

Beyond the Australian Graduate Survey

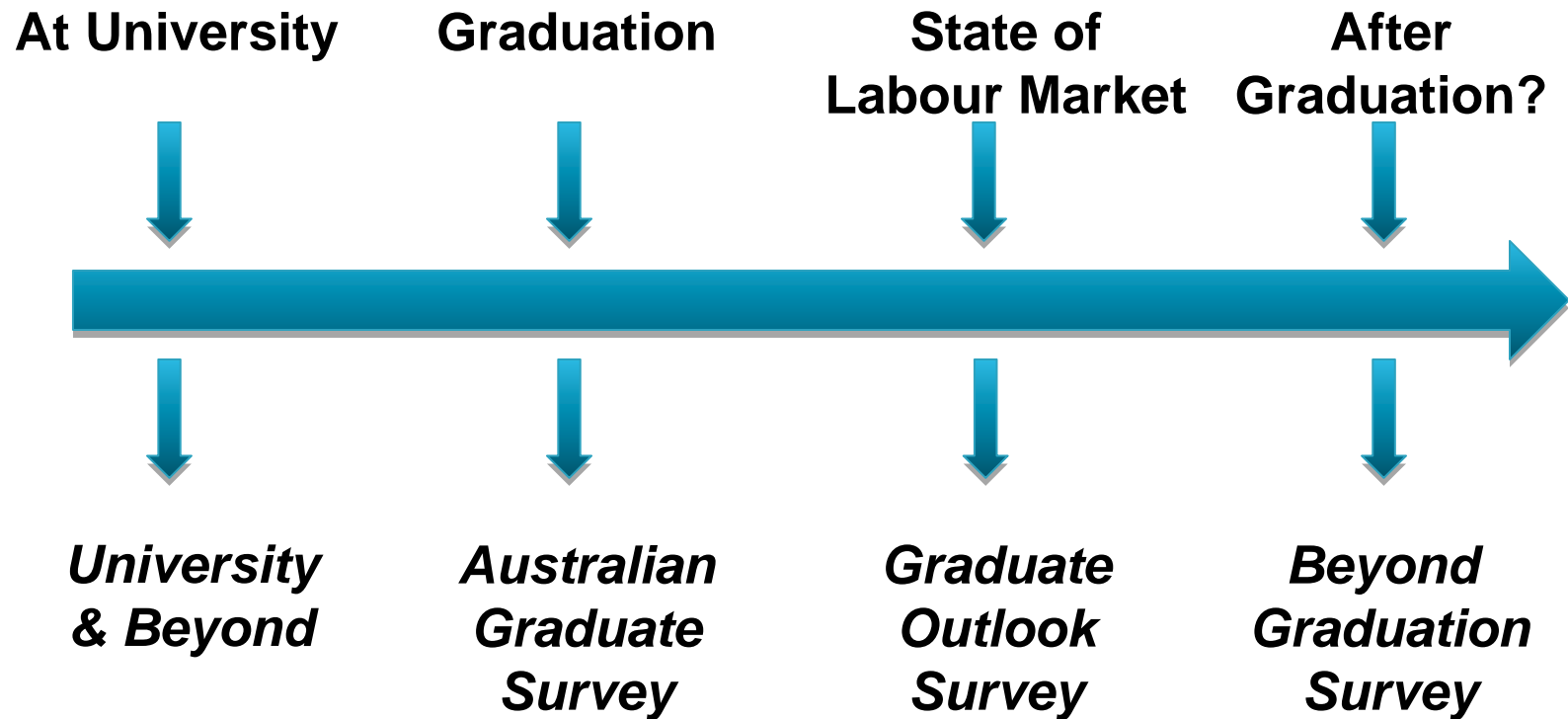
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Introduction

- ▶ GCA Research
- ▶ Beyond Graduation Survey 2009 - data collection and preparation
- ▶ Key findings of Beyond Graduation Survey 2009, and Australian Graduate Survey 2006
- ▶ Questions

GCA Research

Key Stages in the Student–Graduate Experience



GCA research

Beyond Graduation Survey

- ▶ Work began on the project in 2005
- ▶ 2009
 - Graduates from 2005 (2006 AGS)
 - Three years out
 - Pilot
 - Developed with longevity in mind
 - Self-funded

Beyond Graduation Survey 2009: Data collection and preparation..



Instrument

- ▶ Online only
- ▶ Primarily developed in three sections

Instrument Development

1: AGS follow-up

- ▶ Primarily AGS employment and study outcomes questions
 - Slight reframing where necessary
- ▶ Examining 2009 in detail
 - 2008 / 2007 only if different to 2009
- ▶ April 30 reference date
- ▶ Asking CEQ
 - GSS, WRS, OSI

Instrument Development

2: Further outcomes

- ▶ Length of time in employment
- ▶ Motivations for staying in current role
- ▶ Evaluation of Generic Employability Skills
- ▶ Job / Career satisfaction

Instrument Development

3: Higher education reflection

- ▶ Motivations for studying what they did
- ▶ Whether they would study the same again
- ▶ Value of study in 'real' world
- ▶ Life contribution of Higher Education
- ▶ Advice to others considering study in their area

Instrument Development

▶ Drafted by GCA

◦ Based around:

- AGS
- U&B / GOS and other prior GCA studies
- Other relevant work internationally
 - HECSU / HESA

▶ Reviewed:

- at GCA
- by Sector

▶ Instrument finalised and programmed

Communication

- ▶ Direct targeted email to graduates by
 - GCA
 - Institutions
 - Co-branded
- ▶ Minimum of two e-mail campaigns
 - Standardised content
- ▶ Incentives
 - The value of the research to themselves, current and future students, employers and universities
 - The chance to win \$250 in their state

Survey Population

- ▶ The target survey population for the BGS consists of graduates who completed the requirements for a higher educational qualification in calendar year 2005 and:
 - supplied a LTE when completing the 2006 Australian Graduate Survey, or / and
 - for whom an institution can provide current contact information (and have indicated that they are willing to be contacted using this contact information).

Survey Population

- ▶ Twenty-three Australian Universities actively participated in 2009
 - Target population of approx. 30,000 graduates



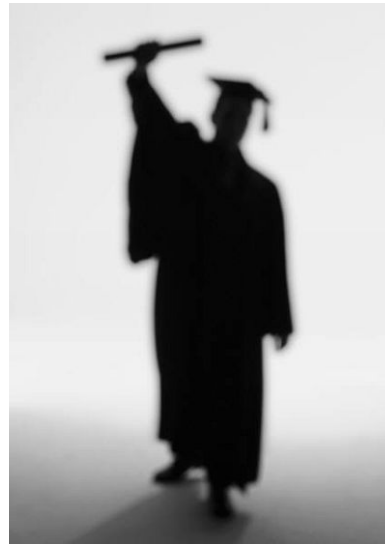
Response

- ▶ Fieldwork ran for 5 weeks
 - 14th September – 16th October 2009
- ▶ 7,867 BGS responses following cleaning
- ▶ RR of around 25%
- ▶ 6,797 AGS - BGS responses after data matching
 - May pick up a handful more once matching processes are finalised

Response

- ▶ While response was found to be broadly representative:
 - Marginally
 - down on males
 - down on business graduates
 - down on international graduates
- ▶ Decision of whether to weight the data to these broad groups to be made following further detailed investigation

Graduate Outcomes



Outcomes: domestic bachelors

▶ In 2006:

- 66.4% were available for full-time employment
- 20.3% were in full-time study
- 13.3% not in either

▶ In 2009

- 74.0% were available for full-time employment
- 12.1% were in full-time study
- 13.9% not in either

Available for employment: gender

- ▶ In 2006: 66.4% were available for ft employment
 - 68.8% males
 - 65.0% females
- ▶ In 2009: 74.0% were available for ft employment
 - 81.5% males
 - 70.1% females

Further study: gender

- ▶ In 2006: 20.3% were in ft study
 - 21.2% males
 - 19.8% females
- ▶ In 2009: 12.1% were in ft study
 - 10.8% males
 - 12.8% females



Bachelors: In employment

- ▶ In 2006: 66.4% were available for ft employment
 - 82.4% were in full-time employment
 - 17.6% seeking full-time employment
- ▶ In 2009: 74.0% were available for ft employment
 - 95.0% were in full-time employment
 - 5.0% seeking full-time employment

In employment: gender

- ▶ In 2006: 82.4% were in full time employment
 - 83.0% males
 - 81.9% females
- ▶ In 2009: 95.0% were in full time employment
 - 95.3% males
 - 94.8% females



Graduate Outcomes: bachelor's employment



Who is most likely to be in full-time employment: Broad FOE

In 2006 (4 of 10 BFOE over 90%)	
Veterinary Science	94.7%
Health / Medicine Dentistry	93.3%
Architecture / Building	90.9%
Engineering / Surveying	90.8%
Law / Legal studies	88.4%

Base: Domestic
Bachelors available for
FT emp: AGS BGS

Who is most likely to be in full-time employment: Detailed FOE

Of 43 detailed fields of education:

▶ ***In 2006:***

- 1 was at 100% employment
- 14 were over 90%

▶ ***In 2009***

- 15 were at 100% employment
- 37 were over 90%

Who is least likely to be in full-time employment: DFOE 2006

	2006	2006 Rank
Visual Performing Arts	62.2%	40
Social Sciences	70.3%	39
Psychology	72.1%	38
Humanities	72.3%	37
Languages	72.3%	36

Base: Domestic
Bachelors available for
FT emp: AGS BGS

Who is least likely to be in full-time employment: DFOE 2009

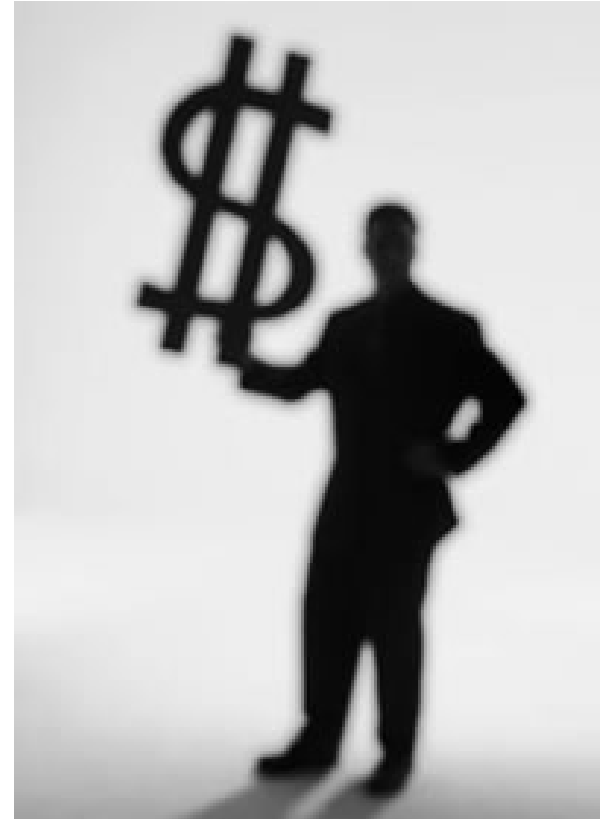
	2009	2009 Rank
Visual\Perform. Arts	81.9%	40
Building	83.3%	39
Education – Post\Other	87.5%	38
Languages	91.5%	37
Chemical Eng	92.3%	36

Base: Domestic
Bachelors available for
FT emp: AGS BGS

Who is most likely to be in full-time study: FOE

In 2006	
Chemistry	53.7%
Physics	50.1%
Life sciences	42.6%
Psychology	41.4%
Languages	39.3%

Graduate Outcomes: bachelor's salaries



Starting salaries group

In 2006, <25years, first full-time employment

- ▶ Median salary of \$40,800
 - Males \$42,000
 - Females \$40,000

In 2009, largely >25 and over 50% still with same emp.

- ▶ Median salary of \$62,000
 - Males \$68,500
 - Females \$60,000
- ▶ 52% increase in salary from 2006

Starting Salaries: Top 5 fields of education

In 2006	
Dentistry	\$68,000
Optometry	\$51,200
Medicine	\$48,000
Engineering	\$46,000
Earth Sciences	\$45,000

Note: Due to samples sizes of less than 10 respondents, no salary figures for Dentistry, Optometry and Earth Sciences are being reported for 2009.

Starting Salaries: Bottom 5 fields of education

In 2006	
Pharmacy	\$32,000
Art & Design	\$33,200
Social Sciences	\$36,000
Accounting	\$37,000
Humanities	\$37,000

Note: Due to samples sizes of less than 10 respondents, no salary figures for Dentistry, Optometry and Earth Sciences are being reported for 2009.

Overall Satisfaction

In 2006, 89.6% of domestic bachelor graduates were broadly satisfied with their course.

In 2009, this figure was 92.8%



BGS: New data



Suitability: Current employment

In their current role:

- ▶ 84.0% of domestic bachelors believe they are in suitable employment for someone with their skills and qualifications
 - No diff between Males / Females
 - BFOE varies from:
 - 76.7% of Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences
 - 97.1% Vet Science

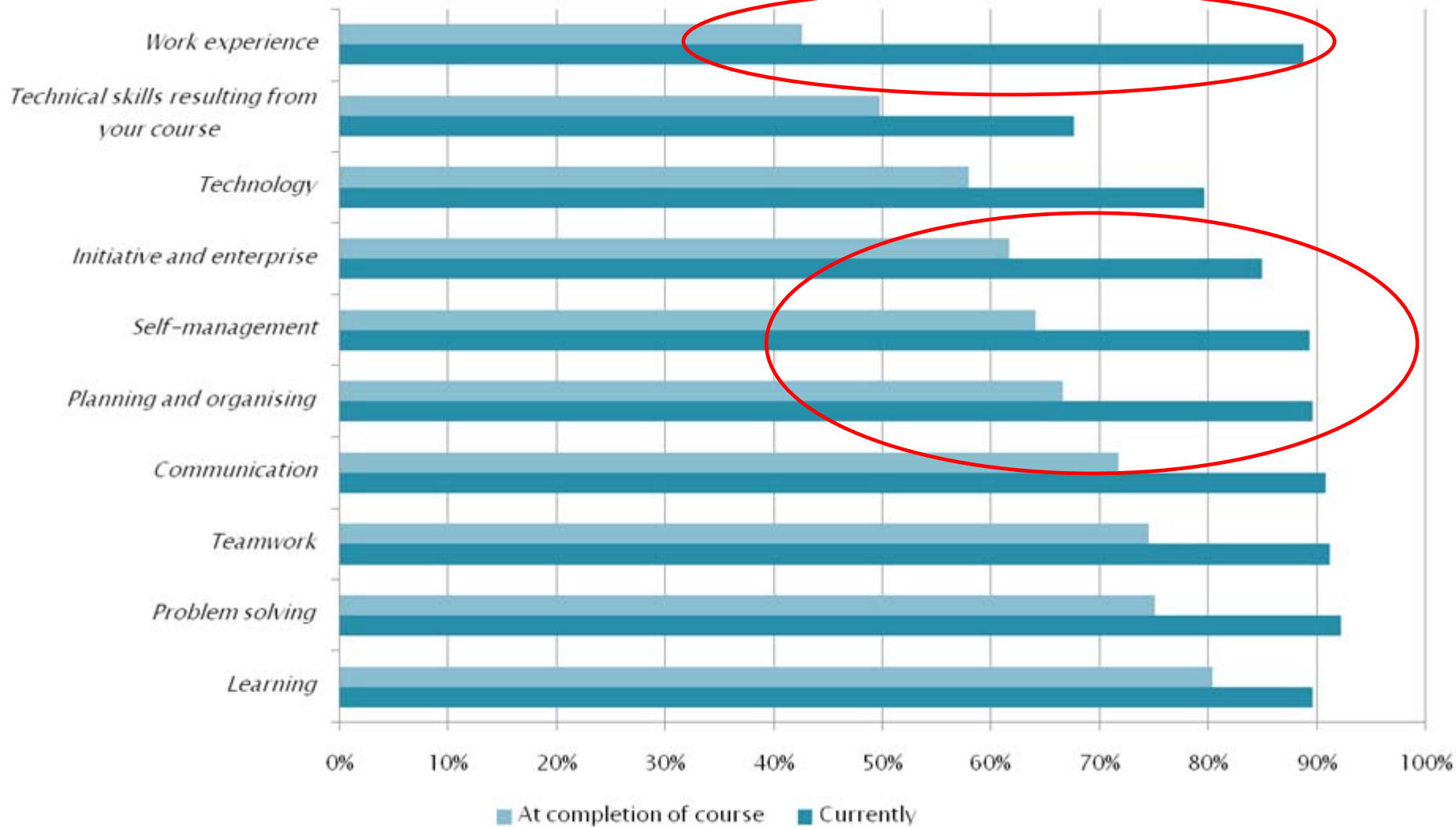
Suitability: Current employment

In their current role:

- ▶ 80.0% of domestic bachelors believe they are in suitable employment related to their long term career goals
 - No diff between Males / Females
 - BFOE varies from:
 - 70.6% Vet Science
 - 87.8% Health / Medicine / Dentistry

Employability skills: Self rating

(Above Average / Excellent)



Course: 20:20 Hindsight

- ▶ Would they complete the same course again?
 - 70% of graduates say it's likely to very likely they would
- ▶ Would they do the same majors?
 - 76% of graduates say it's likely to very likely they would

Reflecting on your work, life and career so far, what would you say are the most important things you learned from your university study?

“The world is full of red tape and ridiculous hurdles, overcome them if you can ...”

“A degree isn't always the best thing in the world.”

“... can't think of anything!”

Reflecting on your work, life and career so far, what would you say are the most important things you learned from your university study?

“A new way of thinking”

“the ability to become a life long learner.”

“Apart from a fulfilling career and the ability to independently support myself, the most important thing I gained was personal growth: University gave me the confidence and knowledge that 'I can do it!'.”

From here?



From here – 2009

- ▶ Weighting of pilot?
- ▶ Industry / occupation being coded
- ▶ National database completed
 - Released to participating institutions
- ▶ National report written
- ▶ Pilot reviewed and revised model developed
 - Including instrument

From here – 2010 BGS

- ▶ On the funding trail
- ▶ 2010: Beyond Graduate Survey – Year 1.
 - 3 years out for 2006 graduates
- ▶ 2011: Beyond Graduate Survey – Year 2.
 - 3 years out for 2007 graduates
 - 5 years out for graduates that participated in the 2005 pilot

QUESTIONS?

