

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND STUDENTS ARE FINDING JOBS AFTER GRADUATION... BUT IS EMPLOYMENT EVERYTHING?

The 2012 *Good Universities Guide* (now available for purchase) has revealed that six out of the seven Queensland universities are at or above average rates of graduate employment nationally, begging the question: 'is employment everything?'

James Cook University (JCU), the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) all rated 5 STARS for 'Getting a Full-Time Job'. The high proportion of institutions attaining these ratings indicates that Queensland's graduate employment prospects are worthy of note. As a point of comparison, no single Victorian university has an equivalent rating of more than 4 STARS.

Graduate employment rates at QUT, for example, are consistently comparable to or above corresponding national averages. Moreover, of the 20 fields of study assessed against QUT, graduates from six fields placed among the top 25 per cent for employment rates of like graduates nationally. QUT has remarkably maintained an overall 5 STAR rating for employment for the past four editions of the *Guide*. The *Guide* asked Dr Alan McAlpine, manager of the QUT Student Support Services unit, what underpins some of QUT's success in graduate employment: "... (QUT) has a nationally recognised Careers and Employment service that delivers a wide variety of programs to support students in making good career choices as well as linking students with industry through activities such as employer presentations, mentor schemes and career fairs. QUT also uses its strong industry links to create real world learning opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students..."

While QUT graduates are finding jobs after graduation, they typically assess student experience indicators comparable to or (in some cases) below the corresponding national average for graduates from like fields of study.

USQ achieved similar success on the graduate employment front, particularly within the education and training field of study, with graduates within the field placed in the top 25 per cent nationally. The university's preservation of a high rating in this particular sector is impressive given that employment rates for education graduates across the country is slipping.

USQ Dean of the Faculty of Education Professor Nita Temmerman shed some light on why the university believes that its education and training courses continue to be held in high regard with prospective employers: "*One of drivers for the success of the bachelor of education degree is that professional experience placements are embedded early and consistently throughout the degree, ensuring a close connection between theory and practice. The flexibility of the program means students can study wholly on campus or online or a blended delivery that best suits their needs.*"

As with QUT, however, USQ graduates rate their overall satisfaction and assessment of teaching quality comparable to or below the national average.

The 2012 *Guide* demonstrates that, while student experience indicator ratings at Queensland universities might be comparable to — or even lower than — the corresponding national average, graduates are still finding jobs after graduation with relative ease in comparison to universities within other Australian states and territories.

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Book orders: *The Good Universities Guide* 2012 will be available to the public through newsagents and online at www.isubscribe.com.au/hobsons or by contacting Hobsons on Freecall 1800 682 133.

Characteristics

Institution	Non-Govt earnings	Student demand	Research Grants	Research Intensity
ACU	*	****	*	*
BOND	*****		*	*
CHC		*		
CQUni	*****	**	*	*
GRIFFITH	****	**	****	**
JCU	***	**	***	**
QUEENSLAND	****	****	****	****
QUT	**	****	****	****
SUNSHINE COAST	*	**	*	*
USQ	**	**	*	*

Access and Equity

Institution	Access by Equity group	Gender balance	Indigenous Participation	Entry flexibility	Proportion TAFE credit	Proportion of school leavers
ACU	***	*	*****	**	*****	****
ACAP	***		****	*	*	*
BOND	**	****	*	****	**	**
CHC	****		*	**	**	*
CQUni	*****	****	****	****	****	**
ECNH	**		**	****		
GRIFFITH	****	**	****	**	**	**
HOLMES	*			**	****	**
JCU	****	****	****	**	**	**
QANTM	**		**	*		*
QUEENSLAND	****	****	**	**	*	****
QUT	**	**	**	**	**	**
SUNSHINE COAST	****	****	****	**	**	**
USQ	****	****	****	****	****	**

Who's There?

Institution	Number of Higher Ed Students	Proportion over 25 years	Number of students from abroad	Proportion Part-time	Proportion External	Cultural diversity
ACU	BIG	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW	LOW	****
ACAP	SMALL	VERY HIGH	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	*
BOND	SMALL	LOW	AVERAGE	VERY LOW		***
CHC	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH	HIGH	*****
CQUni	BIG	VERY HIGH	BIG	HIGH	VERY HIGH	*****
ECNH	SMALL	VERY HIGH	SMALL	VERY HIGH		*
GRIFFITH	VERY BIG	AVERAGE	VERY BIG	AVERAGE	LOW	**
HOLMES	SMALL	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	VERY LOW		
JCU	BIG	HIGH	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	**
QANTM	VERY SMALL	AVERAGE	SMALL	HIGH		
QUEENSLAND	VERY BIG	LOW	VERY BIG	LOW	LOW	**
QUT	VERY BIG	AVERAGE	BIG	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	**
SUNSHINE COAST	SMALL	HIGH	AVERAGE	HIGH		*
USQ	BIG	VERY HIGH	BIG	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	**

The Educational Experience

Institution	Staff-student ratio	Staff qualifications	All Graduates: Teaching Quality	All Graduates: Generic Skills	All Graduates: Overall Satisfaction	Domestic Graduates: Teaching Quality	Domestic Graduates: Generic Skills	Domestic Graduates: Overall satisfaction
ACU	****	***	**	*	**	****	*	**
BOND	*****	*****	****	****	****	****	****	****
CQUni		*	****	**	**			
GRIFFITH	*	**				*	**	*
JCU	**	*	**	**	*	**	*	*
QUEENSLAND	****	****	**	*	**	*	*	**
QUT	**	****	*	*	*	*	**	**
SUNSHINE COAST	**	***	****	****	****	****	****	****
USQ	*	****	**	**	**	**	**	**

Graduate Outcomes

Work: Starting salary	Work: Getting a job	Work: Positive Outcomes
***	****	**
***	****	**
*****	**	*
*	**	**
**	****	****
****	****	****
***	****	****
*	*	*
*	****	****