NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2023

RESPONSES FROM FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

2018—2022 DATA

July 2023

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2023

BACKGROUND

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) is an annual national data collection conducted by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans). The data are collected through an annual survey administered to final year medical students from all medical schools across Australia. The survey collects information on final year demographics, previous and current education, medical school experiences, rural background, career intentions and future practice location and speciality preferences.

The MSOD project commenced in 2005 and has been run each year, providing a valuable, unique, national resource of comprehensive data and insights on Australian medical final year students. The MSOD currently contains over 30,000 participants[1] and is stored and managed by Medical Deans.

This report does not incorporate data from New Zealand medical schools. A similar project is conducted in Aotearoa New Zealand by the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with similar questions and with the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Health. The New Zealand MSOD reports can be found at: https://www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/about/accountability/external/msod-project/index.html?utm_source=dynamic&utm_medium=redirection&utm_campaign=nzmsod&utm_term=&utm_content=

Medical Deans would like to express our thanks to all the final year medical students over the years who have taken time to provide these data and contribute to the development of this resource, to inform and shape the development of informed, evidence-based, and effective medical education and health workforce policy. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian government for its funding support of the MSOD.

Please note: this survey is intended to capture information from students completing their medical school studies. Therefore, for any respondents who repeated their final year, only their most recent response is reported with any earlier response being removed from last year's data.

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[1] A further 10,000 responses are also held from previously run surveys at the point of students' commencement at medical school and during their postgraduate years.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the findings that were captured by the 2022 Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) survey, presenting data from the 5 years 2018 to 2022.

The MSOD survey was administered to final year students in medical schools across Australia in the last quarter of 2022, with a 52 per cent response rate (1,999 respondents from a cohort of 3,866[2]). Demographic characteristics of the respondents remained broadly like the prior years. Typically, the survey has a higher response rate from females and this year was no different, with a 56 per cent female response rate; from a final year cohort where the gender ratio was 53 per cent female. The 2022 survey respondents had a younger age profile to the 2021 group, with just under 40 per cent under 25 and a further 49 per cent between 25 and 29. This year, those with partners were distinctly in the majority (57 per cent). Just over 3 per cent had children with only 1 per cent having other dependents. While both these last figures are lower than usual, these small proportions have remained consistent since these data started being collected in 2013.

Like last year's figures, 38 per cent of respondents indicated a preference for a career working outside a capital city – 40 per cent of domestic students and 30 per cent of international. The MSOD confirms findings from other data that students from a rural background express higher levels of desire to practice in rural or regional locations; with half of domestic student respondents from rural backgrounds preferring to work in a regional city/large town, smaller town or small community versus 12 per cent of those from a non-rural background. This differentiation holds true for both domestic and international students. Overall, domestic students were more likely than international students to want to work in regional and rural locations – 22 per cent versus 12 per cent.

Over 80 per cent of domestic and 45 per cent of international students undertake a rural placement during their last two years of study. Of these, 42 per cent are longer than 6 months' duration. Of those undertaking a rural placement of more than a year, over half expressed a preference for practice in a regional town, smaller town or small community. The comparative figures are 36 per cent for those where the duration was 6 to 12 months, 13 per cent where it was up to 6 months, and 8 per cent for those not undertaking a rural placement.

This year's data again confirmed the strong association between rural club membership and a stated preference at the time of graduation for a future practice outside of a capital city, with members of rural clubs 4.5 times more likely to express this preference.

The interest in Indigenous health being a part of graduates' future medical career remains at around half the cohort, with a marked difference between international and domestic students. Whilst the interest is still higher in those students from a rural background, the difference was less than had been seen in previous years.

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2 Medical Deans' Student Statistics Dashboard https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/data-dashboard/ (*note*: while selecting the Graduates tab for the year 2021 shows the projected figure for 2022 of 3,793 graduates, numbers change during the year with students returning, deferring and leaving, and data via the 2022 enrolments tab shows the actual number of 3,866 final year students in 2022).

Levels of interest in a career that involved teaching and research have been consistently high over the years, however both have dropped somewhat this year; with 83 per cent interested in teaching being part of their future (vs 86 per cent in previous years), and 56 per cent interested in research (vs 60 per cent and over previously). The responses indicate a higher level of interest in teaching from domestic students (10 per cent higher than international students), and similar levels of interest from both groups in research.

Preferences for future practice across the disciplines have remained consistent over the years of the survey. The category of "Adult medicine/internal medicine/physician" has retained the highest preference since 2014, however dropped this year to 16 per cent (from 19 per cent).

General Practice remains second most preferred, at 13 per cent for all students, however when combined with Rural Generalist (a practitioner within the formal General Practice specialty) it becomes the most preferred specialty at 19 per cent. Rural Generalism is a growing preference for domestic graduates, moving up to rank eighth with 7 per cent of domestic students, however not for international students (less than 1 per cent).

The top 10 most preferred disciplines have remained unchanged with Surgery, Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Paediatrics and Child Health, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Intensive Care Medicine completing the list.

Consistently over the years, two factors rank the highest – "Alignment with personal values" (ranked first this year) and "Atmosphere/work culture". "Experience of specialty as a medical student" continues to be reflected as a key influence, ranked 4th this year, marginally behind "Intellectual content of the specialty" and just ahead of "General medical school experiences".

Levels of satisfaction with the medical program at universities remained stable, with 75 per cent indicating they agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their courses – returning to the levels previously indicated after a drop in this figure in 2019. The percentage dissatisfied or very dissatisfied rose a percentage point to 11. The satisfaction levels for international students were lower, which is a consistent finding.

Similarly, the proportion of students in overall agreement that their basic medical degree was preparing them well for work as an intern remained at 79 per cent – the highest figure in this data series. The proportion disagreeing or strongly disagreeing rose to 6 per cent.

Note: Data on the full 2022 medical student cohort, as referenced in this Report, is accessible from the Medical Deans' Data Dashboard https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/data-dashboard/

SECTION 1: MSOD SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

Medical school response rates

In 2022, there were 3,866 final year students across all Australian medical schools of which 3,805 graduated (98.4 per cent). From the cohort 1,999 responded to the MSOD survey; at 52 per cent this was a slightly higher response rate than the previous year.

Table 1. Respondents by medical school – All students

School attended	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	80	3.6	51	2.5	55	3.2	8	0.4	27	1.4
Australian National University	86	3.9	69	3.4	53	3.1	81	4.4	64	3.2
Bond University	56	2.5	53	2.6	44	2.6	73	3.9	73	3.7
Curtin University	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	2.6	45	2.3
Deakin University	117	5.3	110	5.4	104	6.0	102	5.5	91	4.6
Flinders University	12	0.5	29	1.4	25	1.5	27	1.5	77	3.9
Griffith University	92	4.2	44	2.2	23	1.3	38	2.0	106	5.3
James Cook University	69	3.1	93	4.6	..	..	99	5.3	70	3.5
Macquarie University	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	1.1	30	1.5
The University of Melbourne	193	8.8	93	4.6	104	6.0	127	6.8	80	4.0
Monash University	350	15.9	347	17.1	404	23.5	353	19.0	354	17.7
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	99	4.5	134	6.6	121	7.0	99	5.3	108	5.4
The University of New South Wales	130	5.9	80	3.9	98	5.7	71	3.8	34	1.7
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	48	2.2	51	2.5	55	3.2	79	4.3	79	4.0
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	53	2.4	48	2.4	39	2.3	33	1.8	45	2.3
The University of Queensland	283	12.9	227	11.2	192	11.2	200	10.8	135	6.8
The University of Sydney	252	11.4	255	12.5	110	6.4	114	6.1	161	8.1
University of Tasmania	97	4.4	74	3.6	85	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8
The University of Western Australia	130	5.9	152	7.5	139	8.1	87	4.7	210	10.5
Western Sydney University	23	1.0	64	3.1	30	1.7	38	2.0	43	2.2
University of Wollongong	31	1.4	58	2.9	40	2.3	50	2.7	72	3.6
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Domestic students

1,758 of the respondents (88 per cent) were domestic students; a slightly higher proportion than the proportion in the full final year cohort which comprised 86 per cent domestic students.

Table 2. Respondents by medical school – Domestic students only

School attended	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	64	3.4	45	2.6	50	3.4	7	0.4	24	1.4
Australian National University	80	4.2	63	3.6	49	3.3	70	4.4	58	3.3
Bond University	56	3.0	53	3.0	44	3.0	73	4.6	72	4.1
Bond University	56	3.0	53	3.0	44	3.0	73	4.6	72	4.1
Curtin University	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	3.0	45	2.6
Deakin University	115	6.1	104	5.9	98	6.6	94	5.9	81	4.6
Flinders University	10	0.5	26	1.5	24	1.6	26	1.6	67	3.8
Griffith University	91	4.8	41	2.3	18	1.2	35	2.2	96	5.5
James Cook University	60	3.2	80	4.6	..	..	84	5.3	63	3.6
Macquarie University	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	1.3	25	1.4
The University of Melbourne	174	9.2	84	4.8	95	6.4	116	7.3	75	4.3
Monash University	276	14.6	286	16.3	337	22.9	271	17.1	291	16.6
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	90	4.8	117	6.7	105	7.1	89	5.6	98	5.6
The University of New South Wales	109	5.8	67	3.8	79	5.4	54	3.4	31	1.8
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	48	2.5	51	2.9	55	3.7	79	5.0	79	4.5
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	53	2.8	48	2.7	39	2.6	33	2.1	44	2.5
The University of Queensland	201	10.7	186	10.6	145	9.8	158	9.9	113	6.4
The University of Sydney	201	10.7	194	11.1	89	6.0	88	5.5	131	7.5
University of Tasmania	87	4.6	58	3.3	68	4.6	91	5.7	78	4.4
The University of Western Australia	120	6.4	140	8.0	126	8.5	80	5.0	189	10.8
Western Sydney University	22	1.2	60	3.4	24	1.6	31	2.0	37	2.1
University of Wollongong	29	1.5	50	2.9	29	2.0	42	2.6	61	3.5
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	

Note: Throughout this Report:

- Domestic students comprise Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, and New Zealand citizens.
- International student figures are only for those enrolled in onshore medical programs, and do not include students enrolled in Australian medical programs run in other countries.

Table 3 shows those medical schools which had a response from their international students; noting that not all schools enrol international students.

Twelve per cent of the respondents, or 241, were international students (enrolled in onshore medical programs); a lower proportion than the cohort which comprised 16 per cent international students.

Table 3. Respondents by medical school – International on-shore students only

School attended	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	16	5.1	6	2.2	5	2.0	1	0.4	3	1.2
Australian National University	6	1.9	6	2.2	4	1.6	11	4.1	6	2.5
Bond University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
Curtin University	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0
Deakin University	2	0.6	6	2.2	6	2.4	8	3.0	10	4.1
Flinders University	2	0.6	3	1.1	1	0.4	1	0.4	10	4.1
Griffith University	1	0.3	3	1.1	5	2.0	3	1.1	10	4.1
James Cook University	9	2.9	13	4.7	..	..	15	5.6	7	2.9
Macquarie University	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.4	5	2.1
The University of Melbourne	19	6.0	9	3.2	9	3.6	11	4.1	5	2.1
Monash University	74	23.5	61	21.9	67	27.1	82	30.8	63	26.1
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	9	2.9	17	6.1	16	6.5	10	3.8	10	4.1
The University of New South Wales	21	6.7	13	4.7	19	7.7	17	6.4	3	1.2
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4
The University of Queensland	82	26.0	41	14.7	47	19.0	42	15.8	22	9.1
The University of Sydney	51	16.2	61	21.9	21	8.5	26	9.8	30	12.4
University of Tasmania	10	3.2	16	5.7	17	6.9	16	6.0	17	7.1
The University of Western Australia	10	3.2	12	4.3	13	5.3	7	2.6	21	8.7
Western Sydney University	1	0.3	4	1.4	6	2.4	7	2.6	6	2.5
University of Wollongong	2	0.6	8	2.9	11	4.5	8	3.0	11	4.6
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	

Proportion by medical program length

The sample is representative of the proportions enrolled in 4-year programs, with a strong response rate from those in 5-year courses however fewer responses from those in a 6-year program.

Table 4. Number of final year students across all Australian medical schools, showing course length

Course Length	Final year students 2021		MSOD respondents 2022	
	n	%	*n*	%
4-year course	2337	60.5%	1227	61.4%
5-year course	931	24.1%	641	32.1%
6-year course	598	15.5%	131	6.6%
Total	**3,866**		**1,999**	

Source: Medical Deans' Data Dashboard https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/data-dashboard/

Note: Similar MSOD response rates have been assumed where there are different length courses at the same medical school, as the responses cannot be distinguished

Respondents by state/territory

Again, this year Victorian schools had a higher response to the survey, and so their students form a majority of respondents. Note: table 5 and table 6 refer to the location where students were studying medicine which may be different to where they identify their primary residence to be.

Table 5. Respondents by state/territory

State/territory of completion	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
ACT	86	3.9	69	3.4	53	3.1	81	4.4	64	3.2
NSW	588	26.7	639	31.4	438	25.5	426	23.0	493	24.7
QLD	500	22.7	417	20.5	259	15.0	410	22.1	384	19.2
SA	92	4.2	80	3.9	80	4.6	35	1.9	104	5.2
TAS	97	4.4	74	3.6	85	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8
VIC	660	30.0	550	27.1	612	35.6	582	31.4	525	26.3
WA	178	8.1	203	10.0	194	11.3	214	11.5	334	16.7
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin cannot be separately identified and so those responses are included in South Australia figures

Table 6. Respondents and students: comparison by state/territory

State/territory of study	Final year students in 2022		MSOD respondents in 2022	
	n	%	*n*	%
ACT	95	2.5%	64	3.2
NSW	1143	29.6%	493	24.7
QLD	844	21.8%	384	19.2
SA	372	9.6%	104	5.2
TAS	114	2.9%	95	4.8
VIC	909	23.5%	525	26.3
WA	389	10.1%	334	16.7
Total	**3,866**		**1,999**	

Note: Flinders Darwin Medical School is included in South Australia figures

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

The gender balance of respondents was 56 per cent female and 43 per cent male with 1 per cent identifying as non-binary or preferring not to say. The full cohort of the 2022 final year students was 53.1 per cent female, 46.8 per cent male, and 0.03 per cent non-binary or unspecified.

Table 7. Respondents by gender

Gender	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Female	1,168	53.1	1,096	53.9	983	57.1	1,033	55.7	1,118	55.9
Male	1,030	46.8	934	46.0	736	42.8	814	43.9	861	43.1
Non-binary	3	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	8	0.4	8	0.4
Prefer not to say	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	0.6
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Student age

In 2022, the final year students who responded to the survey were primarily aged between 25 and 29, with just under 50 per cent in this category – slightly higher than last year's figure. Nearly 90 per cent were aged under 30 years old, with only 1.3 per cent over 40 years old.

Table 8. Respondents by age group

Age group	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
<25	821	37.3	818	40.3	720	41.8	764	41.2	793	39.7
25-29	1,069	48.6	949	46.7	766	44.5	834	45.0	971	48.6
30-34	217	9.9	178	8.8	175	10.2	176	9.5	171	8.6
35-39	57	2.6	45	2.2	33	1.9	45	2.4	38	1.9
40-44	22	1.0	30	1.5	20	1.2	22	1.2	16	0.8
45+	13	0.6	12	0.6	7	0.4	14	0.8	10	0.5
Total	**2,199**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

The median age of respondents remained consistent at 25 years old, however the minimum age of respondents dropped to 19 and the maximum to 55, indicating a slightly younger cohort.

Table 9. Median age of respondents

Age	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Median	25	25	25	25	25
Minimum	21	19	21	21	19
Maximum	62	58	51	59	55

Relationship and dependants

The proportion of respondents identifying as having a partner (i.e., in a relationship or married) was distinctly in the majority this year.

Table 10. Partner status

Partner status	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Partnered	1,032	46.9	941	46.3	885	51.4	939	50.6	1,129	56.5
Not partnered	1,169	53.1	1,091	53.7	836	48.6	916	49.4	870	43.5
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Slightly fewer respondents this year have dependent children, with just over 3 per cent, however the numbers vary little over the years. Similarly, the vast majority have no 'other dependants', with again little change over the years although the number with other dependants does seem to be decreasing.

Table 11. Number of dependent children and other dependants

Dependent children & other dependants	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Children										
0	2,087	94.8	1,935	95.2	1,652	96.0	1,777	95.8	1,936	96.8
1	55	2.5	48	2.4	28	1.6	37	2.0	31	1.6
2	44	2.0	33	1.6	29	1.7	27	1.5	24	1.2
3 or more	15	0.7	16	0.8	12	0.7	14	0.8	8	0.4
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	
Other										
0	2,149	97.6	1,975	97.2	1,676	97.4	1,817	98.0	1,971	98.6
1	32	1.5	40	2.0	34	2.0	31	1.7	23	1.2
2	12	0.5	13	0.6	6	0.3	7	0.4	2	0.1
3 or more	8	0.4	4	0.2	5	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.2
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Country of birth

Table 12 shows the countries with the highest representation of survey respondents over the last decade; with the proportion of respondents born in Australia remaining stable at around two thirds of the total.

The proportion of students born in Singapore remains consistently at around the 5 per cent figure, and the proportion of those born in India is also stable. There was an increase in the number of respondents born in China and South Africa, however there were fewer students born in Canada with Hong Kong dropping out of the top 10 countries.

Table 12. Country of birth (top 10)

Country of birth	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Australia	1,445	65.7	1,367	67.3	1,141	66.3	1,213	65.5	1,317	65.9
Singapore	104	4.7	93	4.6	89	5.2	95	5.1	100	5.0
India	52	2.4	52	2.6	52	3.0	63	3.4	65	3.3
New Zealand	42	1.9	54	2.7	42	2.4	45	2.4	56	2.8
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	60	2.7	35	1.7	37	2.1	29	1.6	49	2.5
South Africa	29	1.3	34	1.7	19	1.1	22	1.2	44	2.2
England	36	1.6	37	1.8	29	1.7	35	1.9	42	2.1
Canada	54	2.5	56	2.8	43	2.5	57	3.1	39	2.0
Malaysia	72	3.3	49	2.4	38	2.2	49	2.6	33	1.7
Sri Lanka	15	0.7	23	1.1	33	1.9	30	1.6	31	1.6
Other	292	13.3	232	11.4	198	11.5	215	11.6	222	11.1
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,853**		**1,998**	

Sources of income

The majority of respondents relied on family (70 per cent) however this figure continues to gradually decrease. The proportion indicating Government support (67 per cent) was higher this year, but has remained fairly stable over the last few years, as has those with HECS / FEE / OS HELP loans (noting however that this last number has been rising consistently during the course of the MSOD survey, with the data increasing 13 per cent since 2013 when it was 41.5 per cent[3]). Notably this year, those in paid employment increased 7 per cent.

Table 13. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

Income sources	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Family	1,607	73.0	1,498	73.7	1,295	75.2	1,328	71.5	1,407	70.3
Government	1,375	62.4	1,323	65.1	1,129	65.6	1,172	63.1	1,331	66.5
HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan	1,155	52.4	1,121	55.1	970	56.3	1,007	54.2	1,080	54.0
Paid employment	1,175	53.3	1,136	55.9	1,019	59.2	1,083	58.3	1,311	65.5
Personal Loan	304	13.8	244	12.0	131	7.6	103	5.5	148	7.4
Savings/Trust fund	385	17.4	371	18.2	277	16.0	315	16.9	380	19.0
Scholarship	578	26.2	502	24.7	502	29.1	436	23.5	503	25.1

Note: Participants can select more than one option

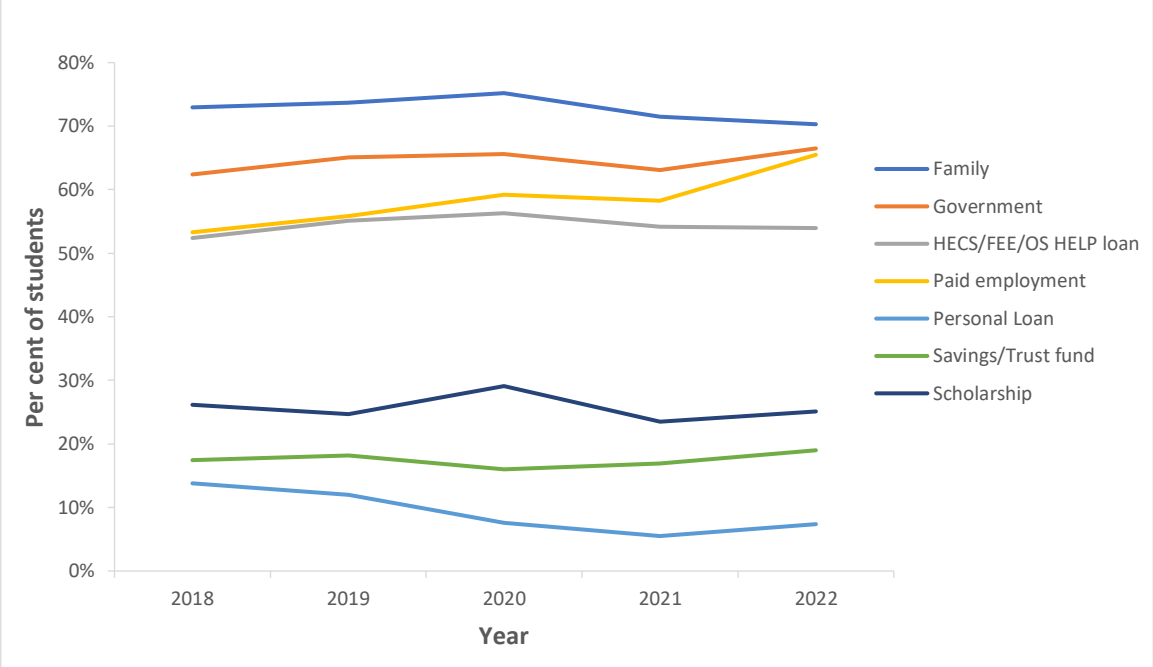

Figure 1. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

[3] Previous MSOD National Data Reports can be accessed at the Medical Deans website https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/medical-schools-outcomes-database-reports/

Rural background

Just under 26 per cent of the domestic 2022 MSOD respondents considered themselves as coming from a rural background (table 14), and just over 7 per cent of international respondents.

Table 14. Respondent considers themselves to come from a rural background

Rural background	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic										
Yes	467	24.8	445	25.4	409	27.7	400	25.2	451	25.7
No	1,419	75.2	1,308	74.6	1,065	72.3	1,189	74.8	1,307	74.3
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International										
Yes	22	7.0	17	6.1	17	6.9	28	10.5	17	7.1
No	293	93.0	262	93.9	230	93.1	238	89.5	224	92.9
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Yes	489	22.2	462	22.7	426	24.8	428	23.1	468	23.4
No	1,712	77.8	1,570	77.3	1,295	75.2	1,427	76.9	1,531	76.6
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Of those respondents who finished their final year of secondary schooling in Australia (Table 15), the proportions who did so in a regional area have remained consistent (at between 23 to 24 per cent during this reporting period), although there does seem to be a drop since 2020 of international students with this experience.

Table 15. Final year of secondary schooling in a regional area

Final year of school in a regional area	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic										
Yes	422	23.6	380	22.5	347	24.2	356	23.1	403	23.8
No	1,365	76.4	1,306	77.5	1,084	75.8	1,184	76.9	1,291	76.2
Total	**1,787**		**1,686**		**1,431**		**1,540**		**1,694**	
International										
Yes	20	22.5	16	25.0	9	16.4	13	17.3	10	16.4
No	69	77.5	48	75.0	46	83.6	62	82.7	51	83.6
Total	**89**		**64**		**55**		**75**		**61**	
All Students										
Yes	442	23.6	396	22.6	356	24.0	369	22.8	413	23.5
No	1,434	76.4	1,354	77.4	1,130	76.0	1,246	77.2	1,342	76.5
Total	**1,876**		**1,750**		**1,486**		**1,615**		**1,755**	

Type of longest prior residential location

The MSOD survey asks participants about the type of location they have lived in the longest if they had lived in Australia for more than 1 year prior to commencing medical school.

Table 16 shows that 69 per cent of those responding lived the longest in a capital city; noting that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent published population data (released 28 June 2022[4]) shows that 67 per cent of the population were living in Greater Capital Cities[5]. The 2022 figures show very little variation from the previous year.

Table 16. Location where students have lived the longest (for domestic students living in Australia for more than 1 year prior to medical school)

Location of longest residence.[6]	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Capital city	1,548	70.7	1,419	69.9	1,206	70.3	1,274	68.7	1,379	69.1
Major urban centre	222	10.1	240	11.8	159	9.3	208	11.2	228	11.4
Regional city or large town	178	8.1	181	8.9	135	7.9	160	8.6	195	9.8
Smaller town	113	5.2	83	4.1	98	5.7	88	4.7	86	4.3
Small community	128	5.8	107	5.3	118	6.9	124	6.7	107	5.4
Total	**2,189**		**2,030**		**1,716**		**1,854**		**1,995**	

4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Profile of Australia's population, released 28/06/2022, viewed 29/05/2022 https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/location-census/2021

5 Australia Bureau of Statistics Statistical Geography Fact Sheet: https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsgeography/$file/Greater%20Capital%20City%20Statistical%20Area%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf

6. Classification: Major urban centre (>100,000 population size) e.g. Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong; Regional city or large town (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g. Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier; Smaller town (10,000 – 24,999 population size); Small community (<10,000 population size)

SECTION 3: PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Level of previous degree

The numbers of final year students who have completed a degree, diploma, or certificate prior to undertaking their medical studies has remained very stable over this period, with a third having no prior tertiary qualifications.

Table 17. Highest level of previous degree

Level of previous degree	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Postgraduate degree	156	7.1	124	6.1	100	5.8	121	6.5	115	5.8
Bachelor degree (honours)	317	14.4	311	15.3	230	13.4	254	13.7	308	15.4
Bachelor degree	894	40.6	797	39.2	679	39.5	713	38.4	837	41.9
Graduate diploma/graduate certificate level	56	2.5	42	2.1	40	2.3	48	2.6	32	1.6
Diploma	23	1.0	13	0.6	17	1.0	20	1.1	18	0.9
Certificate	29	1.3	27	1.3	34	2.0	33	1.8	30	1.5
N/A - no prior tertiary qualifications	726	33.0	718	35.3	621	36.1	666	35.9	659	33.0
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Discipline of previous degree

Nearly half of all respondents who had completed a previous degree had done so in a health-related field – this proportion has particularly increased in the last couple of years after sitting at or just under 40 per cent figure for a decade (except for 2020). Medical studies (27 per cent), Other health (5 per cent), Rehabilitation Therapies (4 per cent), and Public Health (3 per cent) were the most common health-specific degrees completed. The other field where many had a prior degree was Natural and Physical Sciences (43 per cent).

Table 18. Discipline of highest previous degree

Discipline of highest previous degree	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Health Total	572	39.4	489	37.7	355	33.0	517	44.4	653	49.3
-- Medical studies	239	16.4	209	16.1	161	14.9	237	20.3	359	27.1
-- Complementary Therapies	0	0	2	0.1	0	0	2	0.1	2	0.1
-- Dental Studies	13	0.8	8	0.6	2	0.1	2	0.1	7	0.5
-- Nursing / Midwifery	38	2.6	30	2.3	23	2.1	32	2.7	28	2.1
-- Optical Science	6	0.4	1	0.0	6	0.5	6	0.5	7	0.5
-- Pharmacy	65	4.4	47	3.6	29	2.6	51	4.3	41	3.1
-- Rehabilitation Therapies	57	3.9	50	3.8	41	3.8	37	3.1	55	4.1
-- Radiography	20	1.3	18	1.3	10	0.9	10	0.8	10	0.7
-- Public Health	37	2.5	41	3.1	40	3.7	45	3.8	46	3.4
-- Veterinary Studies	10	0.6	4	0.3	3	0.2	6	0.5	6	0.4
-- Other Health	64	4.4	62	4.7	41	3.8	76	6.5	62	4.6
Natural and Physical Sciences	758	52.2	690	53.3	602	56.0	559	48.1	575	43.4
Information Technology	9	0.6	8	0.6	5	0.4	10	0.8	11	0.8
Engineering and Related Technologies	35	2.4	49	3.7	31	2.8	32	2.7	40	3.0
Architecture and Building	2	0.1	1	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.0	0	0
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	8	0.5	4	0.3	5	0.4	6	0.5	9	0.6
Education	17	1.1	14	1.0	13	1.2	11	0.9	8	0.6
Management and Commerce	47	3.2	39	3.0	31	2.8	38	3.2	47	3.5
Society and Culture	110	7.5	96	7.4	99	9.2	85	7.3	86	6.5
Creative Arts	34	2.3	33	2.5	35	3.2	31	2.6	39	2.9
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	7	0.4	7	0.5	9	0.8	4	0.3	4	0.3
Mixed Field Programmes	17	1.1	9	0.6	19	1.7	13	1.1	12	0.9

Notes:

1. Due to the structure of the question, 'Health Total' includes those who ticked a row titled 'Health, please specify' and did not specify an area as well as those who specified at least one health area.
2. Participants can select more than one option.

SECTION 4: MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Satisfaction with medical program

Final year students were asked about their level of satisfaction with the medical program at their university (Table 19) on a Likert scale of 1 to 5.

Seventy-five per cent of respondents indicated they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program in 2022, very close to last year’s figure. The proportion of respondents “dissatisfied” or “highly dissatisfied” rose slightly to 11 per cent.

As has been shown consistently, the proportion of domestic students “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program in 2022 remains higher than the figures for international students.

Table 19. Overall level of satisfaction with medical program

Satisfaction	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Domestic Students					
Average satisfaction	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	76.8	72.6	77.1	77.8	76.1
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.7	12.5	10.1	9.6	10.6
International Students					
Average satisfaction	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.7
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	68.6	62.7	72.1	67.3	71.0
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	11.4	16.8	12.6	12.8	13.3
All Students					
Average satisfaction	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	75.6	71.2	76.4	76.3	75.4
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.8	13.1	10.5	10.1	10.9

Note: Scale: 1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very satisfied

Preparation for internship

Seventy-nine per cent of respondents in 2022 "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that their basic medical degree was preparing them well to work as an intern – continuing the increase shown since 2020 and returning to levels in 2014[2]. Just over 6 per cent of the cohort said they "Disagreed" or "Strongly Disagreed" with this statement.

While fewer international students "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" with the statement than domestic students, at just over 73 per cent the proportion was the highest in this reporting period and substantially higher than 3 years ago.

Table 20. Overall level of agreement with the statement
'My Basic Medical Degree is preparing me well to work as an intern'

Agreement	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Domestic Students					
Average agreement	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	74.2	71.9	78.0	79.6	79.6
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	7.9	9.4	6.6	5.8	6.2
International Students					
Average agreement	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	66.7	61.6	71.3	71.8	73.4
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	9.2	14.7	5.3	6.0	7.9
All Students					
Average agreement	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	73.1	70.5	77.0	78.5	78.8
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	8.1	10.1	6.4	5.8	6.4

Note: Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Rural club membership

As part of the medical school experience, students have the opportunity to join rural clubs – student-led groups and networks that promote and develop initiatives on rural and remote health practice.

In 2022, 24 per cent of respondents indicated that they were a member of a rural club. This number has shown a steady drop over the last few years (after a high of 41 per cent seen in 2015).

Domestic students were significantly more likely to be in a rural club than international students; 26 per cent vs 10 per cent. While the proportions for international students have been consistently lower, the change in overall numbers is primarily due to the falling domestic student membership – down by 10 per cent in this reporting period.

The majority of rural club members (58 per cent) are from a non-rural background. Of those students who did consider themselves from a rural background, 43.4 per cent were involved with rural clubs.

Using a binary logistic regression analysis[7], 2022 data showed that respondents who reported being members of rural clubs were 4.5 times more likely to express a preference to practice outside capital cities than those who were not members (OR 4.5 95% CI 3.6-5.6 p<0.001) – a marginal increase from the 4.4 figure the previous year.

Table 21. Respondent is a member of a rural club

Rural club membership	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
Yes	676	35.8	581	33.1	473	32.1	446	28.1	454	25.8
No	1,210	64.2	1,172	66.9	1,001	67.9	1,143	71.9	1,304	74.2
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International Students										
Yes	38	12.1	27	9.7	29	11.7	24	9.0	24	10.0
No	277	87.9	252	90.3	218	88.3	242	91.0	217	90.0
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Yes	714	32.4	608	29.9	502	29.2	470	25.3	478	23.9
No	1,487	67.6	1,424	70.1	1,219	70.8	1,385	74.7	1,521	76.1
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

[7] Factors considered were rural club membership and preference of future practice in capital city or elsewhere.

Rural placement

A proportion of medical students undertake clinical placements in regional and rural areas. The data appears to indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions had an impact on the ability to experience shorter placements during 2020 and 2021, although the longer placements remained stable.

Whilst similar proportions of domestic and international students undertake rural placements of up to 6 months (47 per cent of domestic and 42 per cent of international), only 14 per cent of international students undertake ones longer than 6 months compared with 34 per cent of domestic students, and 45 per cent do not do a rural placement compared with 20 per cent of domestic students[8].

Table 22. Respondents undertaking a rural placement in their last two years of study

Rural placement	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic students										
None	292	16.7	275	16.3	372	25.1	441	27.7	348	19.8
Up to 6 months	1006	51.8	912	51.1	571	38.8	584	36.8	822	46.7
Between 6 and 12 months	404	21.9	374	21.5	332	22.6	330	20.8	352	20.1
More than a year	184	9.7	192	11.1	199	13.5	234	14.8	236	13.4
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International students										
None	161	51.3	113	41.6	118	48.0	150	56.4	108	44.8
Up to 6 months	136	43.1	136	47.8	99	39.8	83	31.2	100	41.5
Between 6 and 12 months	11	3.7	20	7.0	23	9.4	17	6.4	16	6.6
More than a year	7	1.9	10	3.5	7	2.9	16	6.0	17	7.1
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All students										
None	453	21.6	388	19.8	490	28.4	591	31.8	456	22.8
Up to 6 months	1142	50.5	1048	50.7	670	38.9	667	36.0	922	46.1
Between 6 and 12 months	415	19.3	394	19.5	355	20.7	347	18.7	368	18.4
More than a year	191	8.6	202	10.1	206	12.0	250	13.5	253	12.6
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

[8] It should be noted that funding through the Australian Government's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program, that support students' placements and learning in rural locations, is not available for international student placements.

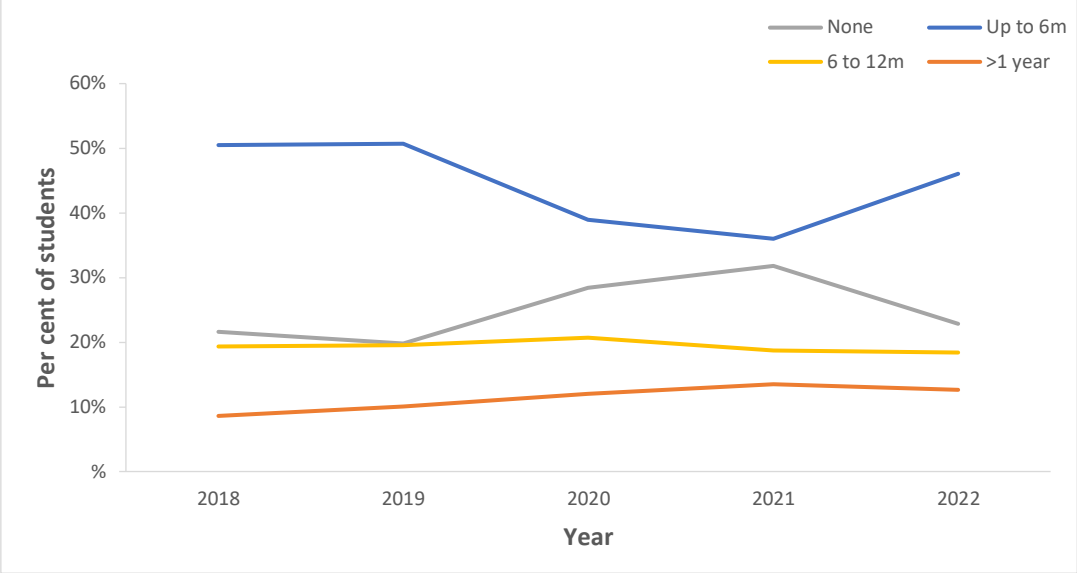

Figure 2. Proportion of all students undertaking a rural placement in their last 2 years of study

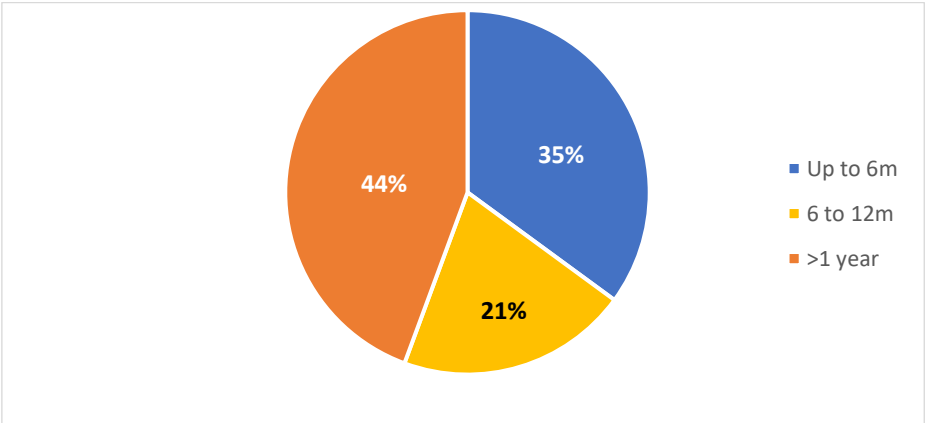

Figure 3. Duration of rural placements when taken, 2022 data

The MSOD respondents indicate high levels of satisfaction with their rural placement, irrespective of its duration.

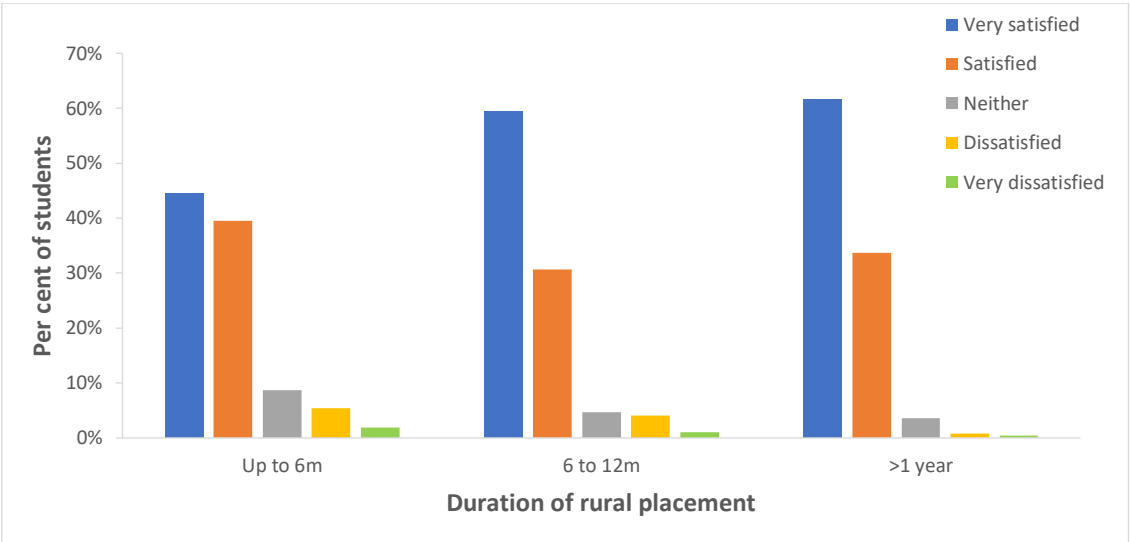

Figure 4. Students' satisfaction with rural placement, 2022 data

SECTION 5: CAREER INTENTION

Preferred country for future practice

The vast majority (97 per cent) of 2022 respondents indicated Australia as their preferred country for future practice. This figure has shown a slight increase over the last few years, returning to a figure in the high 90's since a low of 92 per cent in 2016.

The number indicating a preference to work in New Zealand continues to be low.

The proportion of international students wishing to stay and work in Australia was 80 per cent – data shows this proportion has consistently been between 75 to 85 per cent.

Table 23. Preferred country for future practice

Preferred country for future practice	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	N	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
Australia	1,852	98.2	1,736	99.0	1,466	99.5	1,577	99.2	1,744	99.2
New Zealand	10	0.5	4	0.2	4	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2
Other	24	1.3	13	0.7	4	0.3	5	0.3	10	0.6
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International Students										
Australia	236	74.9	225	80.6	186	75.3	228	85.7	195	80.9
New Zealand	4	1.3	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	75	23.8	53	19.0	60	24.3	38	14.3	46	19.1
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Australia	2,088	94.9	1,961	96.5	1,652	96.0	1,805	97.3	1,939	97.0
New Zealand	14	0.6	5	0.2	5	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2
Other	99	4.5	66	3.2	64	3.7	43	2.3	56	2.8
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Preferred state for future practice

Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland continued to be the three most preferred states for final year students when considering the location of their intended future practice.

Note: These figures will be impacted by the variation in schools' response rates (see table 6), with WA's higher response rate this year likely reflecting in the higher preference for WA future practice.

Table 24. Career intention: first preference of state for future practice

First preference state/territory for future practice	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
ACT	41	2.2	36	2.1	19	1.3	30	1.9	22	1.3
NSW	518	27.5	540	30.8	369	25.0	386	24.3	426	24.2
NT	23	1.2	22	1.3	11	0.7	27	1.7	26	1.5
QLD	381	20.2	318	18.1	215	14.6	336	21.1	327	18.6
SA	77	4.1	69	3.9	79	5.4	38	2.4	82	4.7
TAS	58	3.1	41	2.3	47	3.2	61	3.8	65	3.7
VIC	602	31.9	526	30.0	547	37.1	496	31.2	492	28.0
WA	152	8.1	184	10.5	179	12.1	203	12.8	304	17.3
Country other than Australia	34	1.8	17	1.0	8	0.5	12	0.8	14	0.8
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International Students										
ACT	3	1.0	5	1.8	6	2.4	8	3.0	4	1.7
NSW	65	20.6	72	25.8	54	21.9	56	21.1	47	19.5
NT	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.4
QLD	56	17.8	46	16.5	46	18.6	51	19.2	39	16.2
SA	15	4.8	6	2.2	6	2.4	3	1.1	9	3.7
TAS	7	2.2	10	3.6	9	3.6	7	2.6	9	3.7
VIC	75	23.8	67	24.0	50	20.2	89	33.5	65	27.0
WA	15	4.8	19	6.8	15	6.1	13	4.9	21	8.7
Country other than Australia	79	25.1	54	19.4	61	24.7	38	14.3	46	19.1
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
ACT	44	2.0	41	2.0	25	1.5	38	2.0	26	1.3
NSW	583	26.5	612	30.1	423	24.6	442	23.8	473	23.7
NT	23	1.0	22	1.1	11	0.6	28	1.5	27	1.4
QLD	437	19.9	364	17.9	261	15.2	387	20.9	366	18.3
SA	92	4.2	75	3.7	85	4.9	41	2.2	91	4.6
TAS	65	3.0	51	2.5	56	3.3	68	3.7	74	3.7
VIC	677	30.8	593	29.2	597	34.7	585	31.5	557	27.9
WA	167	7.6	203	10.0	194	11.3	216	11.6	325	16.3
Country other than Australia	113	5.1	71	3.5	69	4.0	50	2.7	60	3.0
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Note: The varying response rates from students at medical schools in each state/territory will affect these figures (see tables 5 and 6)

Preferred location for future practice

Of those wishing for a future career working in Australia, the percentage expressing a preference to work outside of capital cities has remained stable at just over 38 per cent. There has been a small increase since last year in the preference to work in regional cities/towns and smaller towns, and those wanting to work in small communities remains at just under 2 per cent.

Overall, 21 per cent stated a preference to work in regional areas, smaller towns or small communities, with higher proportions for these preferences from domestic students than international.

Table 25. Career intention: preference of location for future practice (for students preferring to practice in Australia)

First preference region of future practice	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
Capital city	1,196	63.8	1,139	65.0	966	65.6	957	60.3	1,059	60.3
Major urban centre	326	17.4	324	18.5	241	16.4	310	19.5	311	17.7
Regional city / large town	250	13.3	202	11.5	179	12.2	216	13.6	259	14.7
Smaller town	79	4.2	61	3.5	64	4.3	71	4.5	93	5.3
Small community	24	1.3	25	1.4	23	1.6	33	2.1	34	1.9
Total	**1,875**		**1,751**		**1,473**		**1,587**		**1,756**	
International Students										
Capital city	180	66.4	177	68.9	147	65.9	164	66.4	155	70.8
Major urban centre	53	19.6	49	19.1	47	21.1	48	19.4	37	16.9
Regional city / large town	25	9.2	26	10.1	23	10.3	27	10.9	24	11.0
Smaller town	8	3.0	4	1.6	5	2.2	6	2.4	2	0.9
Small community	5	1.8	1	0.4	1	0.4	2	0.8	1	0.5
Total	**271**		**257**		**223**		**247**		**219**	
All Students										
Capital city	1,376	64.1	1,316	65.5	1,113	65.6	1,121	61.1	1,214	61.5
Major urban centre	379	17.7	373	18.6	288	17.0	358	19.5	348	17.6
Regional city / large town	275	12.8	228	11.4	202	11.9	243	13.2	283	14.3
Smaller town	87	4.1	65	3.2	69	4.1	77	4.2	95	4.8
Small community	29	1.4	26	1.3	24	1.4	35	1.9	35	1.8
Total	**2,146**		**2,008**		**1,696**		**1,834**		**1,975**	

Note: **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size) e.g., Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong. **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g., Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier. **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size). **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

Preferred location for future practice – by rural background

The data again highlights the increased rates of preference for rural practice by students from a rural background – 49 per cent express a preference for a future career working outside a capital city or a major urban Centre, with 19 per cent wanting to work in a smaller town or small community. This compares with 12 per cent and 3 per cent respectively of those from a non-rural background.

Whilst the increase in rural preference is the case for all rural background students, the proportion is greater for domestic students than international students.

Table 26. Preferred location of future practice – by rural background
(Percentage of those wishing to work in Australia)

Preference for location of future practice (%)	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural
Domestic Students										
Capital city	74.5	31.3	74.0	38.9	77.9	33.5	70.6	29.4	71.6	27.5
Major urban centre	16.0	21.5	17.1	22.7	13.9	22.7	17.7	25.1	16.0	22.6
Regional city / large town	7.1	32.2	6.7	25.8	6.4	27.1	8.9	27.6	9.2	30.8
Smaller town	2.1	10.5	1.9	8.1	0.9	13.2	2.3	11.1	2.5	13.5
Small community	0.2	4.5	0.4	4.5	0.8	3.4	0.5	6.8	0.7	5.5
International Students										
Capital city	68.8	38.1	70.5	43.8	69.4	23.5	69.5	40.7	73.4	37.5
Major urban centre	19.6	19.0	18.7	25.0	20.4	29.4	18.2	29.6	15.8	31.3
Regional city / large town	7.6	28.6	8.7	31.3	8.7	29.4	9.5	22.2	9.9	25.0
Smaller town	3.2	0	1.7	0	1.5	11.8	1.8	7.4	1.0	0
Small community	0.8	14.3	0.4	0	0	5.9	0.9	0	0	6.3
All Students										
Capital city	73.7	31.6	73.4	39.0	76.5	33.1	70.5	30.1	71.9	27.8
Major urban centre	16.6	21.4	17.3	22.8	15.0	23.0	17.7	25.4	16.0	22.9
Regional city / large town	7.2	32.0	7.0	26.0	6.8	27.2	9.0	27.3	9.3	30.6
Smaller town	2.3	10.1	1.9	7.8	1.0	13.1	2.2	10.8	2.3	13.1
Small community	0.3	4.9	0.4	4.3	0.7	3.5	0.6	6.4	0.6	5.6

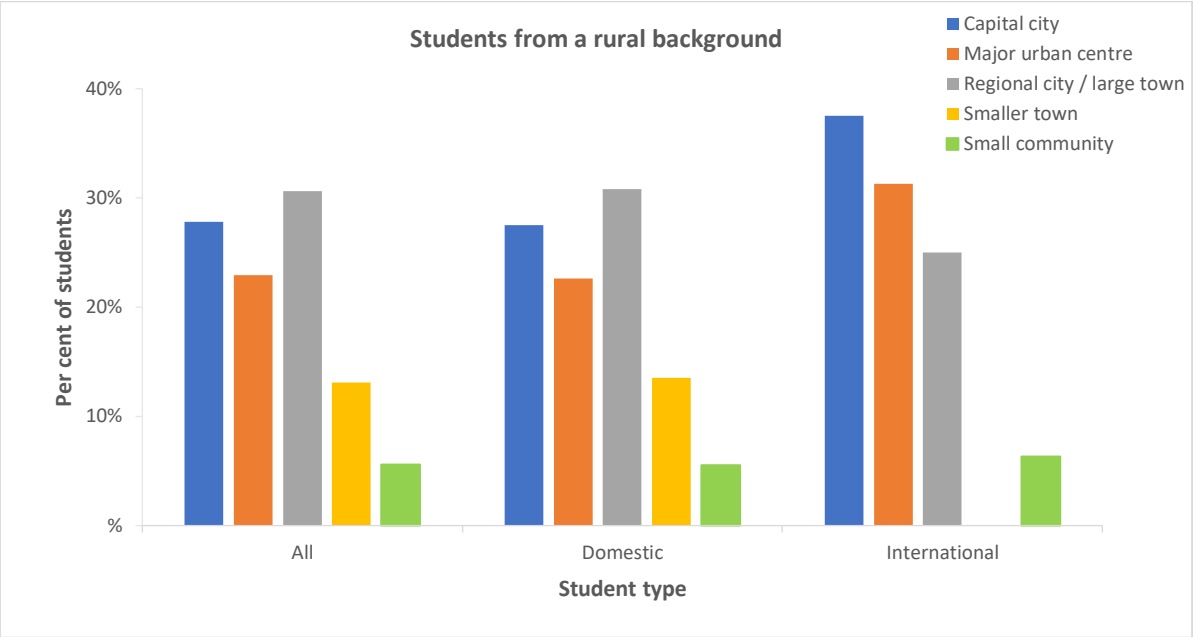

Figure 5. Percentage of students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice – students from a rural background wishing to practice in Australia

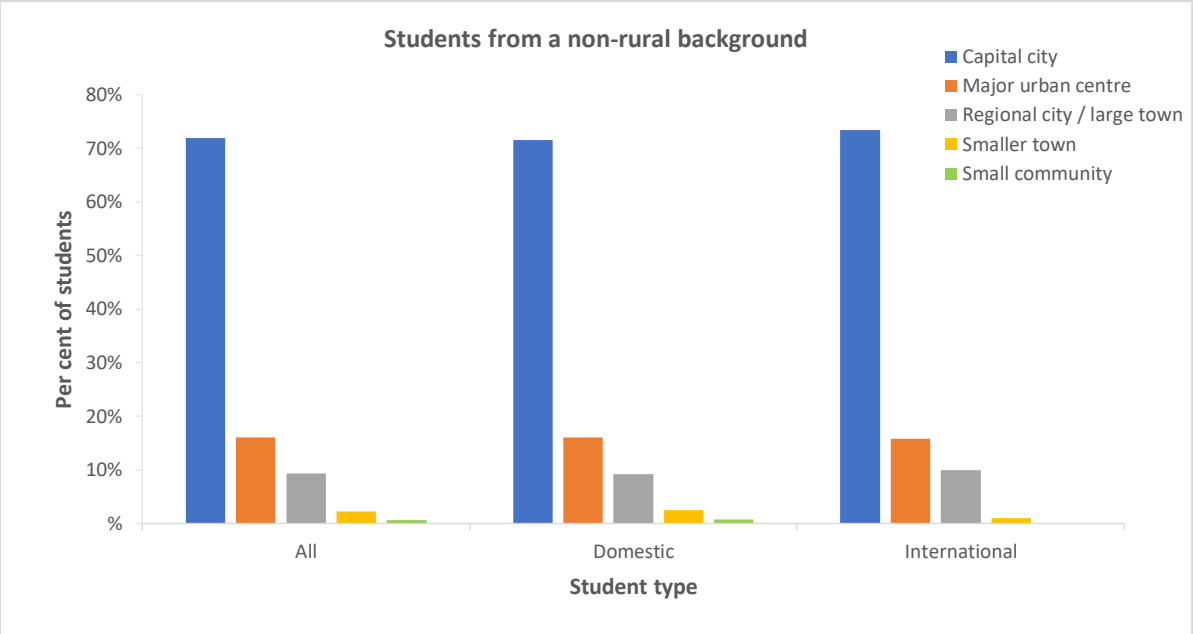

Figure 6. Percentage of students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice – students from a non-rural background wishing to practice in Australia

Preferred location for future practice – by rural placement duration

The data shows increased rates of preference for rural practice by students who undertook a rural placement – although the likelihood of bias must be noted, in that those already interested in rural practice are probably those seeking a rural placement.

Of those undertaking a rural placement of more than a year, over half expressed a preference for practice in a regional town, smaller town or small community. The comparative figures are 36 per cent for those where the duration was 6 to 12 months, 13 per cent where it was up to 6 months, and 8 per cent for those not undertaking a rural placement.

Table 27. Preferred location of future practice – by rural placement duration

Preference for location of future practice (%) – by rural placement	2020				2021				2022			
	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year
Capital city	75.3	73.0	51.0	35.9	77.5	61.2	48.1	35.2	73.2	70.4	45.1	25.7
Major urban centre	14.9	15.7	19.2	20.4	14.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	15.4	16.1	18.8	24.1
Regional city/large town	4.7	7.6	18.9	29.6	4.7	11.2	20.2	28.0	5.7	9.4	23.0	33.0
Smaller town	0.6	0.9	1.4	4.9	0.7	1.6	2.9	4.0	1.1	0.9	2.4	5.1
Small community	1.0	2.1	8.7	9.2	0.7	3.7	6.3	10.4	1.3	2.4	10.0	12.0
Not stated	3.5	0.7	0.8	0	2.5	0.4	0.9	0	3.3	0.9	0.3	0.0

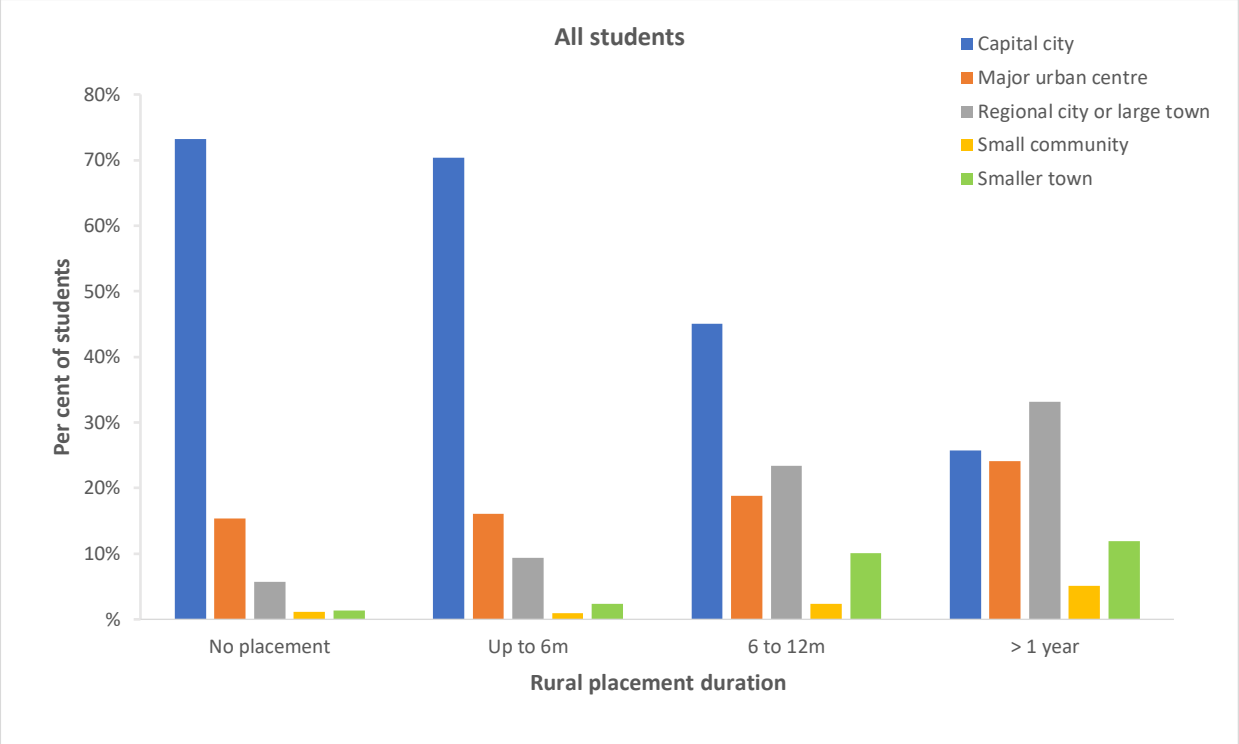

Figure 7. Percentage of students by placement duration and preferred location for future practice

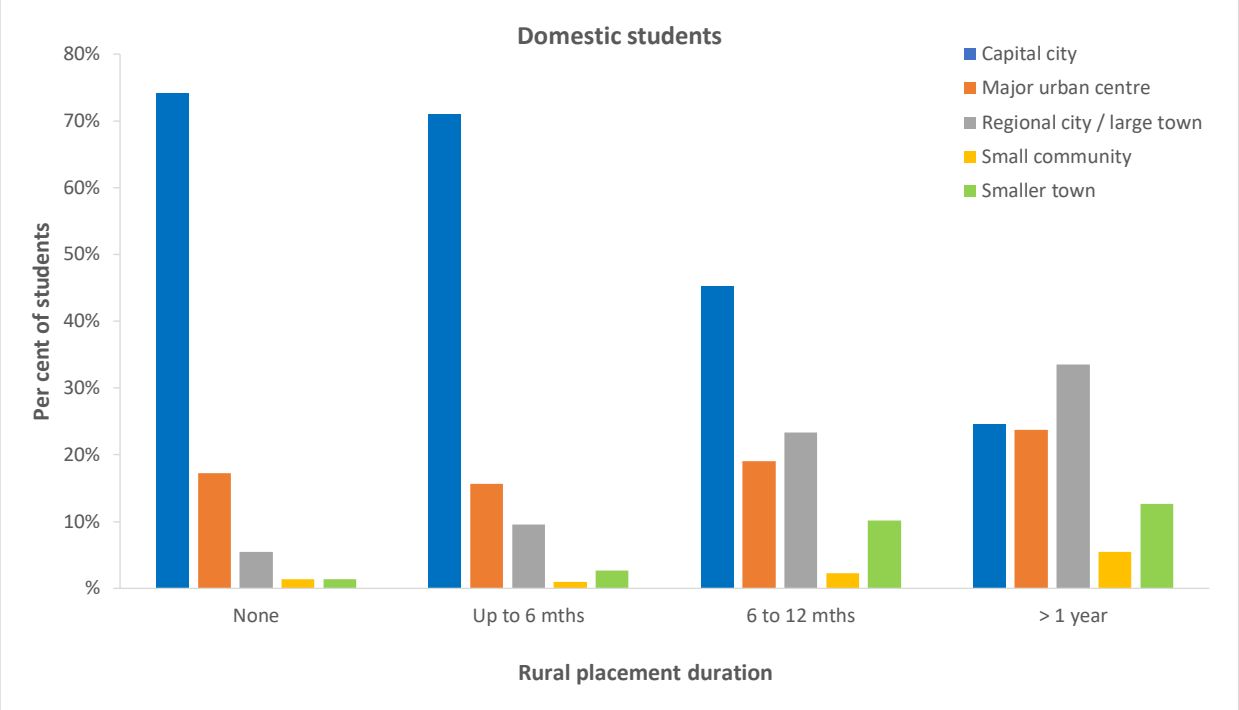

Figure 8. Percentage of domestic students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

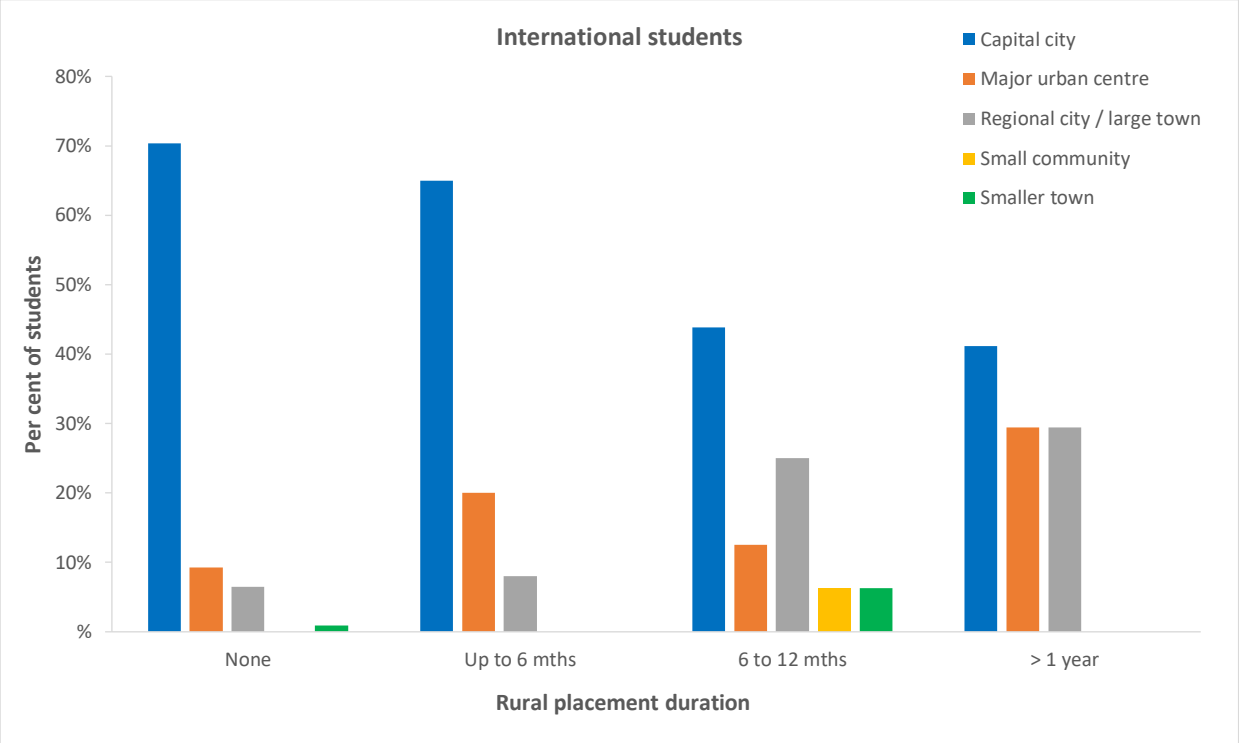

Figure 9. Percentage of international students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

Interests for future practice – teaching

A substantial majority of final year medical students were interested in teaching as part of their future medical career, although the number has dropped somewhat this year particularly in the international student cohort. Slightly more were undecided this year, with consistently a very low proportion of respondents indicating no interest.

Table 28. Interest in teaching as part of medical career

Interest in teaching	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic										
Yes	1,626	86.2	1,520	86.7	1,279	86.8	1,375	86.5	1,473	83.8
No	62	3.3	48	2.7	38	2.6	53	3.3	69	3.9
Undecided	198	10.5	185	10.6	157	10.7	161	10.1	216	12.3
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International										
Yes	253	80.3	232	83.2	204	82.6	221	83.1	178	73.9
No	17	5.4	9	3.2	9	3.6	10	3.8	13	5.4
Undecided	45	14.3	38	13.6	34	13.8	35	13.2	50	20.7
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Yes	1,879	85.4	1,752	86.2	1,483	86.2	1,596	86.0	1,651	82.6
No	79	3.6	57	2.8	47	2.7	63	3.4	82	4.1
Undecided	243	11.0	223	11.0	191	11.1	196	10.6	266	13.3
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Interests for future practice – research

Fifty-six per cent of respondents in 2022 were interested in research as part of their future medical career. While numbers have remained stable over time, this is notably lower than in previous years.

Table 29. Interest in research as part of medical career

Interest in research	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic										
Yes	1,210	64.2	1,109	63.3	907	61.5	934	58.8	974	55.4
No	285	15.1	281	16.0	261	17.7	310	19.5	403	22.9
Undecided	391	20.7	363	20.7	306	20.8	345	21.7	381	21.7
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International										
Yes	206	65.4	169	60.6	149	60.3	169	63.5	139	57.7
No	55	17.5	49	17.6	38	15.4	36	13.5	41	17.0
Undecided	54	17.1	61	21.9	60	24.3	61	22.9	61	25.3
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Yes	1,416	64.3	1,278	62.9	1,056	61.4	1,103	59.5	1,113	55.7
No	340	15.4	330	16.2	299	17.4	346	18.7	444	22.2
Undecided	445	20.2	424	20.9	366	21.3	406	21.9	442	22.1
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

Interests for future practice – Indigenous health

Just under half of respondents to the 2022 survey were interested in Indigenous health being a part of their future career, with a marked difference in the responses from domestic and international students (a 20 per cent difference).

Table 30. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

Interest in Indigenous health	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic										
Yes	859	45.5	880	50.2	776	52.6	863	54.3	902	51.3
No	401	21.3	321	18.3	220	14.9	277	17.4	315	17.9
Undecided	626	33.2	552	31.5	478	32.4	449	28.3	541	30.8
Total	**1,886**		**1,753**		**1,474**		**1,589**		**1,758**	
International										
Yes	104	33.0	71	25.4	75	30.4	81	30.5	75	31.1
No	99	31.4	91	32.6	76	30.8	75	28.2	74	30.7
Undecided	112	35.6	117	41.9	96	38.9	110	41.4	92	38.2
Total	**315**		**279**		**247**		**266**		**241**	
All Students										
Yes	963	43.8	951	46.8	851	49.4	944	50.9	977	48.9
No	500	22.7	412	20.3	296	17.2	352	19.0	389	19.5
Undecided	738	33.5	669	32.9	574	33.4	559	30.1	633	31.7
Total	**2,201**		**2,032**		**1,721**		**1,855**		**1,999**	

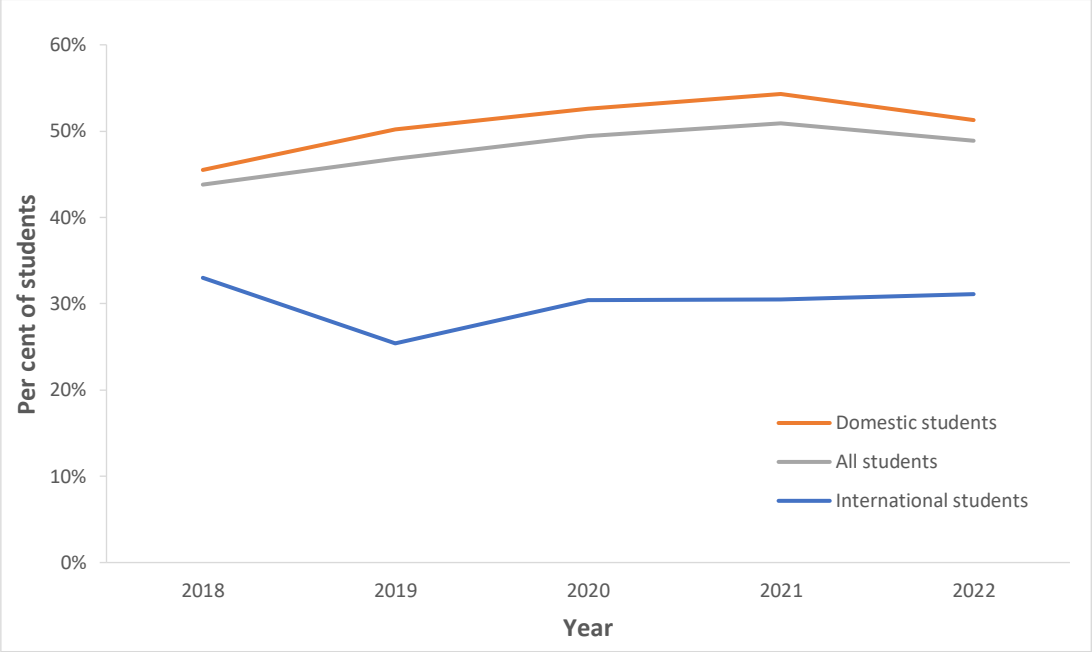

Figure 10. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

Respondents from a rural background were more likely to express interest in Indigenous health than those from a non-rural background. This has been a consistent difference over the years.

Table 31. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background (percentages)

Interest in Indigenous health	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural
Yes	39.8	57.5	44.1	56.1	45.9	60.1	47.1	63.6	46.6	56.2
No	25.0	14.7	21.5	16.2	18.9	12.0	20.7	13.1	20.8	15.2
Undecided	35.2	27.8	34.5	27.7	35.1	27.9	32.2	23.4	32.6	28.6

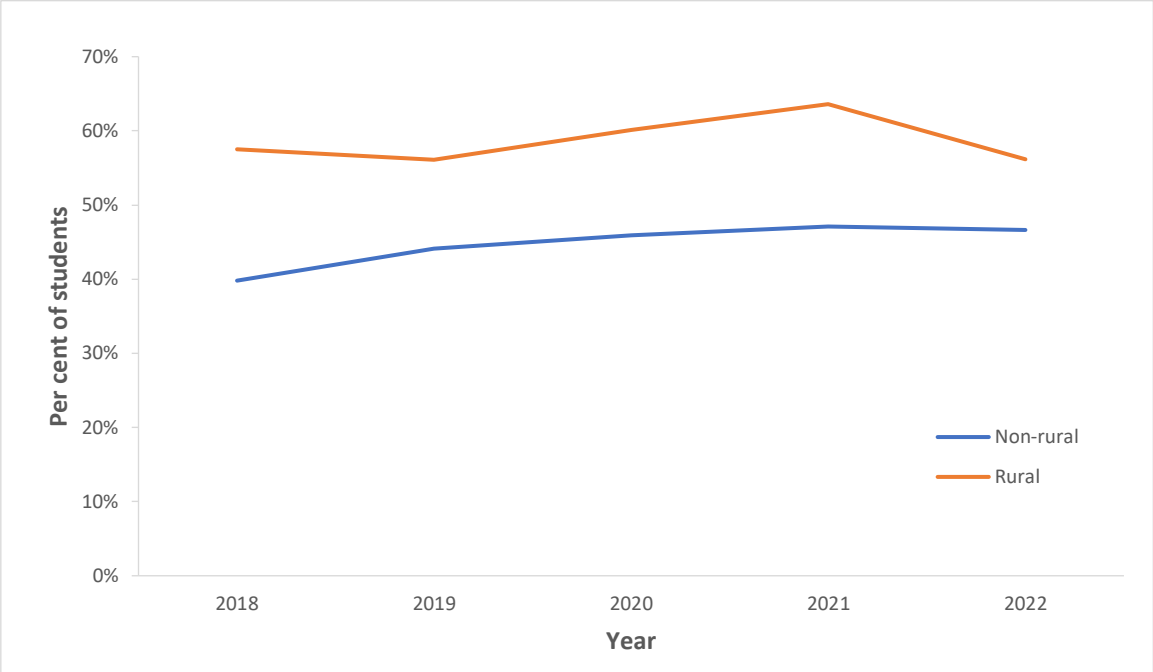

Figure 11. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background

Preferred specialty of future practice

"Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician" continues to be the most preferred specialty of future practice for final year students (Table 32) however it has dropped 3 per cent to 16 per cent overall. There remain higher levels of interest in this from international students, at 22 per cent.

"General Practice" remains second most preferred at 13 per cent for all students. However it becomes the most preferred specialty once the 6 per cent wanting to be a "Rural Generalist" (a practitioner within the formal "General Practice" specialty) are included. "Rural Generalist" is a growing preference for domestic graduates, moving up to rank eighth with 7 per cent of domestic students, however not for international students (less than 1 per cent).

"Surgery" remains third but the proportion has dropped slightly, and there continues to be strong interest in "Anaesthesia".

The seven most preferred disciplines have remained unchanged with "Emergency Medicine", "Paediatrics and Child Health", and "Psychiatry" being the other three. While interest in "Obstetrics and Gynaecology" remained unchanged, the increased interest in "Rural Generalist" this year moved it to be ranked ninth.

The levels of interest in the other specialties remain fairly stable, with a slight increase in the interest in "Intensive Care", "Dermatology" and "Pathology".

Table 32. First preference of specialty for future practice – All students

First preference specialty of future practice	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	n	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	415	18.9	1	386	19	1	323	18.8	1	350	18.9	1	310	15.5	1
General Practice	332	15.1	3	293	14.4	2	262	15.2	2	252	13.6	2	262	13.1	2
Surgery	335	15.2	2	267	13.1	3	213	12.4	3	241	13.0	3	242	12.1	3
Anaesthesia	198	9.0	5	214	10.5	4	160	9.3	4	185	10.0	4	240	12.0	4
Emergency Medicine	174	7.9	6	157	7.7	6	144	8.4	5	142	7.7	5	165	8.3	5
Paediatrics & Child Health	204	9.3	4	170	8.4	5	127	7.4	6	139	7.5	6	153	7.7	6
Psychiatry	95	4.3	8	93	4.6	8	104	6.0	8	104	5.6	7	127	6.4	7
Rural Generalist	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	4.6	9	116	5.8	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	155	7.0	7	119	5.9	7	107	6.2	7	104	5.6	7	112	5.6	9
Intensive Care Medicine	71	3.2	9	65	3.2	9	41	2.4	9	53	2.9	10	69	3.5	10
Radiology	36	1.6	11	29	1.4	12	36	2.1	10	43	2.3	11	43	2.2	11
Ophthalmology	49	2.2	10	30	1.5	11	27	1.6	12	26	1.4	12	39	2.0	12
Dermatology	21	1.0	12	38	1.9	10	34	2.0	11	20	1.1	14	32	1.6	13
Pathology	11	0.5	14	5	0.2	15	14	0.8	13	8	0.4	15	16	0.8	14
Palliative Medicine	16	0.7	13	17	0.8	13	9	0.5	15	21	1.1	13	13	0.7	15
Sexual Health Medicine	9	0.4	17	4	0.2	18	2	0.1	20	3	0.2	23	9	0.5	16
Radiation Oncology	10	0.5	16	5	0.2	15	3	0.2	18	8	0.4	15	6	0.3	17
Addiction Medicine	1	0.0	22	4	0.2	18	4	0.2	17	6	0.3	17	4	0.2	18
Medical Administration	3	0.1	21	5	0.2	15	3	0.2	18	5	0.3	18	3	0.2	19
Public Health Medicine	7	0.3	18	4	0.2	18	11	0.6	14	5	0.3	18	3	0.2	19
Sport & Exercise Medicine	11	0.5	14	16	0.8	14	5	0.3	16	5	0.3	18	3	0.2	19
Rehabilitation Medicine	5	0.2	20	2	0.1	22	2	0.1	20	4	0.2	21	2	0.1	22
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	7	0.3	18	2	0.1	22	1	0.1	22	4	0.2	21	1	0.1	23
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	1	0.0	22	0	0	24	0	0	23	1	0.1	24	0	0	24
Pain Medicine	1	0.0	22	4	0.2	18	0	0	23	1	0.1	24	0	0	24
Not Yet Decided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	2	..	26	1.3	..
Missing	34	1.5	..	103	5.1	..	89	5.2	..	1	0.1	..	3	0.2	..
Total	**2,201**			**2,032**			**1,721**			**1,855**			**1,999**		

Table 33. First preference of specialty for future practice – Domestic students

First preference specialty of future practice	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	n	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	346	18.3	1	319	18.2	1	257	17.4	1	304	19.1	1	258	14.7	1
General Practice	288	15.3	2	263	15.0	2	231	15.7	2	230	14.5	2	232	13.2	2
Surgery	176	9.3	5	193	11.0	4	146	9.9	4	160	10.1	4	212	12.1	3
Anaesthesia	277	14.7	3	232	13.2	3	184	12.5	3	192	12.1	3	208	11.8	4
Emergency Medicine	184	9.8	4	151	8.6	5	112	7.6	6	125	7.9	5	140	8.0	5
Paediatrics & Child Health	146	7.7	6	129	7.4	6	117	7.9	5	112	7.0	6	138	7.8	6
Psychiatry	80	4.2	8	82	4.7	8	93	6.3	8	92	5.8	7	118	6.7	7
Rural Generalist	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	5.0	9	114	6.5	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	138	7.3	7	106	6.0	7	94	6.4	7	91	5.7	8	100	5.7	9
Intensive Care Medicine	61	3.2	9	54	3.1	9	35	2.4	9	45	2.8	10	59	3.4	10
Radiology	29	1.5	11	22	1.3	12	31	2.1	10	33	2.1	11	37	2.1	11
Ophthalmology	42	2.2	10	28	1.6	11	24	1.6	12	25	1.6	12	33	1.9	12
Dermatology	18	1.0	12	32	1.8	10	30	2.0	11	17	1.1	13	31	1.8	13
Pathology	10	0.5	14	3	0.2	19	10	0.7	13	6	0.4	16	15	0.9	14
Palliative Medicine	14	0.7	13	12	0.7	14	8	0.5	15	16	1.0	14	11	0.6	15
Sexual Health Medicine	9	0.5	16	4	0.2	16	2	0.1	19	3	0.2	20	8	0.5	16
Radiation Oncology	7	0.4	17	4	0.2	16	3	0.2	18	8	0.5	15	5	0.3	17
Addiction Medicine	1	0.1	22	4	0.2	16	4	0.3	17	5	0.3	17	4	0.2	18
Medical Administration	7	0.4	17	3	0.2	19	10	0.7	13	4	0.3	18	3	0.2	19
Public Health Medicine	10	0.5	14	14	0.8	13	5	0.3	16	4	0.3	18	3	0.2	19
Sport & Exercise Medicine	3	0.2	21	5	0.3	15	0	0	22	3	0.2	20	2	0.1	21
Rehabilitation Medicine	5	0.3	19	1	0.1	23	2	0.1	19	1	0.1	23	2	0.1	21
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	5	0.3	19	2	0.1	21	1	0.1	21	2	0.1	22	1	0.1	23
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	1	0.1	22	0	0	24	0	0	22	1	0.1	23	0	0	24
Pain Medicine	0	0	24	2	0.1	21	0	0	22	1	0.1	23	0	0	24
Not Yet Decided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	1.8	..	22	1.3	..
Missing	29	1.5	..	88	5	..	75	5.1	..	1	0.1	..	2	0.1	..
Total	**1,886**			**1,753**			**1,474**			**1,589**			**1,758**		

Table 34. First preference of specialty for future practice – International students

First preference specialty of future practice	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	n	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank	*n*	%	Rank
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	69	21.9	1	67	24.0	1	66	26.7	1	46	17.3	2	52	21.6	1
Surgery	58	18.4	2	35	12.5	2	29	11.7	3	49	18.4	1	34	14.1	2
General Practice	44	14.0	3	30	10.8	3	31	12.6	2	22	8.3	5	30	12.4	3
Anaesthesia	22	7.0	5	21	7.5	5	14	5.7	6	25	9.4	4	28	11.6	4
Emergency Medicine	28	8.9	4	28	10.0	4	27	10.9	4	30	11.3	3	27	11.2	5
Paediatrics & Child Health	20	6.3	6	19	6.8	6	15	6.1	5	14	5.3	6	13	5.4	6
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	17	5.4	7	13	4.7	7	13	5.3	7	13	4.9	7	12	5.0	7
Intensive Care Medicine	10	3.2	9	11	3.9	8	6	2.4	9	8	3.0	10	10	4.1	8
Psychiatry	15	4.8	8	11	3.9	8	11	4.5	8	12	4.5	8	9	3.7	9
Radiology	7	2.2	10	7	2.5	10	5	2.0	10	10	3.8	9	6	2.5	10
Ophthalmology	7	2.2	10	2	0.7	13	3	1.2	13	1	0.4	18	6	2.5	10
Rural Generalist	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2.6	11	2	0.8	12
Palliative Medicine	2	0.6	14	5	1.8	12	1	0.4	15	5	1.9	12	2	0.8	12
Sexual Health Medicine	0	0	19	0	0	20	0	0	17	0	0	22	1	0.4	14
Radiation Oncology	3	1.0	12	1	0.4	17	0	0	17	0	0	22	1	0.4	14
Pathology	1	0.3	16	2	0.7	13	4	1.6	11	2	0.8	15	1	0.4	14
Medical Administration	0	0	19	0	0	20	3	1.2	13	2	0.8	15	1	0.4	14
Dermatology	3	1.0	12	6	2.2	11	4	1.6	11	3	1.1	13	1	0.4	14
Sport & Exercise Medicine	1	0.3	16	2	0.7	13	0	0	17	1	0.4	18	0	0	19
Rehabilitation Medicine	0	0	19	1	0.4	17	0	0	17	3	1.1	13	0	0	19
Public Health Medicine	0	0	19	1	0.4	17	1	0.4	15	1	0.4	18	0	0	19
Pain Medicine	1	0.3	16	2	0.7	13	0	0	17	0	0	22	0	0	19
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	0	0	19	0	0	20	0	0	17	0	0	22	0	0	19
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	2	0.6	14	0	0	20	0	0	17	2	0.8	15	0	0	19
Addiction Medicine	0	0	19	0	0	20	0	0	17	1	0.4	18	0	0	19
Not Yet Decided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3.4	..	4	1.7	..
Missing	5	1.6	..	15	5.4	..	14	5.7	7	..	..	..	1	0.4	..
Total	**315**			**279**			**247**			**266**			**241**		

Factors influencing specialty choice for future practice

Table 35 shows the score and rank of various factors that respondents say influenced their interest in their most preferred specialty. The students were asked to rank each factor from a scale of 1 “not at all” influential, to 5 “a great deal” of influence.

Consistently over the years, two factors have ranked highest in influencing specialty preference – “Alignment with personal values” (ranked first this year), and “Atmosphere/ work culture”.

The least influential factors were partners’ occupation, parents/relatives, and financial costs of medical school education and/or debt. Other factors relating to finance (such as litigation/insurance costs, and costs of vocational training) also continue to rank low down on the list.

Overall, there continues to be very little change in the ranking of these factors.

Table 35. Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine

Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Alignment with personal values	4.11	2	4.13	2	4.17	1	4.16	2	4.21	1
Atmosphere/work culture typical of the discipline	4.12	1	4.15	1	4.16	2	4.17	1	4.18	2
Intellectual content of the specialty	4.02	4	4.00	4	3.97	5	4.01	4	3.99	3
Experience of specialty as a medical student	4.09	3	4.04	3	4.04	3	4.02	3	3.98	4
General medical school experiences	3.97	5	3.94	5	3.99	4	3.91	5	3.85	5
Self-appraisal of own skills/aptitudes	3.81	7	3.77	7	3.85	7	3.79	7	3.82	6
Influence of consultants/mentors	3.92	6	3.91	6	3.90	6	3.83	6	3.81	7
Perceived opportunity to work flexible hours	3.48	9	3.51	9	3.54	9	3.60	8	3.68	8
Opportunity for procedural work	3.70	8	3.70	8	3.58	8	3.58	9	3.67	9
Perceived amount of working hours	3.37	11	3.42	10	3.46	11	3.52	10	3.57	10
Type of patients typical of the discipline	3.47	10	3.39	11	3.47	10	3.49	11	3.50	11
Perceived job security	3.35	12	3.38	12	3.38	12	3.40	12	3.47	12
Perceived career advancement prospects	3.34	13	3.37	13	3.33	13	3.34	13	3.39	13
Self-appraisal of own domestic circumstances	3.23	15	3.25	15	3.32	14	3.30	14	3.33	14
Availability of a vocational training placement	3.25	14	3.27	14	3.25	15	3.21	15	3.22	15
Number of years required to complete training	2.94	18	2.97	18	3.04	16	3.03	16	3.08	16
Geographical location of most preferred specialty	2.97	17	3.00	16	2.93	18	3.01	17	3.03	17
Opportunity for research and /or teaching	3.04	16	2.97	17	2.99	17	2.98	18	2.88	18
Perceived financial prospects	2.59	19	2.60	19	2.55	19	2.55	19	2.71	19
Perceived prestige of the discipline	2.24	20	2.20	20	2.11	20	2.14	20	2.14	20
Risk of litigation and associated insurance costs	2.06	21	1.98	21	2.02	21	2.04	21	2.01	21
Financial costs of vocational training	1.87	23	1.79	24	1.77	23	1.75	24	1.82	22
Financial costs of medical school education and/or debt	1.86	24	1.78	25	1.74	25	1.74	25	1.80	23
Influence of parents/relatives	1.92	22	1.86	22	1.82	22	1.83	22	1.80	24
Influence of partner's occupation	1.86	25	1.83	23	1.75	24	1.78	23	1.73	25

Note: Scale (of influence): 1 = Not at all to 5 = A great deal

SECTION 6: INTERNSHIP

Accepted internships by state/territory

Final year students were asked to indicate in which state or territory they had accepted an internship position. It should be noted that the time of year in which schools administer the survey would have a bearing on whether students had been offered an internship, as does the response rates from students across the different states/territories; thus, the responses presented in the table below do not reflect the final number of internship positions accepted for the 2022 cohort nor are they necessarily a representative sample.

Table 36. Internship acceptance by state/territory

Internship acceptance by state/territory	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
ACT	65	3.0	56	2.8	35	2.1	56	3.0	45	2.3
NSW	587	27.4	625	31.3	414	24.3	438	23.7	490	25.0
NT	19	0.9	23	1.2	15	0.9	27	1.5	25	1.3
QLD	466	21.7	403	20.2	294	17.3	398	21.6	373	19.1
SA	96	4.5	82	4.1	85	5.0	47	2.5	82	4.2
TAS	75	3.5	65	3.3	66	3.9	82	4.4	82	4.2
VIC	618	28.8	505	25.3	557	32.7	553	30.0	503	25.7
WA	177	8.3	204	10.2	194	11.4	219	11.9	334	17.1
Country other than Australia	41	1.9	36	1.8	43	2.5	26	1.4	24	1.2
Total	**2,144**		**1,999**		**1,703**		**1,846**		**1,958**	