Services Division has access to identified information provided by graduates, in order to administer the survey and follow-up reminders to non-respondents.
- Anonymous data is provided to GCA and used by the Australian government for higher education policy development.

Can anyone identify me from the information I provide?

- Respondents' personal information (name, address and contact details) are not linked to the survey data file. The survey data file does **not** include your name, address or current email.
- If you choose to provide a long-term email address for invitations to participate in follow-up research projects, that email address only is provided as part of the survey data file. GCA will not disclose that email address to any third party.

Is the information collected confidential?

- Yes, the information collected is only used to compile aggregate statistics about the quality of university programs, the type of work, further study or other activity that graduates were engaged in four months after completion of a course. The survey data are aggregated for reporting so no individual response can be identified.

How are these data used?

- The anonymous survey results are used by ANU to monitor and enhance the quality of our programs (<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/ceq/>) and to provide advice to students about career options (<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/qds/>).
- Anonymous survey data are used by GCA to produce their annual publications (<http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/research/researchreports/>), and provided to the Australian government to inform higher education policy development and inform students about graduate employment rates and further study rates (<http://myuniversity.gov.au/>).
- Broad GCA findings are also reported by media and publishers.

Do I have to complete all the survey questions?

- All questions on the Australian Graduate Survey are voluntary.
- You are not obliged to answer any question that you are uncomfortable with. Simply ignore the question and move on to the next one.
- Industry, occupation-category and salary-related information are valuable for monitoring the trends in graduate outcomes and median graduate starting salaries.

Will my employer be contacted about my employment?

- Employers are never contacted about survey respondents.
- Employers of large numbers of ANU graduates are identified from the survey results and may be contacted by the ANU Careers Centre as part of their routine engagement with employers for participation in Career Fairs, networking opportunities and career workshops.