

14.12.2025

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**Title**

The graduate pathways survey : new insights on education and employment outcomes five years after bachelor degree completion / Hamish Coates and Daniel Edwards

**Publication year**

2011

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education quarterly. - 65 (2011) 1, S. 74 - 93

**Inventory number**

29489

**Keywords**

Grade : Bachelor / Master ; Studienreform ; Ausland : Australien : Studenten, Studium, Lehre

**Abstract**

The development of a strong and vibrant knowledge-based economy is linked in direct ways with successful graduate outcomes. Building evidence-based insights on such outcomes plays an important role in shaping planning and practice. With this broad objective in mind, this article analyses findings from the Graduate Pathways Survey, the first national study in Australia of bachelor degree graduate outcomes five years after course completion. It begins by discussing key rationales and research contexts to position the study internationally and in terms of research on graduate careers, quality assurance and planning. Focus is then turned to highlighting findings from the study, which involved a census of graduates from all Australian universities. It looks at graduates' perceptions of their degree and of its relevance to their work, their pathways into study and work and their salaries and satisfaction with their jobs. The article concludes by discussing the contribution of the findings for understanding graduates' work and development, and for enhancing higher education quality and planning. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)